

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of Mr Pat Kinder

I, Pat Kinder, will say as follows:-

1. I have been asked to make a statement to the Inquiry because of my involvement with the Advisory Committee which was set up in the early 1980's.
2. I had a long standing relationship with the Sisters of Nazareth because my aunt had been resident in Nazareth House for around twenty years and I got to know a number of the Sisters and the Regional Superior Mother Hilary because of my aunt's residence there.
3. At that time I was a senior administrator in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board and the approach by Sister Hilary was a personal one and did not involve the Board. Sister Hilary wished to bring together a group of professionals who could give advice to the Sisters in Nazareth Lodge who had responsibility for the care of the children. She asked if I would assist her by asking people with appropriate skills for their views.
4. I approached a number of persons who had professional skills in sociology, psychology, medicine, teaching and the law. All agreed to help and I gave the list to Sister Hilary who accepted their offer to help on a voluntary basis. I undertook to provide necessary secretarial support again on a voluntary basis.
5. I have seen references to the Committee being referred to as a Management Committee or some form of Management Committee and this is entirely incorrect. The Committee had absolutely no management or supervisory role in the Home nor was it involved in the appointment, dismissal or any other staff related issues.
6. The Committee itself met once a month and the Sisters in charge of the three groups would have attended and could have spoken to the Committee members and raised any matters of concern they had or discussed issues within the running of their groups with the full Committee and would have been given feedback or assistance on any concerns they raised.
7. The Committee was only involved with Nazareth Lodge. My memory was that Nazareth House had either stopped providing childcare or was reducing its childcare and that the children were all moving into the Nazareth Lodge environment. I cannot be clear about this as it was some considerable time ago.
8. The various professional members of the Committee would have been assigned to one of the groups within the Home and would have met with the Sister in charge along with the staff in the units and groups and also with the children. They would have visited a number of times in addition to the monthly committee meeting and their visits would have been to get to know the staff and children and to try to build some sort of relationship with each of the

people in the groups. This would have allowed them to have a deeper understanding of what was going on in each of the groups and to make themselves available so that anyone who had concerns could speak with them. They would also have been able to raise issues which they saw during those visits with the Sisters in charge.

9. I would also make it clear that this group was not discharging any sort of statutory or formal function. We were not asked to provide some sort of monthly inspection report or anything of that nature. Our role was entirely voluntary and was entirely in an advisory capacity. We were asked by the Sisters themselves to come in to aid them by way of advice rather than to take over any form of supervisory or directional function.
10. The members of the committee included: NL 35 a former psychiatric social worker who had voluntary experience in her church (Church of Ireland). NL 35 is deceased; Mr Tom Cahill, a senior barrister who was also providing assistance because of his background and a desire to assist; Mrs Francis McNally, a senior lecturer in sociology at the Ulster University with an extensive social work background, now deceased; Mr Michael Murphy, headmaster in a local primary school. Mr Murphy is also deceased; Dr Adrian McAuley, a local General Practitioner who left the committee because of his professional commitments but often assisted the Sisters with advice.
11. I have been asked to comment on an allegation or allegations against SR 18. I have no recollection of this incident.
12. I was not personally involved in any visits by members of the group. My role was in giving secretarial support.
13. The various professionals in the group were given full autonomy by the Sisters to carry out their visits and felt they received the co-operation of the Sisters. Had they not felt that they were welcome or that they were being misused or not receiving co-operation, none of them were bound to remain in the group and none were bound to carry out the functions in any way. In the circumstances, the fact that they all continued to volunteer for a protracted period would suggest that they all felt welcome and that they had received full co-operation within the Home.
14. I recall three Sisters, SR 222 SR 148 and SR 18 in charge of groups.
15. This would be as much as I can recall at this time.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

Patrick Kinsler

Dated

2/4/15.

and she mentioned that [REDACTED] had held her arm. [REDACTED] had no recollection of having been slapped on the head. I invited [REDACTED] into the room and we talked through the incident together. [REDACTED] expressed a lot of anger relating to the incident and he encouraged [REDACTED] to remember being slapped on the head. [REDACTED] did say at this point that [REDACTED] did touch her on the head, but it did not feel to her like a slap or a hit.

[REDACTED] was asked to write out his complaint. I asked him what he hoped the outcome of this complaint should be. [REDACTED] said he wanted someone to tell [REDACTED] not to touch his sisters.

I interviewed [REDACTED]. Her details were in accord with those of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said she could not be sure if she had/had not touched [REDACTED] on the head in moving her out of the room, although she felt it had been on [REDACTED] back that she had placed her hand. [REDACTED] agreed to write her statement also. I recommended to [REDACTED] that it is advisable in almost all situations to refrain from 'handling' the children in disciplinary situations:-

- a) as a safeguard for oneself
- b) as 'handling' can sometimes escalate a problem.

Signed: SR 148

Complaint 7.

Name of Complainant - NOT GIVEN
Date of Complaint - Dated (Recd 7/11/88)
[REDACTED]

Written Complaint - Not signed - alleging 'behaviour' by a member of staff (named). No specific statements made but suggestion of 'familiarisation' and 'favouritism'.

Letter has been seen by Rachel Regional Sr. Supervisor, Cheshire & How Selly. Our joint view is that there is nothing of substance in the letter which can be investigated and we have no reason to make further enquiries.

NL 35

21/11/88

P. Kunder

21/11/88

Mother in Aidam

21/11/88

SR 121

21/11/88

Complaint 8

Date of Complaint: 17.11.87? 17.11.88

[REDACTED] aged 5 years alleged that [REDACTED] 13 and [REDACTED] 12 entered his bedroom and requested [REDACTED] to pull down his pyjamas trousers which he did. They touched his penis. This allegation was forwarded to the boys' social workers who visited the boys. The [REDACTED] brothers denied the allegations. [REDACTED] social worker to seek an appointment with [REDACTED] for Christopher.

Staff receiving the Complaint:

[REDACTED]

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF NAZARETH LODGE
HELD ON 4 MARCH 1996 AT 8.00pm IN NAZARETH LODGE**

PRESENT:

NL 35 Chairman

SR 43

SR 121

SR 148

Mrs F McNally

T Cahill

M Murphy

P Kinder

J Patten

APOLOGIES:

An apology was received from Ms E Nicholl.

**1. REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION BY THE APPOINTED COMPLAINTS
SUB-COMMITTEE**

The members of the Sub-Committee, Mrs McNally (Chair), [REDACTED] and Mr Alan Chard of Down & Lisburn Trust, were all present when making their report to the Management Committee.

The Sub-Committee presented their conclusions in respect of the 17 allegations which had been made as attached. They explained that the process which they had adopted had been to interview the complainants, **SR 18** and Judith Chaddick. They had not carried out any further investigations. The members of the Sub-Committee agreed that **SR 18** should be advised of those conclusions.

The members of the Sub-Committee invited questions from the Management Committee.

- 2.** A number of questions were raised by all the members of the Management Committee and the principal issues involved were related to clarification of the comments in respect of allegations, views on the extent to which there appeared to be validity in some of the allegations and the degree of co-operation afforded to the Committee by **SR 18**. The Sub-Committee members made clear that **SR 18** had co-operated fully with them and that her comments had enabled them to indicate where there was some validity in the allegations.
- 3.** The Sub-Committee members produced two further letters which they had recently received following the conclusion of their investigations.

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
OF NAZARETH LODGE HELD ON 11 MARCH 1996 AT 8.00pm IN NAZARETH LODGE**

PRESENT:

NL 35

SR 43

SR 121

SR 148

Mrs F McNally

M Murphy

P Kinder

J Patten

APOLOGIES:

Ms E Nicholl

Mr T Cahill

1. The members of the Sub-Committee agreed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 March 1996 as being a correct record of the business undertaken.

2. **SR 18 - Report**

Members were handed a statement submitted by **SR 18** which is attached to the minutes. Members deeply regretted that **SR 18** had decided to withdraw from child care and asked that the Honorary Secretary should write to her to convey their appreciation and thanks for the excellent work she had undertaken in the Home over many years.

3. **Procedures**

The members reiterated their view that there was a need in the light of the complaints investigation, to review procedures for complaints and untoward events. It was agreed that a small sub-committee comprising the Chairman, **SR 121** and the Honorary Secretary, should be appointed to review these procedures and to make an initial report to the next meeting of the Management Committee which will take place on 22 April 1996.

4. **Handling of Complaint**

It was agreed that the Community Health & Social Services Trusts involved and the Department of Health & Social Services should be given copies of the minutes of the special meetings of the Management Committee held on 4 and 11 March 1996, together with a copy of the statement received from **SR 18**.

Staff Supervision and Support

The Management Committee continues to meet at least on four occasions in each year, and members of the Committee inspect the Home once per month. Additionally, the Chairman of the Committee undertakes inspections from time to time and the Mother Regional of the Order visits and makes inspections during the course of the year. At the meeting of the Management Committee, reports on the work of each Unit are made by the Head of the Unit and particular attention is paid to untoward events or complaints.

The Management Committee believes that these reviews are important in the interests and the care of the children, and supportive of the staff.

The Committee has reviewed the effectiveness of its visits and has decided to arrange for one of its members to take a closer interest in and identify with one unit in addition to the visits.

6. Admissions and Discharges

A list of admissions and discharges during the period is given in Appendix 2.

A statement is also included showing children resident in the Home at 31st March 1993 (Appendix 3).

7. Arrangements for Admission Review and Discharges

Reviews are held regularly and discharges planned. The Home would once again wish to acknowledge the support given by Social Workers in making the foregoing arrangements effective.

8. Statutory Visits

Management Committee members meet the requirements of voluntary visitors and prepare monthly reports which are submitted to the members of the Committee. These reports are reviewed and any matter arising is dealt with at the following meeting of the Committee.

9. Visiting of Fieldwork Staff

The arrangements for visiting by fieldwork staff are considered to be excellent.

10. Record-keeping

It is confirmed that the statutory requirements imposed by Regulations 5 (4) and Schedule 2 of the Children's and Young Persons Regulations (NI) 1975 are being met in full.