

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EVP [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is EVP [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1959. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in a house in [REDACTED] Maryhill, Glasgow. My dad was [REDACTED] and my mum was [REDACTED]. Mum had been married before and had four children called [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My full siblings are [REDACTED] who was born in 1957 and [REDACTED] who was born in 1960. After [REDACTED] was born my mum had another child who was still-born.
3. When mum got married to dad [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came to stay with us though I was a teenager before I realised that they weren't my full siblings. Her daughter [REDACTED] was older and was engaged while [REDACTED] stayed with his dad, though why that was I don't know.
4. My first memories are of when I was in school because I think my life was quite traumatic when I was young. We had moved to [REDACTED] in Yoker and my childhood was good because we had a lot of nice neighbours. The local children all played together and the mothers would even come out and play ropes with us.
5. However, my Dad was an alcoholic and used to stand at the kitchen window watching us in case anybody touched us or hit us. He was quite strict, which I didn't like, though

probably more with my brother [REDACTED] than with me. I never understood why. He used to hit [REDACTED] all the time. It was the same with [REDACTED] and it was as if they were beneath him.

6. There was one time he asked [REDACTED] to turn over the telly and when she tutted he pushed her and she went through the window. Luckily for her she got caught in the curtains. That's the way it was with him, if you didn't do as you were told you got battered.
7. I was once in a neighbour's house when he came to the door for me. I told them to tell him I wasn't there but a short while later I was out in the back courts when he called me in. He grabbed me by the hair then battered lumps out of me. When my mother came home he said I had fallen.
8. There was another occasion when I was swinging on the bedroom door when my sister [REDACTED] pushed me off and I hurt my leg. [REDACTED] was always dad's favourite. When he came over I told him what [REDACTED] had done but it was me who got battered as I shouldn't have been swinging about in the first place.
9. On another night I was watching TV when mum called me. We had to stay in the bedroom because my dad was ill. I was watching the Osmonds and said "Wait a minute". I then heard a bang and realised dad had shot me in the arm with a pellet gun. Because dad had a heart condition mum was more concerned about him than me. At the time he wasn't drinking as much because of his heart condition.
10. He had a big scar on his chest that was from an operation he had had but he always told us that he had got it from a war wound. Mum had to have two jobs because dad couldn't work so we were always getting looked after by dad.
11. The only time I recall being in hospital was when I broke my collar bone after fighting with my sister. While there the doctor said I had been in the hospital before but I didn't remember that. I would like to get my medical records to see why I had been there the first time.

12. My mum and dad were always fighting and I used to go outside to get away from it. One night my dad was fighting one of his friends in the living room and my mum said she would call the police but I don't think she did. One day my mum got fed up with it all and she got in contact with the cruelty people, I suppose they were early social workers, because of the beatings he was giving her. There was no improvement after they left. Sometimes my dad was over protective and other times just cruel to us.
13. I started school in Yoker Primary in 1964. I recall that the teacher wasn't in the class and I started drawing on the blackboard. The teacher, Miss [REDACTED] came in and caught me and slapped me in the face. In the same class two boys were poking me in the back and I got so sick of it I started to walk out of the school. Two teachers came after me and had to drag me away from holding onto the railings. The gates were locked. After school we always had to go straight home as my dad wouldn't let us stay and play in the school playground.
14. Dad was taken to hospital in 1966 or 67 after drinking when he wasn't supposed to. This caused his health to deteriorate. When that happened mum said us children were going away for a holiday and took us to a building near the Kingsway Flats in Knightswood where we got a medical.
15. After that she got some clothes and things ready for me and [REDACTED] and then we were put on a bus that took us miles out into the country. My brother [REDACTED] had gone to Seafield and my brother [REDACTED] might have gone there as well. I was kind of looking forward to it as I thought we would be getting a break from my dad.
16. As it turned out it was Fornethy that myself and [REDACTED] went to. I actually went there twice and there were only a few weeks or months between each occasion. The second time I went it was my sister [REDACTED] that went with me. There was very little difference about being there between the first and second time that I was in Fornethy. I was about eight when I went there.

**Fornethy Children's Home, Perth**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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58. Back at home my mum was working two jobs because my dad was in hospital and since he was back in hospital we knew that we would be getting sent away again. She was working in the bakers in the morning, in a café in the afternoon then would be going up to the hospital to see my dad at night. It was only a few weeks or months later and this time we got sent to Southpark in Rothesay and, like Fornethy, I ended up there twice.
59. Again there was only a few weeks between each time I was there and I was eight or nine both times. The first time was with [REDACTED] and the second time was with [REDACTED]. To get to Rothesay we must have taken a boat but I have no recollection of ever being on a boat at that time.

#### **Southpark Children's Home, Rosyth**

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

### **Leaving Southpark Children's Home, Rothesay**

69. I don't remember the journeys back from Southpark but after leaving Southpark the second time and going home me and some of my siblings were fostered out for a short period to different homes. [REDACTED] went to Dunblane, [REDACTED] went to Troon while I went to either Stirling or Dunblane. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stayed at home.

### **Foster care to unnamed family in either Stirling or Dunblane**

70. I was about nine years old when I was sent to a foster home. I know it was in Stirling or Dunblane but I don't recall which and I don't remember the name of the family. I remember the man and woman had two daughters and they lived in a big house. I think one of the daughters was my age and the other was a wee bit older.
71. They at first put me in a massive bedroom on my own that had a four-poster bed in it. I was terrified and cried each night but then the older daughter said that I could sleep in her bed and she would take the big bedroom. Both the daughters were really nice to me and would take me to play with their friends or visit their granny.
72. I don't really recall much of my time in foster care and was only there for a few weeks. I do remember that the woman was very cold towards me. On the very first morning I couldn't find one of my socks and the mother said that if I didn't get a move on I wouldn't be getting any breakfast. The dad worked but she didn't and while I didn't go

to school I know the girls did as I remember the uniforms they wore with their hats, green jackets and tartan skirts.

73. I would get up about 8:00 am then get washed, dressed and have breakfast before playing in the playroom. I remember wondering if the family fostered other children, not that I saw or heard about any such thing, but the playroom was massive and had way too many toys, books and things for just two children.
74. I don't recall getting lunch but the dad was always home for dinner. I don't have any bad memories about the food I got there. I don't remember religion being a thing there nor do I remember getting any health checks or going on any trips. I didn't get any visitors or see or hear from any of my other siblings who had also been fostered out. I remember when we eventually got home my siblings told me how nice the places were that they went to.
75. I didn't run away from the foster home and bed wetting was never a problem for me. There was no discipline as such and the only trouble I remember getting into was when the mother accused me of taking sweets from a jar and gave me a row. One of the daughters was also there but I got all the blame. I didn't suffer any abuse in the foster home other than, as I said, I found the mother to be a very cold person that didn't show any love towards me. She just didn't seem to be the type of person who should have fostered children.
76. When I left foster care the mother took me home. I remember sitting in the car and her insisting that I wave goodbye to the father. I had to sit there waving for a few minutes until she drove off.

#### **Life after being in care**

77. After I left foster care, after only a few weeks, I was no longer involved with social care. Our dad died in 1970 and life seemed to get better after that as we seemed to have



more freedom. I don't know how he died and I'm trying to get hold of his death certificate.

78. My sister [REDACTED] had two kids and had moved to Cumbernauld and we were allowed to visit her and stay at weekends and Christmas which is something that wouldn't have happened if my dad was still alive. [REDACTED] suggested that we should all move to Cumbernauld so my mum moved there from Yoker to be nearer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] started seeing a guy from Glasgow and moved there with him. [REDACTED] got married so it was just [REDACTED], me and [REDACTED] living with mum.
79. Before we left Yoker I was getting bullied in school so from that point of view it was probably better for me that we moved to Cumbernauld. I wasn't very good at Maths but I enjoyed school there and made quite a few pals. When I left school I went to work in a place called Muirhead but didn't enjoy it. I then worked in Clydeside Sheet Metal making fluorescent lights but hated that as well. My sister [REDACTED] worked in Foresthall Hospital in Glasgow and got me a job there working in the geriatric unit and I worked there for four years.
80. After I left there I met the dad of my oldest son, [REDACTED] but we split up when [REDACTED] was seven months old. For fifteen years thereafter I went through hell with the family as [REDACTED]'s dad's mother thought I wasn't good enough to look after [REDACTED] and thought that she was better off looking after him. So I went through years of her trying to use things against me in court. I started taking panic attacks because I thought they wanted to take [REDACTED] off me for good but I was refusing to let him go.
81. The mother used to spy on me and go to the lawyer and say that I wasn't well enough to look after [REDACTED] because I was taking the attacks. I actually had tunnel vision at the time and thought I was dying. Because of the court proceedings we were going through I had no choice but to allow [REDACTED] to go to her's at the weekend. I would buy him new clothes so as they couldn't say anything but they would take off the clothes that I had bought him and put their own on him.



82. She used to ask my brother if I had a boyfriend and whether or not I had food in the kitchen. I had social workers and child protection officers sent to my door. I would tell them I knew who had sent them and they would say there had been no reason to get them involved.
83. On one occasion, my son [REDACTED] would have been five, [REDACTED] had an accident on his bike and I had to take him to hospital. I also took [REDACTED] to show him that hospitals weren't necessarily places to be scared of. [REDACTED]'s dad showed up and outside [REDACTED] nearly ran out in front of an ambulance until I grabbed him and gave him a smack. [REDACTED]'s dad accused me of being an abusive parent and took [REDACTED] away. It took a call from my lawyer to get him back.

### Impact

84. After being in care our family seemed to drift apart and we all spent a lot of time arguing with each other. My mother was always getting caught up in the middle of it as she would come back from work and we would be fighting. I don't speak to my sister [REDACTED] anymore. Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
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Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
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85. I am very protective of my children and feel my children didn't get the freedom that they perhaps should have. Where I went, they went. Sometimes the kids would accuse me of ruining their lives. I wouldn't let them go to friend's houses, especially my younger son [REDACTED]. My older son [REDACTED] had his dad's to go to but [REDACTED] only had me. If the kids started hanging about with kids who I thought were untrustworthy then I moved house. If things got too much for me I would run away when I probably shouldn't have. I must have moved house fifty times.
86. I don't have a lot of trust in people and sometimes I just look at people and distrust them.

### **Treatment/support**

87. I've never had counselling. I've always believed it's all in the past and that I have to live life in the now. I have been in contact with Future Pathways but haven't gone for counselling.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### **Records**

89. I have been trying to get my records to find out exactly when I was in Fornethy and Southpark but they claim they don't have any of my records. I've been told the records do exist in a cage somewhere and that they are deliberately not releasing them. I got told this by somebody from Glasgow District Council who spoke to us when we had a demonstration outside their offices.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

**Hopes for The Inquiry**

91. Secondary Institutions - to be published later  


92. 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... 14/2/22.....