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Pat Wood, Care Standards Co-ordinator,
East Anglia Post Qualifying Consortium,
C/o Essex County Council Social Care Health Unit,
Eckhardt House, Eastern Road,
Whitham,
Essex, CM8 2DW

Re Miles France

Dear Ms Wood,

I have been asked by Mr France to provide a witness testimony in support of his submission for the Advanced Award in Social Work and am pleased to do so.

I am a GP and met him some 9 years ago when Forensic Medical Examiner for Norfolk Constabulary in Norwich, a post that I held until March 2004 when that service was privatised. Throughout that period and since then in my continuing capacity as a MHA(1983) S12(2) approved doctor I have undertaken over 150 mental health assessments with Mr France as the ASW both in the community and in the custodial setting.

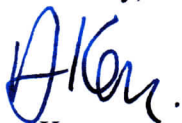
In my experience he shows a high degree of competence with compassion and respect for autonomy and has an in-depth knowledge of both UK and EU case law that enables him to consistently and sensitively manage high risk situations involving least-worst options.

I find him quick to establish rapport and readily able to respond to rapidly changing circumstances with the ability to seek pragmatic solutions for the benefit of patients and service alike. His meticulous reports instil confidence among inter-agency personnel and provide informative and accurate accounts of all decisions made.

Ongoing discussions with Constabulary colleagues and the Court Liaison Service confirm that he is held in high regard and he has forged significant collaborative links between police Custody Sergeants, the Appropriate Adult service and other agencies promoting a greater awareness of psychiatric issues with service improvement.

To accomplish this he had initially to overcome some scepticism as well as quite significant resistance from staff in the custody suite who were unused to psychiatric professionals working so closely alongside but his consistently sound and helpful advice has avoided adolescents and vulnerable adults being held overlong in custody and raised awareness of the risks of alcohol withdrawal whilst contributing towards consistent risk assessment and appropriate diversion which I feel together with his informative training has lead to an overall more responsive service.

Yours sincerely,



Aubrey Kerr