

# The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust



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## **PRESS STATEMENT**

Sir Leonard Fenwick, Chief Executive, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals confirms -

‘Jimmy Savile visited the children’s wards of the Royal Victoria Infirmary in 1986/1987 and 1991. He also visited Newcastle General Hospital in the early 1990s but witnesses were unsure of exact dates.

Arising out of an exhaustive investigation, these presentations appeared to coincide with the Great North Run. Nothing untoward occurred and there was continual supervision’.

26<sup>th</sup> June 2014

ENDS

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

**Investigation into Jimmy Savile and any association with the Newcastle upon  
Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

A report prepared by The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

12<sup>th</sup> June 2014

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THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

**Investigation into Jimmy Savile and any association with the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

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# THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

## **Investigation into Jimmy Savile and any association with the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Jimmy Savile (who we refer to as “Savile” throughout this report) was a disc jockey and presenter; a celebrity, famous for presenting programmes on television such as “Jim’ll Fix It”. Throughout his life, he was publicly known for his involvement in raising funds for a number of hospitals, in addition to other charity work.

In October 2012, a year after Savile’s death, allegations of sexual abuse carried out by Savile were made public. Operation Yewtree was established by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), to deal with the allegations made in relation to Savile.

On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013, by way of a Ministerial Statement, the Department of Health announced that, in addition to the investigations already underway in relation to Savile’s involvement with Stoke Mandeville, Broadmoor and Leeds General Infirmary, and 10 other NHS organisations, MPS had identified 19 further NHS locations involved in allegations against Savile. The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle (RVI) was identified as being one of those locations and the Department of Health requested that The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Newcastle Hospitals) carry out a full investigation into the allegations made to MPS and any possible links between this organisation and Savile.

Sir Leonard Fenwick CBE, Chief Executive of Newcastle Hospitals commissioned a full investigation. He appointed Elizabeth Harris, Head of Nursing, RVI to be lead investigator, with legal advice provided by David Firth, Partner, Capsticks Solicitors.

The allegation made to MPS in connection with the RVI was made by a former member of staff witness A, who had reported seeing Savile in a public area of the RVI in 1991. Subsequently, in December 2013, a local newspaper published an article, in which a former student nurse at the Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI) witness B told of seeing Savile on a visit to a Children’s Ward in 1987 which had coincided with the Great North Run, an annual event in which Savile participated.

The purpose of this report is to set out the subsequent investigation into the allegations made, and make clear the findings, conclusions and recommendations from the investigation.

Terms of reference for this investigation (see chapter 2) were formulated and discussed with Newcastle Safeguarding Children's Board.

Newcastle Hospitals Trust Board have finally approved this report.

National independent assurance of the investigations has been provided by Kate Lampard, appointed by the Secretary of State for Health. She is assisted in her role by the consultancy firm Verita, to ensure that the NHS investigations follow a robust process, aimed at protecting the interests of patients and the public.

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#### **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 1998 the Royal Victoria Infirmary and Associated Hospitals NHS Trust was acquired by the Freeman Group of Hospitals (NHS Trust) and became part of The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust (which in turn became The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006).

Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 1998 the Royal Victoria Infirmary was an NHS Trust, "Royal Victoria Infirmary and Associated Hospitals", which at the time included, the former Newcastle General Hospital (NGH).

The Board of The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust commissioned this investigation into Savile's association with the RVI and other hospitals under the management of Newcastle Hospitals and its predecessor bodies following allegations made to MPS by a former member of staff that Jimmy Savile had visited the RVI.

The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Newcastle Hospitals) will work with independent assurance provided by Kate Lampard, appointed by the Secretary of State for Health to oversee the NHS and Department of Health investigations, to produce a report that will:

- Thoroughly examine and account for any association between Jimmy Savile and Newcastle Hospitals and in particular the Royal Victoria Infirmary Hospital and other hospitals/facilities under the control of Newcastle Hospitals or its predecessor bodies.
- Consider any access arrangements or any privileges which may have been afforded to Jimmy Savile, the reasons for these and whether he was subject to usual or appropriate supervision and oversight.
- Investigate any past and current complaints and incidents concerning Jimmy Savile's behaviour at Royal Victoria Infirmary or any other hospitals under the control of Newcastle Hospitals or predecessor bodies, to establish:
  1. Where the incident(s) occurred and what occurred.
  2. Who was involved?
  3. If the incident(s) were reported at the time, whether they were investigated and appropriate action taken.

The investigation does not have the power to impose disciplinary sanctions or make findings as to criminal or civil liability. Where evidence is obtained of conduct that indicates the potential commission of criminal offences, the Police will be informed. Where such evidence indicates the potential commission of disciplinary offences, the relevant employer will be informed.

- Where complaints or incidents were not previously reported or investigated, consider the reasons for this, including Jimmy Savile's celebrity and/or any fundraising role he may have had within Newcastle Hospitals and/or predecessor organisations.
- Review Newcastle Hospitals' current policies and practice in relation to the matters mentioned above, including Safeguarding policies for children and adults, access to patients (including that afforded to volunteers and celebrities) complaints and whistle blowing. Ensure safeguards are in place to prevent a recurrence of any matters identified by this investigation and identify matters that require immediate attention.
- Identify any Recommendations for Further Action

The Chief Executive, Sir Leonard Fenwick, has commissioned Mrs Elizabeth Harris, Head of Nursing at the Royal Victoria Infirmary to undertake this investigation, with legal advice provided by David Firth, Capsticks Solicitors.

The findings of this investigation will be discussed with the Local Safeguarding Children's and Adult Board.

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#### **3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Newcastle Hospitals received information from MPS that a former member of staff witness A, who worked at the RVI, had reported that Savile had visited the hospital around 1991.

Newcastle Hospitals was asked to investigate this allegation and any involvement Savile may have had with the RVI, Newcastle Hospitals and/or its predecessor organisations.

A full investigation was commissioned. The conduct of the investigation included gathering statements and relevant information from a number of current and previous members of staff. In total 14 witnesses came forward with information.

In addition to the allegation reported to MPS, during the course of this investigation, we were told of a further two or possibly three visits made by Savile. These visits were made to a Children's Ward at the RVI (which has since been demolished) and the Northern Centre for Cancer Treatment (NCCT), which at the time was at Newcastle General Hospital (NGH). From witness recollections, these visits took place between 1987 and 2000. Witnesses also recalled seeing Savile in public areas. On all occasions, witnesses reported that Savile was accompanied by his entourage. Throughout the course of this investigation, no allegations were received in relation to inappropriate behaviour or abuse carried out by Savile, either in relation to patients or staff. Neither was any evidence found to suggest Savile had any on-going or regular association with any of the hospitals – or was ever unsupervised, or indeed alone with patients.

In June 2014, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) published a report which implicated Newcastle Hospitals. One of the informants suggested that Savile had unsupervised access to children, but we were unable to substantiate or indeed investigate this, as the NSPCC were unable to provide us with the contact details. Therefore, the NSPCC report does not change the conclusions of this investigation.

In light of the Savile allegations, Newcastle Hospitals has undertaken a review of relevant policies and practice.



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#### 4. APPROACH TO THE INVESTIGATION AND METHODOLOGY

The Terms of Reference governed the aims of this investigation.

At the outset of the investigation, a number of potential sources of information and activities which could help inform the investigation were identified. These included:

- Conversations and discussion by telephone or face to face with current and former members of staff.
- Review of local media archives and records.
- Charity and donation records.
- Previous corporate documentation, if available as archive.

In order to contact current and former staff members, the Trust Communication monthly meetings were used. All Managers attend these meetings. Staff were asked to come forward with any information they had which was relevant to the investigation. The monthly meetings act as a cascade system and the minutes of the meetings are shared at Departmental Meetings. Through the cascade system, staff were asked to contact the Lead Investigator if they had any information or concerns to share. They were also asked to discuss the matters generally with current and previous members of staff in order to ensure that those who felt they had relevant information to share, were able to come forward. The process was as open and transparent as possible.

All leads or indirect contacts were personally contacted by the Lead Investigator and discussions summarised into file notes and statements were submitted by witnesses. The information and statements received were analysed, compared and summarised. A total of fourteen witnesses contributed evidence in the form of statements. Their contributions have been anonymised by letter allocation. Eight were current staff, Witnesses C, E, H, I, J, K, L and M, five previous staff, Witnesses A, B, D, F and N and one a relative, Witness G. Statements were individually submitted - not transcribed from meetings.

Where individuals who had sight of Savile on Trust premises mentioned others who were present at the time, the other potential witnesses were traced where possible.

Also, taking into account Savile's celebrity status, the local press archive was searched in order to identify any press coverage, including photographs, which

Savile's visits may have attracted at the time. Contact was made with local newspapers, as well as BBC TV and Radio Newcastle.

No previous relevant corporate documentation was available and indeed it was not possible to review relevant policies, because those records are no longer in existence. Policy records are only formally held for ten years.

We were able to speak with current and previous staff in relation to policy and organisational arrangements for celebrity visitors. The culture and organisational responsibilities of the relevant times were discussed with relevant current and former members of staff and the pertinent information is included in chapter six and analysis and conclusions.

List of current policies reviewed.

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Children (March 2013).
- Safeguarding Children – Guidance on Handling Allegation/Complaints of Abuse made against employees (January 2014).
- Safeguarding Adults Policy and Guidelines (January 2014).
- Safeguarding Adults – Guidance on Handling Allegation/Complaints of Abuse made against employees (January 2014).
- Visitors Policy (October 2012).
- Whistleblowing Policy (September 2013).

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#### 5. ALLEGATIONS

Newcastle Hospitals originally received one piece of information from MPS.

The information related to a former staff member Witness A, who reported seeing Savile in an RVI entrance hall around 1991 – this information was reported directly to Operation Yewtree.

Subsequently, a former member of staff Witness B contacted a local newspaper to report they had been present when Savile had visited a Children's Ward at the RVI in 1987. Witness B said that the week before the visit, the staff on the ward had received a message to say that Savile would be visiting the hospital, as he was in the North East for the Great North Run.

Witness B recalled that Savile's visit was brief. He did not visit the ward Witness B was working on, but a neighbouring ward. Witness B presented Savile with a picture he had drawn for him, with which he seemed to be unimpressed.

Witness B did not see anything untoward during Savile's visit and reported that Savile was surrounded by a huge entourage and other staff were present. We have been able to trace some of the staff witness B recalled, we have spoken to Witness N and Witness C and included their evidence.

Whilst investigating the reports above, a number of other leads were followed, which arose either as a result of speaking with Witness B or through former and current members of staff who had learned of the investigation through the message disseminated through the monthly meetings, by word of mouth or in the press.

A number of these witnesses spoke of seeing Savile whilst he was visiting the RVI and the NCCT at NGH; the reports suggested Savile had visited the RVI on one or maybe two occasions. Due to the passage of time, many of the witnesses were uncertain of dates.

None of those interviewed said that they had witnessed Savile behaving inappropriately with patients, and there were no suggestions or claims of unsupervised access to any Trust areas by Savile.

During the course of this investigation, no patients or former patients came forward to complain of Savile's behaviour towards them. The analysis and findings relating to the witness evidence is presented in the following chapter.

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#### 6. FINDINGS

During the course of this investigation, no one has come forward to speak of allegations in relation to inappropriate behaviour or abuse carried out by Savile at any Newcastle Hospitals sites.

The evidence that has emerged during the course of the investigation has come in the main, from current and previous staff. All reported “visits” by Savile. Witness A said that whilst working as a Manager at the RVI they saw Savile in Peacock Hall and said that he was accompanied by an entourage. This visit appears to be corroborated by one other witness (G) whose daughter was a patient on a Childrens ward in 1991. It is possible this was one and the same visit.

The RVI allegation made by witness B was similar to that raised by others. Two other witnesses stated that in 1986 or 1987 – Savile visited a specific Children’s ward (now demolished) on the RVI site. In total, nine witnesses identify Savile visiting the RVI site. Witnesses B, C, D, E, F, H, and N all reported visits by Savile in 1986-1987. At least two witnesses (D & F) were standing together when they saw Savile. Some were more sure than others of the date.

The evidence in relation to Savile’s visits to the RVI is contradictory as to whether the visits were planned ahead. All witnesses agreed Savile had no time unsupervised with patients, nor was he alone at any time during his visit. The dates are inconsistent and this may be attributed to memory and recall. It is likely there was more than one visit but from the evidence uncovered by this investigation it has not been possible to determine this with any certainty.

In regards to the (NGH) site, five staff witnesses M, L, J, I, K can recall a visit from Savile to this site to NCCT. Of the witnesses who said they saw Savile within hospital premises, all of them reported that Savile was never alone with patients and was supervised at all times.

Witnesses told us that in relation to the visits to the NGH site, Savile could have been in Newcastle for the Great North Run (GNR) and that he was given a tour of the NCCT, Radiotherapy Department. He had no unsupervised access to patients and was not alone. The staff all recalled the visit to be in the 1990’s but were not consistent about the exact year. It is the opinion of the investigation team, based upon the witness statements that all five witnesses recalled the same visit, although they were not all able to recall the same precise year. Two of the witnesses, J and L recall the same charity event, whilst the exact year is

not known it is likely to be the same event. Contact with Nova (organisers of the GNR) revealed no information to assist the investigation.

Discussions with staff who still work in the Trust who cannot recall Savile, all concur that the wards were not locked and on an occasional basis celebrities did arrive unannounced at wards. From the available evidence, it would seem Savile had no formal access arrangements and there were no privileges accorded to him at Newcastle Hospitals or any of its predecessor organisations that this investigation has been able to find.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) published "Operation Yewtree Report, a Statistical Analysis of Operation Yewtree Contacts to the NSPCC Helpline 2012 to 2014".

This report details information submitted to the NSPCC helpline which was set up in partnership with The Metropolitan Police to offer support to victims or witnesses of abuse from Savile. The helpline received a total of 283 reports. These reports consisted of disclosures made by victims and others who were reporting information. In table 3.7 on page 6 of the report, "Hospital Location in Tyneside" was identified by 4 informants. Table 5.5 on page 9 records that the hospital in question was the Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI)

The Trust made contact with the NSPCC to understand and analyse the correlation with the Newcastle Hospitals Investigation.

The NSPCC were able to confirm that 4 callers contacted the NSPCC helpline with information relating to the mid 1980's to mid-1990's. Upon discussion with the NSPCC two callers had not left contact details, one did not wish to be contacted and one had already contributed to the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals based investigation (witness B).

The information received by the NSPCC related to sightings of Savile on the RVI site in Newcastle upon Tyne, correlates with the evidence found by The Newcastle Hospitals investigation in that none of the informants who contacted the NSPCC helpline disclosed abuse or assault. One of the informants made a suggestion that Savile's access to a Children's ward was unsupervised. However, we have been unable to corroborate this suggestion as it is inconsistent with the information provided by the other witnesses to whom we have spoken. The investigation team has not changed its conclusions or recommendations as a result of the information provided by the NSPCC by the 4 informants.

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#### **7. POLICY REVIEW**

There is no doubt that organisational policy, practice and culture has considerably changed from the time frame of JS' visits to now. Very significantly, robust Safeguarding Adults and Children policies and support is now in place. Current practice is that Celebrity visits are arranged in advance and are very well controlled. In the Great North Children's Hospital, a written protocol is in place and celebrity visits are all accompanied and notified in advance. Staff are encouraged and supported to challenge. Site managers are available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

Across the Newcastle Hospitals today, all Children's Wards and wards where vulnerable adults are cared for are now locked off with a secure electronic pass mechanism, which was not the case in the time frame of this investigation.

Staff awareness of Safeguarding is high and formal mandatory training is in place to ensure this. This is another significant change and provides assurance.

The Trust policy archive dates back ten years, so it has not been possible to formally check policies in place at the time. The recall of the staff is that there was no formal policy regarding Celebrity visitors; visits were spontaneous, often unannounced and tended to be informal. A search of corporate documentation has not identified any written policy or other relevant material.

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#### **8. CONCLUSIONS**

The limiting factor in this investigation has been the passage of time and the recall of individuals associated with this. Despite publicity across the city in the press and within the Trust, very little evidence has been uncovered. Notably, one of the NSPCC informants suggested Savile's access to a ward was unsupervised; we were not able to investigate or substantiate this. None of the information obtained during the course of the investigation suggested any unsupervised access or indeed regular or planned visits and Savile was awarded no privileges. Very little evidence exists in written format – conclusions have been drawn from discussions with witnesses and organisational memory.

There have been no allegations made of inappropriate or abusive behaviour carried out by Savile whilst visiting Newcastle Hospitals. From the information gathered during this investigation, it is likely that during a 10-12 year period Savile visited the RVI and NGH on two or more occasions.

We have found no evidence of a long standing, formal or informal connection between Savile and Newcastle Hospitals. Some of those who came forward to speak of seeing Savile cited his visit as being in conjunction with the Great North Run and as being simply an opportunistic visit at that time. All reports are of Savile being accompanied at all times during his visits, and none of the witnesses reported seeing inappropriate behaviour by Savile on hospital premises or towards patients.

The conclusion of this investigation is that whilst it is evident Savile did attend both the RVI and NGH sites; none of the witnesses we spoke to suggested that he had either unfettered or unsupervised access to patients or staff, nor was he awarded any privileges.

We have found no evidence of a consistent pattern of visits by Savile or a connection, fund raising or otherwise, between Savile and Newcastle Hospitals and its predecessor organisation.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation	Responsibility	Timeline
The Trust to develop a "Celebrity" Visitor Policy/framework to replicate and formalise the local guidance in place in the Great North Children's Hospital and reflect the good practice and Trust central co-ordination of Celebrity visitors.	Safeguarding Operational Group	July 2014
The findings and recommendations of this report will be shared with the Trust Safeguarding Committees and Newcastle Safeguarding Children's and Adult Boards to provide assurance and ensure responsibility for on-going action.	Nursing and Patient Services Director	In line with report publication
Any further allegations received shall be thoroughly investigated with the same rigour.	Chief Executive and Head of Nursing (RVI)	On-going