

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IHX

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is IHX. My date of birth is 1970. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow and after that we lived in various addresses in the Dennistoun area. At the start I lived with my mum and dad and my older sister. My mum is called and my dad's name was and my sister is called. My sister is three years older than me.
3. Growing up I was going to Garrowhill primary school. To me, everything at home was alright until my dad left when he and my mum split up. I think I was nine or ten when that happened. I don't remember what life was like after he left until my mum got a new boyfriend and that was when things started to go wrong. I didn't get on with him. His name was. I would fight and argue with my sister all the time. He would keep me in all the time and I was always grounded.
4. One time he said I'd taken money out of his pocket and I remember was at the sink doing the dishes and she stuck up for me. I don't know how she knew I hadn't been near the cupboard that morning, but she was saying I hadn't done it to the point that ran out of the house. Then did the smart thing and went out of the house and ran round the back and he ran out after her, but he went to the front when she was hiding round the back. The whole place was in uproar, my aunties were

there and everyone was so upset because [REDACTED] hadn't been seen for two hours. I think [REDACTED] went to our dad's and she went on to live there. I took the Hoover up the stairs at my mum's and was kidding on that I was hoovering my room. I left it running and came down the stairs and sneaked out. I don't think I was back at my mum's house after that and I spent a lot of time in Govan at my sister's and my dad's. I just kept running away and going back there.

5. I remember my dad coming over on the Sunday night and taking me back to my mum's. Then the two of them agreed I would stay there for a week at my mum's until my dad got school sorted for me, and then I was going to live with him. That week was a nightmare. I just didn't get on with my mum's boyfriend at all and he was living in the house. I think I was twelve when I went to live with my dad.
6. There was no social work involvement with me or the family after [REDACTED] moved in with my mum. When I lived with my mum there was once or twice when I didn't go to school when I should have done. I was just trying to do what everyone else did.
7. When I went to live with my dad he got me into school at Govan High School. [REDACTED] was at another school. I was starting in first year there and I just didn't go to school. Anytime I contacted my old friends they would say they weren't going to school and I should go and meet them.
8. Social work became involved when I went to see them myself. I'd met up with one of the girls from my mum's area. We were desperate for a fag so we decided we would take the fifty pences out of the gas and electric meters. We managed to break into a meter and took a pound out of it and that was enough for ten fags back then. I didn't get caught and my dad never noticed. Maybe a week later I did it again and when he found out I can remember him being angry. My dad had never laid a finger on us, but I can remember saying I'm not going back there.
9. I went to Govan Social Work Department in the town hall and it was only a couple of minutes away from my dad's. I told them I wasn't going back. One of them took me

back round to his house and I remember her and my dad agreeing I would go into care. I kept saying "I'm not staying here" because I thought he was going to kill me. I was young and I didn't think and I just thought I'd be in there for a week then my dad would come and get me. It never happened. Basically, I put myself into care. I didn't know what care was. I always remember the social worker's name was Hazel [REDACTED]. She worked at Govan town hall.

10. I remember sitting in my dad's living room with the two of them and I don't remember anything else until I was actually in Park Lodge. I don't remember anyone taking me there. I just remember being in there.

Park Lodge children's home, Calderwood Road, Newlands, Glasgow

11. I think I was twelve years old when I went into Park Lodge. It felt like I was in there for a lifetime, but I think I was in there for just a few months. Maybe six months at the most.
12. It was like a big house. When we came in the door there was a room with a dining table and it was also the living area. There was another room and when I was first in there and the boys were in that room. Next to that was a kitchen and then you went through a wee area and it took you through to the laundry room. On the other side of the living room was our bedroom. We did eventually swap and I don't know the reason why. Then you went through and out of the back door.
13. I remember the big stairs being in the middle and as you went up, on one side there was a small bedroom. There was a family of three children in the home and the older one had a wee cupboard that they made into a room. At the top of the stairs was the office. I don't remember if there was anything else, but there must have been bedrooms somewhere up the stairs because there was a couple of people up the stairs. I just can't picture those bedrooms.

14. My bedroom was down stairs. That was a big room with three beds in it. I don't remember how many beds were in the boys' room. The toilet was between my bedroom and the living area.
15. It was a home for boys and girls. I can remember some of their names. There was a boy called [REDACTED]. I don't know if he was Italian as he had sallow skin. He got the same bus as us to school. I think he was about my age, maybe slightly younger. There was a boy who was a bit strange and I was wary of him. He was maybe two years older than me. I think he was called [REDACTED]. Then there was a younger one who was from the family of three. He must have been about nine or ten at the time and he was tiny. His name was [REDACTED]. I think he was the youngest. There was the boy who was always in the office. He was a coloured boy. When I try to think of his name I keep coming up with [REDACTED]. He had really bad mental health. I don't think he walked well. Things like that scared me when I was that age.
16. I think the oldest child in the home was [REDACTED]'s sister. She was in a single bedroom half-way up the stairs. I'm sure her name was [REDACTED]. I think she was perhaps aged fifteen or sixteen. She had a boyfriend called [REDACTED] in there and the two of them were always in the room and kept themselves to their selves. In my bedroom there was a girl called [REDACTED], one called [REDACTED] who was from the family of three and myself. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]'s older sister. I think [REDACTED] was a wee bit older than me and [REDACTED] was a year younger than me. [REDACTED]'s brother was the youngest boy called [REDACTED]. I think there was about eleven children in the home that I can remember.
17. There were some bedrooms up the stairs and I think I remember a boy called [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. He was up the stairs and that's how I know there were bedrooms up there.
18. I don't think the children spoke to each other about why they were in the children's home. I don't remember [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] ever mentioning their family so they could have been in the children's home because of what was happening in their family home. Whenever I spoke to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] from my room I don't remember telling them any of my business.

19. I don't remember staff. I try to picture the staff and I just can't do it. I've tried so hard. Someone has said I've blocked the memories for a reason. There was an office up the stairs. Now that I'm older and I realise more about mental health, there was another boy and he had really bad mental health and they paid more attention to him. He was always in the office with them.

20. I remember one lady, but not what she looks like. I remember her being really nice. She must have lived near Park Lodge. I remember asking her when she was next on night shift because nothing bad ever happened when she was there. She'd tell me what nights she was on. I remember leaving the home when I shouldn't have been out at that time of night and going along the way to meet her. That's how I think she lived quite near.

Routine at Park Lodge

First memories

21. The staff weren't very nice. I remember coming down the stairs and somebody had hold of my hair. That was quite early on. From the start I was off. I woke up just once feeling happy in there and it was because my mum had come to see me. I remember being happy that day. If my mum hadn't been coming that day I would have been miserable and I would have been away.

22. I can still smell Park Lodge.

Mornings and bedtime

23. I don't remember getting woken up, if we woke up ourselves or if they woke us up to go to school. I don't remember what happened in the evening and how we got to bed. A lot of the time I wasn't there.

Mealtimes / Food

24. I remember sitting at the dining table when I first went in and I had soup. I have no memory of sitting at that dining table in Park Lodge again.

Washing / bathing

25. Toilet doors were never locked. The locks were always broken on them.

Clothing / uniform

26. I don't remember having clothes in Park Lodge or where I would have kept them in the bedroom.

School

27. I remember going to the bus stop to go to school and the boy called [REDACTED] was there too. I was still going to Govan High School. Most of the time I went to the bus stop and when they got off to go to school I got off and went to meet friends. I wasn't attending school much.

Leisure time

28. I'm assuming it was on a Saturday we used to get money, it was something like £1.50, and I remember walking along towards Shawlands. Every time I got this £1.50 I used to buy a sandwich and pack of crisps and a carton of juice and that was for my dinner. That was every week.
29. I never saw any toys or books or comics for kids. These things could have been there and I just don't remember them.

Visits / Inspections

30. I don't ever remember seeing a social worker in the home. I must have had one, but I don't remember. The first social worker I had when I left my dad's was called Hazel and I don't remember seeing her after that.
31. My mum came up once. My dad didn't come and he was probably still angry at me. My sister didn't come to see me at Park Lodge, but she did when she was older and I was at Cardross. I didn't get any home leave from Park Lodge.
32. I only remember one person in Park Lodge getting home leave and it was a girl called [REDACTED] who I shared a room with. Her dad used to come to see her and I remember her going to stay with him in Govan. I didn't see anyone else's family members coming to the home.

Running away

33. I remember running away a lot. I went to places like Govan Underground most nights. There were bushes and I could hide from people passing by. My dad lived in Govan and his close had the two wee sets of stairs going towards the back door and I slept there a lot. I knew if anything happened I could scream and my dad would be there. I knew I'd be safe there. I never chapped his door when I was there.
34. I think he saw me a few times. I'm not sure if I was running away from Park Lodge or if it happened when I was at Cardross later on and I was running away. I knew a lot of people in the area and I'd stay at their house and he'd see me a few times and pointed at me and I'd run because I'd be taken back to the place I didn't want to be.
35. There was a girl whose uncle lived round the corner from my dad's and I that's how I met her. I ran away with her a lot and stayed with her and her sister and they'd hide me. She wasn't a resident at Park Lodge herself. One night police came. I don't know if her mum had heard us. I never went back there after.

36. I didn't run away with anyone from Park Lodge. Sometimes as soon as I was taken back to the home I'd be off again the same day. It was almost daily. When I was caught by the police they would take me back. Sometimes they put me in a cell at the police station until social work or whoever could come to collect me. It wasn't always the police who took me back. I wasn't in the police station overnight. I was happy enough in the cell because it meant I wasn't on the street and I wasn't in a place where people did bad things to me.
37. When I got taken back to Park Lodge I don't remember what happened to me. I assume I just left out of another door. I don't recall any punishment for running away.
38. One night I was in Shawlands, I must have been going back to the home or I'd just been walking around. I remember it was really dark and the buses had stopped. I remember a man pulled me into a close and there were two wee sets of stairs for the bins. I remember him pinning me down there, but somebody came out of their flat and that's when I ran, and I ran right to the place that I was in danger from. I ran back to them.
39. They got the police out which I was surprised at. The police took me back to show them what close it was. They chapped on the doors and it was a lady up the top that said she'd heard a noise and went out of her flat to check. She probably saved my life. I just remember the staff at Park Lodge saying 'don't worry, they'll get you next time'. It was a lady that said it.
40. I remember going right back out the door when the police left and I took myself back out of the building.
41. When I was running away from Park Lodge nobody asked me why I was running away. I was classed as a bad child and a bad runaway. In the end I got sent to Cardross to get assessed. I wasn't a bad child and I was running away because of the things that happened.

Discipline

42. I can't remember anything about the general discipline used in the home. I used to hear people crying at night time and as I got older I wondered what was happening to them. They could have been upset because they were away from their family.

Abuse at Park Lodge

43. I remember having one bath the whole time I was there. Somebody came in the room and I remember I asked them to get out. I don't know if it was a staff member or if it was a resident. I'm 98% sure it was a member of staff. They didn't hold me under the water, but they pushed my head under the water. I never took another bath. I think the person that did it was female, but I'm not 100% sure. It happened quite early on in my time there.
44. I remember I was getting pulled down the stairs by my hair. That was by staff. That was definitely by a female. I don't know what led up to that happening. I probably ran away after it, but I don't remember. I don't remember getting up from the stairs and what happened after it.
45. I remember one night being thrown into the wee laundry room. It had the big dryers that you see in hospitals. I can see myself dancing about in the room. The next thing I was picked up and put inside one of the dryers. It was switched on for a couple of seconds, but it felt like a long time. The dryer stopped, I pushed the dryer door open and as I got out the light in the room went out as whoever did it left the room. I remember just standing in the laundry room staring at the door, shaking and crying. I don't know where I went after that. I did get out of the room and probably straight out the front door.
46. There were some boys in Park Lodge. One boy I remember, who might have been called [REDACTED], now I know more about mental health, he had something wrong with him.

He was quite angry a lot of the time. A lot of people, me included, wouldn't go into the living room if he was sat in there. It was always what he wanted on the tv. I can't see him putting me into the dryer, I don't think he could have. I didn't see who it was. They came from behind me. There was two people when I went into the dryer that night. I don't think two children could have lifted another child and put them in it. That's why I think it was staff who did it.

Leaving Park Lodge

47. I was considered to be a bad child and a runaway. I don't know how I got to Cardross. It was an assessment centre. I don't remember actually leaving Park Lodge. I don't remember going to any children's panel before I went into Cardross.

Cardross Assessment Centre, Cardross

48. I'm not sure if I was still twelve or if I was thirteen by this time. When I went there I remember someone saying I was there to get a three week assessment. I remember kicking up a stink regularly because I was well passed the three weeks. It could have been two months or it could have been six months. I wasn't in there, or anywhere else, as long as a year. I just wanted to get away from the place and couldn't understand why I was still there. They must have been waiting for a place for me somewhere else but I didn't see that at the time. I wasn't aware of any assessment being done on me.
49. It was a horrible place. I don't remember much about inside of the place. I remember there being a big square room and the bedrooms that I was in were at the side of it or round it. Upstairs there was a staff office and bedrooms. My first bedroom was a single room, but I don't know if all the rooms were singles.
50. We used to give each other a fright because you could hear footsteps in the toilet so everybody used to say the toilet was haunted. As you walked in, it was like Park Lodge,

you walked in the front doors and you had the big stairs. I remember the toilet being there.

51. I don't remember any staff in Cardross and I can't picture any of their faces. I know some of them were alright. We'd get one fag in the morning, one fag in the afternoon and one in the evening. I remember going to this wee office for the fags and I was happy to do that. I don't remember who was in charge at Cardross. They would sometimes withhold the fags as punishment. I don't know what the reasons were for that.
52. I can't picture the kids that were in there. I'm sure there were boys in Cardross as well as girls. I remember one girl because I said to her 'do you want to go out'. I think she had mental health issues and I think her name was [REDACTED] and that might have been short for [REDACTED]. We went down to the beach at the train station and we were just walking about, but we were going to go back. I remember the police were everywhere because the staff panicked because the girl had bad mental health and thought she'd run away with me. She is the only person I can remember being in Cardross.

Routine at Cardross Assessment Centre

Early memories

53. I don't remember arriving at Cardross or how I got there. I remember I got pushed about a lot by staff. I remember them taking all my clothes when I arrived. I must have taken clothes with me from Park Lodge.

Mornings and bedtime

54. I don't remember any of the routine at Cardross like getting up in the morning or going to bed at night. I don't remember sleeping overnight in Cardross but I know I did. I don't think the bedroom doors were locked at night.

Mealtimes / Food

55. I don't remember eating meals in Cardross.

School

56. When I was in Cardross I would have been going to school. That might have only been a handful of times. I remember there were other children being in the classroom with me, but I can't remember if they were the same age as me. I can't remember if there were boys in the class with me.
57. The main problem for me was the school wasn't connected. The house was in a separate building like in Park Lodge. It was within the grounds of Cardross. I think it used to be the assessment centre, but it was closed down and they built a new place where I was placed. Then the old assessment centre became the school.
58. I remember being up in a classroom and being taught two and two is four and thinking this was just like being in a primary school. All my education was nothing. I don't know if they thought that because you were in these places you were stupid. You didn't get school work for your own age group.

Work/chores

59. I don't recall having any work or chores to do.

Trips / Holidays

60. I remember one time being happy. We were in a minibus and we were maybe going swimming. I remember once a or twice being taken out in a minibus.

Leisure time

61. I don't remember what we did after school. I don't remember having any pocket money in Cardross.

Visits / Inspections

62. The big square room in the building was where my sister [REDACTED] came to visit me one time. I remember I woke up feeling really happy that day because I knew [REDACTED] was coming to see me. I don't know who told me she was coming. It wasn't long after that I moved out of Cardross. No-one else came to visit me at Cardross.
63. I don't remember any contact with Hazel my social worker when I was at Cardross or before I arrived there. I don't remember ever seeing her after I met her in my dad's house when I first went into Park Lodge.

Healthcare

64. I used to have really bad eczema. I remember my hands getting bandaged up and I remember I wouldn't come out of my room for about two days because my hands were so bad. I don't know if they took me to a doctors to get the bandages done or if the staff did it.
65. In Cardross I started self-harming. I don't know what I was thinking when I started it or where it came from. I didn't do it before I got there. I would cut my arms and sometimes [REDACTED] I can remember staff running towards me to take [REDACTED] away. I never remember talking to staff about it and why I did it. When I left Cardross I stopped self-harming and it never even entered my head to do it again after I left.

Running away

66. I was running away again and nobody ever asked me why. I ran away a lot. If I went back one day I would have been out again the same day or the following morning. All the doors at Cardross were open. I went in and out easily. I never had to smash a window or a door to get out.
67. How long I was away for would depend if my dad saw me or [REDACTED] caught me. I used to go to my granny's until one day [REDACTED] turned up at my granny's early and I was still in bed so she phoned the police. The police turned up and I had a bit of a fight with them because they were trying to take me out of the house. I remember looking at my granny and she was crying. I remember thinking I didn't want to see her crying again so I never went back after that day.
68. I'm sure I went into a police cell that day and they may have been waiting for social work to come to take me back. I remember twice I went into two other children's homes. One was a big house like Park Lodge and I assume there was no stand by social workers to pick me up so I'd be somewhere overnight. I think they were quite nice in the big house and I've no bad memories of it.
69. One of the other times I spent two nights at a place with a big square room and the bedrooms were on the side like at Cardross. I don't know where it was or what it was called. One night as I was leaving my room a lady came up to me and she was slapping me on the face. The second time I saw her I thought you're not going to slap me again. I was on my bed and I was kicking her really hard. It was the same woman both times. After that I never saw or heard anything more from her again. I don't know if I was in this other home for two nights in a row or if it was two separate nights.
70. The only thing I remember about it was it had a swing outside in the back with a tyre to sit in.
71. Sometimes when I was being taken back to Cardross, some workers, who I assume would be social workers, would take me to some place that was halfway back to

Cardross to meet other workers who would take me the rest of the way. I remember us pulling into car parks to wait to meet other workers who would come and get me.

72. After that I went to Govan and stayed in my dad's close and other times I walked about until my friend's came out the next day. Most of the time I was sleeping in my dad's close or Govan Underground.
73. I don't remember any punishment when I got taken back to Cardross. I don't remember anyone else running away like I did.

Discipline

74. I remember getting slapped and pushed and that happened a lot. I don't know if it happened because of something I'd done, if I was trying to leave the home or if I'd just been brought back. I don't know if it was meant to be punishment or not. I don't remember if it was done by a lot of staff or just one member of staff. I remember the staff saying things to us that wasn't kind, but I can't remember for sure what was said. I think there was name calling by staff. There was a man in there calling another child names.

Abuse at Cardross

75. I remember someone, a man, coming to take my clothes away from me. I don't remember who he was. There was a built-in wardrobe and I remember I kept slamming the wardrobe door and someone came in to take it off the hinges. They took the doors off and they were taking away my clothes. That day I remember kicking off a bit as they'd put me into a new bedroom and they were taking my clothes off me. That second bedroom was a single room. I think I'd been away on the run and they'd given my first bed to someone else. They must have taken the clothes I was wearing because I always seemed to end up wearing my jammies. If they told me to take my clothes off I just wouldn't have done it.

76. I remember kicking off and getting thrown on the bed and that man punched me in the head. Three times. That was by a man. I can't describe him and I don't know his name. I don't know what happened after that. I can't remember leading up to it. After it I probably went straight out the door. I don't remember seeing that man a lot, but that could have meant the second bedroom was in a different kind of unit. I remember looking out of the window and I was looking out from the back of the building, but before I'd been looking out at the front.
77. I remember being in class and I needed the toilet. I remember a man offering to come down with me. I was in the school building. I remember in the toilets where the sinks were in the room and the cubicles being opposite. I remember him pushing me against the sink and he was trying to kiss me. I've tried to picture this man. I just remember he was tall and with dark hair. I don't remember him being in the building with the bedrooms. I don't know if he was a teacher or a staff member. He might have been a visitor, but I wouldn't have walked to the toilets with him, so I must have known him somehow. I can't say how old he was, but had no wrinkles. I don't know his name.
78. A girl, I don't know her name or what she looked like, one of the residents, was coming down the stairs where the toilets were and she shouted on me. I think she was just needing the toilet and she was checking if I was still there. We used to say the room was haunted so nobody wanted to use the toilet by themselves. I'm thinking she was hanging over the banister and shouted for me.
79. The man backed away. I feel that girl saved me that day by shouting on me but I walked right out and I left her in the toilets with the man. I feel guilty about that now as I don't know if he did anything to her. I left the toilets and went out of the front door and I didn't go back to the classroom. It was the first time anything like that had happened. No teacher came to find me because I didn't go straight back to the classroom. Nobody ever asked me where I was.
80. I saw the man twice in the canteen. He did it to me again twice. There was no-one else in the canteen. The first time he had me by the throat. I was going out of the door, probably going to run away again. I remember heading to the door. I remember he

had me by the throat and he put his hands down the front of my trousers. I'm sure it was the canteen the next time it happened. It was a big room that had tables and I'm positive the kitchen was behind it.

81. I don't remember much about the next time it happened. Again he had me by the throat and his hands went down the front of my trousers. Again I don't know if it was staff or visitors, but somebody was coming up the path in a car and that's how that incident ended. I think there was big windows and a glass door. I think I used to go in and out of that door and that's how I was in the canteen by myself.

Leaving Cardross

82. I don't remember being at any children's panel to leave Cardross.

Dr Guthrie's, List D, Edinburgh

83. I would have been fourteen or just turned fifteen when I went into Dr Guthrie's school for girls. There was a separate one for boys next to us and that got closed down before I got there. I think I was in there for six months or more when they came to tell us the place was closing. I loved it in Dr Guthrie's. I felt safe there. The staff were nice. I still have pictures of me at the back of Dr Guthrie's and I think I was a size 4. I looked like a skeleton. I'd not long arrived. There was a woman that I'm in the photo with at the back and I can remember her. She was there a lot at the weekends and I seem to remember being on my own with her.
84. There were bars on the windows, but you could get out through the front door. At the top of the stairs there were bedrooms at one end, then we had a sitting area with a dining room in it, then it was the wee office. On the other side we went through a kitchen to the toilets and the showers.

85. It wasn't like any of the other places I was in. Nobody was slapped that I ever saw and nobody was shouted at.
86. From the day I went in, there was a man there and his name might have been Mr [redacted] or Dr [redacted]. He was fantastic and the first person in my whole life to take the time to sit me down and ask me why I was running away. He asked why did I kick off in the classroom. I didn't see him talking with a lot of other people. That might be because they didn't have the problems that I had.
87. You needed points and I think you got so many points and if you did something wrong then points would be taken off you. You'd need a certain amount to go home at weekend. I didn't have anywhere to go and I wasn't going home at the weekend so I had no incentive to be on my best behaviour.
88. That man was fantastic with me and I'd love to meet him again. He reminded me of my dad with the same colour of hair. He was the one who came to get me when we were told the place was closing down and everybody was jumping about being all happy, but I was crying at the thought of having to leave somewhere where people actually cared.
89. [redacted]. The cooks used to bring me, because I had eczema, all the simple stuff for my bath that didn't have perfume. I sat with the kitchen staff during the daytime. In my experience I never saw anything bad happen to anyone in there. The residents always seemed fine and nobody seemed miserable in there.

Routine at Dr Guthrie's

First day

90. I think there was a unit down the stairs. I remember going in there on the first day and they said you can just sit in their sitting area because everyone was away ice skating. They were delayed in coming back as somebody had an accident on the ice. Then

another staff member came for me to take me up the stairs to my own room. I don't remember much about the unit down the stairs or the people that were in there.

91. When they took me up the stairs on my first day, they closed the living room door and said there was a girl who'd been away for the weekend had a drink in her. She was on her way back and the staff didn't want to scare me. I remember looking down the corridor and she was lying on the floor out the door. I tried to say hi to her and staff must have pulled her away by her feet.
92. I ended up quite good friends with her. She was drinking so I decided to try it. So I'd be with her at most weekends. I didn't see it as running away as nothing was happening that was making me leave. I don't remember if the doors were locked, but I could get out. A lot of weekends I stayed in Dr Guthrie's as I liked it and I was there by myself.

Mealtimes / Food

93. I remember sitting at the table eating my breakfast and sitting there to eat dinner. I had put on some weight and no longer looked like a skeleton like I did when I left Cardross.

School

94. Dr Guthrie's had a school in there. One teacher I didn't like and she didn't like me. She didn't shout and bawl at me and she didn't lift her hands to me. I think she just saw me as a cause of trouble in the classroom. We collected points for how we behaved and you needed a certain amount to get to go home. I didn't have anywhere to go so I didn't care about points.
95. To me the school in Dr Guthrie's was ok. I think it was like the school in Cardross and we got taught younger kids stuff, but it wasn't as bad as in Cardross.

Work/chores

96. We had chores to do every day. One day you might clean the corridor and the next day you'd be doing the stairs. To me everything ran smoothly until the day they told us the place was closing.
97. When you went up the stairs that was my unit. As you went up the stairs there was a toilet half-way up. That was one of the things we cleaned in the morning. I cleaned those stairs many times and the toilet went with the stairs.
98. We did our own laundry and we did everything by hand and it could take all day. To me, we all had fun doing that.

Leisure time

99. We got taken to the shops to pick a video for us to watch. When it was my turn to pick it I came out of the shop with one of those Carry On films. The staff had to tell me to take it back in. I remember getting upset at having to take it back in for another one.
100. I remember us being in a minibus and going round places where we were just going for a run out. I remember us going swimming with them in this minibus. These were activities that I'd not had anywhere else.
101. I can remember we had a jumble sale sometimes and we had cakes and maybe family members came. A lot of different people would come. It happened a few times.

Visits

102. There was a female member of staff there at weekends when I didn't have anywhere else to go to. I'd be in there by myself so I got a lot of one-to-one time with this lady.

Running away

103. When I left Dr Guthrie's I didn't really run away from there. I was away all the time but it was just because people in there would say 'come with us this weekend' and I'd just go with them. Police were bringing me back, but nine times out of ten I came back myself on the Sunday when everyone else was coming back.
104. I remember leaving them one time and I remember getting drunk and I went back to Cardross. I think everything was playing on me and when I got a drink in me I headed back there and I remember throwing bottles up at their windows and just shouting abuse. I remember people at the windows shouting back and encouraging me on. The police came to get me and took me back to Dr Guthrie's. I think I went back to Cardross because of what happened to me when I was there. I wanted to blame somebody so I went back when I was drunk.

Discipline

105. I was a wee tearaway and I never got shouted at or anything. I never saw or heard anything bad happening to anyone else.

Leaving Dr Guthrie's

106. When Dr Guthrie's was shutting down they came to tell us. I got so upset. Mr ^{HSB} came over to me and took me out of the dining room to talk to me as I was so upset. He told me I'd be [REDACTED] and I was sobbing.
107. Everyone was going home and they were nearly sixteen. I didn't have anywhere to go to for weekend leave. I remember most of the children were about to turn sixteen and I wasn't yet sixteen. I stayed in Dr Guthrie's for [REDACTED] after they told us it was closing. [REDACTED]. They had to find me another place which was a place called Snowdon.

108. I don't remember physically leaving Dr Guthrie's and going to Snowdon. I don't remember who took me or packing any clothes. I wore brown sandals that people called Jesus sandals. I can't picture having shoes or clothes in my wardrobe in my bedroom. I remember being sat down to be told where I was going next, but I can't remember who told me.

Snowdon, Stirling

109. I must have been still aged fifteen when I went to Snowdon. I was in there until I was sixteen. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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122. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Snowdon

124. I had to leave Snowdon as I was turning sixteen and I went to stay all the week at Alva children's home.

Alva children's home, Pollock, Glasgow

125. I was sixteen when I went to Alva. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Alva children's home

135. I wasn't in there as long as a year. I left when I got my first flat.

Life after being in care

136. I got my first home in Ibrox at sixteen or seventeen. That meant I left the care system. My life's been worse since I left care than when I was in it. When stuff was happening in care I could just go out of the front door and get away. I think now that I went down the wrong road. I don't know if that's just me anyway or if it was because of the stuff that happened to me. Through lockdown I decided I'd had enough of fighting with the thoughts in my head. I wanted to feel normal. I sent a message to my sister's partner, [REDACTED], as he's a policeman and I tried to tell him about the abuse without being obvious about it.

137. I'd seen in The Digger magazine that they were wanting to speak to people who'd been in Park Lodge between certain dates. I told [REDACTED] I was in there in those dates. I asked him if I got to the police can I speak to a lady. I thought he might have guessed why I wanted to make a statement.

138. Now I live with six dogs in the house and I have to get up every day for them. They need to go out and they need to be fed. If I don't need to go out of the house I don't. I prefer to stay inside with the doors locked and I'm in with my animals.

Impact

139. It's affected my relationships with my family. I pushed my sister away and I try not to be like that. I lost contact with family members because I was so volatile and my relationship with my sister has only been rebuilt since our dad passed away last year.
140. My behaviour and the path I took in life, I blame on what happened to me as a kid. I just always went down the wrong road. My sister [REDACTED] went one way and I went miles in the other direction. I try to be a good person, but I just can't be with other people. I feel that it all stems from what happened to me. I'd mentioned it to my ex-partner and my kids know something happened to me but no details.
141. I'd help absolutely anybody, like in my work at the hospital and there's an older person who's asking for help. Any other domestic staff will say that's not my job, but not me. I go over and help them with what they need. It's the strangest thing, because otherwise I don't like people. If I could sit in my house all day with nobody coming there, it suits me. Through lockdown I thought about it and decided I needed to get to the root of why I felt so angry at people I don't even know and why I didn't want to be here. I decided if I talk out about this then I might get better myself.
142. I've been diagnosed by my GP with anxiety and depression for years now. The dosage of my medication was increased by my doctor, but it didn't really work as it made me feel restless although my mood felt better. The dosage was then reduced again.
143. Every relationship I had with partners was always bad. Sometimes when I look back and I wonder if I thought at the time that was all I deserved. I can't explain how I went for the bad ones and stayed with the bad ones. I've suffered physical violence at the hands of an abusive partner and the police have been involved because my sister has had to phone them for me.

144. The education I received in the homes was basic and it was for someone much younger than me. For years when my three oldest children were young and I was living in West Lothian I had to lean a lot on [REDACTED] as she had a car to get my shopping and help me. If I got a letter from the Job Centre she had to help me fill out the forms and she'd even have to take all of my kids' Christmas gifts to take away and wrap it all. When I left that area to move back to Glasgow my kids' stuff was all at my mum's house for Christmas and I expected her to do it for me as [REDACTED] had done it for me every year.
145. Then when I had to fill a form I got very agitated and I didn't know how to do it because [REDACTED] had always filled my forms in for me. I get very agitated over emails too as I'm not great with links and someone has to email me first before I can contact them. It could be I'm just daft or it could be I wasn't taught in these places I was in. I just don't have an education.
146. In lockdown I'd written letters to my four children because I was fed up with fighting with the thoughts in my head and I didn't want to do it anymore. Then I thought I had to pull myself together for my grandkids. That was when I explained things a wee bit to a GP who sent me to Easterhouse Assessment Centre. Saying something had happened to me in care to the woman I met in Easterhouse did make me feel a bit better, but she didn't ask me what happened. I don't know if they're counsellors. I thought if I told them that something happened to me when I was a kid would mean I got some help, but still nothing has happened. It was the first time I'd told anyone outside of my family. Since then I've not had any suicidal thoughts but I had before that.
147. I wasn't ready to report to the police and I thought I'd get some help first. I do feel a lot better. I didn't tell the lady what had happened, I just said things had happened to me when I was a kid. I gave her permission to phone my mum if she needed to ask questions. I couldn't deal with the lady on the phone and I just can't communicate with people on the phone. She did phone me and I ignored the phone so they sent me a letter. They advised me to continue with my medication and gave me a number to ring

if I felt suicidal. That feels pointless for someone who can't deal with people on the phone.

148. I feel anger that someone could treat me the way they did when I was in care. As the years pass I feel angry that nobody's going to be brought to justice for what happened. I can't remember what they looked like so nobody's going to pay for it. The anger gets to the point I hardly even speak to anybody. I feel like its ruined my life more now than it did back then. I've just been so angry at the whole world.

Reporting of Abuse

149. I've not made any formal report of abuse to the police since leaving care. I had thought about going to London Road police station to ask who I would speak to about my experience of care. This was after I'd seen a report in The Digger about wanting to speak to people who'd been in Park Lodge and I assumed there must be an investigation into Park Lodge.
150. Then my sister told me she'd contacted the Inquiry on my behalf. I was worried about making a report because I was embarrassed to talk about things I'd kept hidden for forty years and now I feel I'm not just telling one or two people. I've had to mention a wee bit to my work and a wee bit to my supervisor and I was getting panicky because I thought too many people had got to know. I feel ashamed of what happened to me and where it happened. I've always assumed nobody would believe me anyway.

Records

151. I've not seen my records for my time in care. My sister has made enquiries about how I would go about obtaining my records and I know I would have to supply a form of photo id. I've not done it, but might do in the future. I would like to see them because I have so many missing gaps like I'm not sure what age I was when I went into care.

Lessons to be Learned

152. Just about everything about my time in care needs to change. I don't know what the care system is like now. People should be checked before they go to work in these places. I have to be checked for my job in a hospital.
153. Who would you go to talk to at that age, when you're a twelve or thirteen year old in a home in a strange part of your city? Plus I was in a strange area in Park Lodge and I didn't know the area or anybody there. My way of dealing with things was to run away all the time. Even when I was brought back I knew I could just run away again. The staff should be talking to someone who is running away that much. Nobody talked to me about it until that nice man at Dr Guthrie's asked me why I was running away.
154. I don't remember seeing a social worker through all my time in Park Lodge and I don't remember seeing one through my time in Cardross. I can't think of any social worker in Dr Guthrie's. At Snowdon I can only remember one time when they appeared to ask how would I feel about meeting with my mum. I don't know if social workers have been there and I don't remember, but people's social workers need to come to see them.

Hopes for the Inquiry

155. I'd like somebody to pay for what they've done to me, but it happened a long time ago and it's probably not going to happen. That's now what makes me angry. I'm not so much upset any more, I'm angry. I'm angry that I didn't talk up at the time.
156. I hope that I'll feel better for having given this statement to the Inquiry and it's time for me to have the life I should have had forty years ago. It might not help, but I'm hoping so. I hope I might be able to get some counselling now. I don't think it's going to help

anyone else now giving my statement because it was a long time ago and these people might not even be alive now.

Other information

157. 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.. [REDACTED].....

Dated... 15.5.23.....