

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

### Witness Statement of

EUC [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is EUC [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1984. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. My mum and dad are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] They are both still alive and married. They still live in the same house in Govan where it all started with the social work. I have a big sister [REDACTED] and brother, [REDACTED] They are about 42 and forty. I've got another brother called [REDACTED] from my mum's first marriage. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have the same mum but a different dad to me and my brother [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is 45 years old.
3. Everything is very clear from a young age. My mum liked to drink but I wouldn't say she was a full blown alcoholic. My mum wasn't always close to her brothers and their wives. There was always bickering going on. We've never been a close family. We didn't see our cousins often. There is no closeness or trust. It's the way our family has been moulded.
4. I don't actually call my parents 'mum and dad', I call them [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We've never had that bond. I always remember my mum talking openly about sexual abuse by her brothers. It was always spoken about. There were constant stories of things happening to my mum by her brothers. It made the family even worse. Her stories always seemed to change from person to person.

5. I can actually remember my mum self-harming in front of us. I can remember my dad taking her to the old Southern General Hospital in the early hours of the morning. I still remember the way the hospital used to look.
6. There were times when [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I would be close but we didn't know how to show any affection. I can't remember my mum and dad telling us that they loved us or anything like that.
7. We lived in a lovely clean home and we always had what we needed. The address was [REDACTED] in Sheildhall. I remember growing up there. My earliest memories are of [REDACTED] but we moved to [REDACTED]
8. I went to Drumoyne Primary school. I was there from primary one to around primary four or five. It was around this time that everything went downhill. The social work services became involved with our family.
9. My dad worked as a printer in Nitshill. He always worked. He took pride in going to work and providing for his family. My mum was a carer for elderly people in a care home. She was also a [REDACTED] in Drumoyne Primary. My dad was made redundant after they bought their house in [REDACTED] My mum stopped working as a [REDACTED] I don't know if my mum was stressed but things started getting messy.
10. My mum went to social work services, I believe for help for herself, but I think for myself and [REDACTED] too. In my eyes, I feel as though I was used as a scapegoat. I was being blamed for things so I became unruly. I wouldn't listen to anyone or do what I was told. I wanted to go out and come back when I wanted to. I just wanted to be on my own.
11. My first memory of that time is sitting in a building in Copeland Road. I was only nine or ten. We were basically dragged along there by the 'scruff of the neck'. I was in a room with my mum and dad and my brother, [REDACTED] with a social worker. It was a lady but I can't remember her name. The social worker asked me if I thought my mum and dad loved me. I was scared to answer. I looked towards my mum and dad and nodded

but I knew that I hadn't felt that love or felt wanted. I had been put in an awful situation because I knew if I told the truth and said no, that I would get smacked and shouted at when I got home. I remember it clearly. The fact that a social worker asked that question makes it clear to me that things weren't right.

12. I started self-harming in primary school. I would make my nose bleed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to get out of doing things. It would bleed heavily. Doctors were looking into it but no one picked up that it was self-harming. I did that regularly throughout primary school. I found it very hard to concentrate and I don't know if it was because things were busy and stressful at home.

13. I finished school in first year and never went back. I went to Notre Dame High School in Hillhead. I didn't last very long there. It wasn't right for me. I found it a scary place.

#### **Urrdale Children's Home, Glasgow**

14. I went to Urrdale in primary four or five. I was ten. I can remember being taken there myself. I can't remember who took me but I remember arriving on the doorstep. Secondary Ins

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28. The lady with the curly hair came to tell me I was going home. My mum was there too. I think there must have been a build-up. I remember my bag being packed and us sitting around a table. My mum actually seemed happy. [REDACTED] and I went home together with my mum.

29. I went back home but nothing had changed. My mum was still self-harming. She would get so drunk and start picking fights. My dad would just try to go to sleep. My mum would start getting violent. I can remember my sister and I being hit. We would get dragged out of our beds by the hair on our heads. We would be lying pretending to be sleeping and my mum would mess our rooms up deliberately. We would have tidy them. They would have to be spotless.

## *Foster care*

30. I was cast in and cast out going back in and out of care. I'm not sure how I came to be in foster care. I went to the [REDACTED] and to EUD-EUE [REDACTED]. I'm not sure which I went to first but I think it might have been to the [REDACTED]. I can't remember any social work meetings before going there. I don't know how long I was home for before going to the foster carers. I wasn't eleven yet. I think it was within the space of a year.

## **[REDACTED] Foster care, Kilmarnock**

31. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were quite an old lady and man. They lived in a lovely little bungalow house. It was spick and span. I was the only child there. Then after a while a new born baby came. I was so excited about the baby coming. One day after the baby came, I burst out laughing or made a noise and [REDACTED] gave me seriously into trouble. I wasn't being naughty, I was just excited. The baby was just like a wee dolly and I was loving having this little presence about me.
32. After that, I wasn't allowed to interact with the baby. I don't know if I wasn't trusted or if she was being extra protective because the baby was in her care. I wanted to be 'hands on' with it. I was sent to my room and would have to sit there. I would be in my room for hours on end after school. I wasn't allowed to touch anything in the house.
33. I went to Crooked Home Primary. It was a little school. I loved it. I was happy there. I had met a little friend and up until then I hadn't been able to keep friendships.
34. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to the Salvation Army every Sunday. They always took me with them. I didn't like it. I told them that I didn't want to go but they took me anyway. It just wasn't my cup of tea. I come from Govan and wasn't used to things like that. There were lots of old ladies there who were trying to talk to me.
35. The building where we went to Salvation Army was round the corner from my mum and dad's home which I found hard because I didn't want to be there. The [REDACTED] would dress me up in white tights and a dress and put my hair in pigtails. I had never

worn white tights in my life. They turned me into something else. I felt like I was their accessory. It just wasn't me. I didn't dress in that way and it wasn't how other people dressed in Govan. They cut my hair. I didn't want my hair cut. It was horrible. I liked having my long hair. I haven't had a hair cut in about ten years.

36. I think they were trying to make me into somebody I wasn't. They even put my own things in my suitcase and kept them under my bed. I wasn't allowed to have them. It was as if they were putting on a show. It was completely different to how things were at home.
37. I was always told to be quiet and I wasn't allowed to talk. When [REDACTED] came home from work everything went quiet. I don't know if that was his rule or just the way they lived. I was always to go straight into the bedroom.
38. I can remember going over the Forth Road Bridge and to a wee place near there. They took me to their daughter's house. We also went on a trip to Edinburgh. We walked around and they took me to a clothes shop called Mark One. They bought me the white tights.
39. One day I was told there had been an accident and [REDACTED] had fallen and broken her hip. I had to go to stay with [REDACTED] friend for a very short time. After that, I had to go to an emergency placement. I think it was to a house in Cumbernauld. It was a lady and her two daughters. After that I went to another foster placement, [REDACTED]. I didn't see the wee baby again.

[REDACTED] Cumbernauld

40. I can't remember arriving at [REDACTED] but I remember being in their house. The man was called [REDACTED] and his wife was [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. I can see her face but I'm not sure about her name.

41. I can still picture the house. Although I can't remember the bathroom. They lived somewhere in Cumbernauld. I can't remember if I had my own room there. They had lots of dark pine furniture and I can remember thinking it was expensive.
42. They fostered a wee girl with a birthmark on her face. I think she was only about one year old. There were other kids there, who were their own kids, but I can't remember much about them.
43. I went to Notre Dame High school from [REDACTED]. I had just started first year. They dropped me off early in the morning at the local train station. I was petrified because I had never been on a train myself. It was dark and they would drive away and leave me. It was so scary. I had to make my own way to Hillhead. I would get the train into Queen Street and then I would have to get the subway. I had never been allowed into town myself at my mum and dad's. I think it might have been during winter time because I wore a big green parka.
44. One time they won money at the bingo and there seemed to be loads of people coming into the house. There was a big celebration. They bought me a woolly 'Kicker's' jumper with some of their bingo winnings. I have no idea why.

**Abuse at [REDACTED]**

45. I had started my period by then. I was still at Drumoyne Primary in Govan when it happened. My mum hadn't told me anything so I had been using toilet paper or stealing my sister's sanitary products.
46. I had been given a pair of pink pyjamas when I was at the emergency placement before going to [REDACTED]. They belonged to the lady's daughter but they were too small for her so she had given them to me. I hadn't ever had pyjamas like that. I loved them. I'd had an accident and they were blood stained. I panicked, tried to clean it and wrapped them up and hid them with my clothes. I took them with me to [REDACTED]. I



hid them in a drawer when I was putting my clothes away because I was scared and embarrassed.

47. When I came home from school one day, Mrs EUD rubbed them in my face. She told me that I was disgusting. I was crying and ran away and hid. I felt dirty and vile. I didn't see my pyjamas again.
48. I can remember there being lots of alcohol and a lot of family coming over. They were Celtic fans. I was called an 'orange bastard'. My dad is half Malaysian. EUE would call my dad a 'chinky'. I specifically remember him saying that about my dad. They were horrible people.
49. I can remember being hit with rolled up tea towels by EUE. He would whip me with them. I can't remember any reason for him doing it to other than he seemed to think it was funny. I can remember him laughing. I don't know what he was getting out of it. He would hit me over and over on the backs of my legs and my backside. It was stinging and I was crying. I had marks and red, raised skin all over legs. He did this to me in front of his wife.
50. It was dreadful. They shouldn't have been in control of kids. They shouldn't have been left with the responsibility. I can't remember them punishing their own children.
51. I can't remember any social workers coming to see me there. My mum and dad came to visit me regularly. They would take me out in the car and we would sometimes go to a wee café. I wouldn't want to go back to EUD-EUE. It was like a feeling of dread. I really didn't want to be there. Things weren't perfect with my mum and dad but I would rather have been at home with them. Instead I was with people I didn't know.
52. One time, EUE was hitting with the tea towels when his wife was out at the bingo. He wouldn't let me out of the kitchen. I wanted to phone my mum and dad but he wouldn't let me. I was petrified and I didn't want to be in that house. I was really upset. After a while, I managed to calm down enough and he let me use the phone. I phoned my

mum and dad and told them that EUE was hitting me with tea towels. They told me to pack my suitcase so I packed my things and my case was put at the front door.

53. My mum and dad came to get me that night. I don't know how long it took them to get me. EUD-EUE weren't happy. It was a bad atmosphere when my mum and dad came. I remember it being dark outside. I think I felt relieved. The placement ended there.
54. I can't remember the social work's involvement but I'm sure my mum and dad would have had to tell them because they had taken me from there. I don't know if any action was taken against them. I can't remember anything being said by my mum and dad about it. There is a report which mentions EUD-EUE It was a very short placement because I continued with first year at school after I left.
55. After I'd been home for a short time, I started getting out of control. I was still only eleven. I had already started drinking alcohol and smoking cannabis. I pinched my first bit from my mum so it stemmed from there. I started stealing to fund it. My dad used to save money in a piggy bank, he would count his money and put it into wee bags. I would pinch some of the bags here and there. That's when all that started.
56. My mum and dad and social worker would sit in the living room. I would try to listen through the wall. I knew that I was being talked about and that I would be sent somewhere else. I knew that there was a plan in place.
57. I was taken to the social work office in Govan. I ran away from there because I knew I was being taken somewhere. I was away for a few nights. I was staying down the 'Wine Alley' in Govan with strangers and being hid down the side of other kids' beds who I had never met. I was staying with people I didn't know. My mum and the police were out looking for me.
58. I started running away a lot during this period. There was a lot of absconding. I would sleep on the streets in Glasgow. I was on a placement with a foster carer in Baillieston

around this time too. She was a nice lady. I ran away from there too but I went back that night as I felt guilty that she would be worried about me.

### **Glen Rosa Children's Home, Glasgow**

59. By then, I was drinking and smoking cannabis uncontrollably. I was also taking Ecstasy. The running away was horrendous. I was going around with people I shouldn't have been. Nobody stepped in. Everybody knew but I got no support.

60. Around this time, I was sent to Glen Rosa children's home. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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by the police to an emergency panel at

Bell Street. My mum and dad were there. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

I can't

remember anything that was said at the panel but, it was deemed in my best interests, that I moved somewhere bigger and more secure. I actually ran away from the panel and the police chased me. A large man grabbed hold of me and caught me while the police were chasing me. I was taken to Cardross.

76. My mum and dad's understanding of the system wasn't very good. I understood more than them. They weren't amongst undesirables so they didn't get to learn the system the way other people get to learn it. At panels, they sat nodding and agreeing with what was decided. I don't think they knew the 'ins and outs' of things. My dad didn't understand a lot of what was going and he would get frustrated. No one ever took the time to explain things to him in lay man's terms.

77. I'm not sure who my social worker was at the panel. It might still have been Maxine Barr. Her attitude was terrible. She never seemed interested and just wanted to rush everything.

### **Cardross Park Assessment Centre, Cardross, Dunbartonshire**

78. I can't really remember who took me to Cardross but I remember it was a long drive. I was now aged eleven or twelve. The place looked scary. I had never seen anywhere like it. There was a huge metal gate with pillars. It was like a village. There was a big path with lots of trees which wound round and led to the massive building.

79. There were hundreds of single rooms and a big massive dining room. We all ate in there together and it was really scary because there were some crazy girls there. There were bars on the window and the staff sat outside your room at night. We weren't allowed to go out into the grounds on our own.
80. We had to wear pyjamas, slippers and night gowns most of the time. I would run away wearing them.
81. I thought the place was very scary. It was the unknown. I remember being told by other people why they were in there. It was for things like beating up their mum or car thefts. I felt scared. I know I had been a bit of a rogue up until then but I wouldn't say I was in the same league.
82. It was like a mini jail Secondary Institutions - to be published later it was much bigger. There were boys and girls and a mixture of ages, from ten or eleven, but some were close to sixteen. There were at least three separate units and a school within the building. I think there were up to fifty kids there. I think there were three or four staff to each unit. There were also staff in the school who were teachers and night time staff who came in. It was shift workers. Bedtime was a set time so it was quite strict.
83. The class sizes were small. The classrooms could be very dangerous at times. If someone kicked off then others would join in. It was like something off of the TV. I can't remember who was in charge. There was a staff member called Margot, she drove a little jeep.
84. There was a girl called [REDACTED]. We started taking heroin together. We ran away and met someone and took heroin. It continued with me on and off for a bit. I was almost twelve.

#### *Mornings/bedtime*

85. We got up in enough time to get washed, have something to eat and get to school. The staff shouted and banged on the doors. They opened the doors and gave us a

wee shake. I was a very heavy sleeper so if someone tried to wake me up I wouldn't be very happy. They pull the covers off and tip the mattress off so you fell down the other side of the bed. They would also pour water over you and drag you out of your bed, it was whatever means necessary to get you up.

### *Washing/bathing*

86. I remember there was one shower. There were two shower rooms but the two units were next door to each other. There were two pokey, dirty bathrooms. I used to smoke cannabis in them. There was hot water and flushing toilets. There was no respect from staff. There was no privacy. The staff would just burst in even if you were getting changed. There was a lock on the bathroom door but the staff could open it. The boys and girls used the same shower. We would have to wait our turn. We would go into our bedroom to get ready and sorted for school.
87. I can't remember if we ate our breakfasts in the unit or down in the dining hall. We all ate together in the dining hall for dinner. We all sat at our own designated spots, we stayed within our units and weren't allowed to mix. You could see that the different units were against each other. The units didn't get on so there was tension between them all. The fear was unreal.
88. There was one girl called [REDACTED] who everyone was scared of. She looked really scary. It was her body language and the way she spoke to everyone. She was going to batter me at times. I would run away sometimes because of her. I was scared the staff would let her get me. I had to learn to stand up for myself because of her. I had to take care of myself.
89. There were regular fights between kids in there. The staff tore us apart but they didn't sit us down to get to the bottom of things. So the fighting continued and nothing was ever resolved. There was plenty of time for them to do that because we were in the units most of the day. There was opportunity for them to ask a staff member to sit down and talk with a couple of the girls or to bring us all in as a unit to ask what was going on.

### *Schooling*

90. I think the teachers were okay. We had art and sewing class. The school was downstairs. The corridors had artwork up on the walls. If once class or person kicked off everyone did so it could become very dangerous. The staff would be called in and we would be taken out the class and dragged back up to the units and dealt with up there. The teachers didn't tend to punish us they would just try to get us to calm down. Whereas in the unit there was none of the distracting, we would be sent to our rooms and they would sit in a chair outside. The restraining was unreal in there. It wasn't right.

### *Leisure time*

91. On the odd occasion there would be a game of bingo. There wouldn't be anything more exciting than that. There was nothing to do recreationally. We were just within the grounds. There was one lady who took myself and [REDACTED] out and about a drive in her car which I really enjoyed. Our only highlight was looking forward to our cigarettes. The pocket money was designated for our cigarettes. The older you got you got a wee bit extra. It was enough to buy a packet of cigarettes.

### *Running Away*

92. It was too easy to run away even though it was meant to be more secure. I ran away very regularly. The staff would dare [REDACTED] and me to run away. They would put bets on. I ran away countless times. The police were always looking for me. There were about four of us who ended up running away together. We would make a quick plan and see it through. It could be when we were sitting out the front getting some fresh air with the staff. We would know each other's look and we would dart off. I think we wanted to do our own thing.
93. I would turn up at my sister's work in the St Enoch Centre wearing my pyjamas. I ran down train tracks to other stations, walked to Faslane with [REDACTED] and hitchhiked.

94. When I got back, the staff wouldn't sit down with me to find out why it was happening. It just kept recurring. You could tell the staff wouldn't be happy with you but we never got in trouble. There was never any disciplines like "you're going to have to do this or you're going to miss out on that".
95. I can't remember social workers coming to Cardross. I was basically put there and left there until panels. The staff knew what I was getting up to with drugs but there was no intervention. If we were caught with something it would get taken off of us but we weren't spoken to by anyone.
96. We had to keep our rooms tidy. The visits were private, there were no staff around. The visits were done downstairs out-with the unit. My mum and dad both came to see me in Cardross. I think my dad tagged along to support my mum because of the distance. I can also remember my sister [REDACTED] coming to a couple of visits. She would bring me my beanie baby toys and some of the latest dance music. One time they brought me my ghetto-blaster. The visits were nice but it would be sad because I wouldn't be going with them. I didn't get weekend home leave so I was in there all the time.
97. I was on an ongoing supervision order. I always remember my mum and dad talking about how I shouldn't have been in an open unit for own safety. As an adult now, I can see that there should have been more put in place for me to keep me safe and to stop me from running away and putting myself in dangerous situations.

#### *Sexual Assault*

98. I was in contact with the girl [REDACTED] who was in Glen Rosa with me. We were in contact over the phone with each other. One day I ran away to meet her. I went back to the vicinity of Glen Rosa. [REDACTED] was going out on home leave to her Aunt [REDACTED] who lived in Cambuslang.
99. When I was in her aunt's house, [REDACTED] cousin, [REDACTED] and his friend, [REDACTED] were there too. They were older than me. They both forced me to drink a litre of cider.

Sometime later, [REDACTED] called a taxi and went out first. As I tried to get out, I was screaming for [REDACTED] to come back but they shut the door. They wouldn't let me out. They both took turns to sexually assault me. It went on for some time.

100. I managed to get a taxi from Cambuslang back to Glen Rosa but I had no money to pay the driver so I ran away and hid in a bush from him. I was petrified. It felt like he was looking for me for an hour. In the end, he found me and dragged me over to Glen Rosa. The staff there called the police. I can't remember what happened next. My memory of the rest of the night is gone. I don't know if they took me back to Cardross or to my mum and dad's in Govan.
101. I was completely distressed but nobody asked me what had happened to me. I had been sexually abused by two people. I have now reported this incident to the police. I gave a five hour statement and there is an ongoing investigation. I was taken to the Good Shepherd after that.

#### **Good Shepherd, Bishopton**

102. I don't know if I went to a panel before going to Good Shepherd. My mum was there when I arrived. Ann Borland the social worker was there too. I can remember arriving there clearly. One of the first conversations I had there was about smoking. I was taken in and shown to my room. It was a single room with a wee sink in it. I had my thirteenth birthday in there. I was there for just over a year.
103. It was quite big. There were different units. I was in St Margaret's unit. I can't remember any of the other names. There were three or four units. There were ten girls in each unit so I think there were around thirty girls in total. The girls were aged eleven or twelve up to sixteen.
104. There were day pupils too. There was a day unit for kids who were struggling going to mainstream schools. There was a girl called [REDACTED]. She had a baby in there. She had a wee flat in Good Shepherd to enable her to build up to having her own place.



105. The school was within the same building. The schooling consisted of Drama, English, Maths, Home Economics and hairdressing. We had computing too. We were actually made to do our work which wasn't a bad thing. In other places we had the choice. There were some really nice teachers. The Drama teacher was lovely but I can't remember her name. I think Mr Lavery was the Maths teacher. We would do our work for him. The Computing teacher was dreadful. She had a really bad attitude. She never had a smile on her face. Good Shepherd was firmer in terms of education.
106. We had a uniform too. We had tights and skirts and each unit had a jumper. I think my jumper was blue. There was one teacher to a small number so the classes were quite small. They had the pleasure of myself and [REDACTED] in their class. Another called girl [REDACTED] was there too she was a day pupil.
107. There was a man <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] of running the home but I didn't see him very often. If my mum and dad had a complaint they went to him. I think it was Mr <sup>GXC</sup> [REDACTED] or Mr <sup>GXC</sup> [REDACTED]. He showed my mum and dada round once. I think he was proud of the school. I was allowed home leave.
108. We had a big gym but we hardly got to use it. We were sometimes taken down to a wee chapel. There were room inspectors who came from outside the school. Our rooms had to be spick and span. It was as if they were putting a show for the inspectors. I think they were possibly from a religious organisation. We were given a little book of psalms. Some of us didn't get one.
109. The unit managers had more to do with the day to day running of the place. There was a lady called Elaine McGroarty. She was one of the staff members. She then became a social worker. There was an older lady who was the unit manager. There was a heavy set man called <sup>EUI</sup> [REDACTED]. He was very heavy handed. I couldn't even say that I was a size four then due to the substances I was taking.



110. The staff would come into our rooms to wake us up in the mornings. Some mornings a man called EUJ would stand over me staring at me. It wasn't appropriate. I think it should have been a female member of staff.
111. We had shower rooms which had baths in it. There was an old fashioned bathroom with six baths in one room with shower curtains around them. I can remember being in there but I didn't use them. It was too open, there wasn't any privacy. There wasn't a lock on the door. There could be men wandering about.
112. There was a lady called Marty. She was a lovely wee lady. I was starving at night time. I would beg the other staff for something to eat. Marty would always give me bread and lots of butter to have with my cup of soup. It wasn't actually her job to do that as we were meant to have had our food downstairs. I wasn't very keen on the meals in there. I would always go to the salad bar and have some salad and a piece of ham. We weren't allowed to have 'second' helpings. I can always remember being hungry. If you didn't eat what was there then that was it.
113. We just drank alcohol to pass the time. Some of the other girl's mums would give them in. Sometimes I brought cannabis in. I was allowed to smoke in Good Shepherd but my mum was made to sign a letter to let me smoke. I can't remember the staff member but I was begging my mum to sign it. It was suggested to my mum that all the other kids were doing it so it was on her. She eventually signed the letter. I would get my cannabis when I was out on home leave in Govan and take it back.
114. One time one of the girls brought her mum's [REDACTED] pills in. I took one and I was rolling around the ground foaming at the mouth. I was like an animal crawling along floors. The staff didn't get me any assistance. I really needed it. One time there, I had been eating 'smints', the staff accused me of taking an overdose so I was taken to the hospital. However the time with the [REDACTED] I was heavily under the influence but there was no medical assistance. I was just put to bed. I can't really remember the next day.

115. There was a TV room and we were left to watch whatever. In the morning the girl [REDACTED] and her wee baby would come along to the unit and we would watch Teletubbies. There was the odd movie. We had a Sega Mega drive and a Play Station. I had my thirteenth birthday there but there was no celebration. Elaine McGroarty and a girl called [REDACTED] were at the bottom of my bed with a birthday card. There was no cake or anything like that from the Good Shepherd. I can't remember the rest of the day. We didn't receive presents at Christmas time. I came back after Christmas with my mobile phone from my mum and dad. I went home for Christmas and I was taken back after home leave during the festive season.
116. Sometimes home leave would be taken off us for a number reasons. I feel it would have been better for me to be at home because all eyes were on me at home. I wouldn't have been able to go out if I had been caught smoking cannabis in the house. However at Good Shepherd they were oblivious.
117. There were times the other girls and I would stand each other against the wall and [REDACTED] Staff would be walking about and see it happening. I think we thought it was fun. I realise now it was dangerous. [REDACTED] We weren't forcing each other to stand there. I don't know how it started or where it came from. It was odd behaviour. I can remember [REDACTED] I remember the feeling of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I don't know what we got out of it but it was very dangerous. I think it showed that the girls needed help.
118. We were allowed visitors but they were supervised. I mostly saw my mum and dad. A girl called [REDACTED] mum came to visit. We had out visits out-with the unit.
119. One time we went picking mushrooms, I don't think they were the kind we were looking for. They made us ill. We were drying them out in the cupboard, we thought they were 'magic'. I was as sick as a dog. I look back and wonder how I survived it. The staff would have seen me going from the unit to the toilet to be sick but they weren't interested. The staff weren't specifically aware of what we had been doing.

120. However they would be aware if we came back drunk because they could smell it. The full unit would be put on restrictions so we would miss out on cigarettes. We would get hell from the other girls because of it. The staff wouldn't do anything about it.
121. Our pocket money was for our cigarettes. The staff would bring us old magazines in. We were allowed to have bits and bobs in our room. I had my ghetto-blaster. I had a sewing machine because they were trying to keep me in and entertain me. It was taken away rather quickly.
122. We had our TVs in our room. At night, we would be asked to turn the TVs off. The staff would be easier on me because I would kick off a stink if I had to put my TV off. They would let me keep it on later and I watch Prisoner Cell Block H which was on in the early hours of the morning. I would be up late and the struggle to get up in the morning. I can't remember lights out time. I can remember being told it was time for bed but they weren't firm with me. I think they were easy on me for an easy shift.
123. I ran away with [REDACTED]. We went to Helensburgh, we found some money and I converted it into pounds. We managed to make our way to Holytown. I dyed my hair to disguise myself. We were away for several days. We were living in her aunt's empty house so we had it to ourselves.
124. One time I wandered off and got into Glasgow city centre. I was drinking alcohol. I thought it would be a good idea to go to my mum's. I was taken back to the Good Shepherd. There was a big uproar. My mum and dad were angry with Mr GXC [REDACTED] because I had managed to run away. It felt as if someone was always pointing the finger at someone else all the way through my time in care.
125. I can remember having sickness and diarrhoea once and I was just confined to my room. I was struggling and finding it difficult to calm down and feeling angry and crazy. I felt like my brain was going at 24 hours all the time. I was full of energy and I could be a handful. My head was so active and it all felt like it was too fast.

126. I decided to go to the doctors at Bishopton Health Centre about my mental health. I think I must have told the staff in the Good Shepherd why I was going to the doctors as they would have had to make the appointment for me. I was prescribed medication which was like an anti-depressant. They weren't always given out to me. I would have to ask the staff repeatedly. They were kept in a small cupboard in the staff office. I basically asked whichever staff member was there but most of the time, I was refused.
127. The staff would spend a lot of time in their office. There were times when I was asking Elaine McGroarty and other staff over and over again for my medication. They weren't interested. I can't remember <sup>EUI</sup> dealing with my medication. There was a younger woman with blonde hair. She was very 'hands on' with me. She was involved in getting me the sewing machine.
128. I am supposed to be on anti-depressant medication now. I think I need the medication to balance the chemicals in my brain. I think it betters me as a person and enables me to deal with the day more easily.
129. I didn't understand at the time that the tablets would have helped me if I had been taking them continuously. I don't think I got a repeat prescription. There was no follow up. I continued to feel like everything was happening really fast and I was trying to deal with the incident that had taken place while I was at Cardross. It was all in my head and I was dealing with it myself. I kept it to myself because I had already learned to keep things to myself because no one listened and there was no support.
130. While I was at Good Shepherd I was taken to see Dr Steer who was based in Kirkcaldy. My mum and dad took me there. It had been ongoing since Cardross, Ann Borland came too. I saw the doctor and I was given a CAT scan because they thought I might have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). I fell asleep during the scan. I can remember being woken up by the nurse. The scan results came back that I did not have ADHD. I have always felt detached and like I didn't belong.

## Abuse

131. There were other members of staff who were heavy handed with restraining. Your arms were put up your back and your legs bent up the back. There was two, three, four or five members of staff pinning you down. It could be one person on your two legs holding them or sitting on them, or one or two people trying to hold your legs if you were kicking out, you would be face down with them all sitting on top of you.
132. I saw that happening to other people too. Your arms would be up your back, and you'd be screaming in pain that your arms were going to pop out or your wrist was going to snap. It wasn't safe holding. I can't remember any of the other staff names but they would be both male and female. One member of staff, <sup>EUI</sup> [REDACTED], was very heavy handed. He would put my face into the carpet, put his full weight on my back, and drag me along the carpet back and forth outside my bedroom. I was restrained for kicking off a lot.
133. There was a member of staff called <sup>EUI</sup> [REDACTED]. He was a stinky man, his breath stunk of coffee and smoke. His clothes stunk of a musty, fusty smell. He was just a dirty old man. He had messy hair and dirty clothes.
134. One day, myself and a girl called [REDACTED] were wrecking the place. We were running around the full building, breaking things, banging doors, tipping the couches upside down, throwing the cushions at the staff. They got control of us by restraining us. [REDACTED] was being held by a woman, pulled on the couch, off the couch, they were pushing her forwards and backwards.
135. <sup>EUI</sup> [REDACTED] got hold of me, he pulled me down onto the two seater couch. He was holding me around my body and was physically thrusting on me. I was screaming and calling him a "pervert". I felt horrible and disgusted while he was doing it. I just wanted away from him. I knew what he was doing was wrong. Nobody pulled me off him, nobody dropped me to the floor to restrain me. It lasted a few minutes.

136. As a result, the police were brought into the home. I was able to calm down to be able to use the phone to call my mum and dad. It took a long time for them to allow me to use the phone. I was able to speak to them. My mum hit the roof and my dad was in the background going ballistic.
137. My mum turned up with one of my sister's friends for support. My mum, myself and the police officers were in a room. I was interviewed but nothing happened. I wouldn't have used the word 'thrusting' then but I would have described it the language a child would use. I knew what he was doing was in a sexualised manner.
138. After that incident, EUJ was still allowed to come into my room in the mornings to pull my covers back. I would be screaming. I told the staff to keep him out my room. They told me he had to come in. He regularly woke me up for school. All of the staff knew that I slept in my underwear but they let him in do it. I would be kicking off before school. I didn't sleep well so I would be up until five or six in the morning.

*Relationship with* EUK

139. While I was in Good Shepherd, I met a man called EUK. He was much older than me. I met him through another girl called . The staff were aware that I classed him as a boyfriend. I was in a sexual relationship with him for about a year. I was twelve.
140. During this period, I was running away from Good Shepherd all the time. I would come back, get fed and see what I could take from the store room. I would meet up with him and he would supply the alcohol and the cannabis. I think he lived with his mother. She slept in the living room. He hung about the Clydeside and the old 'bonkers' nightclub.
141. He was involved in a robbery at the Clydeside. I took myself away from the situation. It went around Govan that I was a 'grass'. The people I went around with were calling me a grass. I thought he liked me, I felt wanted, needed, as if I was liked me. He was in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and we would go round to collect his money



together from Govan Post Office. He would buy me alcohol, cannabis and tracksuit tops and bottoms. It was somewhere to go and stay that I thought was safe.

142. The staff were not aware of the substance misuse on the grounds. They weren't clued up. I encouraged another girl called [REDACTED] to smoke cannabis. Nobody intervened with the drug taking, there was no support or advice. There were no room searches.

### **Leaving Good Shepherd**

143. I was taken to a panel in my pyjamas. I think an emergency panel was called due to my running away and the police took me to the panel. I'm not sure what specifically led me to leaving Good Shepherd. I was meant to go into secure accommodation. The children's panel made a secure recommendation.

### **Kerelaw Residential School, Ayrshire**

144. Despite the panel's recommendation, I was taken straight to Kerelaw open unit. I wasn't taken to the secure unit. I should have put in secure for my own safety because there were a number of things going on. Kerelaw weren't aware of my relationship with [REDACTED] EUK
145. My relationship with [REDACTED] EUK continued for some time after I went into Kerelaw. He would tell me what to do and was controlling. If I told him that I wanted to go somewhere, I wasn't allowed. It was on his terms.
146. There were four separate units, two girls and two boys and a separate school unit. The girls unit had a corridor joining them together but they were separate. I was in Baird unit.
147. We walked to the school within the grounds. The classes were mixed. We watched the Simpsons and Shawshank Redemption every single day. The teacher was a small

man but I can't remember his name. I spent my time in class collecting stamps off envelopes. There was no focus on education. There was one teacher to each class.

148. We had Matt George who was the Art teacher. He knew that I would go out of class to smoke a joint. He would allow us to do but then get us into trouble. He would grass on us but he already knew what we were doing. He would tell the staff in the units and then the police would come in. They would ask us if we had cannabis and take it off us. He was tougher on the boys. Matt George would take kids to his house in Largs. I don't know of anything untoward happening in his house.

149. I had my own room. If we were on home leave and something happened, the staff would let strangers sleep in your room. It happened to me when I was out on home leave. So someone else would be brought into the unit and they would be given your bed and allowed to sleep in it. When you got back it would be the same bedding on the bed. I have an apology letter from them about that. I was expected to sleep in the bed again.

#### **Abuse at Kerelaw**

150. We would be tipped out of our beds if we didn't get up. There was a member of staff called EUL [REDACTED] He was a bit of a bully and would call us awful names. If we were taking our time in the morning, he would call us 'manky' and 'dirty cows'.

151. There was a member of staff called EUM [REDACTED] He would get me to take girls into the bathroom to beat them up. We would be threatened by him if the girls had been doing something wrong I can't remember specifically. If we refused there would be consequences. We just knew that he would come down on us like a ton of bricks. There was a fear there. I knew that I had to do what he said.

152. There was a member of staff called EUN [REDACTED] He was a big man. He had a black sports car. He would take us out in it and take on the back roads. He would go so fast round bends and it would take off over bumps. It was scary. He would laugh. It was



dangerous. I always thought that we were going to crash. The way he used to drive was petrifying.

153. EUN would use the open palm of his hand and full force hit me on the forehead. It was called spamming. He would do it all the way down the hallway. He was the unit manager. EUO would do that too, they both thought it was funny. It was very regular. They would do it to others and boys as well. There would be no reason for it other than they thought it was funny. It wasn't as a punishment, just out of the blue. You could be turning into the corridor and it would happen. EUN was a big man. He was bald and had glasses. He was older than the other staff, I think forty something. He hit me when he knew that I was pregnant. EUO would pull one of my legs up and make me stretch it over my head when I was pregnant. He just thought it was funny.
154. On holiday to Centre Parcs, I was drowning in the swimming pool and my bikini top went down. There were big waves and I went under the water. I was struggling, going up and down. The pressure of the water made my bikini top go down. EUO was there and all he did was stare at my chest. Strangers helped me out of the water.
155. In Kerelaw, my behaviour got worse in there. The drug taking got worse too, I started injecting heroin when I was in there. In Kerelaw, we were spoken to in front of everyone in the unit and made to feel like nothing. That didn't do us any favours. I was caught taking heroin with and one of the other girls had grassed us in so it was brought to the staff's attention. and I were dragged out of our rooms and taken to a living room. The other girls were getting torn into us and telling us how we were ruining their time there.
156. The staff weren't trying to understand why we were doing it. The other girls were allowed to call us anything they wanted to. It was very embarrassing and the other girls didn't speak to us for a long time. There was such a bad atmosphere. I became a loner and started running away myself. There was no support there to help us through it.

## Leaving Kerelaw

157. I wasn't myself on the holiday to Centre Parcs. I felt constantly sick. A female member of staff, <sup>EUP</sup> told me to strip me down and felt my breasts. She told me I was pregnant just by looking at me. I have photos of myself from that holiday and my eyes are red raw from crying. I was so distressed by her telling me that. There were other girls around at the time. I just did what I was told but I did feel awkward. Looking back it wasn't right.
158. I remember we would have to stand in line to collect sanitary products and they would tick our names off a list. I had asked <sup>EUP</sup> for contraception because she would speak to us about smoking and sexual health. After that I asked for it, I was told no. However, the staff knew that I was sexually active.
159. When I came back from the holiday, <sup>EUO</sup> and <sup>EUP</sup> made me take a pregnancy test. I can remember it being on a Friday because my mum and dad were downstairs waiting in the foyer. <sup>EUO</sup> and <sup>EUP</sup> were both there when I took the test. After the result, which was positive, they warned me not to tell my mum and dad. I was only fourteen. Looking back it was emotional abuse.
160. After a few weeks, <sup>EUO</sup> called my mum and dad to tell them that he was going to be bringing me home. I can always remember my mum asking what was happening.
161. When I got home, my dad wasn't happy and was asking <sup>EUO</sup> what I had done. My mum and dad were both going off their heads. It was unheard of for a staff to take someone home. It just didn't happen. If something major happened normally parents would be called into the home. It was out of the blue and so unexpected that my mum and dad knew it was something serious.
162. My mum asked if I was pregnant and <sup>EUO</sup> just put his head in his hands. I tried to run out. My parents were disgusted. I made them feel sick. I was taken back to Kerelaw. Nobody would speak to me, the staff wouldn't speak to me and my mum and

dad weren't answering my calls. I was dealing with it on my own. I got into a physical fight with another girl not long after this. We were punching and kicking each other.

163. The staff didn't want the responsibility. They were blaming my mum and dad and saying that I fell pregnant when I was on home leave in Govan. The father of my baby was a boy in Kerelaw in the Millerston unit. He was known as [REDACTED] but his real name is [REDACTED]. He was one year older than me and had never been to Govan.
164. I could sense that the staff were all talking about me together. Looking back, they were all getting their stories straight, i.e., that I fell pregnant in Govan. They were very distant. Even though I was so young and everything was going at one hundred miles an hour I knew it was about me. Everything had changed, and the place was so calm.
165. I was in my bedroom breaking my heart. My whole world just fell down around about me. I was told not to tell any of the other girls I wasn't to let anyone know. As the weeks passed, my mum and dad still weren't answering my calls.
166. There was a lovely lady called Liz who was one of the members of staff. She actually took me out for the day to go to see a girl called [REDACTED] in her new flat in Port Glasgow. On the way Liz was asking all about my pregnancy that was the first time anyone had spoken to me.
167. My mum and dad knew that I hadn't become pregnant while on home leave. After some time, my mum and sister, [REDACTED], came to visit me. My mum wanted me to get rid of the baby. I was breaking my heart. I knew that I wasn't going to do that. I knew that I was going to do whatever I had to do to have my baby. I told my mum my decision and she walked away and turned her back on me. My sister stood in the foyer and said no matter what you decide I'll always stand by your side. My mum got the support from the staff and I didn't get anything.
168. One day, <sup>EUO</sup> [REDACTED] got [REDACTED] and me together outside on the steps for a chat. [REDACTED] said that he would stand by my side and do what he had to do. It didn't happen

that way. They didn't help the relationship or bring support in. They were telling everyone else that I fell pregnant in Govan.

169. I had my first scan down at the health centre in Stevenson. My mum came with me.
170. When I was probably around twelve weeks pregnant I was basically rushed out of the door back home. They told me that it would be nice for me to be back home. I knew that I would be on my own because my mum and dad were still so angry with me. They weren't supportive of the relationship with [REDACTED] either. I had to clock into Kerelaw once every week while living back at home.
171. I was about six months pregnant when I went back to Kerelaw to pack all of my things. There was no support in place. There were no parent classes. There was nothing. I was put back to a broken family. It was worse than it had been. After I had the baby, I went to the registrar's office to meet [REDACTED] to register the baby. Kerelaw had arranged the appointment. However, they had already sent him to live down south. I waited for him and he didn't come. He was living in London.
172. There were supervision orders in place for a reason but it just kind of slipped and I was out the door. I went to see [REDACTED] in Kerelaw when I was pregnant. My mum forced me to end the relationship with him. I didn't see him again for about ten years.

### **Life after being in care**

173. The social work involvement quickly ended after I went home. I can't remember going to a panel or having a meeting. I can't remember being signed off at a panel. I think Kerelaw made the decision to send me home. It wasn't down to the children's reporter or to panel members.
174. I remember spending time with the Safeguarder Jack. He would come to the house. I think it was left in Jack's hands to monitor to what was going on. There were times I would have to put a show on to Jack that things were fine with my mum and dad. It

wasn't settled as my mum was still having a drink. It wasn't a pleasant environment. When I went home, my mum and dad and brother [REDACTED] were there.

175. Life was very difficult. I was put out of my mum and dad's as soon as I turned sixteen with my two year old son. There was a breakdown in the relationship. My mum didn't see me as her responsibility.
176. I got a private let in Glasgow. I lived in a top floor flat with my son, [REDACTED] My house was lovely. However life was very difficult. I had to manage my money and I had to take care of [REDACTED] There were times when I was sleeping and [REDACTED] had wandered out of the house and on roads. Thankfully, nothing came of it. There was no social work involvement. I'm surprised by that because I needed help and support.
177. Not long after that, I went to social work services. I saw Elaine McGroarty, from Good Shepherd, who was now a social worker in Govan social work office. My mum and dad took me to court to try to get [REDACTED] off of me. The court ordered them take [REDACTED] off of me at the weekends so that I could get a break. It gave me time to myself and time out from being a mum.
178. I didn't make the best choices but I was catching up on things I missed out on when I was young like going to dancing. I got to catch up on that a wee bit. I love and always have loved [REDACTED] but back then it was extremely difficult. I always made sure that I used my money to buy gas and food.
179. I was still smoking cannabis at the time. I know it was wrong and it was my choice. I really needed support. I always made sure he had an amazing Christmas and my sons have too. I always put my money aside to make sure they always got what they needed. There were times I had no power.
180. There was definitely a lack of support and intervention from social work. I didn't have that from my mum and dad either. They weren't very good at parenting themselves and social work knew that. They didn't have that parental instinct. I thought I would be



sent somewhere to have my baby like the girl in Good Shepherd. EUO told us we were going to get all the support we needed but it never happened.

181. I met [REDACTED] again ten years on. I found him myself on social media. His Through Care worker told me to stay away from him. We had another child together.
182. My relationship with my mum and dad has always broken down. There have been years apart when there's been no contact between us. My mum will come into mine and my children's lives but I am cautious. I feel like I have to be on my best behaviour with my mum and dad. I am not allowed to express my feelings. My mum will say she can't handle it and put the phone down on me. I'm not able to let them know how I'm feeling. I still don't feel loved by them. I've never felt wanted by them. I feel like I'm the black sheep of the family. My brother and sister are treated differently by my mum and dad. I haven't seen my sister for nearly three years now. I don't have a relationship with her.
183. I had a job in 2009 in a sandwich shop. I loved it. My son, [REDACTED] was going to primary school. One day when I working in the shop, it was really rowdy, it was far too busy and there was lots of school children. They were just being kids but they were showing off to each other. I couldn't handle it and I walked out the door. At that time I was pregnant with my next son, [REDACTED] I didn't have a relationship with his dad. My son [REDACTED] was born in 2011. I have five sons. The youngest was born in 2018.
184. My late partner, [REDACTED] passed way in 2019. We had been seeing each other on and off for about fifteen years. That is only real relationship I have ever had. We had a lot of ups and downs. There was social work involvement with our family. He took [REDACTED] and I have recently found out it caused his death. I have had quite a few casual relationships over the years.

### **Impact**

185. I blame social work for a lot of what happened to me. There was no support to help my family build our relationship. I always craved to be part of a family. I think that's

why I have a big family of my own. I am very close to my sons. I think they have missed out on a lot because of my relationship with my own family. I try to go above and beyond to give more to my boys than I had. I feel myself tiring out. There are times when I can try to be strong for them. Sometimes I don't have time to look after myself in terms of my mental health because I'm too busy being a mum.

186. I have an ability to sustain relationships with partners or friends. I have lack of trust in people which I think stems from failings by social work and my home life.
187. I think I could deal with situations better. I was a cleaner in the [REDACTED] I got into a situation with another cleaner and had to leave that job too. I like to be able to tackle things head on but I get away ahead of myself. I don't like to dwell on things. I don't want to be involved in arguments with people but I have an inability to walk away from arguments.
188. I'm trying to work on being better by trying to stay calm and not interrupt during meetings. I have a fear of my children being taken away by social work. It's a fear that is always there. It is a sickly feeling. It makes me feel physically sick thinking about it.
189. I lost everything. I lost my childhood. I was taking drugs when I should have been playing with my dolls. I think drug taking at a very young age has impacted upon my development and my mental health.
190. I grew up with my eldest child. It took a long time to get to where we are now. I can't specifically say what my son, [REDACTED] missed out on but I wasn't as good as I could have been. Nothing has changed with my relationship with my mum and dad. I would love for it to have improved. I didn't want to have to pretend that everything was fine but I felt that I had to act like that.

#### **Treatment/support**

191. I am in contact with Future Pathways for support. I haven't had counselling. After my partner passed away, I wasn't looking after myself. I wasn't washing or even brushing

my hair. I went to see the doctor about a painful elbow. The doctor scared me off because she was concerned about my children's welfare. She asked me questions about who was looking after them, and acted concerned. I felt like I was hitting a brick wall. At other times, I contacted the Crisis Centre but they would refer me back to the doctor.

192. I feel I have made progress in the last few months. I received a phone call back from Future Pathways the same day that I had contacted them. I am currently waiting on counselling from Rape Crisis. I have been told to self-refer to The Arc for an autism test.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

193. I have reported some of the abuse to the police in the last year. I am liaising with PC Ian Wilson at Govan Police Station. There is an ongoing investigation called Operation Chalk. I haven't reported everything I have spoken about in my statement but I am working towards it.

### **Records**

194. I have some documents relating to my time in care. I have a handwritten Safeguarder report which unfortunately is undated. I am in the process of trying to obtain my records from Future Pathways.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

195. I had seen advertisements on TV and things on Facebook about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. I think if people from outside, such as inspectors, had listened to us, things could have been better. The children weren't listened to and we weren't separated from the adults at the time. We didn't have an opportunity to speak out. We weren't asked questions at children's panels.



196. No one ever tried to understand why the kids were running away. There was no relationship with my parents, or drug counselling or mediation.
197. I think that experience is necessary for certain job roles. I think if there had been more people like the lady Liz in Kerelaw, things would have been better. I don't think that people who have direct experience of being a child in care are necessarily the best placed people to work with children in care today. I think they have to have themselves sorted out first. In my view, the majority of the staff were simply there for the pay check. They couldn't be bothered with us as kids. They were only interested in their own children.
198. I would like things to change, for me, if I know that speaking out can change at least one person's experience, perhaps, for them to be heard. I felt like I was shouting to be heard but I never was. In the past year, I have found it easier to talk and to be heard because people are actually listening to my past.
199. Things have to change for the children of the future who don't feel they are able to speak at home. Children shouldn't be stuck in a situation where they are unable to speak freely. We were just taken out of our homes and put away somewhere and forgotten about. I was basically taken away because my mum had issues. I ended up going downhill after I ended up in the care system.

#### **Other information**

200. 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.

EJC

Signed..

Dated.. 05.08.21