

Witness Name: Jane Booth
Statement No.: 1
Exhibits:
Dated: 16 April 2020

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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Witness Statement of Jane Booth

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I, Jane Booth, will say as follows:-

1. I was appointed by the Bradford Metropolitan District Council as the Independent Chair and Scrutiny Lead of the Working Together to Safeguard Children – The Bradford Partnership in March 2019. This role requires me to work closely with the three safeguarding partners in the delivery of safeguarding arrangements in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The role also necessitates working with other partners who previously formed the Local Safeguarding Children Board and who now form part of the new arrangements.
2. This role brings together the traditional role as independent chair and the new role of scrutiny and quality assurance. The role provides additional assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, and this will add value to what we already know and do. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 requires that safeguarding partners ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.
3. The role also
 - Assesses how well organisations come together to cooperate with one another to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to hold each other to account for effective safeguarding.
 - Scrutinises any quality assurance activity (including multi-agency case file auditing and processes for identifying lessons to be learned).
 - Scrutinises the effectiveness of training, including multiagency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
 - Provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the extent to which appropriate and effective systems and processes are in place in all partner agencies so as to fulfil their statutory duties and ensure that children are protected and that appropriate safeguarding strategies are developed and embedded.
 - Evaluates arrangements for the operation of the safeguarding partnership, including the purpose and functions of meetings, and recommend and implement appropriate

changes.

- Confirms, or not, that effective performance management, audit and quality assurance mechanisms are in place within partner organisations which will support the 3 safeguarding partners to fulfil their statutory objectives, and which will enable the partnership to identify and measure its success and impact.
- Ensures that the voices of children, young people and their families are appropriately represented and heard in the work of the partnership

4. I have worked in the safeguarding arena for over 40 years in a number of roles, including Assistant Director for Children's Services in Kirklees in the 1990s, Regional Manager in the Social Services Inspectorate in the North West which had responsibility for both inspection and performance monitoring of the 22 LAs in the NW in the early 2000s and Deputy Chief Executive of CAFCASS in the late 2000's. Since then I have worked as Independent Chair of a number of Safeguarding Boards
5. As part of my current role, I contributed to the production of the statement produced by the Chief Executive, Kersten England and the linked exhibits. I agree with the content and am able to present this statement.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

DPA

Signed: _____

Dated: 20/4/20

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EXHIBIT [] / 1

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