

**CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF MR X AT AN  
APPROVED PREMISES IN MAY 2005**

**REPORT BY THE PRISONS AND PROBATION OMBUDSMAN FOR  
ENGLAND AND WALES**

**AUGUST 2006**

Mr X as a condition of his licence upon release from prison resided at an Approved Premises. He died in May 2005, in his room, in the Approved Premises. He died as a result of having apparently ingested a large volume of prescription and illegal drugs earlier in the day. Mr X had been receiving medication from his doctor, which the Approved Premises were unaware of. It was alleged that he was in the habit of saving it up and taking an excessive amount, rather than as directed by the doctor.

The aim of my investigation was to discover whether the level of care provided by the hostel was appropriate, and whether any lessons could be learnt to help prevent a similar death in the future.

My investigation found several areas where practice could be improved and I made a number of recommendations all of which were accepted.

### **Recommendations**

1. The Chief Officer of the Probation Area should review the way in which information in respect of prescribed medication is shared between staff at Approved Premises and residents' GP's.
2. The Chief Officer of the Probation Area should remind staff of Approved premises that the wellbeing of residents is the highest priority for staff undertaking welfare checks.
3. The Chief Officer of the Probation Area should remind the staff of Approved premises of the need to keep accurate drug administration records of medication given to residents.
4. The Chief Officer of the Probation Area should remind the managers of Approved premises of the importance of retaining CCTV recordings after incidents such as the death of a resident and to make them immediately available to the investigators.

### **Good Practice**

- The hostel manager and members of staff attended Mr X's funeral and, with residents, held a tree planting ceremony in his memory to which members of his family were invited.
- Staff and residents were offered counselling following Mr X's death.