

Name: Alexander Neil Fisher

DOB: 16/11/1963

Name of Care Home/s: Kittlingpark, Ross Court, Burton Lodge, Kirkmichael

Reason for going into care: Can't recall

Age in care: Approximately 7-15/16

Personal Statement

Kittlingpark

My first recollection of abuse was at Kittlingpark. While there, I remember facing persistent bullying and physical attacks from fellow residents. Staff were aware of the bullying and turned a blind eye unsure of exactly how long it was there as I kept running away.

Ross Court (Newmilns)

I was later moved to a care home (Ross Court) in Newmilns area and attended school in Galston area where I was placed there for around 3 to 4 months. Where the bullying intensified. On one occasion, other residents intentionally broke my ankle. I recall that my leg was pressed against a kerb and stomped on until it fractured. After this incident, I started to frequently run away from the care home due to the extreme bullying. I was punished every time I ran away. I was put in a room with a big square window that was bonded together, nothing was in the room, and I sat on the cold floors, this was better than being bullied by the other boys, so I did not mind. Medical attention was given for the broken ankle at Kilmarnock hospital. I possibly stayed there for a few days before returning to the care home, but I was so terrified to report how it happened as I was threatened if I told the other kids would make sure, I got worse.

Burton Lodge

I was transferred to another care home in Ayr area, which was a big castle location on the outskirts of Ayr, the name of which I cannot remember. This was likely Burton Lodge. This is where I began to experience sexual abuse. Older boys forced me to participate in sexual acts, including penetration, both on me and by me, I had no choice. The trauma from this had me running away again but I was always returned.

Balrossie

Next placement was at a care home in Kilmacolm. During my stay, a staff member named Mr. Styles started to sexually abuse me. I was often prevented from joining group activities, such as swimming classes, during which this staff member would inappropriately touch me.

On one occasion, Mr. Styles invited me to his private home in Johnstone, as I did not receive visits from family. I accepted, assuming that my family members would be present and wanting to experience life outside the home. I remember that while there I could not recall how I went to bed but vaguely remembering waking up and he was on top of me. I suspect Mr. Styles drugged me and sexually assaulted me by raping me, while also taking indecent photographs. Mr. Styles told me that "this is normal" and "what everyone does." This cycle of sexual abuse persisted for several years, although I cannot pinpoint the exact duration. I did not reveal these incidents at the time, as I had no family contact and was too scared to talk to other staff. I ran away a number of times, and I would be taken back and sat in front of a panel who sent me back. I reacted and started to hit back; I was big enough now to do something about it.

While in residential care, I did not receive any education, leaving me unable to read or write. Meals and showers were provided but much of my daily life is a blur, except for the abuse I suffered.

Since leaving care, the enduring effects of this abuse and neglect have greatly affected my life. I became involved in crime and trouble, as this was all I learned from my time in care, where fighting and abuse were commonplace. I had to try to teach myself literacy skills as an adult, but the absence of education has hindered my access to meaningful job opportunities throughout my life.

I have been diagnosed with MS, diabetes and have poor memory – leaving me unable to work.