

Statement Addendum

Client Name: Wesley Phillips
Date of Birth: 05/02/1982
Care Setting: Nuffield- johnston
Dates: 1997
Persons Involved:

Full Statement

When I arrived here, it was the worst time of my life. From the very beginning, I felt completely overwhelmed and unsafe. The children in the home were extremely aggressive and out of control, and the environment felt chaotic and frightening. The staff spoke to me in a horrible way, with no care or respect, and it was clear they had no interest in me or my wellbeing whatsoever.

There was constant violence in the home. The other children were fighting regularly, and I was often targeted and beaten up. I was exposed to ongoing aggression not only from the other children but also from the staff. Many of the staff were very stressed and short-tempered, and although there were a small number of staff who were kinder, the majority were physically abusive. They would punch, kick, and push us around. I experienced this abuse directly and lived in constant fear of being attacked or hurt.

I was made to do my schoolwork within the home rather than in a proper educational setting, and this had a serious impact on my education and personal development. Instead of being supported, I was mocked for it. The staff would make fun of me, and they encouraged or allowed the other children to call me "stupid." Over time, this had a deep impact on how I saw myself. I grew up believing I was stupid and incapable, and those feelings have stayed with me into adulthood.

I was often locked in my room for long periods of time and deliberately isolated from everyone else. This seclusion made me feel alone, rejected, and worthless. On top of this, my contact with my family was stopped. I was prevented from seeing them, which removed the only support system I had. This had a devastating effect on my mental health. I felt completely abandoned, with no one to turn to, no one I could trust, and no one I could ask for help.

During this time, I was treated like a human punch bag. Both staff and other children took out their aggression on me, and I had no protection. I was constantly on edge, living in fear, and struggling to cope with the environment around me. There was no support offered to me at any point, and my mental health began to deteriorate badly as a result.

Food was technically provided, but it was sometimes used as a form of punishment. I was given cold, hard, stale food, and at times I was left hungry, knowing I would have to go to bed without a proper meal. This added to the sense of neglect and mistreatment I was already experiencing.

I was treated differently from others in the home. I felt singled out and targeted. I was frequently locked away, physically assaulted, and called names. The staff would deliberately provoke me, tormenting me to get a reaction so they could justify beating me or restraining me in painful ways. This created a cycle of abuse where I was constantly being set up to fail and then punished for it.

My time here was extremely damaging. I was impacted both physically and mentally in ways that have stayed with me for the rest of my life. I was there for around nine months, and throughout that time I was struggling every single day.

When I finally left, I was not the same person. The experiences I went through had changed me deeply. The impact on my mental health has continued into my adult life and still affects me now. I struggle to trust people and find it very difficult to build or maintain relationships. I never had anyone in my life who felt safe or secure, and that has shaped how I see others and the world around me.

I continue to feel unintelligent and lacking in education because of how I was treated and what I was made to believe about myself. Being called "stupid" repeatedly throughout my childhood has had a lasting effect on my confidence and self-worth.

I turned to drugs as a way to block out what I had been through, although I am now in recovery. Despite this, I will never forget how I was treated. The experiences I had in this place have had a profound and lasting impact on my life and wellbeing.

I now suffer from anxiety, depression, and PTSD as a direct result of what I went through. I also struggle with self-harm linked to these experiences. I have frequent nightmares and find it difficult to cope with everyday activities. The trauma I experienced there continues to affect me on a daily basis, and it has shaped the course of my entire life.