Action Plan in response to the PPO Report into the death of

Mr Connah Fearnley on 22 October 2025 at HMP Wealstun

Rec No		Accepted / Not accepted	Response Action Taken / Planned	Responsible Owner and Organisation	Target Date
1	The Governor and Head of Healthcare should ensure there is a clear, robust and auditable process for referring prisoners to the substance use service where they have requested it and ensure that all staff are aware of the importance and purpose of such referrals.	Accepted	HMP Wealstun has a clear, robust and auditable process in place for referral to the Drug & Alcohol Recovery Service/ Substance Misuse Service (DARS/SMS). On reception, all prisoners who are identified as being on Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) are automatically referred to DARS/SMS by healthcare staff. In addition, all prisoners are routinely offered referral to DARS/SMS at reception if they disclose current or previous illicit drug use. Following reception, prisoners may self-refer to DARS/SMS via the standard application system. Healthcare staff can also initiate referrals at any time in response to a prisoner request or identified need by sending an electronic task referral directly to DARS/SMS. Both self-referrals and staff-initiated task referrals are recorded on the clinical system and are therefore auditable.	Head of Healthcare PPG	Completed

			To strengthen consistency and awareness, healthcare staff will be reminded of the referral pathways and the importance of proactively supporting prisoners who request substance misuse support, rather than relying solely on repeat applications. A notice will be circulated to all prison staff outlining their responsibilities for referring prisoners to DARS whenever a prisoner requests support from this service. The notice will provide clear guidance on the referral process, including when prisoners have made a request, as well as when there are indications of substance misuse. The notice will also be attached to the key worker briefing notes to ensure key workers are fully informed of the required actions relating to DARS referrals prior to undertaking their key work sessions.	Head of Safety HMPPS	June 2026