

Southport Inquiry

Witness Name: Emma Walker-Riley

Exhibits: N/A

Dated: 31 July 2025

THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF EMMA WALKER-RILEY

I, Emma Walker-Riley, will say as follows: -

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Emma Walker-Riley, I am employed by Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust as a Safeguarding Specialist Practitioner since 10th June 2020 to the present day. I am the Safeguarding Link to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) which includes Sefton Community CAMHS. I work in the Safeguarding Team (Rainbow Centre) and am line managed by them.
2. My role is to provide safeguarding supervision to CAMHS practitioners. This includes reactive and planned safeguarding supervision, individually and in groups.
3. This witness statement is made to assist the Southport Inquiry (the "**Inquiry**") with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 14th July 2025.

BACKGROUND

4. I did not have any direct contact with AR. My role is to provide safeguarding advice, support and supervision to CAMHS practitioners. If CAMHS practitioners have any safeguarding concerns for the children and young people on their caseload they would contact me to arrange safeguarding supervision with the practitioner and we would discuss their concerns and formulate an agreed plan to safeguard the child/young person

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if that was necessary. This is called reactive safeguarding supervision. I also provide planned safeguarding supervision to CAMHS practitioners this gives them the opportunity to discuss children and young people on their caseload who are open to Children's Social Care who are subject to a Child in Need, Child Protection or Child in Care plans.

5. There have not been any changes to my employment, role, seniority since I commenced employment on 10th June 2020.
6. I hold a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree with Honors in Early Childhood Studies and Inclusive Education (2:1) from Liverpool Hope University (2010).
7. I hold a Master of Arts (MA) in Social Work from Liverpool Hope University (2013)
8. I am a Social Worker. I am registered with Social Work England. My registration number is SW96069. I have been registered as a Social Worker since November 2013.
9. I have completed the NHS Mary Seacole Leadership Course (22/07/2024).
10. I have completed the Bond Solon Safeguarding Supervision training for NHS staff (23/02/2021).
11. Prior to being employed as a Safeguarding Specialist Practitioner I worked as a Newley Qualified Social Worker for Warrington Borough Council (2014-2016).
12. I was employed as a Social Worker and progressed to an Advanced Social Worker for Knowsley Borough Council where I worked in a Child Protection Team (2016-2020). I have completed a Practice Educator qualification which enables me to assess Student Social Workers.
13. Given the limitation of my involvement set out at paragraph 4 above and the nature of my role, I give the following information with regard to the safeguarding supervision that I provided to Sam Coppard. On the Excel spreadsheet I hold it states that Safeguarding Supervision was completed with Sam Coppard on 06/08/2020. Sam discussed four children/young people with me, one of whom was AR.
14. I have no recollection or notes of the Safeguarding Supervision meeting as it is for Sam Coppard as the supervisee to document the content of the supervision discussion including the agreed actions if any, in the patient records. If actions were agreed, it would be the role of the supervisee to action them. I can only assume from usual practice that this was planned supervision given we discussed four children and young people and it is on the excel spreadsheet as one-to-one safeguarding supervision.

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15. I have not had any involvement in the assessment, diagnosis and/or treatment of AR. I am not a Mental Health Practitioner and therefore this would not be my role.
16. I have therefore not completed any risk assessments/risk management tool entries and CAMHS care plans for AR.
17. I have reviewed the CAMHS phone contact record dated 17/03/22, 14:47pm. I had no involvement with this telephone call as this is between Ms Steed and AR's father.
18. I do not recall a professional discussion (Safeguarding Supervision) with Ms Steed in March 2022. However, I note that Ms Steed has made any entry in AR's records on 1 June 2022 making a note of Safeguarding Supervision with me on 25 May 2022 as follows:

Discussed recent events re Case Management and response from Dad as to what he feels CAMHS should be doing/offering. Discussed Incident raised and nature of concerns. Grave safeguarding concerns for [AR's] re his emotional and physical health wellbeing. Axel is no attending school and is not leaving the home.

School and parents have made referral fro Early Help intervention via West Lancs. Likely another referral needs to be made from CAMHS - Dad has stated via email that he wants a change of worker before things get out of control and social care are involved.

Sam Steed agreed to take [AR] to MDT next week 01/06.22 to discuss what needs to happen next. Would be helpful to meet with SLT and Dr Ram to talk things through and put a plan together. Sam Steed to meet with Vicky Killen. Vicky Killen is due to contact parents in relation to incident raised. Sam Steed feeling unable to continue as Case Manager due to Dad's response to her practice/ work with [AR].

19. I have no recollection of the discussion. As I have explained, it was for Ms Steed as the supervisee to document the content of the supervision discussion including the agreed actions, if any, onto the patient records. If actions were agreed, it would be the role of the supervisee to action them. I cannot recall the what the 'grave safeguarding concerns for AR re his emotional and physical health wellbeing' were.

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20. I have not had any involvement with any other agencies in relation to AR.

21. I am trained in delivering Safeguarding Supervision and have completed the NHS Safeguarding Supervision course delivered by Bond Solon (23/02/2021).

22. I am aware that the organisation has made changes to the recording of safeguarding supervision across the Trust. It is now the responsibility of the Safeguarding Supervisor to document the supervision discussion and any agreed actions to be recorded in the patient's notes.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:

SIGNATURE

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Dated: 31/07/2025