

Name: Trevor Truman

DOB: June 3rd, 1979

Name of Care Homes: Ladyacre Childrens Home Dumfries, Hightrees Closeburn Dumfries.

Reason for going into care: Out of parental control, caused by physical abuse.

Age in care: Approximately 14 - 15 years of age

Personal Statement:

When I was about 5 years old, my stepfather entered my life. He and my mother frequently exhibited violence towards me and treated me like a servant. I was confined to my room for months and endured physical abuse. This affected my behaviour at school, leading to frequent trouble.

At around 14, my stepfather attempted to beat me one day and he punched me in the face. I had enough of the physical abuse and I managed to bring him down. On reflection I suspected steroid abuse, as he was a world champion in Bench press in his class. It was then, that I decided I would never allow anyone to lay hands on me again.

The following day, I was placed into care; I recall attending children's panels, which likely involved a decision made by Dumfries and Galloway social services. Initially, I was placed in Ladyacre in Dumfries, where I stayed for a possibly a few months, unsure, before being transferred to Hightrees in Closeburn, spending a few months there as well.

Ladyacre

At Ladyacre, two staff members were physically abusive towards me, named William Burgess and Alan Craig. I was under a sofa when William lifted it with two other children on top and told me to come out. As I emerged, he dropped the sofa on both my legs, triggering a defensive reaction due to my past experiences at home. I threw the couch off me and had a confrontation with William. This led to Alan tackling me to the ground, sitting on top of me with my arm pinned under my chest and the other behind my back. I struggled to breathe, and it was extremely frightening. I believe the sofa was intentionally dropped on my legs, and William did not ask the other children to move. Their response afterward was excessive. Burgess was suspended after the incident.

Hightrees

I eventually ran away from Ladyacre and was sent to Hightrees afterward. I also escaped from Hightrees, and upon my return, I was placed in a secure cell that contained only a concrete bed. It took several people to drag me inside, and once they had me there, they would sit on top of me until I struggled to breathe. They would then rush out the door and slam it shut. The boss of Hightrees was laughing at me through the reinforced glass on the door, but I managed to punch a hole through it, injuring my hand in the process.

I was told that the police were on their way and that I would be taken to the hospital for my hand treatment. However, that was not true; instead, I was taken to the police station and thrown into a cell. The police turned off the lights in my cell, leaving me in darkness for days. I pleaded for the lights to be turned on, but my pleas were ignored. I remember it was close to Christmas, and I felt terrified being isolated in there.

I never received medical treatment for my hand injury. My hand never been the same, I suffer with it more in the cold.

My requests for home leave were frequently denied, and I remained separated from my siblings during my time in care, which is time I can never reclaim with them. I believe my time in care has significantly affected my mental health in adulthood, compounded by my experiences in my childhood home. I've been diagnosed with PTSD and mental health. I was given medication, but I no longer take them due to side effects. I also had a dependency on cannabis.