



Greater  
Manchester  
Coalition  
of Disabled  
People

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To the Co-Chairs of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership ([gm.icp@nhs.net](mailto:gm.icp@nhs.net))  
Copy to regional media

26 September 2024

An Open Letter from the CHARM mental health campaign group

Dear Andy Burnham and Sir Richard Leese,

We believe the UK is at a crossroads regarding system failure in mental health services and commissioning. As examples, there are:

- (1) the Lampard Inquiry in Essex, now on a statutory basis because potential witnesses were refusing to give evidence,
- (2) the figures from coroners' prevention of future deaths (PFDs) reports concerning the Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health NHS Trust which were revealed by local campaigners after conducting their own investigation.
- (3) the BBC Panorama undercover investigation into human rights abuses at the GMMH Trust's Edenfield Centre based at Prestwich Hospital. (Please see our report [SHARE POWER TO END THE ABUSE OF POWER](https://charmmentalhealth.org/mental-health-trust-watch/share-power-to-prevent-the-abuse-of-power/) <https://charmmentalhealth.org/mental-health-trust-watch/share-power-to-prevent-the-abuse-of-power/> )
- (4) indications that coroners in Manchester generate the largest number of PFD reports outside of London. <https://preventabledeathstracker.net/reg-29-addressee-tracker-database/>) Since 2003 GM Integrated Care Board etc has received 93 PFDs, 78 of these have been issued in the last 6 years. It has been issued with the 5<sup>th</sup> highest number of PFDs in the country. It is the first regional organisation after NHS, CQC, Dept of Health, HM Prisons and is listed above the Home Office. GMMH and Pennine Care are listed in the top 30 of recipients (19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>). Pennine care have been issued with 40 PFDs, 29 of these in the last 6 years. GMMH have been issued with 36 PFDs, 25 of these in the last 6 years. Services in Manchester and the city region are in crisis.

With (2) above we then saw how a later forensic data audit by Grant Thornton vindicated the claims of the local campaign group <https://www.suffolknews.co.uk/bury-st-edmunds/news/the-trust-sincerely-apologises-mental-health-trust-publis-9375378/> . You may be aware by now that in Greater Manchester we in CHARM are commencing a parallel audit of PFDs which relate to the GMMH Trust. This is in the context of GMMH Trust refusing to give figures and details following a freedom of information request.

Our strong ask in this open letter is for GM ICP to do the right thing now, understand that we are at a crossroads, and show leadership by getting ahead of these developments and **commissioning a professional forensic data audit of deaths of people while in contact with mental health services or in the following months**, eg after an unsafe discharge or service refusal, an audit which the ICP commits to publishing and responding to.

As CHARM we will offer every assistance if this audit is agreed in good faith, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Paul Baker  
For CHARM and agreed with GMCDP