

Statement Addendum

Client Name: Duncan Prowse
Date of Birth: 15/01/1990
Care Setting: Seaton Terrace
Dates: 2003
Persons Involved:

Full Statement

When I arrived, there was no empathy or care shown towards me. I was immediately flung into my room and handled roughly. I remember being slung about and not being treated with any kindness or understanding. From early on, I was restrained daily, and these restraints were forceful and painful. Staff would sit on me in a way that took my breath away. I felt physically overpowered and terrified. These experiences changed me as a person. I became more withdrawn, fearful, and emotionally damaged.

The environment in the home was unsafe. We were allowed to leave the care home and mix with people who were involved in dangerous behaviour, including fighting with knives. Staff were aware of this and did nothing to stop it. It made me feel like they did not care about my safety or wellbeing at all.

The home itself was not a safe or stable place for children. The behaviour of staff and other children had a damaging impact on our mental health. My key worker would call me names, including calling me "fat" and other degrading insults. I was publicly humiliated, and there was no protection from this behaviour. I was told not to be given food and was banned from the kitchen. I was also deprived of food and effectively starved as a form of punishment. This was extremely humiliating and deeply damaging to my mental health.

I was bullied by staff in front of other children. In particular, female staff would laugh at me and join in with name-calling. This constant humiliation and verbal abuse had a severe impact on my self-esteem and emotional wellbeing.

I can also recall on more than one occasion staff members, including Cathy and Isla, being involved in my care. Cathy arranged for her husband to drop me off at work. During this time, he abused me verbally, calling me names and threatening me in relation to my weight. This caused me significant fear and distress and contributed to me feeling unsafe on a daily basis.

I was restrained painfully on many occasions. Staff would sit on me, bend my arms and legs behind my back, and restrain me in ways that caused me to struggle to breathe. These incidents were frightening and painful, and I felt completely powerless. Physical punishment and restraint were used frequently, and if we did anything wrong, money or possessions would be taken away from us. We were made to feel that we had no rights or control over anything.

We were often secluded in our rooms for long periods. Staff regularly called us names and pushed us around. There was no sense of safety, care, or stability. The home was also overcrowded. It was supposed to be a four-bedroom house, but there were too many children placed there. At times, we had to sleep or stay in the office or living room, which made the environment even more chaotic and unsettling.

The environment remained unsafe throughout. We were allowed to leave the home and mix with individuals involved in dangerous behaviour, including knife-related violence. Staff were aware of this but failed to intervene or protect us. This made me feel completely unprotected and uncared for.

Older children were also allowed to target and hit me, calling me names while staff, including Cathy, would sometimes watch and laugh. This lack of protection made me feel completely abandoned and unsafe.

Throughout my life, I feel I have been passed from place to place without anyone truly caring for me or protecting me. I have been repeatedly failed by the systems that were meant to keep me safe. The abuse I experienced has had a severe and lasting impact on my life, and I continue to suffer the consequences every day.

I felt suicidal at times and lived in constant fear. I have been deeply affected by PTSD, depression, and anxiety, which impact my daily life and ability to function. I also struggle significantly with trusting people and building relationships. These experiences have severely affected my life and continue to do so to this day. this effected my confidence still this this day too