

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

**Stuart MCKAY**

Support person present: No

1. My name is Stuart Hamilton McKay. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1944. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I worked for Quarriers between July 1973 and 2004. During that time I had four roles. I was an assistant youth leader, a leisure officer in the Epilepsy Centre, a residential social worker and a manager in the Respite Unit. Throughout my time in Quarriers I worked with children and adults. I further worked with children and adults who had disabilities.

### **Life before Quarriers**

3. When I left school I went into heavy engineering. I served my time there before going into a drawing office. I then became a design draftsman. Technical drawing had really been the only thing that I had been good at in school. The job started to become a bit tedious. It wasn't what I thought it would be. It could be very monotonous at times.
4. At the age of thirty I decided that I wanted to change careers. At that time, I was married and had a one year old child. In 1973 I saw an advert in the paper for a 'live in' assistant youth leader at Quarriers. I fancied the role but I didn't think that I would have a chance of getting it. I didn't at that time have any qualifications other than having assisted with the boy's brigade as a warrant officer.

5. In hindsight, it was quite a drastic decision to be considering the job at Quarriers. My pay was going to be exactly halved. However, my family would be getting a house, free vegetables and milk. I worked out with my wife that it was viable because of those things. That's why we took the risk of applying.

### **Quarriers, Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir**

#### *Interview, references and job offer*

6. I was interviewed by Joe Mortimer. Joe Mortimer was the Deputy Director of Quarriers. He asked me a few questions. He asked me about my background and about my role with the boy's brigade. I was also asked about my involvement with the outward bound scheme. I was asked about my experiences of taking boys from the boy's brigade out to do things towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards. The questioning was all to do with the outdoors kind of stuff I had been involved with. Things like my involvement in kayaking, fencing and archery. I wasn't introduced to my future boss, QDY at this point. I was only introduced to him after I was appointed.
7. I was then sent up to see the director at the time. I think his name was Munro but I can't say that for sure. I don't remember his first name. It was the weirdest interview I've ever had. He sat me down. The only thing he said was that he saw that I had done some fencing. I told him that I had. That was the extent of the interview. There was not another question or comment.
8. I got the job in July 1973. I did have to provide a reference. I provided one from a chief draughtsman I had worked with. All it said was that I was reliable and that sort of thing. I provided no references from the boy's brigade. There were no references of that type requested at all.
9. I remember hearing later on that the minister was quite annoyed that during my interview I hadn't been asked whether I was a Christian. I think it must have been

assumed that I was Christian because I had had some involvement with the boy's brigade. I think they assumed that the role of warrant officer with the boy's brigade meant that I had joined the church but this was not something I had done.

### **Quarriers – assistant youth leader**

#### *First impressions, layout of Quarriers and accommodation*

10. I started as an assistant youth leader in the youth section in July 1973. I worked there for about a year until about July 1974. Quarriers was a smashing place to live. The properties were all lovely big stone houses. There were lovely lawns and gardens. My wife and I fell for the place straight away. Getting the job had allowed us to get away from the city and all the hustle and bustle. The place really hasn't changed that much since the first time I saw it. The only thing that has really changed is that they have demolished the swimming pool and put in housing.
11. Throughout my time as assistant youth leader I lived in cottage 25 with my wife and family. Cottage 25 was quite near the church. It was a huge building compared to where we had come from. We had previously been living in a one bedroom flat. This place had five bedrooms. Cottage 25 was one of the few cottages that had been divided. In the other part of the cottage to where we lived were the changing rooms. The changing room was used by the boys when they played football. All the kit and equipment was stored there.

#### *Induction and training*

12. I was given no induction or training whatsoever when I started as an assistant youth leader. The first bit of training I ever got in Quarriers was when I was in the Respite Unit. I started my role there in 1984. I had had no training at Quarriers in anything before that.

*Staff structure during time as an assistant youth leader*

13. I think Mr Munro's official title could have been either director general or general director. Mr Munro was replaced by Dr Minto. Dr Minto started about the same time as me. Below the director was the deputy director. When I joined that was Joe Mortimer. Below the deputy director were the assistant directors. When I joined they were Bill Dunbar, George Gill and somebody whose name I cannot remember.
14. Below the assistant directors in the youth section was the senior youth leader. He reported to Joe Mortimer. At the time of joining the senior youth leader was QDY QDY and someone called Ailsa, assistant youth leader, who I can't remember the surname of. Ailsa worked with the girls. QDY worked mainly with the boys. In my role as assistant youth leader I worked with the boys under the senior youth leader QDY.
15. My wife and I eventually got quite friendly with Ailsa. She used to come round to the house. We had coffee together and things like that. One night Ailsa came to our house. She had two packed bags with her. She said she was leaving. I asked her why she was leaving. I asked her whether she had handed her notice in. She told me that she couldn't work in Quarriers and just left. One minute she was there and the next she was away. She could no longer work under QDY.

*Role as assistant youth leader*

16. I remember being introduced to QDY by Joe Mortimer when I first arrived. I sat down with QDY alone and discussed what the role would be. He asked me what activities I enjoyed and I told him. He then pretty much told me to get on with it. I was more or less given carte blanche to do what I liked. There was no real instruction as to what my role was.
17. My role essentially became assisting the head youth leader and developing anything I wanted to do with his permission. I really just generally helped out. I arranged different activities for the children. I arranged the football. I started an archery club,

fishing club and a model club. I organised those clubs and encouraged the children to participate. The activities went on throughout the year and took place after school, during weekends and during the holidays.

18. During my time as an assistant youth leader I decided that I would take some of the boys up from the cottages to play football with some of the adults who had epilepsy. There was a football pitch that was located in the Epilepsy Centre. To start with there were some problems. Some of the younger boys would take the mickey out of the adults when they had their seizures. I heard some of the boys saying they were only coming up to see the adults having fits. I worked with the boys to understand what was going on.
19. In the end the boys started voluntarily coming up to the Epilepsy Centre. Once the boys had got used to the men they became used to things. It became quite a nice wee set up. They enjoyed playing football with the adults. They enjoyed playing snooker with the adults in the centre itself. I continued to take boys up to the Epilepsy Centre when I became a residential social worker. The boys thought it was great.

#### **Interactions and incidents concerning QDY**

20. QDY was an ex-policeman. He was apparently a [REDACTED] in the police force. He also told me that he [REDACTED] for the police force. He sometimes used to arrange boxing tournaments for the boys. His main interest was football. He was excellent at arranging football tournaments and arranging games for the boys against local teams. Quarriers had hundreds of teams for different aged boys. He was excellent at doing all that sort of thing.
21. For the first couple of months I thought QDY was the 'bee's knees'. We eventually didn't see eye to eye on things. He told me quite openly that he didn't like working with girls or children with disabilities. He detested working with children who

had disabilities. He was very pleased that I looked after the boys and girls who had epilepsy so he didn't have to do that.

22. When [REDACTED] QDY [REDACTED] took the boys kayaking. He wouldn't take girls or any of the children who had disabilities. I didn't like that. I did think that [REDACTED] QDY [REDACTED] treated the boys who were good at football, fit and could play games differently from those who couldn't. There was a differentiation there.
23. [REDACTED] QDY [REDACTED] used to walk around the grounds at night as if he was policing the place. He would walk around and make sure that nothing was happening. As far as I was aware, and I may be wrong, it wasn't his remit to do that. I got the impression that part of the reason he liked doing that was because it enabled him to use his authority. The children knew he was an ex-policeman and I got the impression that some of them were frightened of him because of that. I wouldn't say he walked about to deliberately give people the fright. I think it was more him enjoying his position.
24. [REDACTED] QDY [REDACTED] did have two children but I never considered him to be a family man. He was always home late at night and, even then, he would go out to walk round the village. He didn't appear to me to have any understanding of the problems that children in care may have or the care they may need. I remember him referring to the children as "miscreants".

#### *Discipline and punishment*

25. He was very much into punishment. He was definitely a bully. If any of the boys disobeyed him he would take away privileges. He sometimes took away privileges from the boys for lengthy periods of time and for no particular good reason. The vast majority of times the punishment was out of proportion to what the child had done. I think he just wanted to stamp his authority on the children. He would, for example, stop boys playing football for weeks or stop the boys going to the club. The club was also called 'the tuck shop'. It also had games, pool tables, table tennis tables and things like that. The tuck shop was something that all the kids thrived on going to.

QDY deprived the boys of that. More often than not it wasn't anything to do with the boy's behaviour. I didn't like that. I felt it just upset the children and didn't really help anybody.

26. There was a tannoyed message that all the cottage parents had to listen to every day at ten o'clock in the morning. The minister read that message out from his vestry. Every day over the school holidays QDY Ailsa and myself made up events for the children. Those events were broadcast over the tannoy alongside any messages Joe Mortimer had. A prayer or sermon was also said by the minister each morning.
27. QDY would sometimes get the minister to announce that all boys in 'such and such' an age group or team should come down to the changing rooms. I later discovered the purpose of those tannoyed messages sent by QDY. When the boys or girls got down to the changing rooms they discovered that they weren't getting to play football. They found out that they were instead going to be made to do chores. QDY made the children clean behind particular cottages or pick up litter in a certain part of the village. I remember seeing older boys being made to go into the river to collect rubbish. QDY was using the children as a way of getting the village cleaned. As far as I was concerned QDY was using the tannoyed messages to tell untruths. The kids were all thinking that they were going down to play football but they found out they were picking up rubbish. I felt that QDY was telling lies to the kids. I saw QDY do that on numerous occasions.
28. I have to say that QDY could be very friendly with the children. I could tell that he enjoyed his job. I never ever saw him threaten them. He was a bully but I wouldn't say he was a bully 'in that way'. He wasn't the sort of person who would grab a boy and threaten him. It was more that he would punish and take away privileges from the kids if he wasn't getting his own way.

*Raising of grievances with Joe Mortimer about* QDY

29. I did go to Joe Mortimer on a couple of occasions to raise grievances. It was never explained to me that if I had a grievance I should go to see him. To my knowledge there was never a particular policy or procedure put in place for that. I suppose things like that weren't in place back in those days. I think I just assumed that Joe Mortimer would be having meetings with QDY and I could get things raised through speaking to him. I think I just felt that he was the person to go to if I had any problems.
30. One of my grievances concerned working hours. When I started as an assistant youth leader I was told that I would be doing shift work. I was told that I would either be working a morning / afternoon, an afternoon / evening or an evening / morning. I accepted the role on the understanding that those would be the hours. QDY worked morning / afternoon / night. He expected myself and Ailsa to work the same patterns. I had two children at home and I wanted to be able to spend some time at home with them. I found myself being out all of the time and not being able to see them. I went to Joe Mortimer about that and he managed to get QDY to change the shift patterns back to what I had been told I would be doing when I started.
31. Another grievance I raised with Joe Mortimer concerned QDY driving the tractor to clear the snow during the wintertime. He would plough all the streets and paths in the village. That was a bone of contention. QDY was there as a youth leader and not a 'snow plougher'. There were gardeners in Quarriers who did the snow ploughing. When I raised what I thought directly with QDY he told me something along the lines of "you just go away and play with the children son." I found that derogatory so I raised a grievance.



## Leaving role as assistant youth leader

32. About a year into my role as an assistant youth leader a decision was made to put on a show for all the cottage parents, anyone who worked in Quarriers and certain people from outside of the village. The show was to be put on to let everybody know what the youth section was and what they did. I was given the task by [REDACTED] QDY of putting together a list of everything we did in alphabetical order. 'A' was for archery, 'B' was for basketball, and 'C' was for cricket and so on. A boy or girl would walk out down the hall when each letter was announced with a piece of equipment associated with that activity. I remember that I had really struggled to get any of the older and taller boys to become involved so the boy I selected for walking down the hall with a basketball for 'B' was a small boy. When it came to the dress rehearsal Dr Minto, Joe Mortimer, George Gill and all of the senior people from Quarriers sat in to watch. When [REDACTED] QDY saw the small boy coming out with the basketball he turned and made a derogatory comment to me about selecting this small boy. I told him that we didn't even actually play basketball in the first place. I swore very loudly at him. I was annoyed about him making the comment in front of the people in the audience at the dress rehearsal. I was also annoyed that he was trying to make out that we were doing all the activities he was intending to display to the audience. I had previously told him that we didn't do the activities he was trying to make out that we did. There would have been people who were from outside of Quarriers would have been given a false impression about what we actually did in terms of activities with the children.
33. It descended into a verbal fight. I don't know why I lost the rag so much. I very seldom lose my temper but I did that night. All of this went on in front of Dr Minto and Joe Mortimer. When I walked out of the dress rehearsal I thought "that's me." I thought that was my job over and done with.
34. I ended up writing up my notice because I had sworn in front of the directors. The following morning I got dressed up in my suit and walked across to the main office to hand my notice in. I then met George Gill. He asked me what I was doing. I told him that I was handing in my notice before I got sacked. George Gill told me that Dr

Minto and Joe Mortimer hadn't said a single word about the confrontation I had had with [QDY] He told me to forget about it and sent me away.

35. At this point I was unhappy that I would be continuing to be working with [QDY] [QDY] I'd been applying for jobs elsewhere and had been offered a job in a remand home. I then sent a letter to Dr Minto informing him that I had been offered this job.
36. I then met with Dr Minto. He said that he didn't want me to go. He was aware that I had shown a lot of interest in working with the children and adults who stayed in Quarriers who had epilepsy. He told me that he would set me up with a job in the Epilepsy Centre if I would take it. He told me that he had been thinking about appointing someone in a leisure officer capacity to work with the adults. I then accepted the role. That's how I got away from [QDY] and the leisure section.
37. I don't think I ever had to make it clear to my bosses why I was unhappy in my position as an assistant youth leader. I felt that they understood I was unhappy because they had seen me swearing at [QDY] in front of them.

### **Quarriers – leisure officer in the Epilepsy Centre**

38. I was given my role as a leisure officer in the Epilepsy Centre in about July 1974. I worked in that role until 1978. I moved up to the centre with my wife and family when I got that role. We lived just across the road from some of the units. The centre was originally called the Epilepsy Colony but that was changed by Dr Minto. The building was a modern building. At that time there were about 120 adults in the centre. I only worked with adults during my time in the Epilepsy Centre.

*Role as leisure officer, Epilepsy Centre*

39. In my role as Leisure Officer I was given a total free hand. It was a fantastic job. I think I was given £600 a year to buy equipment. Before I arrived those adults weren't given any form of leisure activity apart from being shown a black and white film on Friday nights and a workshop where they worked during the day. It was all menial things like putting wee things in packets. They were walking around like zombies in the Centre. Dr Morris was in the process of trying to reduce the amount of different drugs that each resident was taking so that they were more able to cope with their condition.
40. I started to take the residents out of the workshop to do activities. I created and made up two putting greens for the residents. I made them a bowling green. I put together a football team and a walking club. I took the residents away camping. I used some of the money to buy bar billiards, table tennis tables and a dartboard.
41. I remember being allowed to take the residents swimming. I took half a dozen at a time. I remember the swimming pool superintendent not being happy with me doing that. It was because the residents had epilepsy. He refused to help. I made sure that all the residents stayed down the shallow end of the pool. I stood at the side of the pool and dived in if any of the residents took a seizure. Looking back I can see why the superintendent felt the way he did. However, I did have permission from Dr Minto to take the residents swimming

*Training and guidance*

42. I was given no training whatsoever in my new role. The only guidance I was given was being told to go and give the adults in the epilepsy unit as much opportunity to get involved in activities as I could. Nobody gave me any guidance whatsoever as to how to deal with a person who had a seizure. Nobody specifically told me what I needed to do. I must have read up on what you do and don't do myself. I do remember that I was never afraid when anybody took a seizure. I just knew how to make sure they were safe and that they weren't going to damage themselves or others. I just dealt with it.

43. Dr Morris was the doctor in the hospital. I was able to go and get advice from the Dr Morris regarding how to care for particular individuals. I recall doing that for a couple of the adult residents before taking them out of the village when we went on a trip to the Isle of Bute. I also recall getting advice concerning a young man who had physical disabilities who could become aggressive. Dr Morris's advice on this particular occasion was "what you've got to do is fell him before he fells you." I felt assured getting this advice from Dr Morris.

*Staff structure during time as a Leisure Officer*

44. Matron Dixon was the person who was in charge at the time I moved up to the Epilepsy Centre. She would shout at the residents. She would question why I was there and why the residents needed activities. I found it all so weird. I remember being told before I started in the role by Dr Minto that if I had any problems with her I was to come straight to him. I did do that on a couple of occasions over the years I was there. I went to see him when I found Matron Dixon was obstructing me from doing various things. I remember her not being too pleased with me doing that.

*Accommodation and interaction with children who had epilepsy during time as an assistant youth leader*

45. When I first started as an assistant youth leader, the boys with epilepsy resided in one of the units called Elim. This unit was run by a [REDACTED] QLS. She had about as much understanding of children as [REDACTED] QDY did. She was a tyrant. Elim was later on moved to cottage 26 when a couple by the name [REDACTED] QLQ/QLR joined Quarriers. [REDACTED] QLQ/QLR took over from [REDACTED] QLS. The unit for girls who had epilepsy was in cottage 29.
46. During my time working as the assistant youth leader I went two hours each day to play with the children in Elim, which became cottage 26, and cottage 29. I would take the children out for a run about or play a game with them or something.

47. I took the children with epilepsy out into the village. I remember that I ran a group where I tried to teach the children where food came from. I was assisted by one of the cottage aunties from cottage 3. At that time it was Ann Craig's cottage. Her name was Alison. Alison was excellent. She is now a social worker, I believe, in the Highlands. I remember her running two lots of groups with me. I invited along the children with epilepsy. I took them to the butchers one time to see a cow being delivered and being prepared for sale. I also remember asking the children all to bring vegetables along. The children with epilepsy didn't know what a potato was. That was the same for some of the children who didn't have epilepsy. They didn't know what anything was. I think that the children didn't know what these things were because they hadn't been exposed to it. I don't know whether the cottage parents might have been scared of having the children in the kitchen for fear of any accidents.

*Incident in Epilepsy Centre involving* QLS

48. One day I was playing snooker with one of the adults who had epilepsy. He had a massive seizure. He fell over and split his chin. QLS was there. She called her husband who also worked in Quarriers. When he came along we had to pin the man down while QLS stitched his chin up without anaesthetic. The poor guy was screaming. QLS just said "grow up and shut up."
49. At that time I didn't know any better. I was just a leisure officer. Looking back now it was horrific. I have spoken to a doctor friend and he has told me that what we did was illegal. I've learned that you shouldn't stitch anyone in the face. There are nerves in a person's face that can be damaged when you do that. I saw the way that QLS was acting with an adult. She worked with children at that time. I can't imagine how she acted with the children if she acted like that with an adult. However, I have to say that I never saw her acting like that with the children in front of me.

### **Leaving role as leisure officer in the Epilepsy Centre**

50. During my time as a leisure officer I decided that I needed some qualifications. I asked around whether there was some kind of course I could do. I don't remember there being a training officer in Quarriers at that time. I don't recall there being one in Quarriers until after I was a social worker there. Joe Mortimer said that if I did an Open University course for one year on my own in my own time it would prove to him that I was serious about doing a proper course and wanting to advance.
51. I found and started an Open University course called 'Handicapped Persons in the Community'. I finished that sometime between 1977 and 1978. I can't remember much detail from that course. I ended up at the end of the course with the equivalent of either a sixth or a third of a degree. It counted as a credit towards a full degree.

### **Secondment from Quarriers to Jordanhill College, Glasgow**

52. After I finished the Open University course I was seconded on full pay to Jordanhill College for two years to gain a Certificate of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW). Back then that was the only qualification you could do to become a social worker. They didn't have any degrees back then. I did the course between 1978 and 1980. It was really good of Quarriers to allow me to do that. I think I was one of the first employees to be sent by Quarriers to go on that course. I did the course full time.

#### *The course and placements*

53. The lady who started the children's hearing system was one of our lecturers. I can't remember her name. I remember attending lectures on that. I don't think that I was given any training concerning child protection issues whilst I was on the course. It could be that I was given some training and it's just that I can't remember. As far as I am aware none of the lecturers who were teaching me had an awareness of child protection issues. I may be wrong but I can't remember anything like that. I'm pretty sure there was a part of the course where we learned about record keeping. I don't

remember it being specifically for residential social work though. I can't remember what specifically we were taught but record keeping must have been addressed.

54. The course was a general course that included placements. My first placement was in a prison in England. It was a great experience but I was down there for two weeks at a time. I was returning to see my family for one weekend a fortnight. I then went to a placement up in Elgin. I worked in a hostel for adults with learning disabilities. After that I was sent down to Adrossan to work with the local authority's social work team. I worked with children with problems who were going through the children's hearing system. I was thoroughly supervised. I remember the supervisors being very helpful. I remember an incident where I mentioned something about Freud and I was made to read up on him. I also remember receiving guidance and help with record keeping.
55. The local authority placement opened my eyes. I'd never seen slums. I remember doing a report on one of the first houses I went into. I used the word 'slum' in my report. My supervisor asked me about using the word 'slum' for that house. I later on saw houses that were much worse. I remember seeing houses with broken toilets, no doors and human faeces on the floor.

### **Quarriers – residential social worker**

#### *Time spent working as a residential social worker*

56. I returned to Quarriers in 1980 as a residential social worker. I did that until the cottages started closing down because of the fostering and adoption campaigns that were going on to try and get children out of children's homes. That was in 1984.
57. The social work department was called Nittingshill. It sat across the road from Homelee. Homelee was on the right hand side as you entered the main office. Homelee was the head office at the time I started. The telephone exchange was

based in that office. Joe Mortimer, Dr Minto, Bill Dunbar and George Gill all worked in that building.

*My role as a residential social worker*

58. I was a social worker that was allocated to particular cottages. I was responsible for the children who were in those particular cottages. Each child had a local authority social worker as well. I've never thought about whether I was the cottage parents' social worker. I've always assumed that I was the children in the cottage's social worker. We were monitoring what the parents were doing in the cottages. We were there to support the cottage parents because they didn't have all the answers. Viewed in that way I suppose we were the cottage parents' social worker as well. However, back then I always saw my role as being mainly concerned about the children. I don't think there was a conflict between my role in supporting the cottage parents and looking after the children.
59. There could be as many as sixty children in my caseload spread across six cottages. I wrote reports for any of the children in my caseload who were attending children's hearings. I attended reviews for children in my cottages alongside the local authority social workers. I visited the cottages on a daily basis. I would have a word with the cottage parents to see if there were any issues. I visited the head teacher at Quarriers' school to make sure everything was ok. I sometimes would attend meetings with local authority schools to discuss the transfer of children from the Quarriers school. I also had to deal with any disruptive behaviour that was going on in the cottages. Of course, throughout all of that we had to write up case notes as well.
60. It wasn't official but I occasionally had meetings with Quarriers' psychologist, Jean Morris. I would go and see her if I felt there were any behavioural problems with the children in my caseload and seek her advice.



*Staff structure during time as a residential social worker*

61. The highest position in the social work department was the senior social worker. He was called Alf Craigmill. Alf Craigmill met with Mr Mortimer on a regular basis.
62. There was a student supervisor by the name of Ian Brodie. There was a social work training section in Quarriers for student social workers coming in on residential placements. When Ian Brodie took in social work students he would allocate them to a couple of cottages. The students would go and do case studies in the cottages. Ian Brodie supervised that. He was a lovely person. He was well-liked. He helped me a lot when I first became a social worker after my training. He helped me with my reports for the hearings. Both Alf Craigmill and Ian Brodie were very good to me. They both helped and taught me a lot.
63. Below the senior social worker were the social workers. That was my job title. During my time at Quarriers I knew and worked with John Myer who is now unfortunately dead, then there was Liz McBride, Janice Creen, Bill McKay and Tony McNulty. All the residential social workers in Quarriers reported to Alf Craigmill.
64. Quarriers had an on-site clinical psychologist called Jean Morris. She had an office in Homelee. I think she was there full time. If she wasn't full time then she was there a lot. I know that she had all her equipment there. She had dolls and dolls houses that she did wee role plays with the children. There was also an educational psychologist who worked in Quarriers school. I can't remember her name. She eventually became a minister in a breakaway church.

*Supervision and monitoring of residential social workers*

65. Alf Craigmill provided regular on-going supervision to all the social workers. I would have to go through my caseload of children possibly on a weekly basis with Alf Craigmill. Even knowing what I know now I still think that, when I look back, we as social workers were very well supervised and monitored.

66. There was always a meeting held on Mondays. The meetings were held to discuss any concerns we may have about any of the children we had in our caseloads. Everybody in the social work department would be there. Joe Mortimer occasionally attended to check things over and oversee what we were doing.
67. The meetings were an opportunity to discuss what was going on in the cottages and amongst the children with your colleagues. It was important to do that because issues may cross between cottages. Some of the children, for example, may have pals in other cottages that weren't in your caseload. We also discussed who would be on duty on particular nights, weekends and public holidays. There was a rota for social workers for working nights and weekends. Every social worker had to be on duty one night during the week and over a weekend every three weeks.
68. Another part of the meetings held on Mondays concerned vacant beds. Alf Craigmill would have a list of all the cottages that had empty beds. The list would set out whether the vacancies could be filled with girls, boys, younger children, older children or families. The list would be passed on at night time to the duty social worker in case any of the local authority social workers called and looked to place children. The list would be available so that the duty social worker could allocate the children to the right place if they could do that.

*Allocation of cottages to me*

69. All the social workers were allocated half a dozen cottages. We were responsible for those cottages. There wasn't a system for the allocation of cottages. I was just told when I joined the social work department what cottages I would be given. I was given a couple of cottages that had been withdrawn previously from other social workers. My impression was that I had been seen as a rookie who would come in and not cause any trouble with these problem cottages. That ultimately was not the case.
70. The cottages I was given when I became a social worker were Anne Craig's (cottage 3), the Durrents' (cottage 5), the QFO/QJK (cottage 14), QLQ/QLR (cottage 26), Anne Howard 's (cottage 29), the QFG/QFH (cottage 38), and Anne Kerr's (cottage

40). Those are the only cottages and cottage parents that I can speak about in terms of the cottages I dealt with as a social worker. I do have some recollections of other cottages and cottage staff as well. I did have problem cottages in my caseload. I assume that my colleagues also had problem cottages in their caseload.

### **Visits to the children in my capacity as a residential social worker**

71. I met regularly with all of the children who were in the cottages. The children called me Stuart. I was ok with them using my first name. I would meet with the children either at night time or during the day if they weren't in school. I did get to speak with some of the children more than some of the other social workers because I lived on site. I remember walking around the grounds on my weekends off with my son, sitting down on the grass and having a blether with some of the children. I would ask them how they were getting on then as well.
72. I remember spending more time with some children than others. Some of the children I spoke to every day. Others I spoke to less. It's like that in social work. The ones who had the problems you spoke to the most. The ones that didn't have problems you didn't speak to so often. It would be difficult for me to give an average or a statistic for how often I spoke with every child because it varied. I can say that there wasn't a day when I didn't speak to at least half a dozen children. I would just try and spend as much time as I could possibly spend with the young people.
73. I did try and speak to every child in my caseload on their own. They all had different backgrounds and had different problems. Over the time I was in the residential social work department I would have spoken on a one-to-one basis with every child. I would have done that reasonably regularly.
74. I remember one weekend sitting down beside two young girls who I hadn't seen before. I asked them what cottage they were in and where they were from. They told me the cottage and said they were from Ferguslie Park in Paisley. I asked them whether they liked being in Quarriers. One of the girls then said "trees fucking

trees.” I thought that was a cracking answer. Obviously not everyone appreciated the beautiful scenery.

*Interaction and communication with children who had disabilities*

75. I would have to treat certain children differently to a certain extent because of their disabilities. A lot of the children with epilepsy were pretty highly drugged in those days. That meant that some of the children were pretty difficult to talk to when compared to children in other cottages. I suppose the main differences were that I very seldom spoke to the children with epilepsy on their own because of the cottage situation. They were restricted to the cottage. There were very few places in the cottage where I could speak to them on their own. In hindsight, I could have taken those children up to my office. However, it was more straightforward to speak to them where they were. I actually doubt if the **QLQ/QLR** would permit me to take one of the boys from the cottage for fear I would put some idea into his head which might cause problems to them.
76. My case notes for the children with epilepsy would be less than those who didn't have epilepsy. That was mainly because the children were mostly inside the cottage. They weren't allowed out. They weren't outside mixing in and potentially getting into mischief.

*Recollection of residents visiting me at my house*

77. **██████████** was a boy who stayed in cottage 3. That was the Ann Craig's cottage. He used to come over to my house to help me with building a kayak I was making at that time. The visits didn't always go well. I remember **██████████** stole my son's piggy bank one time. I remember another boy putting something into my car's petrol tank.
78. One night I invited half a dozen of the boys round to my house for their supper. We had supper with the boys and had a good chat. We talked about people and everything in general. All the boys then started leaving. As they were leaving one of

the boys turned back and started handing me things. It was all the stuff that he had nicked from our house during this visit. It was quite awkward at times. I remember saying to my wife that we were trying to help these boys but they kept on doing things like that which did not make it easy.

### **Visitors from persons outside of Quarriers Village**

#### *Visits by parents and relatives*

79. The local authority social workers managed contact between the children in Quarriers and their relatives outside. When a parent or relative wanted to establish contact with a resident, the local authority social worker would make contact with Quarriers social work department. We would enter into talks. It would then be agreed that the parent or relative could come to visit on a particular day. We would then make contact with the cottage parents and let them know the parent or relative was visiting on a particular day. It would then be down to the cottage parents to orchestrate the visit with the local authority social worker. The Quarriers social workers didn't meet with the parents during the visits.
80. The only time that we really came into contact with the parents was when the children had reviews. We never met with any of the parents or relatives when they made their visits. We didn't do home visits as a residential social worker. All that was seen as the job of the local authority social workers. I do remember seeing mums and dads walking around the grounds with their children.
81. I can only speak for my cottages and say that all the cottage parents appeared to be positive towards the children getting visits from their parents or relatives. There wasn't any resistance that I witnessed or experienced. I did notice that the QLQ/QLR never had any parents or relatives visiting the children. I would imagine that they might have been the sort of people who wouldn't have liked parents or relatives coming in. They may not have encouraged parents and relatives coming in. I can't remember many of the children in Anne Kerr's cottage having visitors. It could be

that she saw herself as their mother. QAH/SPO would certainly not have encouraged visits because they saw themselves as “mummy and daddy”.

82. One of the worst things was having to deal with the children on occasions where visitors didn't turn up. I can't count the number of times that I had children who stayed in, got themselves dressed up ready for mums and dads visiting and then their mums and dads not turning up. I saw children let down time and time again. When that happened the children always made up excuses for their parents not visiting. It was sad when the children were let down.

*Visits by local authority social workers*

83. The frequency of visits made by the local authority social workers to the children varied. It depended on the particular social worker and also whether there were any particular issues with a particular child. They did try to visit as regularly as they could. There were local authority social workers you saw once every couple of weeks and others you didn't see for ages and ages. There wasn't, to my recollection, an instance where there was a concern that a local authority social worker hadn't visited for a particular length of time.
84. The nature of the visits consisted of the local authority social worker sitting down with the child and talking with them on their own. They might take the child out for a walk or take them for an ice cream or something like that. They would have a chat to see how things were going. I don't know whether the children trusted their local authority social workers, however, I'm sure that if a child wasn't happy and they wanted out of Quarriers, or they had a complaint about a particular member of staff, they would have told their local authority social worker.
85. If things were reported by children to their local authority social workers then that social worker should have been speaking with the cottage parents and making sure that that behaviour changed. I am not aware of any examples where children reported things to their local authority social workers and those social workers having words with the respective cottage parents. I don't remember being told of an

instance where that happened. That could be because I wasn't told by the local authority social worker who had had words with the cottage parents. It could also be because children were too scared to report things for fear of being sent away, punished or being separated from siblings. I can understand that that fear might have been there.

86. The local authority social worker would have a chat with the cottage parents to see whether things were going alright. As far as I am aware there was no guidance given to the cottage parents by the local authority social workers. I think the chat was just to make sure that the child was safe, healthy and not presenting any issues in terms of behaviour.
87. Some of the children knew their local authority social workers very well and liked them coming in and showing an interest in them. Others detested their local authority social workers. They wanted nothing to do with any of the social workers whether that be internal or local authority. There were a couple of cottage parents who encouraged this with the children in their cottage. Everybody knew which cottage parents didn't like social workers.

*Visits made by former residents*

88. One of our responsibilities was to assist with visitors who were former residents. Sometimes former residents wanted to come back to Quarriers to see where they had been brought up. They would phone up beforehand.
89. I remember one particular lady who came to visit from America. She was having repeated nightmares about something to do with Quarriers. It was something to do with a big cast iron gate. She didn't know anything about what had happened but this big cast iron gate appeared in her nightmares. When she arrived at Quarriers I took her around all the gates I could find. I took her to the big school gate. When she saw that gate she started thinking something may have happened there. She wasn't sure. Apparently she felt an awful lot better after seeing Quarriers again.

90. I also remember taking a brother and sister around who had been residents many years before. I remember that the sister hated the place with a vengeance but the brother loved it. Not all the people I have encountered who have left Quarriers disliked their time there. Many people loved it.

### **Procedure for children who ran away**

91. There wasn't a particular procedure or practice for when children ran away, were found and returned. They just got collected, taken to the cottage and put in their beds. Most of the children who ran away were children who had done that on repeat occasions. I remember quite a few nights where I went to collect children from the police in Paisley and Greenock. It was very frustrating being called out in the middle of the night to go and collect children.
92. Generally, when I was driving the child or children home I would have a blether with them. During the drives back to Quarriers the children would just say they were fed up, they did it to get a ride in the car or they wanted to have a chat with a policeman. It was something like that that they would say. My impression was that the children who ran away were doing it more as a joke. It was just something to do. They weren't running away to get home or trying to escape their cottage. They were just running away to do something with their Saturday night.
93. Some social workers would sometimes have a word with the child the following morning. I personally can't remember doing that. That didn't always happen. The social worker would ask the child what the running away was all about. I don't know whether Joe Mortimer would go and speak with the child as well.
94. I do remember picking up one family who had run away. A little girl banged her head getting into my car as she was getting in. I overheard her saying to her brother in the back of the car "aye let's tell Wee Joe that it was him that did it." The following morning I went straight to Joe Mortimer to tell him that an allegation was going to be made that wasn't true. I think Joe Mortimer then went to speak to the family. I



remember that sometime after that incident Ian Brodie had to go out to collect a child who had run away. I think someone took a knife to him.

95. After those incidents it was decided that nobody was allowed to go and collect children who had run away on their own. You always had to take someone with you if you were going out. It was also decided that the male social workers should take a female social worker with them if they were collecting children. It had to be one of each. That was all done so that someone would be there if any accusations were made. Once we started doing that the allegations stopped. I think the children realised that it would be a "them against us" type of thing if they made any allegations about us when we were collecting them.
96. I don't remember any sanctions being made for the children who ran away. I can't remember hearing of any of the cottage parents sanctioning the children who had run away after they had been returned. All I remember is that the cottage parents or cottage assistants that were on duty when I brought the children back were very welcoming. None of them gave an indication to me that they would be punishing the children.

### **Assistant director involvement with the cottages and children**

97. The assistant directors also oversaw the cottages. They were allocated cottages. I can't remember what other cottages Bill Dunbar oversaw but I know one of them was the QFG/QFH in cottage 38. I can't remember what assistant directors oversaw my other cottages.
98. George Gill was very much involved with the children. He wasn't so much the religious type. He was very well liked by the children. He did things like come skiing with the children on trips. I got to know him well because we went skiing on one occasion together in Aviemore with some children. He would sometimes turn up at the club to play pool with the boys. He didn't have to do that. That wasn't his role.

99. I think I always thought that Bill Dunbar was always next in ranking to George Gill as George had a social work qualification. They were not in title though. Bill Dunbar was one of the more Christian members of staff. He ran a club with a man called John Porteous called the 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Club'

### **Holidays and trips**

100. A man called Mr Hodge owned four or five cabin type buildings in Turnberry. He was a very rotund gentleman. I never spoke to him at any time. The cabins were located near to the golf course. The cottage parents could book those cabins out for holidays with the children. The staff could use those cabins as well when the children weren't using them. I remember that all the cabins had big fridge / freezers full of ice cream for the children. My wife, children and I used to go up and use the cabins. The availability of the cabins was there all the time I was at Quarriers. George Gill ran a place in Southannan. He ran the place with someone called Joe Broussard. Two or three of the cottages had a big house in Aberdeen where they went up on holiday to.
101. I don't remember any other places the children went on holiday to. I don't remember children going on holiday with foster parents or relatives. There was someone called LRE who was involved in either an internal or Bridge of Weir scout group. I remember him taking boys on trips involving a boat he owned. I don't remember the Boys Brigade going anywhere.

### **Groups, clubs and societies**

102. The Fuzzy Wuzzy Club was for the young children. I don't know whether the children were made to go to it. They seemed to enjoy it. Bill Dunbar and John Porteous ran the club on Saturday mornings. You would see both of them dressed up with jackets with bows on and things like that going to the club. I never went to the Fuzzy Wuzzy Club but I think there was a religious element to it. Bill Dunbar

didn't get involved with the activity side of things. The Fuzzy Wuzzy Club was more the thing he got involved with.

103. There was a Boys Brigade. John Porteous was the captain of the Boys Brigade. I had been involved with the Boys Brigade before I came to Quarriers but had no involvement after I moved to the village. They had a Girls Brigade when I was there. I know that because my wife was involved with that. There may have been a Quarriers scout group but it could be that it was attached to Bridge of Weir rather than the village. [REDACTED] LRE [REDACTED] was the scout leader.

### **Bed-wetting**

104. I have heard from someone who worked as night staff in Quarriers that her husband, when he was a resident as a boy, was made to wrap his wet sheets around him as a punishment for wetting the bed. Her husband would be about the same age as me. I have also heard from a former resident called [REDACTED] that he experienced similar things. [REDACTED] was a resident at the time I was a residential social worker. He was in [REDACTED] QFO/QJK [REDACTED] cottage. [REDACTED] and the gentleman who is aged the same as me can't have got together and discussed things. That tells me that the practice was something that must have been passed down.
105. I don't recall anything concerning children who wet the bed and involvement with the hospital or Dr Morris.

## Schooling

106. There was a school in Quarriers. I remember it being both a primary and a secondary school. However, I do also remember some children going to local authority schools for secondary school.
107. I was never in any of the classrooms at the school. I was only ever in the head teacher's room. I would go up there if there were any problems. I remember two headmasters at the school in Quarriers. The first one was called John McInnes. The second one was called Mr McLaren. During my time as a social worker Mr McLaren was the headmaster. Every now and again he would call me and say that they were having a problem with a particular child.
108. I remember being called out by Mr McLaren for one young boy. He must have been fourteen or fifteen. He was one of the young guys in the Durrent's cottage. Mr McLaren reported the young boy to have been attempting to set the school on fire. I went down to the school. When I got there I discovered he had been standing with a glove on his hand holding a match. Mr McLaren accused the boy of trying to set fire to the school in front of the boy. The boy said "if I was bloody trying to set fire to the school I wouldn't be using bloody this."
109. The children with epilepsy in the cottages I looked after did attend school. They all attended Quarriers school. I think all the children with epilepsy were taught together in the one classroom.
110. I was involved in trying to get some of the children into local authority schools. The educational psychologist was involved. I don't remember her name. I remember attending meetings where myself, the local authority social worker, the educational psychologist, cottage parents and someone from the school were in attendance to discuss transferring particular children to local authority schools. After those meetings a decision was made whether it would be appropriate to transfer the child to the school. If it was agreed that they should be transferred then the child would be introduced to the new school. The children hated the way that the teachers

introduced them to their new class by asking the child to come to the front of the class and introduce them as a child from Quarrier's Homes.

111. I remember that there was a time when it was decided that all the children would be moved out of Quarriers' school into local authority schools. I can't remember the names of the schools that the children went to. The only children that were left were those who had epilepsy. I suppose Quarriers' school then became what you could loosely describe 'a special school'.

### **Healthcare**

112. There was a hospital in Quarriers. It had one end for the girls and one end for the boys. The hospital was run by a matron. I can't remember her name. She ran it alongside a couple of nurses who I don't remember the name of. There was a resident doctor. His name was Dr Morris. He was also the doctor for the people who had epilepsy. If any child was ill or unwell you could phone up and make an appointment with the doctor at the hospital.
113. I don't recall anything about dental care.

### **Religious instruction**

114. There was a Christian element in Quarriers whilst I was there. The motto for Quarriers is "have faith in God and God will provide". I've read a number of books about Quarriers and there are stories about praying for things like food and food getting delivered.
115. The first minister I knew at Quarriers was called Arthur Frazer. His wife is called Marion Frazer. Marion Frazer now lives up in Aberdeenshire. Arthur Frazer has passed away now. Marion was a good friend to my wife as we lived next door to her.

116. All the children were made to go to church. As far as I am aware part of the cottage parents' role in Quarriers was to make sure their children went to church. They did that to allow the children to learn the Christian side of things. I don't know of any cottages that didn't make their children go to church. I think that Anne Craig's children went every day in the mornings and in the evenings. I remember QFO making all of the children from his cottage march to church in their kilts. I remember seeing that and thinking that it was very surreal.
117. I think by the time that the children got to the hostel in Quarriers grounds it was put to the young person whether they wanted to continue going to church or not. I do recall that church was a big bone of contention with a lot of the young people.

### **Employment for young persons as they approached leaving age at Quarriers**

118. When a young person reached a certain age we would start discussing with them what they fancied doing when they left school. You would ask them whether they fancied going out to particular places and having a go. Generally, when you started mentioning particular jobs, the young person had no interest at all.
119. I worked with the young people and gave them clues and hints about what to do in interviews. I would tell them that they should watch what they were saying, they should dress up nicely, they shouldn't interrupt, they should be mannerly and all this sort of stuff.
120. We did go out visiting various places with young people when trying to get work for them. I remember one young man who fancied working for the Forestry Commission. I took the young man up to a Forestry Commission place up in Aberfoyle. This young man didn't impress the man at the Forestry Commission at all. I remember the first thing the guy asked this young man was what he knew about trees. The young man said "trees? Anything you want to know just ask me." That didn't impress the guy from the Forestry Commission very much.

## Records and record keeping

### *Records kept in my capacity as a residential social worker*

126. The social workers all had case files to do. Each day that we spoke to a child we got the case files out and updated them. Any issues that were discussed would be noted down. The case files were kept in the social work department at Quarriers. I had my own filing cabinet for my files. I know that other social workers had their own too. You would pull the file out and update it as you went along.
127. You would note whether you had spoken with a particular child on a particular day in the files. Other notes might be things like whether the young boy or girl had been in trouble at school or misbehaved in a cottage. I would record the incident, who I spoke to and explain what happened. If a child had complained to me then I would have taken it up with the cottage parents and Alf Craigmill. That would have been recorded in the child's file. I don't really recall anywhere else that this sort of information would go. Everything would go into the child's social work file. It sort of rings a bell that there may have been a complaints book but I am not sure.
128. All you would learn from a child's record is who they were, where they came from, how long they had been in the place and any issues, behavioural or otherwise, concerning the child. I remember recording down quite a lot when young people requested to go into the hostel and, for some reason, they weren't allowed to. I would write down the reasons why we felt that the particular child wasn't suitable. Positive things didn't seem to be recorded at all. It was always the negative things that we recorded. I suppose in that way the files weren't an accurate record of a particular child because they only showed negative things.

### *Supervision of residential social worker record keeping*

129. I am sure that if I had not kept my case records up to date Alf Craigmill would have said something to me. He would have pulled me up and said "I see you haven't been to cottage 'so and so'" or "you haven't been to visit this particular child." I do

121. I remember taking a young man over to Bute. He fancied being a gamekeeper. I introduced him to a gamekeeper I knew. The young man was offered a job. The young man only lasted a week in the job. Both the gamekeeper and I had explained to the young man what the job involved. However, he thought that gamekeepers just shot pheasants. He wasn't even given a gun during the week he worked there.
122. I also remember placing a couple of boys with Mr Hodge. Mr Hodge was the man who owned the cabins in Turnberry. He also ran racehorses. I remember that the boys were given the opportunity to go up and work as stable boys.
123. There are other stories of trying to get young people jobs. I can't remember them all. They are all very similar to the ones I have described. As soon as the young person got themselves the job they blew it because of their attitude. I never managed to get anyone permanently employed anywhere.

#### **The movement of children between cottages**

124. Sometimes children would put in requests to move from one particular cottage to another particular cottage. The children very seldom gave a concrete reason as to why they wanted to be moved. I do remember that sometimes it was because they had a particular friend in another particular cottage. We had the odd child who had a sister or brother in another cottage. I never experienced in my cottages children wanting to get put back together in cottages with their siblings when they were split up. I never experienced any children wanting to move away from their siblings.
125. If we could we would accommodate moves. If a child was getting moved between cottages the residential social worker involved would do a pre-run with the child. The child would be taken to the new cottage and introduced to their new cottage parents. We would do that to let them see that their new cottage would be very similar to the one that they were already in.



know that Alf Craigmill read every report that was being written up by the social workers for children's hearings. He would read them before they went out. I don't think Joe Mortimer saw any of the social worker case notes. As far as I am aware no notes were kept of our supervision by Alf Craigmill.

130. I know, from my experience later on in Quarriers working in the Respite Unit, that supervision became formal with time being set aside for staff to raise anything and notes being recorded. I remember the notes being written up and passed to the person who was being supervised to be signed off by them. I know that because I had two deputies then and became involved in that supervision. That wasn't the case when I was working in the social work department.

*Records kept by management*

131. I don't know whether Alf Craigmill kept a separate set of records. I wouldn't imagine that George Gill or Bill Dunbar kept their own records.

*Records kept by cottage parents*

132. It's hard for me to say what records the cottage parents kept. It seemed to be that everything was done unofficially back in those days. Things weren't put down in writing and signed like you would do today.
133. I have recently spoken to a member of staff called Alison who was a cottage auntie in Anne Craig's cottage. I have heard from her that Anne Craig did keep a note book that she wrote anything about the children in it. I never saw those notes. I don't know whether Joe Mortimer ever asked to see those notes.
134. I do remember seeing cottage parents writing into diaries when the tannoy was on. They wrote down what activities were going to be on during the day. I remember all of the cottages having a diary for that purpose. I think the diaries were also used for passing on information for the next member of staff coming on. I don't remember seeing a visitor's book but it's possible that they noted down visitors in this diary

also. A cottage parent logbook sort of rings a bell but I can't say for definite that I remember seeing that. I certainly didn't look at any logbooks.

135. As far as I am aware the cottage parents didn't have any case notes relating to the children. I don't remember seeing the cottage parents having case notes for each individual child in their cottage. I would've thought that they must have.
136. I am not aware of any punishment logs or books being kept by the cottage parents. I have heard about punishment books but I never witnessed any being kept. I can imagine that they would have been something that would have been in existence.
137. As far as I am aware there were no notes being kept by the cottage parents of their supervision of the staff in the cottages. They just had informal talks with their staff as to what they should be doing.
138. I do find it strange how I don't know about record keeping by cottage parents. As the social worker to the cottage I would have thought that I would have known all about record keeping in the cottages.

*Supervision of cottage parents records*

139. I have heard nothing or remember anything about the cottage parents handing in their diaries to Joe Mortimer on a regular basis. I can see why that would have been done. That must have been done otherwise there was no point in the cottage parents writing things down.

*Records where abuse was reported*

140. I don't know whether management or the cottage parents would have recorded what was said if a child had approached them and reported abuse. I don't know whether Joe Mortimer would have recorded what was reported to him. Things were definitely not noted down to the extent that they are nowadays.

141. I know that the social worker would have recorded what was reported down in the records in that situation. We would definitely have recorded what was said. It was in our training that we had to record everything. The cottage parents didn't have that training. Therefore I don't know whether they would have recorded things down. They could have though in their diaries.

*Location of old records*

142. I have been asked in the past by Quarriers whether I know where the records and files were kept. Nobody seems to know where the old records went to. I told them that the old fire station in Quarriers was a possible location for where the old records were sent to be stored. I think somebody mentioned that to me in the past. I think that the fire station was used for storing furniture just before I started at Quarriers.
143. I also told them that I remembered that some of the files went to cottage 14. Nobody was living at cottage 14 at that time. I am sure that some of the case files were also kept way down in the depths of the head office. If you had ten children who left and then a ten further children came in then the files would have to go somewhere.

**Inspections**

*Inspections from outside agencies and authorities*

144. I don't remember there being any inspections from outside agencies. I don't remember there ever being some form of inspection from a local authority social work department, central government, the Scottish office or the home office. There were no inspections at all.
145. The closest example I can think of of a person coming in from an outside agency and looking into Quarriers was Mike Laxton. Mike Laxton was from the Scottish office. I think he was called into Quarriers by Dr Minto in order to do an assessment of Quarriers as an organisation. I wouldn't call what he did an inspection as such

though. I'm not sure how he assessed the place. I don't recall seeing him going in and out of cottages for example. I remember him attending meetings. I didn't really have much contact with him. I think Dr Minto expected Mike Laxton to come in and write a lovely big report about how good Quarriers was. I think he thought that he would get kudos from that.

### *Cottage Visitors*

146. Quarriers had what they called Cottage Visitors. The Cottage Visitors were Lady 'so and so' and so on. I do remember a male visitor as well. They were all of that kind of ilk. All the cottage parents and cottages had visiting people like that. The Cottage Visitor's role was to come in and provide an overall view of what an outsider would see if they came in. They had a chat with the cottage parents and discussed whether they had any problems or concerns. It was a great thing.
147. When I ran the Respite Unit my Cottage Visitor was Lady Lithgow. She came to visit us every month or so. I remember wanting to get a rather scabby outside door painted and I couldn't get it done. When Lady Lithgow came in I apologised for the state of the door. She agreed that the door was scabby. Within a day painters were sent down to paint the door. The Cottage Visitors were very handy for getting things done like that. I imagine that the cottage parents might have used the Cottage Visitors to get things done like I did.

### **Unsupervised access to children**

148. There were people who had unsupervised access to the children. Every staff member would, at times, be on their own with the children. There were what were called befrienders. They could take the children out unsupervised on their own. I don't recall there being any checks on befrienders done by the residential social workers before they took the children out. I was just told that there was a befriender taking the child out and that was it. I assume management checked the befrienders out. It must have been done by people like Bill Dunbar and George Gill. I can't

imagine that people could just come in and say that they wanted to take the children out.

149. One person who had access to the children unsupervised was [REDACTED] LRE [REDACTED] I guess he was about the same age as me. He was a scout leader. I don't know whether he headed up a Quarriers scout group or whether it was a group in Bridge of Weir. I assume it was an internal scout group because I don't remember any of the children going out of Quarriers of an evening.

150. [REDACTED] LRE [REDACTED] came across as a nice person. He had his own [REDACTED] I recall going out [REDACTED] it with some of the boys from Quarriers. On another occasion, much later on, he went out [REDACTED] with some boys. I wasn't there. I discovered some time later that he was found guilty of exposing himself to two boys. The incident was in the seventies. I don't know when he was convicted. I know he spent some time in jail.

### **Child protection policies**

151. I don't remember any internal policies or procedures at Quarriers concerning child protection. I can't even remember the word 'protect' ever being mentioned. I don't remember an equivalent of that word being used. I can't remember anything to do with child protection. I think, in his role as student supervisor, Ian Brodie would have been more likely to have used terms such as 'child protection'. He may have been aware of that side of things.

### **Review of care**

#### *Child reviews*

152. The local authority social workers would attend regular reviews with the children. I attended those reviews alongside the cottage parents. Sometimes the child's

parents or relatives may be in attendance at those reviews. That was really the only time I came in contact with any of the children's parents or relatives.

*Reports for children's hearings and attending children's hearings*

153. Part of my role was to write up reports for children who were attending children's hearings. When I wrote up my reports for children who were attending the children's hearings I would go and speak with the cottage parents or assistants in the cottage. They would tell me what the child was like, whether they were well behaved or not, whether the child was desperate to see their parents and things like that. It was all oral feedback from the cottage parents. I would make notes from what the cottage parents or assistants were saying and incorporate them in my reports.
154. I would also speak to the child as well. If I knew that a child was going to go to a children's hearing I would certainly be more involved with them. I would sit down with them on their own. I'd do that sitting out on the grass or invite them to the office. The offices provided plenty of privacy. I didn't allow anyone else to be present. I didn't want anyone else influencing the way in which the child behaved. Most of the children weren't very verbal. They didn't come out with very much. Even the more vociferous of children didn't really say much that was helpful.
155. I remember attending a children's hearing for a young girl. She had come from a household where her father had a history of beating her up. The local authority social worker had written a report saying that this girl should not be returned to her father. I had similarly written a report saying that the girl should not be returned to her father. However, when the panel heard the father and the girl crying and the girl saying that she wanted to go back to her dad they decided that the girl should go back with her father. The wee girl then went home with her father. Within a week she was back at Quarriers. She had been battered by her father.
156. If that case had got to the papers the social workers would have got the blame. It would have been reported that the social workers allowed the girl to be returned to

her father's home. It was nothing to do with us. It was the panel that had made that decision. I remember things like that happening a few times.

### **The hostel and sheltered accommodation**

157. There was a hostel onsite in Quarriers. The hostel was in the cottage below the big hall. I can't remember the cottage's number. There was also a halfway house in Overbridge that children went to. The kids were allowed to try and care for themselves more independently there.
158. [REDACTED] QFX and his wife ran the hostel when I went to Quarriers at first. I do remember there were concerns. I think [REDACTED] QFX was [REDACTED] of something. I think it was to do with staff as opposed to children. He was also a bit of an athlete. I had no suspicions surrounding him and I was quite surprised when I heard that he was alleged to have done things.
159. I was only involved in transferring a couple of young people from the cottages to the hostel. I think young persons could move into the hostel when they were fifteen or sixteen. Part of deciding whether a young person could be moved was judging whether they were mature enough. You could have a seventeen year old not going in if it was felt they weren't mature enough for the move.
160. Most of the children looked forward to going into the hostel. They felt that they would get slightly more freedom. They didn't need to go to church. They were allowed to stay up later and things like that. I vaguely remember children being taught to cook in the hostel but I don't think it was self-catered.
161. Gavin Roy was the manager of the hostel after [REDACTED] QFX and was involved in young people moving out from the hostel to sheltered accommodation. He would call in on the young people in the sheltered accommodation on a regular basis after they moved. The local authority social workers were involved as well. The children were monitored on a regular basis.

162. I was only involved with one young person being transferred from the hostel to the halfway house. I remember that that usually didn't work out. The young person wasn't given sufficient support. The sheltered accommodation didn't often work too well for the children. There were very few success stories.

### **Admission and discharge of children from Quarriers**

#### *Admission*

163. The local authority social workers would have a list of all of the children's homes which had space to take children in emergencies. Quarriers would be on that list if we had space. If the local authority social worker had a child to place they could phone us up and see whether we could help out. Children were also admitted through the children's hearing system. Children were referred from those hearings. I was never involved in that side of things.
164. The residential social workers had nothing to do with the actual admission of children. We might, if a child was admitted in an emergency, meet with the child and their social worker or their parent when they came in. However, after that the child would be admitted to a cottage and go straight there when they arrived. As far as I was aware, when a child arrived they were made to feel very welcome. I had no concerns as to how the cottage parents actually received the children.
165. From what I am aware, there was considerable thought given to what cottage was allocated to particular children. There were limitations. There may, for example, only be one bed in a particular cottage. There may only be two boys' beds in a particular cottage. Because of that children sometimes ended up in a cottage that wasn't the best one for them. I know that they tried as much as possible to keep siblings together. I know they did that with the family of four in the QFG/QFH cottage and the [REDACTED] children in Anne Kerr's cottage. They did separate siblings if they wanted to be separated.



166. I don't recall there being any children who were voluntarily admitted to Quarriers when I was there. I know that that could happen but I don't remember any instances of that happening. I didn't have any children like that in my caseload. Even if there had been a child who was voluntarily admitted to Quarriers they would have still been give an internal social worker.

### *Discharge*

167. There was a discharge procedure. The parent collecting the child was accompanied by the local authority social worker when they came to take the child away. If a Quarriers social worker was available they would get called along to help. I got called out to do that on a couple of occasions.
168. There was a procedure for children who were being placed with foster parents. The local authority social worker would take the children out to visit the foster parents in advance. There were trial runs where the child would stay with the prospective foster parents. The child would go out for a weekend then for a few days and so on. It was built up.

### **The cottage parents**

#### *Types of cottage parent*

169. There were different generations of cottage parents. Generally, the younger ones were more free with their kids. They were less dictatorial with them. They befriended the children and acted more like a parent. They really gave a lot of support to the young people. They would do things like have the children in their living rooms for a coffee, watch TV with them and things like that. Generally, the older ones would send the children to bed at a certain time and tell them to do 'this' and 'that'. They could be very dictatorial with the younger children.

170. It's hard now looking back to estimate how old the oldest cottage parents were. They certainly weren't very old. I do remember that a lot of the cottage parents called themselves social workers. That used to annoy us qualified social workers.

*Training and qualifications of cottage parents*

171. There was certainly no training for the cottage parents. In-house training was not in existence when I worked there as a social worker. There was no guidance to standardise the way in which cottage parents treated the children in their cottages. Each cottage parent was seen as an individual with their own cottage to look after. It was viewed as a big village. Everybody in a village has their own houses and they don't bring up their children in the same way. The norm was that the cottage parents brought up the children in their cottages the way that they wanted to. I am not aware of any particular guidance being given to cottage parents about their role. As far as I was aware the cottage parents were there because they were people who were interested in children. They were left to get on with it.

172. Later on in Quarriers there were SVQs but that was much later. I remember that Bill Dunbar had a certificate in something. I think that he had gone on a part time course for a year in something. I don't know what that course would have been in. For some reason I remember the odd other cottage parent having that qualification also.

*Interactions between myself and the cottage parents*

173. My visits to the cottages were all done totally informally. I would sit down with the cottage parents or the cottage aunties if the cottage parents were on holiday. I would discuss with them if there was anything they wanted me to deal with amongst the children. We would discuss whether there were any problems with the children. During the visits and afterwards no reports or anything like that were written up.
174. I would only really catch glimpses of the children during these visits because I normally worked nine to five during the week. The children were either on their way to school, at school or coming back from school. We would try to catch the children

though. Any time that there were children there during these visits I would have a blether with them. I'd check up with them if everything was ok. I might raise things like saying I noticed they hadn't been to football or the club in a while. I'd ask how they were getting on at school. It was all that kind of thing.

175. The cottage parents and cottage aunties rarely asked me for help. Some of the cottage parents had been there a lot longer than I had. They weren't necessarily older but some of them had an awful lot more experience than I did of dealing with children. It felt as if most of the time the cottage parents dealt with the issues themselves. They only called me if they wanted something particular. I usually only got called out if a child was being particularly disruptive. Other times I was called out where children refused to go to bed at night and the cottage parents wanted help with that. Those were the sorts of incidents where I was called out by the cottage parents.
176. If I did encounter resistance from the cottage parents then I would go to Alf Craigmill. If he couldn't resolve the issue then he would go to Joe Mortimer. I'm sure that Joe Mortimer did go to the cottage parents after concerns were raised. I'm sure he would have said that they had to work with the social workers. However, I have no memories of seeing or hearing that being done.
177. From my experience, I felt that if a cottage parent stood their ground they got their own way. They were very autonomous. How particular cottage parents were treated by the management depended a lot on how strong they were. It's like all walks of life. If you have weaker people it's easier to get them to go with the flow. If you have stronger people then it is more difficult to get them to do things.

*Monitoring and supervision of cottage parents by management*

178. The cottage parents were all responsible to Joe Mortimer. As far as I am aware none of the cottage parents had any formal meetings with Joe Mortimer. The extent of the monitoring was Joe Mortimer calling in on the cottages on an informal regular basis just to check things out. As far as I am aware there was no system whereby

Joe Mortimer wrote up reports following these visits. I don't remember him being in attendance at any meeting in the cottages when I was there.

179. There were official monthly meetings held in the church where all the cottage parents were present. All the residential social workers had to attend the meetings as well. I always attended. Joe Mortimer would pass over different pieces of information and everybody would discuss any problems there may be.

#### *Staff in the cottages*

180. All the cottages had additional members of staff. They were called aunties and uncles. The staff would stand in when the cottage parents weren't there. I don't recall there being weekly or monthly meetings between the staff and the cottage parents. I don't think there were any team meetings between the cottage parents and all their staff. As far as I am aware that didn't happen.

#### **Discipline and punishment**

181. I am not aware of there ever being any procedure or policy concerning how the children should be disciplined or punished. I don't know what punishments were given out by each individual cottage parent. I guess as social workers we should have known what punishments were being given out. It could be that in the cottages the children were made to go to bed early or something like that. I never heard of any corporal punishment being used. I saw nothing like that.
182. I don't know how it happened but the children did occasionally get sent to Joe Mortimer directly by the cottage parents for punishment. Joe Mortimer would sit the child down and have a talk to them. I cannot imagine Joe Mortimer being severe with the punishments he gave out to those children. My impression of Joe Mortimer was that he would have been very fair in terms of the punishments he gave out.

### **Ann Craig (cottage 3)**

183. Ann Craig was a single parent. She has passed away now. I would say she was good with the children in general. Cottage 3 was a very friendly cottage. It was a nice and free and easy cottage. She ran a tremendous cottage. She ran one of the cottages where, in the morning, the youth leaders could go in and have a cup of tea whilst the messages came over the tannoy.

#### *Specific recollections of children in cottage 3*

184. There was a family by the name of [REDACTED] in cottage 3. There were five siblings. They all had challenging behavioural problems. Their behavioural problems were more of the type that they didn't want to speak or do anything with any social workers. They didn't want to have anything to do with us. I remember meetings with local authority social workers where they wouldn't say anything. That was like most of the children in Quarriers.
185. I met some of the [REDACTED] children in later life at Ann Craig's sixtieth birthday party. I remember that the oldest one came up to me and told me that she is now a social worker. Another one thanked me for sending him on an outward bound course. He said that he always remembered me for that. I honestly couldn't remember doing that.

### **Mr and Mrs Durrent (cottage 5)**

186. Mr and Mrs Durrent were cottage parents in Cottage 5. I don't know whether they may be still alive. They were the type of cottage parents who didn't like interference from the social workers. They wouldn't listen to me. They didn't understand what children needed.

*Specific recollections of children in cottage 5*

187. I remember a boy called [REDACTED] who was in cottage 5. He had terrible behavioural problems. He very frequently 'lost his rag'. He would curse and swear and throw things at staff. I remember one night receiving an emergency call to go out and see him. We had to pin [REDACTED] down until the doctor came to give him an injection to calm him down.

*Sleeping arrangements in cottage 5*

188. Cottage 5 was one of the cottages where the older boys were made to be in their pyjamas by 7:00 pm and in bed at 8:00 pm. I remember that caused an awful lot of problems. I tried to approach the Durrents regarding that. They wouldn't budge. I was made to feel that that was just the way it went. I then went to Joe Mortimer and told him what was going on. I was told that if I wanted to approach them again then I should. I went back to the Durrents. I assumed Joe Mortimer had spoken to them before I went back. I remember the Durrents being very unhappy when I said that I wanted the older children to be going to bed after at least 9:00 pm. It surprised me how they didn't realise that the time was maybe why they were having trouble with the older boys. They did eventually start putting the older boys to bed after nine o'clock. I think they only did that because I had the authority of Joe Mortimer behind me.

**Mr and Mrs McBay (cottage 6)**

189. The cottage parents in cottage 6 were Eric and Carol McBay. They were a nice younger couple. They appeared to be good cottage parents. They were more forward thinking and progressive. They were less dictatorial.

**[REDACTED] (cottage 14)**

190. Tony McNulty, residential social worker, had cottage 14 withdrawn from him. It was handed to me when I joined. I can't remember what cottage Tony McNulty was

given in its place. I was allocated cottage 14 as one of the cottages in my caseloads when I started as a residential social worker.

191. [REDACTED] QFO/QJK were the cottage parents in cottage 14 when I started as a social worker. They were English. They were about the same age as I was when I was working as the social worker allocated to their cottage. [REDACTED] QFO made [REDACTED] for all the kids in the cottage. [REDACTED] QJK was a great cook. She was a great baker. She was always taking big cakes to the head office and things like that. Both [REDACTED] QFO/QJK [REDACTED] QFO/QJK have passed away now.
192. [REDACTED] QFO/QJK were strict disciplinarians. I thought that their behaviour was just wrong. They showed a complete lack of sympathy towards the children. They weren't part of the older generation of cottage parents. There was resistance against all social workers by [REDACTED] QFO/QJK.
193. The cottage had a wee bit of ground around it. When the children were let out to play they were only allowed to stay within the perimeter of the grounds of the cottage. The children commented on that quite a lot. They would say something along the lines of [REDACTED] QFO "won't let us walk off the grass." The grass they were referring to was the area they were kept in.

#### *Discipline and punishment in cottage 14*

194. I was in cottage 14 one time at tea time. When the tea was ready all the children from the age of eighteen downwards had to stand in a line against a wall. They stood with the tallest to the right hand side and the smallest to the left hand side. [REDACTED] QFO then shouted "hands" and the children would have to hold out their hands. They would then get their hands inspected. [REDACTED] QFO then shouted "over" and the children had to turn over their hands for the other side of their hands to be inspected. [REDACTED] QFO then shouted "down" and the children were allowed to put their hands down. The children were then marched up to the table. When they got to the table the children had to stand at their seat. [REDACTED] QFO then shouted "sit". The children then sat down. [REDACTED] QFO then shouted "pray". Finally, [REDACTED] QFO

QFO shouted "eat" which meant that the children were allowed to eat. I remember that all the children had to wear aprons. Even the older ones. It was all totally humiliating for the children.

195. The way the children were being treated was strange. I had a word with QFO. QFO I asked him whether he always acted in the way he did around tea time with the children. He said that he did and that was the only way to discipline the children.

*Specific recollections of incidents involving children in cottage 14 –*

196. One time when I went in around about tea time I noticed that there was an axe lying at the head of the table. I asked QFO what the axe was for. He told me it was for a boy called . QFO then said something like "if he eats the way he ate last night that axe is going through his hand." He was obviously joking. He then showed me what he had done another night. When I looked at the table I noticed there had been a big gouge taken out of it. QFO had actually used the axe on the table.
197. After seeing the axe I went to see Jean Morris. I told her what I had seen. She just said something like "Och you know that is just the way QFO is." I thought that response was totally wrong. I wasn't confident enough to challenge her because she was a qualified clinical psychologist. I also went to see Joe Mortimer as well.
198. About five or six years ago came to visit me alongside Gavin Roy. Gavin Roy was in charge of the hostel. They had remained in contact and become friendly. just wanted to meet with me because I had been his social worker. I reminded about the axe. After I said that he told me that the hairs on the back of his neck were standing on end. He told me that he had forgotten about the incident with the axe and that I had brought back that memory.
199. I asked whether he could think of anything else like the incident with the axe. He told me that he remembered one Christmas that he stayed with the QFO/QJK in cottage 14 because he had no one to go home to. He told me that he had been



the only child left in the cottage. He told me that [QFO/QJK] and their extended family had a big Christmas meal. [REDACTED] told me that he hadn't been allowed to be involved with the meal and had been made to stay in the playroom on his own.

200. [REDACTED] also told me that if he wet the bed he had to walk around cottage 14 with the wet sheets wrapped around his head. He told me that he had to do that as a punishment. When I asked [REDACTED] what he thought about the way he was treated by [QFO/QJK] he said that he had been there as a wee boy and didn't know any better. He told me that he just assumed that the way he was treated was just the way things were.
201. [REDACTED] didn't report any of these things as a child. He just thought that this was all normal. I can't imagine that a young boy would have gone about telling people that he had wet the bed.

*Specific recollections of incidents involving children in cottage 14 – other children*

202. I remember that one of the boys who had epilepsy from cottage 26 was a bit more able than the other boys there. It was decided that he would be moved into cottage 14. I became responsible for the move. Shortly after the boy was moved I went into cottage 14 to visit [QFO/QJK] for a meeting. The boy was there alongside the [QLQ/QLR] and the [QFO/QJK]. I remember that during the meeting Mr [QFO] said in a very strict voice "nobody takes fits in this house son. You'll not have any fits in here." After the meeting I challenged [QFO]. I told him that you couldn't stop someone having a fit. He just said "he certainly won't be having fits in here." In hindsight, when I think about that boy being moved from cottage 26 to cottage 14 it was like going 'straight out of the frying pan and into the fire'.
203. There was a young girl who was one of the cottage children. She had a boyfriend. She came in late for tea one night. I think what she had done is got off the school bus then said cheerio to her boyfriend before coming back to the cottage. That was what had made her late. She came into the cottage in my presence. I remember [QFO] asking the girl what had kept her. She said that she had been speaking

to the boy. [QFO] then said "if I see you speaking to that boy again I will sew that up" whilst pointing to her crotch. I didn't think that was appropriate.

204. There was a young man who was in the cottage who was particularly clever. He was getting extra tuition from an educational liaison officer, Judy Cochrane. I remember hearing that [QFO] had told this young man that he was only going to get his extra tuition to "get your hole." The young man was very upset about that. When the young man arrived at Judy Cochrane's home, her husband was in the house. He told her what [QFO] had said to him. Judy Cochrane contacted me that evening to ask me what I thought she should do about this. I informed her that I thought that this was despicable and that she should take this up with Dr Minto. She did take it to Dr Minto. I don't know what the result of all of that was. I told Alf Craigmill what I had heard. As far as I am aware nothing was done about it. [QFO] [QFO] was certainly not reprimanded for saying what he said.

*Thoughts on the way children were treated in cottage 14*

205. As far as I am aware there was nothing done of a sexual or physical nature by the [QFO/QJK]. However, there were things that were done to the children of a mental nature. I would be very surprised if the [QFO/QJK] hid anything from management. I'm sure [QFO] wouldn't have kept anything from management. They didn't think they were doing anything wrong. They didn't have the common savvy to hide things. I'm quite sure if Joe Mortimer had been in the cottage at the same time as I saw things they would have still done the same things. Management would have known what they were like because the residential social workers reported their concerns when it was thought to be serious enough to do so.

**Ruth Wallace (cottage 17)**

206. I remember that one of the cottage parents, Ruth Wallace, got community service for ill treatment of the kids in her cottage. I can't remember the cottage she was in but I think it was cottage 17. It wasn't one of the cottages I looked after. She was older than me. She always seemed pleasant enough. I was never in her cottage or remember any of the children who were in her cottage.
207. As a single cottage parent she treated behavioural problems in her cottage the way she thought was right. I don't know whether she discussed the way she dealt with behavioural problems with the other cottage parents. That may have gone on. I was certainly not aware of any ill treatment going on in her cottage during the time I was at Quarriers. I was very surprised when I heard she had been prosecuted. I don't even know what she was prosecuted for. She had always come across to me as a very nice lady. You just don't know what goes on behind closed doors.

QAJ

**Janet and Brian Long and Mr and Mrs Pettigrew (cottage 23)**

208. I remember a cottage parent called QAJ I vaguely remember her being called QAJ It wouldn't surprise me if she was called that. I do remember there being staff who worked in, for example, the Epilepsy Centre who were called "Nurse" when they didn't have that qualification. Someone told me recently that she may have been in cottage 23.
209. I remember Janet and Brian Long being the cottage parents in cottage 23 for a long time. It rings a bell that Janet Long went to work at South Annan in Seafield. I think she did do that. I also remember the Pettigrews being house parents in cottage 23. The cottage father was called Robert Pettigrew. He also worked in the garage. They were a younger couple.

QLQ/QLR

(cottage 26)

210. Bill McKay was the social worker who had cottage 26 before I started. He was withdrawn from cottage 26 when I joined. I was then allocated cottage 26. I later learnt that Bill McKay had been withdrawn from that cottage because there had been a lot of problems with it and he had complained to no avail.
211. Cottage 26 was the QLQ/QLR cottage. The QLQ/QLR have passed away now. QLQ/QLR QLQ/QLR had been given the role as cottage parents because they had apparently managed an epilepsy centre in England. I think it was down in Cheltenham. The QLQ/QLR were the only people in Quarriers who I know had official training. They were the only cottage parents who had the title 'Senior Cottage Parents'. They were on a higher rate of pay than the other cottage parents. That was because of the training they had with dealing with epilepsy. There was resistance against social workers by QLQ/QLR. They didn't like interference from social workers because they considered themselves experts.
212. The QLQ/QLR began as house parents in cottage 26 during the time I had been a youth leader. After the QLQ/QLR got the job the young boys who had epilepsy were moved from Elim to Cottage 26. I remember thinking it was brilliant that the boys had been moved there. The way that those boys had been treated in Elim by QLS QLS wasn't very pleasant at all. She showed no sympathy to those boys whatsoever.
213. When the QLQ/QLR joined and the boys were moved across from Elim I became involved with cottage 26. I would go in in my role as assistant youth leader and play with the boys two days a week. I initially thought that the QLQ/QLR were very good. At that time I thought that the way they were looking after the boys was the way to do things. As far as I was concerned, at that time, the QLQ/QLR were fine.
214. The children in the cottage referred to QLQ/QLR as QLQ/QLR QLQ/QLR. They didn't call them mother or father. I do remember that the children were kept in the cottage and not allowed out for fear of them taking a seizure whilst

they were out. I think the QLQ/QLR were frightened that if a child was out, took a seizure and did damage to themselves then they would be held responsible.

215. One of the things that I had concerns about in cottage 26 was personal possessions in the children's bedrooms. I had asked to see where the children slept. When I went into the bedroom there wasn't a single picture up. There was nothing out to do with the children's families. There was nothing but the small dormitory beds. I approached the QLQ/QLR and asked them whether the boys could have photographs of their parents out on display. I was told by the QLQ/QLR that the boys didn't need that. They said that it would just make the boys upset. I said that I thought that the boys should still be allowed to have pictures. They responded again by saying "no" in a "we know what we are doing" kind of way. They also commented to me that just because I had qualified as a social worker, it did not mean that I knew everything.

*Discipline and punishment in cottage 26*

216. One thing that I found strange was that the QLQ/QLR used what they called a 'punishment stool'. It was situated on the half landing in the cottage. Every time one of the boys misbehaved they were put on this stool. If there were two boys misbehaving then another stool was placed in one of the shower cubicles for the other boy to sit on at the same time. I discovered that this was being done during my time as an assistant youth leader. The way I found out was because sometimes when I was playing with the group some of them had challenging behaviour. I would then send them out of the room we were playing games in. I discovered that after I did that the boys were placed on these stools. At that time I didn't see anything particularly wrong with that. I thought they were just being placed on the stool to keep them out of the road and they would then be allowed back if they behaved.
217. When I went back as a social worker and took over cottage 26 I started visiting the cottage more frequently. I discovered that the punishment stools were being used on a very regular basis. I discovered that if the school had called and reported one of their boys as misbehaving they had to sit on the stool. In my mind it should have been the school in that situation that punished the children not the cottage parents. I

also discovered that the boys could be sitting on those stools all weekend apart from meals. At the time I was an assistant youth leader I did not know that boys were being placed on these stools for as long as that or for those reasons.

218. I approached Alf Craigmill. I told him what I had discovered. He implied that Bill McKay had had the same issues when he oversaw that cottage. He said that the [QLQ/QLR] were brought in as experts, they were acting as experts and they knew what they were doing. The way they were punishing the children was just accepted. I wasn't prepared to accept that behaviour. I went to speak with Jean Morris about it. She said that she thought the [QLQ/QLR] knew what they were doing because they were the experts. I went back to Alf Craigmill again. I believe Alf Craigmill then went to Joe Mortimer to speak about the use of the punishment stool. I was then told to more or less "lay back" from the cottage.
219. After that the [QLQ/QLR] started to become very unhappy with me. They thought that I had just done my social work training and thought that I was saying that I knew everything. They were saying things like "we have been doing this for years and we know what is right."
220. I'm sure I would have raised the use of the punishment stool at one of the children's reviews with the [QLQ/QLR]. The child's local authority social worker would have been in attendance at such a review. I must have mentioned the stool at some time. I must've mentioned it because I remember it always being on my mind. I can't imagine I wouldn't have mentioned it. I know the [QLQ/QLR] would have said something along the lines of "we know what we are doing because we are the experts" in the review if I had brought it up. Maybe the local authority social worker just assumed that the [QLQ/QLR] knew what they were doing and never thought they could do anything about it.
221. I do remember that at some point there was a student who had been placed in cottage 26. She had been placed there by Ian Brodie. He supervised that student. The student raised concerns with Ian Brodie about the use of the stool. What shocked her was the length of time a child could spend on the stool. I believe Ian

Brodie talked through her concerns with her. I don't know what he did next. I remember thinking at the time that it was great that the student was reporting about the use of the stool. I thought that might have resulted in the **QLQ/QLR** being stopped but nothing changed. The **QLQ/QLR** continued 'the stool' treatment.

222. There was a man called Mike Laxton who came in as an advisor to Dr Minto. I don't know how that came about. Mike Laxton came from the Scottish Government. He had a house on the Isle of Bute. Because we both shared a connection with the Isle of Bute we became friendly outside of work. He asked me one time how things were going. I said things were going great. I then told him about the problems I was having with the use of the punishment stool in cottage 26. I told him I felt I was getting nowhere with complaining about the **QLQ/QLR**. Mike Laxton was quite shocked with what I was telling him. He told me that I should write a letter to him about what I was seeing and send a copy to Dr Minto and Joe Mortimer. He told me that if they didn't then do anything about it he would do something about it. I took the bull by the horns and wrote the letter. I sent copies to Dr Minto and Joe Mortimer just as Mike Laxton had suggested. The same day my letter was forwarded, Joe Mortimer contacted the **QLQ/QLR** and told them to get rid of the punishment stool.
223. Looking back, it would be right to say that nothing was done through raising concerns through the usual channels. I remember speaking with Bill McKay just before he left and after I took over cottage 26. Bill McKay had tried in the past to do the same thing as I had. He had raised concerns about the **QLQ/QLR** use of the punishment stool with Joe Mortimer and Alf Craigmill. He told me that I was "fighting a losing battle" and he had experienced the same things as I had in trying to report my concerns. He chased people up the tree as well and nothing had been done. Fortunately, I took it further and spoke to Mike Laxton. It took me speaking to someone from the outside to get my concerns acted upon.
224. When the stool was taken away the **QLQ/QLR** were furious. They went absolutely mad. They were so mad that it got to the point that I had to get withdrawn from the cottage. To be fair, at that point, I didn't feel as if I could work with the **QLQ/QLR** anymore. I think I couldn't have gone on and worked with them because I had blown

the whistle on them. I can't remember who was assigned cottage 26 after I was withdrawn from it. There were no repercussions for me. I think all that happened was that I was allocated another cottage.

225. The [QLQ/QLR] definitely didn't hide their use of the naughty stool from management. I know that because when I came back as a social worker after my training I challenged them about their use of the stool. They said "you can do what you like. You're just a new social worker. You don't know anything. You think you know everything. Mr Mortimer and Dr Minto have seen children sitting on the stool and they've never commented on anything. You're not going to get anywhere."
226. I think that the punishment stool was the only form of punishment that the [QLQ/QLR] used. I did hear that the boys in the cottages were threatened with the belt and/or a slipper by [QLQ/QLR]. I heard that from the boys when I went in to play games with them. Whether that ever happened or not I don't know. Knowing the couple I wouldn't put it past them. None of the children ever reported to me that they had been hit by the [QLQ/QLR]. I don't know how the [QLQ/QLR] handled their children after the stool was taken away.

[QNX/SPO]

**& Anne Howard (cottage 29)**

227. Cottage 29 was where Quarriers placed girls who had epilepsy. It was a cottage that I looked after as a social worker. That cottage was initially run by [QNX] and his wife. I knew them both when I was an assistant youth leader. The cottage was then taken over by Anne Howard. I can't remember when she took over. I wasn't involved during the period that [QNX/SPO] ran the cottage in my capacity as a social worker. I only worked with Anne Howard.

*Incidents heard by me concerning cottage 29*

228. A member of my night staff from when I later on worked in the Respite Unit used to work in Cottage 29 as a cottage auntie. She told me that she witnessed [QNX]



QNX grabbing a girl by her hair. She told me that he pulled the hair so hard that a big tuft of hair came out. She took the tuft of hair to the head office. She went to Joe Mortimer. He just said that there was no proof for what QNX had done. She was furious about the way she had been responded to. She was concerned about the way in which the children were being treated and she felt as if she wasn't being believed.

QAH/SPO (cottage 33)

229. QAH/SPO were cottage parents in cottage 33. They had no family of their own. They were big Christian people. They insisted that the children in their cottage call them mummy and daddy. As far as I was concerned cottage parents were not mummies and daddies. All the residential social workers found that weird yet they were allowed to carry on getting the children to refer to them like that.
230. QAH/SPO didn't like the residential social workers or the local authority social workers going into their cottage. It all ended up with a directive being given by Dr Minto to stop all Quarriers social workers going into the cottage and to leave QAH/SPO alone. It ended up with that cottage not being monitored. All the social workers were totally against that directive.
231. I remember that about the time the children were getting moved out of Quarriers one of the regular monthly meetings in the church was being held. At that time all of the cottages were winding down due to the fostering program. During the meeting QAH stood up and asked us all to pray to God so that he could maybe send Quarriers more children. I couldn't believe what she was saying. I couldn't believe how someone could be like that. QAH saying that told me that she didn't have much sympathy or common sense when it came to the children. She wasn't concerned about more children going into care or their problems. All she was concerned about was her livelihood being lost. She was concerned that, what she called, her 'sons and daughters' would be taken away and she would be out of a job.

As far as I was concerned, everybody in Quarriers should have been working to do themselves out of a job. You don't want children in care.

QFG/QFH (Cottage 38)

232. QFG/QFH were cottage parents to cottage 38. The QFG/QFH were older. They have passed away now. They were another Christian family. They ran a rather friendly house. It was a pleasant cottage to go into. It was generally a good happy cottage that I had no problems with.

*Specific recollections of incidents involving children in cottage 38*

233. I did have concerns surrounding one incident. I remember that on one occasion I got a phone call in the early hours of the morning. I was on duty with the emergency residential social worker team. An eight year old boy had been found sleeping in Central Station in Glasgow. We had been called to see whether there was a bed in Quarriers. I said that we had. When the local authority social worker and the boy turned up I took them across to cottage 38. QFG/QFH were on holiday at that time. The cottage aunty was on. I took the wee boy in and got him settled in. I think I read him a story.
234. A while later I went back to the QFG/QFH cottage to check whether the wee boy had settled in ok. QFG/QFH were back from holiday by this time. When I got to the door QFG asked if she could see me in her room. I then went through. QFG then said "how dare you let a catholic into this cottage" referring to the wee boy. I blasted her. I told her that it made no difference. A wee boy was a wee boy. She was very annoyed about that.
235. I remember later on going to Bill Dunbar. He looked after QFG/QFH cottage. I didn't name the cottage but told him that I had been over to a cottage and been appalled at hearing that they didn't take catholic children. Bill Dunbar immediately said "oh that would have been QFG/QFH" I took from that that it must have been

known that the [QFG/QFH] didn't take Catholics. Looking back, I assume that somebody had spoken to them in the past and it had been agreed that they wouldn't be given any catholic children. I think that is despicable.

236. I remember that about the time that Quarriers was winding down and children were being placed for adoption and fostering the [QFG/QFH] had a family of about four children in their cottage. The family had been in Quarriers since they had been babies. They never called the [QFG/QFH] mum or dad but they viewed the [QFG/QFH] as their parents.
237. I tried to get the family fostered together. Doing that was a big problem. None of the family wanted to leave Quarriers. They were totally distraught about being placed into foster care. I remember speaking to Joe Mortimer and telling him that the family didn't want to go. He told me that my remit was that I had to get them all fostered out of the cottage.
238. I remember speaking to the family for a report I was writing up. One of the children said that if they were fostered out they would be back the next day. That happened. When the family was eventually fostered out they came back the very next day. The whole family ran away from the foster home. It was then decided that the children would be split up and they were. That was terrible for the family.

#### **Anne Kerr (cottage 40)**

239. Anne Kerr was a single mother who was also a house parent. She is still alive. She stayed in cottage 40. The children referred to her as Auntie Anne. She hated social workers. She told the children in her cottage that all social workers were terrible. She told the children that they couldn't trust social workers. I know that because I was present when she said that in front of the children. I remember that she also made those sort of comments in front of the local authority social workers when they came in for reviews.

240. As a residential social worker I could get nothing done in that cottage. She loved her children and the children loved her. You couldn't get anywhere near the cottage. Anne Kerr hated any interference. Her attitude was known and accepted by management.

QKR/QKY (involved with cottage and cottage)

241. The QKR/QKY were not cottage parents. Mrs QKR was a cottage assistant. I remember her working in cottage with Ann Craig. I know they worked alongside Alison in cottage at the same time because Alison had told me that. That wasn't at a time when I looked after that cottage. QKR was asked to work in other cottages and occasionally did. I recall her working in cottage at one point. I recall that because I was asked by Joe Mortimer to cover for QKR one night in that cottage. She must have been on leave. I stayed overnight in the cottage that evening.

242. Either one or both QKR/QKY

*John Porteous*

243. I had no inkling or idea about what John Porteous had been doing. My two sons and my daughter were friendly with the Porteous's two daughters. They attended birthday parties in their house. The daughters also came over to birthday parties in our house. My oldest son has commented that he thinks that John Porteous would never be like what he was convicted for. He does not believe it at all. I know that Anne Howard's son believes otherwise. He maintains that John Porteous did what he was convicted of. He remembers the small boys in one of the cottages being frightened of John Porteous.
244. I did not particularly like John Porteous because of his 'know all' attitude. A lot of the kids nicknamed him 'Mr Quarriers'. He used to prance about the village as if he

owned the place. I remember him standing outside of the head office. If any visitors arrived he would go up to them and ask what they wanted. I remember Joe Mortimer telling me a story where he had walked into his office and found John Porteous sitting in his chair on the phone.

245. I was involved in the football and helped out in the changing rooms when I was a leisure officer. The changing rooms were in the same cottage where I lived. I did things like give out the strips and make sure that they were all handed back again. John Porteous would change in the changing rooms because he was a referee. I believe he was a qualified referee. I never at any time had any suspicions whatsoever that he was doing the things he was prosecuted for.
246. John Porteous was Quarriers the fire officer. That was one of his other roles as well as helping in the cottages. Part of his job was to inspect all the fire extinguishers. One of the boilers went on fire in the Centre. It turned out that none of the fire extinguishers were full. I remember that he accused Janette, my wife and my children of setting off the fire extinguishers. He was adamant that one of them had set them off. I had never witnessed John Porteous ever checking the condition of the fire extinguishers.
247. Paedophiles are experts at not doing things in the presence of people who know or think they could be doing something. A paedophile who is working in a changing room whilst other staff are present is not going to do anything. I never had any suspicions about what John Porteous was doing. All I do know is that up until I read David Whelan's book I didn't totally believe it all. After reading his book I became convinced.

QKR

248. I am aware that QKR was [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I remember having a conversation Marion Frazer. She was the minister's wife. She said that QKR had had a punch up with someone in the church. I think it could have been with Marion herself. My attitude there is if you are the type

of person who would have a physical punch up with a minister's wife in a church in front of witnesses then what is that sort of person likely to be doing behind closed doors?

**Alexander Wilson (worked in the hostel)**

249. Alexander 'Sandy' Wilson was the brother in law of John Porteous. He worked in the hostel. He was not a nice person at all. I think he got convicted for interfering with cottage aunties. I saw him not so long ago. He has had his legs amputated because of diabetes. I was not surprised when I heard that he had been convicted. I had no dealings with him at the time I was at Quarriers. All I remember about him is thinking that he was not a pleasant person at all.

QFX

(worked in the hostel)

250. QFX ran the hostel with his wife. He may have been in Quarriers when I first started there. I remember him [REDACTED]. I was totally surprised that he could be involved in that type of thing. I certainly didn't know or hear of the sort of things he was alleged to have done.

**Reporting of abuse at Quarriers by children**

251. I am not aware of there being any particular practice or procedure being in place for when a child raised a concern. In general there were very few procedures in Quarriers. They all came later on during my time there.

252. The children were all given plenty of opportunities to speak with me. However, none of the children in Quarriers ever raised any concerns with me. I think the boys in cottage 26, for example, just accepted the way they were treated with the use of the stool. I think that they didn't know any better. None of the QFO/QJK children ever

came to me or mentioned anything when I spoke to them. The only thing they mentioned was not being allowed out of the perimeter of the cottage grounds. None of the QFG/QFH children raised anything with me. There were no children in any of the cottages came to me and said that auntie 'x' or uncle 'y' was not letting me do something or making me do something. Nothing like that ever happened. The vast majority of the children appeared to be happy. I'm sure they covered up an awful lot but they appeared to be happy to me.

253. If a child wanted to report something directly themselves they could have gone to Joe Mortimer. Joe Mortimer was very well liked by the children and the staff. I don't know whether he knew but the children and staff referred to him as 'Wee Joe'. I'm not sure whether any of the children called him that to his face. Children weren't ever told when they were admitted that if they had a problem they could go to Joe Mortimer. I don't know how that all came about. I do remember occasions where children said things like "I'm going to see Wee Joe." I can't think of any instances where children did actually go directly to Joe Mortimer to report something. I think that Joe Mortimer would do things for the children if they reported things to him.
254. Sadly, I don't think the children in the QLQ/QLR cottage would have been able to report anything to Joe Mortimer. I don't know whether they even knew that he existed. As far as those children were concerned they were in that cottage and that was it. They didn't get to go out like all of the other children in the other cottages did.

#### *Boys and girls committee*

255. There was a boys and girls committee. I can't remember how many boys and girls were in the committee. The boys and girls who were part of that committee met regularly with Joe Mortimer in his office in the evening. The committee gave the opportunity for children to raise any grievances with Joe Mortimer. That was one of the purposes of the meetings. I believe that another part of the role of the committee was to organise a night for former residents of Quarriers. I remember thinking at the time that it was quite a progressive thing for Joe Mortimer to be doing.

256. I was never part of the committee or attended any of the meetings. I don't recall any grievances being taken out through the committee. I'm certain that young people would have complained about house parents or staff in those committees if they wanted. In my experience very few of the children were scared of coming forward if they wanted to complain about things. I think the children would mention if they were unhappy.

### **Whistleblowing procedures**

257. There wasn't a whistle blowing procedure or policy. I'm sure I would have been aware of a whistle blowing policy or procedure if there had been one. Alf Craigmill would have made me aware of it.
258. People have got to be able to know that they can whistleblow without there being any consequences. That wasn't the case back then. You could possibly lose your job back then. That can't happen today because of the systems that have been set up.

### **Leaving role as residential social worker**

259. In the early eighties Strathclyde Regional Council made the decision that all the children in the cottages should be fostered or adopted. I think the decision was made in the days when Fred Edwards was there. He was the head of Strathclyde Regional Council. He decided that children's homes were no longer the way to bring up children.
260. A directive was given to the social worker department to place children in foster care instead. There was a decision taken by Strathclyde Regional Council not to place children at Quarriers. As a social worker I could see the reasoning behind not having children's homes. In reality Strathclyde Regional Council did stop placing children permanently with Quarriers but relied pretty heavily on us to take children on short term emergency placements.



261. It was a dreadful time for all of the Quarriers social workers. It wasn't so much a bad time for the local authority social workers because they had training in how to place foster kids and things like that. It was very difficult for us. We knew the families and the children. The kids were telling us that they didn't want to go. The children said things like "you're my social worker, you're the one who can stop this." We had to tell them that we couldn't stop it. It was a difficult time.
262. I remember that it was our responsibility to tell the cottage parents that their cottage was being closed down when their cottages went down to only three children. That wasn't a very nice job at all.
263. I think the residential social work department remained open after I moved. I don't remember a directive being given before I moved where the residential social workers were moved away from looking after the children at Quarriers in general to solely looking after children with particular needs. I don't remember the children who did not have particular needs being handed over to local authority social workers.
264. I think the reason I wanted to move from the residential social work team was just that I was aware that the Respite Unit was opening up and I had expressed an interest with Joe Mortimer. I was unhappy with what we were doing with the process of adopting and fostering the children out but that wasn't the reason why I changed roles. It was just a new role that I was interested in.

### **Quarriers – manager of Respite Unit**

265. In 1984 I was offered a role as a manager of a new respite care unit that Quarriers were opening. They offered me that role because Quarriers knew that I had shown an interest in working with children who had disabilities. I was never interviewed for the job. I just seemed to fall into the role. I ended up supervising two or three deputies. Approximately thirty staff members worked in this unit.
266. The unit was initially a thirty bedded unit which was split between children and adults. The children were downstairs and the adults were upstairs. That was later

split further into two separate units. That was because the local authority had decreed they didn't think it was appropriate to be providing respite for adults and children in the same unit. I can't remember when that happened. All I know is that Joe Mortimer had left at that stage. He had been replaced by Gerald Lee. Gerald Lee was a former lawyer.

267. I ultimately went to the unit that solely dealt with adults. One of the team leaders in turn became the manager of the children's unit. I worked in the adult unit for a number of years. It was a ten bed unit. I did that until I retired in 2004.
268. In my role in the Respite Unit I had much more contact with the children's parents than I did as a social worker. I used to go out and do home visits. I knew all the parents and families extremely well over the years that used the respite unit.
269. There was certainly a big difference between the time I was a residential social worker and when I was a manager in the Respite Unit. I do not remember anyone being disciplined for anything by their line manager when I was a residential social worker. I am not aware of that happening at any time. That did, however, occur when I worked in the respite unit.
270. After Dr Minto and Mr Mortimer left the organisation everything changed. Dr Minto and Mr Mortimer visited all the different units on a very regular basis and got to know all the staff by name. The directors who followed never visited the units after their initial visit when they arrived. They never knew any of the staff and the staff didn't even know what the new directors looked like.

*Training during time in Respite Unit*

271. I received my first training in the respite unit. I was trained how to administer suppositories. I had to have that training because I was the manager of the unit and was the only person allowed to administer them. I had to do that for females as well. When I administered suppositories for females I always had a female member of staff present as well. That was the only training I ever received. I presume that

because I had been a social worker and had previously worked with people who had disabilities they assumed I knew what I was doing.

272. The only things close to training that we received was advice from the psychiatrists. They sometimes gave us advice with how to care for particular children. I remember being taught how to restrain one particular child who had behavioural problems. However, there was no generalised training. The advice we received was individual specific.

### **Prior statements and involvement with providing evidence**

273. I haven't at any time given a statement to the police or anybody else about my experiences in Quarriers. Nobody has asked me for a statement. The first people I have provided a statement to is this Inquiry.
274. I was aware that there were investigations going on but I have never been involved with providing evidence in any of the prosecutions of people involved with Quarriers.

### **Lessons to be learned**

275. I would suggest that every young person in care must be allocated a designated worker. That person would be responsible for ensuring the overall safety and wellbeing of the young person. That designated person must be an experienced and fully qualified social worker who has specific experience of working with young people in the caring environment. Alongside the designated worker every young person must also be allocated a trained advocate who is independent of all other people or agencies involved.
276. In terms of the responsibilities of the designated worker there would be a number of things that would be required. I would suggest that to begin with the designated worker should make themselves familiar with the young person and the family, co-ordinate all aspects of admission into care and ensure that an advocate is appointed

at the earliest opportunity. I would also say that the designated worker should ensure that the proposed carers are adequately trained, qualified and experienced in working with the particular client group. After that on-going responsibilities should include ensuring the carers and staff involved with the young person are continually trained, ensuring that formal supervision is taking place of all staff on a regular basis, co-ordinating all meetings with social workers, schools, children's hearings and courts, organising regular case conferences and co-ordinating home visits. I would also say that the designated worker should themselves receive formal supervision. I would suggest that formal supervision for all persons involved in the care of the young person should be monthly.

277. I think that children should be present at all recorded meetings. It is important that they wouldn't be excluded. Likewise I would say that for the child's advocate. All case notes and minutes of meetings should be made available to the young person and the young person should be made aware that it is their right to see any such notes and minutes.

278. I believe that there should be continual training for all staff. Such training should cover the following topics - core values, report writing, recording techniques, challenging behaviour, medication procedures and recording, team work, communication skills, supervision training, the children's hearing system, discrimination and bigotry, child development, epilepsy (where necessary) and moving and handling (where necessary).

### **Closing thoughts**

279. There was nothing other than the things I have talked about in this statement happened. If I had become aware of anything I would like to think that I would have done something about it. The problem was that the type of people who do the things that they got prosecuted for all kept what they were doing hidden.

280. It's easy to say that "you could've done more." However, when you think about it your job was at stake. In my case I had a house at stake. If I had gone further than I did do I could've been put out and become homeless. Now we're all protected in

one way or another. There are places that you can go to if you have been unfairly dismissed. In those days there wasn't such a thing as that.

281. A couple of years before I retired, I was bullied by one of the assistant directors, Al Edwards, to the extent I was off work with depression for seven months. Two of my colleagues were similarly bullied by this person. Al Edwards was eventually sacked for bullying.

*Thoughts on Alf Craigmill and Joe Mortimer*

282. I am sure that Alf Craigmill and Joe Mortimer knew what was going on in all of the cottages. There were cottages known as good cottages and there were cottages known as not so good cottages. If we as social workers were aware of that then I am sure that management must have known that as well. Those managers would have been visiting the cottages and hearing about the cottages themselves. Management must have realised what were the better cottages because they would have experienced what I did when I visited. They would have sat down and had a cup of tea. They would have seen everything running smoothly.
283. I certainly don't blame Alf Craigmill. He did what he could do. He must have gone to speak to people higher up with my concerns. He must have done that not only for me but with the other social workers as well. I had no reason to believe that he did not fight our cause.
284. Joe Mortimer was an amazing man. There were something like 300 children in Quarriers and he knew each and every one of their names. He also knew all of the names of the staff. He was generally what I would describe as "for the children." I know that it sounds like a contradiction describing him that way because I have talked about things in this statement that he allowed to go on.
285. When Joe Mortimer and I retired we used to meet on a regular basis. He has now passed away. His daughter lives around the corner from us. I know that his daughter's husband is involved in social work education. I am worried that in

speaking to the Inquiry Joe Mortimer's daughter and her husband may interpret what I have said as in some way back stabbing him. I realise that, in this statement, I may have said things that may look bad. However, I can't really help that. It's just the way it was.


*Views in hindsight on the care provided in Quarriers*

286. At the time I never thought about a lot of the issues I've discussed in this statement. I had never worked in a residential care setting before. I'd never been a residential social worker before. I am quite sure that Quarriers wasn't any worse than any other children's home at that time. If anything I think it was a lot better than a lot of other places.
287. In hindsight, there were deficiencies in Quarriers and the way that the children were looked after. The recording had to have been improved. Recording skills were required at all levels. There should have been training on that. There should have been a better understanding of children who had been taken into care. Children's circumstances certainly needed to be appreciated an awful lot more by certain people. The people who were working with the children in the cottages really needed far more training to do with how to communicate with the children.
288. I can't seem to recall many procedures and policies looking back. Those should have been built up. Someone should have been making sure that all of those were in place. If they had been in place then every person would have been able to know exactly what each other person was doing. Each person should have known each other's responsibilities.
289. If there are still residential carers out there in residential homes then they should receive extensive training in all aspect of residential care. Things shouldn't just be accepted as the way things are done. Things shouldn't just be taken for granted.
290. There should have been more empathy shown towards the children who had disabilities. I appreciate that it is difficult to teach empathy. There should have

definitely been more training in the different disabilities. Epilepsy, for example, children with challenging behaviour. Likewise children with learning difficulties. There definitely should have been training for staff to understand those disabilities better. The staff should have been taught and told about certain things associated with the disabilities. I look back to when I went to work in the Epilepsy Centre. I was given 120 people with epilepsy and I had no training on epilepsy. There were people around me having massive seizures every day and I had no training whatsoever.

291. One of my biggest regrets was discovering the things that happened in Cottage 14 and 26 and struggling to stop them happening. I struggled to get rid of those practises. Had I known then what I know now I would never have let those things go on as long as they did.

292. 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.....8/10/18.....

