

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PKJ

Support person present: Yes

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

Life before going into care

2. I was born PKJ but I assumed the name PKJ when I was thirteen years old, after my mum's boyfriend [REDACTED]. I changed it to that by deed poll when I was twenty or twenty-one. I was born in Sheffield. My dad's name was [REDACTED] and my mum was [REDACTED]. My Nan spelt [REDACTED] wrong all her life, so we aren't sure how it's spelt. My mum's date of birth was [REDACTED] 1960 and I think my dad was a couple of years older than her. Both have now passed away.
3. I have two sisters on my mum's side. [REDACTED], who is forty years old, and [REDACTED]. I think she is thirty-six. I have no contact with them now. The father of [REDACTED] and I was [REDACTED]. I'm not sure who [REDACTED]'s dad is. I have another sister on [REDACTED]'s side. Her name is [REDACTED]. I'm not sure how old she is, I only got in touch with her about three years ago.
4. As I said, I was born in Sheffield then we moved down to the south coast for a while. We then moved to Scotland when I was four or five with mum and her new husband [REDACTED]. They split up when I was about ten. [REDACTED] was a nightmare. We were put into a women's refuge because of the domestic violence from [REDACTED]. As far as I'm aware the police were involved but there wasn't enough evidence. I'm not too

sure when that was. This was when we lived in Twechar, which is a small village between Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth. We also lived in Croy.

5. We were in Twechar for a couple of years before mum had to go to a woman's refuge in Kirkintilloch because of what was going on with [REDACTED]. He used to batter my mum and me. All four of us, my mum, my two sisters and me went to the refuge. We left it after about two months and went to a flat in Croy.
6. The next thing I knew, [REDACTED] had moved back in with us. They eventually got divorced in 1995, then later my mum found out about the sexual abuse on [REDACTED] and tried to kill herself. She hadn't been aware of the abuse on [REDACTED] or me when they were together. A perfect example of this was when I fell off my bike and broke my wrist. [REDACTED] just put me to my bed. It wasn't until two o'clock in the morning of the next day, when my mum came home from work, that she took me to the hospital.
7. For months leading up to it I would go out in the morning with the dog up the mountain and stay out all day for fear of getting hidings from [REDACTED]. My little sister [REDACTED] wasn't abused, she was his little princess. She never saw anything and never heard anything. [REDACTED] had three sons and they came up on the holidays. I was the youngest but we would all be grounded for the same reason. I would cry and he would almost put me through walls, throwing me against them, saying, "Stop crying or I'll give you something to cry about".
8. I went to Twechar Primary School then Holy Cross Primary School in Croy before going to Cumbernauld High School. I left there in second year I think. I get confused as they work the years out differently down here in Wales from what they do in Scotland.
9. The police never spoke to me right up to when I went to Bellshill Children's Home. I remember them at the house, but don't know what they did. I would be about twelve at the time and just hide out most days in my room. One time my mum was on her knees, cleaning something, and [REDACTED] kicked her on the back so hard she flipped on to her stomach. She had three prolapsed discs and was in a wheelchair for a while.

10. The social services were never involved with us because of the abuse. They were involved with [REDACTED] because she was the naughty one. They didn't take [REDACTED] or me into account until we went to the children's home. I remember them coming out to see my little sister. I don't know why. I didn't speak much. I don't know if it was because of things she was doing at school or what. I never spoke to anyone about the abuse that went on at the house until I went to Bellshill. I was too scared.

11. In [REDACTED], 1996, my mum had a drink problem as she found out that [REDACTED] had been sexually abused by [REDACTED]. I walked into the bedroom and she had slit her wrists and taken a massive overdose. I shouted for [REDACTED] then shut the bedroom door to hide it from [REDACTED]. I called for an ambulance. My mum was taken away in the ambulance and we were taken to Bellshill. Her and [REDACTED] had divorced about eighteen months before.

Bellshill Children's Home, Bellshill, Lanarkshire

12. We were taken by social services out the house. I can't remember if we spent a night somewhere else first, I just remember being at Bellshill. My mum was sectioned and all three of us went to the home. I can't remember the names of social workers and I can't remember the time of day we went there. We stayed there for three or four months. I remember being told that we would be staying there until my mum was better. I would have been twelve at this time.

Routine at Bellshill Children's Home, Bellshill, Lanarkshire

First day

13. I remember looking at the building and being taken into the office. I remember thinking, what the hell's happening and what's going to happen with my mum. They put us there to keep us all together. We were on the first floor and the girls were in a room at one side of the landing and I was at the other end. I saw them regularly. There were three groups in the children's home, the boys, the girls and a mixed group. We were put on a mixed floor. So I was on the same floor as the girls. They

shared a room, I had a room of my own at the other end of the landing. As you walk in there were stairs on the left and an office on the right. There was a corridor that took you down to the games room, with a pool table and table tennis table amongst other things, at the end of it. The girls group was downstairs on the ground floor, the mixed group and the boys were on the first floor. It was all set on two levels. I think a woman called Nancy met us. I can't remember her surname. All I remember was that she was our key worker. The only other member of staff whose name I knew was RKK. All the other staff were called, 'Staff'. I don't know what RKK or Nancy's positions were at the home. There were three separate groups, Nancy and RKK were mostly with our group and the other staff would flit between groups, so I never knew everyone.

14. There were about twenty kids altogether. My little sister was the youngest there, she was ten, I was twelve and the oldest was eighteen. There were more boys than girls. In our corridor there were three bedrooms, then an office, a living room, a dining room and four other bedrooms. I could go up and see my sisters but I would need the permission from a staff member to go into their bedroom. The staff were on a kind of rota and would do different shifts, including overnight.

Mornings and bedtime

15. We were wakened up about 6:30 am by someone banging on the room doors. Our breakfast was sent up from the canteen to our dining room. We would then get a taxi to Cumbernauld High School. On finishing school we would go back and spend an hour or two in the games room. Dinner would be sent up like the breakfast then we could watch TV in the living room and that was it. We could go out and play football and things like that during the day too.
16. I would be in bed for 9:00 pm or 10:00 pm, the older children would go later. It wasn't a religious place at all. The only place that was, was Holy Cross Primary School. I had everything I needed in my room.

Mealtimes / Food

17. The food was like cheap sausages, cereal and toast. It was on a budget but edible. You got things like shepherd's pie and fish and chips. It was adequate. The staff didn't eat with us. I ate what I was given because of how it had been with [REDACTED]. If it was put in front of me I would eat it. That was drilled in to me. I sat with my sisters but I can't recall if they ate everything, I can only speak for myself. [REDACTED] is a funny eater.

Washing / bathing

18. There was a toilet and shower next to my bedroom which was shared by a couple of us. It was ok. There was no bath that I can remember. You had privacy in the shower.

School

19. School was ok. I bunked off once in the afternoon. Staff from the home called in and found out so my punishment was supervised pocket money, which meant they watched every penny I spent. I wasn't having any educational issues, I was doing ok. After I left the children's home my education went downhill.

Leisure time

20. We got pocket money on a Friday. The staff would take some from us for organised activities like ice skating and swimming, which left about four pound fifty. You got a different amount depending on how old you were. There was a shop round the corner that you could spend it in. We could go to the football pitch round the corner or things like that. There was a pool table, table-tennis and a TV. I never read. You could listen to music, but only down in the games room.

21. There were a couple of boys I got on with in the home. [REDACTED]'s boyfriend [REDACTED] and his best friend, [REDACTED]. His name was [REDACTED] I think, but everyone called him [REDACTED]. He was about seventeen and [REDACTED] was about sixteen.

Work/chores

22. We had to keep our bedroom clean and make our bed. No rubbish or clothes on the floor. My bedroom was always tidy as I would get a hiding from [REDACTED] at home if my room was a mess.

Trips / Holidays

23. We would go ice-skating at the Time Capsule or swimming at the Aquatec. I once got pushed, face first into the barriers. I know it was [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], but I don't know which one.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

24. We were taken to visit our mum in Monklands Hospital every other week. It was horrible. It was a secure unit in a psychiatric hospital, so every door was locked. We would be put in the day room and my mum would be brought in. We would see other patients in the place, which was very uncomfortable. At that age we weren't really sure why mum was there, and why they were keeping her there. No-one explained it to us.
25. We had no visitors at Bellshill. We had no family in Scotland. Social workers would come and see us. I have no idea of any of their names. We would have reviews and be told we were staying there a bit longer. I didn't tell them I was being beaten up or touched by the member of staff. I thought they would be told about the assaults by members of staff at the home. I was told that staff would write reports at the end of the shift. I would go into the office sometimes and whoever was there would ask me to give them a minute while they finished writing their report.

Healthcare

26. On one occasion my sister fell on the ice rink at the Time Capsule. I bent over to help her up and got pushed from behind by [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. As a result my sister's skate cut my back and I had to get butterfly stitches at the first aid room at the Time Capsule.
27. I would have bruises and swelling sometimes from the assaults, black eyes and burst lips, but I didn't get any medical assistance. I broke my glasses numerous times. I would tell the staff how it happened. I would get new glasses but nothing would be done about it. The staff would shout at me for breaking them. I can't remember being ill while I was there.

Running away

28. I didn't run away from the home but I had to run outside one night as I saw [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] coming towards my room and I knew what they were going to do. I ran out of the fire exit, down the stairs and into the back garden. I shouted to staff but no-one came. I eventually went back in myself and back to my room and they had gone. I didn't tell anyone about it.

Bed Wetting

29. I wet the bed sometimes. I stripped it and put the bedding into the washing. I didn't tell anyone as I would get a hiding when I was at home if it happened. My sister would get me fresh bedding. The staff didn't know as far as I'm aware. I don't know how they would have dealt with it.

Discipline

30. You would be grounded on Friday night if you misbehaved and weren't allowed to go ice-skating, even though it came out of your own pocket money. There were no physical punishments.

Abuse at Bellshill Children's Home, Bellshill, Lanarkshire

31. We would play football and I would fight constantly with the other children from the home. I remember one day a staff member was sitting in the living room. I can't remember who it was. I walked in and he told these two boys, [REDACTED], who was fifteen, and [REDACTED], who was fourteen, to get me. Basically these two boys took a dislike to me. I would fight them constantly. It was always the two of them. I can't remember their surnames. The staff would watch a lot as this happened.
32. One time I was walking up the stairs and the older one, [REDACTED], kneed me in the balls, really hard, in front of a staff member. I can't remember who it was. I'm not sure if they called an ambulance for me that night, but after that for just over a week a member of staff told me to drop my trousers to inspect them, it was meant to be a sort of medical but he would touch and feel them. I don't know his name.
33. [REDACTED], who was great with me, he was sixteen, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] all had their own rooms at my end of the corridor. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shared a room. I'm pretty sure it was [REDACTED] that kneed me. It was very sore. There was swelling and bruising. I think they sent for an ambulance. I hit the floor and was carried into my bedroom. I think someone came to see me, it's a bit hazy. I don't think I went to hospital.
34. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] fought me countless times. I remember we played football and the two of them jumped me in front of staff members who were on the side lines. They were punching me and kicking me. I would be bruised, get black eyes and my glasses were broken regularly. I wondered why this was happening, I was the youngest boy there. I felt defenceless. It was very rarely stopped by staff. I would get shouted at for breaking my glasses.
35. As I said, we went ice skating one time and my sister fell. I bent over to help her up and was pushed over. My sister's skate hit my back and cut it. I had to get butterfly stitches in the wound at the Time Capsule. I don't know which one pushed me, it was either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Another time I was pushed into a barrier face first. The staff kept taking me back every week. There was no separation.

36. The fighting happened a couple of times a week. It started a couple of weeks, maybe a month, after I arrived at Bellshill. I wasn't aware of it happening to anyone else. You could lock your room door if you were fourteen or above, so I wasn't allowed to lock mine. That was a staff rule. I would wake up some nights with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in my room and they would set about me. A lot of the staff were aware. RKK and Nancy were aware, so I didn't feel I could speak to any of them about it.
37. I can't remember why, but one time RKK [REDACTED] took me and my two sisters to his house. His wife was there. I don't know her name. She actually gave my little sister a 3D picture of Winnie the Pooh. She still has it to this day. I don't know if they had children of their own. It was mid-afternoon and we went in the mini-bus from the children's home. I don't know where he stayed. Sometime during the visit, I was left to watch TV and he took my sisters away somewhere for an hour or two. I thought he was caring for us, taking us out of the children's home. Why did he take us there? My sisters have never told me that anything happened to them, but there's something in my head. Why would he do that?
38. RKK always spoke to us politely. He never abused me, he was ok, but he did know of the abuse by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Most of the staff would have known about it. I heard a few years after I left Bellshill that some of the other boys heard about it and [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] was beaten up because of it. I don't know why either of them were at Bellshill. I believe [REDACTED] ended up in a secure unit either just before or just after I left.
39. Nancy and RKK were both in their late thirties or early forties. She had reddish, blond hair. RKK had dark hair and was big built. I have no idea if either of them are still alive. The member of staff that sexually abused me had dark hair. I don't know anything else about him.
40. My big sister saw me being assaulted by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I don't believe any of my sisters were abused by anyone while we were in Bellshill. They weren't aware of me being abused by the staff member. I never told them.

Reporting of abuse at Bellshill Children's Home, Bellshill, Lanarkshire

I didn't report the physical abuse I suffered at the children's home because a lot of the staff witnessed it. I thought they would do something about it. I was too scared to speak about the sexual abuse.

Leaving Bellshill Children's Home, Bellshill, Lanarkshire

41. A week before [REDACTED] my mum was released from hospital and got a flat in Cumbernauld. We all moved straight back in. I can't remember who took us. She had moved in with her boyfriend, [REDACTED]. She met him at Monklands hospital. He had been sectioned as well. We went back roughly at the same time as they moved in. We met [REDACTED] at Monklands. Him and mum would get a day release now and again and take us out. He was ok for about six months. He seemed like a nice guy. He taught me fishing.
42. Mum and [REDACTED] started drinking heavily and overdosing on [REDACTED] regularly. [REDACTED] saw these things happening and moved out when she was fifteen. I would run away to [REDACTED]'s but before I got there my mum would call her and blame me for her taking an overdose because I had ran away.
43. I remember [REDACTED] slit his wrists and [REDACTED]. My mum smashed the window. I had to jump over him and cut my finger going through the window. He had cut [REDACTED]. I had to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] so that the ambulance crew could get in. I was thirteen at the time. On another occasion he took an overdose and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He saw me at the end of it, called me over and I had to stand there and go toe to toe with him until his overdose kicked in. He tried to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. When he collapsed I put him in the recovery position then ran down to the house and got the ambulance that was sitting waiting outside and took them to him.
44. A few weeks later I saw something was about to happen in the house. Mum and [REDACTED] were drinking heavily. I was telling [REDACTED] to get out of the house. She

wouldn't leave. I had to hit her and she ran out of the flat crying. Within minutes mum and I were in the bedroom. [REDACTED] tried to cut his arm off [REDACTED]. He threw my mum out of her wheelchair and she broke her leg in two places. I threw a bunch of keys at him just to get him away from my mum. I was wakened up by the police. He was remanded in Barlinnie for assaulting my mum and attempting to murder me. He had strangled me. They ended up putting him in Hartwood Hill maximum security mental hospital. I was told I had to give evidence, and when the professional people were in the house my mum would agree with them. When they left she said I shouldn't give evidence. My sisters told me this too, saying I would be a 'Grass', so there was never a trial. Mum took him back when he was released from hospital. For about a year I remained in the family house.

45. What I don't understand is, when we left Bellshill we were still under the care of social services but there was very little social work involvement. My mum got a home help when her leg was broken. I had a go at one of the home helps. She came in the house, fed me and my little sister but there was nothing for my mum.
46. I would tell my guidance counsellor, Mr Campbell, at Cumbernauld High School, what was going on, [REDACTED] slitting his wrists, mum taking overdoses and he just shrugged it off and told me to get on with it. I took time off school to look after mum when she had the broken leg. Empty her commode and things like that. She had home helps, but as I said, they told us they were there to feed [REDACTED] and me, not my mum.
47. We left Cumbernauld when my mum and [REDACTED] basically done a moonlight flit one night. I think it was to stop [REDACTED] and me being taken by social work. I was told never to speak about it again. At 11:00 pm one night, [REDACTED] and my mum, [REDACTED] and I left and drove to Bristol. We spent a month there at my uncles then my mum got in touch with her cousins in Cwymbran and we moved there. I stayed with my cousin [REDACTED], [REDACTED] went to his sister, [REDACTED]'s. Mum and [REDACTED] stayed with Auntie [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s mum.

48. We got to Wales on New Year's Eve. I stayed with [REDACTED] for two months then I moved into the house with mum and [REDACTED]. One night they were arguing. I was meant to be babysitting for [REDACTED]'s kids in the morning and told them to shut up. It was 2:00 am. Mum and [REDACTED] came up to my bedroom. Mum held me down and [REDACTED] started hitting me. I managed to flick out a couple of times and hit him back and they left the bedroom. I'd had enough and was going to leave but [REDACTED] was at the bottom of the stairs. He said, "Come on then", gesturing me to come down the stairs. I then tried to go out the window and he was in the garden and said, "Come down then". I walked down the stairs and started fighting with him. He held me against a window so I headbutted him. He said, "Do you think that's funny?" He then headbutted me twice. I picked up a lamp and hit him over the head with it. I jumped on him and carried on hitting him until the police pulled me off him. I was arrested and taken to my cousin's house. [REDACTED] came round the next morning wanting to speak to me and my cousins told him where to go. The social services came out and I said to my mum, "If he stays, I can't". She said, "He's not going anywhere". I was devastated. I was put into a foster placement until I was sixteen. I was never charged for assaulting [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Cwymbran, Wales

49. I went to stay with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] until I was diagnosed with cancer. I was there from the [REDACTED] when I was fourteen until the [REDACTED] when I was sixteen. My mum and [REDACTED] split up when I was eighteen or nineteen. He went back to Scotland and killed himself when I was about twenty, around 2004 or 2005. My mum had told me I wasn't allowed to visit during the time [REDACTED] was there. I was devastated. Even my sisters took his side because they didn't see anything. That's why I don't get on with them now. So I'd ask permission to see my mum, then when [REDACTED] turned up I had to leave.
50. My mum signed me over to social services when I said I can't stay if [REDACTED] stays, so I went to stay with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in [REDACTED], Cwymbran. They made me feel safe. I could fall asleep on the sofa with [REDACTED] sitting watching the television and

not worry about being assaulted. [REDACTED] had racing pigeons and had raced them for years. That was good.

51. I was fostered along with two brothers, [REDACTED], the youngest, passed away. He was sniffing deodorants. When he passed away I stopped going to school. I was there until year eleven. I bunked off a lot. I would go to my form in the morning and afternoon then be off the rest of the time.

Life after being in care

52. I was diagnosed with cancer just after my sixteenth birthday. I was meant to join the army. I had to tell them about my diagnosis and they told me I couldn't join. I moved back to my mum's house as she wanted to look after me. I went there, fell out with my sisters and [REDACTED] came back, so I had to go. They were all having a go at me. I called my social worker, Simon Dovey. He turned up and tried to get me to go back to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s house. My space had been taken so I went to supported lodgings. I lived with a couple called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were brilliant with me. I was there from when I was sixteen until I was nineteen. It was still in Cwymbran, about a mile and a half from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s house.
53. I had my own flat for a few months and met my daughter's mother, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I found out [REDACTED] had died around then. Because I couldn't join the army I worked in a pub. Because of my work ethic I was put through all my licenses and qualified to run my own pub. [REDACTED] didn't like the hours I worked so I learned butchery. I done that then became a multi-skilled builder, then went back to butchery. I had my own shop a couple of years ago. I am out of work at the moment. My last job was at Euro Foods. Everything is Halal. I worked with two boys there, one was a white British chef, the other was from Afghanistan and the rest of them were Asian. I was basically told that I didn't know what I was doing because I wasn't Asian and they snapped my knives. I went in there kicking off and demanded that my knives were replaced. They cost me nearly four hundred pounds. I had them replaced and was told never to go to the place again.

54. I have had a few breakdowns over the years, but in general life picked up with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
55. In respect of the cancer diagnosis, I've had three operations and every test you could think of. I was going in for three week intensive chemotherapy, walked in to the consultant's room and he told me I haven't got cancer. It took them four years to tell me. I was told it was progressive transformation of the germinal centred lymph nodes, basically over active glands. I jumped up, shook the consultants hand and said, "I hope I never see you again".
56. So I tried to join the army at twenty or twenty-one but I was told I had to be all clear for four years. When I was twenty-five I was too set in my ways.
57. I changed my name to [REDACTED]'s name basically to make things easier at home, just after the children's home. My daughter is [REDACTED]. She's nearly sixteen. She is actually [REDACTED]'s great niece. I've fought for rights to see her since she was eighteen months old. I tried mediation with her mother five or six times now. It always came down to her saying I wasn't there for [REDACTED], but she stopped me so many times. I'd build it up to overnight contact then she would stop it. I wouldn't see [REDACTED] for another nine months to a year, then I'd have to build it up again. That's stuck in my daughter's head.
58. I have been with my present partner for five years. Her name is [REDACTED] too. She has three kids, [REDACTED] who is seventeen, [REDACTED] who is thirteen and stays with her dad, and [REDACTED] who is twelve. He has ADHD and suspected autism.
59. I found out about the Inquiry by Googling the children's home after my partner [REDACTED] asked me about my time there. It was the first thing that came up. I broke down and I'm not really that emotional.
60. I've only ever been back to Scotland twice since I've been down here. When I was staying with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] they paid for me to spend a week with my sister when she was still living up there, and I went to Edinburgh with some boys I used to work

with. I've always said to [REDACTED] that I need to go to Scotland and bury a few ghosts. I've got my motor bike test next week. I'm going to do a tour of Scotland with a couple of mates from a club I go to and they've said wherever I need to go they will take me.

Impact

61. I take anti-psychotics now. I've been on anti-depressants on and off for years, since I was about twenty-three. I was diagnosed with PTSD and chronic depression, which I was told was linked to [REDACTED], the children's home and [REDACTED]. The social work got me on anger management courses after fighting with [REDACTED]. They didn't last. I went back to college when I was seventeen, when I was diagnosed with cancer to study psychology to try to figure out what was going on with myself. I done a lot on aggression. My tutor said my understanding was brilliant but the way I was learning psychology was the wrong way because I was doing it on personal experiences, although we'd had the discussions that psychology wasn't an exact science.
62. I've spoken to doctors, I've had counsellors for my drinking and drug taking, since I was seventeen up until about three years ago. I am on a waiting list. I was seeing a clinical psychologist until three years ago, but it was making me worse. I don't think I was ready. I am on Quetiapine, which is an anti-psychotic drug and I have bad circulation from my bike accident. After seeing all the overdoses when I was younger I try to avoid [REDACTED].
63. I have suffered from nightmares for years. I would fall asleep with the television on, after people being in my room when I was asleep at Bellshill. Even now I fall asleep with the television on. It does my partner's head in. She says I'm never far from something I could use to hit someone with in my flat. My door is always locked now.
64. Until I could control them, I would have panic attacks if people were behind me, or too close, as most of the attacks at the children's home were from behind me, or if I didn't like the look of someone. It would be like my head exploding and having a

heart attack at the same time. I can't breathe. I can get myself out of it now. Before that I was on medication to pre-empt it.

65. My education was impacted when we were in the children's home. You didn't know what was going to happen, where we were going to go. So when I went to school I wasn't concentrating.
66. My family have always said to me not to speak about life in Scotland. I'd ask my mum why things happened. My mum wouldn't give me any answers, then my sisters would have a go at me because I'd have upset my mum.
67. I distance myself quite a lot from relationships with people because of the sexual abuse. I've always had a severe distrust of people, especially men. A bit because of [REDACTED], mainly in the children's home, then escalating with [REDACTED]. There's questions I can't get answered because the people who could answer are all dead.
68. I had a distrust of my male supervisors. They say one thing but you know they mean something else. I was in one job that I had to quit as I was being bullied terribly. I went to the doctor and told him I feel like that twelve year old boy again. He said, "Things can't be that bad. What do you do?" I told him I was a butcher. He gave me a line for a month. He could have referred me to a counsellor. Down here the waiting list for counselling is over twelve months. I would take counselling now if I was offered it. I did go to a clinical psychologist but I wasn't ready then.

Reporting of Abuse

69. I have never made any official report to the police in relation to the abuse I suffered at Bellshill Children's Home. I was only there a few months and didn't have any contact after I left.

Records

70. I have requested my records from North Lanarkshire social services. I have been told I will be sent them by the sixteenth May this year. I got an email from them this morning. I have been accepted by Future Pathways. They are calling me again next week to go over things that could improve my life, like counselling, protective gear for my bike, etc.

Lessons to be Learned

71. My guidance counsellor at school could have done something or said something. Staff at the children's home could have done something, raised concerns. I have made a promise to myself that I won't be anything like those who abused me. My step-son lives with me. He has ADHD and suspected autism. He can be hard work. He has thrown a bottle of pop over me and shouted and swore at me to the extent that a neighbour contacted the police, but I would never treat him like I was treated. He was beaten by his dad, but he realises I'm not going to treat him like that. So now he has no fear as a consequence.

Hopes for the Inquiry

72. I would like to see places like Bellshill shut down. They need tighter controls in what the staff are actually doing. There should be regular checks. Staff need to report things, just like the school needed to report things.
73. We shouldn't have been released into my mum and [REDACTED]'s care when they came out of a psychiatric hospital. There's neglect from social services there.

Other information

74. 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.

PKJ

Signed.



Dated.....

12/05/22