

Item 8: Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust – mortuary security

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 December 2023

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).

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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 Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW).
- b) MTW initiated an independent investigation into the specific offences but on 8 November 2021 the Secretary of State announced this was being overtaken by an independent inquiry led by Sir Jonathan Michael. The Inquiry was to 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 was initially expected to produce an interim report (into the activities carried out at MTW) 2022 with a final report (into the broader national picture and wider lessons) in 2023. However, new information which came to light led to delay in the interim report, and the final report is due for publication in 2024.
- d) HOSC received a paper on 2 March 2022, and were updated on what action had already been undertaken. Whilst the inquiry has been ongoing, HOSC's scrutiny into this area has been necessarily limited. The Committee cannot investigate individual cases, but it can consider what steps the Trust has taken to prevent such events happening in the future.
- e) The [interim report](#) was published on 28 November 2023. The Trust will attend today's meeting to answer questions members may have. The Trust did not

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see the report in advance of publication, and therefore have not had sufficient time to prepare a response for this meeting. However, their statement is attached.

### **2) Recommendation**

- a) RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the response of the Trust to the interim inquiry report.

### **Background Documents**

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

Kent County Council (2022), Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (2/3/22),  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8762&Ver=4>

### **Contact Details**

Kay Goldsmith  
Scrutiny Research Officer  
[kay.goldsmith@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kay.goldsmith@kent.gov.uk)  
03000 416512