

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EUC
[REDACTED]

Support person present: No

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

Life before going into care

2. My mum and dad are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They are both still alive and married. They still live in the same house in Govan where it all started with the social work. I have a big sister [REDACTED] and brother, [REDACTED]. They are about 42 and forty. I've got another brother called [REDACTED] from my mum's first marriage. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have the same mum but a different dad to me and my brother [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is 45 years old.
3. Everything is very clear from a young age. My mum liked to drink but I wouldn't say she was a full blown alcoholic. My mum wasn't always close to her brothers and their wives. There was always bickering going on. We've never been a close family. We didn't see our cousins often. There is no closeness or trust. It's the way our family has been moulded.
4. I don't actually call my parents 'mum and dad', I call them [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We've never had that bond. I always remember my mum talking openly about sexual abuse by her brothers. It was always spoken about. There were constant stories of things happening to my mum by her brothers. It made the family even worse. Her stories always seemed to change from person to person.

5. I can actually remember my mum self-harming in front of us. I can remember my dad taking her to the old Southern General Hospital in the early hours of the morning. I still remember the way the hospital used to look.
6. There were times when [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I would be close but we didn't know how to show any affection. I can't remember my mum and dad telling us that they loved us or anything like that.
7. We lived in a lovely clean home and we always had what we needed. The address was [REDACTED] in Sheildhall. I remember growing up there. My earliest memories are of [REDACTED] but we moved to [REDACTED]
8. I went to Drumoyne Primary school. I was there from primary one to around primary four or five. It was around this time that everything went downhill. The social work services became involved with our family.
9. My dad worked as a printer in Nitshill. He always worked. He took pride in going to work and providing for his family. My mum was a carer for elderly people in a care home. She was also a [REDACTED] in Drumoyne Primary. My dad was made redundant after they bought their house in [REDACTED] My mum stopped working as a [REDACTED] I don't know if my mum was stressed but things started getting messy.
10. My mum went to social work services, I believe for help for herself, but I think for myself and [REDACTED] too. In my eyes, I feel as though I was used as a scapegoat. I was being blamed for things so I became unruly. I wouldn't listen to anyone or do what I was told. I wanted to go out and come back when I wanted to. I just wanted to be on my own.
11. My first memory of that time is sitting in a building in Copeland Road. I was only nine or ten. We were basically dragged along there by the 'scruff of the neck'. I was in a room with my mum and dad and my brother, [REDACTED] with a social worker. It was a lady but I can't remember her name. The social worker asked me if I thought my mum and dad loved me. I was scared to answer. I looked towards my mum and dad and nodded

but I knew that I hadn't felt that love or felt wanted. I had been put in an awful situation because I knew if I told the truth and said no, that I would get smacked and shouted at when I got home. I remember it clearly. The fact that a social worker asked that question makes it clear to me that things weren't right.

12. I started self-harming in primary school. I would make my nose bleed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to get out of doing things. It would bleed heavily. Doctors were looking into it but no one picked up that it was self-harming. I did that regularly throughout primary school. I found it very hard to concentrate and I don't know if it was because things were busy and stressful at home.

13. I finished school in first year and never went back. I went to Notre Dame High School in Hillhead. I didn't last very long there. It wasn't right for me. I found it a scary place.

Urrdale Children's Home, Glasgow

14. Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED]

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28. The lady with the curly hair came to tell me I was going home. My mum was there too. I think there must have been a build-up. I remember my bag being packed and us sitting around a table. My mum actually seemed happy. [REDACTED] and I went home together with my mum.

29. I went back home but nothing had changed. My mum was still self-harming. She would get so drunk and start picking fights. My dad would just try to go to sleep. My mum would start getting violent. I can remember my sister and I being hit. We would get dragged out of our beds by the hair on our heads. We would be lying pretending to be sleeping and my mum would mess our rooms up deliberately. We would have tidy them. They would have to be spotless.

Foster care

30. I was cast in and cast out going back in and out of care. I'm not sure how I came to be in foster care. I went to the [REDACTED] and to EUD-EUE [REDACTED]. I'm not sure which I went to first but I think it might have been to the [REDACTED]. I can't remember any social work meetings before going there. I don't know how long I was home for before going to the foster carers. I wasn't eleven yet. I think it was within the space of a year.

[REDACTED] **Foster care, Kilmarnock**

31. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were quite an old lady and man. They lived in a lovely little bungalow house. It was spick and span. I was the only child there. Then after a while a new born baby came. I was so excited about the baby coming. One day after the baby came, I burst out laughing or made a noise and [REDACTED] gave me seriously into trouble. I wasn't being naughty, I was just excited. The baby was just like a wee dolly and I was loving having this little presence about me.
32. After that, I wasn't allowed to interact with the baby. I don't know if I wasn't trusted or if she was being extra protective because the baby was in her care. I wanted to be 'hands on' with it. I was sent to my room and would have to sit there. I would be in my room for hours on end after school. I wasn't allowed to touch anything in the house.
33. I went to Crooked Home Primary. It was a little school. I loved it. I was happy there. I had met a little friend and up until then I hadn't been able to keep friendships.
34. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to the Salvation Army every Sunday. They always took me with them. I didn't like it. I told them that I didn't want to go but they took me anyway. It just wasn't my cup of tea. I come from Govan and wasn't used to things like that. There were lots of old ladies there who were trying to talk to me.
35. The building where we went to Salvation Army was round the corner from my mum and dad's home which I found hard because I didn't want to be there. The [REDACTED] would dress me up in white tights and a dress and put my hair in pigtails. I had never

worn white tights in my life. They turned me into something else. I felt like I was their accessory. It just wasn't me. I didn't dress in that way and it wasn't how other people dressed in Govan. They cut my hair. I didn't want my hair cut. It was horrible. I liked having my long hair. I haven't had a hair cut in about ten years.

36. I think they were trying to make me into somebody I wasn't. They even put my own things in my suitcase and kept them under my bed. I wasn't allowed to have them. It was as if they were putting on a show. It was completely different to how things were at home.
37. I was always told to be quiet and I wasn't allowed to talk. When [REDACTED] came home from work everything went quiet. I don't know if that was his rule or just the way they lived. I was always to go straight into the bedroom.
38. I can remember going over the Forth Road Bridge and to a wee place near there. They took me to their daughter's house. We also went on a trip to Edinburgh. We walked around and they took me to a clothes shop called Mark One. They bought me the white tights.
39. One day I was told there had been an accident and [REDACTED] had fallen and broken her hip. I had to go to stay with [REDACTED] friend for a very short time. After that, I had to go to an emergency placement. I think it was to a house in Cumbernauld. It was a lady and her two daughters. After that I went to another foster placement, [REDACTED]. I didn't see the wee baby again.

[REDACTED] Cumbernauld

40. I can't remember arriving at [REDACTED] but I remember being in their house. The man was called [REDACTED] and his wife was [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. I can see her face but I'm not sure about her name.

41. I can still picture the house. Although I can't remember the bathroom. They lived somewhere in Cumbernauld. I can't remember if I had my own room there. They had lots of dark pine furniture and I can remember thinking it was expensive.
42. They fostered a wee girl with a birthmark on her face. I think she was only about one year old. There were other kids there, who were their own kids, but I can't remember much about them.
43. I went to Notre Dame High school from [REDACTED] I had just started first year. They dropped me off early in the morning at the local train station. I was petrified because I had never been on a train myself. It was dark and they would drive away and leave me. It was so scary. I had to make my own way to Hillhead. I would get the train into Queen Street and then I would have to get the subway. I had never been allowed into town myself at my mum and dad's. I think it might have been during winter time because I wore a big green parka.
44. One time they won money at the bingo and there seemed to be loads of people coming into the house. There was a big celebration. They bought me a woolly 'Kicker's' jumper with some of their bingo winnings. I have no idea why.

Abuse at [REDACTED]

45. I had started my period by then. I was still at Drumoyne Primary in Govan when it happened. My mum hadn't told me anything so I had been using toilet paper or stealing my sister's sanitary products.
46. I had been given a pair of pink pyjamas when I was at the emergency placement before going to [REDACTED] They belonged to the lady's daughter but they were too small for her so she had given them to me. I hadn't ever had pyjamas like that. I loved them. I'd had an accident and they were blood stained. I panicked, tried to clean it and wrapped them up and hid them with my clothes. I took them with me to [REDACTED]. I

hid them in a drawer when I was putting my clothes away because I was scared and embarrassed.

47. When I came home from school one day, Mrs ^{EUD} rubbed them in my face. She told me that I was disgusting. I was crying and ran away and hid. I felt dirty and vile. I didn't see my pyjamas again.
48. I can remember there being lots of alcohol and a lot of family coming over. They were Celtic fans. I was called an 'orange bastard'. My dad is half Malaysian. ^{EUE} would call my dad a 'chinky'. I specifically remember him saying that about my dad. They were horrible people.
49. I can remember being hit with rolled up tea towels by ^{EUE}. He would whip me with them. I can't remember any reason for him doing it to other than he seemed to think it was funny. I can remember him laughing. I don't know what he was getting out of it. He would hit me over and over on the backs of my legs and my backside .It was stinging and I was crying. I had marks and red, raised skin all over legs. He did this to me in front of his wife.
50. It was dreadful. They shouldn't have been in control of kids. They shouldn't have been left with the responsibility. I can't remember them punishing their own children.
51. I can't remember any social workers coming to see me there. My mum and dad came to visit me regularly. They would take me out in the car and we would sometimes go to a wee café. I wouldn't want to go back to ^{EUD-EUE}. It was like a feeling of dread. I really didn't want to be there. Things weren't perfect with my mum and dad but I would rather have been at home with them. Instead I was with people I didn't know.
52. One time, ^{EUE} was hitting with the tea towels when his wife was out at the bingo. He wouldn't let me out of the kitchen. I wanted to phone my mum and dad but he wouldn't let me. I was petrified and I didn't want to be in that house. I was really upset. After a while, I managed to calm down enough and he let me use the phone. I phoned my

mum and dad and told them that [REDACTED] was hitting me with tea towels. They told me to pack my suitcase so I packed my things and my case was put at the front door.

53. My mum and dad came to get me that night. I don't know how long it took them to get me. [REDACTED] weren't happy. It was a bad atmosphere when my mum and dad came. I remember it being dark outside. I think I felt relieved. The placement ended there.
54. I can't remember the social work's involvement but I'm sure my mum and dad would have had to tell them because they had taken me from there. I don't know if any action was taken against them. I can't remember anything being said by my mum and dad about it. There is a report which mentions [REDACTED]. It was a very short placement because I continued with first year at school after I left.
55. After I'd been home for a short time, I started getting out of control. I was still only eleven. I had already started drinking alcohol and smoking cannabis. I pinched my first bit from my mum so it stemmed from there. I started stealing to fund it. My dad used to save money in a piggy bank, he would count his money and put it into wee bags. I would pinch some of the bags here and there. That's when all that started.
56. My mum and dad and social worker would sit in the living room. I would try to listen through the wall. I knew that I was being talked about and that I would be sent somewhere else. I knew that there was a plan in place.
57. I was taken to the social work office in Govan. I ran away from there because I knew I was being taken somewhere. I was away for a few nights. I was staying down the 'Wine Alley' in Govan with strangers and being hid down the side of other kids' beds who I had never met. I was staying with people I didn't know. My mum and the police were out looking for me.
58. I started running away a lot during this period. There was a lot of absconding. I would sleep on the streets in Glasgow. I was on a placement with a foster carer in Baillieston

around this time too. She was a nice lady. I ran away from there too but I went back that night as I felt guilty that she would be worried about me.

Glen Rosa Children's Home, Glasgow

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Cardross Park Assessment Centre, Cardross, Dunbartonshire

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Good Shepherd, Bishopton

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Kerelaw Residential School, Ayrshire

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Life after being in care

173. The social work involvement quickly ended after I went home. I can't remember going to a panel or having a meeting. I can't remember being signed off at a panel. I think Kerelaw made the decision to send me home. It wasn't down to the children's reporter or to panel members.

174. I remember spending time with the Safeguarder Jack. He would come to the house. I think it was left in Jack's hands to monitor to what was going on. There were times I would have to put a show on to Jack that things were fine with my mum and dad. It

wasn't settled as my mum was still having a drink. It wasn't a pleasant environment. When I went home, my mum and dad and brother [REDACTED] were there.

175. Life was very difficult. I was put out of my mum and dad's as soon as I turned sixteen with my two year old son. There was a breakdown in the relationship. My mum didn't see me as her responsibility.

176. I got a private let in Glasgow. I lived in a top floor flat with my son, [REDACTED] My house was lovely. However life was very difficult. I had to manage my money and I had to take care of [REDACTED] There were times when I was sleeping and [REDACTED] had wandered out of the house and on roads. Thankfully, nothing came of it. There was no social work involvement. I'm surprised by that because I needed help and support.

177. Not long after that, I went to social work services. I saw Elaine McGroarty, from Good Shepherd, who was now a social worker in Govan social work office. My mum and dad took me to court to try to get [REDACTED] off of me. The court ordered them take [REDACTED] off of me at the weekends so that I could get a break. It gave me time to myself and time out from being a mum.

178. I didn't make the best choices but I was catching up on things I missed out on when I was young like going to dancing. I got to catch up on that a wee bit. I love and always have loved [REDACTED] but back then it was extremely difficult. I always made sure that I used my money to buy gas and food.

179. I was still smoking cannabis at the time. I know it was wrong and it was my choice. I really needed support. I always made sure he had an amazing Christmas and my sons have too. I always put my money aside to make sure they always got what they needed. There were times I had no power.

180. There was definitely a lack of support and intervention from social work. I didn't have that from my mum and dad either. They weren't very good at parenting themselves and social work knew that. They didn't have that parental instinct. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be

181. I met [REDACTED] again ten years on. I found him myself on social media. His Through Care worker told me to stay away from him. We had another child together.
182. My relationship with my mum and dad has always broken down. There have been years apart when there's been no contact between us. My mum will come into mine and my children's lives but I am cautious. I feel like I have to be on my best behaviour with my mum and dad. I am not allowed to express my feelings. My mum will say she can't handle it and put the phone down on me. I'm not able to let them know how I'm feeling. I still don't feel loved by them. I've never felt wanted by them. I feel like I'm the black sheep of the family. My brother and sister are treated differently by my mum and dad. I haven't seen my sister for nearly three years now. I don't have a relationship with her.
183. I had a job in 2009 in a sandwich shop. I loved it. My son, [REDACTED] was going to primary school. One day when I working in the shop, it was really rowdy, it was far too busy and there was lots of school children. They were just being kids but they were showing off to each other. I couldn't handle it and I walked out the door. At that time I was pregnant with my next son, [REDACTED] I didn't have a relationship with his dad. My son [REDACTED] was born in 2011. I have five sons. The youngest was born in 2018.
184. My late partner, [REDACTED] passed way in 2019. We had been seeing each other on and off for about fifteen years. That is only real relationship I have ever had. We had a lot of ups and downs. There was social work involvement with our family. He took Valium and I have recently found out it caused his death. I have had quite a few casual relationships over the years.

Impact

185. I blame social work for a lot of what happened to me. There was no support to help my family build our relationship. I always craved to be part of a family. I think that's

why I have a big family of my own. I am very close to my sons. I think they have missed out on a lot because of my relationship with my own family. I try to go above and beyond to give more to my boys than I had. I feel myself tiring out. There are times when I can try to be strong for them. Sometimes I don't have time to look after myself in terms of my mental health because I'm too busy being a mum.

186. I have an ability to sustain relationships with partners or friends. I have lack of trust in people which I think stems from failings by social work and my home life.
187. I think I could deal with situations better. I was a cleaner in the [REDACTED] I got into a situation with another cleaner and had to leave that job too. I like to be able to tackle things head on but I get away ahead of myself. I don't like to dwell on things. I don't want to be involved in arguments with people but I have an inability to walk away from arguments.
188. I'm trying to work on being better by trying to stay calm and not interrupt during meetings. I have a fear of my children being taken away by social work. It's a fear that is always there. It is a sickly feeling. It makes me feel physically sick thinking about it.
189. I lost everything. I lost my childhood. I was taking drugs when I should have been playing with my dolls. I think drug taking at a very young age has impacted upon my development and my mental health.
190. I grew up with my eldest child. It took a long time to get to where we are now. I can't specifically say what my son, [REDACTED] missed out on but I wasn't as good as I could have been. Nothing has changed with my relationship with my mum and dad. I would love for it to have improved. I didn't want to have to pretend that everything was fine but I felt that I had to act like that.

Treatment/support

191. I am in contact with Future Pathways for support. I haven't had counselling. After my partner passed away, I wasn't looking after myself. I wasn't washing or even brushing

my hair. I went to see the doctor about a painful elbow. The doctor scared me off because she was concerned about my children's welfare. She asked me questions about who was looking after them, and acted concerned. I felt like I was hitting a brick wall. At other times, I contacted the Crisis Centre but they would refer me back to the doctor.

192. I feel I have made progress in the last few months. I received a phone call back from Future Pathways the same day that I had contacted them. I am currently waiting on counselling from Rape Crisis. I have been told to self-refer to The Arc for an autism test.

Reporting of Abuse

193. I have reported some of the abuse to the police in the last year. I am liaising with PC Ian Wilson at Govan Police Station. There is an ongoing investigation called Operation Chalk. I haven't reported everything I have spoken about in my statement but I am working towards it.

Records

194. I have some documents relating to my time in care. I have a handwritten Safeguarder report which unfortunately is undated. I am in the process of trying to obtain my records from Future Pathways.

Lessons to be Learned

195. I had seen advertisements on TV and things on Facebook about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. I think if people from outside, such as inspectors, had listened to us, things could have been better. The children weren't listened to and we weren't separated from the adults at the time. We didn't have an opportunity to speak out. We weren't asked questions at children's panels.

196. No one ever tried to understand why the kids were running away. There was no relationship with my parents, or drug counselling or mediation.
197. I think that experience is necessary for certain job roles. I think if there had been more people like the lady Liz in Kerelaw, things would have been better. I don't think that people who have direct experience of being a child in care are necessarily the best placed people to work with children in care today. I think they have to have themselves sorted out first. In my view, the majority of the staff were simply there for the pay check. They couldn't be bothered with us as kids. They were only interested in their own children.
198. I would like things to change, for me, if I know that speaking out can change at least one person's experience, perhaps, for them to be heard. I felt like I was shouting to be heard but I never was. In the past year, I have found it easier to talk and to be heard because people are actually listening to my past.
199. Things have to change for the children of the future who don't feel they are able to speak at home. Children shouldn't be stuck in a situation where they are unable to speak freely. We were just taken out of our homes and put away somewhere and forgotten about. I was basically taken away because my mum had issues. I ended up going downhill after I ended up in the care system.

Other information

200. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed .....

Dated 05.08.21.....