

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GHW

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is GHW My date of birth is 1985. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. When I was born I stayed in Dundonald, in Ayrshire. I have a large family. I was brought up with seven brothers and sisters. There are eighteen months between all of us. I have three younger siblings. My youngest brother is thirteen years younger than me.
3. I was under social work supervision from 1994 when I was nine years old. Pat (Patricia) Greenall was our social worker for years. Pat is now called Pat Pow. I stopped going to school at St Joseph's High School in Kilmarnock. I had two workers to take me to school, meet me from school and take me to a support group once a week. Lorna McColl was one of them. They took me to school but I left through another door. In my records it says that the worker has come to meet me but I've been away with friends, so they knew I was dodging school.
4. By the time I was thirteen years old, I was down the town all the time and sleeping with the homeless people. I started buzzing deodorants and got into heroin. My daily life was shoplifting and feeding my habit. Social work got wind of this and there was a panel. I knew I was going away and I was alright with that. I packed my bags and went to The Good Shepherd for my own safety.

The Good Shepherd, Bishopton, Renfrewshire

5. The Good Shepherd was out in the wilderness. It was really far away and all you could see were hills and fields. The Good Shepherd was like a jail, even though it's not a jail. I'd never been away from home and been separated from my family before. I'd never even slept on my own in a bed because me and my sisters had always slept in one bed as a family. That was a massive thing for me. I knew I had done wrong and I had to be put in The Good Shepherd for my own safety. I went into The Good Shepherd when I was thirteen years old and left just before I was sixteen years old.
6. There were all girls from age eleven to seventeen in The Good Shepherd. A lot of the other girls had been abused or had family problems. They were in The Good Shepherd for their own safety. There were forty or fifty girls in the day unit for school and fifteen girls in each residential unit. The girls were mixed in age in each residential unit.
7. When you go inside the building you come to reception. To the right is the day unit which is the school unit. If you go to the left, that takes you to the three residential units. The three units are St Claire's, Gerrety and St Margaret's. The first unit you come to is St Margaret's, to the left. You went to the right and that took you to St Claire's and Gerrety. St Claire's was a brand new built unit. I stayed in St Claire's unit all the time I was at The Good Shepherd.

St Clair's Unit

8. As you came into St Clair's unit the office was in front of you. To your left was the living room, then the toilet, kitchen, smoke room and stairs where the fire exit was. You walked past the fire exit to get to the bedrooms. There were two bedrooms next to the fire exit for the two oldest girls in the unit. The younger girls were further away from the fire exit. My bedroom was room four which was the fourth one past the fire exit.
9. I established myself as soon as I went in. One of the lassies stole £20 out of my room. I knew she was causing bother for me and the full unit was pointing at me and talking

about me. I went straight for her and dealt with her. That sorted the problem out and after that all the lassies talked to me and liked me. I had a best friend.

10. There was a flat away from the girl's bedrooms. After I'd been in The Good Shepherd for a while my best friend stayed in it. My friend was going out to college. That didn't last long because the girls were going into the flat, taking drugs and getting out of their face. My friend was put back to number one room beside everyone else.

Staff at The Good Shepherd

11. GXC was SNR of the whole of The Good Shepherd. In the units there were team managers and staff. The team managers in St Claire were Mrs Knox and, below her, Louisa Gallacher. There were good people in The Good Shepherd. Mrs Knox was all for the lassies and protected the girls. The normal staff with qualifications were Lorraine McKenzie, Stephen Thomson and Susan Rae. Stephen was my keyworker.
12. There were sessional workers who came in for weekend work. Grant was a fire-fighter and Lisa Jamieson was a beauty therapist. Lisa was brilliant and really nice. There was a woman called Kathleen Moran. I got along with her but she went out on date with Stephen Thomson and I didn't like her after that. There was a woman called Amanda who was a sessional worker too.
13. There were three staff per shift. The staff stuck to their own unit, unless there was a shortage and staff would go into a different unit. There were only two members of staff on at night time. One of them, Old Marnie, was in her sixties and couldn't control the lassies.

Routine at The Good Shepherd

First day

14. The day I went into The Good Shepherd, my support worker, Lorna McColl, took me to the jail to visit my boyfriend. He had murdered his stepfather. Social work were going to try and support the relationship if it made me happy. I had requested they take me to see my boyfriend once, if I went to The Good Shepherd. Lorna agreed to take me because that way she knew I was safe. I didn't get in to see him because I hadn't booked a visit. I got to pass a message on through the prison officers.
15. Pat Greenall took me to The Good Shepherd. I had a plastic bag of clothes. I didn't have much, just one outfit if you're lucky. The Good Shepherd was absolutely mental. There was a lassie being restrained in the hall as you first went in. It was brutal. There were four or five members of male and female staff on top of this wee lassie. The lassie was obviously squealing and going mental. I thought, oh my God, what have I stepped into here? I knew it was a place that didn't take any shit.
16. I met the team manager Louisa Gallacher first. She showed me round the unit, showed me where my room was and told me the rules and regulations. I met my keyworker Stephen Thomson.
17. I stayed in my room for about a week, probably because I was withdrawing from heroin. I was upset, crying, alone and isolated. I lay in my bed like a baby. I had sickness and diarrhoea. I don't remember the staff asking if I was alright.
18. You heard all the lassies and they were wild. There were even lassies getting restrained at the dinner table. They were immature and nippy. I thought I was an adult. By that time I had been bringing up my younger siblings. I watched my wee brother from when he was three weeks old and I was eleven years old. We all mucked in at home. I was like a mum before I went in there.

19. Three members of staff came into my room. They knew my sister, who was in the Good Shepherd the year before me. The staff said I had to stop acting so mature, I was only thirteen years old and I wasn't an adult. They said I had to learn to come down to the other lassie's level and act my age.
20. The first memory I have of coming out of my room was a Saturday. That was a good day because Stephen took me and some of the other girls shopping to Paisley to buy new clothes. The staff could see that I didn't have any clothes and I got £100 clothing grant.

Mornings and bedtime

21. We all had locks on our doors and the staff had the keys. We got up about 8:30 am. The staff came in and woke you up. You were expected to be showered and have your bed made. We went downstairs for breakfast. If we were up in time and had our breakfast then we would have a ten or fifteen minute fag break. Then we went to school. You were allowed to smoke as long as the unit got permission from your parents. You used your pocket money to buy cigarettes and the staff bought them for you.
22. My shower was outside my bedroom door. It was just for me to use and there was a lock on it. Some girls had their showers in their rooms. It was left to us whether we showered.
23. I was more helping the staff rather than against the staff. Night-time was an absolute nightmare for the staff. I don't believe they had enough staff at night-time because there were only two staff. You were meant to be in bed by 9:00 pm and lights out by 10:00 pm. It took some work to get the lassies to their bed.
24. Night-time was when things erupted in the building. The lassies ran about [REDACTED] themselves and were covered in blood. There were lassies outside [REDACTED] wanting to commit suicide. The lassies kept the staff on their toes.

Mealtimes / Food

25. We'd go downstairs for our meals at lunchtime and dinnertime. It was just the girls from St Claire unit eating together. The girls were like a pack of hooligans. They were uncontrollable. Obviously, if girls are messed up, they are acting out. I found that immature and stayed away from that side of it.
26. Breakfast was cereal and toast. We helped ourselves. Lunch was always chips, pie and beans. Dinnertime was the same, maybe fish fingers chips and beans. The dinner staff prepared the food. The staff would help you make French toast at night-time or you could have cereal. You put your stuff in the dishwasher after you ate.

Leisure time

27. We got home about 3:45 pm after school. We had rec (recreation) days on a Tuesday and a Friday when everyone got £3.50 each. Getting money every week was something I had never had. You could go a run to McDonalds or go and do something, like go to the pictures. Sometimes there were activities but, if the lassies weren't behaving, the full unit didn't get to go out. There was a TV room with a computer you could play games on.
28. In August 2000 when I was fifteen years old, I had a boyfriend from St Phillips Residential School. Me and one of my friends got The Good Shepherd staff to take us to St Phillip's so we could meet our boyfriends at night. That went on for about four weeks and then Stephen put a stop to it. Stephen saw me buying fancy underwear because he was my keyworker and paid for my clothing. I think he sensed I was becoming sexually active.
29. Stephen said the boy was no good for me, he didn't want him to have anything to do with me and he knew what boys were like. He said boys were in residential care for punishment whereas girls were in for nourishment. Stephen stopped our access to the boys and phoned St Phillip's to stop the boys from seeing the girls.

Trips / Holidays

30. We went horse riding and indoor skiing one time. We went to Benmore with the school. There was an assault course and that was good. Louisa Gallacher, Lorraine McKenzie and Susan Rae took us camping to Dunoon and that was brilliant.
31. The Good Shepherd paid for me to go to see my dad in London. I spent a week at my dad's.

School

32. School started at 9:30 am. A member of staff walked you over to the day unit. There were lots of different classrooms for each subject. There were between four and eight girls in a class. We got to go in a car to McDonalds if we behaved ourselves. The teachers were from outside. I'm assuming they were qualified in the subjects they taught. The classes were not too bad.
33. I loved hair and beauty and I liked art. I loved drama. Drama was brilliant. French was a joke. We blackmailed our teacher, Mrs Reid, by saying if we did any work then she was to take us to McDonalds. We must have drove her off her head. We had to do some work then we would get an ice-cream sundae. We made a joke in science as well. We had physical education in a nice, big gym. I was alright at English but I couldn't do the reading. I couldn't concentrate. Mr Lafferty taught religious education. He was a wee, funny guy so we liked religious education.
34. I had missed a lot of school between the ages of eleven and thirteen. In The Good Shepherd, I mucked around and ran about the school. The staff came and chased you around the grounds outside. That's how I remember my days being filled at The Good Shepherd. I passed my Standard Grade prelims and did not too badly, considering I hadn't been at school. I was shocked at that. I failed my exams because by then there was allegations about Stephen Thomson and me and my mind wasn't on it.

Healthcare

35. There was no medical examination when I went into The Good Shepherd. I didn't get any drug addiction help at the start and I didn't have any counselling or help with my mental health. When you read my records, you can clearly see there's something seriously wrong with me. The records say I can't sit still, I'm fidgeting, acting out and spitting. The staff should have seen I needed help. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder runs in my mum's family. It's possible that was what was wrong with me. If the staff had taken me to the doctors something may have been done to help me but the staff never did.
36. There was no sex education in The Good Shepherd or talk about boundaries. I wasn't too sexually active but there were a lot of lassies who were. There were lassies getting pregnant at fourteen years old. It was common sense that, if lassies were sexually active then they should be on the contraceptive pill but none of the lassies went to the doctors. We never had doctor or dentist appointments.
37. The first time the staff took me to see someone was after allegations were made about Stephen Thomson and me, in December 2000. Lorraine McKenzie was my new key worker. She took me to see a drug counsellor because The Good Shepherd could see there was something massively wrong with me. Depression was ripping out of me and I was crying all the time. I didn't want to do anything and I didn't talk to anyone. In my records it says the staff suspected I was taking heroin again but that was only when I was at home.
38. There was a leaflet about depression outside the drug counsellor's door. I never knew what depression was. I read the symptoms and said to Lorraine McKenzie that sounded like me. All the things the leaflet said about depression were what was wrong with me.

Visits / Inspections

39. When I first went into The Good Shepherd I was on a six week warrant and wasn't allowed to get in touch with anybody. I had no contact with my family and I didn't want any contact.
40. I was allowed phone calls from my boyfriend who was in the jail. I started seeing him when I was eleven and half years old and he was eighteen years old. I carried on writing to him for a wee while when I was in The Good Shepherd. The staff knew I spoke to him on the phone because, when the call came through, a message said it was a call from Bowhouse Prison and asked if you accepted the call. If the staff answered, they would pass the call to me. They knew I wrote to him as well. The staff never spoke to me about that relationship.
41. I stayed in contact with my boyfriend for three months and then I stopped answering his phone calls. I knew he was in jail for six or seven years. It was all pain for me because he was taken away as well.
42. If I wanted to see Pat Greenall then I had to phone her. I phoned Pat and begged to go home but the only time I saw her was at a children's panel or a review.

Home leave

43. About seven months into my time at The Good Shepherd, I would get out on weekend home leave. Before that I didn't want to go home. I felt The Good Shepherd was a new life for me because I was used to sleeping on cardboard. The staff dropped us off at the train station on Friday to go our own way. I was supposed to go back on Sunday.
44. When I got home leave, I wasn't even going home. At first, it was an excuse to meet up with the lassies outside. Me and the girls from The Good Shepherd met up in Paisley on Friday. We put our pocket money together, sat with homeless guys, got drunk and went back to The Good Shepherd on Friday night.

Running away

45. There were so many fire exits that we were able to come and go as we pleased. We left without permission and the staff came to look for us. There were fields everywhere and we went over the fields to the train station to get out of Bishopton.

Drug use

46. At first, The Good Shepherd was all nice and happy. I was off heroin for a long time, except when I was at home, because I felt safe in there. It wasn't like home life. I wasn't homeless and dealing with people with knives at your throat. I knew life outside was a life of danger. After allegations were made about Stephen and me, my heroin dabbling became worse.
47. The last year I was in The Good Shepherd, when I was fifteen and a half years old, there were five girls in my unit on heroin. In Gerrety there were four girls on it and in St Margaret's there were two girls on it.
48. After school we would plan how to get our heroin into The Good Shepherd. We focussed on how to get money and put our £3.50 pocket money together. I think the staff knew we were using heroin. We'd make up excuses to get the staff to take us out for a run in the car to Clydebank or Paisley. Thirty or forty minutes later, girls were going about gouching and overdosing. It was obvious what we were doing. Susan Rae caught me and my sister taking heroin in my room. I had drugs paraphernalia, needles and spoons.
49. Some girls knew people who would bring heroin in for us. We got people to bring it to the back of the building where there were no cameras. Once that started happened, heroin went through all the units like wildfire. By night-time we were all overdosing. I overdosed. The lassie who stayed next door to me, overdosed and got caught red-handed with tinfoil on her. Another girl nearly died. Her lips went blue and she

collapsed coming down the stairs. All the staff were pumping her chest on the stairs. It was late at night and we were all sent to bed. I don't know if she was taken to hospital.

50. Me and my best friend sat up every night smacked out of our face. We helped the staff get all the girls to bed. Normally the girls would be running about [REDACTED] or going [REDACTED] Me and my friend went out and threatened them to get back to bed. We took that on as our role and that let us get back to taking heroin.
51. One time I overdosed at my mum's house. I was brought back to life by the ambulance staff who gave me an adrenalin jag. The Good Shepherd paid for a taxi and watched me all night, to make sure I was alright. I never saw a doctor.

Discipline

52. If there was any punishment for taking heroin in The Good Shepherd then it would be being kept in. That was no punishment because it was easier to get heroin in The Good Shepherd than outside.

Restraint

53. Girls were restrained all the time. My best friend got into a scrap with a member of staff and the staff broke her wrist. My friend was on morphine tablets for a good few weeks. I wasn't restrained because I never did anything to get restrained. I thought I was too mature for that and I was a team player with the staff.
54. I think the way the staff carried out the restraint was uncalled for. The staff would swipe the lassie's legs away from them so they would 'face plant' on the floor. The staff would dig their knees into the person. You could have three males and two females on one five foot lassie. It wasn't the right kind of discipline that we should have been getting. There could have been other ways to deal with things but the staff used brute force to get the lassies to behave. All the staff used restraint. Sometimes staff from other units would come to help with restraints.

Abuse at The Good Shepherd

55. When I first went into The Good Shepherd, I thought Stephen Thomson my keyworker was cool. He had only been there for a year before I got there. He gave you extra fags. He was a bouncy character, always upbeat and all the lassies clung to him. Me and Stephen built up a relationship like a father and daughter relationship. He referred to me as his key child and I had a key sister. As time went on, I felt like he was protecting me. Stephen is sixteen years older than me.
56. That father and daughter relationship went on for a good while. We had good laughs, I got extra fags, he took me, my key sister and two other lassies out in the car to Carpark in the Sky near Paisley and drove at 100 miles an hour. We called each other "ya daftie". When it was his shift I warned the lassies to give him an easy time. If the lassies were playing up then I would step in. That came over as me being over-protective. I didn't think anything of it at the time because we were building a bond.
57. Every time Stephen came to collect me from home leave, he came in and sat with my mum. He had a blether with her. I actually thought he was going to go with my mum and I knew he liked my mum. My mum was drinking and they were both flirty. I didn't think it was me that he liked. Now, I think he was sussing my mum out to see what kind of person she was and whether she would talk. My sister said I'd better watch myself because he fancied me. I said no way did he fancy me.
58. The first night that anything happened was a Sunday when I was fourteen and a half years old. Stephen collected me from my mum's house in Kilmarnock. I had been taking heroin. I got in the car and gouched all the way to Glasgow, that means sleeping the way junkies do. We went to Clydebank to collect a lassie from The Good Shepherd. We were outside in the car waiting for the lassie to come out. Stephen asked me if I liked him and said I was very pretty. I was embarrassed and shy. Stephen asked if he could kiss me and I froze. I knew I liked him but not in that way, in a dad way. I let him kiss me then the lassie came to the car.

59. We went back to The Good Shepherd and everything was alright. Stephen came into my room and it was a short goodbye before he went home. Nothing happened. The next day I went into my shell. I felt intimidated. I was petrified of men. I knew we'd crossed a barrier and I was scared. The next day Stephen started his shift at 2:00 pm. I came in from school and went straight to my room. I didn't want to see him. Stephen came upstairs and asked me if everything was okay. I said things were okay. That's how it all started.
60. Me and the girls would run away to Paisley and get drunk. We knew Stephen came from Paisley and his fiancée left him for another man, so he was drinking constantly. I felt sorry for him. He let me know he drank at The Bull Inn in Paisley and, if I needed him anytime, to get in touch with him. There were times we were in Paisley and we ran into Stephen in the High Street. He was paralytic.
61. Me and the girls would be tipsy but ready to drink more. We were lucky if we got a three litre bottle of cider between five or six of us. Me and Stephen would go around the corner and Stephen would give me money. He didn't want to give me money in front of all the girls and told me to keep my mouth shut. That was a repetitive thing. At the time I had a boyfriend from a home in Paisley.
62. I don't really know how we got into the sexual things. Me and Stephen would go out to the shop to get fags and stop in lay-bys. There was a back road in Bishopton where we went to and did things to each other. It was a quiet road that not many people drove on. I sat on top of him in the front seat of the car and straddled him. I don't know if it was me or Stephen who brought his penis out but something tells me it was him. I masturbated him. That went on for a good while. It was the same routine.
63. I never had money for a phone back then. One day me and one of the lassies met Stephen in Paisley. We had run into two drunk guys who had tried to molest us. We had got into a dangerous situation with them. I told Stephen and he said I should have phoned him. I told him I didn't have a phone and he gave me an old one of his. After that, he phoned me every weekend when I was at my mums.

64. One Sunday I was on my way back to The Good Shepherd and Stephen phoned me. He asked if I wanted to go back to his house. I went to Stephen's house at about 8:30 pm and stayed until about 10:30 pm. He lived there with his brother John Archibald Thomson. We lay on the bed, kissed, groped and simulated sex. Stephen paid for a taxi to get me to Paisley Gilmour Street train station and I got the train back to The Good Shepherd.
65. I went home on leave on a Friday and Stephen would phone me at about 12:00 am. I would fall asleep talking to him on the phone. We talked sexy to each other. Stephen asked what I was wearing, what did I want to do to him and things like that. That went on for a wee while.
66. There was one time Grant, one of the sessional workers, sent me upstairs to change my clothes. He said I was dressed inappropriately. I was showing my belly-button. I was upset by that but now I think Grant was looking out for me and that was his way of protecting me. Maybe Grant had seen Stephen looking at me in an inappropriate way.
67. The first time we had intercourse was after allegations were made about inappropriate behaviour involving Stephen and me. The allegations were made by a member of the public and by my best friend. It was around December and I was fifteen years old. Stephen came to collect me at my mums. It was the weekend before I went to see the drug counsellor. That was during Stephen's own time and not as work. We went to Dundonald Castle and had intercourse in the back of his car. After that he took me home. I believed things were moving on for us because we were sneaking about.
68. In February 2001 Stephen was leaving The Good Shepherd and, in January 2001, I arranged a leaving do for him. It was a chance for me to see him because he had been working in St Margaret's. We invited all three units because all the girls liked Stephen. All the staff came. We lowered the lights because we had disco lights and karaoke equipment. Me and Stephen danced a slow dance. He pulled me right into him and I said he had better watch because all the staff were watching us. We caressed each other. Stephen said it was his last night and it didn't matter.

69. At about 7:00 pm or 8:00 pm, Stephen asked if I wanted to go to the shop for fags. I said I did and he told me to get myself sorted out. I got washed, which was what I usually did before I went out with him. We sneaked away. The local shops were five minutes away but we went to the Greenock motorway and pulled into a layby. We had oral sex, sex simulation and masturbation. Stephen's phones were going like mad. At first it was The Good Shepherd phone in his car and then it was his own phone.
70. By the time I got home all the lassies were in their bed. Standing in reception were Mr GXC Mrs Knox, Louisa Gallacher and Mrs Kelly, who was another team manager. They told me to get to bed and I did. They told Stephen to go into the office. I don't know what story he was giving to them. None of the staff asked me where I was or if we were doing anything.

Allegations of abuse made by a member of public and a resident at The Good Shepherd

71. Two allegations came out of one time Stephen and me were in the car. We were in a lay-by and a member of the public from Bishopton saw us in the car. They knew the car was from The Good Shepherd because we had one blue and one green Ford Focus. The allegation was that they saw a girl and a male member of staff acting inappropriately with each other.
72. I was on home leave and, before I knew about the allegation, I phoned my best friend. My friend was seventeen years old and was the oldest in the unit. My friend told me about a first oral experience she had just had and I told her about my first oral experience with Stephen. My friend must have known that was wrong.
73. My friend's dad overheard our conversation. He took my friend to The Good Shepherd and sat her in front of three team managers, Mrs Knox, Louisa Gallacher and Lorraine McKenzie. My friend gave them the full description of what was happening. She told the team managers how long I'd been seeing Stephen for, where he was taking me and what we'd been doing.

74. I got a phone call on Monday from Pat Greenall. She said she was taking me back to the unit and needed to talk to me. Pat had already spoken to my mum and told her about the allegation but my mum didn't know anything about me and Stephen. Pat told me an allegation had been made and asked me to tell her anything I knew about it. I said it couldn't be right. I said it was probably being made by one of the lassies who were jealous because me and Stephen had a good relationship. That was the only time Pat asked me about the allegation.
75. Back at The Good Shepherd, I heard shouting from the office. My best friend's dad was in there with Stephen and the team managers. My friend's dad took her home that night. Me and my friend were crying. I thought my friend was a bitch and that she didn't have to tell the staff. I was told Stephen was suspended. No report was made to the police.

Events following the allegations of abuse

76. After the allegations were made, I was distraught and was crying all the time. I was heartbroken that we'd been caught and I went back to heroin. One day, Stephen came across to St Claire unit. He said the police were trying to charge him with child rape and we needed to deny it. Stephen said there was no proof as long as we denied it and a problem told is a problem doubled. He said as long as we kept it a secret, he would need to leave but he would come back for me when I was sixteen years old.
77. I thought Stephen was going to save me. He said he would take me to the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow for my sixteenth birthday and I was to buy a black mini-dress. We were going to run away to Ireland because social work couldn't track us down there. I just had to make sure I didn't say anything. The two of us agreed we would say I was stalking him and it was a mistake. None of the staff ever asked me if I was stalking Stephen.
78. There was only one time the staff asked me about me and Stephen. It was in the smoking room. All the lassies were going to school and I was crying. Mrs Knox, Louisa

Gallacher and Lorraine McKenzie came in and asked me if there was anything going on between me and Stephen. I said of course there wasn't and it was lies. They asked why the girls would say that. I said because they were jealous because I had a good relationship with Stephen and they didn't. That was it. It was short and sweet and they didn't go into anything.

79. I was told I wasn't allowed to talk to any of the girls or the staff. From then on I was only allowed to talk to Mrs Knox, Louisa Gallacher and Lorraine McKenzie. I felt isolated and that made me even worse. I felt like everybody knew what was going on. This all happened just before Christmas. I had a home leave and, when I came back, I found out that Stephen was still working at The Good Shepherd and had been in St Margaret's unit all the time.
80. Just after Christmas, Stephen came over to St Claire's unit and told me he was leaving. He told me upstairs in my bedroom where he gave me my presents. He gave me a Ronan Keating album, a Sekonda watch with a pink face and something else. He said the album was ours. There was a song in it called "It's the Way You Make Me Feel" and Stephen said that was his song to me.
81. Stephen reassured me again. He said as long as I kept my mouth shut, didn't tell anybody and let them believe I was stalking him, then everything would be fine. He promised he would come back for me. I was a loyal person and I chose to keep the secret. I didn't think he would let me down.
82. The last time I saw Stephen, he asked Mrs Knox for permission to take me to Dumbarton Castle. It was 4th February 2001 and was after the night we had run away at Stephen's leaving party. It was his last day and he wanted to say goodbye. Me, Stephen and another lassie from The Good Shepherd went to Dumbarton Castle. We asked the lassie to stay down at the bottom in the car. We walked up what seemed like a mountain and stood at the top.
83. Stephen told me he would never forget me, even if he wanted to. He said the allegation would follow him his whole life and any job he got, they would ask him what the case

with the allegation was. Stephen told me not to think he didn't care about me because he did. Stephen said in life the people you met were like links in a chain, I was a link in his chain and I would always be in his chain.

84. Stephen asked if there was anything I wanted to say to him. I knew it was goodbye but I didn't want to cry or say I loved him. I didn't love him although I cared for him. I didn't say anything. He gave me a cuddle and kiss and we went back to the car. After that day, I never saw Stephen again.

Reporting of abuse at The Good Shepherd

85. When I was taken to see the drug counsellor, I told the counsellor about me and a staff member. I said we were in a relationship and Stephen was coming to see me in Irvine. The counsellor raised a cause for concern and phoned social work and The Good Shepherd. The counsellor told The Good Shepherd what I had said. No report was made to the police. I did not get any other medical attention.
86. My mum was staying in Irvine and Stephen was coming to see me that night. I got home to Irvine and Stephen phoned me. The Good Shepherd had called him and asked if he was going to Irvine to see me at my mums. Stephen said he couldn't come to see me now that I had said something. The counsellor phoned me and I tried to deny what I'd said. I said she had misunderstood me. I didn't go back to the counsellor because she had broken my trust. I wanted to pour it out but I felt I'd poured it to the wrong person.

Leaving The Good Shepherd

87. After Stephen left The Good Shepherd, it was obvious there was something wrong because I couldn't stop crying. I was getting home leave all the time. The staff could see the pain I was in. I was only going to The Good Shepherd two days a week. I was supposed to go back on Sunday but I would push that and go back on Tuesday for my

pocket money. I'd go to school on Wednesday and Thursday and be back out on home leave on Friday with my Friday pocket money.

88. Sometimes The Good Shepherd brought my pocket money to my mum's for me. That was my pattern. I was avoiding school. I was out of sight and out of mind but that didn't bother me. The further I was from The Good Shepherd, the closer I could be to Stephen. It didn't turn out that way but that was how it felt.
89. Three days before my sixteenth birthday I had a children's panel. It was the first time I had seen Pat Greenall for a long time. My mum didn't arrive at the panel. I don't think she wanted me home. In my records it says they believed I was taking drugs and was needing some kind of help. The recommendation was still to let me out of The Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd said that I was okay with that and they felt I could be let home to my mum's house. The panel asked me if I was happy with that and I said yes. I just wanted out because I thought I would get to see Stephen.
90. I was signed out of care in [REDACTED] 2001. The Good Shepherd could have done a lot more for me but they just hushed everybody up. They got me, Stephen and my best friend out of there because they knew it was a massive scandal.

Life after being in care

91. My records say I was to have help getting into a drug clinic, I was to be taken to a doctor to have my mental health checked, I was to have help with housing and I was to have financial support through the throughcare workers. I never got these things.
92. I knew Stephen was coming back for me. I sent Stephen a birthday card every single year to his brother's house where he had stayed. I knew the address because I had been there. Four years passed and Stephen never got in touch. I was heartbroken for years.

93. I saw Pat Greenall, I think she maybe came to see my mum. I asked Pat if there was any way she could get me into The Good Shepherd but Pat said there was no chance. I had only been out for eleven or twelve weeks but I knew being out was the wrong thing. I wasn't ready to be outside. By that time I was homeless again and taking drugs a lot. I took anything I could get my hands on and I was overdosing. I was doing a lot of thieving. I knew it was only a matter of time before I was dead because I didn't want to live.
94. Me and my three sisters were all taking heroin. I was chucked out of my mum's house within three weeks of moving there and went into an emergency placement in a hostel in Kilmarnock. I was allocated a throughcare social worker called Campbell Valentine but I never got any help at all from him. He was my sister's throughcare worker as well. Campbell Valentine was taking heroin. My sister would help him get heroin and he would give her some for getting it.
95. My mum was moving north to get away from me and my sisters. She chucked all of us out and never told us she was moving. My mum couldn't cope with us because we were stealing from her. We saw the removal van and me and one of my sisters decided to go with our mum. There was nothing in Kilmarnock for us and life was crap.
96. I moved north by September 2002 and my mum got me and my sister a flat together. My sister was nineteen years old and I was sixteen years old. I was allocated a throughcare worker who I only saw twice. I got carpets, a cooker and a washing machine. That was the last time I received any help from social work.
97. I met a guy who was 36 years older than me. I was friends with his niece. He told me I was beautiful and followed me everywhere. By September 2002, when I was just turned seventeen years old, I ended up staying at his house. I thought he would look after me but that ended up as severe domestic abuse for thirteen years. We had two children. After he gave me a severe beating, I had a miscarriage. I thought I had brain damage and was dying. When I left him, I went to stay at my mum's. I think he and his son were drugging me with something because it took me a week to come back to reality. He still stalked me after I left. He never let me go until he died four years ago.

98. I did some voluntary work for St Vincent de Paul for three and half years. I like to help people. We picked up furniture and gave it to people who needed it. That's all the work I've done. I went to college once but my ex wouldn't let me go back. I had a job selling windows and he wouldn't let me go back to it. I've always been on mental health benefits.

Contact with abuser after leaving care

99. In 2015 or 2016, Stephen wrote to me through Facebook Messenger. I've got notes of all the messages he sent. He asked how I was getting on and if the staff treated me alright when he left. Stephen said he was sorry for everything he had done and he wanted to say thanks because he owed me his life, since I had kept the secret.
100. I told Stephen about my ex-partner and that I had two sons. Stephen told me about his family and said he and his wife had broken up. He started being sexual, asking what underwear I was wearing. Stephen said he supposed there was no chance of a shag and wanted to book a hotel for us. He said he was coming for me and was at my door. I was shocked. He had tracked my location through Messenger but then said he wouldn't come without an invitation.
101. The next thing I had social work trying to take my kids off me because of my ex-partner. I wondered if it was to do with Stephen because he had just got in contact with me. I asked if he had anything to do with it. Stephen said he was sorry and he didn't mean to cause me stress or upset me. He said he hoped I could forgive him. That was the last of the conversations.

Impact

102. Being in The Good Shepherd has had a massive impact on me. I'm not able to trust anybody. Since I left The Good Shepherd, I've isolated myself. I don't socialise with anybody. I can't communicate with people. It's like I'm in a bubble.
103. I believe my face is a curse. Being pretty got me into situations. When men like you, they don't ask but they just take what they want from you. That's the way it's been all my life. I've tried to commit suicide a few times. For years I couldn't see myself living. There was no help or support. I knew I was never loved and I felt alone. I felt that nobody wanted me.
104. There was a big impact on my education. I sat six or eight Standard Grades. I completely failed my exams because, by the time the exams came, the allegations about Stephen Thomson were made and my mind wasn't on it. I was able to give my heart to my prelims. I passed my prelims and I think I would have passed my exams. If I ever wanted to get a job then I'd have to resit my exams.
105. I felt Stephen was protecting me and I felt safe. The reason I went with my ex was because I believed he would be like Stephen. I thought my ex would take care of me and protect me. If I hadn't had that relationship with an older man in the first place then I would never have got into a relationship with another older man.
106. It wasn't until I looked back at the Messenger messages in January 2020 that I thought, Stephen must have thought I was a slut. I thought Stephen was a predator. All my life I had felt I was loyal to him but I was actually destroying myself. I felt I had a duty to say something. My life would have still been hard coming out of The Good Shepherd but it would never have been what it was like, if it hadn't been for Stephen.
107. I am scared of men. I choke and freeze, even if they're nice. I'm hoping to overcome that in the future. When I moved into the house I'm in now, I felt like I was in a cage because there were men all around me. I didn't feel safe. I was a single female and I didn't know who to trust.

108. I go into episodes all the time where I'm outside my body and it's like a dream. In the past, an episode could last for a week. When I go into an episode I get feelings, not memories. I feel really upset and heartbroken. At the time I don't know what it is about but it messes my full day up. The next day comes and, when I wake up, I know I'm in another world straight away. I'm there but I'm looking through everyone. The past year my episodes have been more frequent but they don't last as long. The episodes last for about two days. I'm learning how to deal with them.
109. Sometimes I dream about The Good Shepherd or Stephen or being at court. When I wake up, my whole day is messed up.
110. I am diagnosed with depression and anxiety. I am hyper vigilant. I feel constantly scared and sick. I am prescribed anti-anxiety tablets. I still get hyper vigilant but the tablets have taken away the feeling of being scared and sick.
111. It takes me a long time to work up the courage to go to any appointments. If I know I have an appointment, I'm up the full night before it. It's anxiety. I worry about what I'll say, if they'll believe me, is what I want to say going to come out properly and will they understand me.

Social work involvement with my children

112. My youngest child was taken from me by social work because of my ex-partner. He wanted my youngest child for himself. My ex and his son told lies about me. Social work blamed me for keeping my kids in an abusive situation. There was a children's panel and, when my ex realised that he wasn't getting the kids but they were going into care, he and his son admitted they were telling lies about me.
113. I got away from my abusive partner and then I had to fight with social work to keep my kids. I had to prove to them that I could be a mum. Social work had obviously read my records. They said that I would be a bad mum. I was shocked. I didn't know how social work could say that to me when they didn't even know me.

114. I was put on a six month contract. They said if I failed at the contract it wasn't foster care the kids were going to, it was adoption. I was terrified of social work. I couldn't understand how they could do that when I hadn't done anything.
115. Social work went on about my mental health. They look on mental health in a bad way. Social work wanted my doctor's records. I was so glad I wasn't on anti-depressants because they were trying to use my history to take my kids. I passed all the tests and got rid of social work. I haven't seen them since.

Reporting of Abuse

116. I got in touch with the Inquiry and was asked if it was okay for the police to call me. I said I would talk to the police. I spoke to the police in January 2020 and they have been brilliant. The police have done an amazing job in putting the case together and they haven't let me down. When I spoke to the police, they never judged me or made any assumptions. They listened to me and I really respect for them for that.
117. The Good Shepherd tried to deny I had even been in the place. They denied there was an allegation about Stephen. They told the police there wasn't a St Claire's unit. The police came back to me and asked if there were other girls in the unit they could speak to. I gave the police my friend's names and they said there was a St Clair's unit. I don't know why The Good Shepherd were hiding that. Once the police spoke to GXC he said I was in The Good Shepherd and he knew who I was.
118. The case nearly never went to court because there were no records from The Good Shepherd. I had to plead with the Procurator Fiscal. I said I knew there would be no records from The Good Shepherd because they never did anything about the allegation or phoned the police and they probably hid my records. I said was it not a case where the thirteen witnesses went into court, said what they had to say and the judge and jury made up their mind who was telling truth.

119. The police wanted my records. The Good Shepherd told the police they were going to burn my records five years ago but they hadn't. The police asked why they were going to burn my records and why they'd changed their mind. The Good Shepherd couldn't give an explanation. I think Stephen's lawyer will be saying there is no evidence but that is because The Good Shepherd never kept any paperwork.
120. The case is going to court and, since I first spoke to the Inquiry, I've been to an identification parade to identify Stephen. I feel that to help myself, I have to confront Stephen and say what I have to say in front of him. I have to go through the court part for me to help myself. That was why I came forward to the Inquiry. I need to do that final bit so that I can move on in my life.

Treatment / support

121. I was diagnosed with depression when I was sixteen years old. That went on for a few years.
122. I had a trauma counsellor. The counselling tried to identify the child's feelings as compared to the adult's feelings about what happened. The counsellor said I had been through a horrific past trauma. The trauma can't be dealt with overnight and will take counselling for a long time. I could deal with the trauma better as an adult. It's the child's feelings that make you think you're all alone. You feel scared and there's a massive feeling of sorrow inside you. I was trying to learn how to regulate those feelings. The trauma counsellor taught me mechanisms to help me calm down.
123. As soon as I got rid of the social workers and had my children with me, I went to the doctors. I told the doctor what had been going on, from The Good Shepherd, to the bad relationship and to the social work relationship, which was one of constant fear. I said what had stopped me from getting help for so long. I had shut down. I had no memory but my memory is coming back. I couldn't put a sentence together without it being confused.

124. I started to get help and I went to a psychologist. The psychologist thought I was the way I was because there was never a point in my life when I was safe. At that time I was barricading myself in my house. I thought someone was coming in and I found things in my house that didn't belong to me. My ex and his son were known for that. I felt my story was real but nobody was listening to me. I went from the psychologist to the psychiatrist.
125. The psychiatrist spoke to me for 45 minutes and decided I had paranoid psychosis. I was put on tranquilisers. I only told the psychiatrist about what was going on in my life at the time. I thought if you talk it causes problems and a problem told is a problem doubled. I felt it was the wrong diagnosis.
126. I didn't go back to the psychiatrist. I didn't want the dosage of the medication put up. I don't take the tranquillisers because I don't like them. I'm a mum and I have responsibilities. I can't be tranquillised when I have two kids who need me. I'm asking for help but it's not helping to knock me out. I take olanzapine once a day. I take tablets that are supposed to make me present but I still go into episodes where I'm not in my body.
127. Recently I felt my life was getting out of control again. I was prescribed antidepressants and anxiety tablets a few weeks back. It took me months to work up the courage to go to doctors. My trauma counsellor helped me write a letter to take to the doctor. Otherwise, with my anxiety, I would forget what I was there for. Sometimes I've got so anxious that I've just left without seeing the doctor. I have had a support worker through Future Pathways since January last year.

Revisits

128. Recently, I went back to The Good Shepherd to try to revisit the past. Before we got over the gates, we were approached by two members of staff. They asked us to leave because there were girls out in the grounds. The Good Shepherd looked completely

different. It looked like the three units had been taken down and I couldn't see the red building that we had been in.

Records

129. I requested my records because I wanted the information from The Good Shepherd. I applied for my records in January 2020 and never received them until May or June. I had to write an email to social work saying I had been waiting a long time for my records and it was my right to see them. They got a solicitor to write back to me. The solicitor said the information I was looking for was possibly with Renfrewshire Council because it wasn't with them. I wondered why they would need to get a lawyer to write back to me. They said some of my files weren't there and the files were here, there and everywhere.
130. I am led to believe there are no records from The Good Shepherd. The records I got were from Kilmarnock social work. I was in The Good Shepherd for two and half and years and only the last six months were in the records. Anything to do with Stephen Thomson wasn't there. I'll maybe find out at court what's happened to my records. I got all my review records. I've downloaded 190 pages but there is a lot more.

Lessons to be Learned

131. The Good Shepherd failed by keeping secret the allegations about Stephen. They should have acknowledged the allegations straight away. They should have followed protocols, especially because two allegations came in. They should have phoned the police and let the police do their job. The Good Shepherd could have helped me by talking to me. The Good Shepherd knew by talking to me I was going to break down and tell them something.
132. The staff knew what was going on with me and Stephen. If one of the team managers had stepped out of their comfort zone and had asked GXC "Why are we

not getting the police in here?" then my life could have been different. I would have been angry at the time but the police would have seen right through me. The police would have seen I was protecting Stephen and done their own investigations.

133. The Good Shepherd could have put more security in the building and stopped the girls from getting into heroin. Security was a massive flaw.
134. They should have rethought their discipline rules. The girls could have been treated differently. The staff didn't need to be so forceful with the lassies.
135. Our mental health should have been assessed when we went in and we might have got help. You can see from my records that something is wrong. We never had any medical attention and we never went to the dentist. Social work say if you don't take your kids to dentist or doctor's appointments then its neglect. The Good Shepherd failed in that way.

Other information

136. This is the final part for me and I don't want to carry it all my life. I need to get my story out there and be listened to. All my life I couldn't talk because nobody would believe me. The Good Shepherd failed me. I was only fifteen years old. Even if I thought I was an adult, I wasn't an adult. I'm continuing with counselling and I'll do my best not to look back at this story again.
137. 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... GHW

Dated... 29.9.21