Lesley Humphrey - Quality Manager

From: Lesley Humphrey - Quality Manager
Sent: 01 September 2000 15:16
To: Max Millett - Chief Executive; Fiona Cameron-General Manager; Bill Hooper General Manager; Lorna Green - Business Manager
Cc: Ian Reid-Medical Director; Ian Piper - Finance Director; Steve King - Nurse Recruitment Adviser/Clinical Risk Adviser; Tony Horne - Operational Director; Eileen Thomas - Nursing Director; Barbara Melrose - Project Mgr.
Subject: Gladys Richards - update

I've spoken this PM to DCI Ray Burt, in charge of this case. All the paper work, interviews etc are currently with their clinical expert, Professor Livesey. DCI Burt is going to see him on Friday 8 Sept. After this the we may be asked for further information, or the file may be passed straight to the CPS - which ever, that's where it will end up. He will emphasise need for speed to CPS, but it could be 3 months or more before we know if they think there is any basis for criminal action. I am on A/L from 8-25 Sept, if need be DCI Burt will contact Barbara Melrose in my absence.

Bill/Fiona, can you keep the staff up to date with this please. Fiona, are you still in contact with Jane Barton, or should I write to her?

DCI Burt stressed that they did not think there was any "individual" with criminal intent. What they are exploring is whether institutional practices might constitute a breach of criminal law.

He said this is not the only case in the country being explored in this way. Some cases have been taken out of the hands of the local CPS and passed on to London.

If it is thought, either by Professor Livesey, or by the CPS that there might be a basis for proceeding with a criminal case, they may want to consider if we had any other cases where death occurred in similar circumstances. We would obviously want to co-operate, but I suggest that Lorna checks out the situation with Wansboroughs, with regard to confidentiality etc.

Sorry, but my gut feeling is that if there is the slightest whiff of a case, that this will go the distance as a test case.

Lesley