

Statement Addendum

Client Name: Stuart Munro
Date of Birth: 17/05/1990
Care Setting: St Phillips Residential School, Airdrie
Dates: 2001
Persons Involved: The Staff and Children

Full Statement

In 2001, when I was around 12 years old, I started attending a normal high school. I was only there for about two weeks before things started to change. During that time I was repeatedly taken back and forth to what I remember as “the panel.” I felt intimidated and threatened during these meetings, and I did not really understand what was happening or why decisions about my life were being made without anyone properly explaining things to me.

Shortly after this, I was removed from mainstream school and placed in St Phillips Adult Residential School in Airdrie. I was still a child at the time, only around 12 years old, but the environment felt like it was meant for much older people. I remained there for a few months during 2001.

My experience there was extremely distressing and damaging to me both mentally and emotionally. From the moment I arrived, it became clear that this was not a place where we were being supported or educated. Instead of receiving proper schooling, we were often left alone in rooms for long periods of time. There were many days where I felt completely abandoned, sitting in a room for hours with nothing to do. We were not properly taught lessons, and there was no real education being provided.

Most of the time we were simply made to sit in classrooms watching videos. There was no explanation of the material and no effort made to help us understand anything. It felt pointless and confusing. I remember feeling like my education had completely stopped. Instead of learning and developing like other children my age, I was just sitting there day after day with nothing meaningful happening.

The teachers’ behaviour towards us was also extremely upsetting. I remember teachers tormenting us and laughing at us. Instead of helping or supporting us, they seemed to enjoy humiliating and intimidating us. They would shout and scream at us regularly and speak to us in a degrading way, as if we were not children but animals. The way we were treated made us feel worthless and scared.

There were also incidents where we were punished in ways that I now believe were completely wrong and abusive. Sometimes we would be outside on the fields, and teachers would deliberately come out of the bushes chasing us. It felt terrifying and like we were being hunted. When they caught us, they would take us to an empty house on the grounds.

Inside this house there was nothing except a chair. As punishment, I was locked inside alone, without shoes, without food, and left there for long periods of time. I remember being locked in there all night on at least one occasion. I was only a young child and being left alone like that was extremely frightening. I

remember sitting there feeling helpless, scared, and confused about why this was happening to me. The overall atmosphere in the school was one of fear. Everyone was scared of the teachers. Their shouting, aggression, and the punishments they gave meant we were constantly anxious about what might happen next. Instead of feeling safe, I felt like I was in a place where I had to constantly watch what I said or did. During the time I spent there, I felt incredibly lonely and isolated. I felt singled out and treated differently from how children should be treated. Being stuck in rooms all day with no proper education, being shouted at, and being punished in frightening ways started to have a serious impact on my mental health. At the time I did not have the words to explain what was happening to me psychologically, but I now realise that my mental health was deteriorating rapidly. I began talking to myself because I had nobody else to talk to. I felt like I was losing control of my thoughts. The loneliness and fear were overwhelming, and it felt like nobody cared or was paying attention to what was happening to me. Eventually I could not cope anymore and ran away after a few months. By that time the damage had already been done. My mental health had deteriorated badly during my time there. I also ended up leaving without any real education. Instead of being helped to learn and grow, I felt like my schooling had been taken away from me completely.

The experiences I went through at St Phillips in Airdrie in 2001 have had a lasting impact on my life. The way I was treated as a child has affected me deeply causing me to self harm and continues to affect me to this day. Because of what happened, I have struggled with trust and find it very difficult to build relationships with people. I often feel guarded and find it hard to believe that people will treat me fairly or care about my wellbeing.

I also suffer from anxiety and depression, which I believe are directly connected to the trauma and neglect I experienced during that time. The memories of how I was treated still affect me emotionally. I often struggle to understand why this happened to me as a child and why nobody stepped in to protect me.

Looking back now as an adult, I realise that the way we were treated in that school was not right and should never have happened to children. At the time I felt powerless and ignored. The adults who were supposed to care for us and educate us instead made us feel frightened, humiliated, and alone.

The impact of those experiences has stayed with me throughout my life and continues to affect my mental health, my relationships, and my sense of trust in others.