

A decorative border of stylized leaves in various colors (red, orange, purple, teal, grey) surrounds the text.

# Confidential Inquiry by Anna Hoghton

Six lives,  
Emma, Mark, Martin,  
Warren, Ted and Tom.  
We'll never forget you  
And how you were treated wrong.

Sons, Daughters, Sisters and Brothers  
Tucked out of sight, out of mind.  
Not given the time and respect  
you so desperately deserved.  
Treated as if, to your suffering,  
we'd become blind.

How many more will it take to make  
a difference to our indifference?  
To shame us in our apathy,  
To demonstrate our complete  
lack of sympathy  
And disgusting impassivity.

In the last century, you were released  
from the hospitals on the hills.  
You lived amongst us,  
You watched the football on  
Saturdays and went to the Pub.  
You showed us you could live valuable  
lives, though we did not allow you this.  
You have struggled, while we  
fail to adjust our attitudes and  
behaviour quickly enough.  
Against these odds you brought  
something special to all our lives.

You have shown us respect, though  
we have failed to reciprocate.  
You have shown us your capacity  
to make choices, though we have  
not allowed you to choose.  
You have not complained, though  
we have given you every cause to.  
You have simply asked to be treated right.

Determined, fun, caring and loving.

Why does it take the doctors and nurses  
longer to find out what is making you ill?  
Did we really think about  
your best interests?  
Did we delay referring you?  
Did we ask your families and carers?  
Did we listen to your complaints?  
Did we pick up the cues  
you were in distress?  
Did we offer you the best treatment  
that we had the power to?  
Did we spare your suffering?

Or were we instrumental in its cause?

Thanks to you,  
We are training the next generation.  
The diagnostic overshadowing and  
faulty assumptions must stop  
They will stop. Finally you are getting  
the priority you have always deserved  
Deplorably belated.  
But hopefully in time  
to help others like you  
Receive the treatment  
that they should do.

Your deaths affect us all.  
They cannot be taken back  
And cannot and will not be ignored.  
Your families and carers know the  
importance of your stories  
Now it is time for the Confidential  
Inquiry to inform the rest of the world.