

THE LAMPARD INQUIRY



Mental health services in Essex
[Prof Brian Edwards](#)

The final day of evidence in the latest section of the Inquiry started with two expert witnesses both with a background in statistics. They review the evidence about the value of Oxevision, an AI patient monitoring system in use in some, but not all, NHS Trusts providing mental health care.

"In conclusion, they say, the current evidence provides only limited and cautious support for the use of Oxevision and related vision-based patient monitoring systems in mental health inpatient settings.

It suggests that the technology is technically feasible and may have potential operational applications, but it does not provide strong, independent evidence of clinical effectiveness, improved patient safety, acceptability or cost-effectiveness in mental health inpatient settings.

Further independent randomised adequately controlled research would be needed before stronger conclusions could be drawn."

Later in their evidence the experts confirmed that the vision-based system could most likely produce financial savings by means of a reduction in the level of one-to-one observation [mainly by bank or agency staff].

Datix data could be useful but was a “bit of a chore” and the Trust had missed many opportunities for learning.

Counsel for the Inquiry then sums up the evidence heard in the past few weeks.

It is not a pretty picture!

Bullying and violence, restrictive practices at CAMHS units that reinforced or worsened cycles of self-harm, failures in observation, falsification of clinical records, inadequate risk assessments,

safeguarding failures, poor record keeping and records about the prescription of medicines. unexpected periods of leave or discharge and an absence of advice or support to those in the patient's home.

The evidence by families was echoed by much of the evidence given by members of staff, who complained about staff shortages, inappropriate skill mixes and an overreliance on bank and agency staff.

Management is much maligned and accused of being remote, disengaged, conflict driven, arrogant and aggressive.

The Inquiry has not been impressed by the Trusts engagement with them and repeated delays in providing information.

We can expect an interim report in October.
