

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

GUF

Support person present: No.

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

### **Background**

2. I left home aged fourteen to train and work as a chef. I sat my City and Guilds 7061 and 7062 then qualified as a chef in the Merchant Navy. I loved the Merchant Navy it gave me opportunities that are sadly not available to many young folk. I was in the Merchant Navy for thirteen years in total.
3. I went on to work in a drug rehab centre at St. Peter's before applying for the job as chef at Cardross.

### **Qualifications/Training**

4. I had no qualifications or training in childcare when I first started at Cardross. I started as a chef. Training all came later on. .

### **Experiences at Cardross Park Assessment Centre**

*The Institution / Culture*

5. Cardross was officially known as Cardross Park Assessment Centre and was in West Dunbartonshire. We would get young folk in from every local authority that was part of Strathclyde. It was primarily for 21 day residential assessments but it was intertwined with young folk who came in on 110 day warrants, so there was a mixture of residential assessment periods and 110 day secure warrants.
6. There were young folk in Cardross for longer than was ever anticipated, primarily because social work area teams couldn't identify resources or there was nowhere for the young folk to go.
7. When I first started working there, as a chef, I thought some of the young folk who were staying there were broken. They latched onto their peer groups and to staff, as substitute parents. That was my first impression. They were looking for acknowledgement that somebody actually cared. The reverse side of that was that there were some residents who were street wise and knew how to play the system. Some knew to get their head down, do their 21 days and get out.
8. On almost all occasions young folk struggled with the routine and they definitely struggled with the expectations. They didn't have a clue what a residential assessment meant. For me, an important part was the relationships that you built. Many young folk sought your attention and looked for reassurance but would still try it on, on occasions.
9. For me, the routine that was offered, which many young people went against initially, was bought into very quickly. By that I'm talking about three square meals a day, having activities to take part in and going to school. To an adult there was nothing complicated about it but to almost all of those young folk they'd never experienced the consistency of being looked after, getting fed and going to school.
10. We were getting very susceptible, vulnerable young people into our care at Cardross. Ultimately the culture was supportive and protective; how do we improve their situations immediately to allow for a realistic assessment of their needs? That in the

main was carried out with area team social work support albeit they didn't contribute to the residential assessment.

11. We didn't want to keep youngsters in Cardross for any longer than was required. So we wanted to get the assessment completed, then hopefully come up with a plan that supported the young person thereafter. Obviously the 110 day warrants were dictated by the courts. We weren't carrying out any assessment, it was purely a containment.
12. We saw a lot of sad cases come through Cardross and I've met a lot of ex-residents since, now that I'm doing funerals or whatever, and in the main they've all been very grateful for the turnaround in their lives.
13. There were occasions when the place was in uproar and what tended to happen was if one unit sparked off it spread like wildfire. Not all the units would spark off but one or two individuals may have and then anarchy tended to reign. That would often involve the police because it could be out with our ability to control it.

#### *My role and recruitment at Cardross Park*

14. I started at Cardross as a chef in 1992. I was interviewed and vetted and I think police checks would have been done. As I'd previously been with the Ministry of Defence I had security clearance. I'm not sure if that aided me or not. I don't know if Cardross contacted the drug rehab centre I'd been working at before Cardross, to get any references. It was owned and run by a Willie Blaney.
15. After about six months I expressed an interest in working with the young folk. That was because when you were behind the hatch in the kitchen you were building up a rapport with the kids.
16. Management obviously bought into the way I was interacting with the kids and they offered me a post as a residential worker. I had to submit an application form and I was then interviewed for that role. I was interviewed by three people from Cardross, the head of the centre, the depute and a senior residential worker. I remember I had

to wait for police checks to come back before I was given a start date as a residential worker.

17. The induction into becoming a member of staff was attending induction training every Sunday morning. I was then assigned to one of the units and fell into the unit way of life.
18. I worked at Cardross for about four or five years in total. I did the chef work, then I started as a basic grade worker before working my way up to become a senior, over the course of that time.

*Structure and recruitment of staff*

19. The officer-in-charge at Cardross was Alex Barnes, the depute was Graham Bell and then there was Ron Conway, who was just a little below the depute. There were four senior social workers; <sup>HWM</sup> [REDACTED], Margaret Garvey, Rita Banning, who's now dead, and Bob Simpson. There was also the main staff group which was a very well balanced mix of female and male staff. It wasn't heavy sided towards male staff, it was a good balance at all the units across all the shifts.
20. Ron Conway had a house in the grounds of Cardross. There was a bungalow and two or three houses detached from the main assessment centre and Ron and his wife lived there. Everybody else lived off site.
21. There were four units at Cardross; Carman, Appin, Fruin and Endrick. There were about 32 young people staying there at any one time, across all four units. Staff were assigned to specific units. There was a senior staff member on every shift and a minimum of three staff allocated to each shift but if a unit was particularly volatile that could be bumped up to five. Appin had less staff as it was used as a throughcare preparation unit where the young folk were given more responsibility.
22. The teams worked an early shift, a backshift and a nightshift. Early shift was 8:00 am till 3:00 pm, backshift was 3:00 pm till 10:00 pm and nightshift was 10:00 pm till 8:00

am. Cardross had nightshift teams, but I did do nightshifts, it was sporadic. It was only to cover when the senior was off sick or failed to appear.

23. When I started I worked at Fruin unit, Margaret Garvey was my direct line manager. Margaret was a very good teacher, she would destroy the residential assessment reports with her red pen, but she was on the ball and knew everything that was going on in Fruin unit. Margaret also had a way of talking to you that allowed you to express yourself. If things weren't going right or it was getting too much for you, she gave you the opportunity to talk to her and she did listen.
24. The other staff I worked with there were Graham Dick, Helen Stevenson, George Campbell, David McGinnigle and Andy McCallion. I can't remember any of the others.
25. The only member of staff I remember, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], was a nightshift worker, I can't remember his second name. He was Scottish. I don't remember any Irish staff, other than me, working there.
26. You only ever got to speak to Alex Barnes, officer in charge, when he did his rounds in the morning. It was always just asking if everything was going alright. Graham Bell was very hands on, looking out for the staff and making sure that the systems and routines that were in place were being adhered to.
27. Graham would frequently check all the loggings and he did spend a bit of time with the young folk too. That was undoubtedly a good thing. It provided another avenue for the young folk to say if they were annoyed or fed up or if something had happened that they didn't like. He was seen as the boss.
28. I worked in Fruin but depending on the staffing on any given day you could do a spell working around other units. I'm not sure how long I worked at Fruin.
29. I think there were about eight young folk in Fruin and the same in Appin. Carman was bigger so might have had about ten. The youngest age I was involved with was probably about ten, going up to about eighteen.

30. All the young folk were given individual rooms all the time I was at Cardross.
31. Each of the units had a dedicated member of staff during the nightshift. There was also a senior social worker working through the night who was responsible for the whole nightshift. A lot could depend on whether a unit was settled or unsettled. Sometimes if it was unsettled they would pull two staff in.
32. The senior's responsibility during the night was to go around all the units and ensure the security of the centre. There were no locked doors other than the main doors which gave access to the outside. The main office block was locked up at night as well.
33. When I first started at Cardross my main responsibilities were making sure the young folk were okay, taking them out and transporting them. Part of the residential assessment was that the young folks would go home so we did that and we took them, as a unit, on activities. Activities were key to burning off excess energy.
34. To start with that's all I was involved with, going out with another two members of staff in the minibus with as many young people as wanted to go out. If they didn't want to go out, they stayed in the unit. We took them swimming, we went to Luss, we went to the pictures, played football all those sorts of things.
35. The young folk went to school at Cardross during the day. That was in the old building when I first started but then it transferred over to the main assessment centre. There was a separate teaching staff at Cardross.
36. I was never involved in the recruitment of staff at Cardross. I don't know if there was any recruitment policy. There were no volunteers at Cardross, not in my time.

### *Training*

37. When I first started at Cardross the only training I had was every Sunday morning. All the new starts were congregated and Graham Bell took us through the induction. That

lasted for about eight to ten weeks and there was a name to it, but I can't remember it.

38. That training covered things like how you talk to young people, how you encourage them to buy in to whatever Cardross had on offer and when you were out with them, the health and safety expectations. What was drummed into us was the importance of recording everything. That was irrespective of how busy the shift was. If it had been 'jumping', through the night or through the day before you went home everything had to be recorded and then signed by somebody senior. If there was ever any dubiety about what was contained in a log, you were hauled in and asked to explain.
39. There's no doubt that system worked well. There were situations when you were out in the community and young folks ran away but ultimately the responsibility stopped with us. That's when the police would get involved and at that point there was interrogation and whatever else. We'd be asked how we lost them, why we lost them, what was our assessment in taking them out in the first place, it was quite rigorous.
40. As far as the quality and sufficiency of the training is concerned, I didn't know any better at the time. Looking back, I would have to say that the training wasn't sufficient but I can only base that on the training I had to then go through to become a social worker on an area team. I can only base it on my post Cardross experiences because I didn't know any better.
41. I wasn't really involved in the training of staff. I think I was involved as part of a Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training team. They were hired in by the council and I was a volunteer helping to demonstrate holds and things like that. I don't think there was a training and development policy.

*Supervision / appraisal / evaluation*

42. I was at Cardross for about three years before I was promoted to a more senior role. I was interviewed for that position. Alex Barnes had moved on by then so Jan Meldrum was the deputy and it was her, Ron Conway and a senior social worker, HWM HWM that interviewed me.

43. I was successful and started as a senior at Fruin unit but I went on to get the senior job in Carman unit. There was no further training for the senior post. I had been given a higher level of responsibility in my role at the unit prior to my promotion. If they were a senior down on a shift I would be asked to cover. The best way to describe it would be a continuous ongoing assessment of your ability. There wasn't any formal training.
44. Seniors worked with the young folk too at Cardross. The designation of senior was more to do with the running the unit, organising the shifts and basically making sure that everything was as it should be. You were still part of the team but at the start of the shift you were the one delegating what needed to be done.
45. My line managers then became Jan Meldrum and, ultimately, Alex Barnes. Jan's style of management was completely different to Graham Bell's. Jan wasn't as visible to the young folk but she had her finger on the pulse. She was very much into quality assuring the service provision and was very tight on quality assuring staff recordings of all involvement with the young folk.
46. I don't recall there being any appraisal or any supervisory policy at Cardross. If you compare it to an area team where you get taken in and given formal appraisals, for example, there was nothing like that. I did have supervisory responsibility, as a senior, within the units but there was no formal appraisal as such.
47. Other than being on shift with the team and if something was suggested that didn't fall in with the expectations of the shift for that day, you would point it out. We did have a staff team meeting every week where we discussed things like the running of the unit, the cleanliness of the unit, how the young folk were integrating into the unit and what, if any, disagreements there were.

#### *Policy*

48. I'm not aware of there being any policies. There was a folder we had to sign but I think it was all about Health and Safety, planning trips and general stuff. There wasn't anything about care and control or welfare and promotion, nothing like that.



### *Strategic Planning*

49. Strategic planning was down to the senior management team. It was Alex, Jan, Graham and Ron Conway that dealt with that kind of thing.

### **Children / Routine at Cardross**

#### *General*

50. Each unit at Cardross was mixed, boys and girls. The numbers and split between boys and girls just depended on how busy it was at any time. All the young folk had their own rooms.
51. Children's washing was all gathered up at night. There was a laundry assistant who washed and dried all the clothes, returning them every day. The kids all wore their own clothes.

#### *Mealtimes / Food*

52. The food was excellent and the variety that was offered was exceptional. The downside to that was there was stuff being put out for the kids that they'd never seen or heard of before. The food was nutritious, well-presented and it was good for them.
53. The staff ate with the young folk. There would be two or three staff supervising at most of the tables. If a child didn't like the food on offer they could ask for a sandwich or a plate of soup or anything else that might be on the go. The young people were never denied something to eat. If they were down in the dining room and it didn't suit them there were wee kitchens in the units and they could have toast or a ham piece or whatever they wanted.

#### *Washing and Bathing*

54. The showers were single, they didn't have one in their rooms, it was a designated shower room area, which they could lock. They could shower as often as they wanted.

*Leisure activities / trips*

55. We would take the young folk on activities in the minibus. The centre had one minibus but if more than one unit was going out, the council would have to bring in a driver and minibus to take everyone. We would go swimming off the pier at Luss or at Greenock, we would go to the cinema, go for a drive and walk and stop for a bag of chips, just normal activities.
56. Activities within the centre very much depended on individual staff members strengths. Some might take kids for arts and crafts, sitting drawing a painting nothing complicated, but they would all try to involve the young people in something that they could get a buzz out of. They had a TV room, there was a pool table and table tennis area. The shifts would have to book that for each unit.
57. We didn't take them on any holidays but we did go for day trips. We went to Blackpool and to Aviemore for skiing, those trips always went very well.
58. If an individual member of staff was taking a child out it would be to get clothes or whatever but not for activities. Staff were not allowed to take children to their own homes and they weren't allowed to disclose to the children where they lived.

*Healthcare*

59. There was a medical room but there wasn't any dedicated staff there. If a nurse was needed they would come in. Doctors would come in as well and use the medical room. A dentist didn't visit. If a doctor was required it was usually because of child protection allegations and the child would be taken to the Family Protection Unit (FPU).

*Schooling*

60. The school building was connected to the assessment centre. There was a corridor between the dining room and Carman Unit, but branching off from that was a stairway that led down to the main offices, the medical room and the school building.
61. The kids got the full range of subjects; English, history, maths, geography and the like, but there was a high emphasis on vocational studies like woodwork and building things.
62. There was a head teacher and I think, in my time, a maximum of four teachers, all of whom taught a range of subjects.

#### *Chores*

63. The only chores they had were to keep their rooms tidy.

#### *Visitors*

64. The area team had to sanction all visitors. If they didn't then the visit didn't go ahead. We had set visiting times but if someone just showed up, who had been sanctioned then we would always try and accommodate it. The parents were allowed to take their kids out. They would go to the local shops or go out for a walk down to Cardross beach.
65. Parents were always in contact with us at the centre as well. We would be asked how their kids were getting on as they hadn't heard from them, they maybe hadn't heard from their social worker, they would ask when they were getting a home leave and ask about getting more involved. In the main they were reactionary responses because their child had been taken away by the social work department or the police. They didn't know what was happening, didn't know what to expect and were just looking for an update, it was usually that type of enquiry from parents.
66. The parents were usually frustrated, saddened or didn't have a clue what was going on.

### *Home leave*

67. Home leave was very dependent on home circumstances. For a lot of these youngsters their home circumstances were either because of child protection issues or because of the young people being AWOL and placing themselves in vulnerable situations that weren't appropriate.
68. What tended to happen was, after a period of time, if home leave was being considered we would first try an afternoon visit midweek with the responsibility on the young person getting themselves home clocking in, seeing their mum and dad and then getting themselves back to the centre by 8:00 pm. If that worked it could then be increased to an overnight midweek and if that worked the area team would need to do an assessment before giving consent for a one or two night stay at the weekend.

### *Discharge*

69. The discharge of the young people was always subject to Children's Hearings substantiating a recommendation. If it was a 110 day remand then they would be going back to appear at court. If an order was continued at court, then they would come back to us. In the main the 21 day assessment period was sanctioned by the Children's Hearing. It didn't mean that the young person didn't come back in ten or twenty weeks down the line because things hadn't worked out but there would then be a different emphasis on the assessment.
70. I can't remember any young people leaving Cardross, with what we now call a 'through-care' package, who then had to be reintegrated to Cardross. The community support was always there.
71. A 'through-care' package was local authority support. Each local authority had a provision to support the young person with residential care. That could be supported living, supported lodgings and definitely some sort of avenue into employment if they were sixteen plus. It could also include a health package around the young person to

try and sustain their well-being. The parents were often still involved and just couldn't have the young person at home, so they might have alternative accommodation with parental support. There would always be a 'through-care' worker overseeing the whole thing. I think that was reviewed on a three monthly basis.

72. If the expectation or overall aim was for the young person to go back into the community, certain skills would be introduced. They would have to do washing, they would have to maintain their own environment and go on supervised shopping trips to start with but then empowering the young person to go and get what they think they need. Travelling independently was also a big thing, so providing support, then taking a step back from that. Life skills was the emphasis behind it.
73. There were also some young people who, regretfully, no plan could be drawn up for. Some young people had mental health issues and there wasn't a facility in the wider community to support them.
74. Some young people were being exploited and the system couldn't protect them. It didn't matter what the multi-agency approach was.

### **Review of Care/placement**

75. The young people received visits from CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services), educational psychologists and the social work area teams.
76. Social work visits were all between the young person and the social worker. The social workers would sometimes ask for someone from the centre to be there as there was sometimes the potential for something to spark off, that was the problem.
77. If the social work provided a report back after a meeting, about a young person, with recommendations that would be incorporated into the residential assessment. At the end of 21 days the multi-agency sat around the table and discussed social work recommendations, the residential assessment and whatever else had been reported

by the police or whoever else. It was all put into the mix and thereafter the care plan was drawn up for the young person.

78. Every young person had a residential assessment plan, or care plan. That was maintained by the key worker, supervised by the senior.
79. I'm not aware of any local authority or independent bodies carrying out any reviews or anything like that. 'Who Cares?' an agency which supports people who have been in care, did come in on a couple of occasions but it was for individual contact with a young person.
80. Each individual local authority in Strathclyde bought the placements in Cardross but I can't remember any local authority coming in and carrying out any form of inspection.

### **Discipline and Punishment**

81. From the onset, the word punishment isn't something that was used. There wasn't a punishment, that didn't enter it, young folk were there because of circumstances in the community.
82. The introduction of routine was the discipline. Young folks saw that as a discipline, going to school was discipline because it wasn't an option to refuse education. If young folk didn't want to go to the school buildings then education came to them.
83. If a child stepped out of line, options would be given. They would be asked if they wanted to be involved in activities or not. Something would be taken away from them. It could be an overnight home visit, although it did depend on what the social work agreed and on whether the parents could have them home or not. Everything always depended on an individual's set of circumstances. Home leave was never allowed in the first week as it was always considered a settling in period but after that if they stepped out of line that home visit could be curtailed.

84. They would have to make that choice, but if a young person acted out physically then we were trained in TCI. That was in place when I started at Cardross.
85. I was trained in TCI after a couple of weeks in my role at the units. It was done in the centre and they brought TCI trainers in.
86. There was a code of conduct the children had to adhere to. That was from the admission stage in front of their social worker and their parents. The code of conduct was respect, acceptable behaviour and co-operation, that's what I remember. I can remember going through that with the young people.
87. Social workers had expectations that the young people were going to be provided with a safe environment where the young folks weren't going to place themselves at risk, where they were going to be looked after.
88. A lot of my experiences were families that were in conflict with the social work department and the social work were in conflict with the families. Part of that residential assessment was bringing the two together with a positive outcome and then moving that forward.
89. The message we wanted to get over to a young person from the induction or admission process was that they were there for a reason, we didn't know what their social worker or parents had told them, but they were there for 21 or 110 days.
90. The 110 day warrants were dealt with differently in respect of liberty. There was no home leave and outings were run on what we called a 'golf ball' system. That was two staff working with one young person if they were going on outings. That was all explained during the admission process, the young people knew they weren't going anywhere on their own. It was an imaginary concept of passing the responsibility over to the member of staff who was supervising the young person to ensure there was always somebody with the child.

91. I'm not aware of the code of conduct being written down or displayed on a notice board or anything like that.
92. I can't remember there being any formal policy around a code of conduct for staff. I do remember having to sign a policy document on a monthly basis but I think that was more to do with building health and safety, it wasn't about how you worked with young folk.
93. Going AWOL would be the main thing that resulted in young folk being disciplined, placing themselves at risk, and the being brought back by the police. It was always dependent on what the teacher said.
94. Whenever a child went out to the school there was a hand over from the residential staff to the teaching staff, to give an indication as to how the young person was, or whatever. When the child came back at the first break in the morning the teacher responsible for the class would then speak to the residential staff to say whether the child was having a good or bad day, if they were being disruptive, or whatever. At lunchtime there was a similar conversation and then again in the afternoon when the kids came back to the unit. The principal teacher would also often go around each of the units and speak to the residential staff.
95. If there was any behaviour being reported that needed some discipline action, that would be a decision for the senior staff member at the unit if it was in-house but if it was curtailing a home visit it would be the residential staff speaking to the senior in conjunction with the area team social workers. Home leave couldn't be stopped without area team sanction.
96. There was physical restraint but there was never any physical discipline or punishment.
97. I did have occasion to curtail children for their behaviour. We are talking about hundreds of different scenarios. It could be a young person going home and everything was good, with the parent calling in to say they'd arrived home safely and all was well.



An hour later you get a call from the parent telling you they've gone AWOL. That was the main issue, the young person had a bit of liberty and wanted to enjoy it.

98. If that did happen, we would notify the standby social work, then the police and it was up to the police to get them back. Cardross residential staff never left the centre to go and bring a young person back.
99. When a young person was curtailed it was religiously documented in the unit logbook. Every unit had a logbook and that logbook was quality assured by the senior member of staff at the unit on a shift basis and by the depute on a daily basis. There was never a curtailing of a young person's home access or even activities but it was logged.

### **Restraint**

100. I'm not denying there were a number of incidents in my time where the units were 'jumping' because one or two young people had incited the others to rebel. If a young person sparked off there was always two members of staff involved with a third normally observing.
101. If you went into a basket hold or a young person had to be restrained, in the main but not all the time, you didn't go into it alone. There would be other staff involved. If it was a young lady who was sparking off then females were deployed. That would mean bringing in a female staff member from another unit.
102. A basket hold is when a member of staff takes a young person in a hold that prevents their arms and legs from swinging. You put your arms around them and hold them close. If you didn't gain control in that initial hold the young person would be put on the floor and a second member of staff would assist and restrain their legs from kicking out.

103. I was involved in the restraining of young people, but I would say it was infrequent. It was done, it had to be, but I can't remember any specific incidents after this period of time.
104. I didn't see excessive restraint being used on any young people at Cardross, what I saw, in my opinion, was appropriate measures being used by staff to stop the young person from hurting themselves or a member of staff. The focus of the TCI always was not to allow the young person to injure themselves. They could try and butt walls with their heads or punch doors or whatever. It wasn't about us, primarily, it was about protecting that youngster.

### **Concerns about the institution**

105. I'm not aware of Cardross being of any concern to any external body or agency, or any other person, because of the way the young people were being treated there.
106. If there was any concern around the way the young people were being treated that would definitely have been conveyed to the parents. It would have fallen to the senior management to converse with the parents.
107. There was an incident when I was working at Cardross and I was seriously injured. On a Sunday, a young lad called ██████ appeared at Cardross for a visit with one of our young people. A member of staff challenged him, because we knew him and he was in Kenmure St. Mary's on a secure order. He had actually escaped from there and when we contacted them they asked us to phone the police and try to get a hold of him. Myself and another member of staff traced him to the train station and when ██████ saw us he pulled out a knife. We approached him and he lunged at me stabbing me twice in the chest. I ended up in hospital and I had follow up consultations with a psychiatrist but there was no welfare support, that was unheard of back in the day. I don't even remember anything ever happening with the police. I was never told what happened with him. Cardross didn't want any publicity surrounding anything like that.

### **Reporting of complaints/concerns**

108. The young folk did have an avenue for sharing their displeasures at certain things. They had a mailbox on the wall, and they could write down things and stick them in the box anonymously, if they wanted to. That would then be discussed at the weekly meetings we had.
109. If a young person articulated that they wanted to make a complaint it was usually the senior of the unit that would sit with them, gain their views and then pass it to the depute, whether that be Ron Conway, Jan Meldrum, Graham Bell or Alex Burns.
110. I don't recall ever having the occasion to do that. Latterly, at the weekly meetings, we involved a young person's representative, so the complaints and gripes were generally aired then. The young person's representative would always be a young person from within the unit. The whole point was to give the young people a voice.
111. If a young person made a complaint it would always be logged in the unit logbook and then picked up by a senior manager. There was an officer in charge of the centre every day. It was the depute and the officer in charge that dealt with policies, procedures and communications with Strathclyde Regional Council. Theirs wasn't a hands on role. It was the senior manager who would pick up whatever had been logged, that was the practice and that was what happened.
112. The communications were tight at Cardross. After every shift, one member of staff was nominated to write the shift up. In those communications if a young person was having a bad day or wasn't coping, it was logged as individual names in the logbook and then there was a synopsis of the shift. That was done for every shift and the seniors would pick up on any points that required action.
113. I never received any complaints of abuse from any young person. On occasions a young person might come to you and tell you they felt they were being bullied. They wouldn't be prepared to say who it was as they were afraid of the repercussions. There

was always a pecking order in the units amongst the young people. In the main you would get one or two who would advocate on behalf of their peers.

114. I can't say or remember there being a huge issue with bullying because it tended to be nipped in the bud. Staff were always extra vigilant of things that might be going on, particularly if someone had told us they felt they were being bullied.
115. A young person couldn't go about the centre on their own, so if they were going for activities there was always a member of staff from the units with them. If they were playing football, two members of staff would be with them in the park. If a young person was having contact with parents, they would only be escorted to and from the contact area by a member of staff. The thinking behind that was that we were trying to hand back an element of responsibility to mum and dad.

#### **Trusted adult/confidante**

116. Each young person had a key worker that was responsible for all aspects of their care within the centre. Somebody that the young person could identify with as theirs. It was then that key worker's responsibility to share amongst the staff what, if anything, was going on.
117. Social workers were in the centre daily and parents visited regularly.

#### **Abuse**

118. I'm not aware of there being any definition of abuse at Cardross. The only time that there would have been anything like that would be at the TCI training. It was basically an overview of your responsibility at the point of a disclosure being made. It was really for someone that was coming into childcare work who didn't have a clue about what child protection meant. The responsibility was basically to pass it on, it was as broad as that.

119. There was no in depth training preparation within the residential care setting. It didn't prepare me for what I then went through in the area team social work. I went on to do Joint Interview Training and everything else.
120. I never saw any behaviour that I would have considered to be abuse. I am also confident that if a child was being abused, that would have come to light at the time it was occurring, without a doubt. I say that because of the volume of staff that were on duty at Cardross.
121. If two or three members of staff were involved in containing a child to stop them from harming themselves or others, there were always other staff in attendance. If something sparked off, the free members of staff would phone one of the other units and ask for support.
122. When I went on to work in the area teams and visited the residential units, what always impressed me was the ratio of staff to children in Cardross. That's why I can speak as confidently as I am because there was always that level of observation going on by others.

#### **Child Protection arrangements**

123. From recollection, there was a case conference for all child protection matters. That was multi agency, so the police Family Protection Unit (FPU), the social work area team, health and education. A lot of the kids weren't going to mainstream school so education was then tapped into via the centre staff at Cardross.
124. As staff, we weren't involved in child protection unless a medical was requested and then it would be to support the young person. Child protection wasn't within our remit, it was always conducted and supervised by the social work area team and the FPU.
125. Should a child protection issue be raised, the only guidance we were given was to report it immediately to senior management. They would then notify the area team. If

the disclosure was during the night then the duty social work team would be informed. It was never left.

### **Record-keeping**

126. Every child had their own personal file at Cardross. That contained the residential assessment process, their health records, individual records kept for themselves, which could be child protection paperwork, and there was always a heavy input of social work area team documentation. If the young person had been in care previously then previous care plans would also be included in that. That was all decided on admission.
127. Cardross also maintained daily logbooks, they were quality assured by senior management. Completing logs and recording everything was drilled into all staff. We were always told that it didn't matter how trivial it seemed, we should always log it.
128. I would say the quality of the record keeping was very dependent on the individual logging the information but I would also say that if a senior picked up something in the daily log, it was always explored and an additional comment and signature would have been included by that senior.
129. If an allegation of abuse was made by a young person, my understanding is that the area team would be informed immediately and it would be the area team who would then investigate that. I'm not aware of how that would have been recorded at Cardross unless it was with the deputies, but it was very much a social work role. It may have been recorded in the young person's file that an allegation had been made. It would have been contained in the assessment report at the end of the 21 days.
130. I do think adequate information was held in the files. On admission the child's file was sent from the area team and one of the main criteria was that the child had received a medical. If they hadn't, then a medical was carried out immediately. They had what was called a Reception into Care Medical Booklet.

### **Investigations into abuse – personal involvement**

131. I have never been involved in any investigations, on behalf of Cardross, into any allegations of abuse or ill-treatment of children or into any inappropriate behaviour by staff or others towards children.

### **Reports of abuse and civil claims**

132. I have never been involved in the handling of any reports to, or civil claims made against, Cardross by former residents, concerning historical abuse.

### **Police investigations/ criminal proceedings**

133. I am not aware of any police investigations into alleged abuse at Cardross and I have never given a statement to the police or the Crown concerning the alleged abuse of children cared for at Cardross. I have never given evidence at a trial concerning allegations of the abuse of children at Cardross.
134. I do know a person who worked at Cardross who was convicted of the abuse of a child there. I think his name was <sup>KMG</sup> [REDACTED] and it was before I started there. He had been suspended and then went to court. He was convicted. I never met him, it was before my time, but it was a topic of conversation because the trial was on once I'd started there and then there was the conviction.

### **Other Staff**

[REDACTED] ID [REDACTED]

135. There was a [IDI] who worked at Cardross. He was there for about eight to ten months towards the end of my tenure. He was a young man in his mid to late twenties. He was a residential worker in Fruin unit.

136. He was built like a brick shithouse. He was six foot plus and was into body building training. I didn't have a lot of dealings with him. He would take the kids out and do all the normal things. I did see him occasionally, down in the gym of an evening, with the kids. He seemed to get on well with them. I don't think I ever saw him discipline any kids and I didn't see or hear of him abusing any kids.

[IGV]

137. That's a common name, off the top of my head I can't think who that would be.

[HWA]

138. I can't think of any member of staff called [HWA] from my time at Cardross.

[HUZ]

139. I think we might have had a young student at Cardross called [REDACTED] I think he was doing his university degree. His missus is quite famous on the television just now. He was a young man, 26 or 27, and was just deployed at the start of a shift wherever there was a shortage of staff.

140. He was excellent with the children, he had a manner about him that was easy going and he was lovely to watch when he was working with the kids. He just had this ability to build relationships with the kids, if it is the same bloke of course. I didn't ever see him discipline kids and I didn't see or hear of him abusing any kids.

#### **Allegations that have been made to the Inquiry about me**



IGU

141. IGU has given a statement to the Inquiry. At paragraph 35 of his statement, he has said *"zGUF was an Irish member of staff. He drove me to Vale of Leven Hospital to get my medicals because I was new into Cardross. I knew he was a rigid, strict, ex-army, no nonsense kind of guy"*
142. I don't remember IGU and I didn't ever take him to Vale of Leven Hospital. Medicals were carried out in the medical rooms down the main corridor at Cardross. If there was a child protection issue on admission then the police Family Protection Unit and a member of staff from Cardross and/or the young person's social worker were involved.
143. In all of my time at Cardross, no medical was ever carried out at Vale of Leven Hospital. They were all carried out at the police Family Protection Medical Suite in 'L' Division.
144. I have been informed being referred to by IGU has a different surname to me, and I've already said there were no other Irish staff and only one staff member I can recall who was called who worked nightshift.
145. IGU went on to say, in paragraph 46 of his statement, *"I was scared of zGUF a lot of people were. He never did anything to me but I saw him slap other people on the side of the head more than once. He slapped KJT I saw zGUF slap someone at the dinner table in the hall. The noise echoed out and the hall went quiet"*
146. Under no circumstances have I ever slapped anybody.
147. In respect of names the passage of time has affected my recollection. Not in relation to the allegation of slapping though, because I didn't do it.

148. I've got an opinion about why these things are being said but I don't think I should articulate it here.

149. I do accept, without a doubt, that if children were treated in the way [GUE] has described that would be abuse.

[GUE]

150. [GUE] has given a statement to the Inquiry. I think I do remember [GUE], I think I did [GUE] funeral. I definitely didn't punish her, I don't know if I ever sanctioned her, and by sanction I mean restrict her from taking part in an activity or the like. I did not abuse [GUE]

151. At paragraphs 42, 43 and 44 of her statement she has said *"Staff used restraints and I was quite a hostile child. On one occasion I was probably being cheeky when [GUE] and two other staff members passed. [GUE] was about 27 years old and Irish. One of them said "grab her" and two of them grabbed me, one on each side which was called a "hook and transport" and [GUE] said "Don't touch her face. He then started punching and kicking me all over my body while the other two held me down. I remember one of those holding me down looked really ashamed about what they were doing and, to me, it seemed clear he didn't want to be doing it. I was screaming and trying to get up and it seemed to go on for ages. I don't recall what had happened in the build up to this but, as I say, I was probably being cheeky to [GUE] who was the manager of the unit I was in, mainly because I just didn't want to be there. I think it was after that that I was moved into the boys unit. Those were the only staff who ever beat me. One of the guys who held me down may have been called [IDI] but I'm really not sure"*

152. I refute every word of that allegation. The passage of time has not affected my recollection because I just wouldn't do what's been described in that allegation. I don't know why she is saying those things. I do accept that what is being described would be abuse.

HUU

153. HUU has given a statement to the Inquiry. I don't remember a HUU
- HUU At paragraph 141, 142 and 143 of his statement, he has said *"After the police left, I was back in the bedroom of the unit. I then got shouted out into the hallway by Derek and another member of staff who was a heavy stout guy, bald but cropped in hair at the sides and a moustache. I think his name was GUF or maybe GUF He asked for my trainers and when I asked if I could keep them I felt his hand grab me by the throat and he slammed me against the wall. He was holding me off the ground and my heels hit the wall. It was so quick and unexpected he was squeezing my throat and shouting I was a "wee bastard." He was spitting as he was shouting and his face was going red. He was screaming that he'd break my legs if I ever ran away again. I'd never be able to walk, let alone run by the time he was finished with me. I was telling him I couldn't breathe and he was screaming and telling me that I wouldn't be able to breathe once he had finished with me. I thought he was going to kill me as I was struggling to breathe harder and harder by the second. I remember I wet myself with fear and was greeting. It could have been two minutes, it could have been five minutes, but it felt like it was a lifetime he held me up against the wall. He was shouting and pointed out that I had pissed myself. He then dropped me down in front of everybody. He still had me in a choke on the floor and had his forehead pushed against mine. He was then screaming at me to go into the room, get my housecoat and get showered. I remember standing greeting in the shower and another one of the staff members shouted to ask if I was okay in there. I just said I was, got washed, dried and walked back into the room. I was terrified of him after that"*
154. On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 HUU provided evidence at the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry Hearings. The transcript of his evidence, reference TRN-12-000000071, shows that HUU said *"the rooms were dead wee and I just opened the door, it was, the member of staff told me to come out, and then I seen GUF walking down the hallway towards us, and I was told I was to give them my training shoes. I was to hand over my trainers and I was only to be in slippers. I didn't want that because I knew if I never had my trainers, if my mum and dad couldn't come and get me, then I had to run away and I didn't want to run away in slippers, but I had no option. And then I*

*reluctantly gave my trainers over. Then he grabbed me by the throat and slammed me up against it, it wasn't like a wall, it was like a column of a wall, splitting up two rooms kind of thing. And he had me on my tip toes and he was screaming that he would break my fuckin, if I tried to run away again, he would break my fuckin legs. When he was shouting, he was spitting, and I just remember the fear running through me and feeling this spit landing on me"*

155. The lawyer that was leading the evidence then said "HUU you tell the Inquiry that you thought he was going to kill you, because you were struggling to breathe harder and harder by the second"
156. HUU responded "Yes, at that time I didn't think he was going to, you can say I felt I wasn't going to come out of it, but it was, he's not going to stop. That's what, he is getting worse, you know what I mean? And the anger in him. You will see on TV and things, characters being angry, and you see on the street, maybe gangs fighting. But as a grown man, being aggressive to me, he was like, in my face, know what I mean, which made it worse if you understand"
157. The lawyer then said "Did something then happen to you in the course of the attack?"
158. HUU said "Aye I wet myself"
159. The lawyer then said, "and how did he respond to that?"
160. HUU said "That's when he kind of released and told me to get a shower. I was a pishy wee bastard"
161. The lawyer then said "and you do tell us HUU that you remember standing crying in the shower"
162. HUU said "Yes"
163. The lawyer asked HUU "did other members of staff see this happening?"

164. HUU [REDACTED] said *"The staff were there"*
165. The lawyer asked, *"Were you offered any kind of support or help following the incident?"*
166. HUU [REDACTED] said *"No, just when I came out the shower, just told to go to my room and get some sleep"*
167. The lawyer asked, *"Now the next day, HUU [REDACTED], did you have more dealings with GUF [REDACTED] or GUF [REDACTED]?"*
168. HUU [REDACTED] said *"I can't remember if I had dealing with him the next day. I did have other dealings with him"*
169. I refute that allegation in all totality. The passage of time has not affected my recollection. In all honesty I can't say why he is saying these things. On recollection there was another member of staff named [REDACTED]. He was a senior member of staff at Fruin unit. [REDACTED] was a tall man, 6'2" or 6'3", medium build and had a beard and black hair.
170. I feel that with those questions asked by the lawyer there was no elaboration by the young person as to why he would be suggesting that I'd put my hands on his neck and was choking him and he was spitting, that is all just fabrication. Fabrication for what reason, I don't know, but I am refuting that in its total state.
171. In relation to the description, I've never been bald, I've never had a moustache and I've never had cropped hair. At that time I was stocky, I've always been stocky. My hair was mousy brown and would just have been the trend of the day.
172. If he had been brought back by the police then the trainers would have been asked for when the police brought the young person back to the unit but I've got no recollection of ever asking somebody for their trainers when they were brought back.

173. If a child was treated as has been described there, then yes that would be abuse.

174. HUU goes on to say, from paragraph 144 to paragraph 151 of his statement; *"The next day the door just opened up as normal and we went to education. After class I had gone back to the unit and GUF came and told me and another boy, KJW to come out to the hall. He told a member of staff to keep us there and then minutes later we had to go down to the dinner hall reception area. He took us through a door to a corridor that took you behind the cookhouse and out the back of the building. There was a big car, a red Rover, that was GUF car and it had golf clubs in the back of it. We asked GUF why we were there. He told us that if we wanted to misbehave in his school he would show us what would happen. He also had KJS and another boy from another unit. There was a bit of harled wall between the back of the education and the cookhouse and his car was parked near to it. He made us all stand against the wall whilst he changed into a pair of white golf shoes. He then put a glove on and made it look like Iron Fist. He pulled a club out of a Wilson golf bag, took balls out as well and flung them down. He said, 'this is what happens to bastards that don't do what they're told.' I could see what was happening and it felt like this wasn't going to happen. He said don't flinch and then hit the golf balls at us. It was automatic to flinch when he hit the balls at us. Some of them would miss but I got hit a few times, on the legs, side and stomach and one hit me on the right shin. I had a lump on my shin and I got a fright because it was a big, massive lump like the ones you see on a cartoon. It went down after a day or two so it must have just been swelling or fluid. He did this to us a few times, maybe five times. It felt like he always picked on KJW KJS and I. Without fail we'd be three of the ones that were up against that wall. There would always be another one or two added to this but us three were always there. I was terrified of GUF and the staff knew what was going on. You knew what days it was going to happen because you would see the clubs lying on the back seat of the motor. He would tell us that the teachers had said we had been misbehaving, that's why we were there. He said Dorothy had told him we had misbehaved. I asked her if we had been misbehaving and she said 'no, you're always good,' so he was making it up.*

175. In the transcript of HUU [REDACTED] evidence from the hearings on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024, reference TRN-12-000000071, the lawyer leading the evidence asks HUU [REDACTED] "Was there a time when he GUF [REDACTED] asked you to come to his car?"
176. HUU [REDACTED] said "It wasn't his car. It was always me and a boy called KLA [REDACTED] a boy called KJW [REDACTED] and a boy called, I think, KKO [REDACTED] There was a boy called KKO [REDACTED] It was always the same ones he would pick. And he would come in, we weren't misbehaving. We weren't being bad but he would say we had misbehaved. And we knew when it was going to happen because the golf bag would be in the back seat of his car. He had a red and white golf bag, and when that golf bag was in the back seat of the car you knew what was happening.
177. The lawyer then said, "and what did happen on those occasions HUU [REDACTED]?"
178. HUU [REDACTED] said "He would take us to the back of the Carman unit, underneath the Carman unit was part of education, part of the cooking bit, where they cooked all the meals, and it was like a grey rough wall. And he would line us up against the wall and he would go in, put his glove on, bring a golf club out, and put balls on the ground, and sometimes he would hit the ball at you. Sometimes he would just kid on he was doing it and if you flinched or went to move out the way, the ones that didn't flinch got moved aside and the ones that flinched were kept against the wall and golf balls fired at them."
179. That never happened. Categorically, never did I swing a golf club and hit a golf ball at a kid. I didn't even play golf at that time, I only played golf about fifteen years ago and I've never had a golf bag like that. There's a bit of a discrepancy too, in the description of the environment that he's describing. They say I took them from the cookhouse to the back of the building and the education unit but the layout from the dining room through to Carman Unit there was no exit point there, so I don't know how he's talking about me taking him and others to this point outside the building. In any case I am adamantly refuting ever having swung a golf club at anybody.
180. The name KJW [REDACTED] sounds familiar, but the other names that have been mentioned don't mean a thing to me. Dorothy was a blond headed lassie who was a

teacher at the centre. I didn't have any conversation with her about his behaviour, those conversations would have taken place in the dining room or up in the unit after the kids were brought back after school. We didn't have conversations about the behaviour of the young folk in front of anybody else, that didn't happen.

181. I don't know why these things are being said. I know Cardross Park Golf Club is next to Cardross Park Assessment Centre, and I've tried to make some sort of association but I can't come up with an answer. I do know that I have never tried to hit anyone with a golf ball.
182. If a child was treated in that way I accept that would be abuse.
183. HUU [REDACTED] goes on to say, from paragraph 152 to paragraph 155 of his statement; *"In behind the area where the car was parked. There were dense bushes and in behind it was a golf course. One night when he had us out there in the dark, he said he could murder us, throw our bodies in there and the rats and the foxes would eat us. He would just put us down as absconders and none of us would ever be found. That frightened me because what he said to me made sense to me at that time and what he'd been doing to us with the golf balls shocked the life out of me. I believed what he said as he didn't care and I knew he was capable of that."* KJS [REDACTED] KJW [REDACTED] *and I used to sit in education and say to each other that if we steal his clubs, he'll not be able to do it to us. The fear of getting caught stopped us from doing it because the consequences would have been so bad. What he did to us for misbehaving at school even when we hadn't, with the golf clubs and balls was brutal. Imagine what he would've done if he caught us stealing this clubs. We used to discuss trying to split and run away when we got taken out of him by him for the golf ball treatment but the only way you could really go was past the old Cardross building, which had burnt down and was all boarded up. The staff used to take us there at night and tell us it was haunted to put the frighteners on us. That terrified us so we were all scared and wouldn't go past it to get away."*
184. Absolutely, under no circumstances, have I ever threatened a young person. It's a little bit factually incorrect as well because the old building didn't burn down it was



demolished about ten or twenty years after I left. It was closed down as an educational unit because it was too expensive to run. There's fabrication in there that in my opinion needs challenged.

185. The passage of time has definitely not affected my recollection of events. If a child had been treated in the way he has described then, without a doubt, that would be abusive behaviour.

186. These allegations are frustrating the life out of me because there's fabrication. Is it fabrication because of the Child Abuse Inquiry and these statements are being fabricated for effect? I don't know but I am most definitely denying any of those allegations or my involvement in them.

187. **HUU** goes on to say in his statement to the Inquiry, from paragraph 156 to paragraph 160 of his statement; **GUF** *would slap me whenever he got me. He would just lash out at me and never hit me in any particular place. I used to smell drink off him. He said it was after shave but I knew what drink smelt like from when I used to go to the football with my grandad and he would drink. I'd experienced alcohol myself at that time as well. He would come into the unit daily and when I heard his voice I used to panic. Even if he was there for a legitimate reason, he was so unpredictable that you never knew what he would do. He never just did it when it was just him and us. The staff were well aware of his temper and them being there didn't stop him. He would spit when he was shouting and one day when he was shouting at **KJU** **KJU** said to him 'I asked for the news, not the weather' because he was spraying him with spit. **GUF** punched him when he said that. I didn't see this as I was at school and **KJU** was in the unit, but I saw the injury to his eye later and he told me what had happened. The mixture of things with him grabbing me, shouting at me, the golf balls, and belittling, caused a lot of mental issues for me. He would go on about being Irish and from Donegal and because of what he did to me, I hated Catholics. I was brought up in a civilised household. My mother was a Catholic and my dad was a Protestant but after this I hated Catholics because of him. Still to this day, I hate that **GUF** **KJU** and I would like to take revenge on him but he is an old man now. He was definitely in charge of Carman Unit, he was really powerful and*

*he couldn't run, he had a bit of a belly on him. His face was red from the drink and I know he was originally from Donegal because I had been telling one of the staff that I used to go to Belfast with the flute band and that I had relations in Donegal. She told me that this was where GUF was from."*

188. That never happened, its absolute nonsense. In my adult life I have never drank. I stopped drinking when I first started working over here aged fourteen. I was born and bred in Dublin which is about 180 miles from Donegal.
189. The behaviour that's been described didn't happen. I can't explain why he has said that. I am rather offended by the comments about Roman Catholics and Protestants though. How would he know what religion I was?
190. As described in that statement that would have been abuse but it's absolute nonsense.
191. In the transcript of HUU evidence from the hearings on 24<sup>th</sup> April, reference TRN-12-000000071, he said "*The only time I got restrained in Cardross was with GUF or GUF*"
192. The lawyer said, "*I think you tell us in your statement you saw restraint being used in the way that police would restrain someone.*"
193. HUU said "*Mm-hm*"
194. The lawyer said "*and that there were children with carpet burns down their faces*"
195. HUU said "*Aye, that was regular. That was daily. Near enough everybody would have carpet burns. And I say 'everybody,' that's not, but you could see from every unit there would be so many, always with carpet burns. It was always the same ones.*"
196. I deny that and I can't explain why those things have been said. If a person was treated in that way, I accept that would be abuse.

197. What has been sent to me and what has been read to me today, is in my opinion, spurious allegations and I am not prepared to accept them because I didn't do them.
198. I came to talk to the Inquiry, quite calm, collected, and ready to co-operate but as we have gone through the allegations I haven't become upset I've actually become quite distressed in respect of these things being said about me. I don't know if it's natural for me to feel that I need recourse to some of the stuff that's been said.
199. I've been asked at the end of every allegation, if I consider it to be abuse or not and I've agreed but I'm actually feeling that I'm now being abused by these spurious allegations.
200. HUU [REDACTED] goes on to say, from paragraph 180 of his statement; *"I told my mum about the incident where GUF [REDACTED] grabbed me and slammed me against the wall and she phoned to ask to speak to him. He told her I was a liar and that it didn't happen.*
201. Parents phoned all the time so I couldn't specifically say she phoned and spoke to me, I don't recall that.

### **Leaving Cardross Park**

202. I left Cardross in 1996 when I applied to take the diploma in social work. I wasn't provided with any references by Cardross when I left. However, I assume checks and references would have been made available to Jordanhill before I started my diploma.
203. There was money available from the councils that were part of Strathclyde and I was fortunate enough to get funding as long as I committed to a further two years at Cardross following qualification. I went away and did my studies but during that time Strathclyde broke up and I was posted to the Council who funded me, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Council. I never went back to Cardross after I left to do my studies.

204. I started off as a social worker within an area team in [REDACTED]. I then moved to [REDACTED] and I worked my way up to Team Leader for Children, Families and Youth Justice. I went on to work in social services for 28 years. Latterly I was based in [REDACTED] and managed the area from [REDACTED].

### **Helping the Inquiry**

205. In my opinion, I think a third of the young people that went through Cardross thought of it as a punishment to their liberty. Their freedom and their rights, in many respects, had been taken away from them, against their will. A system had been put in place which, in the main, they initially objected to.

206. I think what has been described to me today is spurious and concocted and is for the benefit of the Inquiry, so that these folk who think they've been done an injustice are being heard.

207. I think a little more than a third of the young people who went through Cardross went back into community settings where community influences, mental health, substance misuse, alcohol misuse and lifestyle choices impacted on them. As such the outcome hasn't been as positive as we would have hoped it would be and, in essence, their lives have not been what we would expect a progressive society should have been able to provide.

208. Each local authority must adopt the stance of core team approaches around every child, not a hit or miss approach.

209. Social workers need to be able to be given the appropriate number of cases to manage and a holistic approach around planning for vulnerable young people needs to be adopted.

210. The current regimes within residential children's units, in my opinion, are diabolical and the children's hearing system now is ineffectual. We are still reliant on the fact that

it was hailed as this progressive way forward for supporting young people in the 70's, 80's and 90's. The reality nowadays is that volunteer members from the community are being asked to make decisions that, respectfully, are outwith their knowledge base. I'm talking particularly around sexual exploitation, drug misuse, substance misuse and young persons' vulnerability when it comes to mental health. The system is archaic.

211. There needs to be some serious thought given to how we protect young people. We also need to be more acutely aware of how we work in partnership with Police Scotland.

**Other information**

212. 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..  *27<sup>th</sup> June 2024*.....