

Southport Inquiry

Witness name: Jill Pauline Locke

Exhibits: N/A

Dated: 31st July 2025

THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF JILL PAULINE LOCKE

I, Jill Pauline Locke, will say as follows:

Introduction

1. I was working as a Mental Health Practitioner with Sefton Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) under the employment of Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust during my involvement with AR's brother DR.
2. I worked with DR in the role of CAMHS case manager which involves completing an assessment of the young person's mental health which includes any risk they may pose to themselves or others. The assessment helps to develop an understanding of the difficulties the young person is presenting with and is the basis for the therapeutic intervention provided by CAMHS.
3. The case manager will work with the young person, their parents or carers and where appropriate and in the best interests of the young person, the case manager may liaise with other practitioners / professionals to share information and seek or alternatively offer advice and guidance. The case manager may also work alongside other practitioners if this is felt to benefit the young person. Liaison with practitioners/professionals may be within CAMHS, other health services or can be with other relevant statutory agencies or providers such as the voluntary sector. Contact with professionals and agencies is carried out with the knowledge and consent of the young person and their parents / carers.
4. I joined Alder Hey in July 2000 and worked at Sefton CAMHS for 24 years, initially as a clinical nurse specialist then as manager of the Learning Disabilities Team before moving onto the role of specialist mental health practitioner in January 2012, in which I remained for 12

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years until my retirement in January 2024. Prior to my employment with Alder Hey from April 1990 I worked for 10 years as a community nurse for North Mersey Community (NHS) Trust in both adult and children's services.

5. My qualifications relevant to my role as case manager for DR include Registered Nurse in Learning Disability (RNLD), Certificate of Higher Education in Autistic Spectrum Disorders, BSc (Hons) in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Practice and Postgraduate Certificate in Supervision Skills for Mental Health Professionals. In addition, I am a qualified Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapist. EMDR is a recognised therapy for the treatment of trauma.

Background

6. This witness statement is made to assist the Southport Inquiry with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 14 July 2025.

Involvement in relation to AR while in the role as CAMHS case manager for his brother DR

7. Patient confidentiality in relation to DR will be respected in this statement and only information relevant to the terms of reference for this Inquiry will be provided.

8. I was aware that DR had a younger brother AR, DR told me this during our first clinic appointment on 3/06/16. His mother, in the same appointment, also shared details of who was in their family. Throughout my time as DR's case manager, I had very little direct contact with AR; he was not expected to attend any of DR's appointments. I did however briefly meet AR on 2/08/16 during the school summer holidays when I visited the family home for an appointment with DR and his parents. There was nothing in AR's appearance, behaviour or interactions with his brother and parents that gave me cause for concern during this visit.

9. No concerns in relation to AR had been raised with me by either DR, his parents or any professionals until June 2019 when during an appointment at Southport clinic on 11/06/19 AR's father disclosed that he and AR's mother felt that DR's difficulties had taken a toll on AR. They had noticed that AR had been arguing with his brother, saying that there was nothing wrong with him [DR] and that he was making it up. AR's parents felt that he may benefit from the opportunity to talk about how he was feeling and they were arranging for AR to access counselling.

10. I was contacted by telephone on 16/12/19 by Anna Jameson, social worker, Lancashire Children's Services, she explained that an incident had occurred at Range High School on 15/12/19 involving AR, in which he had taken a knife and baseball bat into school with the

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intention of hurting a particular student. The police had been called and concerns raised about AR's internet browser history. A strategy meeting had been arranged for the following day 17/12/19. I was unable to attend and shared with Anna information with regard to my involvement with AR's brother DR. I said that I would be happy to meet with Anna should she require more details in relation to DR. I was not contacted to arrange a meeting.

11. Following my phone call with Anna Jameson I was informed on the same day (16/12/19) by my colleague Skott Morgan, Mental Health Practitioner, with whom I shared an office, that AR had been referred to CAMHS and that they had been allocated as CAMHS case manager for AR. Skott was aware of the incident that had occurred at school on 15/12/19 and was attending the strategy meeting on 17/12/19. Skott informed me that the decision made at the meeting was not to escalate to a Section 47 investigation / Child Protection Enquiry.

12. AR was now under the care of CAMHS and had been allocated his own CAMHS case manager; it was normal practice within the service for siblings to be allocated their own individual case manager. I, in my role as case manager for DR, was not requested to become involved in the process of assessment, diagnosis or treatment of AR.

13. It is recorded in AR's case notes on 7/07/21 that, during a professional discussion between Dr Lakshmi Ramasubramanian, CAMHS consultant psychiatrist and Sam Steed, mental health practitioner / case manager for AR, that Sam would contact me to ensure opportunities for professional discussion regarding how best we can support the family.

14. I received an email on 8/07/21 from AR's CAMHS case manager Sam Steed stating that she would be happy to meet if this would be helpful. I agreed to attend a professional discussion with CAMHS clinicians working with the family.

15. I attended a professional discussion meeting on 11/08/21 with my CAMHS colleagues Sam Coppard, assistant clinical lead / family therapist; Dr Lakshmi Ramasubramanian, CAMHS consultant psychiatrist and Sam Steed, case manager for AR. I explained that I was not aware of any concerns within the family with regard to AR, as neither DR nor his parents had alerted me to any problems or worries they had about AR. I had not expected DR's parents to speak with me about AR as they were in contact with AR's own CAMHS case manager and psychiatrist. I shared in the meeting that my interactions with parents in relation to DR have felt positive, parents have been collaborative and supportive of my work with DR.

16. I met with Sam Steed, AR's case manager on 19/08/21 for a professional discussion. Sam had emailed me earlier that day to inform me that AR had made disclosures that his father had threatened him with a knife and had hit DR during an argument a few weeks ago. Sam had contacted Stacey Haydock, social worker for the family to share the disclosures made by AR.

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I told Sam Steed that I would contact Stacey Haydock to inform her of my involvement with DR.

17. Sam Steed emailed me on 19/08/21 to let me know that Stacey had updated her with the decision that, having spoken with the family, including both AR and DR, that some form of family support would be offered which would include support in relation to AR's needs and presentation in the home. Sam Steed was unsure if parents would accept this offer from social care as she was aware that parents had described some past experiences as being negative. I replied to Sam by email on 19/08/21 that parents may accept this support as I was aware that, although not in relation to AR, parents had recently been proactive in making a referral to social care with the aim of obtaining support.

18. I spoke on the telephone with Stacey Haydock, social worker on 1/09/21 to provide a summary of CAMHS involvement with DR as requested. Stacey asked me if DR had ever spoken to me about being hit by his father. I replied that he had not.

19. I met with DR for an appointment on 2/01/21, I informed him of my conversation with Stacey Haydock the previous day. DR stated that he gets on well with his dad and that his dad had not hit him, he added that AR and his dad argue and do not get along well with each other. I did not contact AR's case manager to share DR's comments as I knew that Sam Steed was already aware of difficulties between AR and his dad and that she had passed these concerns onto Stacey Haydock, social worker.

20. It has come to my attention as disclosed to me by the Inquiry in its request for a witness statement under Rule 9 that Sam Steed, AR's CAMHS case manager sent an email on 21/01/22 to Michelle Warner, AR's CAMHS key worker in which Sam states she was going to '*ask Jill Locke for some advice*'. I was not contacted by Sam Steed for advice.

21. In addition, I have been made aware through the Rule 9 request for a witness statement that it was suggested in an email dated 8/06/22 from Samantha Steed to Sam Coppard, CAMHS assistant clinical lead, that '*Jill Locke could perhaps oversee Camille Hayward, key worker if she were to offer support to the family*'. I had no knowledge of this suggestion and I am not aware if Camille Hayward offered any support to the family.

22. Through the process of writing this witness statement I have also been made aware that a discussion took place on 29/07/22 between Sam Steed and Dr Anthony Molyneux, consultant psychiatrist within which it was suggested that I, along with Dr Lakshmi Ramasubramanian, consultant psychiatrist may be invited to a meeting with the above clinicians to discuss CAMHS' approach to thinking about what could help AR. I do not know if this meeting took place, however I was not invited to attend.

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23. Sam Steed, AR's case manager completed a *Riding the Rapids* referral form on the 09/08/22. Riding the Rapids is a free course for parents and carers of children who have a diagnosis of Autism, learning disabilities, neurodevelopmental conditions or complex physical disabilities. The course aims to help parents to understand and support their child's behaviour, in the context of additional needs. The course is an evidence-based parenting programme and is run by many services who offer support to children and young people with additional needs. I was not a facilitator for the Riding the Rapids course run by Sefton CAMHS and do not know whether it was attended by AR's parents.

Involvement with other agencies

24. There were two occasions upon which I had contact with Lancashire Children's Services in relation to AR. The first was with Anna Jameson, social worker on 16/12/19 and the second with Stacey Haydock, social worker on 1/09/21. Both contacts are noted within this witness statement. On each occasion the social worker demonstrated awareness of the needs of AR's sibling and spoke with me, in my role as case manager for DR, about the support provided by CAMHS.

Reflection on events

25. My last appointment with DR took place on 21/07/22 and my involvement with the family came to an end. During my time as case manager for DR my focus was on meeting DR's needs and this did not require me to have any engagement with his brother AR. My work with DR was carried out in the knowledge that AR was under the care of CAMHS and had clinicians allocated to work with him and his family. Joint working between myself and AR's clinicians could have been considered however I do not think this would have been in the best interest of DR and likely refused by both boys. The fact that AR's clinicians did not request joint working makes me believe they did not think it would be in the best interest of AR either. Professional meetings between CAMHS colleagues to share relevant information did take place 11/08/21 and 19/08/21 and any safeguarding concerns shared between case managers 16/12/19 and 19/08/21.

26. With regard to the nature of the involvement I had in the events under the purview of the Inquiry, all my involvement took place with AR's brother, DR and I was not involved in any CAMHS intervention for AR.

Improvements

27. I am not aware of any relevant improvements that have been made by Alder Hey since the events under investigation as I retired from Sefton CAMHS in January 2024.

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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.

SIGNATURE

Signed:

Dated: __31st July 2025__