

## THE LAMPARD INQUIRY

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### OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF

### THE NORTH EAST LONDON NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

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1. This is an Opening Statement on behalf of the North East London NHS Foundation Trust (“NELFT”). NELFT is grateful to the Chair for the opportunity to make this brief Opening Statement, and for the opportunity to assist this Inquiry.
2. The purpose of this Opening Statement is to affirm NELFT’s commitment to assist the Inquiry insofar as it is able and provide background information in relation to NELFT’s involvement in mental healthcare in Essex relevant to the Inquiry’s Terms of Reference.
3. NELFT wishes to make clear at the outset that it seeks to apply a rigorous, reflective and self-critical approach to the analysis of its role in the events with which this Inquiry is concerned.
4. As part of its commitment to helping the Inquiry with its investigations, NELFT has devoted considerable resources to responding to the Inquiry’s Rule 9 Requests to date as openly and comprehensively as possible and with complete candour. It will continue to do so. A dedicated project team has been set up within NELFT, which is being led by NELFT’s Deputy Chief Executive, demonstrating how seriously NELFT takes its commitment to the Inquiry.
5. NELFT is acutely aware of the devastating impact that the matters under investigation by the Inquiry have had on patients and their families in Essex (whether or not those were NELFT patients) through the Essex Mental Health Independent Inquiry and other legal proceedings which went before the Lampard Inquiry.
6. NELFT will listen carefully to the evidence which is to follow and remains fully committed to supporting and cooperating with the Inquiry in order to understand what happened and to learn from it for the benefit of those families. NELFT will carefully consider the disclosure once received from the Inquiry with a view to making wider improvements to the provision of mental health services in Essex.
7. North East London Mental Health NHS Trust (“NELMHT”) was established in June 2000 and became operational in April 2001. NELMHT then became NELFT in 2008.
8. NELFT currently provides an extensive range of integrated community and mental health services for people living in the London boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest. NELFT also provides community health services and Dementia crisis support for people living in the south west Essex areas of Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock.

9. NELFT strives to put people at the heart of its service and it actively promotes what is possible, empowering patients to achieve independence, opportunity and choice. NELFT also aims to be progressive, innovative and it drives for continual improvement. It has national and local guidance at the forefront of its operations in order to provide the best service possible.
10. NELFT's provision of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services ("CAMHS") commenced on 1 November 2015. The NELFT service was commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group's now Integrated Care Board and three local authorities in 2015 and was known as the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service ("EWMHS"). When it was re-commissioned in 2021 it was re-named CAMHS.
11. Whilst NELFT does not currently operate any inpatient units in Essex, NELFT (and its predecessor NELMHT) historically provided mental health services at Mascalls Park, a medium secure mental health unit at the Warley Hospital site near Brentwood.
12. Typically, residents from Havering and Barking and Dagenham accessed care at Mascalls Park. Mascalls Park also accepted residents from Essex and out of area if necessary. Mascalls Park closed in January 2011.
13. NELFT has used five computer systems for electronic patient records between 2003 and 2023 with all records prior to this having been on paper. These systems are:
  - a. SEPIA (introduced in 2003);
  - b. RiO (introduced in 2006, replaced SEPIA);
  - c. SystmOne (introduced in 2011).
  - d. Windip (linked to RiO, introduced in 2011); and
  - e. CareDoc (linked to RiO, introduced in 2017 and replaced Windip)
14. NELFT's services in Essex were provided against a backdrop of the emerging national approach to mental healthcare. The first clinical mental health guidance was published by the National Institute for Healthcare and Excellence ("NICE") in 2002 and this guidance has been updated twice since it was published.
15. Since 2002, NICE has produced 80 pieces of mental health guidance signifying the ever-evolving standards over the relevant period subject of the Inquiry.
16. It was not until 2011 when references to 'parity of esteem' were made, which was the first public health strategy to give equal weight to both mental and physical health.
17. It was from parity of esteem that the Mental Health Investment Standard was developed, which became operational in 2015/2016 and sought to increase the level of investment in mental health services across England.
18. In 2017 an independent review of the Mental Health Act 1983 was undertaken in response to concerns raised about the efficacy of the Act. The review accepted that changes were

needed to make it easier for patients and service users to participate in decisions about their care and sought to restore their dignity.

19. The white paper was published in 2021 and the draft Mental Health Bill containing the proposed amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983 was published in June 2022. It is accepted even now in 2024 that reforms are likely to take a number of years to implement and are likely to be introduced in phases.
20. NELFT hopes this brief summary of its involvement in mental healthcare in Essex across the relevant period is of assistance to the Inquiry and helps to explain the extent of NELFT's involvement in the matters under investigation.
21. NELFT has not sought in this statement to set out its formal response to the List of Issues and looks forward to exploring these matters with the Inquiry in due course.
22. NELFT remains fully committed to supporting the Inquiry in every way it can.