

Part B – Current Statement

3. Retrospective Acknowledgement/Admission

3.1 Acknowledgement of Abuse

- i. Does the organisation/establishment accept that between 1930 and 17 December 2014 some children cared for at the establishment were abused?

Yes. We do, since we are aware of seven convictions relating to the period from 1955–1981 and that further allegations have been made.

- ii. What is the organisation/establishment's assessment of the extent and scale of such abuse?

Quarriers does not know the true nature and extent of the abuse which occurred at Quarriers Village. However, we acknowledge that such abuse took place.

Quarriers volunteered to be the sole participant in the Government's pilot forum *Time to be Heard* by Tom Shaw, CBE, the report for which was published in 2011.

It is important to note that the forum was not an investigation into Quarriers, but represented the opportunity to explore a model of possible response and support to those who had experienced any hurt relating to their time in residential care as a child.

Through *Time to be Heard*, a number of areas were identified in which reports of abuse or ill-treatment were made. Those included:

- (1) The response to bedwetting with punishment or humiliation.
- (2) Forced Feeding.
- (3) Excessive physical punishment.
- (4) Sexual abuse.
- (5) Emotional abuse and neglect.

Seven former employees of Quarriers have been convicted of the abuse of children at Quarriers Village from 1955–1981. The offences ranged across sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

One further employee was convicted of abuse against a child. However his conviction was overturned on appeal. A full list of Quarriers' understanding of those convictions is detailed within Section D.

Besides the criminal convictions, other allegations of abuse have been made in the context of civil claims or those who chose to make contact

anonymously through the *Time to be Heard* process.

It is recognised that many victims of childhood abuse find it very difficult to come forward and talk about their experiences. Some also choose not to talk about their experiences.

Many allegations of abuse were made from 2000 onwards, many years after the events. At the time those allegations were being made, Strathclyde Police was carrying out investigations in relation to a number of former members of Quarriers' staff. Given the Police's involvement, it was not appropriate, nor practical, for Quarriers to carry out an internal inquiry into the allegations. Quarriers' priorities were to assist the police investigation in any way it could and to try to ensure, as far as possible, that there could be no repetition of any such crimes in the future.

Quarriers' priorities since 2000 have been to provide a platform to assist survivors; to assist any police investigations in any way we can; and to try to ensure, as far as possible, that there could be no repetition of any such wrongdoings in the future by adopting a zero tolerance approach to abuse.

iii. What is the basis of that assessment?

This assessment is based upon the criminal convictions of seven former employees who were house parents at Quarriers Village and the testimony of survivors in the *Time to be Heard* process. Anna Magnusson's book on Quarriers, *The Quarriers Story*, also contains accounts of abuse. A former resident's account of abuse was published in the Sunday Mail in May 1984.

3.2 Acknowledgement of Systemic Failures

i. Does the organisation/establishment accept that its systems failed to protect children cared for at the establishment between 1930 and 17 December 2014 from abuse?

Yes. In the context of trying to provide a better alternative for over 30,000 children in our care since Victorian times, we acknowledge that historically, the systems and norms of the time, and within our own organisation, failed to provide adequate protection to all children.

ii. What is the organisation/establishment's assessment of the extent of such systemic failures?

Quarriers acknowledges that it does not know the precise extent of any systemic failures.

Quarriers Village was a cottage-based care system. The intention was that children would live in a family-type environment under the care of house parents in individual houses or cottages. The house parents in the cottages were given a great deal of autonomy. The extent of variation in how children within individual cottages were treated would not be acceptable today.

We would respectfully suggest particular areas which the Inquiry may wish to consider in this regard;

Recruitment

Historically, recruitment was not regulated. No disclosure or police checks existed, were required by law or implemented by Quarriers. Recruitment was carried out predominantly on the basis of recommendations. The only qualifications required by house parents were stated by the Director in 1957 to be “a sincere love for and interest in children with a true understanding of the Christian vocation into which they enter”.

Training

Until the 1960s, formal training of care staff was not the norm across society and Quarriers’ house parents were similarly, largely untrained. They were allowed to run their cottage predominantly as they saw fit, from their own (variable) life experience.

Supervision/Monitoring

Supervision and monitoring of care staff across the sector and within Quarriers, was largely undocumented, informal or absent before the 1990s.

Treatment of Bedwetting

From the historical documentation in Quarriers’ possession it is clear that in the 1940s, bedwetting was regarded as an objectionable habit in children and as an inconvenience to house parents. Through *Time to be Heard*, there were many allegations of bedwetting being treated by some house parents as a punishable offence.

Physical Punishment

How and when punishment was administered was left predominantly to individual house parents to decide. There is some evidence of control being exercised. For example, it is clear from a letter written by the then Chairman in 1937 that a number of complaints had been made about excessive corporal punishment of boys at the home. There is also some evidence of

guidance being given to house parents on appropriate levels of punishment (for example Home Office guidance). Quarriers has traced documents from the 1950s which stipulate the levels of physical punishment which were considered acceptable.

There is reported evidence that details of any punishment administered would have been recorded in a punishment book or log book which would have been reviewed by the superintendent. However we have not been able to trace copies of log books or punishment books for the individual cottages.

Sexual Abuse

Historically there was far less awareness of sexual abuse across society. In addition, attitudes to children were different and they were not necessarily believed when they complained.

Separation of Siblings

Historically siblings were housed in different cottages. During the 1930s and 1940s there were separate cottages for boys and girls. Mixed cottages were trialled during the 1940s and, so far as possible, members of the same family were kept together from the 1950s onwards.

iii. What is the basis of that assessment?

The basis of this assessment is the criminal convictions against former members of staff; the testimony of survivors through the *Time to be Heard*, process and the historic records within Quarriers' possession.

Quarriers has since 2000, maintained a professional aftercare worker to uncover and document historic information and records. Despite this, Quarriers has only been able to find limited records in relation to policies and procedures which were in place from 1930 to 2000.

iv. What is the organisation/establishment's explanation for such failures?

The cottage-based system of care employed at Quarriers Village was innovative when first conceived in the 19th century and was of its time. The model upon which Quarriers Village was based became outmoded in the latter half of the 20th century.

The cottages housed up to as many as 30 children in the care of either two house parents or a lone female house parent, occasionally supported by a house aunty (cottage assistant). Until the 1960s the house parents were not trained in any way in residential childcare and would rely upon their own experience of how to manage a family home. In line with the practice of the time, there was little regulation

and oversight.

The modern Quarriers organisation fully acknowledges these practices as deficient by modern standards, but it is notable that being taken into care was widely regarded at the time as a much better alternative than others open to the children.

Previous societal attitudes towards children and the care of children were very different. Children's rights and freedoms across all of society were not respected in the same way that they are nowadays. Societal attitudes towards the physical punishment of children have also moved on significantly.

Despite these observations however, Quarriers acknowledges that lack of statutory regulation, supervision and training across the sector, created circumstances where abuse could occur, and that, under the regulatory and management regime of the time, too much variation was tolerated in service provision.

3.3 Acknowledgement of Failures/Deficiencies in Response

- i. Does the organisation/establishment accept that there were failures and/or deficiencies in its response to abuse, and allegations of abuse, of children cared for at the establishment between 1930 and 17 December 2014?

Using modern standards, there is no question that clear failures and deficiencies occurred across the whole care sector in response to abuse and allegations of abuse until well into the twentieth century.

Quarriers accepts that we also fall into this category and have made active attempts for almost two decades to support anyone with a complaint; to provide survivors with support and a platform to be heard; to supply historic information and to participate fully in any police investigation. Our commitment in light of historic shortcomings has been one of full co-operation and transparency.

As a result of this, Quarriers does not consider that there have been any failures and/or deficiencies in its response to abuse, and allegations of abuse, of children cared for at Quarriers Village from 2000 onwards.

- ii. What is the organisation/establishment's assessment of the extent of such failures in its response?

Response to Complaints Prior to 1980

Given the passage of time, the lack of available documentary evidence and witnesses and despite our proactive efforts to assist

survivors, Quarriers acknowledges that we do not have sufficiently reliable information regarding the extent of failures and/or deficiencies in response to allegations of abuse made prior to 1980.

Through the *Time to be Heard* forum, a number of participants stated that they reported abuse. They further reported that in some instances action was taken and in others it was not. Lack of required record keeping from this time prevents Quarriers from having documented evidence but research undertaken through *Time to be Heard*, suggests there were historic deficiencies in both organisational response and record keeping, both of which are wholly unacceptable by today's standards. For this we offer an unreserved apology to survivors.

Response to Allegations of Abuse in 1980s

Quarriers is aware of allegations of sexual abuse being made against an employee (John Porteous) in the early 1980s. These allegations were made by [REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED]. Information in relation to this is contained in the [REDACTED] file. The allegation was brought to the attention of the superintendent at the time, Joseph Mortimer. This seems to have been undertaken through Dundee Social Work Department (the social work department who had placed [REDACTED] with Quarriers) or the house parent. The Police were contacted. According to the records the Police came to Quarriers Village and carried out an investigation. No charges were brought against the employee. [REDACTED] was sent to see Quarriers' psychologist, Dr Jean Morris. The records suggest that he was not believed.

[REDACTED] was referred for counselling at the Douglas Inch Centre, Glasgow. He was seen by a clinical psychologist and clinical psychiatrist. There does not appear to have been any further action taken by Quarriers at this time. No internal investigation appears to have been carried out as a result of the Police considering that no further action was required. However nowadays, even if there was no criminal prosecution, an internal investigation would be expected and the matter would be reported to the relevant regulatory authorities, including the Police.

Allegations of a [REDACTED] made by [REDACTED] a letter published in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Quarriers have been unable to trace any records of a complaint being made directly to them by [REDACTED]. The letter contains [REDACTED] account of her time in Quarriers from 1939 to 1946. [REDACTED] contains a statement attributed to Dr James Minto, the then director of Quarriers Homes

Response to Allegations of Abuse from 2000 onwards

Quarriers does not consider that there was any failure or deficiency in its response to allegations of abuse received from 2000 onwards. The vast majority of allegations of abuse were brought to Quarriers' attention by way of claims for compensation. A police investigation was underway and it was not appropriate, nor practical, for Quarriers to carry out their own internal investigation

Our priority then and now is to participate fully in any historic investigation and to offer support, full transparency and all available information to survivors. This also lay behind our request to become a core participant in this Inquiry.

iii. What is the basis of that assessment?

This assessment is based upon (1) the testimonies given in the *Time to be Heard* by Tom Shaw, CBE, forum; 2 the records of [REDACTED] (3) the Sunday Mail article dated [REDACTED]; and (4) other historic records in Quarriers' possession.

iv. What is the organisation's explanation for such failures/deficiencies?

There is clear documentary evidence in the case of [REDACTED] that a complaint of sexual abuse was brought to Quarriers' attention. The Dundee Social Work Department was also aware of the allegations. The Police were informed. However, once the Police investigation was closed, no further action was taken. The child's allegations were not believed. However, there was no internal investigation carried out as would be expected nowadays. It may or may not have been the standard of the time to initiate such an investigation when the Police considered such allegations to be unfounded – the current management team does not know. However, by current standards this was undoubtedly a deficient response.

Nowadays, if such an allegation were made, it would be reported to the relevant regulatory authorities, such as the Scottish Social Services Council (or other professional regulator depending upon the role/qualification of the employee) and the Care Inspectorate as well as the Police and Social Work as part of Interagency Safeguarding procedures. Such regulatory bodies did not exist at the time of these allegations. If they had existed an independent investigation would likely have been carried out, given the seriousness of the allegations, where a lower burden of proof would have applied.

3.4 Changes

- i. To what extent has the organisation/establishment implemented changes to its policies/procedures and practices as a result of its acknowledgment in relation to 3.1 – 3.3 above?

ACCESS TO RECORDS

Quarriers has acknowledged its responsibility to provide records to former child residents from any era since the 1990s. This had been demonstrated through both the opening of records and provision of support to former boys and girls seeking information about their time at Quarriers and through the work undertaken to reconnect with former child migrants and their descendants in Canada. These two areas of activity had become well-established during the second half of the 1990s. Quarriers also collaborated with the Child Migrant Trust to offer this also to boys and girls who had migrated to Australia.

During this Inquiry we recognise the need to provide access to the records of former boys and girls of Quarriers. All records are kept in safe and secure storage and these can be easily accessed at short notice if required. A database of all enquiries is maintained, regularly backed up, and kept secure. Where possible we also provide access to photographs.

APOLOGIES

Dr Phil Robinson, Former Chief Executive of Quarriers offered an apology to survivors within a petition to the Scottish Government in 2004. Further individual apologies have taken place.

HELPLINE

Following allegations of and convictions for abuse of children in its care in 2000, Quarriers set up a helpline for former residents so that they could phone in confidence if they wanted to allege that they had been abused, or to ask for help or advice. A specialist after-care worker was appointed to assist anyone who wished to access their personal files, and to offer advice or support for anyone who might want it. The helpline was promoted through a series of newspaper advertisements. Quarriers also offered to pay for independent counselling for survivors if support directly from the organisation was not considered appropriate.

SIRCC REPORT

In 2001, following the conviction in the Samuel McBrearty case, Quarriers initiated an independent review of the safety of the care provided for accommodated children and young people. During the period that the review was taking place, a number of other cases of alleged historic abuse came to light. Whilst many changes in policy and practice had taken place at Quarriers since the abuse had occurred, Quarriers wished to reassure themselves, service users,

service users' families and local authorities making placements that they had minimised the likelihood that such abuse might be taking place currently or may take place in the future.

The review was commissioned by Quarriers from the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC). A report entitled "Feeling Safe, Being Safe: A Review of the Safety of the Care Provided By Quarriers for Accommodated Children and Young People" was produced in September 2002, although not released until some years later.

The review found evidence that child safety had been an area of consistent attention and action by Quarriers in the recent years leading up to the review.

A number of recommendations were made. Those included tightening up safety procedures for medication; young people and parents being better informed about and having better access to complaints and other procedures; supervision; certain training and team-building for staff and care and unit development planning. The recommendations were accepted by Quarriers and were all fully implemented.

THE QUARRIERS STORY, ANNA MAGNUSSON

The Village, written by Anna Magnusson, was first published in 1984 and updated at Quarriers request and renamed The Quarriers Story in 2006. This revised edition contains a chapter entitled *Past Wrongs* and this details the convictions as well as Quarriers' overriding approach and response in an open and honest manner within this public forum.

TIME TO BE HEARD

In acknowledgment of the fact that abuse had occurred at Quarriers Village, Quarriers volunteered to participate in a pilot confidential forum called Time to be Heard. *Time to be Heard* by Tom Shaw, CBE, was commissioned by the Scottish Government. The final report, compiled by Tom Shaw CBE was published in February 2011.

The purpose of the forum was to test the appropriateness and effectiveness of a confidential forum in giving former residents of residential schools and children's homes the opportunity to recount their experiences in care to an independent and non-judgemental panel.

INTERACTION ACTION PLAN

Quarriers continues to be actively involved with the Scottish Government to help implement an Interaction Action Plan. The Action Plan is all about bringing together the Scottish Government, survivors of abuse, the organisations that support and represent them, care

organisations (including Quarriers) and local authorities to look at what happened in the past and what needs to change. Together they have created an Action Plan looking at, for example, appropriate forms of commemoration for survivors and options for a survivor support fund.

Through the Interaction Action Plan, Quarriers also participates in a forum with other providers to share information.

Quarriers attended the launch of the National Confidential Forum and took steps to promote this to former residents by writing to approximately 50 people for whom we had up-to-date contact details, displaying posters and promoting this through our website.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SCOTTISH CHILD ABUSE INQUIRY

Quarriers has fully cooperated with the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry in an open and transparent manner, sharing where possible all available information. We chose to apply for Core Participant status from the start and are grateful to Lady Smith for granting this. We do this acknowledging our role in the provision of residential childcare in Scotland both historically and currently, in the belief that survivors have the right to be heard, and that Quarriers can play a part in the solution.

FORMER RESIDENTS

Quarriers meets regularly with former residents and survivors to maintain open dialogue and positive relationships, to share information and updates and to learn about the Inquiry from a survivor's perspective. We do this in order to help us be open, transparent and approachable.

COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF

All staff received regular updates regarding Quarriers involvement in the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. Within this, the following policies are highlighted:

- protection of vulnerable adults
- protection of vulnerable children
- safeguarding
- whistleblowing
- when an individual discloses or alleges abuse

All staff are required to ensure they know how to access and are familiar with all of these policies.

STAFF TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

Quarriers Learning and Talent Development Department offers regular training courses in Adult Protection and Child Protection as well as

refresher training on request. This is available to care staff as well as volunteers and befrienders. Training in the Protection of Vulnerable People is mandatory for all Quarriers staff. This is further supplemented by Adult Safeguarding training as appropriate. Staff are required to ensure their training in these areas is up-to-date, and measures to monitor this are in place. All Quarriers staff, volunteers and befrienders receive regular supervision and risk assessments are in place.

As significant amounts of training takes place at Quarriers, we also take this opportunity to answer questions directly from staff and explain the relevant protocols.

DISCLOSURE AND PVG (PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS)

All care and office staff at Quarriers, all volunteers including Trustees must have a current Disclosure or PVG. We monitor these to make sure they are up-to-date for everyone at Quarriers.

ZERO TOLERANCE TO ABUSE

Quarriers operates a zero tolerance approach to abuse which means that we actively encourage staff to disclose concerns, all concerns are investigated internally and reported to the relevant authorities, and changes where necessary are made to policies and procedures to help prevent any future abuse. This zero tolerance approach is explicit within Quarriers Strategy 2017-20 which is made available to all staff and stakeholders.