



# CH Challenge Event



## CH

### Background

CH, aged 49, was a patient, held under Section 3, at a psychiatric hospital. On 10.06.17 she absconded from the ward; brought back by Police the following day. On 10.07.17 she again absconded. There were delays in arrangements to bring her back to the hospital and on 24.07.17 she was found deceased at her home, having taken her own life by hanging.

### Challenge Event

A Challenge Event was held to look at learning from the case; particularly the issues around requesting, obtaining and serving a Section 135(2) warrant. The Event was held on 12.05.21 with multi-agency attendance, including social care, health, mental health and police. Mental health and Police colleagues gave presentations; issues were discussed and key learning was identified.

### Key Learning

Improve knowledge about the process for obtaining a 135(2) Warrant (incl. that a bed does not need to be available) and who should take responsibility.

Requirement for more efficient contact between the hospital and the Police.

Need for timely updating of Risk Assessments (CH's was not updated following her previous AWOL).

Observation process to be tightened.

Limit the number of potential exits on the ward.

### What has been done

All policies reviewed. Recruitment of good quality staff.

Police and MH communication improved including the understanding of warrants by MH staff.

AWOL policy developed; clearer guidance across all wards. Police confirmed AWOL cases are now rare. Police online referral systems can flag delays.

Observations and handover checklist reviewed and improved.

Addressing staff recording and quality of content. Matrons have taken on this work.

Increased commitment to safeguarding within MH.

1 exit decommissioned; swipe card system in lobby.

### Key Improvements

- Guidance re. 135 Warrants updated and shared.
- Police online referral system.
- Observation and recording processes improved.
- Improvement to ward security.

### Further options for change

Photographs could only be taken of patients who had mental capacity and gave permission and those photos could only be retained for the length of the patient's stay and could only be used for AWOL. Police and SLAM meet regularly and this would be an opportunity to revisit this question.

