

Supplementary Statement

Name: Elaine Bolton

DOB: 07/10/1961

Name of Care Home/s: Dunaven House, Glenaven House, Blantyre Assessment Centre then Bellshill Care Home.

Reason for going into care: Mum had a breakdown due to post-natal depression (was admitted to a mental health facility as it wasn't recognised then that she had post-natal depression)

Age in care: Approximately 5 years of age

Personal Statement

At the age of 5, I entered care after my mother experienced a mental breakdown caused by post-natal depression. I was in various care settings and due to the young age, I can't remember them all, but these are the ones I can recall some details for.

Dunaven House

I was relocated to Dunaven House in Strathaven on Commercial Road, where the headmaster, Peter Robinson, was harsh and frequently used the cane without justification. If we talked while waiting for pocket money, he would cane us and withhold the money. He struck us so forcefully that we were left with red marks, constantly yelled at us, and labelled us as bad children.

There was no privacy during showers as staff observed us, and at mealtimes we were compelled to finish everything on our plates before we could leave. I remained there until the building was engulfed in flames. After that, I was placed with a schoolteacher, Mrs. Black, for five months, and my experience there was pleasant because she treated me kindly.

Glenaven House

Following this, I was moved to Glenaven House on Commercial Road, where my experience was satisfactory, and I do not remember anything negative.

Blantyre Assessment Centre

I was then transferred to Blantyre Assessment Centre at about 15, where my experience was dreadful. A man who worked in the kitchen offered to take me to school but instead led me to a body of water, put his hands down my trousers, and attempted to sexually assault me. I managed to kick him and escape. When I reported this to the head of staff, Bill Hayley, he accused me of lying, slapped me so hard that I flew across the room, and locked me in a cell until I 'told the truth.' At night, the night watch staff would take us from our beds, give us alcohol in their staff room, and one tried to sexually assault me

by putting his hands down my trousers, but I pushed him away. I fought against it, but I saw him successfully mistreat others.

The night watch staff had a little room where they'd sit and this was where they took us. It had a glass window in the door with a blind so they'd close the door then pull the blind down so nobody could see in. To this day I can't have any doors at home closed, I have to keep them open.

When we were discovered in the room, Bill Hayley punished us by taking us outside into the freezing cold to do exercises for hours, yet he never punished the staff member who mistreated us. We were compelled to finish everything on our plates, even the food we didn't like, and were made to do physical labour like scrubbing toilets and floors for hours.

I recall running away for a week, and when I was brought back, they subjected me to a medical check to confirm I was still a virgin at about 13 years old.

Bellshill Care Home

I was then transferred to Bellshill Care Home around the age of 14, where I felt secure until I left at 15.

At some point whilst in care and under the age of 18 I was also seeing a psychologist, I do not remember where this was or how old I was.

Later life since leaving care

The abuse I endured has had a profound effect on my life. It resulted in low self-esteem, caused me to choose the wrong partners, and I still struggle with anxiety and PTSD.