

Witness Name: ANDREW BRAMHALL

Exhibits: AB/01-AB/07

Dated: 30 July 2025

THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANDREW BRAMHALL

I, **ANDREW BRAMHALL**, will say as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. I am retired Police Sergeant Andrew Bramhall of Lancashire Constabulary.
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Southport Inquiry (the "**Inquiry**") with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 10 July 2025.

INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

3. I joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1992 at the age of 30. Prior to joining I undertook a variety of different work. I became a light vehicle mechanic apprentice when I was 16 years old, and qualified when I was 20 years old. A few weeks after my 21st birthday I went to work in Sudan for about 6 months in the Voluntary Services Overseas ("VSO") program where I taught mechanics to Eritrean refugees who had fled the war in their country. I returned to the UK that same year and went to work in a car hire company, servicing and delivering vehicles for several years. I then went onto work at Vauxhall Motors in Bolton where my role was working on Service Reception and later as a Car Hire and Petrol Station Manager. I worked there until 1992.
4. I joined the police as I wanted to help people. I was a uniform officer all my career, predominantly working in Neighbourhood Policing. I thoroughly enjoyed working in the

Neighbourhood Policing department as I enjoyed the longer-term involvement with the public and partnership working to provide long term solutions to problems within the area that I was working. I worked most of my career in what is now known as South Division which covered Skelmersdale, Chorley, Bamber Bridge and Leyland.

5. In September 2003 I was seconded to the Bruche Police National Training Centre in Warrington. I worked there as a trainer delivering training to new police recruits. The Training Centre closed and my secondment with them ended in July 2005. Following this, I was then posted to Lancashire Constabulary headquarters in Preston where I continued training new police recruits which I did until February 2006.
6. I became a substantive Sergeant in 2011.
7. I retired after 28 years' service in June 2020, during the first COVID-19 lockdown. I was 58 years old at the time of retirement.
8. In December 2019 I was a Sergeant in the Community Safety Team ("CST"). My job was to try to identify issues before they became problems. With some children, if you can get them onto the straight and narrow at an early stage you can prevent them sliding into criminality. We also worked with adults, particularly the vulnerable. CST was preventative. The main agencies we partnered with included schools, teachers, youth centres, social services, mental health services and hospitals. I was overseeing the work of my colleagues who would meet with these other agencies and individuals.
9. The CST operated on referrals, formal or otherwise. The referrals could come from any partner agency, police or any other party. In other words, we would take a referral from anybody. To take an example, if a teenager who had come to our attention had an interest in rock climbing, we would find them an activity centre to allow them to do this activity and try to identify funding. The point of this would be to take this individual away from their environment, even if for a short period of time, to allow them to focus their mind on something they really enjoyed, and that they could see a future in.
10. We didn't really have an operating manual. Our role in CST was to try to divert individuals from crime and thereby protect the public. I spent the last 3 years of my policing career in the CST, having come from Neighbourhood Policing. I thought CST was very effective as we were afforded the time to work with people and we could have a positive effect on people's lives, thereby having a positive effect on the community at large.

FACTUAL NARRATIVE OF INVOLVEMENT

11. I have little independent memory of the matters in question. Before I started looking at the Inquiry's questions, I could not even remember that I attended the Strategy Meeting on 17 December 2019. In fact, even after I had read the minutes (in which I am noted as an attendee) and until I read an email in which I said that I had attended, I would have said that I hadn't attended the meeting. Attending meetings with partner agencies was something that I would have done several times a week and was a common part of my job role. I should add that when I saw AR in the media after his atrocities, I did not realise that I had had involvement with AR some years prior. It was only when Lancashire Constabulary contacted me asking if I had any documents to provide to this Inquiry that I realised that I had been involved. It therefore follows that most of what I have to say about my involvement in this statement is based on documents that Lancashire Constabulary have recovered and shown to me by way of memory refreshing documents.
12. My first involvement with matters involving AR was when I received an email from Anna Jameson on 13 December 2019. The email is timed at 15:45 and invited me, along with several other professionals, to a Strategy Meeting relating to AR. The date of the meeting was scheduled for 17 December 2019 at 10:00 at West Lancs Youth Zone in Skelmersdale. I exhibit this email of Anna Jameson at 15:45 on 13 December 2019 (LC-36) as **AB/01 – LANC000054**
13. I did not respond to the email from Anna Jameson until 16 December 2019 at 08:59. I think this would have been because the email from Anna came late on a Friday afternoon and I would not have been working the weekend, although I cannot be sure about this. I replied to Anna saying, "Anna, I can be in West Lancs tomorrow if you are stuck for a sergeant to attend this meeting". It was routine for a Sergeant to attend Strategy Meetings which is why I would have offered to attend. I have since been reminded that according to the document titled "Working Together to Safeguard Children" which is dated July 2018, it states that "All attendees should be sufficiently senior to make decisions on behalf of their organisation and agencies". I exhibit this email from me to Anna Jameson at 08:59 on 16 December 2019 (LC-134) as **AB/02 – LANC000134** I cannot see that I had a response from Anna after I had sent this email, although I cannot be sure if I then spoke to her or anyone else about arrangements for the Strategy Meeting.

14. The Strategy Meeting took place on 17 December 2019 at 10:00. It was an in-person meeting at Lancashire Youth Zone in Skelmersdale. As I have said before, I do not remember attending the meeting but I clearly did as I am listed as attending within the Strategy Meeting minutes. From the minutes I can see that I attended the meeting with PC 554 Harrison.
15. After I had attended the Strategy Meeting, at 14:44, I sent an email to PC 4658 McNamee. I originally responded to an email that PC McNamee had sent referring some other unrelated matters to the CST. On that email, I also provided him with an update following my attendance at the Strategy Meeting that morning. I told him that he had done exactly the right thing by submitting a Protecting Vulnerable Persons (“PVP”) for AR and explained that since he had submitted that report, AR had gone on to commit a serious offence at a school in Southport. I should point out that whilst I stated Southport in the email, the school was in fact in Formby. That being said, I have always considered Formby to be a part of Southport. I wanted to provide reassurance to PC McNamee, who was a young in-service officer at that time, that he had done a good job by submitting the relevant referral in relation to AR. I exhibit my email to PC McNamee at 14:44 on 17 December 2019 (LC-22) as **AB/03 – LANC000194**
16. On Thursday 19 December 2019 at 17:37, Anna Jameson forwarded an email that she had sent to several professionals, which had not included myself or PC Harrison, inviting them to attend a follow up Strategy Meeting for AR on 6 January 2020. Anna thanked me and PC Harrison for attending the Strategy Meeting that had taken place earlier in the week and said that we had not been invited to the follow up Strategy Meeting given that there was no further role for Lancashire Constabulary. I exhibit the email from Anna Jameson to me at 17:37 on 19 December 2019 (LC-135) as **AB/04 – LANC000135**
17. It would appear that I did not receive the Strategy Meeting minutes from Children’s Social Care until 3 March 2020. I received them in an email sent to me at 12:08 sent from Cheryl Hall from Lancashire County Council. I exhibit the email to me at 12:08 on 3 March 2020 from Cheryl Hall (LC-177) as **AB/05 – LANC000236** I exhibit the 17 December 2019 Strategy Meeting minutes (LC-37) that I received as **AB/06 – LANC000004**
18. It does seem unusual that it took over two months to receive the Strategy Meeting minutes, as to the best of my recollection they were usually sent out within a couple of days or up to about a week. I think that when I received them I would have only scan read them, not

least because Anna had already communicated that there was no further role for Lancashire Constabulary.

19. At 14:29 on 3 March 2020, I forwarded the 17 December 2019 Strategy Meeting minutes by email to PC Harrison asking him to upload these to Connect. I also asked Police Staff Employee Sue Thomas to add the information to the CST spreadsheet. The CST spreadsheet was an Excel spreadsheet that I used to manage the workload of each officer. The spreadsheet detailed the name of the individual concerned, the area they lived, and the name of the officer that had ownership of that individual. No specific information was held about the individuals on this spreadsheet. I exhibit my email to PC Harrison and Police Staff Thomas at 14:29 on 3 March 2020 (LC-177) as **AB/07 – LANC000236**
20. I have been asked how I prepared for the Strategy discussion on 17 December 2019. I do not now remember the 17 December 2019 Strategy Meeting, nor how I prepared for it. I think I might have turned up to the Strategy Meeting without having done any background research because I knew PC Harrison would have been there and I had confidence that he would have sufficient knowledge of AR and the reasons behind why a Strategy Meeting had been arranged. Previously I had approached PC Harrison and asked him to apply for a role within the CST as I had known him for many years and I felt he had the right interpersonal skills for this role. He was personable, and people would open up to him naturally.
21. I have been asked what I was aware of as regards AR's prior history (including his earlier contact with Lancashire Constabulary in October 2019 which led to a high-risk Protecting Vulnerable Persons referral, the Prevent referral on 5 December 2019, AR's arrest by Merseyside Police on 11 December 2019, and PC Harrison's visit to AR's family address on 13 December 2019). I cannot remember what I knew about AR in advance of the meeting. PC Harrison may have briefed me. It is possible I could have reviewed the intelligence on AR on Lancashire Constabulary systems. I simply cannot now remember what I knew about AR.
22. I do recall seeing AR's name at some point before the date of the Strategy Meeting, and I remember asking colleagues in the office, who this male was. I do not know who, but it may have been PC Harrison or another person, who said to me words to the effect, "He's not for us Serg, Prevent have got him".
23. When I saw AR in the news after the July 2024 attack, due to the distinctive name of AR, I wondered whether this was the same individual that had been mentioned in the office. It

was only when Lancashire Police contacted me to advise me that I had had some form of involvement with AR, that I knew for certain

24. I have been asked what Lancashire Constabulary's and my role was in the 17 December 2019 Strategy Meeting. My role as the Sergeant (and therefore for Lancashire Constabulary) was to listen to what issues were being raised by various involved agencies and discuss what solutions or interventions could be offered by each agency. At the end of the meeting, each agency would leave with a set of tasks and a target date to come back with an update on where they were up to with their tasks.
25. I have been asked whether I have anything to add to the minutes of the strategy meeting on 17 December 2019 (LANC000004/LC-37). As I cannot remember the meeting, there is nothing I wish to add to these minutes.
26. I have been asked whether I agree that there was no further role for Lancashire Constabulary after that 17 December 2019 Strategy Meeting (LANC000135/LC-135). After reading the Strategy Meeting minutes, I do agree that there was no further role for myself or my team. In this case AR was being dealt with by Prevent. It was my understanding that once Prevent accepted a referral they would retain overarching responsibility. If Prevent had contacted the CST for further information or assistance, we would have done our best to help.
27. Prior to this Strategy Meeting I did have dealings with Prevent as Sergeant on the CST within the Chorley area. I can recall one specific [DPA] that Prevent were involved with who was showing concerning mental health issues. I do not know why Prevent were involved with this [DPA] but I recall there was a mention of a bomb. A member of the Prevent team contacted the CST office and spoke to one of my colleagues who agreed to remain in regular contact with this individual and refer to Prevent should any further concerns arise, which we did.
28. I have been asked who, after that Strategy meeting, I thought was dealing with any risk of harm AR posed from that point on (within Lancashire Constabulary or otherwise). My answer is Prevent. My understanding was that once Prevent took ownership, they would be the lead agency for managing the risk AR posed. Prevent is part of counter-terrorism policing. I assumed that Prevent must have had a reason to accept the referral and I wouldn't have expected them to share that information. I note from reviewing the 17 December 2019 Strategy Meeting minutes that AR was on bail conditions obtained by

Merseyside Police, and as such I think I would have believed that Merseyside Police and the bail conditions imposed by them were also a factor in managing the risk.

29. I have been asked whether I provided any sort of handover or shared information in this context of managing the risk AR posed. I cannot remember providing any such handover or sharing any information for the reasons explained above, i.e. that Prevent owned the case. The sharing of information would, of course, have taken place at the Strategy Meeting.
30. It has been pointed out that I emailed PC McNamee after the strategy meeting to reassure him that 'the finger of blame' would not be pointed at him because he had made an earlier high-risk PVP referral, and I have been asked why I did so. PC McNamee was a young in-service officer, and I just wanted to give him professional reassurance that I thought he had done the right thing with his vulnerable child investigation.
31. I am asked whether there is a culture of blaming individuals within Lancashire Constabulary and/or policing generally. I do not think that the Police have a blame culture, however, when you are young in service, there is always a worry that you may be blamed when something goes wrong if you have not done what you should have.
32. I am asked whether I considered what support or interventions occurred after PC McNamee's earlier high-risk PVP referral. Any referral that was submitted through to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub ("MASH"), I believe, would have been made available to Prevent who had over-arching responsibility for this individual.
33. I am asked whether I was concerned that despite a high-risk vulnerable child referral having been made in October 2019, AR went on to commit a serious offence, involving weapons, in December 2019. I cannot remember my level of concern, but looking back I would say that I was probably reassured by Prevent dealing with AR.
34. I am asked whether I took any steps as a result of the concern around the incident in December 2019. As stated above, I was reassured that Prevent were dealing with AR.
35. I have been asked whether, having regard to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference and the expectation on all witnesses to give a candid account, I have any other relevant matters that I wish to draw to the Chair's attention. I have no other relevant matters that I wish to draw to the Chair's attention.

INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER AGENCIES

36. Insofar as I was involved with other relevant agencies, I have been asked about my reflection on my dealing with them in relation to the events under investigation. Due to my long-term involvement in West Lancashire as a Neighbourhood Sergeant and CST Sergeant, I had built up excellent relationships with partner agencies such as, the Children and Family Wellbeing Service ("CFW"), Social Services ("SS"), Mental Health ("MH") Services and Schools.

37. In this regard I have been asked to consider matters such: as any joint working arrangements; information sharing and the effectiveness of communication; and the degree of openness between agencies. I think we all shared information well, but I do not know enough about Prevent to say whether that entity did.

REFLECTION ON EVENTS

38. I have been asked whether I consider Lancashire Constabulary and I could have done more or done things differently as regards involvement with AR and I have been asked to address this both with the knowledge that I had at the time and, if different, now with the benefit of hindsight and/or wider understanding of the events. At the time, I was advised that Prevent were dealing with AR. It is my understanding that Prevent made the decision to take ownership of AR, based on the information that they had. I do not know what information Prevent held, but I believe that they had information to suggest that AR met the threshold for them to accept him into Prevent. With the benefit of hindsight, looking at the information that I held at that time, I do not think I could have done anything differently.

39. I have been asked whether I consider that the (a) guidance; (b) training; and (c) resources available to me were adequate for the nature of the involvement I had in the events under investigation and I am asked to address this both with the knowledge that I had at the time and, if different, now with the benefit of hindsight and/or wider understanding of the events. Whilst there was no specific training provided to me when I took the role of CST Sergeant, due to my experience, knowledge and the partner agencies I worked with, I was able to identify individuals and issues that we could make an impact on. One piece of guidance available to me was the document titled "Working Together to Safeguard Children". I believe that this was written to cover both issues in inner city areas and rural settings, leaving flexibility and discretion to deal with the matters at hand. In terms of resources, I was

satisfied with both the number of officers working on the CST, as well as the officers experience and commitment.

IMPROVEMENTS

40. I have been asked whether I am aware of relevant improvements that have been made by Lancashire Constabulary since these events. Since the COVID-19 pandemic commenced in March 2020, I was unable to conduct any meaningful work, as the partner agencies that I was working with had stopped operating normally. As a result of this, I retired in June 2020. Therefore, I am not aware of any improvements made.

41. I am asked to set out any improvements that could be made relevant to my area of CST policing that would be practicable and make an effective difference. I have been retired from Lancashire Constabulary for 5 years now. I am unsure whether the CST still exists. I would like to say that I feel the CST has made a positive impact on a lot of individuals and communities' quality of life. That improvement was however difficult to quantify as it produced very little by way of measurable statistics. Preventative work is an important part of policing that should have sufficient resources and funding to allow meaningful involvement with these individuals and communities and working in partnership with other agencies.

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**
Dated: 30/7/25

EXHIBIT INDEX

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Exhibit No.	Inquiry reference No.	Document description
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AB/02	LANC000134	Email to Anna JAMESON offering to attend the Strategy Meeting dated 16 December 2019 (LC-134)
AB/03	LANC000194	Email to PC 4658 MCNAMEE providing reassurance following the Strategy Meeting dated 17 December 2019 (LC-22)
AB/04	LANC000135	Email from Anna JAMESON confirming no further role for Lancashire Constabulary dated 19 December 2019 (LC-135)
AB/05	LANC000236	Email from Cheryl HALL sending minutes of the Strategy Meeting dated 3 March 2020 (LC-177)
AB/06	LANC000004	Minutes of 17 December 2019 Strategy Meeting (LC-37)
AB/07	LANC000236	Email to PC 554 HARRISON and Police Staff THOMAS forwarding Strategy Meeting minutes dated 3 March 2020 (LC-177)