

STATEMENT FROM THE SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH TRUST

The South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust would wish to express sympathy to the family of Frances McKeown. The Trust has now put in place a number of improvements in prison healthcare with regard to mental health provision in Hydebank Wood. These improvements include:

- A mental health nurse who assesses and plans the care of anyone presenting with a mental health issue. These initiatives allow patients to be identified at the earliest possible opportunity and in turn to be appropriately managed throughout their stay in prison.
- The establishment of a mental health team across the three prison sites incorporating a 'stepped care model' in line with NICE guidelines. This model ensures that the least intensive intervention that is appropriate for a person is typically provided first and people can step up or step down the pathway according to changing needs in response to treatment.
- The development of mental health referral pathways for prisons that is similar to that provided to clients in the community
- Recruitment of additional healthcare staff

The Trust continues to work to improve the provision of healthcare services to all prisoners across the three prison sites in Northern Ireland.