

BROOK HOUSE INQUIRY

First Witness Statement of Russell Hite

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 13.10.21. I have been authorised by West Sussex County Council Adult Services located at 0.4 Centenary House, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 2QB to provide this witness statement.

I, Russell Hite, of 0.4 Centenary House, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 2QB will say as follows:

Introduction

1. I am Russell Hite, Safeguarding Adult Service Manager. I have a lead Adult Safeguarding role for West Sussex County Council.
2. I am a registered social worker, having qualified in 2003 and have practiced in a variety of frontline social care settings.

Evidence

1. I was asked to establish whether: Joanne Maria Buss (date of birth DPA)
DPA was known to our service.
2. To achieve this, I checked Mosaic the WSCC recording system and there was no record. I also contacted, Laura Richardson Team Manager Adult Safeguarding Hub who confirmed the following:

Ms Buss isn't showing on care notes. However, from my work in mental health services and Brook House, that would be unusual.

Its my understanding that due to the nature of the contract with mental health services and Brook House, the records for the people they saw etc, weren't also kept on care notes.

3. I then followed this up with Bryan Lynch, Director of Social Work, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust who confirm the following:

Our health records team have also come back to me to advise this person is not known to Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)

4. Ru Gunawardana, The Safeguarding Adult Board Manager was also asked whether Joanne Maria Buss - date of birth [DPA] was known to the Safeguarding Adult Board and the following response was received:

The West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board has checked records and found no record regarding Joanne Buss. The process of checking on filing systems has involved: searching for any record in relation to Buss, Jo Buss, Joanne Buss and Joanna Maria Buss and searching by Date of Birth also.

<u>Statement of Truth</u>	
I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court 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.	
I am content for this witness statement to form part of the evidence before the Brook House Inquiry and to be published on the Inquiry's website.	
Name	Russell Hite
Signature	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Signature</div>
Date	08.11.21

Witness Name: Russell Hite
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None