

Supplementary Statement

Name: Richard Irvine

DOB: 08/07/1987

Name of Care Home/s: Kenmure, Park View, St Phillips

Reason for going into care: Neglect due to Mother's Alcoholism

Age in care: 7 Years Old

St Mary's Kenmure, Bishopbriggs

Kenmure was a children's home that I entered when I was about 7, I was placed into care due to my mother's alcoholism, my two siblings were with my grandparents, but they could not take me as well, so I was placed here via a children's panel and social workers. I was frequently physically restrained by staff who were overpowering. They used frequent unnecessary force, and I did get a few injuries, but I don't remember much of them as I was so young. Whenever I attempted to escape, the police would always bring me back.

Parkview

I was 11 years old when I was moved to Parkview residential school as I got expelled from my school and no other school would take me. Alan Murdoch was one of my social workers. This place was an extremely harsh environment. I was punished by being kicked and shoved by male staff members. They would cover me while striking me to prevent bruising. Staff mocked me with names I despised although I cannot remember these now as it has been so long.

I was often sent to my room without food and locked in for weeks, with little opportunity to leave even for meals. Occasionally food was brought to me, but often it was forgotten, leaving me without meals for days.

I went several days without showers, and when I was permitted one, staff would watch me, this made me feel really bad, they also closed down the visiting place, there was a building next to the main building where visits took place but they closed this down and used it for punishment. You got locked in there sometimes for hours and hours.

I recall being forcibly removed from my bed as punishment, with staff pulling off the covers and dragging me out. I was made to stand in a corner for extended periods. They called it time out, but once this was over, you'd just try to run away and then timeout would start up again.

Out of fear, I often wet the bed, and I was forced to strip the sheets and wash them myself. One staff member, David Hay, was particularly heavy-handed. Although family visits were allowed, they were frequently revoked as punishment, and eventually they were stopped altogether. I was separated from my siblings for a long time. I was here for about 2 years here in total and went nearly a year without any family visits. This was by far the worst placement I experienced.

St Phillips

I was moved here to be closer to home when I was about 13 years old and stayed here until school ended. I was 15 at the time nearly 16 as my birthday was in July after school ended. St Phillips was particularly rough, especially as I was older. My keyworker, Gerry Reilly, was very aggressive. We often fought, and when I retaliated, he would hit me harder. A night shift worker known as EV would frequently swing me around. I attempted to run away constantly, but I was always returned by local police or even the school staff, they would march us straight back I often had to sit on the stairs for half an hour at a time, and if I stood up, the timer was restarted, leaving me sitting there for hours. On one occasion, I was kept on timeout all day and missed every meal. I remember being at a hospital like facility for tests and this could have been for ADHD but back then it wasn't as recognised as it is now looking back, this could have been linked to my behaviour. Cold showers were frequently used as punishment. If I was late for class, I was taken to a designated room for timeout, sometimes lasting the entire day. I never truly had the opportunity to receive a proper education as I was in and out all the time for punishments and no work was given to you whilst you sat in those rooms. There was a reward and punishment system called *Stars & Blacks*. If I accumulated too many "blacks," my pocket money and family visits were taken away. Blacks were given out for being cheeky to staff and misbehaviour, but this was just normal childhood behaviour.

Life since Care

My life has been influenced by this, and I've been in and out of prison, I'm not saying it was due to that, but it hasn't helped and not having the structure there didn't help, I've only really spoke to my wee sister but that's it. My experiences have significantly influenced my adult life, and I think I have a fear of abandonment, and I struggle to trust people and form relationships due to this.

I am currently prescribed antipsychotics, and I am consulting with a psychiatrist still to this day. After leaving care, I turned to drugs to numb the painful memories of my childhood. I have been in Rehab twice, for both drugs and Alcohol and as I said my psychiatrist visits are still on going.