

EASY READ

The care and treatment of Mr EF

Mr EF had learning disabilities. He also had heart disease that could make him quite ill. He had been in trouble with the law and was in a community unit under a criminal order.

His parents were always in touch with him.

In the unit Mr EF had a psychiatrist. He also had a general doctor who he would visit when he felt unwell.

Mr EF needed to go to the dentist because his teeth had become infected. He needed to have all his top teeth taken out.

There was a small chance the infection would get into his blood and damage his heart.

At first Mr EF was fine after all his top teeth were taken out. He was given false teeth and was able to wear them all day.

Mr EF later became very ill and was being sick. He was taken to his doctor to find out what was wrong. The doctor did not know that Mr EF had recently had dental treatment.

He went back to see the doctor two weeks later because he had lost lots of weight and was still very ill. The doctor tested some of his blood and Mr EF went back to his unit.

After another week he was not any better and his doctor tested some more blood. The doctor found that he did not have enough iron in his blood. The doctor thought this was due to Mr EF having a serious illness.

Staff were worried about Mr EF and decided to take him to hospital. He was checked by a hospital consultant. The consultant decided he was okay to go back home. Sadly Mr EF died 4 days later. He was found by his nurse on his bedroom floor.

The health board looked at Mr EF's care to see if he was treated properly. The health board thought they should have done better.

We wanted to know why it took so long to find out what was wrong with Mr EF. We wanted to know why he was sent home from hospital without more tests.

We think what happened to Mr EF is very rare. The people treating him might have found out what was wrong with him sooner if they had talked to each other more. This might have stopped Mr EF from getting so ill.

The health board who treated him have changed things to make sure that everyone talks to each other better in the future.

We also think that when Mr EF went to hospital he was treated differently to someone without a learning disability. We think having a learning disability meant he did not get examined properly.

The health board agreed. They are training their staff better. And they are making sure that people with learning disability get better care in future.

The Scottish Government wrote a report “The Keys to Life” in 2013. The report says that people with learning disability can have the worst health in Scotland. It also says that sometimes people with a learning disability will die before people who do not have learning disability. The report says that sometimes it would have been possible to stop these deaths.

Our report on Mr EF shows how important this is.

We think that all NHS Boards should look at our report and make sure that they give the same care to people with learning disability. This means making sure they go to hospital when they are not well and that they are examined and treated properly.

About the Mental Welfare Commission

We aim to make sure that:

- everyone's care, treatment and support is within the law
- the care and treatment you get respects your rights
- care and treatment supports the welfare of people with mental illness and/or a learning disability.

We do this by:

- supporting people and their carers
- giving advice and information to people who offer services
- giving advice and information to the people who make the rules.

Why do we do this?

People might be at risk because they are not able to look out for their own interests.

Someone else might have to decide they need care and treatment.

We make sure this is allowed by law and is the right thing to do when this happens.

Who are we?

We are an independent organisation set up by the Government.

Our organisation is made up of experienced health and social care staff, service users and carers.

What do we stand for?

We think that people with mental illness and/or a learning disability should have the same rights and respect as anyone else.

They have the right:

- to be treated with dignity and respect
- to have treatment that is allowed by law and is the right thing for them
- not to be abused, neglected or discriminated against
- to have care and treatment that is best for their needs
- to get well and have as full a life as possible.

What do we do?

We work to get a good balance between a person's rights, the law and the care they get.

We work across all areas of health and social care.

We find out if a person's care and treatment is allowed by the law.

We ask service providers to give the very best mental health and learning disability care they can.

We follow up on individual cases where we think something is wrong. We would look into the case and may investigate further if we think we need to.

We give information and advice to people, carers and service providers.

We help to develop services and we help to make new laws about them.

We help service providers to understand what the mental health and incapacity law says about people's care and treatment.

How to contact the Commission

If you have any questions or would like information in another language or format, please get in touch with us.

Our contact details are:



**Mental Welfare Commission for
Scotland**

**Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HE**



**Service user and carer freephone
0800 389 6809
Office 0131 313 8777**



www.mwcscot.org.uk

Your views

We want to know what you think about our service.

So if you have a complaint, a comment or a compliment, please ring us on 0800 389 6809.

We will listen to what you have to say and use it to help us improve our service in future.



Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HE
Tel: 0131 313 8777
Fax: 0131 313 8778
Service user and carer freephone:
0800 389 6809
enquiries@mwscot.org.uk
www.mwscot.org.uk