

Name: Daniel Boyle

DOB: 26/10/1973

Name of Care Home/s: Cardross Assessment Centre, Kibble Residential School, Kerelaw Secure Unit

Reason for going into care: Absconding from school – decided by children's panel

Age in care: Approximately 12-16 years of age

Personal Statement

I was sent to Cardross for absconding from school. The decision was made by a children's panel in Glasgow.

Cardross Assessment Centre

It was a bit rough to be honest, the staff mistreated you. I was locked in my room a few times, I was battered a few times, I was stripped naked and kicked about just in my boxer shorts. It was quite abusive. This was mainly the staff; there were no issues with the other residents. When we took showers, sometimes there would be a member of staff watching you. I would run away and get brought back by the police. When this happened, I would get put in a room and there were different levels green, amber and red and it was pretty rough. Not all the staff were bad but some of them were awful; some of them were having sexual relations with some of the female residents in there, it was pretty horrendous to be honest. When we did education, we were taken to a separate block, and I actually enjoyed this because it meant you got out of the block and away from the staff and the rough and rumble. But as soon as you returned to the block the bullying tactics would start again. I have tried to block it out to be honest with you. I did receive regular visits from my sisters and my father; they would visit in the dining hall which was also used as the visiting hall. I kept running away from Cardross which is why I was moved to Kibble. This decision was made by a children's panel.

Kibble Residential School

Kibble was alright it was actually one of the better homes and the staff were alright. I kept running away however because I was a child doing what I shouldn't have done which I have now grown to realise. I was then sent to Kerelaw secure unit due to running away.

Kerelaw Secure Unit

I believe I was around 14 or 14 and a half when I was sent to Kerelaw and I was there until I was 16 and they kicked me out. Kerelaw was like a mini prison. You were bullied by staff and battered by staff. I was locked in rooms naked. I was physically and mentally abused and I would use the word abuse because that's what it was. There was a segregation unit next to the office up the stairs, the punishment block and I was put in there quite often. They would lock you in there naked with no blankets or mattress on the floor and it was frozen cold. The place was horrendous and I am still dealing with the trauma of this to this day. I was smacked in the back with a pool cue by a member of

staff, he was English and his wife was English and worked in there as well. There was no privacy there, you were monitored 24/7 everywhere you went it really was like a prison. We did have education, but it was within the secure block. I did have visits from my family and friends. I told some of my friends that came to visit about the abuse I was suffering. I was actually attacked by the English staff member, who was 6 foot 6, in the corridor in front of my visits. He physically attacked me in front of my visitors and restrained me and took me up to the punishment block upstairs, it was horrible. It wasn't just physical abuse it was mental abuse; you would be shoved into the punishment block naked and told to squat and lift your testicles. I didn't tell any of my social workers or other staff about the abuse because to be honest I thought it was the norm. I really did honest to God. Maybe that is why I ended up spending so much time in the prison system and mental health system, it has had a massive impact on my life.

I got kicked out 16 years old and to be honest with youth damage was done. My life was then crime, and I turned to drugs in a big way and committed crimes and spent a long time in prison and a long time in the mental health system. I still struggle mentally to this day, my community psychiatric will say to me you are very guarded but the experiences I went through in care have made me that way. Luckily, I am doing very well now and the medication I have been on keeps me in a good place.