

Item 5: Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust – mortuary security

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 2 March 2022

Subject: Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust – mortuary security

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Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW).

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

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## 1) Introduction

- a) In November 2021, evidence came to light of many crimes committed by David Fuller whilst employed as a maintenance supervisor at MTW.
- b) MTW initiated an independent investigation into the specific offences but on 8 November the Secretary of State announced this was being overtaken by an independent inquiry led by Sir Jonathan Michael. The Inquiry will consider issues including:
  - i. the circumstances surrounding the offences committed at the hospital, and their national implications,
  - ii. understanding how these offences took place without detection in the trust,
  - iii. identifying any areas where early action by this trust was necessary, and
  - iv. consideration of wider national issues – including for the NHS.
- c) The inquiry's website expects an interim report (into the activities carried out at MTW) to be published during 2022 with a final report (into the broader national picture and wider lessons) published in 2023.
- d) Whilst the inquiry is ongoing, there is a limit on the extent of HOSC's scrutiny into this area. The Committee also cannot investigate individual cases. However, the Chair has asked the Trust to provide an update on progress made to date in improving security at its mortuaries. This is in light of recent news stories about the Trust's services in this area.

## 2. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report.

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## **Background Documents**

Independent Inquiry into the issues raised by the David Fuller case,  
<https://fuller.independent-inquiry.uk/>

## **Contact Details**

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