

Witness Name: Leanne Natasha Lucas

Exhibits: LL/01 – LL/31

Dated: 12 August 2025

THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF LEANNE LUCAS

I, Leanne Lucas, will say as follows: -

INTRODUCTION

1. I am a self employed primary school teacher and yoga teacher, and was training to be a therapeutic counsellor. I have now completed that training. On 29th July 2024 I held a Taylor Swift themed yoga and dance workshop which was the subject of a brutal attack
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Southport Inquiry (the “**Inquiry**”) with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 17th July 2025.

BACKGROUND

3. I have over 15 years experience in teaching and have worked around the world including China, where I was a year group leader and class teacher for Year 1 (5-6 year olds) and then taught Year 3 (7-8 year olds). I have the following teaching qualifications - Primary school teacher BA (hons) and Primary Education with QTS, BTEC Diploma in Early Years.
4. I previously worked in a number of local schools as a supply teacher in Merseyside/Sefton. This was through Connex Education. I previously worked at Churchtown Primary School for 8 years as Class Teacher for children aged 4-11 years.

I taught all subjects including English Maths Science, History, Geography, PSHE, RE and PE. I was the PE subject leader. I knew Heidi Liddle prior to working at Churchtown, however this is where we developed our professional working relationship as Heidi was my classroom teaching assistant for 3 years.

5. In relation to yoga, I ran Enlighten as a Sole Trader. I completed yoga teacher training with Yoga Beez for toddler to primary age children. I have also completed an advanced yoga course, which qualifies me to teach yoga to primary aged children up to adults. I have provided the front cover and contents pages for the Foundation and Advanced Teacher Training Manuals (See Exhibits LL/01 - **IWS000005** and Exhibit LL/02 - **IWS000006**) and my certificates (Exhibit LL/03 - **IWS000007** and LL/04 - **IWS000008**). I would be happy to provide copies of any specific pages/sections of the manuals if that would assist.
6. At the time of the event, I held an Enhanced DBS Certificate. This is updated annually. See exhibit LL/05 - **IWS000009**
7. In addition to my qualifications in primary school teaching and yoga, I have a Diploma in Therapeutic counselling. This qualifies me to counsel those aged 13 years and over in person centred counselling. I also have a Mindfulness qualification which permits me to be a Mindfulness Facilitator. 'Little Sunshine Mindfulness and Yoga' is who I trained with and I have provided the course details (Exhibit LL/06- **IWS000034**) and certificate (Exhibit LL/07 - **IWS000010**)
8. I also hold an advanced safeguarding, child protection and prevent certificate. See Exhibit LL/08 - **IWS000011** I was due to renew this over the Summer.
9. Enlighten was the trading name of the business of which I am the sole trader. Its business was children and family yoga classes aimed at delivering yoga, mindfulness and wellbeing. I held weekly yoga classes at Hart Space, Churchtown Primary School, Redgate Primary School, Meols Cop High School. Enlighten Yoga was not registered with Ofsted, as there is no requirement to register an extra-curricular activity with Ofsted.
10. The aims of Enlighten were to encourage children to feel empowered, included and in tune with their mind and body. Wellbeing was at the heart of what I did, a class would not be complete without smiles, laughter, little voices and light bulb moments. It was the best feeling in the world to see a child take a skill or a strategy home and apply it to their everyday life to make them feel happier, calmer, present and more in control of their body and their emotions. Please find attached social media post 1 (Exhibit LL/09 -

IWS000012) and social media post 2 (Exhibit LL/10 - **IWS000013**) sharing an experience from a class evidencing how wellbeing was being positively impacted. On social media, you will also find many positive reviews from parents of my child and family classes, I have attached some as examples of the feedback I would receive from parents. (See Parent Feedback 1-10 Exhibits LL/11-LL/20)

INVOLVEMENT IN THE ATTACK ITSELF

11. I have considered the contents of the first account that I provided to the police and I do have further details that I wish to add. However, the timing of this request being around the first anniversary of the attack has meant that it is too traumatising to address at this moment. I will provide more details in due course.

GUIDANCE, POLICIES AND LEGAL DUTIES RELEVANT TO HOLDING THE EVENT

12. I am aware that the legal duties that were in place included the requirement to have public liability insurance cover (See Exhibit LL/21 - **IWS000024**) to have the necessary qualifications to deliver the class and to have a DBS check, all of which were in place as demonstrated by Exhibits LL/03 - **IWS000007** LL/04 - **IWS000008** and LL/05 - **IWS000009**).
13. I am trained in safeguarding and have a safeguarding certificate (Exhibit LL/08- **IWS000011**) and policy (Exhibit LL/22 - **IWS000025**). I also had "Parenting 2000" leaflets should they be required (Exhibit LL/23 - **IWS000026**). I had conducted a risk assessment. (Exhibit LL/24 - **IWS000027**).
14. I followed the guidance laid down in the Yogabeez teacher Foundation and Advanced training manuals. (Exhibits LL/01 - **IWS000005** and LL/02 - **IWS000006**).
15. In accordance to the DfE non statutory guidance "After-school clubs, community activities, and tuition: Safeguarding guidance for providers" ("OOSS Guidance"), published September 2023, I fall under the heading "Extra-curricular activity" as a subject specific exercise class.
16. I had my safeguarding policy (LL/22 - **IWS000025**) and risk assessment (LL/24 - **IWS000027**) and held a meeting with Heidi Liddle to discuss the running of the event

and the arrangements beforehand eg online booking system and consent forms. This was a discussion and was not written down or recorded.

17. Enlighten was not a big enough company to employ anyone. Heidi Liddle was not employed by me, it was a joint event but under the name of my business as it is established and has a following. At the time of organising the event I was aware that Heidi was a qualified teaching assistant, a qualified dance teacher and held an enhanced DBS check as well as knowing she was safeguard trained through the school she worked at. I considered her suitable to work with and to co-host the event.
18. I cannot locate my first aid certificate but I have had repeated staff training in first aid at various schools. I have previously been trained in all manner of first aid including how to support a child using an inhaler, how to use a defibrillator, how to administer an epi-pen all through school setting training sessions. Heidi has first aid training from Churchtown Primary School.
19. I was aware of appropriate signposting if parents were in need eg if a parent raised a concern with me, I would know the signs to look for and how to signpost the parent to the appropriate person/organisation.
20. I know how to report a safeguarding referral. I am aware of the online procedure.
21. Whilst the Teacher Standard Rules and Regulations were not applicable to the event, I follow them automatically due to my extensive role as a teacher.
22. The event aligned with the policies and guidance that I was aware of.
23. At each school I have worked, there were people immersed in safeguarding who I could have gone to for advice if I was unsure about anything in my risk assessments. I had a point of contact at each workplace to discuss health and safety issues if there were any. I had no such concerns about the premises or the event I was planning.

PLANNING THE WORKSHOP

24. I have held a number of collaborative events with other people and on this occasion worked collaboratively with Heidi Liddle. Collaborating and bringing together two different activities (yoga and dance) would make the workshop more fun, provide a

better opportunity for the children, and made the experience unique to other activities that were on offer.

25. Heidi and I have worked together for a long time and trusted each other. Heidi was a qualified teaching assistant and qualified dance teacher. This was the first event we had done together but she was my teaching assistant at Churchtown, so we have spent a great amount of time organising things like this together within the school building.
26. I consider that Heidi had suitable skills, expertise and experience to hold the event with me.

THE HART SPACE

27. The Hart Space was a well-loved, well used, and well-established venue. It was known as a community and family venue, holding multiple workshops including baby yoga, antenatal classes, music and dance workshops, baby book club, Rhyme Time classes, Relax kids yoga club, meditation classes, and holiday clubs.
28. I was looking for a new venue in 2023 and The Hart Space was suitable and met the needs of my classes. I knew of Jennifer Scholes and how professional she was through friends who attended classes and other facilitators of classes held at the Hart Space. Ms Scholes has a very good reputation in the community. She was reliable whereas other places would cancel bookings last minute, but she didn't do this.
29. The venue was useable at all times of the day and the price included the yoga mats which I didn't get other places. It was also welcoming me into a network of holistic facilitators as Ms Scholes wanted to support fellow sole traders.
30. I was able to book weekly secure slots. Bookings were made with Ms Scholes personally, she had a shared calendar, she would put bookings through and email an invoice.
31. There was a conversation between Ms Scholes and I before I started to use the venue. I can't recall any specific instructions given by Ms Scholes but it included basics like leave the space as you find it, clean up after yourself, turn lights off, close windows, secure the building etc. All conversations with Ms Scholes were verbal. Nothing documented or written down that I recall.

32. We had a conversation regarding booking this specific event because it wasn't my regular weekly booking. Following our conversation the booking was entered onto Ms Scholes system. Ms Scholes was very good at keeping me informed and would highlight anything I needed to know before a class in terms of health and safety e.g. if a wall had recently been painted or a box had been left out by a prior class. This helped me to assess my current risk assessment and adapt where needed.
33. Ms Scholes didn't tell me about anything specific for that day. On that day the air conditioning in the studio upstairs didn't appear to be working on arrival, so I sent Ms Scholes a message to inform her before the workshop started. As it was a hot day I chose to open the windows for this workshop.
34. I worked in accordance with the Hart Space policies as described to me by Ms Scholes eg making sure all cupboards were locked and plugs were covered with children safety guards. I cannot recall whether I signed any documentation about these policies with Ms Scholes.
35. I assessed the venue as both safe and suitable for the event I was holding. The Enlighten risk assessment complies with Hart Space risk assessment and the Hart space fire procedure. I considered that the environment was safe for yoga and movement.
36. The class specific risk assessment for Workshops at the Hart Space was annually reviewed. I knew what to do in case of an emergency and my risk assessment sets that out. The risk assessment included all the risks I had foreseen.
37. The event had fewer than 5 helpers or volunteers so my understanding is that I did not need to write a health and safety policy in relation to the DfE non statutory guidance provided.
38. Ms Scholes had previously pointed out the fire door and described the evacuation route to me. My understanding is that Ms Scholes as the tenant or the building owner was responsible for building fire safety and evacuation plan.

THE WORKSHOP

39. The workshop was for Children aged 5 years plus. It was a Taylor Swift themed yoga and dance workshop bringing together 2 activities with age appropriate tasks, instruction and guidance.
40. Parents were able to book their child into the workshop using an online booking form. The booking form contained terms and condition. See Exhibits LL/25 - **IWS000028**, LL/26 - **IWS000029**, LL/27 - **IWS000030** and LL/28 - **IWS000031**. Upon booking the parent would receive a confirmation email which contained instructions such as children must have hair tied up, wear suitable footwear and bring water. See Exhibit LL/29 - **IWS000032**. For those who did not use the online booking form, I would ask the parent to sign it at drop off unless they had already been to a class of mine before and therefore completed the liability sheet previously. 13 of the children had booked using the online booking system specifically for this event and all their details are stored there. See Exhibit LL/30 - **IWS000033**.
41. Some of the children were already known to me prior to the event from attending other classes or workshops. On the day before, I contacted anyone where I did not have sufficient information about who would be collecting the child and what phone number I should use for them. I also asked about any special needs and whether any adjustments were required.
42. Parents were asked to complete consent forms for their child to join the workshop including liability forms. This also addressed consent for photography and sharing images. See MERP000928.
43. On the day prior, I confirmed phone numbers with parents who either booked with me directly or had booked multiple places to confirm who was collecting the child and documented emergency contact details for each child. Anyone who had booked online, sufficient data had been collected through the forms they completed. Some online bookings were made by the same adult but the places where for children from other families e.g. one parent had booked for her daughter and her friend. I made sure I had sufficient detail from these bookings such as was the same adult collecting both children or not and whether was to use the same phone number for an emergency or not.
44. The parents and/or guardians of the children attending the workshop were provided with my contact details.

45. The Register details medical conditions contact details and any requirements. (See register MERP000928_4)
46. As part of my ongoing risk assessment, if a parent had declared a medical need I either had a telephone call with the parent beforehand or had planned to speak with them in person at the event to assess the needs of the child and to ensure I could have the child in my care. Further information can be provided if necessary.
47. It was never mandated that parents had to leave the workshop. In previous classes I have had parents stay to monitor and supervise their own child where they have had SEN. In the event of such a request I would conduct a case-by-case bespoke risk assessment by observing the child and speaking with the parent.
48. A register was taken at start of session. You will note that one name is circled. That is because they had not arrived at the start, and I was considering contacting the parent however they did arrive shortly thereafter.
49. Had I believed the event carried the risk of an attack, I would have not delivered the workshop. If I was aware at the time of the event that this was even a possibility, I would never have exposed myself or others to the risk and simply would not have run the event. I have not held an event since. I have not in fact worked since.

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT THE HART SPACE

50. The key for the studio room was kept on site. I had a key to the front door which was communal and would get the key from a secure space inside the building.
51. I consider the Hart Space to refer to both the upstairs studio and the downstairs studio.
52. The ground floor entrance to the downstairs studio was behind a roller shutter. Once you go through, there is waiting area and a door goes into the downstairs studio. After I finished the session downstairs, I took the children upstairs and then came back down to lock the downstairs door to prevent unsupervised access to the space. I did not want there to be any confusion for the parents about where to collect their child from. I also didn't want a child to leave the event with their parent and to take them into the downstairs studio to show them where they had part of the workshop. I did not consider it appropriate for people to be in there unsupervised.

53. The door that led to the first floor of the Hart Space was used by multiple people to more than one business. I was not the only person responsible for that door. It was a fire door and because of that I knew it was not appropriate to lock it during the day. I would only lock this of an evening when the other unit was not in use to secure the building after leaving.
54. The doors between the first floor Hart Space studio and the landing provided access to toilet facilities.
55. The door to the Hart Space studio on the first floor were fire doors. They were the only fire exit for that room. They are wooden doors with no panels to see through. If that door had been locked it would have put in breach of the fire regulations and also my agreement with Ms Scholes.
56. Had the door been locked it would have been capable of being kicked in. Had the door been locked and I heard someone knocking on it, I would have assumed it was a parent arriving earlier and would have opened the door. As they do not have any see through panels I would have to open the door to see who was on the other side.
57. The only additional security measures I considered was the adult to child ratio which was met. Further security measures would not have been practical.
58. The teacher to child ratio I followed is 1:15. however I decided to cap it at 26, stopped advertising the event and created a waiting list for a follow up event. There was no limit imposed on me by Ms Scholes.

REFLECTION ON EVENTS

59. Before the attack I did consider the guidance and resources available to me, were adequate for me to organise and hold the event, particularly as I have a wealth of experience in running such groups.
60. In hindsight, I cannot possibly now say it was adequate. Nothing ever advised me that I should plan for what to do if a workshop came under attack. If it had, I simply would not have held such an event. Despite having all the required documentation, aligned with guidelines, this was all irrelevant when faced with an unforeseen life or death situation. A situation that should have been under control and prevented by multiple

organisations and services that keep the general public safe. Those organisations and services have let me down.

61. At the time, I did not consider there was anything I could or should have done differently. I was qualified, I knew the venue, I had conducted a risk assessment, I had been diligent in collecting the appropriate information about each child and the parent who would be collecting them.
62. Had I had known there was someone who was planning on killing children, I would not have organised a club.
63. Other facilitators who were using the Hart space in the exact same format to me, are still running their clubs just at a new, very similar venue. It hasn't impacted the way they run their businesses at all to my knowledge.
64. If small businesses like mine are to be expected to plan for such instances, then we must be made aware of the high risk individuals in the community. Likewise, educators should be made aware of information of potential risks to the people in their care. There should be sharing of multi-agency information to help people assess risks and take informed decisions. Confidentiality will need to be overridden to assist those with a duty of care to youths or children and they should be made aware of any relevant prior convictions of those who pose risks.
65. Anyone holding a class with youths should be made aware of the risks posed by individuals within their class so they can clearly risk assess. This recommendation is not based on my class as we were unaware he would be present but it is something that now occurs to me. Anyone holding a class for youths should be made aware of convictions or referrals to prevent.
66. In hindsight, the club was successful, the attacker was the issue. The police stated if the door was locked the outcomes would have been severely worse. If the door was locked, he still would have found a way in or would have waited in the car park as it was collection time. If the door was locked and he had knocked on the door I would have had to go to the door and speak to him face to face. That would have resulted in me being attacked first. He undoubtedly would have overpowered me or killed me on the spot and got access to the room regardless and potentially blocked the door preventing anyone else from leaving. If that had happened many more would have died.

67. If I had answered the door, I would be dead, and I wouldn't have been able to call for help or alert others in the area for further assistance. "I had to ring for help before I died" is in my ABE statement. If I had answered the door, he could have potentially murdered me in that position causing my body to fall and block the doorway. The children would have had to step over my body to escape. I don't know if they would have been capable of doing that or whether that would have caused them to freeze.
68. I have a suggestion that activity provisions could be quality assured, to measure and monitor all providers in a safe way. All activity providers could be held on a database and be able to be alerted if needed, like the school system in place. The council and police should know where and when each activity takes place, so they can communicate with providers in the event of an emergency. Had the father of the attacker called the police and said he left the house with a knife (which to my knowledge, he did not), or if the taxi firm had alerted the police, the police would have been able to notify local schools of an issue. There is no similar way of notifying activity providers like me that there was such an alert. If I had received such an alert, I would have taken the advice of the police on how to proceed.
69. Quality assurance would reassure all activity providers that they are doing the right thing. If this was in place beforehand, the quality assurer would have been able to advocate for me so I could focus on healing. If this had happened in a school where I taught, the school would have stepped in, providing all of the evidence regarding risk assessments etc. As I am the sole trader I have had to participate in the inquiry as a victim, a witness and comply with the request for a statement regarding my organisation. Whilst I am of course willing to assist the Inquiry, this has taken a huge toll on my mental wellbeing.
70. If the Inquiry concludes that locked doors with intercom facilities and cameras are required for a small community activity, the government will need to provide funding for this as it wouldn't be feasible for most small businesses. Without such funding, they would need to raise their prices to customers, therefore some customers wouldn't be able to afford it. This would result in children attending fewer clubs and activities, staying at home in their bedroom more often making them vulnerable to isolation, mental health issues and anti-social behaviour, all of which the government are trying to prevent.
71. Finally, I exhibit LL/31 - **IWS000035** which is an article showcasing my success as a children's yoga teacher. I was chosen out of a lot of newly qualified children's yoga teachers' so I was very proud. The classes I delivered were well thought of amongst the community as demonstrated by the parental feedback. My classes were not just

about stretching but about empowering children and allowing them to develop their confidence. My club was well loved and is very much missed since it has gone. It is a real shame for my community.

LET'S BE BLUNT CAMPAIGN

72. This aims to help to reduce and prevent knife crime. I want to create social change where everyone contributes to tackling knife crime, starting in their own homes.
73. I do not claim that the change to blunt tip knives would have prevented the attack. The attacker was determined to commit his attack. I am focussed on removing the possibility of attacks committed on impulse by simply grabbing a kitchen utensil and making it more difficult for others to purchase a sharp knife when the intention is there. The aim is to squeeze the supply of sharp instruments that could be used as weapons. I am also not claiming that this is the only way knife crime figures will be reduced, it is merely a small preventative measure alongside many others. I have chosen to focus on this area as it is something I am able to engage with, make a difference on and not be triggered by focusing on individuals such as the perpetrator.
74. Work is ongoing to raise awareness of the high risk of kitchen knife homicides, to raise awareness of safer kitchen utensils, to reduce the number of potential weapons circulating, to prevent impulsivity, to influence safe disposal, policy making to tighten and monitor online retail of knives.
75. We are still raising awareness, we are working with Home Office on policies and procedures, and collaborating with other campaigners and charities. I am involved in a collaboration with De Montford University where I am working with a forensic scientist who investigates stab wounds and has proved that it is the tip of the blade that does the most damage.
76. I am working in collaboration with violence reduction units across the country. I am working in collaboration with Kent police and their safer knife replacement scheme. Kent police have seen a reduction of 17.4 % in knife crime since the introduction of the safer knife scheme in the police force.
77. I am working in collaboration with various councils across the country. I am part of the Knife Crime Coalition Party. I am formulating workshops to deliver food tech classes to high schools on using blunt tip knives, hoping future generations will only home blunt

tipped knives. In turn this can be rolled out to parents, staff and we are also looking at collaborations with youth clubs.

78. I am making contact with relevant bodies in the retail and manufacturing industry with the aim of influencing production and sales. I am working with the Ben Kinsella Trust and Pooja Kanda looking at licensing of knives and monitoring the sales of knives.
79. There have been 4952 unique visitors to my website since the launch on May 21st and this increases every day. 738 household pledges have been made to switch to blunt tip knives. I know this figure is higher, as not all households have made the pledge online.
80. My hope is that the UK becomes a "Let's Be Blunt" country. I am very willing to work with the Inquiry in formulating workable recommendations that will help to reduce knife crime across the UK.

Barriers to the campaign

81. Public behaviour and perception, people thinking 'this won't happen to us, I wouldn't do that, or someone in my family wouldn't do that.'
82. The presumption that we think this is the only way to solve knife crime, when in reality, we are part of an incredibly complex group of organisations trying to tackle the issue from all angles, together.
83. People being afraid to talk about knife crime.
84. People presuming it won't occur in their area.
85. Less understanding and knowledge amongst adults, not children. Adults need knife crime awareness and education.

Retail

86. Industry regulations.
87. Definition of a kitchen knife.
88. Retail legal departments. Many legal departments for retailers are wary of anything linked to the sale of knives. This also links with the unclear definition of a sharp pointed kitchen knife and a blunt/curved tipped kitchen knife. Without this distinction, some retailer legal departments are cautious of selling the blunt tipped knives.

89. Online retailing issues – we need an IVD system put in place for sellers and buyers.
90. Face to face retailing issues. Training for staff in shops so they feel more empowered to say no and not sell knives to vulnerable people/ suspicious people – not just age related. I don't believe all retailers have sufficient training to empower their staff to use challenge 25 in regard to knives. There should be more in place to prevent a sale than just age verification. For example, if a sales assistant did not feel comfortable selling to someone over 18, could they refuse? At present, I am unsure what the policy and procedures of this are.
91. If licencing came into play this would squeeze supply as small shops would stop selling immediately as the price of a licence would outweigh the profit made on selling items such as pen knives.
92. Retailers need greater regulation and monitoring.
93. You can buy kitchen knives on 'Vinted'.
94. Temu and Shein are disguising bladed articles in other products and it is getting into the UK, such as a keyring with a hidden blade inside.
95. You can pick up a knife in any 'Air B n B', home holiday stay, caravan park etc – this should be regulated and monitored.
96. Most community centres and communal settings have pointed tipped kitchen knives to hand in their staff rooms or open kitchens. Some councils have declared support for Let's Be Blunt and are ensuring all communal venues and spaces are free from pointed tip knives.
97. Recommended security packaging in retailers needs regulating and monitoring. Currently I can go into The Range and buy their 'value knife set' for a very small price, in unsecure packaging that could be opened on the store floor.
98. Pointed kitchen knives need to be behind manned, secure counters like cigarettes and vapes or not sold in shops at all. Currently they are on some shop floors, some at child level. There are some very good role models in the retail industry who I would like to commend on their efforts for taking the responsibility into their own hands, some include all stores nationwide, some are location specific where staff raised their concern and management acted accordingly to make their shops safer. I can provide examples if needed on good practice that could be rolled out nationwide.

99. Currently you can buy a kitchen knife in Lidl for 99p or 2 for 1 pound 50. Why are discounts available on pointed tip knives that can be weaponised?
100. Not enforcing the 4 year prison sentence when found carrying a knife. This means that dangerous people are not removed from our streets and also there is no deterrence.
101. Every police force and council working differently and not collaboratively.
102. No universal safe disposal of knives across police forces or councils.
103. The unwillingness to hold amnesty bins/ safe disposal bins in every town.
104. Lack of understanding from leadership in most authorities and services. I speak with many people across different industries who completely understand the issues and the preventative measure set out in our campaign. As this message goes higher up an organisation, the understanding and desire to prevent becomes less and less. It would be encouraging to see leaders being role models and investigating preventatives. I can highlight forces and services who are totally onboard with the campaign and are already putting it into practice in their local area.
105. It has become apparent to me that good practice is not always shared or welcomed. This needs to change especially within the police force. This is not the only area where good practice is seen as competition rather than a model that could be mimicked and collaboration would be welcomed, creating a greater strength to tackle knife crime. Knife crime shouldn't be tackled across each area of the UK in isolation. For greater impact, teamwork and a strategic approach is needed.
106. It has become clear that some branches of authorities such as the police force place too great an emphasis on their concerns over how they are perceived by the public. The focus should be on impact and action. Some authorities are reluctant to participate in the campaign or the National Safer Knife Scheme (mentioned earlier) as they are worried about what the public will say about them, over recognising the positive impact it is having already in areas who have embraced it.
107. It would be encouraging to see the Home Office acting on suggestions provided to them by survivors, campaigners and charities who work tirelessly to try to find solutions to ensure knife crime statistics decrease. We have seen this with the welcome introduction of Ronan's Law, but more still needs to be acted on in a timely manner.

108. The media are creating fear amongst young people. The more fear driven into them, the greater risk of young people becoming carriers of knives out of fear. To limit the amount of knife crime, we must instil hope and lessen fear. To do this, greater legislation and enforcement of the law must take place. Including young people in consultations and workshops would provide them with a space for their voices to be heard and they can feel like they are part of the solution.

OTHER MATTERS

109. Lack of support for victims and survivors. No sufficient trauma support for the victims.

110. Victim support is inadequate and incompetent.

111. Talking therapies are inadequate and incompetent.

112. The criminal justice system isn't built for victims.

113. FLO training is inadequate. Merseyside police don't have everyone trauma informed and it won't be completed until the end of the year.

114. 'We've never had to deal with this before' is not an acceptable excuse or response to a victim of crime from the police force, the council, victim support or any service we have been directed to.

115. Victim shaming.

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: L.Lucas

Dated: 12.08.25