

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HKN

Support person present: Yes

1. My full name is HKN. My date of birth is /1957. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I left school to start as a bricklayer which I spent two years at. Then I went on to the at Pencaitland where I worked for around five years before I applied for and got the job as boiler maintenance handyman at St. Joseph's, in 1983.
3. I had no childcare qualifications when I first started at St. Joseph's. It was while I was working there as boiler maintenance handyman that I realised my enthusiasm for childcare work and then pursued that career gaining the qualifications I required. Along with my work experience I have an HNC, my SVQ3 and an Open University diploma in social work.
4. I was interviewed for the boiler maintenance man job by SNR, Brother MJG one of the board of managers, Lady Hamilton, and head of social work, MJL. It was like any formal interview for a post, I was asked questions about my experience with heating systems and was I any good at painting and decorating and repairs, that kind of thing. I'd never repaired a broken window in my life but I told them I was willing to turn my hand to anything.

5. There was no prior indication that I would be working with the children at St. Joseph's. At the interview I was asked, if I was offered the post would I be willing to participate in evening and weekend activities with the young people. It was one evening a week and one weekend day every fortnight. It's known as Residential Duty Allowance and all care and teaching staff were expected to participate.
6. I was quite surprised about being asked to do that but I didn't mind getting paid to play games with the children. I was quite happy to participate. I realise that approach isn't acceptable today but in those days it was the done thing, people came off the streets to work with these young people. A gardener and a chef did that at St. Joseph's as well. I don't think police checks were even done back then.
7. I got a phone call the following day to tell me my interview was successful. I didn't have to work a probationary period but I did submit references from my previous employers. I can't remember if they contacted the references but I was asked about what I did at the maltings and what maintenance I had done there, which I explained to them.

St. Joseph's List D School, Tranent

General

8. St. Joseph's School sits just off the main city bypass right between Tranent and Prestonpans in East Lothian. It was initially opened as a hospital. I think the owner, a Mr Steele, gave it to the local community to be used for the benefit of the local community as an education system.
9. It's purpose was to provide education and a residence for young people who had failed in mainstream school or had been offending so badly that they were put in there by the social work department. It was residential but there were day pupils as well.
10. When I started at St. Joseph's in 1983 there was three units, all boys. It wasn't until the mid-1990's that they opened the gir's unit. The boys' units were Ogilvie, Sinclair

and Benildus and the girls' unit was Savio. I only worked at the girls' unit in emergencies.

Boiler Maintenance Handyman Role

11. When I first started at St. Joseph's my role was to maintain the heating system for the school with another guy, LVI [REDACTED], who is sadly deceased. My line manager was SNR [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED], who was Brother MJG [REDACTED] to start with, then Brother MBU [REDACTED] and then Jim Taig. That was throughout my entire time at St. Joseph's. I changed to the care side after five or six years and at that time Brother MBU [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] My senior then was MHB [REDACTED], a senior social worker, [REDACTED].
12. My main role was as boiler maintenance man involved going round the school servicing all the systems. There was a lot of maintenance work to do with that but I would say we were more involved in the repair of broken windows, which was a daily issue. We also repaired doors that had been kicked in, walls that had been damaged, plastering, painting and decorating so my role was very varied throughout the day.
13. Part of my contract, as I've said, was also to work with the young people one evening per week, which was a Tuesday, and one day every second weekend. It was to help build relationships with the young people but also to take them on activities, of which there were many, and then build relationships through those activities.
14. After my first week or two at St. Joseph's I was thinking 'oh my god' as it was a real shock to the system. I was going in with these young people who were all bigger than me, they were violent, they were abusive and they were threatening. I'd never seen young people being so unruly. They would go around doing wilful damage all the time and we were then called upon to go and repair that damage. The staff did try their best to keep a friendly open environment but it deteriorated. We tried our best to maintain the place but due to constant graffiti and vandalism it made this very difficult.
15. I had no training at all prior to starting at St. Joseph's until I started the HNC SVQ at Moray House College. I was attached to Ogilvie House for the first six-month period and I worked with senior staff throughout that period. I would always be working with

two other staff, one being a senior member, to see how I would integrate and work with the young people. The staff obviously had experience and they would point me in the right direction and support me but as a formal experience of working with young people you took in your own life experience and your family experience and what you'd been brought up with yourself.

16. I really enjoyed the time I spent working with the young people. I'd been brought up on a loving structured family and I found out very quickly that it totally differed to what the young people coming into St. Joseph's had experienced. That really turned my head around and made me realise I wanted to work on the care side full time. I would take fifteen young people with two staff into the play barns as we called them, split them into three teams and just have fun for three hours. Then they would all head back to their units for a shower, get their supper and off to bed.
17. I only did that one evening per week. At the weekends when I worked the numbers were down, because a lot of the young people went on home leave, so we would try and do exciting things. We took them out hill walking and gorge walking, we took them to the beach, various activities. I made a great effort to build go-karts and I built a go-cart track for the young people at St. Joseph's. In hindsight that was maybe the wrong thing to do because the young people never wanted to go to school, they wanted to play on the go-karts and motorbikes, which were donated to us by the police. Health and Safety stopped us doing all that in the early nineties.
18. We also had an outdoor army assault course with a huge swing which was maintained by us. I just saw it as a fun place to be and it was hard work, as young people can be cruel, which I found out very quickly. I did know from my secondary education, that young people could be cruel with their language and threats but it was at a different level at St. Joseph's. In essence all the young people who were admitted had exhausted all other resources. There were young people from so many different backgrounds that had been involved in so many different issues with either education or criminality or just failing authority in all ways. It was difficult for some of them to interact at times.

19. While I was doing the boiler maintenance job I realised I wanted to become more involved in the care side and I went on to gain the necessary qualifications. I did the HNC at Moray House College, which was two days a week for nine months, while working the other three days at St. Joseph's, the SVQ's were done on site. I did not start the HNC until I changed job. I never attended college whilst doing the maintenance job.

Care Staff Role

20. I spent five or six years doing maintenance work before I moved into the care side, that was about 1988. I was interviewed formally for the care worker role as well. It was Brother MBU, MHB and LVH who interviewed me, all from the social work side, no one from the education side. I did know them all well, from my previous experiences working with them all, so there was no need for any separate references.
21. By 1989 or 1990 senior staff at St. Joseph's had bought into the training that was required, qualifications were coming in then as there was no training in the early days. It was just a matter of caring for the young people. This was the same position with all similar institutions.
22. When I went to the care side it was explained to me that I would report to MHB who would be my senior manager. He set my shifts and rotas and managed my expectations to take on a key working role with young people.
23. Once I started in the care side I went on to complete the open University Diploma course in social work. I started the diploma in 2001 or 2002 and I completed that within the set time.
24. I then became a residential social worker at St. Joseph's and climbed up the tree from a full time care worker to assistant manager at a unit and then on to manager at a unit. That was all at St. Joseph's. I was at St. Joseph's until it closed down.

Structure and recruitment of staff

25. There was a social work side and an education side to the management structure at St. Joseph's. When I started in 1983, on the social work side there was SNR SNR who was Brother MJG SNR, Brother MBU and the head of social work, who was MJL. They all had offices in the main building. There was also a social work office at the base of the building which had two social workers from each unit working there every day.
26. On the education side, George Cuthell was head of education, his role was to look after all the teachers. The teachers were allocated to each unit so they weren't just teachers, they had a care side to do as well, just the same as myself when I was boiler maintenance man. Every member of staff was expected to do an evening a week and one day every second weekend. Teachers did that as well.
27. The leadership style was very open, honest and fair. We received guidance, advice and support if you went to them with any issues. Senior staff were always visible and present within the units.
28. I was involved in some recruitment later in life, in the late 1990's once I'd gained enough experience myself and I was in an assistant manager's role. I did help recruit care staff and house mothers, who had the role of looking after the kitchen and laundry. The applications and references would go to the senior staff first, who would look at them all, then give me the applications to go through. There could be six or there could be twenty and I would be asked to give my opinion on who should be interviewed. All references were checked by HR at Lothian Regional Council.

Supervision / appraisals / evaluations

29. I was only involved in the management of staff once I became assistant manager of a unit. I would then manage those in a care role within that specific unit. That was four care staff, a domestic and a house mother for each unit, each day. I would arrange for

the cover of shifts when staff were off sick, we always had a minimum of two but tried to have three at all times, so I could be phoning around trying to get cover.

30. Formal supervision wasn't generally a feature of residential care in my time, not in the early days at St. Joseph's. It was all done through working alongside senior and experienced members of staff. I didn't get any appraisal when I was working as boiler maintenance man or when I moved to the care side. When I moved on to a manager's role I didn't give appraisals either, that didn't come in until the late nineties. This was a similar position to all residential establishments within Scotland during the same periods.

Staff training / personal development

31. I wasn't involved in the any training of any staff, but it was the role of the senior manager within each house to give supervision to new staff to bring on their knowledge and understanding of the role and expectations. There wasn't any formal training until the late nineties when everybody had to have a certificate. Prior to that there was very little formal training.
32. There was weekly meeting between Frank Rochford, who was the head of social work, and all the senior staff at St. Joseph's. They discussed young people with serious issues or if there were any concerns about weekend leave, young people going home to digress into behaviour that actually brought them into St. Joseph's. In essence the focus of the discussion was if their behaviour could affect their safety or others.
33. We did have discussions on staff and staff practice and there were areas that were looked at to support staff particularly in dealing with difficulties. As far as formal appraisals go, I couldn't honestly say that there was a time when we sat down and gave formal appraisals.
34. When I started as a boiler maintenance man LVI worked alongside me and he did like to think he was in charge, because he'd been there for years before, me but

we were partners. He did teach me how to replace broken windows, which was just about a daily occurrence.

Policy / strategic planning

35. When I started in 1983 policy for List 'D' schools was carried out by Social Work Services Group which is a branch of the Scottish Office. After 1987 Lothian Regional Council did the policy. I had nothing to do with policy or strategic planning.

Children

General

36. The normal age of young people coming into St. Joseph's was secondary school age, twelve to sixteen. Ogilvie unit was for the youngest young people that came in, Benildus Unit was the fourteen and fifteen age group and then there was the Sinclair Unit which was school leavers age. It was really quite varied.
37. When I started in 1983 each unit could take a maximum of twelve, so thirty-six residential young people plus the day pupils. That was later reduced to about ten in total in each unit and it remained that way until the school closed. Girls started coming to the school in 1990, there was initially six and that went up to ten for a while.
38. The minimum number of staff you would have on in an evening would be three per unit. That would be the house mother who took care of supper and two care staff on the shop floor at all times. That's nine staff for thirty-six young people if the units were all full but it was always three staff even when the numbers dwindled.
39. If children were coming into St. Joseph's with any issues of abuse then it was senior social workers that would be discussing that with the practice team social worker. Some bits of that might have filtered down to me, latterly, perhaps if there were serious

issues at home and the kid wasn't to go on home leave before the parents were interviewed by social workers, but generally it was nothing to do with me, certainly not in my earlier roles. If there were any issues with any of the young people I worked with in my early years, the senior member of staff would be informed and they would tell me whatever the issues were and how the team were to deal with it.

40. When I started there were twelve residents per unit and there were three units. That had been twenty per unit, with six young people sharing a bedroom but they were reduced drastically before I got there. Young people were given more privacy and space and it became slightly easier when the numbers were reduced. When I got there it was two to a room and there was four big rooms and two small rooms in each unit. The small rooms were single rooms.

Washing/bathing

41. There were communal showers for the young people and I'd say that was one failing of the place. If I was on duty I'd try to make sure only two young people would shower at a time. There were four open showers, baths and three toilets and a door to the whole area which the young people would close. They would then muck about in the shower room, throwing shower gel and toothpaste and things about so I tried to keep the numbers low to separate them. Staff didn't go into the shower area without knocking.
42. If you heard screaming or shouting or fighting in the shower area you would need to knock and go in. I even did that when I was still a boiler maintenance handyman and worked a Tuesday evening. Part of the role was to stand on the landing and take care of the young people when they were having their showers. Common sense and privacy told me that you don't enter the shower area. I just knocked the door and gave them a shout or whatever. I was just following the lead. MHB would have said to me to stand on the landing when the young people were showering and he would have been downstairs sending up two young people at a time. As far as I'm concerned all staff did that. I don't remember any staff just walking into the shower room.

43. I was always very sympathetic towards young people with bed wetting issues. I would try to make sure that at all times they had a single room and that they were supported in the mornings, especially at weekends. At weekends when I was on I would knock on their door, ask if their bed was wet or dry and if it was wet I'd tell them to leave it and go for a shower. That meant other young people weren't smelling them or abusing them in any way and I would take care of getting their bed changed.
44. That was the kind of care structure they had at St. Joseph's it was a caring environment. It does concern me when the stories come out saying St. Joseph's was a den of iniquity and a horrible place to be, because I get the young people coming back to this day, now in their fifties, coming to see me with their young people, sitting in my garden and telling me what a great place it was to be.

Food/mealtimes

45. The food was good, as good as I got at home and sometimes better. All main meals were cooked by a chef in the kitchen then transferred to each unit in a heated box. The only meals cooked in each house were breakfast and supper and any meals at weekends. It was always like that when I was at St. Joseph's.
46. There was always a choice of food and sometimes they didn't like it and could throw it at you but they were just told those were the two choices. If they didn't like either choice we could always make them some toasted cheese or beans on toast. The young people always had a good meal put in front of them. The quality of the food was externally monitored by a lady called Jane Brown, who worked for Lothian Region and carried out that role for every residential establishment in the Lothians.

Leisure activities

47. I've mentioned some of the activities we did with the young people, we went on trips all the time, the young people had life experiences with us that they'd never had before. I loved working with the young people and I still see some of them to this day, now with their grandyoung people, and they talk about a lot of the trips we went on. It was

a great place to work giving young people opportunities that they had never had previously.

48. There was always a choice of four or five activities every evening. It was when VCR videos first came out so they could go watch a film, we could take them to the pictures, the Commonwealth Pool and other pools so we could take a minibus of young people there. There were outdoor activities like football and the go-karts we'd built for them. There were other clubs they could go to and we interacted with other local community teams. The police came in weekly, they ran a five-a-side football team and interacted with the young people and staff.
49. LUZ, a staff member, took them on cycling trips. He even took a group to the World Cup in Spain in 1982. In 1991 myself and three other staff took a group of nine young people to Tunisia on a holiday. We raised all the money ourselves and that was a great trip. Some of the young people had never been on a plane before and I can still see the smiles and excitement on their faces getting on the plane.

Schooling

50. The education given to the young people at St. Joseph's wasn't like the education I'd been given at secondary school. There was a maximum of six per class. They were taught lots of different subjects, like art, maths, English and geography but also a lot of vocational stuff like woodwork, metalwork and outdoor pursuits.
51. I was working in the boiler house and the doors were open all the time, so we could see all hell breaking loose at times. Teachers would put young people out of class and stuff would come flying out of windows. We would sometimes go over to the classrooms and make sure everything was all right and repair any damage and make safe.
52. A lot of young people complained about the education because it was set too high above them and they couldn't gain it academically. A lot of the young people couldn't

read or write and really struggled with education. We had a lot of young people who were very streetwise but academically none of them were at the top of the tree.

53. I learnt later in life that a lot of the young people were creating hell and abusing people because they couldn't do the work and that was a way of getting out of doing it. That was a big failing within the education, the young people didn't understand, so it wasn't that they were all bad, it was that they were looking for an excuse to get out the classes because they just couldn't do the work. They couldn't attain what some of the teachers were expecting.
54. They did have huge difficulties with the education at St. Joseph's and while I'm not a teacher, I knew there were certain standards set within the education. St. Joseph's was inspected regularly by the Education Board and if they didn't meet those standards there was a lot of questions asked.

Healthcare

55. We had a matron, Joyce Gordon, who dealt with healthcare issues, she had her own office where medical files were kept. We had a doctor from Tranent who came down once a month to check the young people. They would be checked for nits or scabies, which was a prolific thing in those days. We had a dentist coming in regularly as well.
56. The health checks were there, if it was cuts and grazes the young people would go to the matron who would bandage them up and keep records. I can't remember the name of the matron that was there when I started but it was Joyce Gordon after that and she was there for the rest of my time at St. Joseph's.

Work

57. When the young people reached fifteen and a half some of them went out on two or four week work experience courses. LVH who ran the Sinclair unit arranged that with some local builders and roofers and joiners. It was just to prepare them for work in the real world when they left St. Joseph's. In the mid-eighties LVH would ask us, on

the odd occasion, if we would take on a kid for work experience in the boiler room, so we did that as well. We would have to discuss that as some of the boys were quite violent and there would be a lot of tools lying about, so there had to be a certain amount of trust before we would take someone on.

58. We had them painting and decorating, helping out with the sewage works and helping out in the boiler room. That could be filthy work at times but the older lads revelled in it and they could get a tenner from us at the end of the week. We would have younger lads at our door asking when they would get a turn at it. Of course they would do anything to get away from school.
59. That work experience was voluntary so if you woke them at six in the morning to get a bus and they didn't want to go, we didn't force them.
60. As far as manual work in the school, the only expectation was for the boys to clean their bedrooms. They had to keep their clothes clean and put dirty clothes in the laundry basket. Staff generally made their beds for them or encouraged them to make their own beds. If we had bedwetters, as I said, staff were always there to support them. Two young people were also always expected to take the big laundry basket to the laundry door every morning on the way to assembly. There were two ladies in the laundry that dealt with all the washing. This room was immediately next door to the boiler room and the doors for both were always open during working hours. Young people would often shout in to say hello or to look at the go-karts or just to see what we were doing.

Visits by family

61. Family were all allowed to visit the young people, they would come in and sit and have their dinner with them sometimes. We would need prior knowledge for that and we would set up a separate room so they could have a meal and some time with their parents.

62. The family could also take the young people out if they wanted. We weren't a secure unit, so there were no locked gates or doors at St. Joseph's.

Visits by social work

63. Social workers came in every month and they were made to come in every month. When they had visits the social worker would have time alone with the child. When a kid first came in, and I only learnt this later in life, the social workers had to come in with all the paperwork, the paperwork had to be signed and the social worker had to be there to sign it off to say the child was now a resident at St. Joseph's.
64. The child was told when the social worker would be visiting, and they were given a contact number for their social worker. They were told they could phone them at any time. There were noticeboards in every unit which had social work numbers and complaint forms on them.

Review of care

65. In the early days of me being at St. Joseph's I knew there were 6-monthly reviews. The social worker would come in, you had the head of education and you had the chair of the review. They would discuss progress, positive or negative, leave and family contact. That was how reviews were carried out right up until I retired. The kid was there to have their own voice, it was an open forum and they would be told if they were staying another six months or a year or until they leave at sixteen.
66. I remember attending one of these reviews in the late eighties and the kid asked when his brother was coming in because his brother wanted to be there as well. That did happen on multiple occasions where young people wanted to be at St. Joseph's.

Discharge

67. In the late eighties and early nineties when I was really into the social work side of things, I hated the thought of a kid just heading for their 16th birthday, being put out.

68. Some of those young people had nothing and you would never have done that to your own family. I did raise that with Jim Taig, the head at that time, at many management meetings. I told them it was wrong that we were putting young people out of St. Joseph's that only knew that system, people say 'institutionalised.' I didn't look at St. Joseph's as an institution, I looked at it as a family oriented place where we cared for and loved young people and did the best we could for them.
69. There was virtually no support given to them. No training on adult life, no budgeting nothing. Not until the early 2000's. I've seen young people coming back to us crying because they had nowhere to stay. We would give them a spare room until we contacted the social work to find something for them. The kid would then feel let down and I felt let down, that was a big let down by the social work department.
70. These young people have often had a very difficult upbringing, have been offending in the community or their behaviour in the community has not enabled them to build relationships with the community or their family, which would let them progress to adult life, and then they are put right back into that community.
71. There was a lad, [REDACTED] who sadly died at 51, who loved St. Joseph's so much he would run away from his home to get back there. He knew he was safe there; he was fed there and there was no abuse. It gets quite upsetting for me because I was at his death bed at the hospital and he told me that the only happy times in his young life were when he was at St. Joseph's. That's the bit that gets me, we put him out at sixteen and he had nothing.
72. In the early 2000's when I had my social work diploma we got into supporting and preparing young people. We gave them a budget and took them out to buy a whole weeks shopping. This was to teach budgeting skills.

Living arrangements

73. I lived in Ormiston when I first started at St. Joseph's. I was there until 1993 when a house became available in the grounds. I was in quite cramped conditions at Ormiston
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
74. The house, which used to be called the housemasters' house, is connected to one of the units, and was used by someone who was living on site but the unit it's attached to is just lying empty now.
75. We did have a member of staff sleeping in each unit every night. It was normally a senior member of staff and they could sleep in a one bedroom flat, there was one at the top of each unit. I didn't do that to start with, only later when I worked on the care side. They could be called on by the night staff for support if required. There were always two waking night staff on duty.
76. Every other member of staff lived away from St. Joseph's, which included teachers and care staff.
77. Staff had access to virtually all areas at St. Joseph's, the only locked door was the headmaster's office.

Discipline and punishment

78. There was no corporal punishment, it was banned in 1978, so a few years before I was there. There was no physical punishment, not that I saw, at any time when I worked at St. Joseph's and personally, I never physically punished any boy.
79. I never liked the word punishment but discipline was maintained through close personal authority and relationships with the boys themselves. I disciplined boys by laying down certain rules, that certain behaviours are acceptable and some are not acceptable. It may have been that their behaviour then resulted in them losing some leave or their involvement in activities.

80. The boys sometimes maintained discipline within their own units, bigger older boys would tell younger ones they're not doing this or that, or they would tell them off for the way they were speaking to people. There were some older boys that had that wee bit of authority within the units.
81. The discipline we used was to curtail leave, young people could lose weekend leave, or be kept back for an hour or two or we could stop their participation in activities. Losing weekend leave would be for an assault, if they were caught taking drugs or offending while at home. Social workers could also request home leave being suspended. That wasn't a commonplace issue and would need to be authorised by the senior worker within that unit and the headmaster. If they absconded they could lose an evening's home leave as well.
82. Boys could be disciplined for bullying as well, and we had quite a lot of that. We didn't see it as fair that those who were bullying still got to take part in activities so we would stop them taking part in activities so others didn't lose out.
83. There was a lot of violence between the boys at St. Jospeh's. A lot of the young people had been in gang cultures and they thought they would bring that into us. Staff tried their best to stop that, which wasn't easy, and make sure the young people felt safe there. I do think, on the whole, that the young people did feel safe there and as I've said some felt safer there than at home.
84. As staff we 100% didn't tolerate bullying, we didn't like young people using their size to gain favour, it just wasn't allowed. Sometimes it was down to petty things like cigarettes or shouting and swearing and it would just be a case of telling them off as they were overstretching the mark.
85. The young people got weekly pocket money and we could also take something off that if needed. If a kid refused to help me repair a window they had broken, we could take fifty pence or something off their pocket money but we always gave them the choice if

they wanted to help repair or tidy up, they could keep their pocket money. This helped build relationships.

86. An issue I had with the discipline was that because I was so involved with the young people, with the go-karts, building motorbikes and swings, I would tell boys they weren't getting on the go-karts or whatever because they'd been bullying and all hell might break loose.
87. There was no policy or code of conduct, we had nothing like that in those days until Lothian Regional Council took over the school.
88. Another thing that could result in young people not getting home would be when a social worker contacted us to say there are issues at home and they don't want them going home. That's different and they would need to come in and explain that to the young person.

Restraint

89. Restraint was something that was only ever used by staff, that I saw, to protect themselves or others and always as a last resort. It would be when someone was either hurting themselves, hurting somebody else or abusing somebody in such a way that it could lead to violence. There was no formal training in restraints in any way, you took a hold of an arm each if a kid was going ballistic or you were breaking up a fight and you tried to resolve the issue. On occasion young people were excluded from school due to the level of violence and abuse that they presented towards staff and other young people.
90. There would be a minimum of two staff involved, which was very difficult, because two staff couldn't restrain a six foot kid going berserk and biting, kicking and spitting at you. You would usually need three staff, one holding their legs and one on each arm. You would interlock arms and then sit with them, asking why they were behaving the way they were and explaining that there was an easier way to resolve it. I would always

say to them to treat people the way you would like to be treated and you'll get double that respect back.

91. On occasion I did have to restrain young people. On one of those occasions I ended up with a broken collar bone and three broken ribs. Young people jumped on me one night and gave me a beating when I was trying to stop a fight and I ended up in hospital. That was when I was still working in the boiler room and doing my weekly night cover.
92. I was back at work within three days with my arm in a sling and two of the young people that were responsible did come up to me and apologise. They didn't mean to hurt me, they wanted to steal my keys.
93. I do remember, in the late eighties, the police that had a football team came into St. Joseph's and gave instructions on how to restrain young people, to the teachers and care staff. They did that twice a year but I wasn't involved in that at that time as I wasn't on the care side then. That was all I knew that happened.
94. I'm not aware of any policies in relation to the use of restraints. Restraint was only ever used as a last resort; it was never used as a punishment. If young people wanted to run away we would let them run away, we would never restrain young people to prevent them running away.
95. It did change over time because formal training came in. I think it was in the 1990's that CALM (Crisis Aggression Limitation Management) first came in. David Leadbetter, a restraint instructor, took classes with the care staff. The care staff had to attend that and get training on the CALM techniques. It was still impossible to properly restrain with just two staff but it did help with the techniques.
96. You really needed to build up a relationship with the young people because when you first met them, they hated you. They came into St. Joseph's from running wild in the community and some hadn't seen education for years.

97. I didn't ever see any excessive use of restraining in all my time at St. Joseph's, and if I had I would have done something about it. Violence never resolved anything so to meet violence with violence doesn't work.

Concerns about St. Joseph's

98. I didn't have any concerns about St. Joseph's and the way the children were treated and I was never aware of any when I worked there. We had members of the families of young people that were there wanting to be there and parents wanting their young people to be there. That could be seen as '*out of sight out of mind*' for the parents, so maybe there were ulterior motives but if you have your big brother telling you it's a good place to be that seems to me to be a good thing.
99. I know people have made complaints and sought compensation but there was nothing like that in all the time I was there.

Reporting of complaints/concerns

100. Every unit at St. Joseph's had a notice board with a complaints procedure on it. All the young people had their key workers, an internal social worker, and every child had access to make a phone call. They could get their parents or their social workers phone numbers at any time. I can't think of one complaint that was ever made. If my memory serves me correctly, Lothian Region had a Children's Rights Officer who visited the school regularly, her name was Linda McCracken.
101. I think the complaints procedure went up the line from head of unit to head of social work and headmaster. I can't recall any issues requiring that but I do know from experience that social workers would be called in if there were any concerns regarding young people wellbeing when at St. Joseph's or if they weren't being treated nicely at home.

Trusted adult/confidante

102. Some of the young people built up stronger relationships with some staff than others. Even when I was in the boiler room I would sometimes get young people coming up to me and telling me they were getting bullied by certain other boys. I would tell them to speak with the care staff or to their keyworkers, and sometimes I would offer to go and speak to the other young people as well, to ask why they were bullying. I had that kind of relationship with a lot of the young people, so I would try to help them.
103. I honestly never received one complaint when I was at St. Joseph's and I wasn't ever aware of any complaints having been made. I'm not aware if any complaints were ever recorded.

Awareness of Abuse

104. Ex-residents have told me that there were no secrets in St. Joseph's, young people spoke about everything. If there had been any abuse at St. Joseph's there would have been riots by the young people. They have told me, as adults, that they would never have put up with abuse. I never saw any abuse from the staff towards any of the children.
105. I found the attitude of the staff towards the children to be very positive. I found it difficult when staff were being sworn at or abused but the staff tended to shake it off and say, *'is there a different way to do this?'* The staff were very supportive of some of the, do you say damaged young people, or truculent young people that came in, or just out of control young people that knew nothing but bad behaviour.
106. I never even heard verbal abuse from staff towards young people at St. Joseph's. I was sworn at probably every day there. I heard language that would turn your hair blue and I would just ask them why they were speaking to me like that, and if they wanted

something, to speak and behave in a manner that's acceptable. They would have more chance of getting what they were after if they did that.

107. I would say the care staff had a pretty positive relationship with the young people. I saw staff taking a lot of flak and abuse and, as I say, they shook it off and built relationships with the young people. It was different with the education staff because 90% of the young people didn't want an education. When they were told which classes they were to go to at morning assembly, many of them found that quite difficult. The boiler house was situated right across from the assembly room and I would often see all hell breaking loose with young people not wanting to go to certain classes. Getting it settled into a structure where young people would accept some education was really difficult.
108. We were never shown anything, given anything in writing, or spoken to about what would constitute abuse. It was more abuse from the young people to the staff at St. Joseph's. A big eye opener to me was when absconders were brought back by the police and the young people would be screaming and yelling abuse at the police as well. There was a complete lack of respect for authority.
109. If I'd seen any abuse at any time I would have reported it. I would have went to the head of social work or the headmaster and I would have told them what was done and that I didn't like it. I don't have one recall of ever doing that. The negative side to abuse was that it was amongst their peers. I never had any child report abuse from a member of staff, it was only ever amongst their peers.
110. If there was abuse I think staff would have been aware. I did evening work and I had good relationships with a lot of the staff but my biggest relationship was with the young people. If any level of abuse was happening I'm certain that some of those young people would have approached me and told me about it. I'm certain of that and to this day I have men who were at St. Joseph's coming up to me and telling me things like that never happened there, not when I was there. I can't speak about times prior to me working at St. Joseph's, but it certainly didn't happen in my time that I'm aware of.

Child protection arrangements

111. Formal training in my early days and into the nineties wasn't part and parcel of the residential school. All staff were told and advised to treat young people fairly, with respect and to take a responsible view on the children's lives.
112. We tried to make it as family oriented as we could. We weren't the children's parents we were their carers. We were there to make sure they were fed and clothed and warm and looked after to the best of our capabilities. A lot of these young people didn't want that so they would do all they could to avoid it. They would be abusive, run away or just kick up hell. It wasn't until relationships were built up that you would gain any respect or trust from the young people. They just did not trust adults as adults had previously let them down.

External monitoring

113. I think there were two educational inspections every year, it might have been just the one, I can't remember.
114. When I first started at St. Joseph's there were regular social work care reviews held. Senior social workers from each department, be it East Lothian, Edinburgh, Livingston or the Borders, would come in. The board of managers attended those reviews as well.
115. I can't remember the Care Inspectorate coming in, in my early days. I do remember having some meetings with inspectors but I can't remember if that was on the educational or care side.

Record-keeping

116. We kept daily records for all the young people. That went into their file, an A4 folder, and those records were always reviewed by their social worker and MJL or Frank Rochford who were the senior social workers within the school during my time there.
117. The folder had the young people name and date of birth, the DR's (Detailed Records) at the front and all the other information from the social work department, why they came in, concerns, social work papers, any children's reporter report and any other relevant information.
118. All staff that were working at St. Joseph's had access to the files when they were working, and the young person could request to read their file but if that happened they would sit down with their key worker to go through it. The headmaster and head of social work had master keys to every office so they could check a file at any time they wanted.
119. The records kept included some discipline, probably not restricting participation in activities or minor things but if it was me writing it then yes, I would have recorded the fact I had refused to allow someone on the go-karts, for example, because he had been bullying whoever that was. Formal records were always kept for things like losing out on leave. They were always written down and passed on to the social worker.
120. Records were kept in the persons file, in the offices. There was one office in each unit and I know from later in life that the files were ring bound and sent back to their social worker.

Investigations into abuse – personal involvement

121. I did go through the court system about fifteen years ago when two ex-residents and a day pupil from St. Joseph's came up with this story that they were physically abused by myself and another. I was arrested by the police and it all went to Haddington Sheriff Court. It was a horrendous time in my life, to be accused of something that you knew you weren't guilty of and it took nearly three years for that to get to court. My family

and I went through a lot of stress during that time, and there were financial implications. The whole thing traumatised my wife and made her so ill. It led to her having a heart attack and various other things.

122. On the first day of the court case the first boy, who was then a 38 year old man, stood up to give his evidence and asked why I was there. He told the court I was the best member of staff at St. Joseph's and had never done a thing wrong. The second complainant was brought into court in handcuffs and his address given as HMP Saughton. This complainant had never been a resident at St. Joseph's. That led on to a full four day court case, the outcome being that I was found not guilty by the sheriff.
123. The sheriff concluded that it should never have come in front of him and it was ridiculous that I had been put through it all. He lambasted the police and the PF, in his opinion, they had trawled and colluded with the three young people to make sure the statements all described the same level of abuse. The sheriff even advised me to take legal action against the system but I couldn't afford that.
124. Some of what they were saying was actually impossible and the rest was completely false. One kid hadn't even stayed in St. Joseph's, he was a day pupil, and had never stayed the night but claimed the assault took place during the night. He's dead now.
125. It's because of all of that, that I'm so gutted now about being accused again of very similar things. It was all put up on social media, shared by young people or young men and I believe the reason behind it was all about financial gain.

Reports of abuse and civil claims

126. I've never been involved in any civil claims made against St. Joseph's by former residents regarding historical abuse.
127. I have been visited by people who were at St. Joseph's in the sixties and seventies, who've told me it was a hellish place to be. Some of their stories are quite

disheartening, to know that some young people actually saw the place in that way. That was in the early days of care and it must have been hell for them if that's the way they were treated. However, I am equally aware from the experience of speaking to a number of ex-residents that they felt safe whilst in St. Joseph's and it was a great place to stay.

128. I saw a loving environment where the young people were given every opportunity. Even if they made mistakes you would lift them up, brush them down and see what could be learned from it. It was a place where the care staff were always quite happy to come to their work.

Police investigations / criminal proceedings

129. I know there have been other accusations of abuse at St. Joseph's and that makes me shake my head as that did not happen, not in the way things came across.
130. Brother Ben, Michael Murphy, was a man found guilty of electrocuting young people. He ran a club, there were toys, a pool table, air hockey, music and a Van de Graaf generator. When I was at school every science lab had one of them and the young people would wind it up, hold hands and you would all get a little tingle from it. That's now seen as abuse. so is every secondary school being looked at by the Inquiry? As far as I was aware all the young people that went to his club had a great time.. Any activity the young people wanted to go to in the evening was voluntary so it was their choice. Nobody was ever forced in his door.
131. Brother Ben was alleged to have been carrying the thing about and I think there was an allegation that he attached it to a young people' testicles in one of the bedrooms. The Van de Graaf was quite a big heavy thing that was screwed to a table and there was always night staff on duty so it beats me how that could ever have been possible.
132. I can't say the brothers didn't abuse young people or weren't heavy handed before I was at St. Joseph's, back in the sixties or seventies or whenever, because I wasn't

there, but what I can say is that from 1983, from when I became known to those men, the Brothers were the most generous loving people I've ever met.

133. All I saw was generosity, love and care given by those people. Brother Ben was a bit of a recluse and he didn't interact with the young people in the same way. He would go away on his own and play with his electrics and his music machines, in his own time. The other Brothers interacted and took the young people on trips and to football matches, they went to Celtic games. They never pushed religion in the kid's faces and if anything they were over generous.
134. I've never given a statement to the police about any alleged abuse at St. Joseph's, I've never been asked for one. I've never given evidence concerning any alleged abuse at St. Joseph's. I did go along to Brother Ben's trial along with about thirty ex-residents but they were all refused to be listened to.

Awareness of convicted abusers

135. I've spoken about Brother Ben, and as far as I'm concerned there wasn't one other member of staff at St. Joseph's that had been alleged to have been concerned in any abuse of children there. I'm not aware of him having had any allegations of abuse made against him prior to him being at St. Joseph's.
136. I think Brother Ben was old school. All his timings were set in stone, breakfast, lunch, dinner, bed, there was very little give and take. It was all about what was expected of the children, to do this, to do that and I think that was down to the way he was brought up and taught to do his role. It was quite regimental but a more gentle guy you could never have met. I was never made aware of any concerns about him and I never had any concerns about him, in fact, I never once saw him involved in a restraint.
137. I did get to know the Brothers very well, they were like a family and I knew a lot of their histories. A lot were brought into the Catholic Church because of poverty and, from what I heard from Brother Ben and Brother [REDACTED] their upbringings were absolutely

horrendous. They were abused, if you want to call it that, by the church bringing them up that way, as in follow the line of the church, so it was that way or no way. I think it was a difficult life for them. I don't think their upbringings helped them. It may have allowed them to think that their way was the right way.

138. As far as I know Brother Ben had the old social work qualification, the Certificate in Young People, which preceded the HNC.
139. The only other one I know about was to do with Frank Rochford but that was at another school down south.

Specific alleged abusers

LVH

140. LVH was the senior member of staff in the Sinclair Unit, the housemaster. He was a qualified social worker and [REDACTED] of LVI [REDACTED], not [REDACTED], as it says in one of the allegations against me. So that's a misconception or misjudgement.
141. LVH was at St. Joseph's when I started and was there until the school closed. He's in his nineties now so would have been in his fifties when I started.
142. LVH would always offer support and took on the role of work experience for young people. He had a lot of local contacts with local firms and would arrange for older boys to get some work experience with them. He would sometimes ask me and LVI to help out with that as well.
143. LVH was quite a fair man. He was quite strict in his regimes but always willing to sit down with the young people and listen. That was with me as well, if I ever had an issue I wanted to discuss about a young person I could go to him for a bit of advice or guidance.

144. He was football daft and got the young people involved in that as well. He would run the young people until they were knackered but I never saw or heard of him getting angry or being threatening towards any young people and I didn't see him discipline or abuse any young people. He took as much abuse as any other member of staff.

Brother Ben – Michael Murphy

145. Brother Ben was at St. Joseph's when I started there and was there until 1991 when he retired. He would have been about sixty when he retired, he's about ninety now. He was one of the Brothers and went from being a housemaster to a Residential Care Officer, that would have been around 1987.

146. He was regimental in his routines, he had his club with activities and as far as I was aware he was an absolute gentleman with the young people. I thought all the young people liked the club and enjoyed the activities he had for them there. It was all voluntary and there were always young people that would go to his club, no one was ever forced to go to anything.

147. I didn't ever see him disciplining or abusing any children in all the time I was at St. Joseph's. I have obviously heard about him being convicted for abuse; I know about that.

MHC

148. Mr MHC was a maths teacher. He was there when I started in 1983 and was there when the school closed. I can't remember being in his class very often. He will be in his mid to late sixties now.

149. I do remember, in the late eighties or early nineties, a kid saying they were going to do MHC's garden, MHC was his nickname, and they were getting paid for it which was great.

150. I didn't have any grievances with MHC. He often reflected on the education at St. Joseph's and said that the standards were set too high for the abilities of the young people in his classes. He was often putting young people out his class, but the young people were misbehaving because they couldn't do it.

151. I never saw or heard of MHC disciplining or abusing any children. He was in a classroom and I was seldom in the classrooms. He was one of the few I barely ever worked with.

GFJ

152. GFJ was a teacher from High School in . He came down to St. Joseph's in the early eighties. He was a history teacher and took on the role of outdoor pursuits. He would take young people out for day trips and was really good with them. He got them involved in canoeing and orienteering, and things like chopping up logs for the local pensioners.

153. GFJ will be about seventy now. I didn't ever see him getting angry with any young people and I certainly didn't see or hear of him disciplining or abusing any young people.

LVI

154. LVI was the LVH who also worked at St. Joseph's. He was about four years older than me, he's dead now. LVI was quite a deep character and he kind of led the way in many areas. He would take a kid on work experience before I even knew about it.

155. LVI lived at St. Joseph's as well, later on, he was in the building opposite me. He was married and had a stepson. He was a great dad and was great with the boys at St. Joseph's.

156. I never saw him abuse any kid in any way but he did have his own issues to deal with. Unbeknown to me at the time, he was an alcoholic. You would think as someone who worked with him I would have known that but I swear I didn't know, I didn't ever even smell alcohol off him. He did become quite aggrieved at me for leaving the boiler house and progressing my career. He never had the academic ability to do that and he actually stopped talking to me while we were both still there but in different places.
157. Later on when St. Joseph's was taken over by Lothian Region, contractors were used for the boiler work, LVI was given a nightshift job. He accepted that but he was drinking and young people were waking up in the middle of the night, going through to his office and finding him lying drunk. He was disciplined and eventually dismissed and lost everything, his wife left him and he ended up living in a hostel in Edinburgh. That would have been in the late nineties. LVI was then found dead in the street in 2004.
158. LVI would discipline boys by having their leave curtailed or something like that. He would speak to a senior and they would curtail it if they'd severely damaged something and were refusing to help clear it up, that sort of thing.

Brother MBU

159. Brother MBU was SNR for a period of time at St. Joseph's and if he had any faults it would be because he was over generous towards the young people. He was SNR when I started SNR on Brother MJG's retirement.
160. He is in his late nineties now, so would have been in his late fifties when I started at St. Joseph's. He retired around 1993. He was a gentleman and his intentions were genuine. I didn't ever see or hear of him abusing any young people.

Brother MJG

161. Brother MJG was SNR that employed me in 1983. He would have been in his sixties then and he retired when Brother MBU . He was and out and out gentleman, who always wanted to see the best in people. He was even asked to stay on after he retired. He didn't take classes or work with children. He would attend meetings with the police and social workers to discuss any issues pertinent to the young people.

162. I didn't ever see him discipline or abuse children and I didn't hear of him abusing any children. Brother MJG is now deceased.

Brother HFT

163. I knew Brother HFT he lived within the Brother's community at St. Joseph's and latterly at their retirement home in Tranent. He is deceased now but he never worked with the young people at St. Joseph's, I only ever knew him as a retired brother. I didn't ever see him with children at all.

LUZ

164. LUZ was one of the senior social workers within St. Joseph's. He was there when I started but left while I was still on the maintenance side.

165. I had quite a lot of dealings with LUZ he was really energetic in his role, he organised numerous trips for the young people including trips to play football, cycling trips and the trip to the World Cup that I told you about.

166. We played football regularly with the young people and he was always upbeat and encouraging, a very friendly and motivational person.

167. I definitely did not see or hear of him ever abusing any of the young people at St. Joseph's.

Mr zGBD

168. zGBD [REDACTED] was the senior social worker in Benildus Unit, I worked with him on occasion, not as much as some others. I found him to be quite down to earth. He was quite strict but worked along with the kids to overcome any difficulties they might have had.
169. zGBD [REDACTED] came to St. Joseph's when Dr Guthrie's school in Edinburgh closed down. That would be sometime in the late eighties. zGBD [REDACTED] left due to health reasons around 1992. He is deceased now.
170. I didn't ever see him discipline or abuse any children or hear of that.

LUY [REDACTED]

171. The only LUY [REDACTED] I ever knew at St. Joseph's was a LUY [REDACTED] he was a nightshift worker. I would see him at shift change overs but I didn't ever work with him as he was nightshift. He did get involved in some of the cycling and hillwalking trips but I never worked with him.
172. I didn't ever see or hear of him being involved in any discipline or abuse of children.

Allegations that have been made to the Inquiry about me

KCS [REDACTED]

173. KCS [REDACTED] has given a statement to the Inquiry which includes allegations about me. At paragraph 32 of his statement, he has said "*I ran away a lot. In the first two months I must have run away five or six times. It was either or both LVI [REDACTED] and HKN [REDACTED] HKN [REDACTED] that came to pick you up. You would be taken back to St. Joseph's and they would batter you relentlessly in the boiler room. I was often picked up by the police and I did tell them about what was happening. They just said that they had heard it all*

before and that they were still going to return me to St. Joseph's. It was because of the abuse that I was running away in the first place."

174. I've tried and tried to jog my memory but I have very little recollection of KCS
I can't recall him at the school at all. I don't remember sanctioning or punishing him at all and under no circumstances did I ever abuse him.
175. That allegation is pure fabrication. I can't understand why he would even say that about me.
176. If I did ever pick him up, it would have been with another member of staff, it wouldn't have been LVI I would only ever go out to pick up young people if they were at a police station or they'd run away from home or whatever, if it was on a Tuesday evening or at the weekend. If he was local he shouldn't have been there at the weekend but it was possible. Young people were never returned to the boiler house. It was only open between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. then it was all locked up. If it had been during the day then the two big doors were always open and everybody could see in. The laundry room was next door with two women working the same hours so if there were any issues with young people being abused in there I think they would have got a response from those women. Any kid that absconded was returned to their unit where the housemaster met them. The housemaster would then ask them why they were running away. I would often sit in the room and they would give a response usually that they'd rather be doing this or that instead of being at St. Joseph's. Unequivocally no, I did not abuse that lad.
177. He obviously remembers me and I can't remember him at all, so that's probably down to the passage of time but all the time in the world could pass and you'll get the same answer from me. I never lifted my hands in anger at any time to young young people.
178. I can only suppose that he's saying this to gain some kind of financial compensation for being at St. Joseph's. It's highlighted on every bus stop along Princes Street, it's all through social media and ex-pupils are sharing information on social media to say that if you say certain things you can get money. That's all I can think it's about.

179. If a child was treated in that way, of course it would be abuse.
180. KCS [REDACTED] goes on to say, at paragraph 41 in his statement *"Whilst I was at St. Josephs, I was also bullied and abused by two other staff members. They were LVI [REDACTED] LVI [REDACTED] and HKN [REDACTED] LVI [REDACTED] was the son of my social worker, LVH [REDACTED] LVH [REDACTED] LVI [REDACTED] and HKN [REDACTED] were sort of janitors and worked in the boiler room. At the weekends they would also cover for the care staff when they were short of qualified staff to work in the cottages"*
181. He then goes on to say, at Paragraph 42 in his statement *"If you ran away it would be LVI [REDACTED] and HKN [REDACTED] who came to collect you from wherever you had been caught. Both of them would drag you into the boiler room and batter you. I have a theory that LVI [REDACTED] was jealous of the time his father spent with me and the way he looked after me. I think that this enraged him and that was a factor in the beatings that he gave me."*
182. I never seen LVI [REDACTED] beating any kid and as I've said LVH [REDACTED] wasn't his father. LVI [REDACTED] and I never worked evenings together, I was Tuesday and he was Thursday. Yes we did have to go out and pick up young people occasionally but it would be me or LVI [REDACTED] and one of the care staff. That happened occasionally at the weekends as well, but at weekends it was normally because they were in police custody for offending in the community or at home or they were in a state of distress because nothing was going right at home and they'd been on the phone.
183. My response to that allegation is that it didn't happen and there's nothing wrong with my memory I never hit young people in any way.
184. I do accept that it would be considered abuse to treat a child in that way.
185. KCS [REDACTED] goes on to say, at paragraphs 43 in his statement HKN [REDACTED] was a small guy with an attitude. Both he and LVI [REDACTED] would be in their late twenties or early thirties. LVI [REDACTED] lived a few houses away from my parents' house [REDACTED]

██████████ Tranent. He was also married to ██████████. There was no reason for him to beat me up. I think that ██████████^{HKN} just followed his lead. I think that they thought they were the 'He-Men' of St. Joseph's."

186. Then further at paragraph 44 in his statement "If you passed ██████████^{HKN} or ██████████^{LVI} ██████████^{LVI} they would give you a dig in the ribs. I don't know how they were allowed to abuse the boys the way they did. They would swagger about the campus in shorts and t-shirts as if they owned the place. I would describe them as a 'couple of tickets' who should never have been allowed to behave in the way that they did."
187. I read those allegations and it's all just total fabrication, totally false. ██████████^{LVI} was a fitness fanatic. He had a weights room and gym under the stage at St. Joseph's and he would take young people in their to do training. He had a picture of himself on the wall in there, showing off his muscles and because of that he would often go about in shorts and a t-shirt. I never ever went to St. Joseph's, my work, in shorts and a t-shirt and I certainly didn't have a swagger.
188. I just can't remember having any relationship with an ██████████^{KCS} it's just not springing into my memory. ██████████^{LVI}'s wife was ██████████ but I wouldn't know if that was the chap's ██████████ or not. I would think if he was related to ██████████^{LVI}'s wife surely he would have mentioned to her or family that he was being abused by ██████████^{LVI} or anybody else.
189. I would like to add that ██████████^{KCS} says in his statement that him getting taken out of St. Joseph's led him to a life of crime and he ended up spending two years in Glenochil. He says that if he had been allowed to return to St. Joseph's he would never have ended up in prison. Well why would you want to return to somewhere where you were abused, that's a bit of a contradiction? He's wanting to come back to St. Joseph's rather than be put out at the end of his time and he's blaming us as well, for him ending up in prison. If he was being abused there why would he want to go back there?
190. Under no circumstances has the passage of time affected my memory about that. Of course I accept that it would be abuse to treat a child like that.

LVC

191. LVC has given a statement to the Inquiry which includes allegations about me. At paragraph 80 of his statement, he has said *“At St. Joseph’s they would bend your fingers back or punch you on the arm or leg to give you a dead arm or dead leg. Most of the staff would do this to you but the ones I particularly remember were LVI Mr LVI and Mr HKN. The LVH would pull the hair at the side of your ears. They would do these sorts of things if you were too loud or laughing or running away from them if they were trying to get a hold of you for some reason. It might not even be something bad but something that annoyed them. If you had done something and you were running away from Mr zGBD he would kick his wooden clog off his foot and try and hit you with it. Others would throw their sets of keys at you. It was sore for a wee while if the keys hit you.”*
192. I do remember young LVC not vividly, but I remember him because we took him in for work experience when he was just over fifteen. He got called LVC and he was a really nice kid. He had manners and appreciated everything you gave him, like tins of juice and sweets each day. He wanted his bedroom decorated which me and LVI helped him with.
193. He was voluntary, like all work experience, he didn’t have to come into the boiler house so he came in off his own volition. The only thing I can recollect was that LVC told LVI that his dad was never there when he went home which LVI quite rightly reported.
194. LVC’s parent’s didn’t care about him, they were living their own life. He was going home to the empty house in Kelso at weekends and we found out about it. I remember I’d been on holiday and when I came back LVI told me LVC wasn’t speaking to him because he’d reported him. LVH then contacted the social work in the borders and they discovered that LVC was going home to an empty house and was having to care for himself. LVC didn’t come near us after that, he blamed me as well and I wasn’t even there.

195. I never sanctioned, punished or abused LVC and that allegation is total fabrication.
196. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what has been alleged.
197. As I've already said if it's highlighted everywhere that you can gain compensation for being in care, I think they are clearly looking for monetary compensation for making up stories. Any kid who's been in residential care can say something to make a claim. I've never abused any young people in my professional or private life. It's all fabrication.
198. I accept that had a child been treated in that way, yes, it would have been abuse.
199. LVC goes on to say, at paragraph 83 of his statement *"When I was fifteen I got the job of helping in the boiler house. I was looking after the water tanks. The LVI and Mr HKN worked in there. One day they grabbed me and tied my arms up then put a pipe inside my clothing and poured some liquid in. It was like cold oil or something like that. They kept saying that they were just having a laugh and it was an initiation to the boiler house. This went on for a couple of hours. LVH came in and he went daft at them and told them to untie me. I went in and had a shower but it was impossible to get this stuff off. It was waterproof and it was like oil. I had several showers then baths and you could see the oil sitting on the top of the water."*
200. LVC did do some work experience in the boiler house. It was the dirtiest most horrible place to work and there was soot, stoor and oil but as for tying someone up and pouring cold liquid on them, that's just beyond belief. Any young person that worked in the boiler house could leave dirty. As I had said work experience was voluntary so why would LVC accept work experience where he stated earlier that he was being abused.
201. We had fun with the young people but never to the extent of tying anybody up and pouring liquid over them. He would leave the boiler house every day as black as the

Earl of Hell's waistcoat, filthy and dirty but he'd go over and shower. His work experience only lasted about a week or two as he then left having told LVI about being at home on his own.

202. That allegation is just total fabrication as well and the passage of time hasn't affected my recollection.

203. I do accept that had that treatment taken place it would be seen as abuse. I do wonder that if these boys were getting kicked and punched, did they not have any bruises or bashes or knocks that would be seen when they were taking part in activities? I would have thought they might have been seen when they were in their vests and shorts for football. It was commonplace for staff to look at arms for marks and bruises as young people self-harming was a big thing in the eighties.

Allegations

204. I've mentioned earlier in my statement about the allegations that were made about fifteen years ago and the court case where I was found not guilty. There have been no other allegations made against me and there have been no complaints made against me in relation to the alleged abuse of children.

Convictions

205. I have never had any criminal convictions. I've not even had a speeding ticket.

Leaving St. Joseph's

206. St. Joseph's closed down gradually between 1998 and 1999. I was one of the unit managers by then and while we kept Savio unit it did change its name to Pathway.

Young people still came into there and I worked under a new manager, Onanda Randall.

207. I was then transferred to [REDACTED] in Musselburgh where I stayed for about ten or eleven years before retiring. I retired mainly because of my wife's health.

Helping the Inquiry

208. What makes me angry is that I've put forty years into my work at St. Joseph's, and I loved my work, doing the best I could for as many young people as I could, and then later in life I'm told some of those young people are saying I did this and that to them. It's all quite galling, and to be honest, upsetting.
209. It is quite sad that there are people coming forward to claim they were abused in care when that couldn't be further from the truth. I believe with many others that this has a litigious motive. I know of one who did get a payout and it resulted in him overdosing and killing himself. I also know of an ex-resident from Haddington, [REDACTED], who has boasted in the community about getting a payout for being in St. Joseph's. He was advised by his solicitor to lie.
210. It's sad that, not this Inquiry specifically, but police enquiries and all the rest have allowed somebody to gain the funds to do something like that. I find it sad that funding is being handed out to young people who are making up stories to get easy money.
211. Some of the young men that were in St. Joseph's were so damaged, prior to coming to us, by their upbringings, by gang running and the culture that they lived in. I don't think it would have mattered where you put them, you wouldn't have evoked change.
212. It's a sad part of society that with the minority who get involved in all the criminality some of them don't want to change. St. Joseph's did change some young people and I can give many names of such young people. Young people that would tell you it was

the safest they ever felt and was somewhere they felt cared for and looked after. They would also tell you they never felt safe when they turned sixteen and left without the many supports they had whilst staying at St. Joseph's, for many this was traumatic.

213. I think there's many lessons can be learned. One is that you don't put thirty or forty young people together in the same environment, who've all been within the same criminality. If you get one or two young people who haven't seen that, they will get involved through peer pressure or whatever.
214. The structure of children's units nowadays has changed so much. I've seen so many changes within my time within social work, where young people whether able to or not able to take all the rights that are put their way but along with those rights come responsibilities. There are too many people up there in their ivory towers that want to give these young people these rights but waylay their responsibility. For every action, there's a reaction and young people need to take responsibility for their actions.
215. Nobody is saying they need to be abused in any way but I do think the whole system needs to take a look at itself and ask what is right for these young people? Where have they come from? What are we going to achieve? Where are we going?
216. One positive thing that has been done is the increase in age that young people can be kept in care. They can't be put out on the street, they're not homeless and the authorities have a parental responsibility to find them somewhere to live when they leave and to continue that support.

Other information

217. I showed the Inquiry team a picture, the only one I have unfortunately, that clearly shows that these so called 'kids' I worked with were actually young men who were, in the main, all bigger and stronger than myself. This picture was taken on a week-long camping trips, in I think 1987. That was one of the many trips that the young people at St. Joseph's received.

218. 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..... 13-12-23