

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

**Frances PHIPPS or SHAH**

Support person present: No.

1. My name is Frances Shah. My Maiden name was Phipps. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1953. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### **General experiences as a social worker**

#### *Background*

2. I studied for an honours degree in psychology at the University of Strathclyde between 1973 and 1977. My first job after graduation was a temporary post at the Gartnavel Royal Hospital. I worked for David Cooke, who went on to become a professor. We were called research psychologists. We worked on a survey which helped David get his doctorate. I also worked with Bill Saunders on an alcohol survey. I was at Gartnavel for eight months. When that post came to an end, I did voluntary work in a nursery school. I also taught a Pakistani lady English as part of a scheme. I then did residential work at Bellshill Children's Home. In my holidays, I did residential work in a home for severely mentally disabled children in London and at another reception centre for children taken into care in London.

#### *Social work training*

3. I went to Glasgow University from 1979 to 1981 to study for a certificate in social work. I also did a diploma in social work, which involved a dissertation and some research

and which gave me a separate certificate. I was unemployed for a time after qualifying until I got a position in Drumchapel. I didn't receive any kind of induction there.

*Training as a Children and Families Social Worker*

4. I didn't receive any additional training in being a children and families social worker, other than a postgraduate child protection certificate, which I obtained from Dundee University when I was based at Govanhill social work office. It was distance learning. I received a commendation for that course. I did obtain a number of other qualifications after I qualified as a social worker. I studied child play therapy for two years at Notre Dame. The course was accredited by Strathclyde University. I was looking for a change of career. Half way through the course, I decided that I didn't want to be a play therapist but I did complete the course. I did the counselling skills course at the Kinharvie Institute. I also did a weekend course in Myers-Briggs there.

*Working as a Children's and Family Social Worker*

5. My first social work job was a temporary post in Drumchapel. I started there in 1982. There had been some kind of industrial action before I arrived. A number of cases for the Children's Panel had not been attended to. I had to go out and assess all of those cases. I was accepted into the team permanently after that. I worked in Drumchapel until 1987. I then moved to Govanhill, where I worked for about ten years.
6. I always worked in children and families until I got to Govanhill. When I was at Govanhill, my role involved generic duty. I was a children and families social worker, but I also dealt with elderly people or anybody who might phone in whilst I was engaged in generic duties, which all my colleagues and I were required to do. The teams changed all the time. I would move without moving jobs. First, the team was south east 3, then it was south west 4 sub-office of the Gorbals, then we were shut altogether and moved to the Gorbals office.
7. When I was in the Gorbals office, I was put into the early interventions team. You should either be in early interventions or long term childcare, but I was in both. I couldn't do both at the same time and I was starting to find it difficult. People signed

a memorandum to say that I'd been aggressive towards them. People signed it who had had no dealings with me at all. I was deliberately transferred out. It was a very difficult time for me.

8. From the Gorbals, I transferred to Priesthill, which was closing down. I was there for from June 2000 for about a year until it closed down. After it closed down, we were merged into the Pollok office, where I worked for about three years, until we were placed at the Health Centre. I remained with the Children and Families team in Pollok until I took early retirement in 2010. Raymond Bell was the area manager when I moved to Priesthill. He moved to Pollok with us. I had a really good working relationship with Raymond. He knew what I was good at and he honed in on it. I was safe all the time that he was there. He eventually moved to a different role covering mental health all over Glasgow.
9. When I was in Pollok, Raymond asked me if I wanted to be a practice teacher in the team. I felt that I owed him so I said that I would do it. I had four students at a time and about eleven students in total. I was teaching students to become social workers while they were on placement. The students came from Caledonian, Strathclyde and Glasgow Universities. Some of my caseload was taken off me, but I still had some complex cases. I was finding it quite difficult alongside my practice teaching.
10. When you supervise a student, you're supervising their cases where they are the worker. If a child protection issue arose when a student social worker was working on a case, it was supposed to be reallocated quickly. That didn't happen. When I was a practice teacher, all such cases were reallocated to me. I wasn't a senior so they shouldn't have been allocated to me, they should have been given to a senior to reallocate. That happened quite a lot.

#### *Management structure*

11. When I was in Drumchapel, there was an area officer, Frank McDade. There were then senior social workers, social workers, home makers and addiction workers. That

was the make-up in most of the offices that I worked in. There was a big alcohol team in the Gorbals which covered a whole floor.

12. When I was in Pollok, Julie Edgington was my senior. She was then replaced by Ann Fox. Joyce Macdonald was the operations manager for the children and families department so she supervised the seniors. Historically, management would look at social workers and what they had to offer. They would hone in on that and it was sensible. That was what Raymond Bell did. It didn't happen under Joyce Macdonald.
13. If you studied the social work course in the 1970s and 1980s, you learned that social workers were treated as professionals. You were meant to be able to make assessments and think for yourself. That gradually decreased. In the end, you were obeying orders. Once I was upset and I phoned a counsellor provided by my employer. She asked me what my job was and I said it was to do the best for my clients. She said that my job was to obey. It became increasingly like that. When Joyce Macdonald became ops manager at Pollok, it was all about following orders. Working for her was very difficult. She found ways to put me down at every opportunity. It was a form of bullying.
14. The more experienced you become as a social worker, the more you are able to do on your own. When I hadn't been at Drumchapel for long, I attended a home visit with Marvin McKay. I was fairly newly qualified. When we got to the door, I could hear the little children inside and there was no adult with them. Marvin asked me what I wanted to do. I asked him what he wanted me to do. He said that I was the social worker and I knew what to do, which was the correct practice. All of that changed over time. It became very difficult when I worked under Joyce. It was all about doing as she said. She had a nasty habit of undermining people. She undermined me in front of my students. She undermined other workers in front of their clients. It was really horrible. It was a hostile environment. She bullied at least two of the male seniors. She had a lack of empathy. I think there was abuse of staff.
15. Joyce did some pretty bad things. I had done a lot of child protection over the years. A new course came out that you had to pass. It was with the police. I was supposed



to go on the course, but she wouldn't let me attend. Instead of me, she sent someone who had qualified as a social worker at the age of sixty and was on the verge of retirement and had no previous professional qualifications.

16. Joyce micro-managed. I would call it meddling. If a child was coming into care, they would be distressed. I would tell the child that we just needed to go to the office and then I would take them to McDonald's. I would also tell them that they could get something out of the machine. Joyce would come in and say, in front of the child, that the child wasn't going to get anything out of the machine and that she hoped I wasn't thinking of taking the child to McDonald's. Joyce would go away and I would take the child to McDonald's. She micro-managed every little thing and she wouldn't have paid for a proper restaurant and furthermore she undermined both me and the children.
17. It wasn't like that when Raymond Bell was in charge. He was old school. He was just nice. He knew procedures but he wasn't procedural. I think things would have been different for me if he'd remained in his post. He would have protected me. I didn't feel that Joyce tried to protect her workers. Instead, it felt like she was out to get you.

#### *Other staff*

18. When I was in Pollok, we moved to a health centre that we shared with health professionals. It was restructuring and it was supposed to enable us to work with the health centre staff. If I was working with a health visitor, I would be on the phone to her. I didn't need to sit in a room with her. It was supposed to be about trying to get different agencies to work together. We didn't work together in the health centre because we weren't working on the same cases. One of my colleagues shared a room with health visitors. We got on well with the nurses and health professionals, but we weren't in the same team as them. I was in a room with social work staff. There were about six people in my sub-group. There was a dedicated foster care social work team, known as a family finding service based at the district office, which had been there when I started in 1982.

#### *Caseload*

19. When I worked in Pollok, I was responsible for about twelve children. I'm not sure how many of those children were in care. I had been involved throughout my career with a lot of long term work involving children who were not going home. They were being prepared for adoption or long-term placements. They were complex cases and Joyce Macdonald didn't like that. Every case that I was working well with and was interested in, Joyce transferred to other workers.
  
20. I didn't find my workload manageable, but nobody did. I didn't feel supported by Julie Edgington, although things improved with Ann Fox. Julie was already poisoned against me. I think Joyce Macdonald had told her that I was someone who would cause trouble and couldn't be trusted to do assessments. I know that if Ann Fox was to be asked she would say the opposite of Joyce's assessment of me.
  
21. I didn't feel that I had adequate support or resources to do my job properly. We didn't have enough placements for kids. It wasn't uncommon for children to be coming in from ten different placements by the age of sixteen. That was par for the course in the end. It didn't happen when I worked in Drumchapel or Govanhill. Staff were so overworked in Pollok that seniors were holding caseloads themselves by default. It just wasn't workable. This was why the department changed senior social worker designation to practice team leader, which meant that the senior held cases of their own as well as managing staff. Not surprisingly that didn't work either.
  
22. I worked with a girl who came into hospital at seventeen months old. Her liver was so damaged, it was as if she had been hit by a car. We knew the parents had been responsible, specifically the father. I did a lot of work on that case and a lot of work with the foster carer. Joyce Macdonald removed that case from me just like that. She reallocated the complex case I worked on that involved two little girls who had to be placed anonymously. She gave it to my senior, David. I complained to Raymond Bell about that. In the end, I was able to continue working with the children and David did all the liaison with the police. I think Joyce was trying to convey an image that I wasn't capable of handling these cases and yet the area manager clearly believed I was able to do complex casework and teach four students at the same time.

*Child Protection policies and procedures*

23. Child protection was usually managed quite well when I worked in Pollok. One thing Joyce Macdonald was excellent at was holding a child protection meeting and drawing together all the threads. Some of the seniors were not particularly aware of child protection procedures. One day, I caught one of the new team leaders arranging home access for a child who had come in under a place of safety order. I was horrified. She asked me what she had done. I told her that the child couldn't go home and he couldn't be left unattended because he was on a place of safety order. She told the other seniors, but never said that I had told her. That kind of thing would happen a lot. The more experienced I became, the more I noticed these things.

*Procedures for reporting concerns*

24. If you had concerns about a child in foster care, you would tell your senior. You would talk about it in supervision. If it was urgent, you would tell them at the time. Concerns would be detailed on the case records. Your senior would also minute supervision and note it down. If a child was alleging some kind of abuse, senior social workers used to come out on visits with you. This was in the time of Drumchapel. They would try and get a feel for what was going on. However, all of those things had stopped towards the end of my time as a social worker. Julie Edgington wouldn't come out to a placement with me. She only ever came to reviews at the child's school.

*Whistleblowing policies and procedures*

25. There were whistleblowing policies in the department but you couldn't actually use them. I think staff were well aware of the policies, but nobody was ever going to actually do it, not in the Pollok office anyway. People didn't feel supported by management. They were fearful. I don't think the whistleblowing procedures worked. I did whistleblow. I didn't start out doing so, but I wrote to senior management because team management were not listening to me. I was also getting bullied by a senior in the criminal justice team. She was dealing with the father in a family and I was dealing

with the stepmother and the kids. I wrote a professional letter to say that she didn't know what she was doing. All I had wanted was someone at senior management level to meet with me and the criminal justice social worker and get it sorted out. Instead, I was removed from the team and a disciplinary investigation was undertaken.

26. At my disciplinary hearing, Brian Smith, the branch secretary of Glasgow Unison, said that my letter had been whistleblowing. The council seemed to view it as whistleblowing. Senior management didn't accept it as that. They just thought it was me being a nuisance, complaining about a senior member of staff without grounds.
27. I didn't know what the whistleblowing policies were at the time, but I read them afterwards. If you thought that there was something going wrong or something unprofessional and nobody was taking any notice, you were supposed to tell someone higher up. You were also advised to get help from you union to protect yourself. I think that staff should be protected if they whistleblow, not disciplined. They shouldn't have to rely upon the union. Management should be protecting staff as well, not persecuting them.

#### *Record keeping policies and procedures*

28. I think there was a major change in record keeping procedures when computers came into play. I don't think they were used appropriately. A friend of mine once said to me that if something wasn't on the computer then it just didn't happen. If it was on the computer, then it had happened, whether it had or not. That was about it. People were very afraid about having their computer records up to date, to the extent that they might not always be accurate.
29. I complained that I didn't have enough time with the computer. Julie Edgington would tell me that I could spend one afternoon a week updating my computer records. I would go and sit at my desk and about ten minutes later, a senior would come along and tell me that I needed to help with something urgent and he couldn't get anybody else. I was sitting at my desk and all the other workers were out seeing their clients. That happened over and over again so I never got the chance to put my records onto

the computer. You couldn't do it on a computer at home because it had to be done on the Care First system. Computer records were kept by the department forever.

30. I would hand write notes quickly after I'd seen a child. I would write what the child had said and when I intended to go back again. I would write any concerns that I might have on the day of a visit. I placed my written notes on a file. They weren't meant to be on a file, they were meant to be on the computer. Seniors wouldn't look at files unless they were on the computer. I did have some case notes on the computer.
31. Before case notes were removed from the files, I had made new case files. I'd written out notes and put them into the case files. I had a couple of months of handwritten notes which required to go onto the computer. The computer records were getting more and more complex. Social workers didn't have time to follow procedure when it came to computer records. They were then blamed for that. There was no written procedure for giving a worker time to attend to records.
32. When I was in Drumchapel, you might be given three quarters of a page of notes by somebody who had been dealing with a case for two years. I used to write case notes at home and they would laugh at me. It went from case notes not being prioritised to case notes being over and above everything else you did, including work with children and their families. Mine were up to date at that time because they were handwritten at home.
33. I wasn't very computer savvy when all this started. When I first started working as a social worker, you would prepare a report, hand it into the administrative staff and they would type it. When I got to Pollok, admin no longer typed reports. Social workers were never allowed extra time for that.

*Leaving employment as a social worker*

34. I agreed with a family who made a complaint and, as a consequence, things turned nasty. I wasn't getting on with a senior social worker, who was head of the criminal justice team. She was working with the father and I was working with the step mother

of the family. My senior, Ann Fox, was off at the time on leave and so I wrote to higher management and asked for help. The next thing I knew, I was facing disciplinary action. I was interviewed by two workers, one of whom I knew well. There were so many issues after that. They alleged that I was colluding with the family. They said it was like the 2007 case of Baby P in Haringey. It wasn't. They were totally unable to understand the case and made it into something it was not.

35. I was supported by the branch secretary of Unison, Ryan Smith. He was excellent. Ann-Marie Rafferty chaired the disciplinary hearing of me. At the beginning, I felt she asked me appropriate questions. Something then happened. I believe team management and area management had got to her and they told her to sack me, which she did. Around that time, I had moved my mother from London to live with me. I'd bought a new house, but if I was sacked I wouldn't be able to pay the mortgage.
36. In 2009, I was ordered out of the team with no notice and I wasn't even allowed to say goodbye to anyone. I was chucked out of the team and sent to work at Strata House, in Cardonald Park, where area management was at that time. They told me to design a paper for the public about the CHCP (City Health Care Partnership), even though they knew CHCPs were going to be discontinued. I was at Strata House for about five months until I was sacked. I won my appeal and was reinstated, but I retired instead.
37. When they interviewed me about case notes, I said that I'd had a problem with the computer. All the time that I was a social worker, I didn't have time to type case notes. I used to hand write them at home and take them in. I had all these handwritten case notes in seven different files. They were kept in a filing cabinet in my office. I was hoping that I would get the chance to put them onto a computer. I asked my senior, Ann Fox, to check on them. Luckily, I have a letter confirming that she had looked at them and they were all there. By the time someone was appointed to look at my case notes, those notes had gone. They'd been stolen out of the files. Any member of staff could have had access to the notes if they needed to find something out and I wasn't there. No staff member would have removed them, other than Joyce Macdonald. I believe she took them all, so removing my self-defence at the disciplinary hearing.



38. It was absolutely dreadful, the things that they were saying about me. Ann Fox wrote to the council to explain that she had witnessed my handwritten notes. I was immediately reinstated at the appeal 2010. I didn't return to my post. My health had deteriorated and I was given the option of retiring early, so I took it. I had been diagnosed with myasthenia gravis, which is an incurable autoimmune condition. I was slowing down because of my mobility, but some of the things we were asked to do in our roles were beyond a joke. Joyce Macdonald had known about my condition and I thought she had informed senior social workers however she had failed to do so and I believe that was deliberate.

### **General experiences as a social worker involved in foster care placements**

#### *Recruitment of and training for foster carers*

39. I wouldn't say that I view foster caring as a profession. I would say that I view it as a vocation. The key word for me is parenting. Parents should behave in the same way, whether they're fostering a child or not. Most people do it because they want to do the job, not because of the money. I think it would be a good idea for foster carers to have childcare qualifications, but I can never see that happening. The way that I understand it is that the department struggles to get carers half the time anyway. If they were going to put too many rules onto becoming a foster carer, they would never recruit enough of them.
40. When you were assessing potential foster carers, what you actually had to do was form a relationship with the person and find out about them. I was part of a fostering campaign when I worked in Drumchapel. We got some lovely people who were going to be accepted. There were other people for whom no amount of training was going to enable them to be accepted. I was assessing one woman for short-term fostering. Her adult son walked in and she said, "Do you want to get some?" I didn't go back to that home. I think there are things that you do as a parent that you just expect people



to know, but maybe not everybody does know these things. There are obviously natural parents who don't know these things either and their kids end up in care.

41. I went to work in Govanhill because I wanted to work with ethnic minority families. While I was there, I was appointed to deal with out of area foster placements which were going to be mixed race. They involved doing whole assessments of the foster placement. I also carried out foster assessments and pre-adoptive reports. When I was in that role, there was a book about how to do fostering and adoption assessments and what was involved. It was quite extensive, especially for adoption.
42. If someone applied to become a foster carer, they would apply to the department. They would then be allocated, usually to the team in the area where they lived. A social worker would carry out an assessment. It was very full. We contacted doctors for medical information. We had to do criminal record checks. We had to visit the home and see what it was like. Apart from those physical things, we also tried to get a feel for what the prospective foster carer thought fostering was all about. We would ask them how they felt about having contact with parents themselves at times. They didn't always have a big understanding of parents and arranging sibling contact. That was supposed to be done during the assessment, but it was a big ask.
43. You don't see everything when you're doing assessments. There are things people don't realise themselves, let alone tell the social worker. I always tried to remember that the potential foster carer had a history themselves. In the course of the assessment, I would cover how they were treated as children. I would ask them what they were expected to do and how they were punished at home and that type of thing. I would ask them what they favoured and didn't favour. Things changed during my time in social work. It became far less about assessment and far more about procedural issues.
44. There were sometimes issues relating to the ethnicity of the child. We had to try and get a placement which matched the child, but that wasn't always possible. I had two Asian children on my caseload for ten years while I was at Govanhill, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] They were brought up by white foster carers. They went there when they were

small children. When they reached the ages of fourteen and twelve, the foster carers threw the younger child out and kept the older child. The younger child had set his clothes on fire. Instead of taking him back, he ended up in a children's home.

45. When I was at Govanhill, I worked on an ethnic minority fostering campaign with my colleague, Shaheen. We were looking for foster carers of every ethnicity. We were specifically targeting Indian or Pakistani carers because of the build-up of South-Asian children coming into care. We went out to speak at the local community centre. There were definite cultural differences when it came to the type of fostering that was going to be offered. Most of the Asian children coming into care tended to be very westernised, which differed from what the Asian Community were prepared to offer. Although they didn't actually specify and it perhaps wasn't quite as simple as this, but they tended to want Muslim or Hindu children, i.e. they wanted a child of their own faith, who had been properly brought up. I think social workers did their best, but I don't think social workers at that time were sufficiently educated about ethnicity issues. I was, which is why I had been asked to do the mixed race fostering assessments and the campaign. I don't know how many we actually managed to recruit.
46. Foster carers didn't need any qualifications or previous experience. They would be asked about who was in their family, including their extended family. We would take references from people who knew them. If they had children, we would speak to the children about how they felt about foster children coming into the home. We also spoke to the children's schools. We would also take foster carers through the process of the child becoming an adult. The whole process took about a year.
47. I was involved in the training of foster carers. I would work with a group of people who wanted to be foster carers and we would do role play. The training lasted about six weeks and took place in the evening. The family finding team also did training of their own in Drumchapel. I'm not sure how much training foster carers were given in child protection. The foster carers who really knew about child protection were the emergency carers. They were getting children all the time who had had dreadful things happening to them. I would say that they knew more about child protection procedures than most foster carers.

48. I didn't do any specific training on disciplining children. I would take the foster carers that I was assessing through understanding children and managing behaviours. Some people found parts of that difficult. They were also given written guidance, which would be well out of date now.
49. I don't know what training for foster carers is like nowadays, but there should be proper staffing at the family finding team. I'm pretty sure they won't have that. The system also needs workers that can handle all the issues. Not all workers can handle ethnicity. They say things like, "She didn't really abuse the child when she walloped him across the face. It's cultural." Even if that was true, no-one can break the law here.

*Foster carer arrangements*

50. Foster carers could choose whether to do respite care, short-term care or long-term care. They didn't get to choose what kind of child came to them. I think they were able to choose the age range of the children who came to them. I don't know if that was also the case for emergency care, but I think if someone felt they couldn't take care of a young baby then they wouldn't be expected to take that on. Of the foster carers that I knew who were caring for children in my caseload, I never really asked them about their choice of child. That would/should have been done by the assessing social worker from the family finding team.
51. Foster carers were allocated their own social worker, a link worker. There was supposed to be liaison between the social worker for the fostered child and the link worker, but it very much depended on who the social worker and the link worker were. The link worker wouldn't have assessed the foster carer prior to them taking on the role. Because they'd been accepted as suitable, the link workers would assume that the person was a good enough foster carer.
52. In my role, I didn't share a great deal of information about a child in my caseload with the foster carer's link worker. There were occasions when I received the link worker's report for a specific reason, but generally those assessments weren't shared with the

child's social worker. If I had concerns about abuse by a foster carer, I would disclose that to the link worker. In those circumstances, there would be meetings involving the link worker and the child's social worker. There weren't regular meetings involving the link worker and the child's social worker, except at childcare reviews, but we would be expected to keep in touch.

53. Foster carers weren't provided with any other support, but they could get respite. The fostered children could go to a respite placement for weekends and things like that. That did happen. As the child's social worker, I would spend a bit of time with the foster carer, especially if they were new. I would be going out to visit the child in the foster placement so I did spend some time with the foster carers as well. I would make sure that they were happy and in agreement with what was happening. If there was a major decision, like a granny visiting the house, that would be a decision for management and would involve a review.
54. Siblings were supposed to be placed in foster care together. In some circumstances, that might not happen. I remember taking a little boy into respite care because his mum couldn't cope. His sister had been looking after him because their mum was disabled. I didn't want to separate them. The younger child kept abusing the respite carer's cat. I didn't want to move him because I was worried about separating him from his sister. When I told the sister that I was going to have to take her brother to a different placement, she was glad that she was going to get a rest. Whether siblings should be placed together sometimes depended on the circumstances and the family relationships.

#### *Financial support*

55. I'm not sure whether I considered foster carers to be employed. I was aware that foster carers were paid by the department, but I don't know how much they received. I don't know what they get now, but if they are considered employed it's certainly below the minimum wage for what they have to do. I think I saw them as working for the department but not as employed. If they worked for specialist agencies, such as

Barnardo's, then I saw them as employed. The department was paying double the money for those foster carers.

56. The money from the department was supposed to be used for caring for the children. It was to feed and clothe children. Children in homes and foster care receive a clothing allowance. The foster carer was supposed to use that to buy clothing for the child. I think the link worker was expected to oversee that and check the allowance was being used for its intended purpose. Most of the foster carers I worked with were okay. However, if I noticed that a child didn't seem to be appropriately cared for, it would be up to me to report it. I would also try to speak to the child alone.
57. I would probably say that the financial provision for foster carers was not adequate. Generally, the people who came forward to be foster carers were highly motivated to look after children. I think they were doing it out of love and care for children. I don't think the financial benefits were great enough to attract anybody to do it as a professional job.

#### *Placement preparation*

58. I wasn't involved in matching children to potential foster carers. That was done by the family finding team. I think children were probably misplaced because of a lack of availability of foster carers. Short-term foster carers should have been advised in advance when children were coming in or moving from another placement. For emergency placements, it was a matter of a phone call. They would be asked whether they could take a child and they could refuse.
59. The foster carers would be given background information about the child. The social worker placing the child was supposed to give written information to the foster carers. It would detail the child's family circumstances, any sibling contact, the reason for the placement and details of any care history. It would also provide information about their educational history and needs and any medical information. They should have been given the child's care plan. I would share what I knew about the child with the foster carer. The information given depended very much on the individual child. When I was

finishing up in my role, I'm not sure how many social workers actually went out to the placement with the child and went to see the carer.

60. Sometimes steps were taken to prepare a child for a foster placement, mainly by the child's social worker. I've never worked in the family finding team and I don't know what their practices are. I don't know whether the new foster carers ever met the previous foster carers. I never witnessed that. For long-term placements and placements involving parental rights, children would meet carers before going to live with them. For emergency and short-term placements, children were usually just taken to the foster home. I think the child's social worker should introduce them to the foster household. I tried to do that whenever I could.
61. Work would be done with other members of the household or any existing children before a foster child arrived. It would be part of the assessment carried out by the worker from the family finding department. The worker would take their views on what they thought fostering was all about and how they felt about it.
62. Over the years, putting a child into a foster placement seemed to become increasingly like an escort arrangement. Someone who was not a social worker would work for the department as an escort. He would escort the child to a placement, but he would know nothing about the child. Sometimes they would collect the children for access visits.

*Daily routine in foster care*

63. Social workers weren't really involved in all the daily routine of the child in foster care. We had a general oversight and tried to ensure that the child was happy. We were involved in smaller details which were particular to each family. I don't remember giving advice or guidance to foster carers about disciplining children. I think the team's expectation would be that the foster carer would know about that, otherwise they wouldn't have passed the fostering assessments.
64. I don't think enough is said to foster carers about who does what. Ideally, they should be taking children to medical appointments. They should inform the social worker of



any health problems, but the social worker shouldn't really be involved in any appointments. I would have expected foster carers to attend parents evenings at school.

65. Day to day arrangements depended very much on each child in foster care. A colleague of mine placed a child who had come from a background where he might have had chips for most meals. When he was placed in foster care he wouldn't eat his dinner. He asked what the plants were doing on his plate. They'd given him a salad and he thought they were feeding him the garden. Things like that depend very much on the child you are dealing with. You would share that with the foster carer, if you knew that about the child.
66. Children in children's homes were supposed to get a certain amount of pocket money, but I don't know about children in foster care. There wasn't guidance given about leisure time activities for foster children, unless a child said something to me about wanting to do something. One thing I would make sure of was any computer was kept in the living room, not in the child's bedroom. I believe that was a departmental rule. The foster carer was supposed to keep tabs on who the child was contacting on social media and that sort of thing.
67. Usually, foster carers didn't have a lot of contact with a child's birth family. The birth parents might have issues with drug or alcohol abuse. If a parent turned up drunk, expecting a contact visit to go ahead, you couldn't expect a foster carer to intervene in that. It needed to be social work.
68. Whether a child had contact with their birth family very much depended on the circumstances. These were review decisions. Arrangements for contact also depended upon the circumstances. I had twin boys who had mental disabilities. Their brothers were fostered out in Larkhall. They always had their contact in a garage, which was like a kind of play barn. It was quite a bizarre situation. You never knew what might hit you behind a door. Usually, social workers didn't have time to undertake contact, although I always tried to do so. If there had to be a worker there, it would normally be a home-maker or care assistant. They were all very good, but they weren't



doing a social work assessment of the situation. All too often, I think children were transported about and taken to contact by other people when it really should have been the social worker doing it. I can recall over the years a number of children who disclosed abuse in care to the department car driver. Contact supervision is not seen for what it really is.

*Review of care/placement*

69. There was a link worker from the family finding team, who would continue to work with the foster carers after a child had been placed. The link worker would carry out checks on the foster carers after a child had been placed with them. That wasn't part of my role. The frequency of visits to the foster carers depended on the link worker. I knew some who obeyed the rules and would visit when they were meant to, others who visited more frequently and others who didn't visit at all. I don't think the link worker would speak to the child alone very often. That should be done by the child's social worker. They were more involved with the carer separately or the carer and child together.
70. Social workers were supposed to visit children in foster care once a month. It would sometimes be fortnightly. It depended on what else you had on and how far away the placement was. I always told the foster carer that I was coming before I visited. I don't think that was policy, it was just courtesy. At that time we didn't know about abusive foster carers. I used to spend a lot of time working with the child directly. I would also speak to the foster carer separately if it was necessary.
71. Nobody else from the social work department visited the foster home, other than the child's social worker and the link worker. There would be escorts from the department who might collect children. Escorts would occasionally take the child out places, but that was not really their role.
72. Care plans would be reviewed at every childcare review. I think the reviews took place every three months. Part of the review would involve whether the foster care placement should continue. The care plan would be shared with the child and the

carer. The foster carer was required to attend the review. They could have input into children's care plans. Their input would usually be things like a child wanting to go horse-riding and requesting money for an activity, that kind of thing. In terms of family contact, the foster carer tended to go along with what the social worker was saying about what was needed. Foster carers were also expected to attend any Children's Hearings.

73. Children's attendance and participation at reviews would depend on their age. It wouldn't be appropriate for a nine or ten year old to go to a review and hear everything the school is saying about them, for example. Older kids should attend their own reviews. It depended on the individual child. I don't think people do enough work with children, but I think that's because of a lack of time. I think that all too often, in the rush of things, things don't get done properly. Most workers were overworked and doing two or three jobs at a time. I can't believe that will have improved in the last ten years since I left social work.

#### *Records*

74. Foster carers weren't expected to keep records, unless it was specific to a particular situation. For example, if a child was having fits or if he was stealing. If a child was stealing, we might ask the foster carer to note what he was taking and when it was taken. It wouldn't generally be the case that foster carers were required to take notes.

#### *Moving placement*

75. If a child was on a short-term emergency placement, work should have been undertaken to prepare the child for moving placement. The problem was that sometimes you did that work with the child and the child didn't get moved for months and months. The plan you had put to the child might not happen because there weren't the resources.
76. Children might be asked how they felt about a move, but they weren't consulted about it. They didn't have a choice if they were in an emergency placement, they had to be

moved. The child would be consulted on whether they saw themselves going back home one day. That was connected to a care plan of rehabilitation and they would be told about that.

77. The children that I worked with generally managed to settle in really well to new placements. The problem I have with that is that they shouldn't be settling so well. They were children. What that means is you have institutionalised children who will go to anybody that you give them to. This is an attachment disorder. I don't think foster carers kept in contact with children after they left a placement. I never heard of that happening.
78. I do remember taking a little boy and his brother to a foster placement in Cumbernauld. He was being taken as an emergency. I explained to him in the car where he was going. The boy was about four or five and he didn't want to be in care. He wrecked the place. He was kicking the cat, kicking the glass door and smashing things. He wanted his mum. They ended up keeping the brother but the boy had to go and stay somewhere else.

#### *Leaving the care system*

79. Foster children could remain with the foster carers when they turned sixteen, but only if the foster carers were willing to do it for free. I don't know whether the department would pay for the placement after the child turned sixteen.
80. There was a separate team for children leaving care, the leaving care team. That only came about in more recent times. The leaving care team would take steps to obtain further education or employment for the young person. They would also arrange payments for the young person when they left care and assist them in finding accommodation. It would have been up to me to start that procedure. I would fill in a form and pass it on to the leaving care team.
81. The leaving care team was supposed to offer more than just financial support for children leaving care. I think it was set up because social workers didn't have the time

to do what they were supposed to do. It was recognised that there was a void that needed to be filled, but it actually created more work for the social worker. You had to keep meeting with the leaving care worker, who didn't know anything about the child. A lot of these new things didn't solve the problems that the department had. Things in the department got worse over the years. There was less money for the young person themselves, but also less money for the things surrounding them. Joyce suggested a difficulty was coming and that there may not be funding for parents to attend contact visits, but I don't know whether this happened after I retired.

82. Prior to the leaving care coming into existence, it would have been the role of the social worker to assist young people leaving care. When I was working in Drumchapel, I remember being involved with young people who were leaving care. It was a new area to me because they were seventeen, eighteen year olds. I would set the process in motion for them to find accommodation, but it wasn't my responsibility to get the accommodation. I remember one young man who threw away all of his tinned food after three months. He didn't know that it wouldn't go off. These were things you think people will know, but he didn't know because he hadn't been with a family.

#### **Experiences as a social worker involved in specific foster care placements -**

██████████ and FYY ██████████

83. I was allocated ██████████ and FYY ██████████ in 1987, not long after I moved from Drumchapel to Govanhill. I think FYY ██████████ was a toddler at that time and ██████████ was one-and-a-half to two years older. There was quite a serious childcare problem at home and they did not at that stage have an allocated social worker.
84. In those days we had access to previous files and accordingly I was able to read the files on ██████████ and FYY ██████████ mother ██████████. Her mother died when ██████████ was still a young girl and her father remarried, however his new wife rejected ██████████. She was always in trouble and at ten years old had been convicted of driving a forklift truck and was put into care.

85. When I first met [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in their home they were running about wild. They were nice little boys, but [REDACTED] didn't know what to do with them. She couldn't manage and quite soon after that first home visit [REDACTED] rushed into my office, having left the kids alone in the house and saying that she couldn't cope.
86. After that, I arranged a placement in Aberdeen for [REDACTED] and her boys. I think the name of the place was Richmondhill and they worked with both the parent and child in a residential setting. There were a few other parents in Richmondhill, along with their children and the idea was that they would learn how to look after them.
87. Some of the parents in Richmondhill did just that, however very soon after [REDACTED] and the boys were placed there, [REDACTED] went back to adolescence herself. She would have been about twenty-four at that time, but she behaved as a fourteen year old in care might. She used to break all the rules, she would stay out late and she would dump the kids on other residents who were having difficulty with their own kids.
88. [REDACTED] and the boys were in Richmondhill for over a year and we tried very hard to make it work. At that time Helen McGhee was my senior and my home maker was Johnette Hendry and we used to go up to Aberdeen for a review about every eight weeks. The staff of Richmondhill were reasonably tolerant, but they were worried that the children were being left with other parents who had their own difficulties.
89. I tried to explain to [REDACTED] that her kids would be taken off her unless she changed, but unfortunately it didn't work. A decision was made to put the boys into care on their own and a placement was found for them at Garfield Children's Home at Cathcart, Glasgow. I think it's probably quite common for a child in care to have had a parent who was in care. I've known a few families where that was the case and it seems clear to me that the reason for that is that the system didn't do them any good in learning how to be a parent themselves.
90. I don't remember taking out a place of safety order, although we may have done. I can't remember what legislation was used at that time, perhaps [REDACTED] may have agreed to them going into care. Certainly later on the boys were under what was

known as a 'Panel order', which in those days was under section 44 (1)(b) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

*Garfield Children's Home*

91. I used to visit Garfield quite a lot and I took the boys out occasionally and got to know them very well. FYY was a lovely little boy, although more difficult than his brother and they were totally different from each other. was an extraordinarily good looking child who always wanted to do the right thing and didn't really understand why his brother carried on the way he did.
  
92. I knew there were difficulties in Garfield and I was keen to get the boys into a foster care placement. Their keyworker in Garfield was a lovely lady called Agnes, but she was taking the boys to church, which I don't think would have been what wanted. This is not the fault of residential staff. It is a result of a society that cannot cope with and cater for 'difference'. I was also aware that the boys were having problems with some of the other children. Two Indian boys who were five years old and twins had been placed there by another social worker and there was a bit of fighting between them and the Ali boys. Garfield's way of dealing with that was to not mention race and ethnicity, rather than exploring this with the children.
  
93. In those days, if we had difficulty placing a child, my department, not me personally, would write to different agencies to see if they could assist. It was much more expensive for us to do so, however eventually I managed to get the boys a Barnardos foster care placement. Barnardos paid enhanced allowances for children that we couldn't place through local councils and they would have paid an additional sum because the children in this case were not white.
  
94. There had been an announcement in the media about the lack of funding for foster carers by a senior manager at social work headquarters, Ian Gilmour. I was outraged because I knew that he did have the funding, but it wasn't getting given out. We waited for a placement quite a lot longer than we should have because of the funding and as



a consequence, I would say the boys probably went into foster care about eight months later than they should have, when ██████ was eight years old and ██████<sup>FYY</sup> was six.

95. I was told that ██████<sup>FSQ-SPO</sup>, who lived in Larbert, had been identified by the family finding team, which was a separate unit within district headquarters.

*The foster home and household – ██████ and ██████<sup>FYY</sup>*

96. ██████<sup>FSQ-SPO</sup> were a middleclass white couple and I had no concerns about their ability to care for the boys. ██████<sup>FSQ</sup> was a self-employed osteopath, working from home, but I don't think ██████ worked. I'm not sure how old they were. They had two grown up daughters, although I don't remember the daughters' names. I think they had both left home and I don't think they were ever there when I visited. I think the older daughter was maybe a nurse and the younger one was at university studying psychology.

97. The ██████<sup>FSQ-SPO</sup> lived at ██████ Larbert, which was a lovely detached, two-storey house with a big garden and I remember they had a dog. ██████<sup>FSQ</sup> had a gym in a garage outbuilding for his osteopathy and I think the boys had fun in there. I suppose there must have been at least three bedrooms and, as far as I know, the boys shared a room, but there were no problems with overcrowding.

98. I never actually saw around the ██████<sup>FSQ-SPO</sup> house and I don't remember seeing the boys' bedroom. My recollection is that I was always in the living room, although I probably would have checked the sleeping arrangements. I would have assumed that Barnardos would have checked the suitability of the accommodation and I would have been given a copy of Barnardo's assessment. They would have noted any issues there might have been, but if there had been any question over the accommodation I would have carried out an inspection.

*Children fostered – ██████ and ██████<sup>FYY</sup>*



99. I don't think the [FSQ-SPO] had fostered any children before and they didn't foster any other children while [ ] and [FYY] were with them. I don't know whether they went on to foster anymore children after [ ] and [FYY] either. My understanding from the beginning was that we purchased this placement from Barnardos with a view to giving the boys an experience of family life, which would later transfer to a permanent placement and the aim was to secure long-term legal status for the boys.

*Placement preparation – [ ] and [FYY]*

100. The [FSQ-SPO] would have been assessed by Barnardos, whose worker was Ros Wass. She was really nice, she had been a nun previously and she worked with the foster parents as well as the boys. I don't know what preparation there had been with the [FSQ-SPO] prior to the boys being placed with them. That would have been carried out by Barnardos.

101. I had prepared the boys and because it had gone on for so long, I remember [FYY] asking me why nobody was coming for them. He asked me "Are you still going round the doors" and I had to explain the process. [ ] had a better understanding.

102. The boys were matched with the [FSQ-SPO] simply because the [FSQ-SPO] were available and willing to look after children of a different ethnicity.

103. I would have shared the boys' details, records and background information with Ros Wass and she would have shared that information with the [FSQ-SPO] to see how they felt about it. I'm sure Barnardos would have had a far better training system than the social work one. Everything would have been passed on verbally and some of it in writing and I certainly later spoke to the [FSQ-SPO] about [ ] and told them all her history. I would also have told them that [ ] was very cooperative, whereas [FYY] was more difficult, but I would have told them to get to know the boys themselves.

104. I introduced the [FSQ-SPO] to the boys at Garfield Children's Home and, once they went to live with them, the boys settled in quite well. At the beginning there were no problems, although things did go awry later. There was a possibility the placement

may be made permanent, although the decision on that was kept on hold until we saw how they settled.

105. Even though [REDACTED] and FYY [REDACTED] were of Asian ethnicity, it wouldn't have been appropriate to try and find an Asian couple to foster them. Their mother [REDACTED] was totally westernised and so were the children.

*Schooling – [REDACTED] and FYY [REDACTED]*

106. FYY [REDACTED] was a bright child, but he had difficulty with his schoolwork and possibly dyslexia and I don't think it was picked up. He started off in Larbert village primary school, however I think he ended up at four or five different schools during his time with the FSQ-SPO [REDACTED]. I recall the head teacher of Larbert village primary, Mr Stalker, asked me if FYY [REDACTED] was afraid of losing his placement, why could I not just tell FYY [REDACTED] that if he was naughty he would go back into care. Another time he asked FYY [REDACTED] whether he wanted to be white and suggested he could buy him some chalk. It was totally inappropriate.
107. A couple of weeks after the Dunblane disaster, when he was about nine years old, FYY [REDACTED] did do something at the school, although to me it was a little boy not understanding the gravity of his actions. He apparently walked into class and told everybody "I'm going to do a Dunblane on you" and everybody was disturbed by this and a review decision was made for FYY [REDACTED] to transfer school and he went to Comely Park Primary in Falkirk. I think his head teacher there was Mr Watkinson.
108. At the age of twelve FYY [REDACTED] was put to Falkland School in Fife because of his behaviour. Falkirk was a residential school and FYY [REDACTED] stayed during the week and went back to the FSQ-SPO [REDACTED] at the weekend. The staff at Falkland were very good and came to all the reviews.

*Healthcare – [REDACTED] and FYY [REDACTED]*

109. The boys would have had regular, routine health checks with the family doctor. If there was any issue, the FSQ-SPO would phone me or Ros Wass from Barnardos, they weren't expected to keep records themselves.
110. As I recall, there were questions around whether FYY might have asthma, although he didn't require an inhaler.
111. The FSQ-SPO would be responsible for dealing with any healthcare issues and that became a big concern with FSQ. They said that FYY had bad breath, although I had never noticed it, and they started giving him something. They weren't being cruel, they were trying to fix what they saw as a problem. I can't remember what they were giving him, but there was some issues over whatever it was, because I wasn't sure he should have been giving him anything. FSQ did stop, but not because of us, I think it was more because whatever it was, it didn't work. I felt the foster parents should have consulted social work before giving the child medication, particularly nobody else had reported this issue before.

#### *Cultural identity*

112. After asking my permission, and FSQ spoke to local Asian shopkeepers to see if the boys could get Urdu lessons and be told about their culture. The trouble was that the community wanted the children to be Muslim and read the Koran and the boys didn't want that. and FYY had been totally westernised.
113. There was a problem on a holiday the FSQ-SPO took and FYY on to Sherwood Forest. The FSQ-SPO reported to me when they got back that a man had been extremely nasty to and made racist remarks to her. Although FYY wouldn't have understood what was happening, stood in front of and told the man not to dare speak to his mum like that. I think would have been about nine or ten at the time.

#### *Discipline – and FYY*



114. I would expect to be told of any occasion when the **FSQ-SPO** had to discipline either **██████████** or **FYY** in any way. They wouldn't have been provided with any rules or guidance as to what methods of discipline were appropriate, but they would have been expected to record anything. Barnardos would have been provided with those records and they would have been shared with me.
115. **██████████** told me of one occasion when **FYY** got spanked, but in those days that was acceptable and it wasn't unusual. **FYY** had stuck a finger up the dog's bottom, which the **FSQ-SPO** thought, quite rightly, was a terrible thing to do. I was immediately suspicious about why a little boy would do such a thing and, as I later found out, he had been abused by an older girl with learning difficulties when he was in Garfield.

*Contact with family – **██████████** and **FYY***

116. The boys had supervised contact with their mum while they were at Garfield, but when they were with the **FSQ-SPO** it was a long-term placement and I don't think they had any contact. The children were not being rehabilitated and I would take **██████████** a photo of the boys, but they never saw her in person.

*Visits – **██████████** and **FYY***

117. I was expected to spend time with children in care and that became increasingly important with **FYY**. I suppose I would have visited them about once a month, although it depended what else I might have on. I might have gone twice one month and miss the next.
118. My visits were always announced because the placement was with foster carers. It wouldn't be expected that I would just turn up, unless I suspected there was something going on. I always spoke to the boys on their own and I spoke to the **FSQ-SPO** too. It wasn't necessarily planned that I would speak to the **FSQ-SPO** but the boys might have been out doing something when I arrived and we would discuss anything that arose.

119. I offered to take FYY out on his own and I spent a lot of time with him. would have come if I'd asked him to, but he wanted to spend time with FSQ and he was quite happy. One time I took FYY to see the film 'Babe' and another time I took him to an indoor paintball place in Falkirk.

*Relationship between the foster carers and foster children – and FYY*

120. Initially it was a good placement with the FSQ-SPO however I had concerns that the boys were so different from each other.

121.

122. did have quite a close relationship with FYY but unfortunately it became quite evident fairly quickly that the FSQ was looking for a son. The FSQ-SPO already had two girls and FSQ wanted but he didn't want FYY I never saw FSQ being bad towards FYY but that was my assessment.

123. The trouble was that FYY would say things that would make people laugh, but he thought he was being laughed at and liked to wind his brother up. I was called out on one occasion because the FSQ-SPO told me that FYY had done something, although I can't remember what it was. When I got there told me that had confessed that he had instigated whatever it was.

124. I had concerns about FSQ because I think that he didn't commit to FYY He didn't want a long-term son like FYY which I think was because of who was

every parents' delight. They couldn't, however, have [REDACTED] without taking FYY as well.

*Review of care/placement – [REDACTED] and FYY*

125. There were regular childcare reviews, every three or six months, which were headed by Helen McGhee, who was my senior at the time. A lot of the reviews were held at the FSQ-SPO [REDACTED] house and at least a couple were held at Barnardos in Edinburgh. There may also have been one at our offices, but the FSQ-SPO [REDACTED] would be there and they would have an input. The school would have been invited too, although I don't remember them ever coming. Amongst the matters discussed would be the boys' schooling and there would be a medical report from their regular health checks and the FSQ-SPO [REDACTED] would receive a copy of the care plan afterwards.
126. As I recall and certainly initially, I don't think boys went to their reviews, although their views on being in foster care would have been listened to and would have been taken into account. I would interview the children before I did the review report. I don't know if there was ever an issue though because certainly [REDACTED] didn't have any complaints and I don't think FYY [REDACTED] voiced any either.
127. At one meeting it became very clear that [REDACTED] had started to behave like a parent towards FYY [REDACTED] FYY [REDACTED] certainly knew that he was a problem, but he didn't really know why and there was a definite split between the boys. I felt that because of the way they behaved towards the boys, the FSQ-SPO [REDACTED] were partly responsible and were unknowingly turning [REDACTED] against his brother.
128. Following on from that and from the incident at school when FYY [REDACTED] had threatened the class, we referred FYY [REDACTED] to the Notre Dame Centre in Glasgow. I recall there was some problem with the funding, because the social work department wanted to know how long the therapy was, however it wasn't possible to know that.
129. The problem with the whole arrangement was that I had to escort FYY [REDACTED] to the Notre Dame Centre and he would tell me things afterwards that he should have been telling



the therapist. There was also a problem with transport, which I believe I noted. It used to be possible to phone the council and get what was called a 'corpy car', but that had stopped and there wasn't always a car available for me. I don't think there was a lack of commitment from the FSQ-SPO although it would have been better if [redacted] could have taken FYY however it was a long way from Larbert and for some reason she and FSQ didn't.

130. I think the procedure for being kept informed about a child's welfare and listening to their views has all changed now. The law changed from the Social Work (Scotland) Act to the Children Act sometime before I retired and the new legislation was that the children's views had to be listened to. I had always worked that way anyway.

*Records – [redacted] and FYY*

131. The FSQ-SPO may have been given written or verbal guidance on keeping records by Barnardos, but they certainly weren't given any guidance by the social work department. I would certainly have been in favour of them keeping records and if they did keep any there should be copies in the social work files. [redacted] certainly completed the forms for the reviews, but I don't remember much about any other records.

*Moving placement – FYY*

132. There had been no preparation for FYY leaving foster care, he left the FSQ-SPO after he took his clothes off and set them alight. I don't think he had any burns, but he was taken to hospital because of what he had done and a psychologist, Philip Dutton, absolutely insisted that FYY had dissociative disorder. I asked FYY if he remembered doing it and he told me he did. He knew exactly what he had done and I totally disagreed with the psychologist that FYY was dissociative.

133. FYY had been referred to Philip Dutton by FSQ on the basis that Philip Dutton knew about the FSQ-SPO family because their youngest daughter was doing a placement with him as part of her degree. It was inappropriate that FSQ had made that referral because of that, but also because the child was already attending Notre Dame



for psychotherapy. It was also inappropriate because such a referral should have been discussed at a childcare review.

134. I know there would have been a reason why [FYI] set his clothes on fire, but the psychologist wasn't making sense. It wasn't something [FYI] would have just done for the hell of it, which is what [FSQ] thought. I don't think he tried to kill himself, but I don't know why he did it either. I think now that [FYI] had been trying to disclose something that was happening to him.
135. The [FSQ-SPO] refused to have [FYI] back and I was angry about their rejection of him. By then I had been moved to the Gorbals office where my senior didn't know the case and didn't really understand. I was angry that, because of that move, everyone's caseloads were affected and I couldn't properly supervise the placement. I felt that after ten years, [FYI] had been thrown away like a piece of rubbish. [FYI] himself couldn't understand why the [FSQ-SPO] wouldn't have him back. After being with the [FSQ-SPO] for six years, he saw himself as permanently theirs and he had no idea why they didn't want him.
136. I went to get [FYI] from Falkland School, to where he had been discharged from the hospital, however he wasn't speaking to me and he was very angry. He was put in an emergency foster care placement at first, but he wasn't there very long before he was put into a home called Liddlesdale in north Glasgow. I went to a review at Liddlesdale, where the staff were okay, however [FYI] wasn't at the review and I asked to be taken up to his room and saw him in there. The room was awful and [FYI] pointed out how dirty it was and that the window was broken.
137. We had a foster care breakdown review at our office, but [ ] came on her own. I was cross with [FSQ] because he wasn't supporting [ ]. She told me they couldn't have [FYI] back and she also mentioned some things about [ ] but we couldn't move him as well because he was so settled there. [ ] did stay, but he took the view of the [FSQ-SPO] I remember him saying something like [FYI] "had been given all this and he doesn't appreciate it".

*Leaving the care system – [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] FYY*

138. After [REDACTED] FYY set himself on fire, I was still involved with him for a wee while, but then I lost the case. I don't know who became his social worker, nor what the circumstances of his leaving the care system altogether were. [REDACTED] stayed with the [REDACTED] FSQ-SPO but again I was no longer his social worker when he left the care system.

*Allegations of Abuse – [REDACTED] FYY*

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

139.

140.

141. I remember that in 1989, during the senior's strike, there was another incident, although I'm not sure where it happened. ██████ licked ██████ FYY tummy and a senior manager from headquarters, Jack Marshall, came down to see me about it. Jack was very old school and told me that you couldn't accuse a young boy of sexual abuse, but that wasn't the issue. The issue was what had caused ██████ to want to lick his brother's tummy, however it never went anywhere.

*Abuse in foster care with the ██████ FSQ-SPO*

142. I am also aware that, with regard to his time with the ██████ FSQ-SPO ██████ FYY states:

*'The foster dad never resorted to violence, but there was always the threat of it. He would threaten to take his belt off. He'd also sit me on a chair in a room in the dark, and I wasn't allowed to move until he said so. It was always quite frightening.'*

*'There are two incidents which I'd class as abuse. ██████ made a tray of tablet one day and I demolished the lot. As a punishment, ██████ FSQ made me eat another full tray which had been made with salt instead of sugar. I spewed everywhere. It was an old fashioned way of trying to stop a child from being greedy. I was a greedy kid but you just don't do that, especially not to a wee kid.'*

*'My brother was caught smoking and as a punishment we both had to smoke twenty fags and drink a bottle of beer with salt in it, even although I didn't smoke at the time. Again, I guess the foster dad was thinking that this would put us off smoking. I think his way of dealing with these things just messed me up even more.'*

*Awareness of Abuse in foster care with the ██████ FSQ-SPO*

143. I wasn't aware of any of this, but I would certainly consider everything ██████ FYY says happened to have been abuse. I wasn't aware of any behaviour that I would consider was abusive, only that emotionally it wasn't right that the ██████ FSQ-SPO ██████ had two children

and only wanted to keep one. They knew when they took the boys that we weren't going to separate two brothers.

144. It shocks me to hear all that **FYY** says and I'm absolutely certain Ros Wass, the Barnardos worker, knew nothing about it either. I was beginning to become concerned about **FSQ** acceptance of both children. It seemed to me that **FSQ** wanted **██████████** but not **FYY** and that was the reason I took **FYY** out on his own for the day on three separate occasions while he was with there. I was not aware, however, of any abuse and **FYY** never disclosed anything to me on any of those occasions.
145. I'm surprised to hear about them being caught smoking. **██████████** was very much into sport and was often in the gymnasium that **FSQ** had. I never knew **FYY** to tell a lie and I want to believe him, but I'm not sure how accurate his memory is, or why he's saying these things. **FYY** was very angry with the **FSQ-SPO**, particularly with **FSQ** when they wouldn't have him back, but he never made any allegations to me about them.

*Reporting of Abuse – **FYY***

146. I do wonder why **FYY** couldn't tell me at the time. I believe that both Ros Wass and I had sufficiently good a relationship with **FYY** that he could have told either of us and I would have expected him to have done so.
147. **FYY** could also have spoken to Falkland school, but they never reported anything. They knew he had behavioural difficulties, which is why he was there and if he had said anything I am confident the staff would have told me.

*Leaving role as **FYY** and **██████████** social worker*

148. I remained **FYY** and **██████████** social worker until they were about twelve and fourteen years old, however because my role changed and I had a full caseload I had difficulty visiting them. I didn't drive at that time. I went off sick in March 2000 and did not return to the Gorbals office. I was relocated to the Priesthill area team by John Legg, district manager.



Summary of Records – FYY

149. There were no computers then and I remember handwriting copious notes about those boys, because that's what we did at Govanhill. It was different at Drumchapel, where there was excellent practice, but hardly anyone wrote any case notes. I am aware that the Inquiry have copies of social work records, including my handwritten notes.
150. Amongst the concerns expressed within the notes I believe is written 'Mr<sup>FSQ</sup> favours as the ideal son he never had while sometimes lacks understanding and tolerance where FYY is concerned'. I would agree with that statement as to the relationship later on in the placement.
151. Also recorded is FYY said to be often in conflict with foster father over behavioural issues', and I would say that is true as well.
152. I believe it is also recorded that 'Mr<sup>FSQ</sup> tends not to work well with departmental plans and prefers to follow his own ideas'. The reason I've written that is because there were things like giving FYY the medicine for bad breath, although<sup>FSQ</sup> was always willing to speak and he was always at reviews.
153. I believe that around 1995 it is also written that 'social work wanted to see boys together alone, but carers stayed nearby and listened which concerned the worker. Also defensive, angry etc.' I have no recollection of that. If I'd wanted to see the boys I would have asked and I don't recall an issue. Certainly or<sup>FSQ</sup> or both, were always there when I did a visit, but I don't recall any problem with seeing the boys alone. I never said to or<sup>FSQ</sup> that I wanted to speak to the boys on their own, but, Looking back, I should have done so. Nowadays that would be done.
154. Also noted is that FYY is outwith the control of the carers'. I'm not sure what the context of that note is and I wouldn't agree I thought that at the time. It was a shock to me when they refused to have him back and I don't recall any issue with control in the home, it was more outside the home and in school.

155. I am also now aware that Ros Wass of Barnardos said after the placement breakdown that *'the carers were not experienced enough and unable to attend support meetings. However, she also said that other factors contributed to the placement breakdown such as foster carers and professionals being at odds and a lack of communication of certain support work'*.

156. There was an issue after the placement breakdown and I think resourcing issues had an effect on that. I was in the Gorbals, where I didn't want to be and I was told I was on the duty team. I had two seniors who argued through me and I was left on my own a number of times dealing with child protection issues. It was dreadful. Ros raised this at the time of the breakdown review and I thought she was criticising me, although I now know she wasn't. She was saying that I was always on duty and not able to come to the placement. She thus evidenced my position of being in two teams at the same time.

*What could have been done differently – [REDACTED] and FYY [REDACTED] ?*

157. It's difficult to know what could have been done differently with [REDACTED] and FYY [REDACTED]. I think we took them away from their mum at the right time. I don't think working with [REDACTED] and helping her look after her sons was an option and I think that her family history didn't go in her favour. I know that she was out at midnight at ten years old, because her step-mother wouldn't let her in the house.

158. I'm not sure sending [REDACTED] and her sons to Aberdeen was the right thing to do. It sounded good at the time, because we hoped we would be able to do something with them. [REDACTED] wasn't a bad person, she just didn't understand parenting. I don't think the facility in Aberdeen was suitable for her and I think it confused the children. I would have gone for a long-term foster care placement much earlier on.

159. I do also feel that the boys should have been better placed when they came back from Aberdeen. They shouldn't have been in Garfield, they were only young children. I



don't think a children's home is the right place for any child, albeit the staff at Garfield were very good.

160. I think the issues were partly a matter of resources. I thought it was good using another agency like Barnardos, because I thought they were a better agency, however in retrospect that is probably not true in this case. Furthermore the money wasn't released to support the placement initially. Ultimately the provision of care for a child is a matter of money and the people that make the decisions on their care don't really understand what's needed. I have completed a document that I have entitled 'Factors Impinging on Practice', which details the main issues impacting on Children and Families staff and these certainly impacted on **FYY** I have provided a copy of this document to the Inquiry

161. The people that make the decisions have never met people like **[REDACTED]** You have to spend ages trying to understand the issues and undergoing training. All that became an anathema when the department changed. They didn't want you to have a relationship with a kid, children were treated like a commodity and I couldn't cope with that.

162. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**  
**[REDACTED]**

**Experiences as a social worker involved in specific foster care placements - [REDACTED]**  
**[REDACTED]**

163. I first met **[REDACTED]** when he was ten years old and was introduced to me in my office. He was being allocated to me because of a restructuring of the social work department. I continued to work with **[REDACTED]** until he was twelve. When I met **[REDACTED]** he had just arrived at a foster care placement with a lady who lived in Auchinleck in Ayrshire. I think that

had been his seventh placement since he was six years old. I was told by his foster carer that she received a phone call and the next thing, [REDACTED] was there. Nobody from the department came with him to the placement. I think he was just dropped off. I never checked whether that was the case, but that's what she told me.

164. I met [REDACTED] mum a number of times over the years and got on very well with her, however she clearly had mental health difficulties. [REDACTED] had been taken into care at six years old because she had taken him to a bridge and threatened to throw him off. Consequently, she was never to be left alone with him. [REDACTED] had a good relationship with his gran and I worked closely with her over the years. She loved [REDACTED] to bits, but she couldn't care for him for various reasons.
165. Some of [REDACTED] toys had been lost during his move to the foster placement. His gran was very upset about it. She told me that she had spoken to [REDACTED] previous social worker, who had responded that "it was only toys". I think the worker was probably rushed off her feet, but I understood that the toys were important to [REDACTED]. I managed to get the money to replace some of them from the department, although it was really quite difficult. That pleased [REDACTED] grandmother and ultimately I formed a very close relationship with both [REDACTED] and his grandmother.
166. [REDACTED] was a special little boy. He was highly intelligent and told me that he was going to be a lawyer. He had a mature understanding of things for a boy of his age. There was an innocence about him, even when he got a bit older. He was the sort of child that people confided in. One day, we were in the car and he told me that one of his teachers had said he'd like to foster him. On another occasion, I was in the office with [REDACTED]. He saw an operations manager and he whispered to me that the ops manager had got his last social worker put out. I don't know whether that was true, but he had an idea of who was who and what was what. He was also very open and honest and he'd share anything. I remained with [REDACTED] until he was twelve years old and we maintained our close relationship, however that was shut down when I was ordered out of the team.

*The foster home and household – [REDACTED]*

167. As soon as I was allocated [REDACTED] I went out to the foster home, which was in Auchinleck in Ayrshire. I met the foster carer, [REDACTED] GDZ Her maiden name was [REDACTED] GDZ but she lived alone. I had no concerns at that stage, everything seemed perfectly okay, however over time I think [REDACTED] GDZ changed and showed what she was really like.

*Children fostered – [REDACTED]*

168. [REDACTED] GDZ provide respite for two sisters as well as fostering [REDACTED] They were looked after by a social worker from the disability team, Ian McLeod, because their mother had four children, of whom one was disabled. I'm not sure what the arrangements were, but I think they went there for the odd weekend.

*Foster carers' household arrangements – [REDACTED]*

169. [REDACTED] GDZ had small grandchildren. She complained to me that she was angry with [REDACTED] because he was jealous of her grandchildren. He was ten years old. She should have been able to deal with that. I don't know how long [REDACTED] GDZ had been fostering for, but she was an experienced carer. She may have changed from when she was first assessed to become a foster carer. When I knew her, some of the things that she was doing would have caused me to end any assessment of her as a foster carer. I would have taken the view that she wouldn't be able to learn to adapt appropriately to the care of a child.

*Leisure time – [REDACTED]*

170. [REDACTED] complained that [REDACTED] GDZ never really took him out. He told me that he only ever went shopping with her. I remember one of the escorts would take [REDACTED] out. I think he might have taken him out fishing.

*Schooling – [REDACTED]*

171. [REDACTED] attended the local primary school. I think it might have been Auchinleck Primary School. He seemed to be getting on well there, apart from some name calling. His best friend was a girl. When he was about eleven, <sup>GDZ</sup>[REDACTED] was very angry with him. She told me that he had kicked his best friend in the stomach. He had stamped on her so hard that his footprint was on the girl's stomach. The girl's mother had been round. I never got any verification that had happened from the school or anybody else. When I asked [REDACTED] about it, he just sat there. He didn't deny it. We moved on to a conversation about why you shouldn't hit girls. To this day, I don't know whether he really did kick that girl.

*Healthcare – [REDACTED]*

172. Ideally, the foster carer should take a child to a medical appointment. I took [REDACTED] to the hospital when he needed a check-up for a heart problem. It got better and he was discharged while I was allocated to him. He was willing to go and very mature about it, but I can't remember <sup>GDZ</sup>[REDACTED] taking him to anything like that.

*Visits – [REDACTED]*

173. I went to see [REDACTED] several times at the foster home. We were supposed to see children at least once a month, but sometimes I saw [REDACTED] more frequently than that. I used to work with [REDACTED] in his bedroom, away from <sup>GDZ</sup>[REDACTED]. We would work on his life story. When I spoke to [REDACTED] in his bedroom within the foster home, the first thing he said to me was that he wanted contact with his family.

174. When I visited [REDACTED] I witnessed for myself how <sup>GDZ</sup>[REDACTED] spoke to him. I didn't like it. Her expectations of him were far too high. If you have to show somebody how to treat a ten year old then that person really shouldn't be a foster carer. [REDACTED] didn't know what to do with his clothes and his jumpers and she used to have a go at him all of the time. Instead of showing him what to do and preparing him for independence, she just nagged him constantly. [REDACTED] grandmother had seen it as well and I agreed with her.

175. I did try to work with <sup>GDZ</sup> [REDACTED] I did feel that if I started telling her what I was objecting to, she wouldn't change. I thought she would take it out on [REDACTED] I would say things to [REDACTED] in the way I hoped she would say things, but <sup>GDZ</sup> [REDACTED] wasn't into learning anything. It wasn't really my job to say something to <sup>GDZ</sup> [REDACTED] about the way she was acting. It was the job of the link worker, Mike Fallon. I told him what I had witnessed and it should be in [REDACTED] case notes. Mike was the foster carer's link worker so he worked with <sup>GDZ</sup> [REDACTED] He would visit the placement on separate occasions from me. He did go out and work with <sup>GDZ</sup> [REDACTED] but it didn't make any difference. We also did a joint visit at one stage, just before [REDACTED] left.

176. I found it hard to believe that anybody who had applied to be a foster carer didn't know how to treat a ten year old. The difficulty was that <sup>GDZ</sup> [REDACTED] blew hot and cold. Some of the time, [REDACTED] would say that he wanted to stay in that placement. Then something would go wrong again, although he never actually said. I think he was at the stage where he needed an adult to say that this wasn't supposed to be happening to him and that he needed something better.

*Family contact –* [REDACTED]

177. The strong thing for [REDACTED] was his attachment with his gran. He also loved his mum. He wasn't allowed to be alone with his mum because of things she'd say. I was aware of something strange that had happened before I became involved with [REDACTED] At his grandad's funeral, a social worker followed him around all the time so that [REDACTED] his mum, couldn't be with him on their own. On one occasion, she did nab him in the car park and make arrangements with [REDACTED] outwith the rules. He got in the car with me and told me what she'd said straight away. [REDACTED] had a goodwill about doing the right thing and speaking openly to me.

*Review of care/placement –* [REDACTED]

178. I can't remember <sup>GDZ</sup> [REDACTED] attending at Children's Hearings. She should have attended the Hearings. Thinking about it now, that should have been raised as an issue. I think there were just so many issues being raised. I'm not 100% sure that



she didn't attend, but I have no memory of her being there. I remember [REDACTED] gran and mum being at Children's Hearings. I remember [REDACTED] being there because I collected him. I remember <sup>GDZ</sup> [REDACTED] left the last review at the school in her car. She left without [REDACTED] who was left with me to take back to the foster placement.

179. Julie Edgington was my team leader when I started working with [REDACTED]. She was later replaced by Ann Fox. Joyce Macdonald was the operations manager for the children and families department. I wrote a report about [REDACTED] for Joyce Macdonald, recommending a specialist placement. I thought he needed that because he had already been in so many different placements, none of which had worked out and through no fault of his own. It was either just before or just after he was moved from his foster care placement. I detailed all the different placements he had been in and the difficulties that he'd experienced. I explained that he was not a child who was being put out of placements because of his behaviour. He needed someone who was going to understand what he was about.

180. In those days, I dealt with specialist foster carers from Barnardo's. A specialist foster carer would have treated [REDACTED] like he was theirs, taken responsibility for him and treated him like a child. He'd never really had that. Joyce refused to place [REDACTED] in a specialist placement, even though there was one available. Joyce did not rate me. She was incapable of appropriately assigning staff in accordance with their experience and qualifications. She would never accept anything that I said and she would put me down all the time. I was rescued from her a lot of the time because I had a good relationship with my area manager, Raymond Bell.

*Moving placement – [REDACTED]*

181. I had wanted [REDACTED] to be moved for many months. I didn't like the way that <sup>GDZ</sup> [REDACTED] was speaking to him. When I was on leave, Mike Fallon went out to see [REDACTED] in his placement and he decided that he needed to be moved. I told him that I agreed. If Julie Edgington had still been in charge, he would have been left there. They wouldn't remove him. I didn't have evidence of what <sup>GDZ</sup> [REDACTED] was doing from any other party, such as the school.



182. [REDACTED] eventually left GDZ [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] 2009. After he left GDZ [REDACTED] I took [REDACTED] to a children's home in the West End. He was twelve years old and it was his eighth placement. After the move, I visited [REDACTED] a couple of times in the children's home. We held a review there and everything was fine. [REDACTED] was looking forward to starting at his new school. I took him out for lunch at a café the first time I visited. The next time, I was going to take him out for lunch but he didn't want to go. He was settling into the home and making friends by that point so I left it at that.
183. [REDACTED] was very proficient at meetings. I remember he asked whether the children's home was going to close down. He said that he'd been moved so many times and he didn't want to move again. They gave him lots of assurances. Less than a year later, I met him by chance in Pollok Park and found out he'd been moved to another children's home in the East End of Glasgow.
184. [REDACTED] kept himself right. One of the reasons his foster placement prior to GDZ [REDACTED] had broken down was that he found the foster parents smoking cannabis. He reported it and said that he didn't want to be brought up around drugs. I told [REDACTED] that he had done the right thing and he shouldn't have to be around drugs if he didn't want to be. His experiences in foster care were not great. He was a well-mannered, lovely boy.

**Allegations of abuse – [REDACTED]**

*Awareness of abuse – [REDACTED]*

185. I don't know whether GDZ [REDACTED] knew that she was being abusive, but [REDACTED] was really angry about the way she was treating him. She was horrible to [REDACTED]. Looking back, I would say GDZ [REDACTED] was subjecting [REDACTED] to emotional abuse. Over time, it became apparent that what GDZ [REDACTED] was doing was not acceptable. She had been complaining, for example, that he didn't fold his clothes properly and put them away in a drawer. He was a ten year old boy. [REDACTED] told me he came home from school and

dropped his coat and she demanded, "Does that go there?" and told him to put it where it belonged.

186. When [REDACTED] told me these things he looked terrified, but I felt that if I said anything to [REDACTED] GDZ [REDACTED] she would be nastier to him. It was a placement, but it felt very much to me like a natural family where there was abuse going on and social work might take the child away. Part of the problem was that some of the things [REDACTED] GDZ [REDACTED] was doing were acceptable. It changed and it changed for [REDACTED]. He didn't know who to trust.
187. On a visit in 2009, [REDACTED] GDZ [REDACTED] told me that she had decided she wanted [REDACTED] gran to visit. I asked [REDACTED] about this and he said that he'd like that. I said I would need to check with my line manager and there would need to be a review. However, within days of that conversation she had invited [REDACTED] gran round, unknown to me and before it had been agreed with my department.
188. I didn't know about this visit until [REDACTED] gran told me herself. I had a very good relationship with her. She told me [REDACTED] placement was terrible, that [REDACTED] GDZ [REDACTED] was rude and horrible to [REDACTED] and that I had to get him out of there. She said that her grandson was not being treated well. I myself witnessed [REDACTED] GDZ [REDACTED] behaviour in this respect, but I felt my operations manager thought I was taking sides with gran against the carer.
189. One weekend a while after that, one of the social work escort workers told me that he had just taken [REDACTED] to his gran's. He said that the foster carer had thrown [REDACTED] out. I phoned the grandmother and she told me that [REDACTED] was very upset because [REDACTED] GDZ [REDACTED] had told him not to come back. [REDACTED] was twelve at the time.
190. I told a manager in the family finding team of this and it was agreed to leave [REDACTED] at his gran's for the weekend and take him back on the Monday. I thought that was a sensible plan. That evening, I told my operations manager Joyce Macdonald. She was furious. She insisted [REDACTED] be taken back to the foster placement that night. I phoned the senior social worker in the family finding team and she asked me to put Joyce on the phone. Joyce wouldn't take the phone. [REDACTED] would have been aware

that I wanted him to stay with his gran for the weekend, but it was being stopped by the department. He was very clever and he picked up on things like that.

191. The final incident that I can recall occurred when I visited [REDACTED] at the placement. [REDACTED] was huddled on the sofa and GDZ [REDACTED] had her arm around him. She told me that they'd had a long chat. She said that [REDACTED] really wanted to stay. I asked him if that was correct and he said that it was and that he didn't want to move again. I then spoke to [REDACTED] on his own for quite a while. I was there for over an hour. In a way, I thought that it could be a good thing if [REDACTED] and GDZ [REDACTED] were getting on. We didn't have many placements. I think [REDACTED] had visited the secondary school he would attend and he was quite happy about that.

192. Three or four days later, I had a frantic phone call from [REDACTED] gran. She told me that [REDACTED] had been put out for good. GDZ [REDACTED] had told [REDACTED] directly rather than contact the department. I had just returned from leave when I was told to go and get [REDACTED]. This should not have happened, I had already told team management [REDACTED] should be moved and this should have happened on a planned basis. I was going to take him to the children's home in the West End of Glasgow as a place had been found for him there. That day, I took him for lunch. He said he always knew when something had gone wrong because his social worker would take him out for lunch. He told me that GDZ [REDACTED] had pushed him near the stairs and that he thought she was going to hit him.

*Reporting of abuse – [REDACTED]*

193. For about two years, I tried to get [REDACTED] out of that placement. I was being supervised by a team leader with probably half my experience, Julie Edington. She just wouldn't listen to me. She told me that she wanted [REDACTED] referred to the Department of Children and Family Psychiatry (DCFP). I thought he just needed a place where he can be loved and brought up properly, he'd already been assessed many times. I went to the DCFP for meetings at Julie's insistence and told them what happened. They told me they agreed with me and that they couldn't help [REDACTED] until he moved placement. I reported that back, but it still was not acted upon.



194. When I had concerns about [REDACTED] placement with GDZ [REDACTED] I would have recorded them on the computer. Normally, if you raised concerns, a senior social worker would come out to the placement. If you were removing the child right away, you might not go out but something would be done. There would usually be a meeting attended by the link worker, the school and a health representative. None of this happened in [REDACTED] case. I thought that was what should have happened. It was the responsibility of the operations manager to call such a meeting.
195. When Ann Fox took over the case, I had known her for a long time. We went to [REDACTED] school for a review. Straight after the review, Ann said to me, "Get him out of there." In that review, she saw everything that I'd seen for nearly two years. [REDACTED] foster mother left the review and went home without him. We had to take him back to the placement. I was going on holiday. I phoned the link worker, Mike Fallon. I told him what had happened and that I wanted to move [REDACTED] When I came back from holiday, [REDACTED] was still in the placement. I went to collect him and he was waiting in the kitchen. He was delighted to see me. GDZ [REDACTED] didn't say a word. She didn't say goodbye. She just stood there. She had a friend with her.
196. Around that time, I was contacted by the Benefits Agency about GDZ [REDACTED] She was trying to claim Child Benefit on top of the fostering allowance, which is illegal. Around the same time, Ian McLeod, another social worker in my team, was dealing with the two girls who went to GDZ [REDACTED] for respite care. He asked me about GDZ [REDACTED] because the girls were going there for respite. He had arrived there one night and the table was full of cans of alcohol. I wondered whether that was the problem and that might be why she turned nasty all the time. I was told that GDZ [REDACTED] stopped fostering after [REDACTED] left. I think she might have been struck off.
197. When [REDACTED] told me that GDZ [REDACTED] had pushed him near the stairs and tried to hit him, I recorded all of it and I reported all of it but nothing was done about it. The notes I'd written were stolen. They were removed from the case file by senior management who were trying to make a case against me that I hadn't written any case notes. That was more important to senior management than helping me. I reported it to Ann Fox, my senior, who provided written evidence to that effect to the council.

198. I didn't report what [REDACTED] had described at <sup>GDZ</sup>[REDACTED] to the police. There wasn't anything for me to contact the police about. I think the police would have just accepted that <sup>GDZ</sup>[REDACTED] had stopped fostering. I don't think they'd have got involved and I don't think they'd have known what to do about emotional abuse.

*Leaving role as [REDACTED] social worker*

199. They abruptly took me away from [REDACTED] when I was moved to headquarters. I encountered [REDACTED] and his gran in the office when I went to collect something. His gran jumped up and asked where I was going and what was happening. She said that she had told the department that [REDACTED] had a very strong relationship with me and that I needed to come back. I told her that there was trouble going on and I wasn't allowed back.

*Facebook messages – [REDACTED]*

200. I wouldn't normally, under any circumstances, contact an ex-service user, but in 2020 I contacted [REDACTED] after he had disclosed on Facebook how he had been sectioned under the Mental Health Act in 2019. He was furious at me contacting him at first, but we exchanged a number of messages.

201. In one message, [REDACTED] said, "You're not explaining why I was allowed to stay with an abusive woman in a dirty house, whilst not being fed or clothed correctly." Towards the end of the Facebook conversation, he said that he had experienced emotional and physical abuse when he was living with <sup>GDZ</sup>[REDACTED]. He didn't make any further specific disclosure of abuse. He said he felt that the social work department, his school and anybody else involved in placing any child in <sup>GDZ</sup>[REDACTED] hands had a lot to answer for.

202. After all the angry messages, I bumped into [REDACTED] when I was walking my dog. He threw his arms around me, just like he used to when he was a kid. He said he'd message me and he did. We went for coffee. All he talked about was what he could do to get

justice regarding GDZ [REDACTED]. He felt that she had to be stopped. He also said that the school had known what was happening with GDZ [REDACTED] and covered it up.

203. [REDACTED] disclosed openly on Facebook that he had a relationship with a man, who was much older. [REDACTED] didn't have a dad and he was looking for a father figure. It's obvious to me that because of that he was exploited. This abuse occurred in the community, but [REDACTED] was in a children's home in the East End of Glasgow. It occurred after I had left my post when [REDACTED] was between the ages of thirteen and sixteen. If he'd had a good placement with people who genuinely liked him, he would never have ended up in three children's homes. He wouldn't have ended up in any children's homes. He'd never been in a children's home until he left the placement with GDZ [REDACTED]. He'd been with respite carers and foster carers all of his life. It was unstable because it kept changing, but he had never been in a home.

204. I was really shocked when I read about what had happened. I don't understand how it could have happened and nobody was doing anything about it. I asked [REDACTED] who his social workers were when this happened. One was Lorraine Ward and another was Ashley, but I don't know her surname. If [REDACTED] had stayed with a family, I don't think the abuse would have happened. When he had the relationship with the older man, I think he felt loved. He'd found somebody who he thought cared about him. In fact, the man groomed him and then sold [REDACTED] around to his friends.

*Contacting the Inquiry – [REDACTED]*

205. I didn't know what to do after I had contact with [REDACTED] in 2020. I couldn't contact the department. I needed supervision but I had nobody to turn to, because I was retired. I could have contacted Raymond Bell at home, but what was he going to do? The only person I could think of was Alexis Jay, who was assistant district manager when I was in Govanhill. I was aware that she was involved in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) in England. I contacted them for advice. I explained what had happened, without naming [REDACTED]. They had to refer it to the police in England who then referred it to the Scottish Police. I think that's how a police officer in Livingston became involved in the case. I was referred on to the Scottish Child Abuse



Inquiry. ■■■ is aware that I intended to give evidence to the Inquiry about what happened to him and he was okay with that.

*Reporting to police/criminal proceedings – ■■■■*

206. The police are looking into the abuse ■■■ experienced after my involvement with him ended. I was contacted by an officer from Livingston Police Station. I think he may have become involved after the referral from IICSA. I sent the police in Livingston the stuff that ■■■ had openly disclosed on Facebook. I don't know if there is an ongoing investigation. I've told ■■■ what I can and can't be a witness to. There was a big issue about him not wanting the police to be involved. I don't know to this day whether ■■■ has met with the police or not. He kept telling me he would, but whether he has, I don't know.

*Prior statements*

207. When I worked as a social worker, police would attend child protection reviews. Whatever information we had would be shared with the police at those reviews. I've never actually provided a statement to the police, but they would note what I said at review. If there was an ongoing child protection issue, the child was already in care and we were trying to get a disclosure, I would work more actively with the police. I have been involved in joint interviews when police have interviewed children who alleged abuse. I've never been interviewed by the police about a child I was working with.

**Helping the Inquiry**

208. I've read many of the serious case reviews, such as those for Baby Peter and Victoria Climbié. In these reviews, there seems to be a lot about agencies failing to work together and share information. I can say in most of the cases that I had that we did work together. I do think sharing of information is vital.

209. I also think that safeguarding means you should see the child in foster care. You can't just assume that foster carers won't abuse children. I haven't always felt that way and that came as a bit of a shock to me when I reached that realisation. Foster placements can go wrong and foster carers can abuse children.
210. Social workers need to ask the child and try to find out if everything is okay. If things are not okay, the social worker needs to take that forward to whoever is involved, including the police.

**Other information**

211. I still have the diaries I kept at the time, which contain notes on all the children assigned to me while I was a social worker, including FYY and [REDACTED]. My notes are handwritten and in shorthand, however I have extracted and transcribed those relevant to both FYY and [REDACTED] and compiled a document detailing them. I have provided a copy of that document to the Inquiry.
212. I also have a copy of poems written by both FYY and [REDACTED] after they had been moved into foster care, which give some insight into what was happening at the time. I have also provided a copy of this to the Inquiry.
213. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... [REDACTED] .....

Dated..... 14/7/22 .....