

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LUM [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is LUM [REDACTED]. This is the name I was born with and I have never been known by any other name. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1977. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I am single and have one daughter and a grandson who is two months old. I am presently unemployed though actively seeking employment.

Life before going into care

3. I was born in Duke Street Hospital in Glasgow. My dad was [REDACTED] and my mum's name was [REDACTED]. I have an older sister called [REDACTED]. My mother went on to have other children through another relationship but I have never had anything to do with that family.
4. When I was a very young child my parents separated and my dad won custody of me and [REDACTED] in 1977. He used to drink a lot and often would leave me and [REDACTED] outside a pub till midnight. He was in the army and often had people round at the house.
5. My dad physically abused me and my sister a lot with a belt and I often ran away. My social worker was called Margaret Watt and when I was caught I used to beg her not

to send me home. She was my social worker from the age of eight right up till I was eighteen.

6. I would stay with my mum at weekends and I wanted to stay with her permanently because my dad wasn't coming home till midnight which meant I was tired going to school. People used to pick on me a lot at school.
7. I was in primary seven at this point and because of the bullying I used to run away from school but kept getting brought back. I just refused to go to school when I was in primary seven.
8. I eventually went to stay with my mum who was living in Hamilton and I went to a school called Ernock High. By this time my mum was married again to a guy called [REDACTED].
9. One day he drove by me and just tooted his horn. When I met him and my mum later at the shops I asked him why he had just driven by and not picked me up. He then grabbed me outside the shops and punched me on the back of the head .
10. I just ran away and kept running and ran to a Social Work office and told them I couldn't take any more of it. David Bell was the senior social worker.
11. I was thirteen years old so that would be 1990. I was taken to the social work office in The Gorbals, Glasgow. Margaret Watt was the social worker there and she was great. That night I was put in to a home for my safety.
12. My sister [REDACTED] was older than me and when she was old enough met up with a guy and immediately moved out of the house. She was with him for ten years.
13. Although I was thirteen I was very small and a lot of people thought I was a lot younger.

Alva Children's Home, Pollok, Glasgow

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Newfield Assessment Centre, Johnstone

45. This was a place for badly behaved children. I was fifteen years old. I had my own room there and it was like a wee cell. The staff were really nice at first because I was crying all the time. Although I was fifteen I was very small and looked about ten.

46. I was there for six months and don't really recall anything about the routine or much else. I seem to remember that the food was okay but I was still taking Complan rather than eating. You weren't allowed out on your own, only with staff, though they did take us out to the SECC in Glasgow once.
47. Margaret Watt, my social worker continued to see me regularly and she would often take me out for something to eat. I think David Bell, her senior social worker, gave her the money to do so. Inside the home there was nobody I could talk to.
48. The school was internal and we all went.

Abuse

49. There was a room called The White Room which is where they took us to restrain us if we got angry. It was extremely painful and they would leave you lying there for an hour or so. I never hurt anybody in my life but I did used to cut myself and I ended up getting restrained a few times a week.
50. All I can recall about those who restrained me was that one of them had a beard. Because I kept getting restrained, I kept running away but the place was in the middle of fields and the police usually caught me quite quickly.

Leaving Newfield

51. On one occasion I ran away but didn't realise I had a children's panel appearance to go to. Because I ran away I missed the appearance and a warrant was taken out for me. When I was arrested I was sent to Kerelaw for three days then appeared in front of another panel which sent me to Cardross Assessment Centre.
52. I have this recollection that I was able to explain to that panel about what was happening at Newfield with regards to the restraining and that's maybe why they sent me to Cardross.

Cardross Assessment Centre

53. Cardross was alright but I don't recall much about it. I was only there for a few months. What I do remember was that a social worker called Claire introduced me to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who I stayed with for a few nights at a time before she eventually fostered me.
54. [REDACTED], or [REDACTED] as I called her, stayed in Drumchapel and she also fostered [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who is like my brother and who I am still in contact with to this day. He is a few years older than me. [REDACTED] was really good to me and even got me a job in [REDACTED] in Drumchapel.

Life after care

55. [REDACTED] got himself a flat in Anniesland and I moved in with him. My daughter was born when I was eighteen. [REDACTED] is gay and not my child's father.
56. I can't recall why but [REDACTED] and I had a fall out and I moved out of the flat. I didn't want to burden [REDACTED] with my problems and so didn't want to move back in with her. I ended up in a homeless unit where I met some girls one of whom was friends with a boy who I formed a relationship with and fell pregnant.
57. When I was pregnant I was put into a mother and baby units in Partick and Clarkston. Margaret Watt was still coming to see me and she thought I was doing well. Margaret was in her 40's and she said she couldn't take the job any more. She said she had only stayed on to make sure I was alright.
58. I stopped having contact with the social work when my daughter [REDACTED] was four months old. I was nineteen.
59. I moved to my own house in the Gorbals which was furnished. At the time I wasn't working as I was a single mother. [REDACTED]'s dad was in and out of my life but was stealing from me and taking drugs so I ended the relationship.

60. One night the flat went on fire and when I was outside I met a guy called [REDACTED] who lived upstairs. I was nineteen and he was 32 and we went on to have a relationship for eight years.
61. However, he was abusive and on one occasion he hit me with a mirror and other things. I went to the hospital and they found I had a fractured shoulder and a fractured cheekbone. The police charged [REDACTED] but myself and my friend told the Fiscal he hadn't done anything and he walked free.
62. I again got into a relationship with [REDACTED] but he continued to physically abuse me and even forced me to work as a prostitute for almost the entire time I knew him. He did this in Glasgow and even took me to Manchester to work in saunas.
63. I was in The Hamish Allen Unit in Glasgow one night when he again attacked me. The police had to pepper spray him and arrested him. This time I didn't ask for the charges to be dropped though I don't know what happened to him.
64. [REDACTED] was so abusive to me throughout my time with him that I didn't want him in my life to the extent that, when I was living in Shettleston, I had an abortion. It was only after it that I was told it was twins I had been expecting.
65. Throughout my time with [REDACTED] I had to leave my daughter [REDACTED] with her paternal grandmother on a regular basis. She was really good to [REDACTED].
66. After the police arrested [REDACTED] they moved me to a furnished flat elsewhere in Glasgow and that broke his hold over me.
67. I haven't worked for a few years now but am looking for employment.
68. I have PTSD and quiet borderline personality disorder which means I don't hurt others, just myself. However when I was in my 20's I didn't know what was wrong with me, I didn't know I had these things. The problem was that I wasn't getting help with my mental problems. It's only in recent years that I've had proper psychiatric help.

69. What happened was that I started getting flash-backs and my family thought I was bipolar. This was about seven years ago. I now get therapy once a week which is paid for by Future Pathways.

Impact

70. I get constant flash-backs and really bad nightmares about my time in care. I also get flash-backs about all the things [REDACTED] did to me.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Records

72. I have never tried to get my records but I would like to. I have been in contact with Birth Link who are trying to help me.

Lessons to be Learned

73. Children should be listened to and children in care need to be given the proper help and support.

Other information

74. It's possible that there are things that I have forgotten about regarding my time in care but if my social work records can be recovered I'm sure they will fill in some of the gaps.

75. 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..... .....

Dated..... 3 August 2018