

APPENDIX 4:

Guidelines on being open with patients, service users, families and carers when things go wrong or outcomes are unexpected and /or unexplained

- Any incident involving a service user should be discussed with this individual as soon as is appropriate by a senior member of the service team and preferably the lead professional. If the service user is a child or is unable to give consent due to their physical condition or mental capacity the incident should be discussed with their named next of kin contact. If the service user is able to provide consent and wishes the incident to be discussed with another carer or relative, the service team should facilitate this request.
- Specifically those incidents graded moderate, major and catastrophic should be discussed immediately with the service user and/or their relatives / carers, with consent. Those incidents of an insignificant and minor nature which occur out of hours can be discussed with those required at the most appropriate time within the next 24 hours.
- When discussing an incident with a service user and / or designated relatives / carers, the lead professional should outline the facts of the incident as known, the actual and potential consequences for the service user and how the team will review the incident for future learning. If the service user and/or designated carers / relatives wish to have the outcome of the incident review fed back to them the service team should consider this as good practice and should be conducted with consent of the service user if applicable. These interactions should be documented and attached to the incident report on Datix.
- If an incident meets the criteria for notification as an SAI or internal RCA, (**refer to Section 5**) the service user and / or designated relatives / carers must be informed of this decision before the SAI / RCA review begins. Where possible this should be undertaken by the Lead professional involved in the service user's care. Where this is not possible due to relations being strained or it is judged to be inappropriate the Chair of the SAI /RCA review group supported by the Directorate CSCG Coordinator will undertake this role. This

individual will continue as the point of contact for the service user and / or designated relatives / carers throughout the period of the review and until the findings have been fed back.

- When an SAI / RCA review is completed and has been approved by the Directorate the point of contact for the service user and / or designated relatives / carers should offer to feed back the factual findings and recommendations of the review. This can include a meeting between parties and / or giving the review document to the service user and / or designated relatives / carers. How this process of review feedback is managed should be guided as far as possible by the wishes of the service user and / or designated relatives / carers.