

**Muckamore Abbey Hospital Inquiry
Witness Statement**

Statement of Mrs Lyn Preece

Date: 7 June 2023

I, Lyn Preece make the following statement for the purpose of the Muckamore Abbey Hospital (MAH) Inquiry.

The statement is made on behalf of South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in response to a request for evidence by the Inquiry Panel during verbal evidence on 18th April 2023.

This is my second statement to the Inquiry.

There are no documents produced with my statement.

Section 1: Qualifications and Position

1.1 Qualifications

Dip Social Work with Commendation (1996)

Master's Degree in Public Administration (2009)

1.2 Position

I am currently employed in the role of Director of Children's Services and Executive Director of Social Work in the South Eastern Trust. I have held this position since 1st September 2022. Prior to taking up this post, I held the position of Assistant Director for Adult Disability Services.

Section 2: Modules to be addressed

Module 2: Health Care Structures and Governance

- g. Interrelationship between Trusts re: patients admitted to Muckamore.
- i. Outline of provision for community based services.

Section 3: Module 2g – Interrelationship between Trusts re: patients admitted to Muckamore

Number of people from South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust admitted to Muckamore over the period of time of the Inquiry.

Information provided by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust indicates that during the period 1999 – 2021, the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust had 388 admissions to Muckamore Abbey Hospital. A number of individuals had more than one admission, therefore this number is in regard of 209 individuals.

Discharge Planning Process – parent / relative involvement.

Muckamore Abbey Hospital staff would convene and chair discharge planning meetings. Relevant professionals and family members were invited to attend the meetings. The meetings enabled family members to share information about the needs of their family members with both hospital and community staff. The meetings also provided the opportunity for family members to share their views of the accommodation and support needs of their family member post discharge from hospital. Proposed options for community support post discharge, would be discussed, enabling family members to share their views and input into the discharge planning arrangements. Meetings were held at regular intervals to enable progress towards discharge to be monitored.

Section 4: Module 2i – Outline of provision from community based services

4.1

Behavioural Support Services

Prior to the forming of the South Eastern Trust, as a result of the Review of Public Administration (2007), each legacy Community Trust had existing Behaviour Support

Services which were formed between 1999 and 2001. These services were very similar in nature and merged on the formation of the South Eastern Trust in 2007.

The Intensive Support Service currently provides Positive Behavioural Support Interventions within learning disability community services for the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and was formed in 2016. This service developed from the existing Behaviour Support Services by increasing the multi-disciplinary skill mix.

4.2.

Number of patients with a forensic element to their presentation

The number of individuals with a forensic element to their presentation, within a given population of people with a learning disability diagnosis, is particularly hard to estimate. Research in this area tends to use widely varying inclusion criteria, as to both learning disability diagnosis identification, and what constitutes 'forensic needs'. Consequently, there is no existing, accepted prevalence rate of patients who have forensic elements to their presentation, that could be used to estimate a figure for the known population of people with a learning disability diagnosis in the South Eastern Trust. Scoping exercises in 2016 and 2018 identified 33 and 35 individuals respectively, from within the South Eastern Trust learning disability population, that had a potential need for forensic services. Two of these individuals were Muckamore Abbey Hospital inpatients at that time.

4.3

Direct Payments Expenditure

Year	Total £ Annual Commitment
01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	726,632.42
01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017	961,542.11
01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018	1,118,797.45
01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019	1,374,368.50
01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020	1,647,693.22
01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021	2,005,478.35
01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022	2,336,583.54

4.4 Nursing Home placements

The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust provision for individuals with a learning disability, has neither historically nor currently included a statutory nursing home service.

The South Eastern Health Trust commissions nursing home placements with the independent sector. All Health and Social Care Trusts commission placements both within and outside of their Trust areas, therefore none of the nursing homes are exclusively clients of the South Eastern Trust.

There are relatively few nursing homes across the region which only specialise in learning disability. Within the South Eastern Trust there is one nursing home specifically for learning disability which can accommodate 41 residents.

The majority of nursing homes are larger facilities which have a designated unit for individuals with learning disability. The total number of beds available within these nursing homes can range anywhere from 25 / 30 beds to 80 / 90 beds. The learning disability units within these facilities can then range from around 10 / 12 beds to 20 / 25 beds.

4.5 Statutory Residential Service

The Trust has one statutory residential service, Struell Lodge, which opened in March 1998. The service initially provided 7 places, however this was subsequently reduced to 5, to provide additional environmental space to accommodate the needs of those with a more complex presentation. An extension to Struell Lodge is currently in progress to extend the number of places available back to 7.

The original residents no longer reside in the facility with some having moved on to either statutory or independent sector supported living services. All of the current 5 residents have previously been inpatients in Muckamore Abbey Hospital. The first of the 5 transitioned to Struell Lodge in June 2011.

4.6 Young people requiring community placements

The Trust has two residential provisions, Glenmore and Beechfield Children's Homes that accommodates Young people with learning disabilities and complex needs. The Homes can accommodate a maximum of six young people between

them. The Trust also commissions two placements from the Belfast Trust, Somerton Road Children's Home. The Homes Statement of purpose allows for the placement of children between the ages of 12 to 17, as there after the young people are required to transition to an adult residential facility. In the past two years there have been 6 young people who have transitioned to Adult Services who required a placement within the community. Children's Services Meet on a Monthly basis with Adult Services to identify, track and plan for those young people who will require a placement once they reach the age of 18 years. The current aged cohort within the Children's Homes will necessitate the provision of 4 residential placements within the next two years as these young people progress into adulthood. The Children's Community Learning Disability also deliver a service to adults post 18 years, until they conclude their school. There are also 5 18-year-old people residing in the community that will also require community residential or supported accommodation placements within the next 2 years.

Section 5:

Declaration of Truth

The contents of this witness statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I can produce all the documents which I have access to and which I believe are necessary to address the matters on which the Inquiry Panel has requested me to give evidence.

Signed:



Date: 07.06.23