

Initial Survivor Supplementary Statement**Date Completed:** 17/07/2026**Survivor's full name:** Laura Ann Earley**Other known name:** N/A**DOB:** 15/02/1986**Redress Priority:** Low Serious**Criminal Convictions:** None**Mother's Name:** Ann Elizabeth Earley**Father's Name:** Ronald Stevenson**Name of Care Home:** Kerelaw**Age in care:** 14-16**Reason for going into care:** Mother couldn't care for her**1. Introduction**

My name is Laura Earley. I am making this statement to share my experiences of being in care as a child and the impact these experiences have had on my life. Some of the details are difficult for me to talk about, and some memories are clearer than others, but I will describe what I remember to the best of my ability. I understand that my records from the time are limited or incomplete, and I want to explain my experiences in my own words.

2. My time in Care – Overview

My father passed away, leaving my mother to face significant challenges. Subsequently, she reached out to social services as she could no longer care for me, leading to a decision by a children's panel to place me into care when I was approximately 13 years old. I used to get sent away to get looked after different people for a few days, this was done through my social work. Each time I was taken to somewhere I would run away. This is why I ended up getting sent to the secure unit at Kerelaw. I remember that one of my social workers was called Angela, but she left just before I was sent to Kerelaw.

Kerelaw

I was placed in Kerelaw, where I remained for about two years. During my time in Kerelaw, I endured physical violence from the staff. I was kicked and restrained excessively, often while being pinned down. This occurred regularly, with staff members laughing and calling me derogatory names. If they noticed me crying, they would mock me and threaten me with certain family members, and there was a complete lack of emotional support throughout my stay. There was no emotional support whatsoever. They were all as bad as each other. I frequently witnessed the same abusive behaviour directed at other residents. I recall an incident where a staff member entered the room of a particularly vulnerable boy who struggled with addiction. The staff member would give him money and engage in inappropriate physical

contact, ultimately providing him with drugs, which tragically led to his death. He passed away during his stay in Kerelaw, his name was Graham.

There, were numerous occasions when meals were withheld from me, leaving me perpetually hungry due to insufficient food. This was random and without reason. I often attempted to run away, and upon my return, I would be confined for the following weekend and have my privileges revoked. For instance, if you had a family member to go and see on the weekend and you broke any of the rules then you wouldn't be allowed to go. At the start I used to go home every weekend but over time it became less and less. Kerelaw had a pervasive culture of bullying, which the staff were fully aware of, yet they chose to ignore it. Any intervention they did attempt only seemed to escalate the situation further. This wasn't the residents it was mostly the staff. At times, we were forced outside in cold, wet conditions as a form of punishment.

Throughout my stay, I received no proper education; I remember only playing pool. The school was in Kerelaw, but we didn't do any proper lessons or anything like that. I had regular visits and home leaves with my family, during which they would tell me that my family did not want to see me or provide me with Christmas gifts, which was simply untrue. The staff would withhold the Christmas presents and only give them to me after the time. I became a very different person while I was in there; I became very withdrawn and couldn't sleep. I still struggle sleeping today. I also stopped trusting people when I was in there. I also struggle with people touching me now or trying to comfort me.

3. Emotional and Long-Term Impact

My experiences in this environment have significantly contributed to the challenges I have faced regarding my mental health over the years. Because of my time here, I have developed profound trust issues that have impacted my relationships with others. I still experience occasional flashbacks and nightmares.

4. Closing Statement

I am making this statement to help Redress Scotland understand what happened to me and how it has affected me. I am doing this in the hope that my experiences will be acknowledged and that I can continue to move forward in my life.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

Signed: Laura Earley

Date: 23/07/2026