

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PHW

Support person present: No

1. My name is PHW. I am giving this statement on behalf of my son, PHX who was born on 1997. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to Donaldson's School for the Deaf

2. PHX was born about three weeks prematurely in hospital in .
We have another son who is older than PHX. We recognised there were difficulties with PHX when he was months old because there was no sound. He didn't really cry and he didn't try to talk. He had slow development from the beginning and he never met developmental milestones. He attended the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh and they carried out lots of tests. They concluded that he was suffering from and that he had severe learning difficulties. PHX was also diagnosed with at the age of .
3. PHX started nursery school, which was a mainstream nursery, when he was three years old and he spent one year there. He was developmentally behind and he was a handful. He couldn't speak therefore he was frustrated. He would throw things and scream and he would run away. He then did two further years split between nursery and nursery which was a special facility in . He attended in the morning and in the afternoon. hoped that they could get him to speak but they never did. He was taught

sign along sign language. He had a communication board where he could press pictures and they would speak but it was big and clumsy and PHX was small. It had things like 'I would like coffee' which PHX didn't drink.

4. PHX was eventually given one to one support in nursery by a nurse when he was aged five because he choked very easily. She was trained to assist him if this happened. We had no support at home. PHX didn't gain anything from being in nursery and he left when he was six years old. The local authority wanted to send PHX to primary school which was a mainstream primary school. My husband and I went to look at it but it wasn't suitable for PHX's needs.
5. We then went and looked around both the primary and the secondary school in Donaldson's and we liked what we saw. We knew that Donaldson's had a great record in speech and language and we knew PHX would have speech and language therapy every day which would serve his needs. We told them we were interested in having a place for PHX and Marion Fletcher, the deputy head teacher, came to visit PHX in his nursery placement. She said that she thought they could help PHX. If Donaldson's don't think they can help they don't offer a place.
6. The council didn't want to give PHX a place in a school outwith . Their attitude was that PHX would never speak and never learn so they didn't want to fund a place. I didn't want PHX sitting in a classroom with thirty children with absolutely no speech and no idea of what was going on around him. I just wanted him to be the best he could be and Donaldson's had the best reputation. We had to instruct a lawyer to appeal the council's decision but we won our case and PHX got a place. We were ecstatic.

Donaldson's School for the Deaf, Edinburgh

7. The main building housed the secondary school and administration. The primary school was a new build section at the back and there was a swimming pool next to it. The primary school had about forty pupils and there was roughly the same at

secondary level. The classrooms were mixed sex right up through the school. A lot of the older children were deaf but less so in the younger groups due to advances in medicine like cochlear implants. Donaldson's helped all kinds of children who had issues with communicating.

8. PHX started in [REDACTED]. He was six years old at this stage and he settled well. He was taught British Sign Language. PHX's learning was classroom based and he did swimming once a week. He also did PE. There were five children in PHX's class and there was a teacher and an assistant. His teacher was called Karen Hunter and PHX had a great rapport with her. The classroom assistant was called Jennifer. They did a mixture of signing and speaking depending on the children's needs. The staff were going to help him with going to the toilet, make sure he didn't choke and help him find his way round the building. Janet Allen was in overall charge of Donaldson's but I didn't see her on a day to day basis. Liz Thompson was head of the primary school. Norma McCaskill was his teacher at the end of his primary education and she was very good as well.
9. Donaldson's ran sign language classes during the day and they taught parents free of charge. Eleanor, who was deaf, came in from outside the school to run these classes. I went on a Thursday afternoon. The school put you through the exam and you could get your certificate. I was able to meet other mothers at these classes.
10. Quite a few of the pupils were in residential care but PHX just attended during the day, Monday to Friday. I was never in the residential end of the school but I heard stories about what happened there from other parents. I didn't accompany PHX to school for about the first year but I then took over as PHX's escort because he was too frightened to go to school and there had been some issues with the reliability of the taxi driver and escort. [REDACTED] taxis took over for the rest of PHX's schooling and they were great. I was PHX's escort until he left the school. The education authority were responsible for providing PHX's travel to and from Donaldson's.
11. PHX was provided with a diary which went back and forward between the school and home every day. The teachers put entries in the diary regarding PHX's

performance at school and I wrote updates as well. PHX attended school full day from 9am to 4pm. When I collected PHX after school I was given a plastic card and I collected the child who was holding a card the same colour. The children were all in a hall together-both primary and secondary school children. Nobody supervised this and you could have taken any child.

Routine at Donaldson's School for the Deaf, Edinburgh

First day

12. PHX had to be taxied in so on the first day his taxi and his escort came and picked up my husband, myself and PHX and we went into the school. It was lovely. We just took him into his classroom on his first day and then left him. PHX took it in his stride because he had been at other nurseries. There was a mixture of disabilities in his class. Two children were [REDACTED] and one had [REDACTED], one had [REDACTED]. PHX was the only child who was [REDACTED].

Mealtimes / Food

13. Lunch was provided but PHX took his own packed lunch and parents were welcome to join their child at lunchtime. The meals were nice. They ate in a dining hall which had round tables. There were a couple of pupils and a couple of staff members at every table. The staff were there to help the children and to socialise with them. The dining hall was for both the primary school and the secondary school and they ate together. It was clean and it felt safe. Donaldson's operated an open door policy and I took advantage of that by going to signing classes and then going to the dining hall.

Clothing / uniform

14. PHX wore a school uniform. In primary school it was dark grey or black trousers, a white polo shirt and a maroon sweater. We had to provide his uniform.

Trips / Holidays

15. I think the children were taken into town for outings a couple of times.

Birthdays and Christmas

16. There was a Christmas concert which the parents attended and the school was decorated. Santa came into school and the children got a present and they were once taken to the airport where Santa came along in a fire engine. The religious celebrations of other denominations were also recognised.

Visits / Inspections

17. People would come into the school to perform and show things like guide dogs. Alex Salmond and Princess Anne visited. I can't recall any inspections taking place when PHX was attending the primary school.

Healthcare

18. The school nurses assessed the children annually. They came into the school to check weight and height and they carried out other basic assessments. A specialist child health doctor came in once a year and completed a medical. They would provide reports. At the school medicals every year it was noted that PHX said he was being assaulted in school and a copy of that report went to the school, the education department, his doctor and to us.

Abuse at Donaldson's School for the Deaf

19. PHX was assaulted many times when he was at the primary school, right from the start. [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] and he was jealous of PHX. This resulted in him punching and kicking PHX and he would hit him with things. We appreciated that these children had problems but this behaviour was not being

managed. The teacher would remove [REDACTED] from the room, but when he returned, the situation escalated. A lot of times we witnessed this and other times we were told that it had happened. His primary two teacher was young and I don't think she had taught special needs before. I don't think she had a classroom assistant. The attacks on PHX continued and she didn't seem to be able to handle them.

20. Within a couple of years the attacks became more targeted on PHX and he was getting punched in the face by a couple of the other boys in his class. I requested that PHX be moved to another class and this was done but the attacks continued at playtime and lunchtime. Liz Thompson, the head teacher of the primary section of Donaldson's, was very good. She contacted us when there were any incidents regarding PHX. She was strict but fair.
21. PHX was petrified. It got to the stage where we had to drag him out of the house to go to school and he was hysterical when I went to collect him from school. PHX had a cut on his forehead for most of his schooling which never had a chance to heal because he was always being attacked. He bit his fingernails down to the quick. He didn't bite his nails before he went to Donaldson's.
22. Janet Allen, who was the overall head of the school, left a year before the school moved to Linlithgow and Janice McNeill came in. She called herself the chairperson. Marion Fletcher was deputy head [REDACTED] under Liz Thompson and they also left suddenly when Janice McNeill came. I got the impression that they were bullied out. They were replaced by Mary O'Brien and PZY. Janice McNeill organised the move to Linlithgow. I think this was when PHX was about eleven. PZY became SNR and Mary was more involved with the secondary.
23. At this stage the attacks on PHX were taking place on a weekly basis. We didn't know about a lot of them until somebody told us or the Incident Report Form came out. The school would phone us to say that PHX had been assaulted and that they had completed an IRF and that it had been sent to management. We couldn't get answers from PZY and she was very aloof. PHX was still being hit by the same boys and was terrified. When we moved to Linlithgow everything went out of control.

The people in charge had no control over the staff and they certainly had no control over the pupils.

Donaldson's School for the Deaf, Linlithgow

24. I think the move to Linlithgow took place because the old building in Edinburgh wasn't conducive for the audio equipment due to its high ceilings and thick walls. The school in Edinburgh was a huge building and they weren't using all the rooms that they had. The school in Linlithgow was a new build but there had been a factory on the site previously. Linlithgow was closer to where we lived so this was more convenient for us. You went in through the main door and to the right was the primary school and to the left was the senior school. There was a reception area and the dining room and toilets were close by.
25. In the lead up to going there things were quite bad. There were a lot of complaints about Janice and PZY from other parents. The children were getting beatings from other pupils and they weren't getting as much speech and language therapy as they had been getting previously. The teaching staff weren't as good. Some of the staff moved to Linlithgow but others left and new staff were brought in. You were no longer welcome in the school after the move to Linlithgow. Signed classes for the parents stopped and we weren't welcome in the dining hall. We weren't welcome to visit our children in school. We were informed that the open door policy no longer applied and this was concerning to parents.
26. Getting PHX out of the taxi when he arrived at school was a real problem. Even the mention of school would distress PHX. I escorted him to school and home again the whole time he was in Linlithgow. This was because the situation at school was so bad. Virtually every day he was there, there was an incident. PHX had a male PE teacher, Mr Graham, right up through the primary school and he lost him after the move which devastated him. Mr Graham was brilliant with the boys. I think he was at Linlithgow for a year after the move.

27. The new PE teacher who replaced Mr Graham was called [KKW] and she did not get on with [PHX]. By this stage [PHX] was in 2nd year. [PHX] was terrified of her and she hated him. She told me that [PHX] was a lazy pig. She threatened to throw him out of the minibus when they were going to Dalkeith for a PE trip. She had stopped the minibus and told him to get out. [PHX] can't cross the road. He was in a bad way when he came home. I found out about this from other parents. [PZY] [PZY] acknowledged that it happened and said that [KKW] had been reprimanded.
28. [PHX] got sunburnt because he was outdoors in the sun all day at the PE trip and I kept him off school for two days because of this. [KKW] had put sun cream on the deaf children but refused to put sun cream on a hearing child. [REDACTED] Janice McNeill got involved because I refused to send [PHX] back to school until she phoned me and we had words on the phone. [KKW] refused to take him on sports outings after this. [PHX] had won medals for swimming but she refused to take him again. [PZY] was instructed, in my presence, by Margaret Burnell who was the acting school head, to deal with [KKW] but instead [PZY] stated that [KKW] would just ignore her. I went to school one day to find he was the only child in school because they had taken all the others on a PE outing. The explanation for this was that it was [KKW]'s decision.
29. [PHX] was once punched in the swimming pool by other pupils and somebody tried to strangle him. [KKW] was there along with [PHY] who was her assistant. Other pupils witnessed this and they told us what happened but [KKW] tried to stop them telling. I was once sitting in a meeting and I witnessed [PHX] getting punched in the face. [PHX] was kicked, pushed down the stairs and verbally assaulted while at Donaldson's. One of the boys who regularly assaulted [PHX] got out of school and assaulted people in the town. He was a big boy and the staff were frightened of him.
30. [KKW] put [PHX] on a treadmill one day and [PHY] stuck a pen into [PHX]'s hand. [KKW] increased the speed on the treadmill until [PHX] fell off the back and then she threw him out of the room. Someone from the school phoned me to say that [PHX] had been found in the showers and was really upset. There

was a meeting and I forced [KKW] to apologise to [PHX]. From then on [KKW] and I didn't see eye to eye. It was subsequently denied that this meeting had taken place although I had signed the visitor's book. I also have a note from [KKW] regarding [PHX] not using her treadmill correctly that day.

31. Anytime [PHX] was tired [KKW], [PZZ], [PZY] and [PTZ] made him get up in front of the class to perform a dance and the other children judged him. If the children thought that he wasn't trying, he had to do it again. When I found out about this I went straight to the Board of Governors and demanded that it be stopped. This did not stop, however, until Laura Battles took over and she put a stop to it immediately.
32. [PHX] also kept a [REDACTED]. He carried it with him every day. If [PHX] put his head down when he showed signs of tiredness, the teachers removed the [REDACTED] from him as a punishment.
33. Mr [PHY] poured a cup of water over [PHX]'s head when he was on a treadmill but [PZY] denied there was water anywhere in the gym hall although we have a photograph of [PHX] in the gym hall right beside the water container.
34. I picked [PHX] up from school one day and he had a large bite mark on his upper arm. The teacher, Anne Bain, was with him and she told him to be quiet and told me that [PHX] had fallen off the roundabout. It transpired that [PHX] had been bitten by another pupil. The bite was so bad that it had to be checked at the hospital but no further treatment was required.
35. Liz Thompson left very suddenly. This happened with a few members of staff and there was never an explanation given. You couldn't get answers from [PZY] and she was very aloof. You would go to the parents night and talk to a teacher and a few days later the teacher had gone. This happened with [PHZ]. We were told he had never been a teacher there but it subsequently emerged that he had slapped a young girl who had learning difficulties and they had got rid of him. He was a friend of [PZY] so it was covered up that he had ever taught at the school.

36. When PHX was in the shower two of the boys kicked the shower door off in front of PHY took his trunks off, took him over to the hairdryer which was hot and turned it on his genitals. The school didn't inform us about this incident. They dressed him, put him in his taxi and sent him home. The taxi driver phoned me on the way home and told me that PHX was hysterical and asked me to meet him on the road. I managed to get PHX to tell me what had happened and I phoned the school. I told them that I was en route and that somebody better be at the school to speak to me when I arrived. I attended with my husband, PHX, and my mother. West Lothian Council were informed by me on Monday morning.
37. Mary O'Brien was there and she said she had sent home the boys who had done it. She said it was a bit of fun. I told her that I wanted the police involved. I phoned the police and his doctor. The school wouldn't let the police in. PZY said it was her decision about who gained entry to the school and because the children were deaf she wouldn't let the police interview them. Our argument was that they were deaf but they knew what they were doing. The boys were given half a day on a PlayStation in the residence as a punishment.
38. I knew at least one of these boys had raped a girl in the school twice because her mother had told me. PZY was aware of this and again had stopped the police coming in. It had once happened in front of the teachers and it wasn't stopped. The boys had about targeting a girl called and she was subsequently targeted. The boys touched her and made her perform oral sex on them. PZY's attitude to this was that 'boys will be boys'.
39. We knew there was sexual activity in the residence and we knew a couple of girls in Donaldson's had abortions. This was common knowledge amongst staff and parents. By the time it came to secondary school, where PHX could have benefitted from the social aspects of boarding, it was unsafe. A lot of the children stayed after school for socialisation but I wouldn't let PHX stay because of what was taking place. There were a lot of concerns about what was going on in the

residence and how the children were being looked after. The residential children looked unkempt when they came to school.

40. The primary school and the secondary school children still ate together but the staff no longer sat at the tables with them. The foul language from the children was terrible although PZY said that this was acceptable. Children would hit PHX in the dining hall and the teachers would not intervene. PHX was struck in front of me in the dining hall once and I had words with PZY. For a week after that I collected PHX from school every day at lunchtime and brought him home to have his lunch because they couldn't guarantee his safety.
41. One day I went to collect PHX and PZY wouldn't tell me where he was. She had put him into a room downstairs and he was eating alone. I was concerned about him choking. I was asked to leave without seeing him. I left the school so upset because I didn't know what was going on. After that they said there would be extra people on duty in the dining hall and that he would be safe.
42. The teachers wouldn't listen to PZY because they didn't trust her. People who tried to say what was happening were sacked immediately. We were frightened to ask them anything in case they lost their jobs. There was a core group of four or five of us who really pushed to get the situation resolved. Teachers were writing Incident Report Forms and giving them to PZY but she was never making any files or logging them and they weren't going to the Board of Governors. I believe Janice knew this was going on.
43. After the move to Linlithgow they no longer had an open door policy for parents but they had an open door policy for people from Linlithgow. They brought groups in around the building for tours. People could come into the school every day but on a Friday they had a café. On a Friday anybody could go into the school canteen and buy food when the children were eating. They were also allowed to use the toilets in the school and to take the children to the toilets. We knew this because a couple [REDACTED] said that they had taken PHX to the toilet when they had been in the school building. A lot of the parents complained about this to

Janice McNeill but nothing was ever done. Janice was more of a figurehead and she was very rarely in the school.

44. One day PHX's [REDACTED] phoned me to say that PHX was with him. The school was a significant distance from the main street where the [REDACTED] was. Donaldson's had sent him down the street and he couldn't find his way back. He was about seventeen then. The [REDACTED] saw PHX and went out to get him. I phoned the school to ask where PHX was and they said he was in class. There had not been adequate supervision. If you tried to complain they would ask if I wanted to remove PHX from the school but there was no other school to cater for his needs.
45. PHX was hit with skipping ropes and a pool cue. The pool cue incident was witnessed by PZZ who was SNR at the time. PZZ gave me conflicting accounts about what had happened to PHX. Mary O'Brien and Janice McNeill had left by then. They were suspended towards the end of PHX's time at Donaldson's following an incident involving a member of staff called PWV. PWV was the [REDACTED] worker in Donaldson's who prepared the children from age sixteen to eighteen for leaving school. He took them on trips outwith the school like camping trips. The boys loved PWV because he used to take them out in his car. I first met him during PHX's transition when PHX was sixteen and he talked to me about taking PHX away during the day in his car. I refused to consent to this as I believed PHX would benefit more from being in school.
46. We got an email to say PWV had been convicted of sex offences the day before the children were due to return after the summer. This was the same day it was in the newspapers. Mary, Janice and PZY had known for four years. PWV was eventually convicted of sexually assaulting the son of a staff member in Donaldson's. This staff member had told Janice, PZY and Mary together. PWV was charged and they knew for four years. They knew and continued to let him interact with the children. The fact that the school had hidden the information about PWV for years and that he had continued access to the children was really concerning. If they could hide that, they could hide a lot. We will never know if PWV abused

PHX. The police said they were unsure about how to best question PHX and it was left that we were perhaps better not knowing.

47. Margaret Burnell was brought in to Donaldson's. Her job was to oversee the school until they got a new head. I went to see her immediately after she was appointed and told her about everything which had been going on. She brought PZY and KKW in and we had a meeting. She told them that I was to be given the Incident Report Forms relating to the assaults on PHX but I still didn't get them. I thought Margaret Burnell was gathering information but she didn't submit a report to the Teaching Council hearing. Margaret Burnell told us that PZY had been in over the summer holidays and the school suspected she had destroyed information.
48. Laura Battles was appointed as the new head and I met with her immediately. She was great. Things improved drastically when she took over although Aileen Jamison came in with her and she wasn't great. Laura held Monday meetings and didn't hide anything from us. She came in with clean hands and she has still got clean hands. Colin Spivey, from the Scottish Government, brought a team in and there was a team from outside who came in. They established there was no child protection work ever done and no Incident Report Forms could be found. The police were brought in. Independent teams were brought in, school inspectors were brought in and different staff were brought in.
49. PZY told Laura Battles that she had the Incident Report Forms and that she would send them to me. PZY phoned me one night and we had a row about the reports. She then told me that she knew that PHX was being abused at school but that it wasn't her job to stop it. I told her I would never sleep at night without thinking about what she had said. I went in to speak to Laura Battles the following day and she got me to bring all the diaries in. She phoned me the following day to say that PZY and KKW had been suspended. When PZY was suspended they went to get PHX's file because the police were coming in and it had been shredded. This was October 2015 during PHX's final year at school.

50. When PZY and KKW were suspended Laura Battles notified the Scottish parliament and because it was so bad they implemented something which had only ever been done three times previously. Subsequent to PZY being removed and the Scottish Government taking over it was discovered that Protecting Vulnerable Groups checks had not been done so the school had to close for a week for these to be carried out. Some of the teachers had gone to the press and talked about what was going on and how it was being covered up.
51. The school investigation into KKW was conducted without speaking to PHX. They only spoke to one pupil who denied seeing anything and that pupil was . The other children in PHX's class were never spoken to although at least one child had told her mother that she had witnessed PHX being slapped by KKW.
52. The police interviewed PHX about KKW. This interview took place in the final year of PHX's schooling when the police were investigating KKW. I don't think PHX's interview was conducted properly. If you have a child who has disabilities and you take them into a room with a stranger and a camera, it is never going to work. PHX was terrified because I had to leave him.
53. KKW then returned to Donaldson's. The school lied to us for two days saying that KKW had not returned. I contacted the Scottish Government as soon as I knew that KKW was back in the school and she refused to take PHX on a pre-arranged football trip. The school told me that KKW and PHY would be leaving in the summer. Before they left, the school deemed it to be unsafe for PHX to be around them and so he went to the art department instead. They did leave but I don't know the explanation. I believe that KKW was dismissed from at least one other place before she came to Donaldson's. Another parent wrote to the Board of Governors at Donaldson's to protest about PHX's treatment and she withdrew her son from the trip in protest.

Reporting of abuse at Donaldson's School for the Deaf

54. There were annual parents meetings held at the school. We always brought up the fact that PHX was still being assaulted by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I discussed these concerns with the educational psychologist. This was Alan Hunt for most of PHX's time at Donaldson's and prior to that it was a lady called Margaret. Alan saw him at least once a year. I always informed Alan when PHX was hit and he attended the meetings at Donaldson's about it. KKW's treatment of PHX and the lack of Incident Reports was ongoing since 2010.
55. PHX got a yearly target which we were asked for feedback on and I would always comment on the bullying. At one point the education department were doing a questionnaire and they wrote to us. We wrote back and told them what was happening. They wrote back and said they had noted our comments and that they would be forwarding it to the management in the school but we never heard anything further.
56. We were actively telling people what was happening but there were missed opportunities. If the Care Commission contacted us, this was done via the school and we had to reply via the school. I don't believe the replies were forwarded because they said they didn't receive a single complaint.
57. I went to the school and told PZY I wanted a number for the Board of Governors. She reluctantly gave it to me. I met with Christine Roebuck who was on the board. We told her about what had happened to PHX throughout his time at Donaldson's.
58. I also met Mary Milligan who was an Member of the Scottish Parliament and head of the Board of Governors. She said the board had not been told anything. The Board of Governors refused to meet with us although they did apologise subsequently. They acknowledged that I had written to them but that they hadn't investigated my allegations. My friend whose child was assaulted gave one of the board members

files relating to the assault and he read them, kept them for a year but did nothing because he said he didn't want to get involved.

59. We went to the Teaching Council a few times and the Care Commission. We went to the police. We contacted the Scottish parliament and spoke to Colin Spivey. They were all put in the picture. I reported PZY to Linlithgow police but they never came back to me. The education department, social work, the doctor, the Board of Governors, the police and Scottish Council, the Care Commission were all informed about what was happening in Donaldson's.

Leaving Donaldson's School for the Deaf

60. About a year before PHX left Donaldson's he got a social worker called Vicky Hunter. She was PHX's first social worker and she was fantastic. They tried to remove her from the meetings in Donaldson's but I insisted on her staying. By this stage PHX was attending college for a couple of days a week and he was going to which was an training for a couple of days. It was recognised that PHX was neither safe nor happy within the school. PHY would await PHX's arrival every day and he would block PHX's entry to the school.
61. When PHX was in his final year he didn't get a college place because PZY hadn't provided them with his records. We found this out when we went to the college and asked why he hadn't got a place. There was no transition work being done in Donaldson's because PWV had been the teacher and he had gone. Deborah Bainbridge tried to fill the gap but she wasn't experienced. Vicky Hunter then stepped in and assisted us with the transition. PHX was nineteen when he left Donaldson's in 2016.

Life after Donaldson's School for the Deaf

62. PHX still attends [REDACTED] and they are wonderful there. They took him early so we could get him out of Donaldson's because KKW [REDACTED] came back and PHX was having to face her on a daily basis. She had to stay away from PHX but she was going around the school saying that he was a liar. I tried to help. My friend and I went into the school and gave a talk on how what happens in school affects children at home. KKW attended this talk but she didn't understand how to treat PHX.
63. There was a hearing concerning PZY [REDACTED] in front of the Teaching Council in [REDACTED] 2018. There was a charge that PZY hadn't put guards on the machines in the CDT room and one of breaching data protection legislation. I gave evidence on [REDACTED] in the Teaching Council buildings. PZY's lawyer was really rude to me and he made me cry. I started answering him back and the report said I was belligerent. Several people gave evidence including an educational psychologist from Donaldson's called Douglas Thompson. He was friendly with PZY and had been sacked by Laura Battles. I had only met him twice. He stood up and said that my husband was the worst person he had ever met. They said I had suffered two nervous breakdowns and that I was under psychological care which was untrue.
64. Alan Hunt, and his senior, Jennifer McNiven, were aware of the difficulties regarding PHX in 2009 and there are references to this in his case notes. He denied this when we went to hearing and said there was nothing in his case notes. He didn't attend the hearing to give evidence. I have never heard so many lies from people I thought we could trust. The case was found not proven. Janice, Mary and PZY got away with everything. I can't understand why they didn't bring parents to give evidence and other people who had witnessed things. Alan and Jennifer had case records of PHX's treatment and our requests for PHX to change school placements up until he finally left the school. I have a copy of the educational psychologist's records which prove they were aware of PHX's abuse.
65. PZY was the child protection officer for the school and in my opinion she was guilty. She hadn't signed some of the Incident Report Forms. I have copies of these forms.

PZY should have been punished for failing to keep PHX safe and she never showed any remorse. Douglas Thompson also lied under oath and he is still practising as an educational psychologist. I was devastated by the result of the hearing against PZY. Laura Battles lodged a complaint about the Teaching Council so I am still seeing her. She is trying to rebuild the school and I trust her. I know what happened to my son and I know who is responsible but none of the boys who assaulted him will ever be charged.

Impact

66. PHX was destroyed by Donaldson's. My health was also impacted, particularly following the incident in the shower. I blame myself for choosing Donaldson's. PHX still says that he hated school. I can't drive past the school with PHX in the car and I can't mention the school in front of PHX. PHX can't cope with anybody that looks like KKW. I find it hard to trust people who are looking after PHX now so I can't take PHX in to respite care. PHX won't let anybody, except immediate family and his carer, shower or toilet him. PHX was terrified to go into the shower cubicle at home so we had to install a wet room. PHX had bitten his fingernails off completely but they have grown back now. He is a lot happier and goes into quite happily.

Records

67. A lot of children's files, including PHX's, were destroyed and nobody was held accountable for that. The files relating to the children who had been abused have gone missing. I have refused to hand over PHX's diaries because they are the only record I have of what happened during his time at Donaldson's. We finally received Incident Reports after demanding them over many years because we knew they existed. When I eventually received them they contained details of incidents which I hadn't been made aware of. There were also forms missing.

Lessons to be Learned

68. Teachers in a special needs setting should have additional training. PHX's abuse and that of others happened because stringent checks weren't in place. Children should be safe in the school environment. PHX's ability to learn was impacted due to his fear of the teaching staff and pupils. Parents should have been listened to.

Other information

69. KKW is now taking a special needs class in Academy. I phoned the Teaching Council and complained about this but she is still working there. PZZ is working in a special needs school in . PZZ was easily manipulated and I think she would have done the right thing if she hadn't had the others above her. I have checked and PZY is not on the teaching register.
70. I think there are very few pupils in Donaldson's now.
71. 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.....

PHW

Dated.....

9th December 2019.