

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GCX

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is GCX. My date of birth is [REDACTED], 1973. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Dundee. When I was born it was just my older brother [REDACTED], my mother and I in the house. My mother's name is [REDACTED]. That is her maiden name. She was married when she was young. [REDACTED] is four years older than me.
3. My life early on was great. It was like anybody else's childhood. I used to go out in the morning and had to be shouted in at night. Where I stayed, at the [REDACTED] flats in Dundee, there was a big golf course called [REDACTED] near us. We would go into the woods, make tents, steal golf balls and sell them back to the people who were playing. Everything was great. The [REDACTED] are knocked down now.
4. I started school at Brackens Primary School because my mum stayed [REDACTED] in St Mary's. I was only there for about six months or so. When she moved to the [REDACTED] I moved to Ardler Primary School. From there everything was okay. My mum got another partner, my stepfather [REDACTED], who was a scaffolder. He would take me away at weekends and things.
5. It was all good until suddenly, for whatever reason, my brother wanted to stay with my dad. I think my sister was born then and we all got the choice whether we wanted to stay with my mum or my dad. My sister's name is [REDACTED]. She is a few years

younger than me. I don't have a good relationship with her. My brother and sister chose to stay with my dad and his wife and I stayed with my mum and step dad. I was six or seven years old. I also had a step brother called [REDACTED] who stayed with my dad. He was like my best brother.

6. Life was good, I sort of got spoiled. Mum worked in Valentines card factory, which was a good job. She worked there until it shut down. I was doing okay at school. This stage was the only good part of my life. Going into high school is where it all changed. Life for me stopped there. In primary seven mum decided to move to Hilltown, Dundee. As I stayed at Ardler and didn't have long to go in primary school, I continued to go. I got the bus there and back every day. However, because of the catchment area I moved to Morgan Academy High School. All my friends I'd grown up with went to Rockwell or Lawside High schools, depending on whether they were Catholic or Protestant.
7. I knew nobody at school. I was scared at that stage. That's where the problem started. Because I was scared things didn't work out so I started missing school. I got caught but kept doing it. I was alone. I didn't know anybody. Everyone else came from other schemes. They all grew up together. Even though I asked to go to Rockwell they wouldn't let me because of the catchment area. Both my brother and step brother were at Rockwell.
8. My step brother [REDACTED] and I had got up to some nonsense and banned from seeing each other. My dad stayed in Hilltown too so I was closer to [REDACTED]. I would go to the park and whistle and [REDACTED] would come to the window because I wasn't allowed in my dad's house to see him. My mum had made it that my dad was the bad person. The first birthday card I got from my dad was when I was twenty-seven. That's because I was in intensive care.
9. As things progressed and I wasn't going to school I got more fearful of going home and facing my mum, so I stopped going home. It progressed to not going home at all, staying out all night. Eventually I went to a panel in Dundee when I was twelve. I'd had a social worker. I can't remember his name. I went to a club every week for

troubled kids who weren't fitting in at school. I told my social worker why I wasn't going to school but was told to deal with it, but I couldn't.

Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

10. I went to the Children's Panel and they decided I had to go to Burnside Assessment Centre for three weeks assessment. I ended up staying there for nine months and was put there on three separate occasions, but I can't remember exactly when. It's in Harestane Road, Kirkton, Dundee. It was a big place. It had four different units for different age groups. I went straight there from the panel. My mum was there but I didn't even get the opportunity to say goodbye.

Routine at Burnside Assessment

First day

11. I went into the junior unit first night. I just sat and cried. I didn't have a clue what was going on. The next morning I had to do what everyone was doing. Obviously I didn't have a clue and I was expected to just catch on. It progressed into a regimented routine that you had to keep time with.
12. I think it was my social worker that took me to Burnside. I can't recall the conversation we had on the way. He may have tried to explain what was happening, but I was just taken away from my mum. Even she was upset but it was the panel's decision.
13. I was put in a bedroom and put my pyjamas on and just got left there. They gave me the pyjamas along with a pair of jeans, t-shirt and jumper. I was on my own. The room was basic. A bed, somewhere to sit and a window. That was it really.
14. The first night the night staff looked in then just left me. They didn't speak to me. The next day I got told what I had to do, the routine. I just had to adjust. It depended on what staff were on. There were those who would tell you what to do and there were

the ones that would tell you nothing. My first couple of days I was in shock. It was like, "How the hell do I get out of here?"

15. There were four units at Burnside. Junior unit, senior assessment, PA1 and PA2. I actually ended up being in every one of them. I don't know what the PA stood for. Those units were for people who were a bit older and moving on, sort of thing. I remember a guy called [REDACTED]. He was the oldest person there and he sort of ran the place. He was about sixteen. The youngest was about nine. I can't remember if I stayed the whole time in the junior unit my first time in Burnside or moved to senior assessment. The set up was junior unit, PA1 above that, senior assessment on the left and PA2 on the right. They were separated by a big hall where everybody ate. There were grounds, grass and a gym. There was a common room where everyone sat. The place wasn't locked, you could walk out, and I did.
16. It was run by the city council. I remember some of the staff members. There was a man called IXO [REDACTED] or IXO [REDACTED]. He was actually a good guy. He was a member of staff. He would give you a fly puff of his pipe. Parents had to sign giving you permission to smoke. My mother wouldn't sign it, but IXO [REDACTED] would give me a little puff of his pipe.
17. I remember the faces of the staff, but can't remember most of the names. Mrs Caird was my teacher. She was an older lady, she was good. She won't be with us now. I got on okay with her. That was the routine there. I would have to go to certain classes.
18. I had a room to myself, the door was unlocked. In the junior section there were eight to twelve children. Boys and girls. There were younger kids than me there. I think it was up to thirteen years old. When you reached thirteen you went into senior assessment.

Mornings and bedtime

19. Everybody went to breakfast at the same time. It was like clockwork. You would queue up for it. The junior section all sat together. Breakfast was basic, porridge, toast and a cup of tea. You took your empty stuff back and the cooks would clean it. You then went back to your room and ready for school, which started at 9:00 am. Once you were in your room at night that was it. You knew not to annoy the staff.

Mealtimes / Food

20. Meals were okay, they would set out the same things every week, just different variations of it. The staff didn't eat with us. Every member of staff was different. You ate the food or got nothing. Sometimes you would get stuff handed in by parents.

Washing / bathing

21. Staff would waken you up and tell you to get showered. The showers were in the unit. There was a block of them. You were separated but they were still open. The staff could still see you. I didn't feel there was any privacy. You would get dried and put on your clothes for the day.

School

22. The school was below senior assessment. The woodwork teacher was good. I can't remember his name. I made a couple of things there. School was sort of good, but I was still wondering why I was there. I thought, "I can walk out of here", because the doors weren't locked.
23. You were allocated classes at school, it was like high school. There was woodwork, maths, geography, English and art. Mrs Caird was the art teacher. She was nice. She was good, but unfortunately I would use her class to run away. I just used to walk out the class. I would go to the reception, tap on the window and tell them to tell the unit I was away and I would just take off. The staff would try to catch me.

Trips / Holidays

24. You got trips at weekends. When I was at Rossie? I went to a lot of places. At Burnside it depended on the staff. We would go to like a big park at the weekend if there was enough staff to cover and look after the children.

Birthdays and Christmas

25. I probably had a birthday there but I can't remember it. The last Christmas I remember was when I just moved to Hilltown, so I was eleven. There were no good memories from Burnside.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

26. My social worker got changed at some point to a woman. I can't remember her name. They would only come up when there were meetings or every so often they would come up and ask how you were and what was going on. I'm not sure if I told my social worker about things in Burnside. I don't think I had a relationship with either of them at that age. Because I was rebelling at that age my way of dealing with it was running away from it.
27. My mum would come up as often as she could. There were set visiting days. She would maybe come up twice a week. I'm not honestly sure.
28. I had another panel while I was at Burnside. It was in-house. The social worker was there as well as my mum. She would be there every opportunity she could. I was out of the room while they all spoke about me. When I was older I got asked what I thought, but I would say, "What does it matter? You've decided".
29. While I was there I was allocated a worker who would write down how I was doing, if I'd behaved and what should happen to me. I can't remember his name. I can picture the guy. He was alright but things didn't work out for me.

Running away

30. I decided to walk out. I can't remember when this was. I thought I was only going to be there for a three week assessment, so the longer it went the angrier I got. I kept running away. Not for a night or two, for my own length of time. I got caught a couple of times, but that was later on. The first time I ran away there were three of us. [REDACTED] [REDACTED], who was from Dundee, unfortunately he is dead now and another guy called [REDACTED]. I think he was from Glasgow. The first night we slept in what we called a 'Tattie bus', but we were too cold and went back when we got hungry. It was probably a few months after getting there, because I got irritated after the three weeks. They obviously explained things to me, but I never understood. I couldn't say anything. I didn't have a voice. They would have a meeting, in which they would decide things, then bring me in. You were never asked, you were told.
31. I started getting leave and allowed home. They worked up to these things. I went to high school, but it was back to the same thing, I didn't go. There was a panel and I was back in Burnside. It was on an order, Section 44 (1)(b), a place of safety. I never committed a crime. One time we were on the run and we got charged by the police for breaking into a school but we were never near the place.
32. After getting out I was in tow with my step brother [REDACTED] and we just got up to everything we shouldn't have got up to. He knew this older guy who went around the country and committed fraud. His name was [REDACTED]. He was a known paedophile. He is dead now. He had the best of things. As I got to know him I thought, if I ran away I could go with him and get away from Dundee and that way I wouldn't get caught. I was about thirteen then. I wasn't out of Burnside that long, a few months then back in. I was in senior assessment. I can't remember how long I was there for the second time.
33. The longest time I ran away was for about three months. I stayed in every major city except Liverpool. I stayed with [REDACTED]. We would get the night rider train to London at ten thirty from Dundee and start from there. He was a really good thief.

34. I committed a criminal offence, I stole something out of Boots and got caught and taken to court in England. This was in Stafford. I was listed as a missing child and got flown back. I went back to Burnside.
35. Both of us got caught in London once because he went away to do his thing and I said I would meet him at Tower Records in Piccadilly at 5:00 pm in the evening. He was late and within fifty minutes the police were over asking what I was doing, thinking I was a rent boy. He got done for harbouring and had to appear at the magistrates' court the next morning. Police came down to London and collected me and I got flown back.
36. Eventually I had to go somewhere else because I was running away for so long and [REDACTED] was a known paedophile. The staff automatically thought there was something up there. So I would run away and started taking solvents to block things out. The staff were writing things down, saying this is happening and that's happening. I would tell them that they weren't listening to me. He would do his thing and I'd go to Madam Tussauds or something like that.

Discipline

37. When we came back after running away we got punished. You got nothing to eat and thrown into your room. They were cruel to you for a few days. They were just hard on you, tough on you, so that you wouldn't do it again. There was badminton and table tennis but if you ran away you didn't get to do these. You would have your pyjamas and slippers on and get the door locked to your room. You went to get your food, but then right back to your room and locked in until they felt they had punished you enough. Some staff were okay and some weren't. It just made me rebel more.

Abuse at Burnside Assessment Centre

38. I got my clothes taken from me and left in my bare feet so that I couldn't run away again. They were just really on top of me. Really grinding me down so that I would give in and do what I was told. Obviously I had other ideas. Eventually it was just punishment, punishment. To this day I have brain syndrome, cold feet and cold hands. What I was told to do by staff was stand on the cold marble floor in my pyjamas and bare feet for hours. I was so cold. You had to stand straight for hours to get back to bed. If you moved, you had to stand longer. It happened to me too much. It was a mixture of staff who did this. I can't remember names. They would also do this if you were a problem at night.
39. There was always a bully in every unit. If anything the staff would influence it because it was easier for them to get other people to do the bullying rather than them, even though they didn't mind giving you a back hander themselves. When you were thrown into your room, you would literally be thrown in, by the scruff of your neck. They knew the pressure points. They would squeeze you just for fun, push your pressure points until it was very sore. I remember their faces but not their names. There would be four of them on top of me, wrestling me to the ground and restraining me and pushing all these points. You would get a back hander too. It would depend on if they had a good weekend as to whether they would be okay on the Monday. If they didn't you had it taken out on you. They would be cruel.
40. There was a big guy, like a sergeant major. His name was EIF Mr EIF. He was the only one that stood out as okay, but you didn't tell him anything. You were scared. If you told one person about another, they would go straight over and tell them. You couldn't trust anyone.
41. Four people would be on top of you restraining you. Sometimes it was for having a laugh, and you would go, "Ok, but you don't have to do that." You would just get trussed up and thrown into your room. If they had listened to me and looked at the situation I was in. If I had gone to the secondary school with my friends I had grown


up with I'd have integrated into it without a problem. I wouldn't have felt so secluded. I might not have done anything.

42. Every place I was in had a seclusion room, where you would be locked in if you did anything wrong. There was nothing in it at all except concrete. No mattress, no chair. I think there was a toilet. In hindsight it was just like a jail cell. When I got caught in Stafford and returned to Burnside I was put in there. I would be screaming but nobody would hear me, it was so far away. You would be in for as long as they wanted you to be. You could be there overnight. The longest I was there was for two nights. Food was brought to you. I was there quite a few times.
43. The punishment happened to other kids too. I still don't understand what it achieved except being cruel for their benefit.
44. In Rossie, on our room door we had a window. We got these Velcro things to put curtains up but they had to come off at night so that the night staff could see in. Some of the staff would touch or feel you in a way that made you uncomfortable. The way they cuddled you, and the more I heard about what was going on, I was very wary. I can't put my finger on what was going on. I just felt it. You were always wary of people looking in. You found it hard to trust anyone. You had no privacy. If somebody was good to you, you wondered for what reason they were being good. There was no trust.
45. At this time I could jump trains and I was on the run with [REDACTED]. When I was with him I knew what he was doing was wrong and I was his cover. It made it easier for him committing crime. Because I was able to run away for long periods of time the staff were thinking I was ok with what else he was doing and the way they would cuddle you and say it's okay. It was inappropriate.

Leaving Burnside Assessment Centre

46. So I went to Burnside, got out, back to Burnside, then went to Ann Street Children's Home, which was like an in between for going home, to go back to school. Secondary Ins


Secondary Institutions - to be published later



Anne Street Children's Home, Dundee

47. I was in Ann Street for about six months. I think I was thirteen, I can't remember how old I was, but I was in Rossie from fourteen to sixteen. Secondary Institutions - to be published late

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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53. Because I went to Ann Street Secondary Institutions - to be published they put me back to Burnside and held me there. I was put in the secluded cell until the police or whoever came and took me to Rossie. This was a secure unit. I was sent there because nowhere else could contain me.

Rossie Farm School, Montrose

54. I went to Rossie Farm School when I was fourteen. I was the only person there on a place of safety. On my first day I was sitting next to a guy who murdered a two year old girl because he didn't like the colour of her shoes. I had to sit next to him and be normal. I'd never committed a crime.

55. There were murderers and all sorts of people at Rossie. You would know who was who as there was a big white board in the office and it had everybody's name and room number on it and showed where they came from. It would say HMP if they were offenders. So you would know who was who and you would learn what they had done. It wasn't nice sitting having breakfast with people like that. It was kind of weird.
56. Rossie Farm School was split into separate units. There was Lunan Bay, Dalhousie and Tay. You went to Lunan Bay first for assessment. That put you into line, then you went into Dalhousie or Tay, which were more relaxed. It was secure, virtually impossible to escape from.
57. There was a Mr and Mrs Charlton at Rossie. They were from South Africa. One of them was a worker in Rossie Farm School and one of them was a teacher. They were great people. They were the only ones you could talk to, but it was like they didn't want to interfere with the goings on because it wasn't their place to.

Mealtimes

58. You ate communally most of the time. Cooks had to make it all for everybody at the same time. It was mostly all criminals in the place or people who didn't have parents. I felt scared all the time. It was the most horrible thing. Being a parent myself now, it should never have been done that way, but that was me.
59. There was a member of staff called Mr GWC. He was quite a regimented sort of man. If you didn't do what you were told you would get a clout. There were bars on your windows. There was only one compound which was secure, like a prison. The school is built in. You had to get privileges to get to the gym or the swimming pool. You needed to get three privileges to get there because that section of the building wasn't as secure as the main building. HMP prisoners never got it. They never got out of their block. People like me could get privileges and once you got them you could go to the gym or the swimming pool.

Trips & Holidays

60. Mr GWC bad as he was, took us to every Glen. Glencoe, Glen Isla and Glen Esk. One time I had to get airlifted off one of them. I ran through heather and fell and broke my collar bone. I couldn't move. I was in situ for three hours. An RAF helicopter came up. I went to hospital for a while and got painkillers and a sling. For at least two years I couldn't pull myself up a wall.

Schooling

61. The only real schooling I had was in Rossie. You had your general subjects but you also had engineering, painting and decorating and cookery. I passed my first Scotvec module in painting and decorating. I done the stippling stencil part. Pete Haggart ran the painting and decorating shop. That's where I learnt the trade. I done that for years. I worked at that when I came out as well. You got to choose what one you wanted to do in Rossie. I worked in engineering as well. We built a go-kart and got to race it on Fridays if we were good.

Leisure time

62. In general Rossie Farm School was a good place. I was good at table tennis and badminton. It was the basic things that you got. It was all privilege based. If you wanted to watch TV or get a late film, you knew what you had to do, how to behave.

Medical examination

63. When I was in Rossie they asked me about the times with [REDACTED]. I told them I was using him to get away for a while and I was getting lots of money and new clothes. So they were even more suspicious that something happened.
64. Eventually it got too much with them asking and moaning about something happening to me by [REDACTED], so I eventually agreed to be medically examined. I got escorted to a doctor's surgery near Rossie. I basically had to go

through an ordeal. It was horrible. I was examined everywhere to prove nothing had happened. I was pressured into it. I still relive it to this day. It was degrading. All it did was create a worse life for me on the outside because other people thought it as well and that put a stigma on me.

Running away

65. It was hard to escape from Rossie. It was too secluded and staff members have houses there as well. All the farms were all linked up around it. I knew I couldn't escape from the place. I would get out to see my mum but I wouldn't go back. I would either get caught or I would just phone up.

Visits/Inspections/Review of detention

66. In Rossie there were no social work visits. Rossie took over. Any time I was getting out of Rossie on leave, I wouldn't go back. Even when I was sixteen in [REDACTED] they kept me until [REDACTED] because of this. My mum would come up to see me when her friend would give her a lift up. It was too out the way to get the bus. I would just sit in a room with her.
67. You got allocated a worker in Rossie. Mine was Bob Milne. It was to talk about things, but you felt it was more for them than you. There was no-one you could talk to. There was no-one who would sit you down and ask if you understood. It was me being told "This is what you do", "This is how you do it". I was never offered any counselling or psychological help.
68. You knew what everyone in Rossie Farm School had done for them to be there. I was thinking, "I'm sitting with all these people and I haven't committed a crime. What am I doing here?" Nobody listened. They decided. They were the adults, so if they decided that was going to happen, that's what happened, regardless of whether it was right or wrong.

69. There was a fight organised while I was there. I knew the boy from Edinburgh involved, his name was [REDACTED]. He had murdered a guy in Dunfermline. I knew him through football hooligans. My criminal record was mostly for football hooliganism. The other guy was [REDACTED] from Fife. It was between them to see who was the top man. When we went out to the compound, we would try to trip staff up so that the two boys could have a go at each other. We paid for that. It was like prison officers with riot gear on, coming at you and throwing you back in your room. If you didn't do what you were told you were targeted until you knew the rules.

Abuse at Rossie Farm School, Montrose

70. All the places had their own rules and discipline but it would depend on the staff there. There would be nice ones and bad ones. It would be a kick or a punch, or squeezed until you fell to the ground. I suppose they thought it was funny at the time. It was different staff that did this. I can't remember their names. Not everybody did it.
71. Each place I was in had a place for seclusion for people who were fighting and things like that. The last thing the staff wanted was the place erupting. These were cells. I was put in there at Rossie for just not being compliant. It was overnight at times. There was a toilet in the room. It was just cruel. Trying to break you down, but it just made me more determined and more angry.

Leaving Rossie Farm School, Montrose

72. I used to take solvents when I ran away from Rossie, I would sniff gas. That was part of society at the time. I sniffed gas to stop thinking of things. I was young when I started, in Burnside. When I came out of Rossie it got even worse because I was on my own.
73. I can't remember anyone speaking to me when I was leaving Rossie, preparing me for leaving the place. All I knew was how to sniff gas. There was a couple of people in Rossie from Dundee who left before me. My brother [REDACTED] knew them too. They were into sniffing nail polish and glue and I was sniffing gas. That was the only thing

I knew. So I didn't really connect with the good side. I was always under the influence of solvents.

Life after being in care

74. When I was sixteen I was given money for the train, told where the train station was and told, "Away you go, see you later". My mum moved house when I was in Rossie, she got a smaller house. All the stuff in my bedroom from her old house, she just left. So I had nothing. My mum was on her own. She had split up with my stepdad and I stayed with her for a few months.
75. I continued to sniff gas. I was addicted to it by this time. I was on four or five cans of solvent a day. From sixteen to twenty seven I just abused solvents. Eventually my body gave up and I went into cardiac arrest. I went into a second cardiac arrest in the ambulance and stopped breathing. I was put into intensive care, in a coma. I was on life support. Eventually they switched off the machine and I breathed for myself. I was twenty seven when this happened. That's when my dad sent me the one and only birthday card.
76. Because I had no memory of the incident when I came around, to me it didn't happen, I didn't believe them. So I signed myself out of the hospital and was going to go and do the same thing. Obviously I would have just killed myself. I was sectioned for a month and had counselling. It was through Dr Johnstone. He used to work as the head of the drug wellbeing centre. I knew him personally too. He sort of saved my life by sectioning me and finally I understood. I realised what happened.
77. I never touched it again, but because I came off that I was put on so much dihydrocodeine and diazepam. GP's started getting a lot stricter about giving all these drugs and the drug problem services said they'll take over. They said it was too much to give me for the withdrawals from solvents. They said they would put me on a reduction programme of methadone. I ended up addicted to that. I thought, "Why am I doing this?" I wasn't a heroin user, it's known to stop you using that.

78. I self-referred myself to Positive Steps, which is run by Dundee City Council. I had a few workers until I got Jackie and I'm at ease with her. Through the help of Jackie I cut the methadone down, come off it, and I've been off it for four years. I didn't really get any counselling along the way. I sort of dealt with everything myself.
79. I worked in the YTS scheme when I came out, painting and decorating houses all over Dundee. This was when I was eighteen to twenty-one. I had a couple of jobs. I worked with my stepdad doing scaffolding but the addictions in my life sort of controlled me. My addiction and everything is a knock on effect from my time in the institutions. I just lost the will to live.
80. I was twenty-one when my daughter [REDACTED] was born in 1995, my son [REDACTED] was born in 1997. Because I've never had a father I've always made sure I'm there for my kids. I'm proud of them, especially with their mum and dad being addicts. I've seen them since the day they were born. Right through primary and secondary. Obviously my girlfriend and I broke up. The kids stayed every weekend at my house. I had to juggle so many things, be so many different people. I'm just too tired of it.

Impact

81. My time in these places has completely ruined my life. It all started there. Nobody helped. And then they say, "There you go, out into the big bad world". I couldn't deal with it because I'd never had a childhood. I never went to secondary school and enjoyed it like everyone else, never had Christmases like everyone else. I didn't have an education. Even though there was schooling in these premises, it was basic. It wasn't schooling it was just things to pass the day.
82. They should have listened to me. I shouldn't have been in the places I was, with the people I was with. I don't think it was a good setup. Obviously that's just the way it was. If you are in with those people you can't sleep at night when you learned what some of their crimes were. I could never relax in these places.

83. I was involved in football hooliganism from a young age. It was the only way to release my anger. Maybe I shouldn't have done the things I did, but at that time the people that did it, did it for the same reasons.
84. I am on pregabalin, diazepam and diclofenac, which is a painkiller. I was just at the hospital again for a check-up. I have calcium on my testicles. My right one is worse. I'm in a lot of pain constantly. So I have an addiction to painkillers, which is no good for me. It has set me back when I want to go forward. I believe this is my last chance for some kind of rehab. I'm so weak and so thin. I need to get my health back and my mind back without having any addiction, without getting up in the morning and having to take something to feel normal. So I'm just wanting to take this last chance to do something with my life or I'd rather not be here. I need to get away from this lifestyle of being on my own, constantly by myself.
85. I have been on a waiting list for ages for a Community Psychiatric Nurse. I missed one appointment to go and see a psychologist and got taken off the list, even though they knew I was in crisis.

Reporting of Abuse

86. I never really felt the need to report anything to the police because I always thought that's the way it should be. That's the way it was. It's only with being older, with children, in hindsight you say, "This is wrong". If you do these sort of things now you would get charged with assault. Why was it okay then? It was that era. A lot of these people who were in charge were regimented from the army. Some of them were really tough. You either go with it or rebel against it. Most of the time I sort of rebelled against it.

Records

87. I have never seen my records of when I was in care.

Lessons to be Learned

- 88. I think we should make sure that there's something there for children after they leave care. Something in place that's always going to be there. I was failed on everything and was left to my own devices. I never had a father, that was one of the worst things. How can I be a father to my son when I never had a father of my own?
- 89. Nobody listened when I was going through the care system. I was just told what to do. They should listen to the children. Even when I came off drugs, it was basically "We can't help you anymore".
- 90. I saw a documentary a while back about some place and abuse was still happening, and I thought it still can't be happening. They can't keep getting away with it.

Other information

- 91. 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.. GCX

Dated... 17/7/19