

Witness Name: LOUISE LEWIS

Exhibits: LL1-LL10

Dated:

## THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

---

### FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF LOUISE LEWIS

---

I, Louise Lewis, will say as follows:

#### **Introductory matters**

1. I am a Family Support Worker ('FSW') employed by Lancashire County Council ('LCC').
2. I started work as a nursery nurse and moved over to Children & Family Wellbeing ('CFW') around 2020 following a restructure.
3. I have a BTEC National Diploma in Nursery Nursing.
4. A FSW is a role within Family Intensive Support ('FIS') team of the CFW service at LCC. We provide early help and targeted assistance to families with needs that cannot be met through universal services, such as education and health.
5. FSWs arrange the Team Around the Family ('TAF') service. The FSW is the Lead Professional in multi-agency settings.
6. This witness statement is made to assist the Southport Inquiry ('the Inquiry') with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 24 July 2025.

#### **Factual narrative of involvement**

##### **Referral/Allocation**

7. I became involved with AR and his family due to a step across from CSC to CFW in September 2021. My involvement was focused on supporting AR around education and social skills; to look at community-based groups for AR and the relationship breakdown between AR and his dad.
8. The case was allocated to me by my team manager, Sharon Barrett. The team I worked in FIS covered Banks where AR and his family lived.

9. The case was at level 3 on the Continuum of Need ('CON'). CSC support sits at level 4 on the CON.
10. FIS was provided with CSC's C&F assessment a copy of which is attached to this statement as **LL1 – LCC000247**. The recommendation of the C&F assessment was that AR be supported under level 3 on the CON. The following actions were proposed:

Please provide details of any remaining unmet needs that CFW should look to meet

SEN school to be sourced for Axel. In the meantime, joint working with current school to provide support around social skills and accessing the local community. Axel is only accessing school for part of the day, explore if school can assist in providing this support.

Direct support for Axel to access activities in the community.

Explore with parents support groups for them to be able to link with other parents of young people with additional needs.

Consider Stepping Stones course for parents.

Direct work sessions with Axel and father to address their relationship issues and work to re-build their relationship. Consideration to be given to mediation if unsuccessful.

Direct work with Axel to consider his wishes and feelings and provide emotional support.

Parents to speak with GP regarding Axel's eating to consider if a referral to the eating disorders clinic is appropriate. CAMHS to look at Axel's sensory needs to assess if eating is caused by a sensory issue/need. CAMHS to continue their support to Axel to understand his anxieties, emotions and reactions.

11. As can be seen CFW were asked to support AR to access activities in the community. To support AR's parents by arranging for them to attend a parenting course and contact other parents with children who had additional needs. AR required direct work regarding his emotional needs and the issues in the relationship between AR and his dad needed addressing. Other agencies were also to do work with the family such as the GP was to help with AR's eating issues, CAMHS were to work with AR about his anxieties, emotions and reactions and a SEN school was to be sourced for AR.
12. The C&F assessment refers to AR having a special school placement. I cannot recall whether Presfield had been identified at this stage, but I do recall that there was a plan for AR to move from the PRU ('Acorns') to a special school placement at the time of the referral.
13. CSC produce a closure record when the case was stepped across CFW. At this stage, all the documents are pulled through to CFW and the FSWs can view all information that was on AR's Liquid Logic Children's Service ('LCS') file, the case management system used by CSC. All relevant information from CSC would be contained within the episode records.

14. I recollect that the Youth Offending Team (YOT), education and CAMHS were still involved with AR at the time of the case stepping across to CFW. This was all set out in the closure record which is **LL/02 – LCC000120**.
15. When a case is referred to CFW from CSC I would be provided with the family's history as part of the handover process, including through step across meetings and the C&F assessment. In relation to this step across, there wasn't a step across meeting with Stacey Haydock, the CSC social worker, as she had left LCC, but in any case, the assessment received was very detailed and gave all the information needed by CFW.
16. In addition to this, I took part in a case discussion on 27 September 2021 with Sharon and Danielle Bowes, who as Stacey's supervisor had supervised the decision to step across to CFW. I believe that the case discussion and the C&F assessment gave all the information I needed to carry out my role.
17. Based on the information held, there was nothing to suggest that AR couldn't be managed at level 3 on the CON and by CFW. The main concerns were around education, social isolation, relationship breakdown with dad and attending community-based activities. Although we were aware that AR had previously carried weapons, it was not flagged in the C&F assessment that AR posed a risk to others at that point in time. The assessment notes that since the incidents in 2019 AR had moved school and had been diagnosed with ASD. There had been no further incidents of "this nature". AR had a teacher with autism experience and a CAMHS worker. The needs/risks of AR were expressed as:

<p>What are the needs/risks to the child? What are the family strengths/protective factors?</p>	<p><b>Needs/Risks to Axel:</b></p> <p>Axel requires a long term education placement Axel's relationship with father is fractured</p> <p>Axel is socially isolated</p> <p>There are concerns for Axel's limited eating</p> <p><b>Family Strengths/Protective factors:</b></p> <p>Parents requested a EHCP review</p> <p>Parents are requesting support for Axel's social needs Parents are requesting support for eating.</p>
---	--

**Initial contacts and gathering information of the Early Help Assessment**

18. CFW also conduct an assessment, known at the time as a CAF assessment (now known as an Early Help Assessment), and visit the family to complete RADAR charts. The findings from the two assessments and the RADAR chart then go on to inform the Early Help Plan.

19. I was involved with AR and his family from 9 September 2021 through to 14 March 2022. I contacted all the agencies involved with AR at the time of the step across and obtained reports from them as to their involvement and drafted an Early Help Assessment. I then arranged TAF meetings with the other agencies involved.
20. The TAF process is about getting various agencies working together, sharing information and raising their concerns.
21. In the C&F assessment, CSC had incorrectly suggested that the family be enrolled on the Stepping Stones course, however, Stepping Stones is aimed at families with younger children and was restricted to under 11s. At CWF we thought that it would be better for the family to access Triple P instead as this is a more age-appropriate course for AR's parents.
22. The Prevent referrals were mentioned in the documents from CSC when the document handover was completed. At this stage, the third Prevent outcome was pending, so CFW were to chase this up to see whether AR was indeed at risk of being groomed by extremist groups.

#### **Early Help Assessment dated 1 November 2021**

23. The allocated FSW is responsible for undertaking the Early Help assessment ('EHA') a copy of which is attached to my statement as **LL/03 – LCC000321**. (At the time it was called a CAF assessment). Sharon as my manager would authorise the assessment. The form says completed by "professional", but I can confirm that I completed it. I started the assessment on 5 October 2021 and completed it on 1 November 2021.
24. A further assessment was required even though a C&F assessment was produced in September 2021 because there is a difference between the C&F assessment, conducted by CSC, and the CAF assessment which is the responsibility of CFW. For example, we tailored the parenting course to the specific needs of the family.
25. When the case was referred to CFW, Targeted Youth Support ('TYS') were involved from the start to support AR in the community. YYS is another team in the CFW service which provides support for older children and young people. In the general notes **LL/04 – LCC000226** on 27 October 2021 Deb Cardwell who is a Team Leader in YYS notes that at a home visit consent was gained from AR to a YYS worker, Carl Coughlan, being allocated to AR to offer him support. CFW is a consent-based service so we need consent from the family before we can start to work with them. Carl and Sharon went on a home visit on 3 November 2021 so that Sharon could introduce Carl to AR.
26. Targeted Youth Support ('TYS') are part of Early Help and their involvement was aimed at encouraging AR to engage in community-based and youth activities. AR was to be

picked up from school and taken to the local youth centres. The aim of CFW/TYS was to get AR more engaged in community-based activities, address his social isolation and improve his relationship with his dad.

27. AR would be picked up from school and taken to his TYS sessions. His school was based in Ormskirk and TYS was usually based in Skelmersdale, but as AR lived in Banks, it made sense to take AR to a venue closer to his home.
28. There were issues at first around AR's meetings with Carl. TYS were picking up AR from school, if AR had not gone into school on that day, he missed his TYS appointment too. Dad wanted additional sessions or TYS to collect AR from home. Carl had other commitments and could not always accommodate last minute changes. I did email Carl Coughlan at TYS to say that I was aware that dad often expected too much of the service. This was addressed and reiterated to dad in a meeting. However, I cannot recall having a follow up discussion with dad about this.
29. There was an incident involving the police at the family home on 5 November 2021 involving AR and his parents. AR was on the sofa in the living room when someone knocked on the door. This agitated AR and he began throwing things. AR calmed after his parents called the police. CFW were informed but I cannot recall what my response was. I think I would have had a discussion with the family around what happened and offer advice, either verbally or written. The family did the correct thing by notifying the police and this is what I would have advised them to do.
30. The general notes say AR's parents contacted Early Help support care services to notify the team of the incident as they were supposed to do. CFW would receive a police-safeguarding report where we were open to a child and the police had been called. I would receive a document akin to the police log, but I am unsure what specific format it would be in. The risk was assessed by the police as a medium risk. The information was also shared with Health and Education Services.
31. On 30 November 2021 there is another police incident logged, where AR kicked his father in the leg over a dispute involving AR's dietary preferences and dad reacted by hitting AR. The police were called, who informed dad that a referral to social services would be made. Dad consented to this. I cannot recall receiving the referral or the incident report, but my advice would have been the same; essentially if such a situation arises, call the police and avoid escalating the situation further. At this stage, I would have been aware that dad is doing his parenting courses.
32. Shortly after these 2 incidents CFW were contacted by CAMHS asking for the Emergency Duty Team telephone number. CAMHS say that they had received a call from dad around the incidents. The parents said they felt able to de-escalate the

situation and manage it. They agreed it was a social issue. CAMHS felt a multi-agency meeting would be helpful to tackle issues regarding escalation.

33. A RADAR is completed as part of the Early Help assessment. A RADAR chart is a scoring chart that looks at the following areas: feeling safe; being well; home and money; friends, relationships and support; work, education and learning; goals and ambitions; feelings, behaviours and choices; and boundaries and behaviours. A score of 1 means the family is struggling with that area, whereas a score of 6 means there are no concerns. The RADAR is for the family as a whole, considering the voices of each family member. I cannot remember whether I completed the RADAR for the CAF assessment, it could have been completed by Sharon.

34. AR's assessed needs were as follows:

<b>ASSESSED NEEDS</b>	
<b>Please select from the list below the relevant needs of the family/individual</b>	
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Online Social Media Safety Prevent/Risk of Radicalisation SEND Support
<b>Health</b>	Child/Young Person controlling behaviour and bullying Child/Young Person with mental health needs
<b>Resilience</b>	Issues associated with parenting including managing behaviours, routine and structure within the family home Relationship breakdown within family
<b>Learning</b>	Child Missing Out on Education (CMOOE) Child/Young Person school attendance below 90%
<b>Work</b>	No 'Work' Needs in Family

35. From my assessment I produce the Early Help Plan. There are 2 updated versions of the plan produced during my time working with the family **LL/05 – LCC000131** for December 2021 **and LL/06 – LCC000927** 10 January 2022.

36. I visited the family on several occasions, but I cannot remember how many times or the dates of my visits. I do not know why they are not written up in the general notes. I cannot explain why. The only record of a home visit made by me is on 8 November 2021

but I know that I went on more occasions than this. I did not notice a pattern of AR behaving violently or aggressively. To me AR demonstrated a tendency to react extremely, which I understood could be put down to his ASD. If his parents were challenging him and his behaviour, this could cause the situation to escalate due to his autism. CFW would tell parents to put into practice what they had learnt in their parenting courses to avoid escalation. In my experience, when parents have attended parenting courses and start putting into practice what they have learned this sometimes leads to more confrontation with the young person in the short term.

37. I asked AR if he felt safe online and he told me that he did. He told me that he liked watching the news.

### **Early Help Plans, TAF meetings and supervisions**

38. In addition to FIS, AR was supported by CAMHS, TYS and school. I cannot remember whether YOT were involved at that time. I was responsible for coordinating TAF as the lead professional. TAF meetings were held on 7 December 2021, 12 January 2022, 10 February 2022, and 11 March 2022. The first TAF after the step across was held in November. Acorns were holding a meeting with the professionals involved with AR anyway, so I tagged the TAF onto this meeting.

39. An Early Help Plan is first shared with the parents, and they must give consent for the plan to be shared with other agencies. Once I have consent, I share the plan with the other agencies at the TAF meeting. Attendees will have an opportunity to comment on the plan and I will update and finalise the plan after the meeting. If there are any other identified actions that other agencies require to support the family the plan can be updated or amended.

40. The TAF process is quite complicated; one of the TAF attendees will take a note of the TAF meeting, which will then be typed up into the TAF outcome meeting notes. Once this has been done, the Early Help Plan will be updated with any new information from the meeting, so there may be a new version of the plan after each meeting.

41. The minutes are circulated to all the attendees, including the family. Any agency can ask for the minutes to be amended.

42. At each TAF meeting, I would read out the actions and give an opportunity for each agency to comment. Each iteration of the plan has a section with updates from the agencies.

43. If the agency did not attend the TAF, for whatever reason then their update could not be included in the updated plan. However, even if an agency did not attend the TAF the updated plan and the TAF meeting outcomes would be shared with them. If they had

something that they wanted to add then they would contact me, and it would be discussed at the next TAF meeting.

44. I would sometimes have to take the meeting notes as well as chair the meeting as lead professional and that is difficult. Sharon would take meeting notes if she was attending the meeting. She would then send them to me, and I would add them into the record. But managers often would not attend the meetings.
45. The Early Help Plan records progress made by each agency in the TAF but in slightly more detail than that found in the TAF Meeting Outcomes document.
46. Mum would not often participate in the TAF meetings as she was working. It would usually be AR's father present. The TAF meetings were mainly held virtually on Teams so that attendance was easy.
47. AR had said that he would like to attend these meetings. AR went into school in the mornings, and I suggested that we could move all future TAF meetings to the morning to enable AR to attend. In the end this turned out not to be possible because of diary clashes.
48. Sharon as my supervisor, was very supportive and would proactively assist me in considering "*push and pull*" factors and whether different agencies were required, for example. My 2 November 2021 supervision notes at **LL/07 – LCC000401** – state that the RADAR had been completed and that Sharon and Carl were due to see the family next day. I cannot remember whether it was me that completed the RADARs. The November 2021 supervision would have been the first supervision as it contains the actions for all TAF professionals to meet. The key actions were for a special school to be sourced, direct support to enable AR to engage in community activities, parenting courses and support groups etc.
49. In the November supervision I mention AR's "*extreme views*" and whether he was at risk of "*being groomed by extremist groups*". I knew that AR had a referral from Prevent go in due to extreme views and that this needed to be followed up. I chased this up with the school, who informed me that Prevent had taken no further action. As far as I was concerned AR was not showing any extremist views but was very outspoken about his views. The supervision form also states that dad sometimes challenges AR's behaviours, but that this can result in extreme behaviours in response. AR was very vocal about being challenged, which is very typical for an autistic person. The situation escalated when AR was challenged.
50. AR was very vocal on his thoughts and views, which can come across as a child presenting with significant ASD characteristics. He had no alignment with any ideology;

he just expressed views on all sorts of things that were going on in the world. His views were very rigid.

51. The second TAF meeting was rearranged for 7 December 2021. This was not attended by CAMHS, TYS, Mum or DR.
52. By the supervision on 2 December 2021, I knew that the case had been closed to Prevent as it is mentioned in the form **LL/08 – LCC000404**.

#### **TAF - 7 December 2021**

53. The Early Help Plan **LL/05 – LCC000131** notes poor school attendance, safeguarding, online safety and social media, relationship breakdown, routine and structure within the family, managing behaviour, mental health and controlling behaviour and bullying as “*assessed needs*”. These needs would have been assessed to have been areas in which AR needed support. The areas discussed in this section would be specific to concerns raised about AR. For example, AR said he spent a lot of time on the internet, so it was identified that AR may benefit from online safety training. When I asked about this AR told me he just liked watching the news and that he felt safe online. It is a way of matching up AR’s needs to the support CFW was giving. These categories help to inform funding for the Early Help Plan.
54. In the TAF meeting outcomes from the December 2021 meeting, the summary I have added is:

<p><b>Summary of the progress your family has made, what difference has this made to your child(ren) and what action is now needed over the next 4-6 weeks?</b></p>	<p>The plan is making small steps however they are all in the right direction and all positive for the Axel and the family.</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>CAMHS Sam will look into what options there might be for complementary education for Axel in Sefton as she feels the current PRU is not appropriate.</p> <p>Targeted youth Support to look at sessions beginning completed in the afternoons Alphonse to continue with the triple p programme.</p> <p>School to continue to encourage Axel to attend and to liaise with SENCO to see what changes have been made to the EHCP and recommendations.</p>
---	---

Next meeting to discuss what changes and strategies parents been made since completing the Triple P parenting programme

55. By my 7 January 2022 supervision I note that AR has a TYS worker, Carl Coughlin. He has been referred to the Transitions Team. Dad has attended Triple P parenting. AR is attending school although not consistently due to his anxiety. CAMHS are supporting AR, and the family have been offered family therapy. I am holding the case open whilst TYS complete their outstanding work.

56. On 7 January 2022 it was agreed that Carl would have a fixed day of the week to meet up with AR. There had been issues with the sessions as they were originally fixed around AR's attendance at school. If he did not attend school that day, then he missed his TYS session as well. So it was agreed that Carl would pick AR up from home and take him out into the community. There were to be 6 sessions (one had already taken place). As the lead professional I was to arrange funding for the transportation for AR to facilitate the sessions with Carl.

#### TAF - 12 January 2022

57. The TAF meeting outcomes from the January TAF are:

**Summary of the progress your family has made, what difference has this made to your child(ren) and what action is now needed over the next 4-6 weeks?**

Some progress is being made as Axel is now attending school even though this is not consistent it is positive he is wanting to attend and has to be taken at his pace. TAF members agreed to support the plan moving forward family therapy is needed alongside the right educational provision for Axel, as currently and what was clearly evidenced during the meeting that Axel and Alphonse relationship will not improve if they continue to spend time in the home environment together and more highly likely to cause more conflict and escalating behaviours from them both.

TAF members have been informed that once the work has been completed

by Targeted Youth Support the case no longer sits at level 3 on the continuum of need as it will be around Axel's educational and health needs.

## DPA

Alphonse to e-mail SEND manager and to copy professionals into the e-mail to chase up EHCP plan Alphonse and Axel to make arrangements to visit Prestfield school.

Axel to work with targeted youth support and his key worker Michelle from CAMHS Parents to attend riding rapids course when it becomes available.

Children and Family Well-being Service to complete the referral to the transition team for Axel. Family Therapy to be attend by all the family

58. The Early Help Plan from 10 January 2022 **LL/06 – LCC000927** is an updated version. The information from previous TAF meeting outcomes would be pulled through. Where there is an update, this would be flagged clearly in bold to note new information.
59. I went to see AR on 8 February 2022. I saw him alone. I was able to identify what support he wanted after he was 18 and arranged a referral to the Transitions team. AR did not report anything of concern, and he told me he would attend the next TAF meeting.

### **TAF - 10 February 2022**

60. At the TAF meeting in February 2022, it was observed that AR had been engaging with community activities, including a youth group at Meols Cop Youth Centre. AR had been offered a special school placement and had been proactively looking around his new school (Presfield). It had been organised that he could start mid-year which was pleasing to all and was due to attend after the Easter holiday. I noted that the parents needed to continue to engage AR and encourage him to participate in community activities. It is recorded that at the next TAF meeting, the case will close.
61. TAF outcomes for February 2022 meeting are:

<p><b>Summary of the progress your family has made, what difference has this made to your child(ren) and what action is now needed over the next 4-6 weeks?</b></p>	<p>The Early Help plan is progressing. It is positive that Axel is starting to show an interest in community based activities for example the youth group and is engaging with support from relevant agencies. It is also positive that Axel education needs will be met post 16 and that he has been proactive in looking around the school.</p> <p>It is now in my professional opinion that parents need to continue with supporting and encouraging Axel in attending community based activities as this will help build up his confidence and self esteem, it will also hopefully start to build up positive relationships between Axel and his parents.</p> <p>At the next TAF meeting the case will close to CFW as all needs would of been met and a decision made as to who would be lead professional in moving forward under a level 2 service</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>Maggie to make contact with Prestfield school to start looking at the transition process. Parents and Axel to attend Family Therapy via CAMHS</p> <p>Parents to continue to support Axel in attending community based activities.</p>
---	---

62. As can be seen improvement had been made in most areas and the next TAF meeting was to be the last.

63. By the February 2022 supervision it is noted that the case will be closed at the next TAF meeting as the needs have been met **LL/09 - LCC000409**.

**TAF - 11 March 2022**

64. The final TAF meeting took place on 11 March 2022. The case was closed after this meeting.

**Episode Closure dated 14 March 2022**

65. I enclose a copy of the Episode Closure report as **LL/10 – LCC000320**. The form notes that:

- AR via TYS had accessed community resources
- A referral for AR had been sent to the Transitions team

- Dad had attended the Triple P parenting course
- AR was attending school and was awaiting his EHCP to start at Presfield school after the Easter holidays
- CAMHS were working with AR

66. The decision to close to CFW was made because all needs were met that had been identified from the EHA and C&F assessment. The family had received support through TYS, the referral to Transitions Team was completed, parenting courses had been completed by dad and a placement at Presfield had been secured. CFW had done everything that was expected from its service. It was now time for family to apply and to put in to practice what had been learnt. CFW is not a time-limited service, but service ceases when needs are met.

67. The general notes state that dad had initially objected to the case closing to CFW, but dad changed his mind and consented after it was explained to him that there was nothing else that CFW could offer. The rest of AR's needs were to be managed through other agencies and the EHCP.

68. AR consented for the case to close.

69. All other agencies agreed with the plan to close to CFW. Decisions to close cases are multi-agency; CFW would never decide this in isolation. The decision to close the case is taken with the supervisor, I discussed closure in supervision with Sharon.

**Events after closure**

70. On 17 March 2022 Sharon and I were contacted by CAMHS to tell us that AR had gone missing and the family required our support.

**From:** Steed Samantha **Sent:** 17 March 2022 12:36 **To:** Barrett, Sharon

**Cc:** Lewis, Louise

**Subject:** Axel Mугanwa Rudakubana – DOB 07.08.06

Dear Both, please can you get in touch with me urgently re Axel going missing today and reaming missing. The family will require your support urgently at this time. Many thanks,

Sam Steed

**Senior Mental Health Practitioner/Case Manager**

71. I responded later that day to say:

**From:** Lewis, Louise  
**Sent:** 17 March 2022 14:19

**To:** Steed Samantha  
**Cc:** Barrett, Sharon  
**Subject:** AR

Hi Sam

I am aware that Axel has gone missing as Alphonse had contacted the office this morning. Alphonse has acted appropriately by contacting the police and that is only advice we could give. There was a high chance following the meeting last week that this may happen as Alphonse made it clear that he didn't want the support to cease from CFW on the fact Axel may not attend Presfield and the anxieties around the transition. As agreed in the meeting by all professionals there was no outstanding work from CFW level 3 and for the family to be supported via health and school (EHCP). The case was closed to CFW after the meeting. Moving forward I'm unsure of what other support can be offered to them other than what is already in place and as parents need to be positively encouraging Axel to attend and follow any advice from school and strategies learnt through the parenting programme. If you feel the needs of the family meets level 3, however this one instance currently would not meet threshold as parents acted appropriately calling the police.

72. I cannot remember how dad contacted me that day or what he told me.

73. Later that same day we received the following update:

**From:** Steed Samantha <  
**Sent:** 17 March 2022 17:01  
**To:** Barrett, Sharon  
**Cc:** Lewis, Louise  
**Subject:** Re: Axel Muganwa Rudakubana – DOB 07.08.06

Update fyi –Axel has now been found by the Police and returned home./

Sam Steed

**Senior Mental Health Practitioner/Case Manager**

74. A few days later on 22 March 2022 I received an email from Gillian Anson who is an Early Help worker in the Children's Services Support Hub (part of the MASH).

**From:** Anson, Gillian <

**Sent:** 22 March 2022 09:28

**To:** Lewis, Louise <

**Subject:** referral

Good Morning ,

Just to let you know a referral has come back in from Axel Rudakubana su DPA I know you was the family support worker and can see this has just closed.

I know you have completed work with family but just wanted to make you aware. I think it was regarding frustration with Instagram account .

Unable to speak to family with regards to support but I know school are being supportive. Kind regards

Gillian

Anson

Early

Help

Worker

Childrens Services Support Hub

Lancashire County Council

W- [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

E

75. I was only told that AR had gone missing. I understood parents had followed advice by calling police and that AR returned home.

76. I did not think it was appropriate to re-open the case to CFW as there was support being delivered through CAMHS and the EHCP and that going missing didn't meet the threshold for level 3 support (i.e. CFW involvement).

77. I would not have had access to the MASH system where the police incident was recorded because the case had been closed to CFW. I had no further input after the

police referral was received as the case was closed to our service. If it was to be reopened that would have been a decision for the MASH on the police referral.

**Involvement with other agencies**

- 78. CFW could have made referral to Prevent, I never felt that I needed to because AR was presenting with ASD as opposed to demonstrating extremist views. I think that Sharon may have verbally communicated to me that she had raised concerns when asking for support from the TYS team. CSC on the step down had noted that AR needed help with social isolation.
- 79. I was not involved in AR's school transfer from Acorns to Presfield as the case had closed to CFW by then.
- 80. I was involved in the referral to the Adult Social Care Transitions team.
- 81. I worked with CSC, CAMHS and educational institutions. I think the inter-agency working worked well. There was no involvement with Prevent, aside from them telling me that the case was closed to them. I was not involved with the police force.
- 82. There is nothing further I wish to draw to the Chair's attention. I was not involved in the Rapid Review in July 2024.

**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: 28/8/25

**Index to the Witness Statement of Louise Lewis**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Inquiry reference no.</b>	<b>Document Description</b>
LL/01	LCC000247	C&F assessment

LL/02	LCC000249	Closure Record by Danielle Bowes - Duty and Assessment Central and West Lancs
LL/03	LCC000321	CAF Assessment by Louise Lewis
LL/04	LCC000226	General notes
LL/05	LCC000131	Early Help Plan December 2021
LL/06	LCC000927	Early Help Plan 10 January 2022
LL/07	LCC000401	CFW supervision November 2021
LL/08	LCC000404	CFW supervision December 2021
LL/09	LCC000409	CFW supervision February 2022
LL/10	LCC000320	Episode closure