

Life After Child Abuse



Mr Morris the school head and the School Motto:
'The only rights you have here are to eat and breathe'

Being a child is about learning to be an adult and it can't be a vulnerable child's fault if they are led into making mistakes by an adult authority figure can it?

By: D J Warnett

Barrow Wood a special needs boarding school for troubled children seemingly by design for the abuse of vulnerable children. Take a damaged child and damage him further. Take little notice of the complaints and then deny all liability when you get called on it.

Childhood sexual abuse does not just end when you turn 18. Its a life sentence of painful memories and erroneous assumptions about others that can in the right circumstances lead to serious mental problems. The last thing a victim generally wants to do is talk about it so without the right support things in later life can become a living nightmare. Think about that for a minute. You might jump when you hear a gunshot. What if that gunshot was anything to do with a school, schoolteacher or social worker and you felt one of them was falsely accusing you of abusing your own child? Derrick's 5th request of his sons new school after a few problems and nearly 2 months after his first *"Has anyone contacted my sons scout leader yet?" "That's not our job speak to the social worker there has been an abuse allegation."* Derrick asked me *"Is that not a direct child abuse allegation directed towards the child's father?"*

Social worker, *"I wont do that somebody in the office will."* then 6 weeks later *"CAMHS (who had not even met the child) are suggesting foster care."* This 2 weeks after the social worker told Derrick there was nothing to worry about and that she was going to close her case. This came about after Derrick confronted her with respect to his being accused of abusing young Daniel by a school teacher. Derrick told me *"I had all the help my son needed on the end of the phone but then we had a bloody useless social worker and an overworked work to rule school teacher with tunnel vision getting in the way..."* *"We think your son might have mental problems, we think your son might be being abused, I have run the case past CAMHS who have suggested foster-care*

appropriate." Why? Because Daniel has a touch of autism or as others put it delayed development. Hardly a surprise as he had a troubled birth and came with an education statement from the day he started school.

Think about that for a minute this is your son or daughter who clearly has special needs as prior to this Derrick had made no less than 6 requests of anybody in authority to just make a simple phone call for the lad. The shrink Derrick felt forced to take his son to see. *"They have got the wrong idea and run with it. I'll have a chat with my boss and take it on as a case."* Daniels scout leader. *"TELL THEM I WANT CONTACT WITH ANYBODY CONCERNED WITH YOUR SON BEFORE SOMEBODY MAKES A BIG MISTAKE."* Its a crying shame mum's answer to the problem was to jump into bed with her boss. *"Walk out on your kids with a text message and come and live with me, its an easier life over here without your stressed out husband or kids."*

Derrick told me *"When I was a teenager I never understood why I get really bad vibes anywhere near anybody who sounds like a window salesman or people who smile or scowl out of place. By the time I did understand it was simply to late to change the vibes I get from some people. Everybody who knows me knows I have an issue with people who sound like pushy window salesmen. You know too many positives and affirmations of things that just don't sound quiet right. Like telling people they have done well when they have clearly done far from well. It all comes down to one line this smiling paedophile told me as he was grooming me for things. "I'm not gay because I'm married with a daughter." It was obvious to me that this man who was in a position of trust over me was, A gay and, B wanted to take things a lot further than he did. I was a small 15 year old boy and did not have a clue what was really going on. Once I understood where things were going I became really frightened at the potential of catching aids. As a*

15 year old child in 1985 I knew aids as a gay disease leading to a painful death like some of the children I had seen on the television from Ethiopia. I was equally frightened of telling others what this house-master, Mr Hastings was doing as the head of the school would routinely punch children who caused a fuss. Not only that Mr Hastings was pally with a lot of the hard nuts in the school so I did not want to get on the wrong side of him. When ever I in later life heard anything that sounded similar and by that I mean just not quiet right or saw people who try hard to be friends or if I saw a smile that was out of place it set up in my head the same warning vibe I had when I was a 15 year old child. As a result I just kept away from anybody who did it. That will be about 90 % of people who I later met especially smiling school staff and people who try hard to be friends. It led to my later finding it really hard to talk to let alone be friendly towards other people. It led to a situation in my head where I felt it wrong to even know a child's Christian name let alone to be seen talking to even my own children."

Derrick knew recording a meeting at one school and taking it to the head of another school would put an end to his marriage but after his wife Laura went chasing after an affair rather than help him with their child he felt he could trust nobody else. Derrick felt the social worker forced on the family was less than qualified (that's the public version) especially when she like the school refused to make a simple phone call. This was the 3rd social worker as the prior 2 could find nothing wrong but the school just kept calling them out. It really felt to Derrick like his son sneezes and they call out a social worker. Daniel was playing up to the favourable attention for all it was worth. He would and the school should have known this as in his prior school report he was described as 'eager to please.' but the new school called it attention seeking and made out like Daniel had a problem. If you tell a child he has got a problem and can't do something, give him licence to be late for

class then tell staff to reward him by telling them not to set him any homework you will give them a problem! Derrick told them it was a bad idea when they insisted on putting these 4" fluorescent what they called help cards on Daniels school diary advertising he had a problem and telling staff not to set him any homework. The school spoke about 'individual education plans' so Derrick rather assumed Daniel would be set possibly different homework owing to the fact he was a little behind but there was no unique homework rather no homework. When Derrick challenged the school as to why his son was not being set homework he was simply told "*Children in the lower sets don't get homework.*" When Derrick took a folder of work Daniel had been doing for him into school (as he was not being set any homework) he was told "*It looks like a different child*" but nothing came of it. When Derrick told the school he had extra funding and the possibility of outside teaching staff being involved in helping his son the school did not get back to him about it. Daniel even sent into school a letter requesting more homework but nothing came of it.

As you can see this child needed just a bit of help with at least his writing.

[redacted] School [redacted]
[redacted]
24/4/10
Dear Mr [redacted]
I am writing to inform that I need more homework.
I fear that I'm not getting enough homework.
My teachers are forgetting and not giving me the homework.
Homework is an important part of my Educational Life and without it, I won't ascend to be a great person with good qualifications, success on GCSEs and a great job.
Homework has a big impact on ~~and~~ ~~but~~ my life. It's a part of School Education.
So, I think I do need more so we can grow up to get a job.
Yours sincerely
[redacted]

The school were being paid a lot of extra money to support Daniel because he came with an education statement which they used for teaching assistance but nobody could take the time to set him individual homework tailored to his needs. Very soon Daniel learnt that because he had a problem the reward was less work and more free time so he played up to it and got into trouble. Derrick seriously thought it was a formula designed to cause a problem from the outset and encourage him to remove his child from the school. Now don't get me wrong by this time Derrick knew he was having run away

thoughts but nobody would contact the only support he had, the local scout movement and very soon Laura his wife who had little thought for the children was well into and making it obvious she was having an affair. Then as you might expect from Daniel came the stories *"don't tell my dad he will beat me with a stick."* and they were stories Daniel had taken from the little he knew about and then exaggerated from his dad's childhood.

The social worker told Derrick after nearly 2 months of bumbling around that CAMHS who had not met his son were of the opinion he should be in foster care. In a fit of desperation and right on the edge Derrick went back to the school and asked them again to make his phone call now his 5th request and the teacher replied with *"That's not our job speak to the social worker there has been an abuse allegation"* as she turned and tried to walk away. It was only a request for the school to make a phone call! What with his own childhood memories getting in the way Derrick after this just went from one panic attack to the next and sent Laura right into the arms of Robert the guy she had been chasing after at work. Well he offered her an easier life without Derrick or the children and knew exactly what he was doing. Walk out on your kids with a text message after your partner susses out your affair and you are never going to get custody no matter what stories you might later invent. It was clear to Derrick knowing his wife that there would be a story of some sort.

Derrick told me *"Now I know I have an issue trusting school staff and I just can't help it. I knew at the time I did not have all the information but all I could ask myself was. "If you wanted to encourage a parent to remove their under achieving child from your school how might you go about doing it? You know like in the real world." I had convinced myself maybe wrongly that it really was all about school league tables and how to get rid of a child they did not want. I just could not get past why the school would not make a phone call for a child they were*

being paid a lot of extra money for and who was when using their own words clearly in need of help. They described it as an urgent issue but they would not even make a phone call for him. All they did was give it to this useless social worker and shut the door." Derrick told me "The worst thing the state ever did for my children was when they forced me to deal with an incompetent social worker who did not listen and just followed the lead of school staff."

Derrick told me "The tipping point came when some idiot wrote the number for Childline in the front of Daniels school diary an instruction from another social worker who had not even met the child. It was like we won't make a phone call for your son but he can call Childline. Daniel seriously thought it was a game. "HEY LOOK AT THIS DAD!"

www.mga 03/1/1998

Headteacher: [REDACTED] G.V. [REDACTED]

School Times [REDACTED] BH 490

8.45 ~ Registration, form period

9.10 ~ Assembly

10.10 ~ Period 1

10.15 ~ Movement break

11.15 ~ Period 2

11.35 ~ BREAK

12.35 ~ Period 3

1.30 ~ LUNCH

2.35 ~ Registration, Period 4

2.40 ~ Movement break

3.40 ~ Period 5

3.40 ~ End of day

School [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] (24 Hour Answering Service)

Fax: [REDACTED]

Web Address: [http://\[REDACTED\]](http://[REDACTED])

E Mail Address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] promotes excellence, personal achievement and the realisation of every student's potential in a school culture of continuous improvement.

arts colleges

Special Schools Trust

Childline 0800 111117 2577

Just think what your reaction to that might be if you had been asking over and over again for your sons school to just make a simple phone call for your son and they refused accused you of child abuse then you find somebody has written this in your sons school diary.

Daniel was simply an easily led autistic spectrum child who had no idea what was going on. If the school had like the head stated in his pre school speech contacted the prior school after

the first few problems they would have known this. Derricks position and authority as a parent was totally undermined and being falsely accused of abusing his own child what with his own childhood memories getting in the way really sent him over the edge.

The school head in reply to Derricks complaint 'At no time did the school make a child abuse allegation.' Plausible deniability. Well nothing was in print but the social worker was going to close the case 2 weeks earlier. Fact: nobody had ever suggested abuse before the school did and nobody has since. All they did was lead a vulnerable autistic 11 year old child into telling and exaggerating various stories. They then refused to make a phone call to sort things out and gave it all to this social worker without a clue. The scout movement had this child sussed out the day they met him with a quick conversation. *"It's because of ideas that have been put to him, he is a child who likes to shock people.... Its caused by negative attention and Daniel feeds off attention."* The school were being paid a lot of extra money for this child as he had an education statement and they would not even make a phone call for him. Social worker, script 101: Lets talk about foster care and see if that gets a reaction. All Derrick saw was his own childhood, danger for his son, divorce and not any help. By the time somebody used the word abuse Derrick was in a really bad way nearly 2 months after his 1st of 6 requests for anybody in authority to just make a simple phone call for his son.

Derrick was sexually abused when he was a child in Berrow Wood School and ran away missing all his childhood examinations so knows better than most what child abuse is all about. Don't apologise for anything it might imply we have done something wrong. Let's just tell a pack of lies and make out like Derrick gave us the wrong number. Come on he won't be able to do anything about it. Derrick told me *"100 to 1 they*

did not even try to make this phone call before they with their false allegations and talk of taking one of my children into care drove me to a nervous breakdown nearly 2 months after my first request. After I went running to an MP and got to view Daniels social care file (They refused Derrick a copy of it) there was no mention of it and the hand written note I gave the social worker with the scout leaders phone number on it was nowhere to be found." Some people suggested Derrick was wrong to covertly record various meetings but this kind of explains why he did it.

Years ago when Derrick was a child in Berrow Wood and his mother complained to Surrey County Council refusing to send him back they just threatened to get legal and did not answer her complaint. When her boyfriend directly challenged them to look at the whole picture they just broke off communications. 1/2 the staff in this place were eventually jailed for offences against children. Despite the complaints nothing was done until a parent witnessed a child being assaulted by the school head and the police made an investigation. It was a private school and we only sent the children there. We might have been told but it's not our fault is it? Not if we can sidestep the complaint, pass the blame off to somebody else or just blame the poor procedures in place at the time! There are seemingly 100's of people like Derrick in the country and all they want is an apology. If Surrey County Council had followed up the complaints made by Derricks mother and boyfriend to the point they actually visited Derrick when he was a child no doubt other children could have been saved from the same pain Derrick later experienced. The pain of having childhood memories of abuse that nobody, most of all the victim really want to talk about. **"Get over it, it happened years ago!" It's not a switch that you can just turn off! It would be better called a mental issue with so many triggers.**

Derrick asked me to be blunt and to the point. *"Do you have any idea what it is like for a small frightened 15 year old child to be 150 miles away from the only person he trusts, his mother while his only other would be adult friend is plying him with cigarettes and sexually abusing him. Can you get anywhere close to understanding the fear of a 15 year old boy who finds himself in bed with an adult while the adult tries to stick his thing up the child's behind? This in a boarding school full of a number of troubled children made worse by the system in place and a great deal of the staff who were abusing them. It was quiet a simple formula, military school, physical punishments for speaking out let alone doing anything wrong. Treating the children like they were worthless, telling them they had no rights and their parents were powerless to help them. That's before the children turned on each other. Then a friendly hard nut member of staff offering protection, giving out free cigarettes and inviting children into his room for a smoke."* From this point on Derrick saw people who were nice or even any man who just called him by his first name as dangerous so 9 out of 10 times he just walked away. As you might expect Derrick's trust in social workers, adult men and the school system was shattered and he is very careful about who he calls a friend or who he let near his own children.

Derrick told me *"Nobody thought to actually talk to me the child about things. Food for thought, If my mother had sent me back like the law apparently required she knowing only some of what I experienced would have been committing child abuse by today's standards."* **Just think about that for a minute would you send your child to a boarding school where you knew he was being abused because some shirt in an office told you they could find no evidence of a problem?** The fact they did not send out a social worker to visit Derrick when he was a child just shows how hard they tried in looking for the problem.

Sometimes when children get bitten by a dog they may spend the rest of their life living in fear of dogs. They may think inside their head that all dogs are bad and want to bite them. They may spend their time looking for dogs just so they can keep away from them. They may fear being in the same building as a dog let alone the same room. When older they may teach their own children to fear dogs. Few people will understand their fear of dogs and how they can get paranoid about having to face up to even the friendliest of dogs. They may never be able to truly trust a dog. If they ever have to face up to a pack of growling dogs they may become really scared and in some cases suffer a nervous breakdown. Some dogs will pick up on this fear and bite because they see somebody with this fear not as a threat but moreover an easy target.

Some really nasty people may set things up so they are left alone with a pack of dogs knowing their fear and the effect it will have on them. The same goes for a child that has suffered child abuse at the hands of school staff. It's a shame as no matter how the cookie crumbles school staff would have to ask themselves why this child now a father with his own children looked like he was bricking it every time he came into school. Without the support of his wife it could only ever end up in tears and made Derrick an easy target. Its so easy to kick somebody who is already on the floor.

A lot of children come from a broken family where mum and dad get divorced. Sometimes dad may have done a runner never to be seen again and in this case the child may well go off the rails. Sometimes the state suggests a child who has gone off the rails is put into care and suggests a special school away from their only remaining parent. They sell it as the best thing for the child to support them but in Derricks and a number of other children's places it was one of the worst things that could have happened to them in their childhood. It's really easy for a privately run school to abuse children placed into

their care. A child in this situation who grows up to have children of their own may really fear divorce not to mention the fear of ever having their own children taken into care. The school head and his school motto 'The only rights you have here are to eat and breathe.' kind of says it all really.

A lot of people would not believe what you can manipulate a child into doing and how using fear, you can sometimes keep them quiet for years after the event even when they become an adult. People who have never been there will not be able to understand this fear and how it can live with a child for years after the event. People who have not experienced it won't have the capability to understand how a child can grow up thinking everything was really their fault. Most people should be able to understand how a man's wife may be the only person to know all the details about how he was abused as a child. Ask yourself if it were you would you want to tell others about it? No matter how many shrinks you saw or what counselling you had would you ever be able to truly get over it? You can't ever remove a memory the best you can do is to learn to live with it, understand things were not your fault and hope the memory or emotion that goes with it does not take over your life. Derrick told me *"Speaking from experience unless you are at the top of your game it really is not that easy."*

There is no worse crime than being an adult in a position of authority frightening and then sexually abusing a child, Then being this child with nowhere to turn. Just imagine being this child now a parent doing your best for your own children while your wife is out chasing after an affair. Then being subjectively accused of abusing one of your children by a teacher who won't even pick the phone up for him. *"Has anybody phoned my son's scout leader yet?" "That's not our job speak to the social worker there has been an abuse allegation."* Social worker *"No I won't do that, somebody in the office will"* nearly 2 months later and still not having made the phone call. *"I*

have run the case past CAMHS who have suggested foster care appropriate." The muck had to hit the fan eventually. Life is what you make it and if you don't look after your children **SHAME ON YOU!** And you too may just end up living in a one bedroom council flat with nothing. Laura, Derrick's wife text message: 'sorry I'm not coming back I'm with somebody else now.'

If you abuse a child don't forget one day they will be an adult have memories of the abuse and people who abused them. Everybody is different and what any child in this situation will do with their memories is anybody's guess. The first and most important people a child should be able to turn to in the event of a problem are mum and dad. Who do mum and dad turn to when they need help? Well dad turned to the church, the scout movement, his employer, his parents and eventually a children's ambassador. Mum turned to her boss, a manipulative old man who saw an opportunity and talked her into walking out with a text message. Derrick told me *"He is welcome to her!"* After the divorce they got married without even telling the children. You have to see it from the mother's perspective. Life was not that easy with a challenging child, her husband who was normally a confident man was getting stressed and frightened when the school called in the social workers and even more so when they all refused to make a simple phone call and started talk of taking the lad into care. As Laura had been chasing after her boss looking for an easier life the fuse was lit when the social worker like the school refused to make a simple phone call and then started talk of taking the child into care.

Now put yourself in the mind of Derrick who's worst mistake was keeping quiet about things when he was a child because the bastards used fear and systematic emotional as well as physical abuse that left him fearful of school staff and seriously emotionally damaged. That was until he got all religious and

turned to God or his interpretation of God. Maybe there is something in John 8:32 *"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

Derricks childhood.

It was 1977 and young Derrick was a happy young lad age 7 who had a small group of friends in the local neighbourhood. His mother and father Kate and Clive had a number of pedigree dogs as Kate used to breed dogs and show them in the various dog shows they attended. They lived in a small bungalow but there was enough room to hold various dog shows that Kate organised. Young Derrick would spend a great deal of his time outside of school accompanying his mother walking the various dogs in the local woods. Derrick told me *"I have so many fond memories of being a young lad trying to keep up with my mother in the woods as well as pick-nicks we would take with us."* Derrick would with his mother plat various ribbons together to make up the rosettes given out in the dog shows and his mother would hold maybe 3 or 4 each year. A great deal of people would bring their dogs in an attempt to win a show. There were various prizes best in show, longest stand and longest sit, stay as well as various other doggy agility tasks. The family had its own pedigree name and was well known by other collie breeders. Young Derrick would at his mothers dislike often have one of the dogs sleeping with him in his bedroom normally snuggled up with Derrick on his bed. Derrick simply loved dogs and the dogs loved him. There was an old man Ernie who lived in the next street and when Derrick was not playing around at home with the family pets or round his childhood friend Debra's house you would often find him with Ernie. Ernie was a lovely old man who enjoyed the company of young Derrick and would spend a lot of his time teaching Derrick about push bikes and small electrical gadgets. Ernie really was a big part of young Derricks life.

There was a nasty woman who lived next door but 1 to Derrick who had a right bully for a son who would look out for Derrick when he walked to school and would tease him about just about anything he could. Derrick took it all on the chin and

was not really phased by this unwanted intrusion into his young life. One day this nasty woman was speaking to Derrick as she did like he was worthless and not worth her time. She told him about how his parents were going to get a divorce. Derrick knew divorce was where mum and dad did not live in the same house but he knew nothing about his parents getting a divorce. Derrick simply took it that she was telling stories being nasty as that was her way but as the family all sat down to dinner he asked his mother. "Marline told me you and dad are going to get divorced?" Kate stuttered in shock as she looked at Derrick and it was instantly clear to Derrick that this story was far more factual than he ever considered possible. All of a sudden young Derricks world was blown apart. Derrick had seen mum and dad arguing every now and again but he just saw 2 people arguing and did not understand what it all really meant. In an instant Derricks face went from bewilderment to very sad as he broke down crying. Mum explained how she and he would be moving to a house further down the road by the gipsy site and dad would be moving to Aldershot a town about 10 miles away. The plan was that Derrick would live with mum and spend his weekends with dad. Dad was still going to play a big part in Derricks life.

Saturday came along with the rental truck used to pack up all of the family belongings. Dad helped mum to move into this new house, well Derrick saw it as a house but it was really another bungalow. This end of the street was different to where they had lived before. Now there was junk just about everywhere and lots of broken glass. There was rubbish strewn all throughout the neighbourhood and everything seemed to Derrick to be so dirty. The people who lived this end of the street were not nasty but they used a lot of words that Derrick knew were bad words. These were words that if Derrick used them he knew it would get him in trouble. Derrick would walk to school generally with Debra his friend from where they used to live the other end of the road but now

things were different as he would walk to school on his own and would have to walk past the Smiths house and the Brothers house. Derrick was really frightened of the Brothers as they were thought of as violent people but as Derrick was friendly with the Smiths they generally left him alone. For a few months Derrick would see his dad every weekend and would sometimes with his friend Debra accompany dad to work where he would be doing all sort of carpentry and rewiring jobs at the local national trust resort in Dorking. It was great as Debra's dad worked there too so each weekend was like an outing. Although not with dad Derrick and Debra would fly kites and play with the toy plains kids put together out of balsa wood. And there was always a free 99 ice cream in it for both of them.

All of a sudden and quiet out of the blue things were different and Clive, Derricks dad did not want him at the weekend any more. Derrick had dads telephone number but it now did not work when he called. This was the last Derrick was to see of his dad until he was 21 years old and dad referred to his stepson as his number 1 son. As you might understand Derrick has no time for his father any more.

Derrick blamed his mother for dad leaving and he became really angry about things picking fights with anybody he could at school. Derrick would watch other children in school looking for reasons to be angry with them and before long was getting into trouble. Things for Kate with her dogs and now very little money coming in were becoming rather tight financially and the outings here and there that Derrick had been used to became far less frequent. It was coming up to Derricks 8th birthday and Mr Smith their next door neighbour promised Derrick a push bike for his birthday. Talk about excited as Derrick had never received such a present in the past and he knew mum was going to buy him an etch a sketch which still a nice toy could not hold a light to a new push bike. It was going

to be like the best present anybody had ever bought him ever. Derrick was daydreaming about this bike was it going to be a chopper with the small front wheel and a gear stick that looked rather like a car gear stick or was it going to be a Raleigh with lots of different gears? I can't tell you how excited Derrick was about it but on a scale of 1 to 10 it got up to like 25. Derrick would tease his friends at school *"I'm going to get a push bike of my own for my birthday next month so there."*

It was about now Derrick called in to see Ernie and his daughter was there. This poor girl who had just lost her dad the night before had the job of telling Derrick who no doubt she saw as a snotty faced child that his friend and her dad had died but Derrick never knew Ernie was ill. Derrick was as sad as he had ever been because this was the first time he had experienced anybody he knew dying so ran home crying his eyes out as any child might in that situation.

Derrick spent the rest of his childhood hoarding bits of old rubbish and making things from junk that he found down the local tip just like he remembered Ernie doing.

Derricks birthday came and he was not to be bothered by the fact there was no present from dad parcelled up by the television in the front room with all his other presents as all he wanted was this push bike. He tried to look excited about the other presents he received a torch, another puzzle, mums etc a sketch and some clothes that did not fit very well. Derrick was desperate to call on Mr Smith next door for his push bike. Mum explained to Derrick it would be rude to call on the neighbours before 10 O clock on a Saturday morning after Derrick was up at 6 like any child on their birthday might be. 10 O clock came and mum told Derrick he could go round next door. As he walked up the drive and saw a lot of rubbish strewn around Derrick thought to himself what a mess but he knew he should keep these thoughts to himself. He knocked

on the door rather timidly and Mrs Smith came to the door, she opened the door and Derrick could not believe his eyes as outside things were so messy but in their house it was spotless like maybe he should remove his shoes before he walked in. Mr Smith was sitting on the chair in the corner of the room watching television and what a television big speakers and the sound was so real not like the little tinny Sony television in mums house. Mrs Smith beckoned Derrick into the house after telling him as he looked at his shoes that removing them was not necessary. I wonder where the bike is? Derrick thought. Maybe its around the back. As Derrick asked he felt maybe he was being rude as you are supposed to wait for a present to be offered not to go asking for it but Mr Smith told him he was going to get him a bike so maybe it was not being rude in this case. "I have come for that bike you promised me?" Derrick asked in a sheepish voice not really sure if he was being rude by asking for it. To Derricks horror Mr smith dropped his trousers and pants exposing himself to Derrick stating "If you want to ride a bike you will have to sit on that." Mr Smith had a full erection and sat there looking at Derrick. Young Derrick knew there was a time when it was OK to use the F word and he added every expletive he knew to the F word as he did an about turn and bolted towards the front door. This was danger get away stay away then shout and scream so the whole bloody world could hear you. It was clear to Derrick there was no push bike but he had no way of understanding why this neighbour had such a big thingy and was suggesting Derrick sat on it. Derrick knew this was wrong as he had never even seen his dads thingy let alone anybody else's and why was it so big? Derrick decided he should keep quiet about this but his mother knew in an instant something pretty bad had happened to put the fear of God into her son. There is no push bike he told her but it was clear to his mother Derricks reaction was way over the top for not getting the present he had been promised. *"Tell me exactly what happened"* she said. *"There was no push bike and he wanted me to sit on his lap."* After

further enquiries mum found out what had happened as Derrick broke down crying "I should not have seen his thingy and he showed it to me not only that he said if I wanted to ride a bike I should sit on it.

Now to put this in perspective Derrick was taught from a very young age to be a bit of a snob mum always correcting him when he said things that were not good English or when he was being rude to other people. Kate phoned Clive because she had the new number but he did not want to know anything about it. Kate did the right thing and phoned the police who phoned the social workers who phoned the council. Within a fortnight Derrick and his mother had moved into a new house about 10 miles away in a small village called Clandon. They now lived in the middle of 12 cottages but were only allowed to keep 3 of their 8 dogs. Today if an adult did that they would be for the high jump but in 1977 it was not quiet the same crime. Talk about all mixed up as Derrick did not understand why if Mr Smith had done a bad thing it was he and mum having to move home. His dad was not to be seen or herd from and Derrick had lost trust in about everybody only now he had to try and make some new friends in a new school. Now I can't tell you how hard it is for an angry child who feels they have been wronged on so many levels to make friends with new people. Derrick did not want to talk about things as it was nobody else's business why he had moved to Clandon. Within a week one of the dogs got out of the garden and was hit and killed by a car on the main road outside the new house.

As you might imagine Derrick soon found trouble at school and with his new neighbours only now he was so angry about so many things he was using some of those words that would get him into trouble but he really did not care. There were some school teachers who he would just not play up for but they had a mothering quality about them. Some of the other teachers seemed to Derrick to be cold and heartless so he

reflected back to them what he felt he received. The school head Miss Woodie was a prime example of somebody who was cold and heartless poking various children who were brought to her attention and she never listened to a child or asked them what they thought about things rather she told them how they should feel about things. Before long Derrick had made a few although not many friends and Derrick was the child you would see with the BIC Biro tube utilised as a pea shooter playing up in class. You see Derrick wanted anything as a break from the pain he felt No dad few friends and his mother was struggling with him by this point. Derrick was really quiet angry with himself taking on in his own head a great deal of the blame for everything. As a distraction Derrick as he grew up in middle school would play with fountain pens as they could be used to do some fancy writing that looked all rather grown up. The expensive ones made by Parker would have an ink bottle and you would squeeze the back of the pen to suck the ink into it from the bottle. Derrick simply had to have one of these pens and he went about swapping his various toys for the next model somebody had on offer. It was a Thursday morning when Derrick was in a bit of a fight with Jason in class. Jason was the school bully and Derrick had had enough of his attentions trying to hide his pen set. Derrick and Jason were removed from class and sent to Miss Woodie's office where Derrick was kept behind and told to finish his work sitting up to the back of the school piano outside reception. It was morning break so Derrick closed his books, put the lid back on his ink pot and parcelled all his pens and bits in a pencil case leaving the whole lot on the piano. Derrick was walking from the toilets where there was a water fountain outside for the children who did not bring their own drink into school to have a drink. As Derrick bent over to take a drink from this fountain he could hear Miss Woodie and he knew it was Miss Woodie as she walked in a very deliberate way clonking her shoes as she scuttled around the school. DERRICK she exclaimed as she got toward him. It turned out

Jason as a bit of a get you back had tipped all Derricks ink over the school piano and Miss Woodie thought it was Derrick. Derrick tried to be polite *"I put the lid back on the pot and screwed it on tightly, honest Miss."* Then came from Miss Woodie the poke and it was a really hard nasty poke that hurt. Derrick lost it and started telling Miss Woodie in as many expletives as he knew exactly what he thought of her and her school. Derrick was excluded from school instantly and his mother was called in to collect him. Now Derrick as he saw the world had many different things to be angry about.

There were some people who simply had a way with Derrick, some people who he respected and these were people who did not try and enforce their ideas and opinions on him. For example there was a social worker Derrick really did not like and it was all down to the way she spoke to him. She would say things like *"I bet you love football."* and Derrick would take exception to this form of communication trying to as he saw things put ideas into his head. *"No I can't stand the game now go away and leave me alone."* Now the social worker was trying to be friendly just making conversation but Derrick saw somebody trying to influence him and tell him how to think and the only person who could get away with talk like that was his mother. The school refused to have Derrick back and the social workers suggested to his mother a special boarding school for children with behavioural difficulties in Gloucester. Talk about out of the frying pan into the fire as now Derrick was as good as locked up with 60 other children some of whom were far more trouble than Derrick only now they fed off each other in what was to all intense borstal. Now Derrick was a pretty small fish in this new pond mixed up with petty criminals and arsonists. Now this place was a really nasty place where you had to be really careful about who you made eye contact with especially the school head who was deputy head when Derrick started and kept under control by the prior head. 'The only rights you have here are to eat and breathe.'

really was the school motto. Talk about a recipe for abusing children but the name of the game was to keep out of grade 5 the punishment grade. So they were the rules don't make eye contact with any other students who were bigger than you. Don't be seen to be causing a fuss or looking certain members of staff in the eye especially The school head. If you accidentally made eye contact with the wrong person make sure you look away pretty quick.

This school was described as a special school that catered for children with 'emotional needs.' Derrick soon learnt as others have written on the Internet it would be better described as a 'paedophiles wet dream.' Today Derrick thinks there is a paedophile on every street corner. Even the terminology 'Maladjusted Children' used by the head was flawed a child is not maladjusted they are just reacting to the people, teachings and things happening around them. If you went into this place with a problem measuring 5 on a scale of 1 to 10 you stood a good chance of coming out with a problem measuring 10. Derrick ran away 3 months before his 16th birthday just before his exams because of what Mr Hastings was trying to do to him.

Derrick felt betrayed as the head told the children the school motto he made up as soon as they started in the place. *"The only rights you have here are to eat and breathe."* It really was the school motto. The guy was a nasty piece of work who enjoyed playing the big guy to children and would take delight in frightening them. Most of the staff were frightened of this man as well and he loved it. All the children understood as soon as the odd snorting noises he made started it was time to get out of the way as they were normally followed by a fist. This guy enjoyed dishing out punishments to the children and trying to put the fear of god in others by doing it in front of the class. By the time Derrick had been in this place for a couple of years he understood all the rules but the most important

were to be careful which staff you look in the eye and not to look other students in the eye. The best option was to look at the floor and not to speak to anybody unless you had to or unless they were a friend you had sussed out. All the children had problems and ideas of how to get even with the world, their parents and just fed off each others hatred of everything. That was by far the least of Derricks problems as he was to learn by the time he reached 13 or 14 years old. The communal showers were a peep show for some of the house masters who would pick fault with children about their bodies in front of other children. There were a couple who would get the floor mop out and try to wash the children like they were animals. Some of the bigger children picked up on this and one day one of them shouted out so the whole lot could hear *"Hey he has got a hard on"* as he pointed towards Derrick. It was a dare or more to the point if others were looking at Derrick and having a laugh at him they were not looking at anybody else. The whole teaching in this place was to put others down and to look for faults in them. A number of the staff were now holding out their little finger and jeering at Derrick when they saw him and some of the older children picked up on this as well. All of a sudden this house master who was only friendly with the hard nut kids was offering Derrick cigarettes, by the time Derrick was 14 the only thing he had to look forward to was the next cigarette and by now he was smoking between 5 and 10 cigarettes a day. A week's pocket money would buy you 1 packet of cigarettes and you were lucky if somebody else did not steal them. Derrick would do anything for a packet of cigarettes, well almost anything. Back in the early 80's you could find dog ends on most street corners and Derrick would collect them up so he could squeeze out the little bit of unsmoked tobacco and using rolling paper make a full cigarette. If he could dry it out Derrick would stick it in a roll up and smoke it in an effort to get that tobacco high. Derrick felt Mr Hastings was a friend and in the beginning he as good as clung onto him for all it was worth. Derrick was

one of the smaller children in this place and so long as he did not try to pick a fight with or answer back to some of the hard nuts he got by. Out of about 60 children who were there Derrick was only friends with about 3 or 4 of them.

Derrick felt good to have an adult friend someone he could confide in who would treat him like one of the lads and give him a bit of a hug every now and again. Derrick was looking for that Ernie character a father figure or just somebody he could trust. He had no idea where things were going as this was a man he should have been able to respect and trust. He would let Derrick out on his own when he would take the children into town on a Saturday. It was just an excuse to go about stealing cigarettes from various shops. Back in those days CCTV did not really exist so as long as you could make a run for it when you were caught nobody could do anything about it. It was out of place as all the children were graded owing to their behaviour from 1 for the creeps to 5 the punishment grade. The punishment grade was just that as you would have to spend your weekends digging these infernal holes in the ground. Derrick had it sussed as the staff did a pocket search when you got back to school so he would wedge his cigarettes under the chassis of the van and collect them in the dead of night. Most children had a hidden stash of cigarettes in the woods so you had to be very careful nobody saw where yours were. The only thing it really taught the children was to look after themselves, steal and trust very few people. Today they talk about positive encouragement but really Derrick does not have a clue how to implement it with his own children as all he does is look for problems so he can confront them. Derrick rarely made it above grade 3 and had no idea what this house master wanted in return until a few times during the night he would wake Derrick up for a midnight smoke in his room. Derrick found himself sitting on Mr Hasting's bed as he got closer and was talking about sex, it was like Derrick was one of the lads. It was good to be teachers pet and get the free

cigarettes and it was good to have the odd hug but very soon he Mr Hastings had his hand down Derricks pyjamas. Derrick knew it was wrong but as he always got a couple of cigarettes out of it he tolerated it. All of a sudden Derrick started going up the grading system but he had no idea why.

In Derricks head he knew it was wrong but there was nobody in the place he could talk to about it and Mr Hastings would repeat he was not gay because he was married with a daughter. Derrick felt he could not phone home and tell mum asking for help as the school head had told him that he had been sent there by the state and there was nothing his parents could do about it. In Derricks head he felt his mum was a really small person in the big picture and to most of the children the staff in this place were like X SAS. Many of the students thought some of the house masters were X SAS and they played on it. Derrick met X army people later in his life and found them to be nothing like these people. Derrick felt trapped after the first time Mr Hastings had his hands down Derricks pants. How could he say no if he had not said anything the first time. Derrick was frightened of what would happen if all of a sudden Mr Hastings was not his friend as he was friendly with the hard nut kids in the school so it was Derrick thought better to have him as a friend. Of all the staff in the place there were only 2 staff Derrick ever really trusted Mr Griffiths and Mr Crompton. Not before he left Mr Crompton who was one of the few people in Derricks childhood he ever really looked up to managed to leave Derrick with the 10 commandments. Mr Griffiths was one of those few teachers who really had a way with children. The guy was a small man thought of as a bit of a wimp but nobody ever played up for him because of all the staff there he was one of the most genuine people you might have the pleasure to meet. In an all boys boarding school the last thing you want to be is gay so there was no way Derrick could tell any of his friends what was going on. In Derricks head he just thought nobody in authority would ever believe

him let alone want to help. He felt he might be if he spoke up left alone with Mr Hastings with him knowing Derrick had snitched on him. He felt he would be at the hands of the school thugs encouraged by this Mr Hastings if he said anything. As Derrick thought of Mr Griffiths as a bit of a wimp and by this time he was the only member of staff who had Derricks trust he felt he could not go to him for help. Today being gay is acceptable and if that's your way that's your choice but in this place you did not want to be gay or thought of as gay. Derrick tolerated what Mr Hastings was doing because he got a few cigarettes out of it. He convinced himself it was really not that bad as Mr Hasting told him everybody did it. Derrick knew it was wrong and he did not want to be gay so in his head he would repeat one man one woman. Eventually Mr Hasting took things a stage further as he got Derrick into his bed and masturbated over him. It was not until Mr Hastings told Derrick, "I'm not gay because I'm married with a daughter it suddenly dawned on Derrick how bad things were getting and where they might go. Derrick found himself in the only dormitory in the building that had only 2 beds. It was great to be in this dormitory as it gave Derrick more privacy. After a while Mr Hastings would get Derrick out of bed for the midnight smoke every time he was on night watch. Derrick felt if he told anybody he would have to explain why he had not said anything the first time? Derrick felt that this made it his idea and therefore his fault. Derricks head started spinning with what if scenarios. Was it your idea? Had you led him on? Are you gay? Has he got Aids? What will other people think if they ever find out especially as it happened more than once? Derrick decided it had to be his fault no normal child would allow this to happen. He could put up with it as he always got a few cigarettes out of it but there was no way he was going to let Mr Hasting stick his thing up his behind and that Derrick knew was the way things were going as Mr Hastings tried harder and things began to hurt.

He would get closer and closer to doing it each time and about now in the news were stories of aids reported as a gay disease and a death sentence apparently caught from people making out with African monkeys. How could Derrick say no after he had allowed it to go on for so long? In his head Derrick had no choice but to run away which at age 15 is what he did missing all his childhood examinations. He felt he could not tell anyone who would believe him,? Derrick was taught he was a teenage delinquent. He was ashamed of what he felt he had allowed to happen and was just glad to be out of the place so he felt he just had to keep quiet. Derrick was taught he had no rights. He was told his parents could not help him. Derrick was really confused was he gay? Derricks childhood left him with a total distrust of anything in the schooling system, most adult men not to mention the social workers who sent him there. In Derricks head any man who smiles too much or praises a child for the little things any normal man might is up to no good.

Today you would probably get caught on CCTV and have a mugshot in front of a police officer should you go stealing from a shop today but back in 1985 when Derrick was in his early teens things were different. He would get caught maybe 1 in 5 times and in his head he used this formula to judge what danger he was in at the hands of Mr Hasting. Derrick would reason 1 in 10 Gay people had AIDS or the lesser HIV which so far as he was concerned was the same thing. He reasoned there was a good 50% chance of his catching AIDS from Mr Hasting if he had it especially as he reasoned he was not the only child. AIDS was a painful death sentence that Derrick likened to starving children in Ethiopia. He reasoned even if he was the only child he knew of there must be another 5 he did not know of. As Derrick worked things out in his head with his mind in overload he became convinced there was a 50% chance of this house master having the disease. If he let him go all the way Derrick would more than surely catch it. And

they don't tell you how much it hurts when you read about these things in the news either. The bottom line is that Derrick was simply shit scared and felt he would never be able to tell anybody. He reasoned after watching the news that HIV had a 3 month life before you saw symptoms and as Mr Hastings did not get as far as he might 6 months after Derrick ran away he felt he was definitely in the clear. Derrick boxed the whole experience away in his head he was going to do better than that for any children he ever had.

Memories come back from nowhere.

Life was going great when Derrick had children of his own and to his relief there were just so few issues. That was until some teacher in a new school who would not make a phone call for Daniel his eldest child used the word abuse. It really was like a firework in Derricks head. All of a sudden and quiet out of the blue it was like all his childhood had all happened just the day before. He could all of a sudden remember names of other students from his time in the boarding school and various conversations.

Derrick knew he needed help but Laura his wife the only other person who knew everything about his time in care was running for the hills. Derrick feels he has failed as a parent because he did not praise his own children for the little things most parents might as he had been conditioned to feel it as wrong always asking himself when he saw others doing it 'what are they really after.' Derrick found it hard to cuddle his own children and behaved like a Victorian, he would shake his children by the hand and he would scruff their hair, later he after the counselling could pick them up and give them a hug but beforehand when they were younger it just felt so wrong. In Derricks head only somebody who was up to no good would pick a child up and give them a hug. He would be affectionate with his children when they were in the family home but in the outside world he just could not be the father he wanted to be as he was judging everybody including himself by his own experiences. That is by Derricks experience the real damage of child abuse.

After Derrick in his childhood realised he was never going to be sent back to Berrow Wood he decided he was going to tell his story but as the place was closed down a couple of years after Derrick ran away he just bottled the experience away. 6 of the 13 staff were jailed for offences against children and

even if it was not sexual abuse Derrick felt justified trying to forget about things. They described it as systematic emotional and physical abuse. Derrick felt it was OK to forget about it as no other children would be suffering. At 15 Derrick was really lucky as he walked straight into a job on the local farm after telling them he was 16. As it was cash in hand work no checks were ever done. When Derrick turned 16 it was all change as he could go after his dream to be like dad or Ernie. Derrick walked straight into a job doing similar things he remembered dad as doing, he lied about his qualifications and nobody ever checked so that was his first real break. When the place was closed down owing to the death of the owner Derrick walked into his current job and has been there ever since. He found the Ernie character he had spent most of his life looking for in the owners of these businesses and really got his head down to make something of it. There was an old boy Rolland who really spent some quality time with Derrick teaching him the ropes in the first job. Derrick felt this guy and the owner of the business were great; they would spend their time on him wanting nothing in return. All of a sudden Derrick had learnt not only respect but respect from a stranger who wanted nothing for it.

He was 16 doing a lot of the work on his own and was quiet often left in charge. They respected him and he respected them. It was great and Derrick thought he would be there for all time. He knew a quality job was hard to find but felt he had found it with these people until the owner died. Derrick had another break as other people had learnt about him and he walked straight into another job on the strength of a 5 minute interview and he is still there now nearly 30 years later. This old boy really had employed Derrick over the phone.

After Derrick had been in his second job for about 5 years he was offered another job in another company and felt it was the best thing to do as they were keen for him to work with

them. This job came with a vehicle and more money. Derrick was there for 3 months when the boss Andrew called him into the office for his appraisal after spending a day out with him. Derrick felt as the day went well as he had got all his work done without any problems but the first thing Andrew said to Derrick whilst smiling was *"I was not happy with what I saw today as you did not make enough eye contact with the customers."* It came as a shock as Derrick was not expecting it. He was rather expecting well done, you got everything done but he went on about how Derrick did not speak enough to the customers and show them why he had done the things he had done. In Derricks head he thought you employ me to do a job not talk to people and sell why I am doing it. Why the hell is he smiling at the same time? It really threw Derrick and gave him bad vibes. Andrew spent about 20 minutes trying to teach Derrick some life skills but all Derrick saw was somebody teaching him to make himself out to be something he was not. Derrick missed all the positive things he said about him and his work as Derrick finds it hard to take a complement and not assume the person giving it to you is up to no good. He looks for the worst in everything he sees and he just can't help it. Derrick finds it hard to give a complement to others as he associates it with his time in care and this house master. The truth be known the criticism Andrew gave Derrick left him with a really good lesson, to ask all his customers as he leaves if they are happy and if there is anything else they require. To genuinely show an interest probably one of the best lessons in business anybody has ever taught him. At about 21 Derrick did not understand and only saw that he had got everything done and the guy was still complaining. Andrew went on about how you can't use the word fault in an invoice and in Derricks head this felt so wrong. He handed in his notice the following day but Andrew refused to accept it and told Derrick to think about it over the weekend.

Derrick left the following weekend and went back to his prior

job as it left him in a workshop away from the general public but now he was better conditioned to deal with talking to customers and as he saw it selling himself. Today Derrick deals with the general public all day every day and whilst he still does not make enough eye contact he is left alone to do his job. There is no selling anything and Derrick feels he can be honest with the people he serves. There is still the odd mistake and he still gets on the wrong side of the odd customer but as long as he is honest with the people he serves and does his best to put things right when there is a mistake the wheels keep turning. Derrick is now in a company who when a customer works out you have got it wrong it is OK to tell them the truth and put things right rather than to try and hide it.

When Derrick was 16 he was genuinely frightened of girls and really did not have a clue, do you touch them. when do you touch them, how do you talk to them etc... He could talk to his male friends about cars, work and could hold a long conversation about life, the world and everything but girls it was just a mental block. This today Derrick feels was caused by his spending 3 of his most formative years in a single sex community in boarding school. Derrick was driving cars quiet regularly by the time he was 16 fortunately he was never caught by the police and he did not crash any of them with the exception of the odd ditch or tree. At 17 Derrick found out about motorbikes and wrapped one of them around a car nearly killing himself. He spent nearly a month in hospital and they read Kate his mum the last act as they did not expect him to make it. The people at work were great and brought Derrick a TV into hospital as this was before the days the hospitals saw TV's as a service they could charge for. They paid him for all the time he had off. Derrick was surprised by this as he rather expected to be sacked but as he later learnt this really was company policy 'Look after your staff'. While Derrick was in hospital his mum came in to see him and she told him about

his best friend Graham the guy who taught Derrick to drive, he had died apparently of a heart attack. Graham was Derricks only real friend at the time the only person who he had confided in about his time in care. To say Graham was like a big brother really is an understatement, even today it brings a tear to Derricks eye to think about his passing. Graham was about 4 years older than Derrick and whilst some people even to the point they suggested it to Kate thought he was up to no good. As people go he was the best friend Derrick ever had as a child.

By the time Derrick was 20 he was really still not sure being this house master was the only sexual experience he had ever had, was he gay? Derrick did not want to even contemplate the idea but had no experience dating girls or even talking to them. Where do you meet them? He did not drink, did not like nightclubs or going out. Every time Derrick went out all he could see were people probably having a good time but in Derricks head anybody having a good time in one of these establishments was up to no good. Everywhere he saw people having fun or in a party he saw this house master with his leading statements picking fun at children so just kept away from them. Derrick would spend all his time playing with the various old bangers he put together and scraped through their MOT. By this time Derrick had a new friend Daniel who he would spend his time doing up cars with. He was such a good friend Derrick even named his first son in memory of him. Daniel dabbled in drugs and whilst Derrick would smoke anything there was no way he would touch a needle. Daniel had issues at home with his parents and was basically put into rehab for his drug problem. 6 months he was off drugs just doing up the odd car and driving round till all hours with Derrick. He got himself a night job driving HGV vehicles after he passed his test and really looked like he was going to make it in life. It was fun as sometimes he would take Derrick out in his truck and allow him to drive it round in the car parks of the

various motorway service stations he was delivering goods to. The first time Derrick drove his truck Daniel did not explain to him that the brakes take about a second to engage so Derrick ended up locking all the wheels on this truck and all the stock in the back went flying. Daniel was stressed about something and was staying in a London flat one weekend. He was found dead in the bath the following morning after taking drugs. Some people think of drug addicts as thugs who steal to fund their habit but Derrick knows better as Daniel really was the kind of person who would help somebody in need without wanting anything in return. Because he had been off the drugs so long he basically gave himself an overdose taking the same dose he had been used to. So there Derrick was 21 no friends apart from people at work and the odd neighbour, He understood he needed some life skills that were really missing. He did not think life skills but just wanted some guidance to do the right thing and found himself joining in with the God squad as his mother called it. These people were great and most of them so genuine. Derrick remembered back to his time in care and Mr Crompton who really was a good teacher and sold God quiet hard. He began to forget about his childhood and became attracted to people who flew the cross.

So there Derrick was 21 and decided he was going to do the right thing. He had watched 2 of his best friends die from as he remembered it drug related activities. In his head he decided if everything he did could fall within the 10 commandments he would not go too far wrong. It was great because he felt he could still swear and whilst it may have said keep the Sabbath holy it did not to Derricks understanding say you had to attend church. Kate by this time had got remarried and Geoff, Derricks step father was quiet strict. Derrick had tried to pick a fight With him a few times and came off second best but he taught Derrick respect something he was seriously lacking as a child. He was not an affectionate step father but Derrick was 15 when he came on the scene and a bit of a thug so that was

never going to happen. He did look out for Derrick and tried to involve him in family activities and boy did Derrick test him before he got Derricks trust. Out of the 150 or so people Derrick had spent time with or knew as a child especially in care he knew at least 3 or 4 who he thought of as kiddie fiddlers. Derrick as a result went through life trusting very few people until he had the chance to suss them out. He would find himself leading people this way and that just to gauge their reaction to different ideas. In Derricks head he felt 1 in 50 men were looking to do things with children the same as this house master had done to him. Derrick in his head treated everybody especially men who worked with children with the greatest suspicion always looking for anything out of place just a smile out of place was enough. As he later found out teachers generally the good ones who take time love to smile at the children they teach. The problem for Derrick is that he does not see a teacher being nice or going the extra mile he just sees danger. Derrick found it really hard to accept that somebody could hug a child that was not their own if they did he thought they were up to no good. It was different if Derrick knew the person and had sussed them out or if they were a woman but if they were a man and if he did not know them it rang all the alarm bells.

As Derrick had watched Kate his mum struggle to make ends meet he decided the most important thing in life was to buy a house. If he owned a house he would have the ability to rent a room and this could pay for things. He spent every day looking for things that reminded him about his childhood and the people there just so he could keep away from them. This left him with very few friends but the friends he does have are well trusted and tested friends who he really would do anything for. Derrick found himself looking at children who seemed uncomfortable or miserable or even worse jumpy and confrontational and would assume they were the one in 50 he reasoned as being abused in a similar way to how he was.

There is only one thing worse than child abuse and that is being falsely accused of it so Derrick always kept his ideas to himself as he knew a child can be miserable and jumpy for a number of reasons. Few people understand the time these thought processes take up because all the time they are going round in your head you are not doing the normal things others do in making connections with other people. This manifests itself in Derricks case of never remembering peoples especially children's names. In Derricks head he feels it wrong to know a child's Christian name as that is where the abuse started when he was a child. That is Mr Hasting being friendly and calling Derrick by his Christian name. You have to understand nobody ever called anyone by their Christian name in Berrow Wood.

Eventually Derrick quiet a bit late went on the dating scene having no end of blind dates. He felt as if he could suss out if a woman was good or not normally within 90 seconds and he met some very nice girls but as he had few good life experiences he had little to offer and most dates were short lived. Derrick met a number of girls just after one thing which was odd to him as he always thought it was men looking for that. He met Laura on one of these dates and just could not stop talking from the car she drove to life. political issues and motor cycles. When Laura told him she had also had a motorcycle accident in which she smashed her knee and was apparently run over by another car Derrick became very attracted to her. Laura had so many God squad friends and was child friendly because she was leading the local guide group. To Derrick it was like she was the missing link and they seemed to like the same music and films etc... After about 2 or 3 months of dating the conversation got more serious and Derrick proposed. well it was like a pre proposal game both he and Laura were playing. In his head Derrick really thought he

had done it and got over his childhood experiences and really fell in love with Laura. She was as he remembers attractive, interested and would as he saw it make a good mother. Derrick told Laura all about his childhood well before they got married as it seemed the right thing to do. Laura was insistent they got married about 6 months later on her birthday in July. It was great she had a little sister, her mother was keen and everything was looking like it should. Laura's mother decided it was to be done the traditional way and she paid for the wedding, full church wedding with horse drawn carriage etc... Laura wanted to try for a family straight away but Derrick was having none of it. There was no way he was going to bring a child into the world until he was sure things were going to work out. About a year later he was sure and Laura fell pregnant very quickly. Then the problems started as now Laura had this bump, eventually a baby and could use him as a tool to get out of doing anything. Derrick did not realise she was using the child in this way until he spoke to other parents years later.

Derrick felt he had to look after his wife and family so he found himself doing more things round the house to the point Laura became a total couch potato. The more he did the less she did and Derrick kind of accepted it as the way things go when women have children. After Laura who was a stay at home mum had a child she never made dinner for Derrick after work and never cleaned the house. Derrick put his foot down about the automatic car Laura insisted on driving owing to her bad knee that she had him believe she had been waiting over 7 years for an operation to put right. She managed the manual car Derrick purchased after he told her it's that or nothing.

When Daniel was very young he was really slow at walking and talking so Derrick developed a system he knew as the smile method. The idea was the child could do anything so long as the people around him were not scowling. It was simple as soon as there was a scowl he knew he was to stop

what he was doing. This developed as he got older and started talking but all the time he was looking for the facial cues or the finger pointing or tone of voice from his father. In reflection it would be better called the scowl method. If Derrick looked like an elephant that had swallowed a wasp Daniel would understand he was in trouble. If Derrick or just about anybody else verbally told him off for doing something wrong he simply would not understand so as he grew up he was looking for the facial expressions or body language of others all the time and just as most children do developed his behaviour around what he saw. Derrick deliberately turned everything into a laugh and a joke as it meant he was smiling most of the time. He would use words like 'beating' 'brat' 'broken nose' and 'thug' in fun as he went about teaching his children about the potential dangers in the world.

Derrick really enjoyed playing with his children having a laugh and joke with them so long as it was behind closed doors and not in the street. Laura would often call him childish for playing with the children but Derrick did not care. These were his children and he was going to play with them whether she liked it or not. This was the childhood banter he missed out on so he was making up for lost time. The more time Derrick spent with the children the wider the cracks in his relationship with Laura got but his first priority then and his first priority today is his children period. He feels he brought them into the world and he unlike his own father was going to be there for them no matter what.

Derrick probably overstepped the mark when Laura had a dig as he was playing with the children and started to refer to her as 'Dragon Lady.' Whilst it was not Derricks idea his father in law talked him into allowing him to take the children to church and Derrick had no objections in fact as he looked over his life he thought it a good idea. Later when everything fell apart Derrick found himself spending a year at this church

looking for some guidance.

After Derrick and Laura got married Derrick was in not that well paid but a good job with really nice people who gave him experience and knew how to treat others. He fluked it and with the help of other family members managed to purchase a repossessed and squatted run down x council house. Derrick had borrowed more than he should but it was far cheaper than renting. He spent the next few years doing the house up and built a large 2 story extension all on his own. It really was DIY building from a book. Every night after work he would spend 3 or 4 hours in the rain under a tarpaulin sheet laying bricks. It was pretty messy brickwork but the building inspector told him it was better than some he had passed from proper brick layers. The steel beams were a giggle as Derrick got a number of people in from work to help lift them into place. Derrick likes to think of himself as strong but whilst there were about 4 people lifting this beam into place one guy lifted one end up and above his head as good as on his own. Derrick fitted a new kitchen and his boss donated his old gas boiler about the only thing Derrick paid somebody else to check after he fitted it. It was great as he had a room with en suit shower and toilet that he rented out for a while using the money to catch up with the mortgage.

Daniel had a very hard birth going over about 2 days followed by a caesarean. He had problems growing and by the time he started school he already had a statement which gave the school extra money as he was likely to be time consuming. Everything went to plan. things were tight but Derrick and his family wanted for little. Laura a couple of years down the line became pregnant again and had another child. This child was born by caesarean straight away with no labour. Everything was ticking over for the next few years. 2 cheap holidays a year going out to see various family just like it was supposed to be.

Derrick really by now had put all his childhood stuff away and rarely fell out with anybody. He did not see all the problems with other people he had seen in the past. He never forgot and was normally on the lookout for a sting but it never came. That was until his 15 year old 'little' sister in law came round as she had many times before and told him how her mother had been interrogating her about having an affair with him. She thought it was funny, well she might as she swings the other way. Derrick always thought she had a leaning the other way but was livid that her mother thought he could not only be cheating on his wife but with her sister a girl who was under-age and he lost the plot for a while.

Little sister as Derrick likes to think of her was feeling pushed out by her new stepfather and he saw it as the right and correct thing to do to play brother to her in the same way Graham had to him years earlier. All Derrick had done was to put his arm round her shoulder and take her for a walk to listen to her problems. He tried to do his part as she was just as important to Derrick as his childhood friend Graham, she was to Derrick his little sister and he not only wanted to but had to look out for her. Sometime earlier she had a party in which one of her friend's cars had the windscreen smashed after it got gate crashed by some thugs. This friend had just been bought this car for her 17th birthday. This poor girl was bricking it because of what mum and dad would do if they ever found out. Derrick took a day off work went to a scrap yard, got a replacement windscreen and replaced it for her as a favour to his little sister. That as Derrick understood things was his place. Back to the point, it turned out little sisters soon to be step father had seen Derrick put his arm round her and put it to her mum that he was up to no good. This guy had just got his foot in the door and was trying to score some points. Derrick decided he was not going to leave this to go unanswered as the guy had also had a dig about Derricks stepfather suggesting some work he had done or had arranged to have

done on mother in laws house was a lot cheaper than he had charged her. Derrick wrote both his mother in law and her new husband a separate letter. It was exactly the same letter in which he defended his stepfather and expressly stated 'I am not having sexual relations with your younger daughter.' He put it to them that only an arsehole would suggest such a thing as she was feeling left out and pushed to one side. Derrick never had a another problem with them again and had the stepfather on the run when they all sat down to talk about things.

This guy had brought his car to Derricks house one evening on the back of an AA truck as the AA could not get it going. Derrick spent all weekend stripping down the car to replace a heater matrix and serviced it to get it running. He was quiet put out when the stepfather spent the next few weeks having a dig to other family members about how Derrick bodged it up as the automatic boot release did not fire correctly. Derrick offered to sort the car out as a favour. He knew Derrick was no mechanic and at no time was Derrick told about this fault. The car came on the back of an AA truck because they could not get it started. Derrick was really annoyed as he had done as he saw things his bit to welcome this man into the family. Derrick kind of imagined one day he would get his own back after he showed him to be a trouble maker to everybody. It was a close thing taking up smoking again but Derrick had been off the weed for about 2 years by now as he thought as soon as he and Laura started talking about a family it was the right thing to do.

As people went Derrick found the head of his son's junior school really child friendly. It was a small school and although Derrick did not like to go into the school he managed the various school meetings and children's plays in which his younger son eventually played a lead role. There was simply never a problem there. All the staff as he remembers it were

women and nobody ever rang any alarm bells for him.

By this time Derrick had all the family finances in order no credit cards as he really does view them as the modern day devils tool. He had a good credit rating and was a couple of years ahead of the mortgage. Derrick felt really secure but in the post he noticed a number of letters addressed to Laura from Barclay's bank, this was odd as they had no accounts there. Laura told him they were junk mail but the regularity of them was of a concern. One day Derrick found one of these letters lying around so he opened it to find Laura had run up a credit card bill of nearly 2 grand. She was making the minimum payment and the debt was getting bigger. The Devil had as Derrick saw things got a hold of his wife but he had little idea how hard a grip he had on her. He was a bit stupid as he never questioned what she had been spending the money on. Derrick thought you were supposed to stand by your wife so as the family could also use a new car he extended the mortgage to buy a new car. This was the only new car they had ever purchased and he paid off Laura's credit card at the same time.

Like most parents Derrick wanted to give his children the best that he could and he knew the secondary school that their children were due to attend had about the worst reputation in town so about a year earlier before the school change the family had moved to the other side of town. Derrick was convinced this was the right thing to do even if Laura was not really that interested but it got the children nearer schools with better reputations. They spent about £20,000 doing it and were now living in a smaller house with a tiny garden. They had lost the income from their rented room but Derrick was convinced it was the best and correct thing to do. Laura who was a stay at home mum had to go out to work part time to fund it but this was for their children so it was worth it. The children were Derricks top priority and he rather assumed they would be

mum's top priority too. As Daniel had an education statement owing to the difficulties he had they went to a number of schools to learn about their support for special needs. Derrick who was forced by Laura to make just about all the important decisions had decided on a school in town where the children wore green uniforms. It was great as the staff seemed genuine and had the right idea but the school looked run down and at the very least in need of a paint job and new computers.

Derrick weighed this up against another school that had about the best reputation in town and their computers looked state of the art. After reading the exam results of each school Derrick decided on the latter school. Today Derrick thinks his problem was that he was brainwashed by the school heads speech and had his guard down. He spoke to the head more interested in their attitude towards problem children and asked him how many children had been excluded the prior year. Only one he was told. 2000 students, only 1 exclusion and good results in the league tables Derrick rather thought it was a no brainer. Derrick discussed problems as he knew he would be taking his child from a school where he knew everybody to a school where he knew nobody and the head told Derrick about the buddy system that was in place for children who came from outside of the area. Derrick expected Daniel to be put into one of these groups the day he started. The head told Derrick about how they had more staff in year 7 to work with feeder schools in the event of a problem. In his head it all seemed far too much like a sales pitch from a second hand car salesman because it all seemed too good to be true but as this was the school Derrick missed out on when he was a child he dismissed his vibes and decided to go with it. In the pre school meeting a member of staff came from the new school to the junior school and Derrick heard them make the statement *"Oh shit he is only level 2 we'll lose him next year"* as they first looked over Daniels school file. The attitude that went with it gave Derrick really bad vibes. It really came across as why have I bothered to come out here for this and she, the woman

who said it had a key name from Derricks own childhood that spelt danger.

She looked really annoyed about it and did not realise Derrick was standing in the room, then came the fake smile. Derricks heart sank, the family were mortgaged up to the limit and really struggling to get Daniel into this school and make ends meet. Derrick asked himself 'what mistake have I made here and why did I not listen to my vibes?' Many people have asked him since *"Why did you not say something"* but whilst he did as a young child at this time it really was not Derricks way to go looking for a fight with school staff. The truth be known he was seriously frightened of this woman. He decided not to rock the boat and to block this attitude and keep quiet. Maybe this teacher was just having a bad day but Derrick assumed it had something to do with the education statement that Daniel had just about grown out of owing to the progress he made in the prior few years. Derrick convinced himself this person was just having a bad day and that he was reading too much into it but in Derricks head he decided they did not value his child and were treating him like a number or a commodity. Derrick tried to discuss it with Laura but for some reason she had just switched off to everything and Derrick has no idea why. Every request for some support from Laura was met with *"I don't know what do you think"* or *"What ever you think best."* Derrick knows he has issues reading things into things so he just files it all away in his head. Derrick has no idea why but on the first day of school he had to take time off from work to take Daniel in. Now Derrick worked 6 days a week and Laura only worked 2 or 3,4 hour nights shifts a week but she could not take him, Derrick knew something was not quiet right but could not put a finger on it.

About a week later he works it out, Laura is chasing after her boss at work. This just like her mother did when she was a child. It was Robert this and Robert that she even asked

Derrick what he thought of Robert when he finally got to meet him. As he was so old Derrick kind of dismissed his vibes thinking no he is just trying to play dad to the new understudy. Derrick did not know what to do as he had children to consider and knew if he went looking for a problem he would find it. Derrick decides the best thing is to ignore it and hope Laura grows out of it as he thought it was the best option to hold the family together as a unit at all costs. The house soon became a tip as nothing was being done so Derrick would spend his one day a week off trying to get the cleaning done.

This left him with no time to play with his children or take them out so he kind of left Laura to do it. What Derrick did not understand until he came home early a few times was that Laura was leaving the children home alone while she went out. It was not just the 10 minute overlap between Laura going to work and Derrick getting home from work but she was collecting the children from school and leaving them home alone to make their own dinner. Derrick is very much of the attitude that children should be made to pull their weight from a young age but this really caused him annoyance that his 8 year old child was left alone to make his own dinner. By this time every conversation between Derrick and Daniel or about 9 out of 10 were in relation to a problem Derrick had been given to sort out. As he was never told where the problems originated he had no idea what was really going on. As it was always a problem he was dealing with he was normally scowling and his children very quickly like Derrick became miserable. Earlier when the family moved house Derrick had heard very good things about the local scout group, it was run by a guy who nobody Derrick ever spoke to had a bad word for. Some people told him they were a bit strict but this really fell within Derricks view of what was correct with children.

Derrick knew Laura was a poor mother and thought these people would be a good thing for their children. Derrick knew

Laura could tell stories better than Pinocchio and would often play the victim for a bit of sympathy. In the past Derrick just accepted it as 'she tells stories' lived with it and dealt with things on his own. To be quiet honest Derrick felt better about dealing with things himself rather than leaving Laura to do things. Derrick was not a control freak or anything like that but Laura was just a drip who could not make any decisions for herself. Every time Derrick tried to encourage Laura to take the lead she would reply with something like *"I don't know what do you think?"* It really was a bit of a punch line within the family. Derrick had to make a decision what was more important Laura or his son after there was one problem after another at Daniels new school. This he felt was his son and it was about what was best for him and his brother so he was not going to bury his head in the sand. Now Derrick had no choice but to face his worst fear getting involved in school stuff dealing with a teacher who he did not trust with a key trigger name from his own childhood and for whom he had the greatest fear of. Derrick was not frightened for himself but rather for his son. Derrick knew he was having irrational thoughts about this woman but no matter how hard he tried he could not shut them up. Not only that she was the woman who later refused to make a phone call for Daniel. She was the woman who Derrick heard say "Oh shit he is only level 2 we'll loose him next year" the first time she looked through Daniels school file. As Daniels behaviour got worse Derrick started giving him a hard time telling him how things would have been in his day. *"In my day I would have got a cold shower and a beating for that...."*

Derrick had purchased a new mobile phone for Daniel and had put a number of emergency numbers in it. The first bill for one month was in the region of £80 so he gave him a telling off and took the phone away from him. It turned out he had been sending a number of nuisance texts and leaving rude messages on other peoples answer phone systems. He had sent a number of text messages and made a number of phone

calls to his aunt. Derrick did not understand Daniel was feeling distanced from him and his mother as she was not talking to him and Derrick was giving him a hard time for misbehaving. All Derrick saw was his son going off the rails and the only support Derrick had came by way of Daniels scout leader, a grown man with teenage children of his own.

In his head Derrick made the mistake of blaming Laura's actions on Daniels misbehaving and was under the impression if he sorted out his child she would soon come to her senses. Today Derrick understands it was as a result of Laura's abandonment that he was making all these telephone calls and playing up in the first place. Derrick understands why he became the focus of Daniels stories as he took away Daniels only access to his aunt by now his only mother figure who he had been calling out to. If he could not get the positive attention from his parents he was going to play up at school to get it. This as to a child any attention is better than no attention and there is no better way for a child to get attention than making themselves out to be a victim.

Daniel by now has learnt he can get ahead like mum has taught him to with a bunch of lies and boy does he tell a few to staff at the new school and dad is giving him all the ideas he needs as he tells the school dad is beating him and giving him cold showers etc.... No doubt they are smiling from ear to ear as they are listening to these stories. It just rockets over the next few weeks as it's getting him the motherly attention from school staff he was missing at home. Just for the record Derrick has never hit either of his children with the exception of a smack maybe 5 times in the case of Daniel in his life. As the stories he is telling are about dad and how dad treats him the school don't repeat them to Derrick. Derrick is not really sure if it's normal childhood stuff or something else but he knows something is just not right about things. Daniel seems as happy as normal at home with dad but his new school are

telling Derrick his son is miserable and they have concerns. Derrick turned to the scout movement and the church for help as Laura was showing as little interest as possible. The more problems at school the more overtime she took. Derrick knew it was not overtime as the hours worked did not by a long way match the money coming in. Derrick does not know it but the school do the only thing they can and ask Laura if dad is getting angry and hitting his son but she does not put them straight. *"I don't know what do you think?"* about Laura's answer to every question was seemingly her reply to the idea. It was obvious when Laura opened another bank account and sent her wages to it that something was going on that she did not want her husband to know about. Derrick knows there is something at school that he is not being told but he can't really get a handle on it. Cause and effect it simply did not make sense.

Derrick politely requested the school contact Daniels scout leader as by now Derrick had been keeping him as well as other family members informed of events at school but they told him *"no somebody else will do that."* Derrick knew his son was playing the fool at school but there was nobody as he saw things disciplining him. To Derrick it seemed as if they were encouraging it by their as he saw it not confronting it. It did not make sense as staff were telling Daniel about things he had been doing wrong but all the time grinning from ear to ear. This was so alien to Derrick and no doubt Daniel too, Derrick really felt like they by having this expression when confronting Daniel about things he had been doing wrong they were encouraging it. Derrick got it into his head that staff at the school were playing mind games with his son. He did not understand they had been keeping his mother in the picture but Derrick always got a watered down version if any of what had been going on. Derrick thought it was about time to lay down some evidence after the 3rd request for the school to make this phone call went nowhere so he wrote in Daniels school diary. 'If his

inappropriate behaviour towards other students continues the school were to call his dad into school from work as Daniel had been told it will stop.' Nobody took any notice of the note rather they put what they called a help card on Daniels school diary with a note that he was to only get core homework. Talk about give him an idea now Daniel is really playing games like he was unable to do the simplest task and played up to it a treat calling himself stupid something he picked up also from his mother. By this time Derrick was getting really bad vibes from not only Laura but also most of the school staff. To him it was like an invitation to Daniel to play up and sure enough but unknown to Derrick the invitation was met with Daniel refusing to take part in various lessons. Nobody thought it appropriate to tell Derrick and lets not forget he was Daniels father especially as Daniel was now painting dad as a monster. He knew if they did not tell dad he would get away with anything as by now his mother just could not care a hoot. The detentions given as a deterrent to him for misbehaving were a joke, he looked forward to them as it put him into a small group with more 1 to 1 with the teachers where he could tell his stories. They did not as you might expect have him writing lines about how he should behave and why he was in detention. Rather than doing that they ask him what his mum will do if she finds out "*Mum will be embarrassed*" what will dad do if he finds out "*Dad will get angry.*" All of a sudden dad became the focus of his stories. My dad this, my dad that and so on.

It was about Derricks worst nightmare when the school called in the social workers after he made it clear he did not want them rather than make this phone call to Daniels scout leader. Derrick remembered the stories from his own childhood where the children were not believed when some of them reported Berrow Wood to the council as they could not prove anything. In Derricks head he had a real trust thing going on with this school about now. Derrick decided it must be in his

head as it to him all seemed so obvious. He decided it was wrong to remove Daniel from the school based on his feelings about the way they were dealing with things. He felt that he was no teacher and it was not his place to tell the school they did not have a clue where they were leading Daniel.

Derrick could not get anybody at Daniels school despite asking 5 times over nearly 2 months to contact his sons scout leader about the only person who like him understood his son. All the time Daniels behaviour and stories getting worse. Derrick decided he could not keep looking the other way after Matthew his younger 8 year old child told him like he was stupid that mum was carrying on with somebody at work. In Derricks head he decided to bring things to a conclusion as he asked Laura about the overtime and she told him she has to work unpaid overtime in lieu of a promotion and would soon be earning £30K a year. Derrick tried to convince himself she could be telling the truth and to go along with it as he found himself leaving work early so she could make an early start. Without being crude it was obvious she was sleeping with somebody else. Just to make sure Derrick left a trail and told a couple of people. Finally Derrick confronts his wife is she sleeping with the boss at work? And he could not believe the reply *"Don't be stupid he would squash me if he got on top"* as she tried to laugh it off but in his head this reply confirmed there was something in it. He asked a simple question why was she not shocked or angered by the question? If you were to hear the recording where she opened up and told everything Derrick even got the date right as she did not start sleeping with Robert until February. Even 5 years later on she is earning so little that she only has to pay £100 a month in child maintenance for 2 children. By this time Derrick was so concerned about things he was quietly and covertly recording various conversations at Daniels school something he learnt was needed after reading reports about the reform school he had attended.

Derrick viewed the social worker as a bumbling idiot who talked to him like he was thick. He seriously thought she was a trainee out on her first case but had no choice but to try and work with her as the school were blanking him at every opportunity. The problem as Derrick saw things was with Daniel in school and this social worker whilst quiet a nice lady was as he saw things just an obstacle getting in the way of sorting out a problem and making a bad situation worse. Child does something wrong on a Monday, Tuesday the social worker finds out about it. Thursday the social worker runs it past other people in the office. Friday she decides what to do so by the following Tuesday the child is confronted about something he did over a week earlier. The child has forgotten what it was all about so talking to him about it is pointless. By this time he is up to his next stunt or telling his next story. Derrick asked this social worker to make his phone call to Daniels scout leader but she refuses telling him somebody else will do it. By this time Derrick is really angry but cant show or voice it to anybody. He knew he needed help but had no idea what help he needed. Should he help Daniel or try and save the marriage. Derrick asked himself will trying to save the marriage help the children as his own childhood issues started after his parents got divorced.

The school told Derrick there has been an abuse allegation against Daniel after he made his 5th request for them to contact Daniels scout leader. The exact words that are imprinted in Derricks head are. ***“ THAT’S NOT OUR JOB SPEAK TO THE SOCIAL WORKER THERE HAS BEEN AN ABUSE ALLEGATION.”*** Derrick decided his marriage was finished as Laura just could not care a hoot about any of it.

By this time Derrick is really bricking it and he knows he probably looks guilty of something as a result. Life is falling apart and all he could see were problems. Now Daniel was about the smallest child in year 7 and a member of staff told Derrick if his behaviour did not improve he would be excluded

for the benefit of other children. It simply did not make sense as nobody ever told Derrick what Daniel had done to generate this response. Then the mental problems for Derrick really kicked in as he got himself into a mental loop whereby he became frightened of looking frightened because he knew they were looking at him trying to gauge who and what he was. Derrick was reliving memories of his own childhood all the time. He was looking ahead what would happen if they excluded his child? Derricks mind is racing and now he is having nightmares about Daniel growing up in borstal taking drugs and being sexually abused. He has worked out by now for sure it was him they were looking at. He is going without sleep waiting for Laura to come in from work to try and discuss things but she is simply not interested. Laura was earning less than £300 a month but staying out until the early hours almost every night. It was obvious when she started taking money out of the joint account and sending it to her own account calling it a housekeeping account. Derrick was making one mistake after another at work and crashed one of the company's vehicles. He would wake up in the night crying like a baby could they be accusing him of child sexual abuse against his son? He just kept asking himself the same questions Why was Laura not helping him? Why would the school not make a simple phone call? Why would the social worker not make the same phone call? Why was his mother telling him not to worry about things? Think about that tell somebody not to worry about something and what is the first thing they do? To Derrick it was like his mother did not understand as she calmly states *"Social worker should not have said that"* like it really did not matter. Why was Laura's answer to everything *"I don't know what do you think."* It was like some sort of mental torture as she was no help and was forcing Derrick to come to his own conclusions without all the information. Derrick was desperate to be in another place not thinking about things as he found himself taking alternating hot and cold showers. Eventually he was reasoning things out loud (Talking to himself) he was

grinding his teeth to the point his dentist prescribed an appliance for him to wear like false teeth during the night.

By this time Derrick has taken up smoking like 40 a day, he smells like a dirty ashtray and he knows it. He has been going without sleep. Derrick knew he was heading for a big breakdown but there was nothing he could do about it without a lot of support and the best support he had nobody would talk to. Derrick knew he had to help Daniel and he can't tell anybody why he needs help as he feels that will fuel this false child abuse allegation.

Derrick had been in and out of the doctors and as doctors go she really is a good one. She had prescribed him with some anti depressants a very mild dose. He called in to see the doctor who was good enough to see him the same day and she prescribed a higher dose of the medication he had been taking. Derrick lost it with his doctor. *"I did not feel like this before I started taking your bloody pills did I?"* and refused to take the prescription with him. Derrick has never been a pill popper but by this time he really was not thinking straight and had lost trust in everybody except himself, his mother and of all people his sons prior school head. Derrick felt this woman just had a natural way about her that said she was in it for the children before the school or her reputation.

In his head Derrick felt he had to tell as many people as possible about what was going on surely if enough people heard eventually somebody who knew what they were doing would get involved. In his head it really was by now a case of safety in numbers. He really was out of his tree by now repeating to everybody he had been falsely accused of abusing his child. He would rush through the day at work just so he could get home early and have more time to write everything out as he was taught by his mother if you write things down often the answer will come through as you read it

afterwards. There had to be a simple answer that fitted everything together but Derrick just could not see it. The same answers kept coming through the school were looking to cause problems in order to have him remove Daniel from the school as he was hard work. This was a top school who had only excluded one pupil the previous year so nothing made any sense. Derrick got it into his head that it was a simple case of the school did not want a child from the wrong side of town. He never understood it was as a result of Daniels mother being disinterested in the problems. He got it into his head this is how a top school get rid of kids they don't want but nothing told him why Laura was not worried about any of it. An affair is one thing but this was her child.

Derrick caught up with the social worker and asked her. *"We were told of an abuse allegation?"* she replied *"Nothing to worry about dad is a bit strict but done him no harm. Everything sorted out just settling in problems, Ill run it past my superiors in the office and close the case."* This confirmed to Derrick that it was him they were looking at but he was not a strict parent at all. A bit of Bible stuff and a few simple rules that were set in stone and that was about it.

Derrick booked a family holiday in an attempt to put things back on track. He had over reacted it was all just a bad dream and now it was over. He knew he was over reacting owing to his own childhood memories but now it was over and he felt he could put it all away. What a relief and he really began to relax. Laura was all over Derrick in the bedroom one night which is not her way and he thought at last it's all over. He knew she had had her eye on somebody at work but now he assumed she had made up her mind and decided he could live with it. Derrick was called into school again another problem. Daniel was found in the wrong part of school by an un named student talking about jumping off the school roof. This report Derrick thought was total fiction no mention of where Daniel should

have been. No mention of which teacher missed him in class or what class he should have been in. The whole report seemed to Derrick to be made up. When he spoke to Daniel about it later that day Daniel was genuinely shocked by the idea. *"Don't be silly, how could I get on the roof without a ladder?"* He said. Derrick knew he was having run away thoughts about how the school were trying to push his child out but he simply could not find anything to contradict the idea and he could not understand why Laura was just so by the way about the whole thing. Derrick just boxed this idea away in his head and look for evidence to back it up. This was followed by a meeting with the social worker who handed Derrick a file about Daniel a great deal of which Derrick did not know as nobody had taken the time to tell him. This woman is scowling at Derrick like he is a piece of dirt. When Derrick reads this file he realises its a month old she then tells Derrick she has run the case past CAMHS who have suggested his child is taken into care. Now CAMHS had not even met the child.

Mental problems

Derrick knew he was suffering from serious mental problems by now and so did just about everybody else who knew him. He refused to see what was plainly obvious looking back and that was that he simply did not have all the information. He made a few key assumptions, firstly both he and Laura had the same information. he continued his thought processes making the assumption everything Laura told him about things was the truth. It was not until he sussed out Laura's affair at work it came into his mind that Laura might be lying to him about more than just being faithful, maybe Laura was leading the school on but why would she do this?. This fed Derricks fear for his children as his own childhood problems started after his parents got divorced and he went off the rails after having to move house. Derrick decided he had to find out what was going on so he started writing things out on an a4 pad. If this is true and that is true then why did I get a foul look from this member of school staff then? Derrick has pages and pages of information with various things he had heard or seen that just look out of place starting with the first impression from the school *"Oh shit he is only level 2 we'll loose him next year."* Derrick started with the principle that the school wanted to push his child out as he is only level 2 and not worth a lot of money and can't find anything to contradict the idea. He got it into his head that the social worker told the school she was going to close the case and then the school made up this fictional story about the roof jump to force her not to. When Derrick spoke to his son about it he seemed genuinely shocked by the idea and his exact words were *"Don't be silly how could I get on the roof without a ladder."* He seemingly did not have a clue what it was all about and did not have to think about this response. It seemed to Derrick a genuine flinch reaction to the idea. Derrick is now suffering delusions about how the school were trying to cause his child problems to get him to remove Daniel from the school at any

cost. How much of this file is fiction or augmented he thought. My son would never say that. Are the school trying to push him out? This thought process is reinforced when a member of staff tells Derrick *"We think this might not be the correct school for your child."* Just the way it was said was enough to ring alarm bells. No suggestion of how they might help him or what other school might be more suitable. In Derricks head he thinks it's a simple case of the school don't want a child who might be hard work and they are looking for an easy life. Derrick fears what will happen to his son if he is taken into care as it wrecked Derricks childhood. He really has lost the plot by this point and he knows it as he starts writing on the kitchen wall when he runs out of paper. On the wall 8 foot by 6 foot Derrick is writing out all his thoughts trying to corroborate one thought with another looking for things that don't fit. No matter how he thinks things through as he assumed Laura had told him the truth he came to the conclusion a great deal of what the school had told him about things was simply fiction. The only possible reason for this was an attempt to encourage him to remove Daniel from the school. Nothing else could possibly fit the facts as Derrick saw them and nothing told him why Laura was so by the way about the whole thing.

Derrick was having nightmares about Daniel being taken into care and being sexually abused. In his dreams he was looking down on Daniel as if he was in care with nobody to turn to for help being sexually abused. Not only that he felt they were trying to finger him for child abuse. Anybody who was a child abuse victim would understand why about now Derrick totally lost the plot and suffered a full on nervous breakdown. His mind starts racing what about the term abused becomes abuser? what exactly are they accusing him of and why? What ever the school said to the social worker in the space of 14 days took her from closing the case to foster care but the file the social worker showed Derrick was a month old. It simply did not make any sense and Derrick kept asking

himself why had they kept this information from me? Derrick does not dislike this social worker but just thinks she is totally useless and now he is totally convinced that the school are just pushing her buttons. He came to the conclusion they won't make his phone call because they have him labelled as not guilty of abusing Daniel but were trying to use the idea to scare him into removing Daniel from the school. Derrick felt if that was the case they were playing a very dangerous game at the expense of his son as the social worker was just following as Derrick saw things the schools lead. Why else would the social worker refuse to make his phone call if she did not think Derrick was the problem?

Derrick decided if he took Daniel out of the school at this point it would be an admission of child abuse so he decided he had to face it and wipe the floor with the allegation. Derrick took Daniel to his own children's counsellor then told the school they have got it all wrong and this guy was going to take it on as a case. Derrick was convinced the school are trying any game to encourage him to remove Daniel from the school but now has no choice but to face them and play happy smiles. The advice he was given was to *"open up and tell the school everything requesting a statement review."* Derrick's own children's counsellors exact words were *"They have got the wrong idea and run with it... They think you are hiding something. Daniel is playing up because he is lonely."* This guy got to that within 20 minutes of talking to Daniel. He is a nice guy technically related to Derrick and he knew a little about Derrick's childhood but he had like most people no idea what was going on in Derrick's head. That word lonely sets another firework off in Derrick's head as that was just about how he felt both about now and when he was a child. Derrick thinks up a plan, in his head it was now a case of safety in numbers as he decided to get as many people as possible involved. Derrick thinks to himself 'I'll lay the whole lot out on a table' This also meant he would have to tell them he was a child abuse victim

something he really did not want to do and only Laura and his counsellor who of all people Derrick's employer arranged and paid for knew about. Derrick felt he could not tell them he was sexually abused as he could not face the memory let alone telling a bunch of strangers looking for a problem in a school meeting. Not only that he felt they might well run with abused becomes abuser if he did and he knew Daniel had by this time been acting out in some sort of sexualised way. This was none of their business but it was about what was best for Daniel so Derrick felt he had to go through with it as by now he had no other choice. In Derrick's head he can remember how in the school heads speech he told everybody of how the school work with feeder schools and parents in the event of a problem but for him they would not even pick up the telephone. Derrick bottled it telling them Laura was now having an affair as he convinced himself it was possible he could be wrong and if he was it would be his fault if the family were to break apart. Derrick bluffs it just before he blurts it out, *"No I'm not going to repeat that bit."* He had spent a couple of days writing it all out going over notes and recordings. He really expected Laura to be in this meeting with him but she left Derrick to do it on his own! Just think about that for a minute. He had expected to blurt out in front of a number of school staff that Laura was now having an affair with her sitting next to him for added punch as he blamed the affair on the school problems. Derrick really had it so wrong in his head and could not see the affair was the cause of the school problems and his reaction to the word abuse made it as bad as it could get for Daniel. Derrick can't quite make out the look of shock on the faces of school staff after he repeats what the social worker had said. It really threw him at the time. All of a sudden it comes into Derrick's head that maybe the school was not the enemy he saw them as but later that day he convinced himself this look of shock on a number of the faces of school staff was fake. Derrick told them *"my sons scout leader has been waiting for a phone call and has asked me to tell you he wants contact with anybody"*

concerned with my child before somebody makes a big mistake." That one line was about the best support Derrick and Daniel got from anybody.

Derrick's heart was racing like he had taken something illegal and he was breathing like he had run a marathon tripping over his words and stuttering. Mentally Derrick had run a marathon and he knew he was now on the final straight. He pulled the stunt of typing out Daniel's scout leader's phone number on 2 sheets of A4 paper and gave a copy to the school and social worker who was far too quick to say *"That's not the number we have in the office."* Bang and a few things make sense. Derrick knew the social worker had the correct number because he gave it to her and he knew school staff were now going to have words with this social worker. There was this teacher in school who gives nothing away in the form of body language, she fakes it a bit here and there but she was clearly shocked or it was a very bad act. Derrick told the lot of them either they apologise and arrange a school meeting with the scout leader in order to sort things out or he *"will take it all above their heads and make a lot of noise."* Well they never apologised as they saw that they had done nothing wrong and Derrick knew the social worker was telling lies. He rather assumed the social worker would not be hiding things from him but she clearly was. Derrick re-evaluated everything who does he know like 100% has been lying versus who does he think has been lying. By this time Derrick is convinced Laura has been sleeping with somebody else at work like he is 100% convinced. He knows the social worker had told him at least one lie but he only had suspicions about the school. All he had there was just a lot of circumstantial things that did not quite add up. Derrick has worked out in his own head his marriage is over but there was a possibility he could be wrong although the odds were getting shorter by the hour. Now it was a case of drawing the battle lines as he intended to take on the social worker, school and Laura with only the help of a church leader

and a scout leader who did not really understand what all the fuss was about. They also by now knew Derrick had a kiddie shrink of his own on the case. It meant something to Derrick as he was trying to protect his children from the state but to everybody else it was formulas, statistics and patterns. A member of school staff took Derrick to one side and put their arm round his shoulder and said *"It's a good job you spoke up when you did."* This really threw Derrick as by this time he was convinced the school were trying to push Daniel out as he was going to be hard work. As Derrick recorded the meeting he took it to the prior school head for help as by this time she was the only person he trusted next to his own mother and he felt sure she had a soft spot for Daniel. *"They have not got a clue what they are doing, they have been pushing buttons and now found one that hurts, child abuse and they are talking about taking Daniel into care. Please play this recording to his prior teacher and help me."*

The prior school arranged for his prior school teacher to attend the statement review that Derrick requested. Derrick had given this social worker an A4 sheet of paper with a phone number on it and she still had to phone him up the following night to get the number again. Even today Derrick is convinced this was a ploy to shed doubt about his writing the correct number down.

The school arrange for the statement review but first they arrange for a meeting with the school head and a number of other staff. This was done within 72 hours which Derrick really did not expect. He viewed this school head in the same way he viewed the head from his time in care. It was to Derrick like he was going up to the heads office for a beating. Derrick was a 37 year old man and shit scared of going up against his son's head master. In Derricks head he was a frightened 15 year old child going up to the head's office for a beating.

In this meeting Derrick is convinced somebody has had a stiff word with this social worker as she was bricking it and said almost nothing. During this meeting with the scout leader it is demonstrated Derrick had been on his own trying to sort things out for Daniel. Derrick told the head *"we call it bumbling and you turn it into child abuse"... "You call it attention seeking, we call it eager to please and it's one hell of a powerful tool..." "You call them social workers and we call them the plague."* Really that in Derricks head is exactly how he views social workers. Derrick then played his trump card and asked the head what the statement *"Oh shit he is only level 2 we'll loose him next year"* meant said by a member of his staff who looked like a child having a tantrum and throwing toys the first time they read Daniels school file. Derrick put it to the head after going on for a while about the church and church leaders that Daniel never stood a chance in his school. Now Derrick had faced any abuse allegation against him and showed it a load of rubbish but had inadvertently shown Laura for what she is. This was because he made it clear without knowing it that she had not told him why the school had concerns. It had little to do with the stories Daniel had been telling, it was something far more sinister he did seemingly for a dare from an older student after he was apparently offered money. An older student who should have been nowhere near him. If Derrick had known he would have understood why the school called in the social workers. He might have even supported them. He would have had something to say about the situation getting so far out of hand that Daniel thought he could get away with flashing to another student. The sad part is that Derrick knows full well why Laura did not tell him. Derrick thought to himself if they don't want my child I will have to take him out of the school as he offered to the school head to remove him to the school down the road with the green uniforms. The scout leader had it sussed as he told the head *"he is way way less stupid than he thinks he is... The child feeds off attention and likes to shock people."* He gave an example of the first time he

met Daniel and he asked for a drink as to use Daniels words he had not had a drink for 3 days. The scout leader explained how with a quick conversation he worked out that Daniel was a very unique individual who clearly had not been mistreated. Derrick was supposed to think he was talking about Daniel when he said *"He is way way less stupid than he thinks he is"* but really he was talking to the head of the school about Derrick. It's all change now as the school head reels off a speech about how good his school is and how they have to call in social workers when they have concerns. As Derrick puts things together he comes to the conclusion it was actually in the schools interest for Daniel to have a problem as they could pass it all off to a social worker and get on with something else. This reinforces his idea that the roof jump incident was just a story given to the social worker to stop her from closing her case. Not my job if I can find a reason to pass it off to somebody else. Derrick has learnt anything that sounds like a speech is normally worthless so takes it all with a pinch of salt. It's not his way but Derrick so really wanted to smack this man in the head for everything that had gone wrong in his life. He knew he had misplaced anger but it was all focused on this man who as people go is not a bad school head even if he was far to smiley about things. The head assures Derrick it was in Daniels interest not to change schools and Daniel after this never missed a day of school with the exception of doctors appointments.

Derrick felt like the school head was not taking his complaint seriously enough as he tried to play things down a few notches. Later after Derrick wrote to the head suggesting he write an apology the head wrote back stating he is 'unsure what he would be apologising for.' It might have been a bit unfair of Derrick to do this as by now the school really had jumped to try and sort things out but Derrick saw red and decided he was going to write about his experiences. This was not the right place or time to do anything about it as he was by

now on his own with 2 pre teen children who needed their dad to be there for them. In Derricks head he can't make out if this guy is genuine or a good salesman but he had to listen to somebody at some point and why not this guy as he was although Derrick did not trust him well qualified. Derrick knew he simply had to calm down as emotionally he really was up in a tree. All he wanted was *"Sorry we despite 5 clear and polite requests refused to make a phone call for your son. Sorry when in reply to your 5th request you were met with a false child abuse allegation."* but the school were never going to apologise all the time this guy was head. He knew as well as the social workers an apology would be published and that would not be good publicity.

Derrick realised in this school meeting what he had done as now he had wrecked any chance of saving his marriage and he found himself in hospital. For all her faults as he saw them Derrick even after 15 years and no support really did love Laura. Derrick had a computer and the Internet in hospital. There was somebody in the corridor outside the room he was in and he was convinced they were watching what was going on while he was surfing the Internet. Derrick found a picture of Berrow Wood the establishment he attended in Gloucester and all the memories came flooding back. It was like being awash with water as the hair on his back stood up in a similar way to how people sometimes say their grave has been walked over. He always remembered what went on there but now in his head he was like a frightened 15 year old child and all the emotions all came out in his head, the fear. shame and disgust of one of the house masters. The head and his fist to a child causing a fuss. Derrick was pumped up on pills and not thinking straight so when mum came in he spent about 2 hours and just blurted the whole lot out like a child asking for help. Whilst Kate knew it was not a very nice place hence she never sent Derrick back she had little idea what went on there. She had no idea of the fear Derrick experienced as she told him it

could have been worse as penetration did not take place and asked him why he did not tell her. Derrick explained the establishment seemed to him as a child so much bigger than her and as a child he was just so glad to be outside of it. Up until this time apart from Graham, Derrick's childhood friend Laura was the only person aside from his shrink who knew anything about it. Derrick felt so guilty running that on his mother as it was like he was blaming her for something she could do nothing about as she never knew. He really never wanted his mother to know anything about it.

Derrick felt you were supposed to stand by your wife but how could he stand by a woman who allowed this to happen. When Laura came to see him in hospital it was obvious it was all over but he kind of hoped his vibes were false. Now Derrick had the support of others and they know he covertly records important meetings. He was not surprised he never saw the social worker again. He was surprised now everything was sorted out the social workers and CAMHS closed their cases as soon as they could. A couple of weeks later after Derrick came out of hospital he found out other members of the family had been looking after his children because Laura refused to take time off from work not only that she went on holiday with Robert her boss telling everybody it was training for work. Derrick grabbed Laura by the arm and told her to think about what she was doing. A few days later she did Derrick the favour of walking out with a text message after emptying the bank account. It was almost a relief as Derrick could now put it all together all those little things that looked or were said out of place. He knew (Occam's razor) As Derrick is a Trekkie he likes this version *"If you eliminate the impossible. Whatever remains-however improbable-must be the truth."* would get in there somewhere. Even the lazy man's version works *"All things being equal the most obvious answer is normally correct."* Derrick felt such a fool as he thought an affair was really something that would happen only to other people. He was wrong and it was so obvious in the end. Everybody in the

family was surprised it was Robert one of her bosses at work a man more than old enough to be her father who Derrick had dismissed earlier. They should not have been surprised as everybody knew Laura's mother left her father for her boss a man old enough to be her father when Laura was a child. Today Derrick and a number of others understand a lot of it came down to Laura being a pathological liar and Robert thinking he had hit the jackpot. Laura in the divorce tried to turn the incident into an assault whereby Derrick pinned her against the sofa. So many people told Derrick after he explained things to them that Robert was a 'home wrecking dirty old man.' " *You don't know what stories Laura told him*" others suggested to him. "*Maybe he is also a victim...*" others suggested. Derrick finds it hard to believe a 61 year old man who takes a 36 year old woman away from her children with a text message can be by anybody's definition considered a victim. He should have been telling her to look after her children. Not giving her ideas about how to walk out on them. There was one guy who Derrick had to calm down a bit of a hard nut who wanted to go and sort Robert out but Derrick told him "*What's the point I'm never going to get back with Laura or for that matter trust a woman again so that won't help.*" After Derrick went through his diary he found the entry where Laura told him about how her boss Robert was moving into a 2 bedroom council house after doing an exchange with his father. Derrick surmised this was an idea Robert fed Laura in order for her to think she would be able to keep the children but it was as a powerful a statement as a member of School staff can make in print 'mother seems disinterested.'

Derrick can't see it but the school really jump about now and arrange with a charity for him to attend with Daniel a 12 week evening course all about social interaction and team building designed to aid autistic spectrum children. This because CAMHS have suggested Daniel might warrant a diagnosis as being on the autistic spectrum. Derrick thought it was just a get

out clause for people who made a mistake, *"Blame the child."* The truth be known it did both of them a good turn as it became a barrier building activity for Derrick and his son. It was really good to speak to other parents who had various different issues with their children. Derrick started reading up on autism and the possibly different ways autistic children view the world and process information. Now so many things fit Autism is not mentally nuts it just describes how some people have difficulty processing information. Derrick really did not want to believe any of it but it was almost the missing part of the puzzle. Derrick still dragged his children to church every Sunday until they were 16 he felt who cares if they chose or not to believe in all this God stuff it was just good to have them around other children and adults Derrick felt he could trust 100%. Derrick had a dilemma did he open mail sent to his wife? He decided that might be wrong so he kept it but he did open a letter from a children's holiday club that was addressed to Laura. It was about the best thing he could have done as there was an offer for a weeks holiday on an activity park designed for children ran by teaching type staff who knew all about autistic spectrum children. This place is designed for school excursions but in the summer holidays they open it up to parents. Kids go free was the offer, Derrick phoned them up and explained he was a single parent with 2 children and asked *"will you offer me the same deal?"* Derrick got a 7 day holiday in the UK full board with all these various team building activities supervised by qualified instructors who knew how to treat children for less than £450. Not only that they offered him the same holiday the following year. He knew things were tight but booked it anyway.

Derrick had to sell the family car purchased 18 months earlier just to make ends meet feed the children and pay the mortgage. Now Derrick is pretty strict with his finances to the point his friends call him 'tight wad' but saw it as a better option than borrowing money his employer offered him or going

overdrawn. Laura sent Derrick a text message to send her money as her wages went into the wrong account. He thought it might be a lie so did not do it and sure enough it was a lie. Being a Christian Derrick found himself in front of a vicar trying to interpret his side of the marriage vows and 'thou shalt not commit adultery' in the 10 commandments. He does not advertise it but Derrick is one of them on the quiet and does his best to live by 10 simple rules. He did not understand how you might interpret this if your wife had committed adultery, could you really in the eyes of God get divorced?.

The vicar led him to a passage in the bible. He decided Divorce is OK and filled out the papers. He did not know where Laura was living as she had not been seen or heard from for 2 months so had no idea where to have the papers served. Finally another family member finds out so Derrick set things in motion.

Derrick and Laura were 2 weeks away from exchange on a new bigger house with a wood behind it but Derrick had to call it all off costing him hundreds of pounds right at the last minute. This really hurts as it was a bit of a dump that would have left them with no mortgage that Derrick intended on doing up with his children during their teenage years. The children start fighting so Derrick split their shared bedroom up to give them a room each and keep them apart. In his head Derrick still has not put it all together so had been speaking to other people and found out this document shown to him by the social worker was part of a school pastoral log. This is basically a teachers notes file where they can express their opinions in print. Derrick has a good idea that as it was in a computer file they would struggle to refuse him a copy of it. Still there were things that just did not make sense and the only way Derrick felt he was ever going to be able to see past things was if he saw this file. Did they really believe he had been abusing his son or was it just a poor choice of words

from an overworked teacher? In his head Derrick was trying to blame the school for everything but really they were just the trigger for a loaded gun. By that the word 'abuse' which was a trigger for everything that later followed. The problems were already there in Derricks relationship with Laura as her mind was clearly somewhere else leading to their child playing up in the first place. She might have started her affair after the teacher used the word abuse but she had clearly been chasing him no doubt with a few stories of woe beforehand and everybody knows it. Derricks shrink had already led him to this conclusion as in his discussions about the most intimate things in his relationship with Laura. It was clear Laura wanted out for about a year. Just about when they moved house and Laura had to do some work. Laura simply fell in love with her pensioner boss just like her mother before her and it's that simple. (Occam's Razor.) Derrick wrote to the social workers again calling them incompetent and accusing them of clearly hiding something when they refused him a copy of their file. In his head Derrick thinks surely if they had done even a reasonable job they would be only too keen to show him how they had been providing their services with reasonable care and skill. The social workers allow Derrick to go into their office to view their file eventually after he went whining to an MP and he was shocked to find there is missing information he can demonstrate the school gave them. Derrick understands he will never get an apology from the social workers but it's a really hard lesson to learn. The only thing he ever asked anybody to do was make a simple phone call and this request is not even shown in the child's social care file but there is nothing he can do about it. This because he is just a little man and they are a powerful organisation who have to answer to nobody except themselves. Not only that Laura's actions gave them a get out of jail card. They have a system in place to make it really difficult for you to complain. Derrick feels the whole system is fixed so when they have to answer for something they all talk to each other and alter their files in an

attempt to get their stories straight and when that won't work they refuse a copy of their documentation so you can't prove anything. Derrick told me "They soon run a mile when they know you are recording conversations with them. If I had to do it all again I would explain from the outset I covertly record conversations with social workers because I simply don't think owing to my own experiences they can be trusted."

Derrick does not understand how if you are the child's father and have seen a copy of their documentation how they can possibly refuse you a copy of it? He seriously believes seeing this file would have been a different story if they did not realise he had covertly recorded a number of meetings. Once they worked that out they all closed their cases within 3 weeks.

When Derrick finally got hold of Laura to discuss terms of the divorce the deal was adultery on Laura's part and Derrick was to keep the children and family home. Derrick covertly recorded the meeting as he knew there would as soon as Laura was given an idea be a story. Derrick had been discussing it with others as he knew many people lose everything because they can't deal with the stress of divorce. Laura refused to have the sit down talk with the children where you explain nothing is their fault. Derrick knew there would be a story but he really can't understand how and why Laura took his childhood nightmare turned the the whole lot around made herself the victim and threatened to cry anal rape to save a few quid. They were a married couple and had tried it a few times but it was Laura's idea she even purchased some kinky underwear with an opening in the rear for the act. Derrick knew something was coming after she told him *"If I let you petition me and I don't defend I'll have to pay all my costs, all your costs and I will be made almost bankrupt."* He had no idea she was going to try and play that card and assumed it must have been Robert's idea. In his recordings Derrick had not covered it, not 100% but why should he as it was total fiction and he

was not expecting anything like it.

In all the time Derrick knew Laura she never referred to the children as 'kids' it was always 'boys' so to him it was like somebody else sent the text messages. These were text messages that went out to various family members suggesting Derrick had hurt Laura. Derrick told me 'Kids' is distancing language you use to talk about other peoples children but your own children, boys or girls kids was just so wrong. Kids is what you call other peoples children maybe playing in the park but nobody I spoke to could see this, I saw it a mile away. Laura's story had to be a story about something in the bedroom as there was no way Derrick could disprove it not 100%. Derrick by this time just could not deal with things and found himself having serious suicidal thoughts. His employer picks up on this and spends a great deal of time telling him to think about his children. Derrick poses the question over and over again in his head 'Would my children be better off without me? Am I an incapable parent? What would happen to them if I was not here? Who would look after them and so on. He knew he simply had to discuss things with somebody just so he could get his head around why he felt the way he did. He felt he had to find somebody he could trust like 100%. Of all the people Derrick could pick to blurt his life story out to it was his sister in law by this time a 30 year old woman with as he saw things the right idea. She will always be a 15 year old child in Derricks head and she repaid any debt for his actions when she was a child many times as she became his counsellor as he spent a great deal of time going through his problems, actions and feelings. Derrick was in a really bad way and responsible for 2 children, her nephews who she made it clear were her main concern.

As time went on she was counselling both Derrick and the children for months. He spoke to the neighbours and they were great support, They slept in the room backing onto Derricks

and Laura's and told him they never heard a whisper from their house and given the way noise passes through the walls were shocked by Laura's allegations. They told Derrick if it ever came to court they would come into court as character witnesses on his behalf. Quiet a few people offered Derrick this support including his employer who had known him since he was 16. In his head Derrick thinks what about the term 'Abused becomes abuser' as he questions himself 'did I ever mistreat my wife?' 'was it because I over reacted to this child abuse allegation? Did I over react to it? they were talking about taking one of our children into care and this before they even met him.' 'Was everything really all my fault?' In his head Derrick can't believe anybody could write something like Laura did unless there was at least something in it, did she not understand what it meant? As he knew Laura was a pathological liar although not having the correct terminology for it he kept her recorded confession. Now he felt he had no choice but play it to and explain things to everybody. All his family and friends now know about Derricks childhood nightmare. As he had been seeing a counsellor for a few months by now it was a lot easier telling them than it might have been.

Derrick realised the letters he was getting from the solicitors were just standard drafts. To them it was never going to be about who was in the right or wrong it was going to be about how they could represent things to get their client a better deal. Clearly Laura's solicitor led her to believe she had to say something to frighten Derrick into a better deal but there is a line you don't cross. After her discussions with Robert he put it to her that she could play the victim and after hearing about what had been going on suggested to Laura she should use an allegation that matched Derricks worst fear. To Derricks horror he received a letter from Laura's solicitor alleging he had been forcing her to have anal sex. It was quite graphic where she had written he would do it while she was asleep. In

his head it was a choice crawl under a rock or face it. If he had to face it he felt he had to tell everybody and as he saw things take his chances. Derrick was under the impression his covert recordings would be inadmissible in court and if they were inadmissible he would not have a leg to stand on. He thought everybody like him would never believe a woman could write things like that if there was nothing in it.

Derrick got a letter from a solicitor suggesting he keep the children until they are 18 and then sell the family home giving Laura 1/2 the money. If he agreed to this they would not bring their cross into court. For the solicitors it was a business, a game but for Derrick it was about his children and nothing else mattered. Derrick went in to see his solicitor and was really bricking it *"Look what the bitch has written, I never did anything like that, I may have been a bit keener in the bedroom but I never forced her to do anything and the anal sex was her bloody idea. You know why she has written 2 – 3 years, because that was how long I was in care."* Derricks solicitor laughed and replied with *"You would not go to jail for that"* It was like he thought there might be something in it too.

By this time Derrick had been in and out of hospital, had been seeing a counsellor for months and had now taken up smoking. When he finally got hold of the school file and teachers notes after writing another letter and directly calling the heads bluff about child protection he was surprised it says amongst other things 'Mother seems disinterested.' He was surprised it said 'mother did not seem too concerned' when the child was talking about suicide. He was surprised the school had to ask permission from the social workers prior to sending him this file. He knew this was a loaded gun for his divorce and any custody battle but thought it was better for the moment to keep it to himself. Derrick understands where the school were coming from when it says 'mother would not confirm or deny dad gets angry and hits the child.' Bang and all of a sudden so

many things make sense. When Daniel confronted mum about it a few years later she told him *"I was so shocked by the question I could not say anything"* and he gave Derrick a copy of the covert recording he made where Robert told him it *"was not out of order for us to marry without telling her children because it was what we wanted."* Derrick now understands why the school refused to make his phone call as they requested the social worker do it. Derrick was surprised the social worker lied about it. He was surprised to see a report where they describe Daniel as autistic. He was not surprised the social care team refused him a copy of their file that is missing information he can demonstrate the school gave them. If you can't prove it you can't do anything about it. Derrick was surprised in the school file almost the same entry appears twice saying slightly different things but only one showing his request for some feedback re his request for the school to make a phone call for Daniel. In his head Derrick applies the Occam's razor principle to things and surmises the earlier entry was added after he went off on one at school.

It was about this time some idiot wrote the number for Childline (0800 1111) in the school diary giving Daniel the idea he should contact Childline. Derrick could not believe it when he read the entry in Daniels school diary. It was to him like the school were really looking to cause problems. We won't make a phone call for you but you can call Childline. Daniel was so proud the night he showed dad this entry in his diary. He was an 11 year old child standing up to dad in the way any 11 year old might but now he had seemingly the school behind him giving him ideas. Derrick did not understand this was an instruction given by a social worker who had not even met him. Everything that is all the concerns started in October but Derrick did not find out about it until the following year when he demanded a copy of the school file and teachers notes. He knew he had not been told why they had concerns and nobody thought it appropriate to tell him the truth until he was given a

copy of this file. *"Before we give you this file are you aware..."* Derrick eventually made up a website with his story on it and a copy of various letters and recordings both with Laura and at school. He gave his solicitor a link to his website as he felt he had caught Laura out in about the worst lie a woman can make! Of course Derrick won the divorce and everything that goes with it. How could Laura tell him over and over again he had never mistreated her and she was positive he had never hurt her yet in divorce papers state he forced her to have anal sex apparently for between 2 and 3 years waking her up in the night doing it? She wrote about how Derrick had dropped a fridge on her apparently breaking her ribs but the way it was worded it could be dated and they were both in the doctors surgery the following day. Even the doctor exclaimed she was not in any pain that day. How could she describe the things going on with Daniel as just school problems and suggest Derrick was over reacting to them? Especially after Derrick told her he did not care what lies she told as he was prepared to bring the whole lot into court as he gave her a link to his website. Then Derrick told her he had sent a copy of her cross petition into court for her, boy was she bricking it. Derrick asked Robert child abuse comes in many different forms, did he think he was guilty of it? He told Derrick not to be so stupid, clearly his interpretation of child abuse and Derricks differ.

Derrick was surprised by all the different people some he had never met on the estate who had learnt about his situation and offered help and support. He was surprised by all the different people who told him for support of their own personal stories and it was great to find out he was not all alone. Derrick was surprised by the support Laura's family gave him.

He was surprised by the support he got from both children's schools and his doctor. Derrick was grateful to the person who he sold the family car to who just gifted it back to him a year after the divorce. Everybody was shocked when Laura ran off

to Gretna Green and married Robert without even telling the children. Robert told Daniel it was not out of order for he and mum to get married without telling them because it was "*what we wanted.*" Few people believe Robert when he told the children he wanted to get the family home so he could give it to them. Derrick understands now he has read the description for a pathological liar and wonders what stories Laura might have told her husband or for that matter what lies he might have told her.

Derrick approached the mortgage company (First Direct really quiet a good bank) and explained his situation. He was pretty straight with them. They change his mortgage so he could afford to live, another 10 years on the mortgage at about 6%, 2 years interest only until Derrick got back on his feet. A member of Laura's family offer Derrick 10 grand to help out but he refused it as he felt it would be wrong to accept it. Derrick knew Laura was working but not paying any child maintenance so he goes running to an MP as the CSA did not sort it out. Every time Derrick phoned up the CSA they assumed he was the one paying maintenance to Laura. Robert threatened to cause Derrick hassle with the council seemingly if he caused Laura hassle with the CSA all the more reason to do it Derrick thought. He received a letter from the CSA stating Laura was claiming some sort of benefit that precluded her from paying child maintenance. This seemed odd as Laura was working. Laura after they sorted things out was 9 months behind in child maintenance. Robert was swearing calling Derrick a tosser and a bum boy in the street. Derrick might have understood why he did it if Derrick had read the description of a pathological liar. Derrick really wants to hit this guy and everybody knows it but he as well as Robert knows Derrick can't touch him unless it's in self defence and even then Derrick can only use reasonable force. "*Go on I dare you to hit me*" Derrick tells him but Robert is not stupid and knows Derrick would flatten him without any problems. Laura knows

this as well as she calls Robert back into the car. He drives away swearing out of the car window. Derrick waves to him *"THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, HAVE A NICE DAY."*

Derrick came to the conclusion the best thing you can do with a cheating wife is to let the other guy keep her as he a couple of years later actually shakes Robert by the hand and Robert knew exactly what Derrick meant by it. Derrick spent lots of time trying to get Laura to see the children as he thought it was the right thing to do. Eventually he got her to see one of the children for about 3 hours once a fortnight. That is unless they phone her up and request a visit. It really hurts but there is nothing he can do about it. Eventually Derrick begins to give up. Derrick was surprised after Daniel confronted mum about the vicious rumours she spread about dad she told him after Robert tried to deny it that it was unimportant and in the past. Derrick might have understood if he had read the description for a pathological liar. Derrick sent a copy of the letter he receive from the CSA to Laura. He was not shocked to find out that HMRC had information he was living with a Sarah V Smith and should not have been claiming single persons tax credits as a result when he was living on his own. Even the name Sarah V Smith gave it away as a hoax but nobody else could see it. Derrick might have understood if he had read the description for a pathological liar. Derrick suggested when he contacted the nice people at HMRC it was like whoever gave them this idea were sticking 2 fingers up at him. Derrick sent a copy of his letter to Laura and Robert informing them it was a misguided stunt.

In Derricks head he just wants to understand. It's not enough that Laura has decided she does not love him and their children. OK she wants to move on and he had to let her go but what a way to do it with a text message after 15 years. In the real world only a real worm would do it like that and only a bigger worm would encourage a woman to do something like

that to her children. Derrick found the description for a pathological liar and boy does it fit so much about what he knows about Laura just like Autism fits so much he knows about Daniel.

Derrick was invited into a police station to make his statement of historic child abuse. He kept well and true to the facts only reporting things he could clearly remember. To his horror or maybe relief he was not the only child this house master interfered with. Seemingly there are now more than 4 other adults making similar allegations against the same man and the police were already months into an investigation with relation to somebody else. Apparently Berrow Wood was not the only school in which allegations were made about this man.

When Berrow Wood was investigated in the late 80's other children had made similar allegations about this house master. Nobody at this time thought to go through the records and find out why Derrick did not return in 1985.

Derrick was told he would be called to give evidence in court subject to the CPS following up with the police investigation. Derrick has suffered with years of depression, has been on a number of different pills and most of it was down to the fact he was so frightened of being the only person to make this allegation against the house master from Berrow Wood. Berrow Wood's insurance company have said that Derrick can't make a claim for compensation until there is a conviction and Derrick will then seemingly have to give up 25% of any claim to a solicitor. Sounds like easy money for a solicitor.

Derrick told me *"As bad as it might sound the paedophile was not the problem the problem was with the Mr Morris who set up a system that allowed him to exist and get away with it. 'The only rights you have here are to eat and breathe' every*

time a child spoke out or caused a fuss. Get this the schools insurance policy seemingly according to a news report found on the internet did not cover violence inflicted on the children by staff." Nobody mentioned that when the council placed Derrick in the school.

Quote from Surrey County Council: The knowledge of the institutional abuse has grown over the past 30 years and our awareness is much better. As outlined above, we now have LADO service, which is a statutory team and an NMIS Group, which is a specific Surrey response to deal more effectively in dealing with such complaints.

Some might say that is an admission they did not do things correctly in 1985 and if that is the case do you not agree they owe Derrick as well as a number of others a written apology? Derrick put that question to the CEO of Surrey County Council but she did not even reply. Seemingly after reading various web pages and blogs on the Internet nothing was done about the institution Derrick was placed in until a parent witnessed a child being punched by the Mr Morris. He was apparently later jailed along with a number of other key staff.

I have not identified anybody and have changed some names because it was a suggestion from somebody important at Surrey County Council. A lot of this is from Derrick's memory so there may well be some inaccuracies. It was for Derrick all about looking out for children and that is in his opinion the purpose of life.

A good counsellor can be of more help than you might hope for if you are affected by childhood memories of abuse. Having a chat with a professional who knows what they are doing can really give you a new perspective on everything. Derrick told me *"Something that I could not really understand until I spoke to a counsellor was that it CANT! ever be a child's fault if they*

have been sexually abused. It's the adults fault every single time." Check out the quiet simple pants rule if you have any doubt. Obvious to an adult but a child might need a little help. Few things in life are black and white. If your pants cover it and if you are a child an adult should not be touching it! If they do its the adults fault every single time. Even a doctor would ask first and have a parent in the room on the rare time they might need to be there.

Derrick told me. *"The problems come later in life as so much of your time is spent trying to reason things you later see and hear to a safe place."*

By Derricks experience PGL is just a really good place to take kids on holiday.

Fact 1 in 20 people can share something with Derrick. 1 in 10 families have a parent who can share something with Derrick. Fact the vast majority of child abuse victims will not go on to abuse other children but a lot of them live in fear of ever being accused. Derrick is livid that Surrey County Council think they don't owe him an apology! (Read the letters.)

When you go to bed and shut your eyes what's the first thing that comes into your mind? I hope its not being a small 15 year old boy underneath a paedophile trying to stick his thing up your behind. OK not every night but right in the middle of this for Derrick it did. Not only that Derrick was convinced the same would happen to his son if they ever took him into care. I hope that is blunt enough for you because childhood sexual abuse is a nightmare just waiting to be reawakened and it lives with you for the rest of your life!

Think about it for a few days, maybe tell a few friends or an MP and give them a link to the site lifeafterchildabuse.com. Point out the letter from the social workers that states 'the

social worker has confirmed that at no time did she agree to contact a scout leader.' Then point out the letter that states 'there is clear evidence on file that the social worker did attempt to make contact on the number you provided.' Maybe point out the letter sent by Derrick's mother in 1985 after he absconded from Berrow Wood that states 'This could not have been the cause of his disappearance.' or maybe the letter that requests a constructive reply in a few days. Then decide for yourself if Surrey County Council and Daniels school owe Derrick and his children a written apology that starts with 'We unreservedly apologise for...' Either way consider googling Childline and finding the donate button. Go on if you can afford it make it a monthly donation and help the next Derrick, Daniel or Matthew. Most of all look after kids because no child or for that matter parent should live in fear. 'abused becomes abuser?' No! abused just spends the rest of their life living in fear with unresolved mental issues frightened of anybody ever finding out and judging them as a result. *"You could have walked away, you were not forced to get into bed with him by gunpoint were you? Why did you not say anything the first time? It was your idea wasn't it? You led him on. You did it because he offered you protection, its your fault and you know it. You best not tell anybody because you will have to explain why it happened more than once. You misbehaved and got kicked out of school so what do you expect?"*

Then you grow up and see things differently. *"You best not tell anybody as they will see you as a threat to your own children. You have to protect your children at all costs. Don't be seen to be friendly towards children as people will think you are one of them. You will be considered guilty until proven innocent. Don't tell anybody it will only lead to problems for your own children. Remember most people think abused becomes abuser so they wont listen to you anyway. If they ever take your kids into care the same will happen to them and it will be your fault. You have to protect your children so don't*

ever tell anybody. If you did tell anybody they would not believe you. What if you told others, it went to court and they did not believe you?" If you understand that you know what it is like to have a childhood grown mental problem.

Finally after Derricks work colleagues see him in difficulty his employer sorts things out. Derrick gets to see a shrink and his doctor puts him on medication. No Derrick is not a nutter he is simply suffering with the after effects of 'childhood trauma.' Its hardly a surprise as when his child was in difficulty he could not get anybody to just make a simple phone call for him. When there were blind allegations of abuse being bantered around its hardly a surprise that things drove Derrick to a nervous breakdown. Derrick still expects an apology from the social workers but it won't happen.

Just a passing thought: Being a child is about learning to be an adult and you cant expect to learn how to do something without making mistakes especially if you are led into making mistakes by an adult authority figure.

As you can tell Derrick was in a pretty bad way when he made this recording but it was clear to him he may later need to prove he had never mistreated his wife as he knew she could and would tell a fictional story of woe.



Derrick suffering a mental breakdown trying to defend what he saw as a false child abuse allegation directed towards him.



The apology from Daniels school some 8 years later after they along with Surrey County Council and the Police were given a preview of the first incarnation of the website lifeafterchildabuse.com



What Surrey County Council had to say about things after Derrick demanded an apology. Derrick told me *“Hey we all make mistakes and I'm no saint but some of us apologise for our mistakes. You see like some people would apologise for not following up a parents complaint about a school that was clearly abusing their son to the point they actually interview the child.”*



To better understand the impact of what Mr Hasting did to Derrick and the effect it had on him you really have to log onto lifeafterchildabuse.com and find the recordings.

The letters sent by Derrick's mother and stepfather in 1985 / 6 and the councils replies.

Mrs. S. [redacted]
Surrey County Council,
Special Education Department,
County Hall,
KINGSTON UPON THAMES,
Surrey

26th November 1985.

Dear Mrs. [redacted]

Further to our telephone conversation yesterday, 25th November, I regret to advise you that I consider it necessary to remove [redacted] from [redacted] School. This decision has not been made lightly and the reasons are as follows:-

[redacted] had been missing from school at 9 a.m. on Thursday and I was advised of this at 5 p.m. I was "stunned" by the apparent lack of concern and was told by Mrs. Gorton "Don't worry, it's a very cold day and he can't stay out much longer". Mrs Gorton also advised me that [redacted] was "subject to depression" of which I was unaware.

I asked Mrs. Gorton if the disappearance had anything to do with the breakage of a window at the school for which 5 children, including [redacted] had been accused and each ordered to pay the sum of £60 toward the cost of replacement. I suggested the school claimed from their Insurance Company but was told the windows were not insured.

- 4 During the course of conversation, Mrs. Gorton informed me that [redacted] had acquired an old television set and whilst repairing it had short circuited all the electricity at the school. As he was in no way reprimanded for this incident it could not have been the cause of his disappearance.

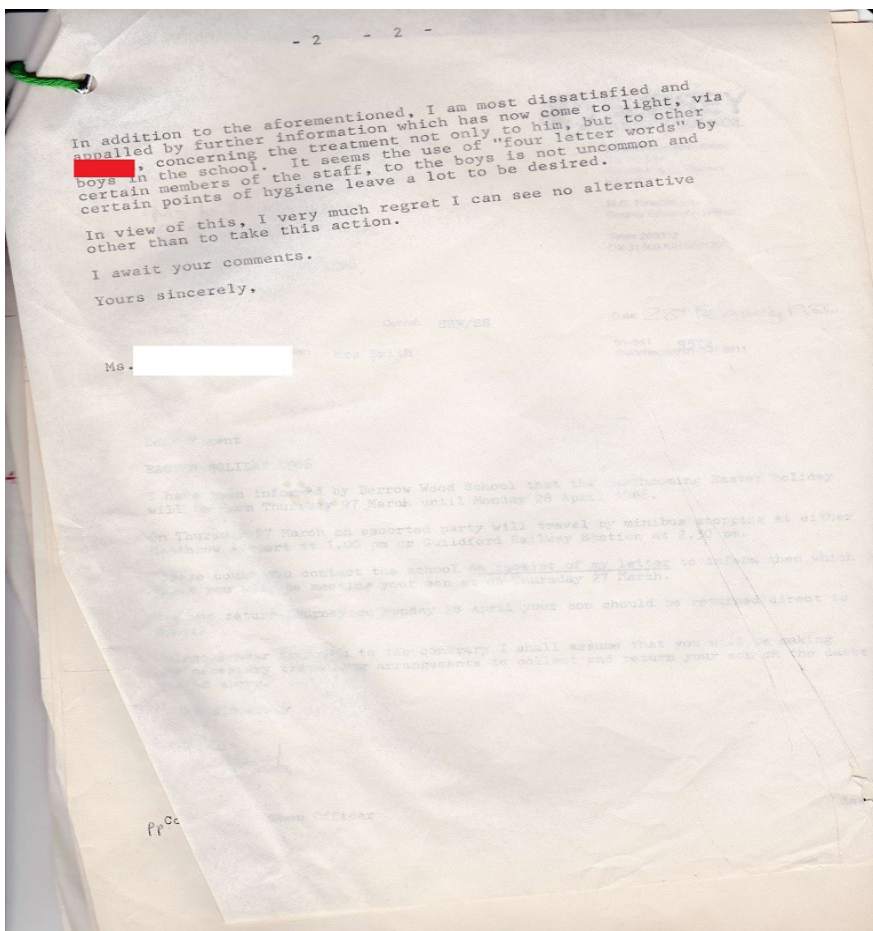
[redacted] arrived home at approximately 11 p.m. Thursday evening at which time I advised both the school and the police.

Having discussed the above points with [redacted] I now find the cost of the replacement window has been increased to £120 per child. They have been told by Mr. Gorton, that this is to be repaid from their pocket money, until such times as they leave the school. The balance outstanding will then be charged to their parents. This also applies to a Fire Extinguisher which had apparently been tampered with and the cost of replacement has been divided between 10 children at a sum of £2.60 per child.

On the subject of the short circuiting of the electricity, [redacted] emphatically denies any such knowledge and I myself, am astounded that this incident was not made known to me at the time, or to [redacted] for that matter.

There was also a matter of two television sets and a computer which were stolen from the school in September when [redacted] was suspected and was told he would be interviewed by the police. Again I was notified of this by [redacted] and not the school. When questioning the school, I was told, once again, "not to worry - we hope the police will drop it". This is very settling for [redacted] who, as far as he is concerned, is still waiting to be interviewed.

Contd.



Derrick absconded from the school at 9pm the night before not 9am when they realised he was missing. Derrick told me "This guy in a new JAG gave me a lift all the way to my home town. He even bought me a takeaway in one of those motorway service stations. Who knows if he swallowed my story about being on a sponsored hitch-hike to raise money for a local children's home. From Derrick *"Thanks sir I knew you were worried about it but I did not throw up in your new car"*



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Education Department
County Hall
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 2DJ

M.C. Pinchin B.Sc.
County Education Officer

Telex 263312
DX 31509 KINGSTON

Your ref:

Our ref: SSN/SCM

Date: 3 December 1985

If telephoning please ask for: Mrs. .

01-541-9576
Switchboard 01-541 8911

Dear Ms.

I was sorry to learn from your letter of 26 November of your intention
not to return to School.

No doubt, you are aware that . does not reach statutory school-
leaving age until 23 May 1986 and, as such, it is your parental
obligation to ensure that he receives full-time education until that
time. However, under the circumstances, the points raised in your
letter will be investigated and during that time I suggest
remains at home.

I will write to you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

County Education Officer

cmj

Please address correspondence to County Education Officer

Please address correspondence to



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Education Department
County Hall
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 2DJ

M.C. Pinchin a So
County Education Officer

Telex 263312
DX 31509 KINGSTON

Your ref:

Our ref: SSM/SCM

Date: 8 January 1986

If telephoning please ask for: Mrs

01-541 9576

Switchboard 01-541 8911

Received 14.1.86


Dear Ms

Further to our correspondence of November and December regarding your decision not to return to the school has now been visited by my Inspector for Special Needs and the points raised in your letter have been discussed in depth with members of the staff.

It is felt that sometimes to meet special educational needs and he should, therefore, return immediately. As mentioned in my earlier letter does not reach statutory school leaving age until May and, in the meantime, it is your duty, as a parent, to ensure that your son receives full-time education. Failure to comply may result in prosecution.

GORTON. If you were to find it beneficial, I would be happy to arrange a meeting between yourself, Mr Gant, Principal of and Mr R. Collett, Assistant County Education Officer (Special Needs) here at County Hall.

Yours sincerely


County Education Officer

jh

Please address correspondence to County Education Officer

Now to put this in better perspective Derricks mother was so concerned with the mental state of her son that she removed him from the school and did the only thing she could in reporting the school to the authorities. Remember childline (0800 1111) did not exist when Derrick was a child. All the authorities do is threaten her with legal action if she does not send him back.

They were so interested in the problem they even got the name of the principle of the school wrong.

Like anybody Kate, Derrick's mother did the only thing she could and asked for support from her boyfriend (who was later to become Derrick's stepfather) and he wrote a letter. They were doing the only thing they could and seeking support from a higher body than the school.

Please reply to: [redacted] 17th January 1986.

County Education Officer,
Surrey County Council,
Education Department,
County Hall,
KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES,
Surrey.
KT1 2DJ

Dear Sir,

I spoke to you on the telephone on 14th January. I now write, with Mrs. [redacted]'s authority, to complain.

First of all, thank you for your letter of the 8th January, received on 14th January.

p.1. You eventually told me that your Inspector for Special Needs could find "nothing untoward" and that there was "no undue cause for concern" following his visit to [redacted] School. However, in your reply you make no reference whatsoever to the points raised by Mrs. [redacted]. Only on the telephone did you say that the various matters should have been taken up direct with the school. This does not alter the fact that you did not say so in your letter; you made no comment or constructive suggestion. You ignore, and constructively refute, all the points made by Mrs. [redacted].

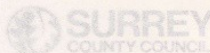
p.2. You then slap Mrs. [redacted] wrist, for daring to complain, and order [redacted]'s immediate return to school with a threat of a possible prosecution for non compliance.

p.3. To contradict p.2. you suggest a meeting. You assuredly did not visualise the overall circumstances - not a meeting after [redacted] has been bundled off to school? That would have put him in an invidious position and not have been in his best interests. That is my main concern. Please be good enough to re-appraise the situation.

To summarise: the Education Department of Surrey County Council, with all its expertise, power and influence, at considerable cost, has produced nothing detrimental against [redacted] School. Given that, I fail to see how Mrs. [redacted], on her own, could effectively extract any information from Mr. [redacted]. e.g. Mrs. Gorton is involved.

Contd.

- 2 -



Education Department
County Hall
Kingston upon Thames
M.T. 203

This all behoves me to protect Mrs. [redacted] and her son. Your constructive reply, in a few days, would be appreciated. A perfectly valid complaint should be answered and not met with a threat of possible prosecution.

Telex 263512
DX 31808 KINGSTON

You are requested not to divulge this letter to School.

Chief 322/522

Date: 8 January 1966

Yours faithfully, Mrs. Mackay

01-541 9976
Southwark 20, 614-2011

Received 14.1.66

D.A. [redacted]

DARREN (50,3.70)

Further to our correspondence of November and December regarding your decision not to return Darren to Barrow Wood, the school has now been visited by my Inspector for Special Needs and the points raised in your letter have been discussed in depth with members of the staff.

It is felt that Barrow Wood continues to meet Darren's special educational needs and he should, therefore, return immediately. As mentioned in my earlier letter Darren does not reach statutory school leaving age until May and, in the meantime, it is your duty, as a parent, to ensure that your son receives full-time education. Failure to comply may result in prosecution.

If you were to find it beneficial, I would be happy to arrange a meeting between yourself, Mr Gant, Principal of Barrow Wood, and Mr B. Collett, Assistant County Education Officer (Special Needs) here at County Hall.

Yours sincerely

E. Gilling

County Education Officer

js



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Education Department
County Hall
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 2DJ

M.C. Pinchin a.s.c.
County Education Officer

Telex 263312
DX 31509 KINGSTON

Your ref:

Our ref: RJC/MS

Date: 27 January 1986

If telephoning please ask for:

Mr R J

01-541 9562
Switchboard 01-541 8911

Dear Mr [redacted]

Thank you for the letter of the 17 January which you wrote on Ms. [redacted] behalf. I am sorry that [redacted] has not been allowed to return to [redacted] since the school had, and would still have, high hopes of him securing some good CSE results. That, of course, is rather more important than Ms. [redacted] parental duty, but since it exists in law it was clearly right to remind her of that.

In her letter Ms. [redacted] complains about the delay in informing her of [redacted] absence. The school's policy is to inform the police and the parents within the hour if a pupil absconds, but, as I think you will appreciate, it is not always easy to contact parents. With regard to the theft of the television sets and the computer, the school has assured me that they did in fact notify Ms. [redacted] that [redacted] was under suspicion. There appears to be some misunderstanding regarding the broken windows: my information is that the intention was to levy a charge of 50p per week until the end of term, but that there was some prospect of this being reimbursed. Regarding the four-letter words, which of course [redacted] himself has been known to use, Ms. [redacted] allegation is difficult to disprove, but it is of course the school's policy that staff should be careful in their use of language.

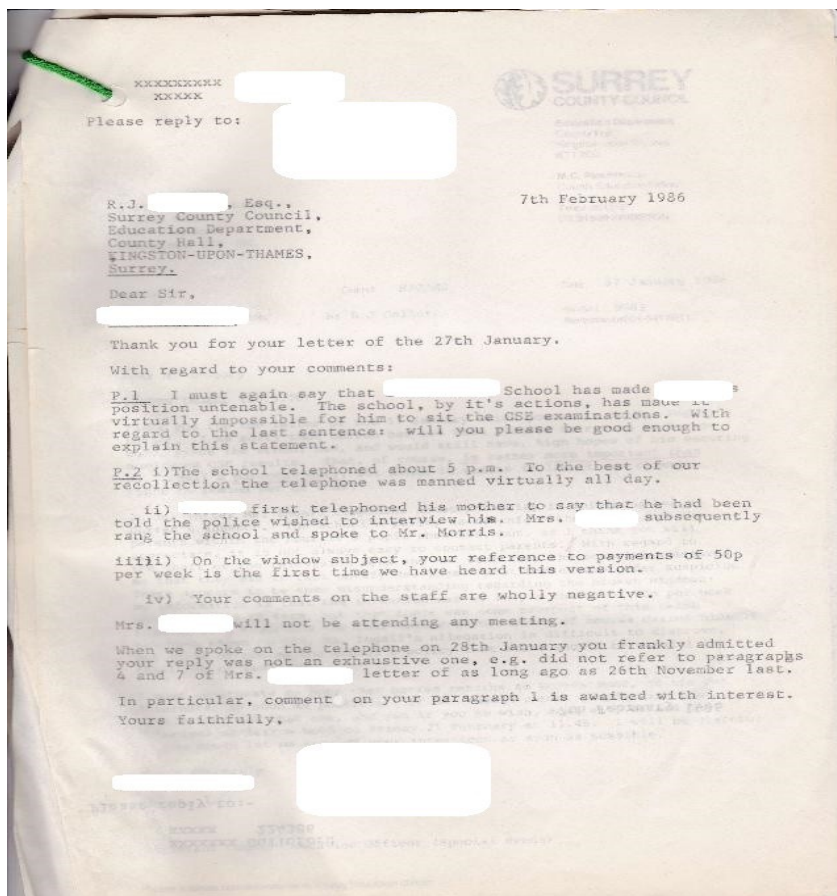
I must re-iterate my hope that [redacted] returns to [redacted] in his own interests, as soon as possible. If Ms. [redacted] cannot comply with that, then I must ask that she, and you if you so wish, meet with me and the Principal of [redacted] on Friday 21 February at 11.45. I will be grateful if you could let me know of your intentions as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
Assistant County Education Officer (Special Needs)

Please address correspondence to County Education Officer

Derrick's step father knowing the state Derrick was in wrote again to Surrey County Council in an attempt to get them to take the matter more seriously but they did not even reply.



That was almost the last communication from Surrey County Council the only people at the time Kate and her partner could turn to for help. They knew their son had been seriously damaged by his time in Berrow Wood but at 15 years old feeling dirty and thinking it was all his own fault Derrick could not explain or tell them what had happened to him.

Derrick thinks he deserves an apology for this!



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Education Department
County Hall
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 2DJ

M.C. Pinchin B.Sc.
County Education Officer

Telex 263312
DX 31509 KINGSTON

Your ref:

Our ref: SSN/SS

Date: 28 February 1986

If telephoning please ask for: Mrs

01-541 9574
Switchboard 01-541 8911

Dear Parent

EASTER HOLIDAY 1986

I have been informed by School that the forthcoming Easter holiday will be from Thursday 27 March until Monday 28 April 1986.

On Thursday 27 March an escorted party will travel by minibus stopping at either Heathrow Airport at 1.00 pm or Guildford Railway Station at 2.30 pm.

Please could you contact the school on receipt of my letter to inform them which point you will be meeting your son at on Thursday 27 March.

For the return journey on Monday 28 April your son should be returned direct to school.

Unless I hear from you to the contrary I shall assume that you will be making the necessary travelling arrangements to collect and return your son on the dates stated above.

Yours sincerely

County Education Officer

daw

Please address correspondence to County Education Officer

Years later after Derrick had issues with one of his own children the school forced against Derricks clear wishes social workers on the family rather than speaking to a professional body (The scout movement) who knew his son. 5 times over nearly 2 months Derrick requested the school call his sons scout leader but they just point blank refused.

Derrick after he saw the social worker making a total mess of things asked her but like the school she refused.

The whole situation drove a big wedge between Derrick and his wife because she could not care a hoot if their child was placed into care and was chasing after her boss at work.

Eventually Derrick after things were sorted out started complaining as he (maybe wrongly) blamed the school with their false allegation of abuse (which they deny) on sending him round the bend and causing his marriage to fail.

Mr,
Headmaster

4/7/2008

School

Dear Mr, **headmaster**

I'm one really annoyed parent! Thinking back to your school speech.

If your school had implemented a buddy group with relation to child, if your staff had taken any notice of what was written by me in his school book on the 7th November, if the school had contacted the scout leader on any of the five times I requested, if the school had not insisted on calling in the social services so many times, if the social worker had not written down the wrong telephone number, if the social worker had bothered to tell us she had the wrong phone number, if you had worked with us the parents, if the report given to the social services was not a month out of date, if our son was not caught by a 6th or 7th form student and apparently offered money to do some of the things he was doing, if the school had not taken the line that's not our job social services will do that, the problems might well not have been so serious. You saw first hand the state it got me into let alone the effect on **child** and the rest of my family.

If anybody had taken the time to read his previous school reports I feel it would have been obvious that the problems were something in school and so do countless other people!

Now remember **child** came to you with what amounted to a help me card in the form of a statement it would seem to me he did not get all of the help he should have received until I took the drastic action of recording a meeting and taking it to the head of the last school asking for help, not to mention having to get a children's man involved.

Now put yourself in our shoes 15th December Social services telling us everything ok nothing to worry about dismissing the abuse allegation one of your staff told us about followed by another on or about the 8th January where we were given the report you had been compiling, we were allowed to read it for 10 minutes then it was taken away and a clear child abuse allegation was made against dad judging by what was written in the report. Would it not surprise you to find this dad in hospital suffering a nervous breakdown?

Now **child** has been discharged from CAMHS and the social services there is no good reason for you not to make available to me a copy of this report and any other reports that may be in existence with relation to **child** I will quote the freedom of information act 2005 I'm sure you know more about it than I do.

I'm sure I don't have to tell you how serious it is to make a false abuse allegation in relation to a child and as the first person I heard this from was a member of your staff I have the right to know where it came from!

Whilst you don't hold a duty of care to **child** family I feel it appropriate for you to apologise in writing.

I believe you have something like 15 days from receipt of this letter to reply failing which I will take the matter to Kingston.

Yours sincerely

Derrick told me "I found the heads reply quiet an insult you know like he was laughing at me."

11 July 2008

Mr D.

Dear Mr

I was more than a little surprised to receive your letter of 4 July reference your son

It seams to me he did not read the letter

My colleagues have worked tirelessly in support of child since he joined the school. Indeed, on the same day that you wrote to me you sent a letter of thanks to Mrs staff for her support of child irrelevant letter

In direct response to some of the issues you raised in your letter, please be aware that:

- Buddy systems have been put into place. This child came with a statement, was from outside the area and this took 3 months
- The contact with Children's Services followed a meeting with and approval of child Mum. I made it clear I did not want them and asked the school to make a phone call
- The contact led to an almost immediate response from Children's Services with the involvement of a Social Worker. 10/1 she has not got kids
- At no time were allegations of abuse made by the school, but the sexual issues were part of the concern. Nobody ever used the word abuse before the school did and
- Dr Crutchley (CAMHS) believed there to be some issues that had led to nobody has since. child's sexualised behaviour. That will be the older student who should have been nowhere near him?
- The school received advice that we should not share all incidents with parents. That's handy as now they can take a back seat
- Advice was sought from Childs primary school and his teachers attended his Review. That might have something to do with the recording of a meeting I took to the prior school asking for help.

I assume that when you refer to getting access to reports about child you mean getting access to child's school file which, of course, have always been available to parents on request. I really don't think he read the letter 'any other reports in existance'

You also refer, towards the end of your letter to it being appropriate for me to apologise to you in writing, but I am not quite sure what I am supposed to be apologising for. Of course not that would mean admitting they had done something less than correct and imagine what I could do with that.

It has to be said after I repeated what the social worker had said the school dealt with it just like they should have done in the first place

The school speech was a well choreographed speech where the head sold his school as the best thing going. He made a big deal about working with parents and feeder schools in the event of issues with new students. He rattled on about how the school have more staff in year 7 to liaise with feeder schools following issues with new students. He rattled on about buddy groups for students with few friends and after school activities to help students. Derrick told me "Maybe I was a bit thick but I expected these things to come as standard not to have to fight to get them."

Mrs

4th July 2008

Re:

Dear Mrs **Staff**

Thanks for dealing with **childs** trousers; I will get him a new belt in due course.

Re: Progress monitoring, I have a meeting with Mrs **staff** on the 14/7/2008 at 12.05 pm and was under the impression re letter from Mrs **staff** 16/6/2008 that it was not necessary to attend and anything that needed to be discussed would be undertaken during this time.

Assuming **childs** point's card is anything to go by it would seem things are a lot better than they have been.

Should there be anything that we should know please advise us on the 14th

Yours sincerely

If you had an 11 year old child who exposed himself to a girl in school all be it for a dare would you not expect the school to mention it to his father at some point like before he demands a copy of the school file? There had been a social worker on the scene for 2 months and nobody mentioned it other than in a phone call to Laura, Derrick's wife who was by this time more interested in Robert her pensioner boss at the DIY store.

The lesson here is if a parent asks a school teacher and or a social worker to make a phone call for a troubled child there is probably a bloody good reason for it!

This is where it all started

PA

Date	05/10/2007	Reporting Staff	KEB
Time	Period 4		
Location	Gym		

**This is where it all started
and nobody told Daniels
father until February 2008**

Description of Incident
Emotional health
SPORTS HALL CHANGING ROOMS.

Action Taken
Other
Staff
phoned mum

After the mental healthcare people spent time with Daniel they came out with this. Certainly not his father abusing him or a reason to suggest taking the child into care!

Daniel is a boy who has some developmental difficulties in the area of social communication. He has had significant speech and language difficulties and his imagination is very vivid and visual and I sense that in his concrete way imagination very rapidly becomes reality for him when he is under stress. I had the strong impression from Daniel that some significant event had occurred, which had led him to acting out in a sexualised way. I cannot be any more specific than this. However, I can see that Daniel could easily be a victim of sexual exploitation as he presents as very gullible and credulous. The protective factor of friends had not been put in place at this early stage of integration into the school. At the same time he is also a boy who wants to get it right, and my sense was that he could not talk about what had happened to him because he felt in some way that he has not got it right and believes that this could be catastrophic.

After Derrick using the freedom of information act got hold of a copy of the teachers notes file he found these entries rather odd. This especially so as his first request of the school to phone Daniels scout leader was in November.

Date	04/12/2007	Reporting Staff	
Time	After School		
Location			
Description of Incident			
Child Protection			
Phone call from Jonathan (social services) at 4.45p.m. Mr refused permission for child to be referred to CAMHS. Mr says that this is attention seeking behaviour. If that we need to know more about child we should contact his scout leader who knows him very well. Mr would like some feed back on this. He may then give his permission. He doesn't think that child strangling himself is abnormal behaviour. Jonathan disagrees. Jonathan has passed on all the information on to the locality team today. Jonathan wants us to contact Colette who will try to contact Mr and Mrs			
Action Taken			
Other			
and Spoke to left a message at 8.45a.m for			

Date	05/11/2007	Reporting Staff	
Time	After School		
Location	Block		
Description of Incident			
Emotional health			
Jonathan (social services) phoned at 4.45p.m. Regarding child Referral to CAMHS. Mr refused permission for the referral. Mr says "its all attention seeking behaviour" the more attention we give him the more he plays up to it. Mr has requested that social services speak to child "Scout master" who he says knows child very well. Only after this he may change his mind about the referral. Jonathan put it to him that he was concerned about child behaviour. Mr says that child trying to strangle himself was not abnormal behaviour Jonathan clearly stated that he disagrees with this. Jonathan has passed all this information on to the locality team today.			
Action Taken			
Other			
Jonathan feels that we should speak to left her a message at 8.45a.m on 5.12.2007 regarding this urgent issue and informed SPM 5.12.07			

Derrick told me "I'll bet they were altered after the fact."

That was followed by some letters of complain to the social workers.

Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@surreycc.gov.uk



Mr [REDACTED]

Our Ref: JM/JC

20 August 2008

Dear Mr

I wrote to you on the 15th August acknowledging your letter of the 12th August and agreed to reply in full this week. I will take each point separately.

1. *I want to understand how within 2 months of starting a new school with a good reputation my son's behavior can go from what most people would have termed A1 to D-.*

You will need to discuss this point with your son's school.

2. *I want to understand how Social worker can use words like foster Care, Mental Problem and abused whilst looking at the family home with relation to a problem clearly at school.*

The Social Worker informed me that in discussion with CAMHS they informed her that it was difficult to work with your son whilst there were so my concerns at home, hence her discussion around foster care, the other words were in relation to the concerns highlighted already around allegations of physical and care of your son.

How can I possibly defend an allegation I have not even been told about !

3. *I want to understand why it took 6 attempts for anybody to contact a scout leader who was of great help if nothing else than defending the family against an implied false allegation of abuse that from memory was based on other students who had something to gain by telling tales on the little [REDACTED] boy in year 7.*

The Social Worker confirmed that at no time did she agree to contact a scout leader.

This does not show that I requested it, the school requested it on my behalf and it is shown the same in the school file.

It does not show when the school were made aware they took over and it would seem the social worker was told to keep quiet

4. *I want to understand how on December the 15th we were told "THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT" "Everything has been sorted out". "Just settling in problems".*

On this point you will need to discuss with the school. **Why the social worker said it**

5. *I want to understand why a report that was shown to us was a month from memory out of date, with lots of information that we did not know about in relation to our son's behavior.*



The Social Worker informed me that the core Assessment was completed on the 28th January and shared with you on the 29th February. The delay was due to you not allowing the Social Worker to visit your home. **Rubbish!**

6. *I want to understand and I want to know why and who told the school to keep information from us.* **This was an instruction given by the social services.**

Again on this point you need to discuss with the school

7. *I want to understand why my son is talking about a 6th form student offering him money.*

You need to discuss this with the school. **Staff knew about it but called it fiction**

8. *The last paragraph in your letter states 'a parental responsibility should only be granted access to information about a child when the authority is satisfied that the action is child's and not the parents interest. Well it is in my son's interest for his dad to understand why he had a nervous breakdown and his parents are getting a divorce.*

I have explained to you that this is our policy

If you make a mistake in life you would normally put your hands up to it and apologise rather than hide behind a bit of self made policy designed to protect children. I can prove the date and the time they were asked to make a simple phone call for this child. Rather than doing that they went chasing a false abuse allegation and refused the father the opportunity to even defend it as nobody even put it to him! They cost the father a nervous breakdown when they started talk of taking this child into care.

This now completes stage one of the complaints procedure. I hope that you are satisfied that your complaint has been properly responded to. If you have any questions or concerns about this response please contact me direct and I will be happy to discuss them with you. (Your complaints will be recorded as being upheld/not upheld/partly upheld.)

If you remain dissatisfied you have the right to request your complaint is progressed to stage two of the procedure. Information about how to do this is contained in the leaflet Comments, Compliments and Complaints which I have enclosed for your information. Please contact the customer Relations Team on [redacted] for further advice on the complaints procedure. You also have the right to refer complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman and I have enclosed a copy of their leaflet for your information.

Lets put this in perspective, The social worker who is talking about taking a parents child into care it would seem did not even discuss it with her manager as the manager was unaware!

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and for giving me the opportunity to respond to you. I wish you and your family all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely,


Equality Team Manager

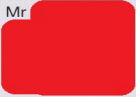
The prior letter got Derrick a meeting with somebody important at Surrey County Council where Derrick simply asked them for an apology for their not following up his mothers complaint of 1985 to the point they actually interviewed him when he was a child. He also had a few things to say about Daniels school and their refusal to make a phone call for Daniel. Derrick was now to believe the social worker tried to make the phone call but could not get through. This seemingly in total contradiction to a letter received from the social workers that states 'The social worker has confirmed that at no time did she agree to contact a scout leader.'


Years later after his divorce and when Derrick got back on his feet he decided to write about his experiences in an attempt to help others. With this in mind he wrote to Surrey County Council and asked them what they thought about things.

It was obvious this letter might appear on the internet so Surrey County Council used it as an opportunity to sell how things are better today than they were in the past.

[RESTRICTED]


SURREY

Mr 

Safeguarding Children Unit


Your ref: Our ref: JGW/RM Date: 5th October 2015

If telephoning please ask for:

Dear Mr 

Please accept my apologies for the delay in writing to you formally following our meeting.

Unfortunately, owing to the length of time that has passed since the incidents to which you refer happened; it has been difficult to track down the details of the procedures that would have been operational at the time.

I have now had an opportunity to investigate what would have been the usual process officers would have followed in 1985.

The legislation regarding complaints raised about Schools was very limited at the time and the powers of local education authorities few when intervening in such matters. This has changed and there are now much clearer guidelines for the investigation of complaints, with governors having far greater authority to look into concerns raised by parents. In addition, the concerns your Mother raised would now be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and the councils Non-Maintained Independent Schools Group (NMIS)

Both the LADO and NMIS Group will independently look into allegations in the first case ensuring that Schools carry out an investigation thoroughly and with due diligence; whilst the NMIS Group will arrange an education and safeguarding inspection. Unfortunately, neither of the above were in operation at the time of your Mother's complaint.

Having reviewed the content of your Mother and Step-Father's letters and having consulted with colleagues in education, I am satisfied that the LEA followed due processes at the time and did not fail in their duties.

I know it is likely to be of limited comfort to you, but I can reassure you that the local authority would act very differently should we receive a similar letter today.

The knowledge of the institutional abuse has grown over the past 30 years and our awareness is much better. As outlined above, we now have the LADO service, which is a statutory team and an NMIS Group, which is a specific Surrey response to deal more effectively in dealing with such complaints.

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In relation to your complaint in respect of the handling of your Son's case by the Social Worker and [REDACTED] I can confirm my comments when we met on 18th August 2015. I do not find that either the Social Worker or School staff acted inappropriately or in breach of their duty. As you acknowledged when we met the support and services your Son needed were provided and the outcomes good. In respect of the failure to contact your friend; there is clear evidence on the file that the Social Worker did attempt to make contact on the number you provided. Furthermore, had the Social Worker been able to speak to him sooner I do not believe it would have affected the outcome for your Son, which you agreed was appropriate.

~~The scout movement~~

I appreciate how hard it must have been for you to speak about your experiences and that these were so distressing for you. Please accept my sincerest regrets for the abuse you suffered whilst placed at [REDACTED] School.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Head of Safeguarding

The last letter was in reply to these letters sent out shortly after Matthew, Derrick's youngest child finished his last GCSE examination. Derrick simply felt unable to make the allegation prior to his children having finished their examinations. This was because Derrick really does not trust social workers and felt they would run with abused becomes abuser if he did.

Chief Police Officer, Historic child abuse allegations.
Surrey Police

14/06/2015
ref: Surrey police 1

Dear Sir/Madam,

When I was 19 or 20 in 1989/90 I tried to write about some of my life experiences probably looking back in an attempt as a young man to understand them but every time I did it came across to me as an instruction in how to manipulate, abuse and confuse a child. I had discovered girls and was in a good job so just got on with life and kind of shelved the idea.

Once I had children of my own it just seemed the wrong thing to do and I learnt not all people were like some of the adults I had met in [REDACTED] School, [REDACTED].

In 2007 my eldest child started secondary school and all of a sudden not a day would pass when I was not reminded of my time in [REDACTED]. My doctor had me on pills. My employer sorted out the counselling I needed but I still suffered a nervous breakdown. My wife had an affair with her boss ran out with a text message and that was that.

Now my youngest child has finished his last exam and left school there is little to stop me from telling my story. You might call it a victim's story but I hate the expression victim as a victim is somebody who blindly copies bad things they learnt in childhood. I have stripped out any identifying information in my story and put it on the internet in a genuine attempt to help others who like me may have painful memories.

The allegation I am making is that a housemaster known as [REDACTED] sexually abused me when I was late 14 until early 15 for a period of about 3 months. He did not get as far as he wanted to as I was a small child and ran away from the establishment shortly before taking my first exam in 1985.

The establishment is known to the authorities as it was closed down in I think the late 80's following a police investigation and I know a number of staff jailed. [REDACTED] School, [REDACTED] Near Gloucester. The head at the time I ran away was Ronald Morris a really nasty piece of work who should have been nowhere near children and certainly not a man I as a 15 year old child could turn to for help. Most of the staff were or pretended to be X army types and Mr [REDACTED] was thought by the children to be an X SAS soldier.

Now unless somebody can put forward a good argument it's illegal, immoral or just wrong I intend on removing the password from this site and promoting it in about 3 months.

<http://www.lifeafterchildabuse.com> user "ilovemykids123" password "ilovemykids123".

Co Head: [REDACTED] School. Head: [REDACTED] Primary School. Surrey County Council, Children's Rights Service. My X wife.

20th July 2015

My ref: scc [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs [REDACTED]

Please excuse me for dropping this on your doorstep but as head or seemingly head of Surrey County Council to me you seem the person to write to.

In 1985 my mother sent a complaint to Surrey County Council reference some of the abuse I experienced in [REDACTED] School' Near Gloucester. [REDACTED] was one of the state funded boarding schools done for child abuse in the late 80's. It was a place where the council sent children with issues in the 70's and 80's. Surrey County Council did not take my mothers complaint seriously and nobody thought to see me the child she was refusing to send back to ascertain what might really be the problem. Following some really nasty abuse I ran away from this establishment just prior to taking my examinations.

The abuse I experienced in this establishment seriously affected me for the rest of my life mainly because I did not get the counselling I needed until my employer saw me in difficulty with one of my own children when I was 38. All I wanted was for somebody to make a phone call for my own autistic child who was in difficulty in a new school and despite near on 2 months of interfering social workers I could not get anybody to do it. After I complained the social worker told a pack of lies and they refused to even uphold my complaint. That is that that they refused to along with [REDACTED] School to make a simple phone call for my child. It was the final straw for my marriage as it put me in hospital when the social worker told me people who had not even met my son were already of the opinion he should be placed into care. I have never abused a child in my life and how dare they use words like abuse and talk about taking one of my children into care when they would not even make a phone call for him! How dare they then refuse to apologise for their mistake! Looking after a child is far more important than how a cowboy mechanic might bodge up a repair to a car!

I have written about my experiences (The final draft) on my site <http://www.lifeafterchildabuse.com> (user [REDACTED] password: [REDACTED]) I wondered if you, as seemingly head of Surrey County Council had any comments about what I have written prior to my removing the password and potentially advertising the site in a High Street newspaper. You might say my giving Surrey County Council the right of reply.

I have made historic allegations against the housemaster who sexually abused me to the police and An [REDACTED] s the officer seemingly most involved with the case. I simply felt unable to do this while I had children in school. Of course once my youngest child finished his last exam I one again lost the plot for a while. Mental illness you might want to try it. You see if Surrey County Council had followed up my mother's complaint or even asked the question why is this child not attending school? I might have got the help I needed when I was a teenager and I might have a few qualifications. Not to mention I would not have had a few lingering mental issues as a result.

Today is the 20th of July 2015 I will not publish the site until either I hear from somebody important at Surrey County Council by letter with an apology and admission of the council's liability and or the 20th August comes around. Failing that I will when the 20th August 2015 comes round place a copy of this letter on the site and remove the password. I will then potentially advertise the site in a high street newspaper in an attempt to help others struggling with painful childhood memories.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

The prior letter got Derrick a meeting with somebody important at Surrey County Council where Derrick simply asked them for an apology for their not following up his mothers complaint of 1985 to the point they actually interviewed him when he was a child. He also had a few things to say about Daniels school and their refusal to make a phone call for Daniel. Derrick was now to believe the social worker tried to make the phone call but could not get through. This seemingly in total contradiction to a letter received from the social workers that states 'The social worker has confirmed that at no time did she agree to contact a scout leader.'

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your letter of the 31st July. I will be attending the meeting at Woking on Tuesday 18th August. I will be happy to discuss my experiences both in [REDACTED] in 84/85 and the various letters that passed between my mother and her then boyfriend re the little they knew about the abuse I experienced in this establishment. I would be happy to discuss how seemingly Surrey County Council totally blanked my mother's complaints to the point her then boyfriend had to help her in trying to deal with Surrey County Council. I would be happy to discuss how Surrey County Council broke off communications when they were challenged by my mother's then boyfriend, now my step father. I would be happy to discuss some of my life challenges as a result of not having the opportunity of taking any examinations.

I would be happy to discuss how when there was an issue at [REDACTED] school and I made 5 polite requests over nearly 2 months I could not get a member of staff to make a phone call for my child [REDACTED] who was clearly a child in need. I would be happy to discuss how in reply to my 5th request I was met with a child abuse allegation. Whilst maybe not fact I would be happy to discuss how I felt the school were looking to cause problems in an attempt to have us remove [REDACTED] from the school. I would be happy to discuss how this way of thinking was further reinforced when a member of staff told me "We think this might not be the correct school for your child." We could discuss that statement in detail. I would be happy to discuss how the first thing I heard from a member of staff as they looked over [REDACTED] school file was "Oh, shit he is only level 2 we'll loose him next year" and how I took this to mean what have I come out here for this for.

I would be happy to play you a recording of my having a nervous breakdown in [REDACTED] school after the social worker who would not make the same phone call told me CAMHS who had not met [REDACTED] were of the opinion he should be in care. I would be happy to discuss with you the pain of having a mental breakdown and being in hospital having lost your trust in everybody after my wife walked out with a text message. I would be happy to discuss how to use her words it was as a result of "The way you were." And that I had never mistreated her.

I would be happy to discuss how when I wrote a complaint to the social services with respect to their refusal to make a phone call for my son they refused to uphold my complaint. I would be happy to discuss how the then head of [REDACTED] School wrote to me expressing shock at my complaint and how he was unsure of what he would be apologising for. I would be happy to discuss how a report shown to me was a month old and I would really like to know why. Either [REDACTED] School gave it to the social worker a month earlier or they did not. I would be happy to discuss how when I raised this with the head of [REDACTED] school he did not answer it. I would be happy to discuss with you the definition of 'plausible deniability.'

I would be happy to discuss the way schools use 'teaching assistance' with the funding from special needs students and how by definition this is to aid schools and not necessarily the child or children who are to all intense paying for it. I would be happy to discuss how I took a folder of work [REDACTED] had been doing for me and how a year head told me as it was so far removed from his school books it "looks like a different child." I would be happy to discuss how after this I got no further interaction from the school re the potential of us working together. I would be happy to discuss how I told the school I had extra funding by way of [REDACTED] aunt and the potential of teaching staff being involved to aid his education and how nobody ever came back to me about it.

I would be happy to discuss how my employer arranged and paid for all the counselling I needed. I would be happy to discuss how seemingly more than 4 other children have made the same or similar allegations against the housemaster from [REDACTED] School and how he was seemingly already under investigation prior to my making my allegations. We could discuss the

statement I overheard "It's not in the schools interest to antagonise a parent" and what that really means. By that I mean we could discuss the principle of a school heads first priority i.e. the student or the school.

I would be happy to discuss my shock at reading the local paper to find [redacted] school had a caretaker working for them who was convicted of hurting some young girls. We could then discuss the odds of him not having touched any children at [redacted] school. This as the housemaster who caused me to feel it necessary as a 15 year old child to run had already according to the police been under suspicion from a prior school.

As for addressing my concerns and supporting me I think a written apology on headed paper from somebody pretty important at Surrey County Council would be a start. Something I could publish on my website. 'We unreservedly apologise for...' As for my intentions I am going to publish my website lifeafterchildabuse.com (helpfulderrick@derrick123) either with or without A: a letter of apology and or B compensation for the abuse I experienced in my childhood. As for the CPS they might or might not proceed with the case. If they do and if the guy is convicted I will rewrite my story and name a few people. This including an insurance company for [redacted] school who told me I can't make a claim until the guy is convicted and then how I would seemingly have to give up 25% of the claim to a solicitor.

I have a complaint against Surrey County Council as after [redacted] school came out with a fictional story about my blowing the electrics in the school my mother directly challenged it. 'This can't be the cause of his disappearance' or similar and they blanked it threatening legal action if she did not send me back. Then we could discuss the fear of a 15 year old boy speaking out and the fear of catching HIV that I likened as a child to Ethiopian children dying in Ethiopia. We could discuss how for the past 8 years I have been in and out of the doctors and have been on anti-depressants.

All that said I am interested in the rights and wrongs of others with respect to my publishing my website so maybe you would be kind enough to view it prior to our meeting. I have no argument with you and I am generally pretty well behaved. Nobody is going to brush this under the carpet because be under no illusion I am LIVID and not a day has gone past 30 years that I have not reflected on my childhood! It's a life sentence and I'll bet if they convict the guy he will only get 6 years.

Yours sincerely

Derrick wanted an apology from Surrey County Council for not even sending out a social worker to interview him when he was a child following his mothers refusal to send him back to Berrow Wood.

Derrick wanted an apology for Daniels school's refusal to make a simple phone call for him a child who was clearly in difficulty and who they were being paid a lot of extra money to support. Derrick also wanted an apology from the social workers for their refusal to make the same phone call for his son. This leading to his being falsely accused of abusing the child. This leading to his suffering a nervous breakdown when the social worker suggested to him others who were further up the tree and who had not met his son were of the opinion the lad should be in care.

Derrick said *"The shrink I took Daniel to see had it spot on when he said "They have got the wrong idea and run with it."*

It was clear things could only end in divorce after Laura walked out with a text message.

Private and Confidential
Mr D.

our ref JHCDMKG*
your ref
date 23 January 2003

Dear Derik

Thank you for your letter dated the 6th of January and email of the 10th of January.

I enclose your amended Form E for you to check through.

In relation to the documents on your website, whilst I appreciate that the position [REDACTED] has left you and the children in has been very difficult, it is not the sort of behaviour that would be considered as part of the financial proceedings. I therefore do not propose to include this in your Form E unless you feel very strongly that you wish me to do so as this could lead to additional costs for you in pursuing a conduct case. Having said that, should there be any Children Act Proceedings in the future, the matters that you have raised would be very relevant indeed. I note that at the moment the children's placement with you is not at issue and there aren't therefore any Children Act Proceedings at the present time as the Court has a no order principal, however should the position change in the future then the information you have given me would be very important.

I would be grateful if you would let me have your bank statements for the account number, in order to complete your Form E.

I would also be grateful if you would let me have an explanation in relation to the offset accounts for which you have provided me with statements.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

What few people realised was that Derrick had been covertly recording conversations not only at school but also with his wife for weeks prior to her leaving. Derrick saw a big red flag back in November when Laura was more interested in Robert at work than looking after her children. Derrick told me *"It was obvious and beyond repair when she started sleeping with him."*

Tanner & Taylor LLP
DX 50113 ALDERSHOT

RP/mv/
PTW:11/02/15-1
07.07.2005

Dear Sirs

Re: Your Client: [REDACTED]
Our Client: [REDACTED]

We refer to your letter of 24 June 2008 upon which we have now taken our client's instructions.

You have not commented on the fact that the parties agreed that our client would petition on your client's adultery. Does your client now deny there was such an agreement?

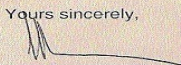
Our instructions are that your client has committed adultery. If that is the case, the only effect of defending our client's petition and cross petitioning, would be to prolong the divorce proceedings and incur unnecessary costs. Our client would also have sufficient to petition on your client's unreasonable behaviour. Our client's costs will be [REDACTED] plus v.a.t totalling [REDACTED]

Our client will continue to look after the children. Until such time as there has been full financial disclosure we cannot comment on the sort of settlement that would be appropriate in the circumstances, save that our client will retain the matrimonial home as a home for himself and the children.

Yours faithfully

CRISP & CO

Of course Laura found a way out of paying child support until Derrick started kicking up a fuss.

child support agency	
Our ref: [redacted] Case ref: [redacted] NI no: [redacted] 3 April 2012	Our address: Child Support Agency PO Box 43 PLYMOUTH PL95 8DL
House of Commons LONDON SW1A 0AA	Telephone: 08456 [redacted] Fax: 01752 [redacted] If you have a text phone: 08457 [redacted]
Dear MP [redacted]	
Mr. Derik [redacted]	
<p>Thank you for your email of 14 March to our MP hotline.</p> <p>Mr parent says Mrs. parent the non-resident parent of child1 and child2 is not paying the correct level of child maintenance, and believes we would not have investigated the matter if he had not contacted us in December last year. He is also unhappy with the time it is taking us to bring the case up to date. You ask that we look into his case and let you know what action is being taken.</p> <p>On 28 and 30 March, Steve CSA a Complaint Resolution Manager, spoke to Mr parent about his case. The amount that Mrs. parent currently has to pay is a flat rate of £5 a week, effective from 30 December 2010, and is based on her wage slips for January and February 2011, which show an average net weekly income of £59.07. The flat rate applies to non-resident parents who have a net income of less than £100 a week. It also applies if a non-resident parent or their partner receives certain types of benefit, which Mrs. parent was also in receipt of at the time. This latter point is salient because in July 2011, when she told us that her hours had increased, her records showed she was still in receipt of benefit, so the amount of child maintenance payable did not change.</p> <p>In November, Mrs. parent told us that her hours had increased further, and this time when we checked her records, they showed her entitlement for benefit had ended on 22 August 2011. We asked her to provide us with August, September and October's wage slip, so we could review the amount she should pay from August. Soon after, on 5 December, we received an email from Mr parent about Mrs. parent maintenance level.</p> <p>In early January this year, we told Mr parent it would take about three weeks to review the case, but we did not take into account it would take until 20 January to receive Mrs. parent wage slips, which we explained to Mr parent on 25 January. That aside, I do accept that we have given Mr parent differing timescales of when his case will be brought up to date, and I apologise for this.</p> <p>Matters have altered significantly by recent developments, in that the Department for Work and Pensions has now made a decision that Mrs. parent entitlement for benefit should have ended from 30 January 2011, which requires us to carry out a series of reviews on the case. On 30 March, Mr CSA told Mr parent that the first of these had been carried out with the calculation of £5 a week, backdated to 3 September 2009 when Mrs. parent claim for benefit began, and that he is currently waiting for further information from her so he can review the case from January, July and November 2011. Mrs. parent has until 13 April to provide Mr CSA with the information he needs, and if it is not received by then, he will obtain it direct from her employer instead. Mr CSA has promised to keep Mr parent updated, and will contact him again by 20 April.</p> <p>In the meantime, if Mr parent requires any further information, he can contact Mr CSA on 08456 [redacted] extension 6817 on Monday and Tuesday between 9.30am and 6pm, on Wednesday between 5pm and 8pm, and on Thursday and Friday between 9.30am and 8pm. Outside those times, one of Mr CSA colleagues will be pleased to help. Mr parent will need his National Insurance number to hand when he calls.</p> <p>If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me or call your local MP hotline.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,  [redacted]</p>	

This is what a divorce looks like when you name the other guy.

NO:

IN THE County Court

BETWEEN Mr [REDACTED]
AND Mrs [REDACTED]
AND ☒ Robert [REDACTED]

Petitioner
Respondent
Co-Respondent

Referring to the decree made in this cause on the 4th January 2010, whereby it was decreed that the marriage solemnised on the 24th July 1993

at THE CHURCH OF SAINT PATER AND SAINT PAUL IN THE PARISH OF [REDACTED] IN THE COUNTY [REDACTED]

between Mr [REDACTED] the Petitioner
and Mrs [REDACTED] the Respondent

be dissolved unless sufficient cause be shown to the Court within six weeks from the making thereof why the said decree should not be made absolute, and no such cause having been shown, it is hereby certified that the said decree was on the 15th June 2010, made final and absolute and that the said marriage was thereby dissolved.

Dated: 15th June 2010

Notes:

1. Divorce affects inheritance under a will
Where a will has already been made by either party to the marriage then, by virtue of section 18A of the Wills Act 1837:
(a) any provisions of the will appointing the former spouse executor or trustee or conferring a power of appointment on the former spouse shall take effect as if the former spouse had died on the date on which the marriage is dissolved unless a contrary intention appears in the will;
(b) any property which, or an interest in which, is devised or bequeathed to the former spouse shall pass as if the former spouse had died on the date on which the marriage is dissolved unless a contrary intention appears in the will.
2. Divorce affects the appointment of a guardian
Unless a contrary intention is shown in the instrument of appointment, any appointment under section 5(3) or 5(4) of the Children Act 1989 by one spouse of his or her former spouse as guardian is, by virtue of section 6 of that Act, deemed to have been revoked at the date of the dissolution of the marriage.

This court office is Cuddihoe County Court, The Law Courts, Abbey Road, Cuddihoe, Kerry, CO11 4PH is open from 10.00am until 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays. Tel 04661 403300 Please address all correspondence to the Court Manager quoting the number at the top right hand corner of this form.
Printed by JPS/2009/06

001 Decree of Absolute Divorce

Derrick told me *"Think what you will but I have a story to tell and I'm going to tell it if it kills me because as I see things it may help other people and Surrey County Council owe me and my children an apology."*

Has anybody phoned my sons scout leader yet? That's not our job speak to the social worker, there has been an abuse allegation. Just shows the attitude of the people Derrick was forced to deal with

I wont do that somebody in the office will. Oh and CAMHS are suggesting Daniel should be placed into foster care as he may be being abused.

Education

Abused pupil's damages claim blocked



The case was heard at the High Court in London

A man who suffered abuse at the hands of teachers has been told by a judge that he cannot sue the education secretary or his local authority for damages.

██████████ was seeking hundreds of thousands of pounds in damages for treatment which he claims has left him psychologically damaged and unable to earn a proper living.

But at the High Court in London, Mr Justice Jackson ruled that only ██████████ claim against the now defunct ██████████ near Worcester, can go ahead.

His lawyers will now have to await the outcome of a hearing next month involving the school and its insurers, Sun Alliance, which is saying the school's policies are not valid for claims involving violence by teachers.

If Sun Alliance wins the action, Mr Gallagher will not be able to pursue his claim against the school, which is in receivership.

Robert ██████████ representing ██████████ told the judge during the six-day hearing that the case arose out of "the systematic physical and emotional abuse of pupils" who had been placed by local authorities at the independent school - which catered for children with special behavioural difficulties.

Assault and cruelty

██████████ was a pupil at the school from 1984 to 1987 and although complaints were made to Hereford and Worcester County Council, no action was taken until police made an investigation in 1991.

Six teachers at the school received various jail terms for offences including assault and cruelty.

The court was told that ██████████ was sent to ██████████ when he was 16 and, during his three and a half years at the school, was violently assaulted by Alan Gorton, the school's owner and principal, headmaster Ronald Morris and head of care Philip Gray.

Since leaving school, ██████████ had had a series of jobs and served a prison sentence for robbery.

He told the judge in evidence that he did not think about making a claim against the school until he gave evidence during the police investigation into the school in 1991.

██████████ said he was not told by lawyers that he could sue the local education authority or the Department for Education until years later.

But the judge ruled that both had no duty of care to Mr ██████████ personally and that his claim against them was too late to be valid in law.

However, he added that ██████████ could go ahead with his claim against the school - which could arguably be held liable for his treatment by the teachers.

'No rights'

██████████ who lives in south London, said in a statement after the hearing: "Whilst I was at the school and suffering under the regime of violence I complained and said I have rights. I was told by the principal of the school that 'The only rights you have here are to eat and breathe'.

"The difficulty I have with the decision today is, yet again, I am being told by the system of justice that I have no rights. In particular, no rights against the local authority and Department of Education who knew that the school was assaulting pupils.

"I cannot accept that it is in the interest of public policy that they had no duty to take any action. It might be in the interest of the legal system to prevent claims of this nature.

"Can it really be said by the judge alone that it is in the public interest that such public bodies who know of the abuse and have the power to prevent it are not obliged to prevent it?"


██████████ solicitor, Chris ██████████, said: "We are deeply disturbed by this decision and will be exploring avenues of appeal either to the Court of Appeal or the European Court of Human Rights.

"It cannot be right that a local authority owes one duty to those children who it places in their own schools and a different duty to those it places in independent schools."

Derrick should never have been placed in this so called school as he was not a would be criminal he was a frightened angry child and had never been in trouble with the police but this was all Surrey County Council would offer. Described as a paedophiles wet dream by some of the adults who spent time there as children.

Derrick told me *“You, (the state) send a frightened and damaged child here and damage him further.” Whose fault is it when you do little about the complaints and end up with a criminal adult?*

Derricks latest CRB check as not every child who attended Berrow Wood turned out to be criminal.

Enhanced Certificate		Disclosure & Barring Service
Page 1 of 2		
No DBS Fee Charged	Certificate Number 001542	
	Date of Issue: 28 AUGUST 2016	
Applicant Personal Details		Employment Details
Surname: [REDACTED]	Position applied for: [REDACTED]	
Forename(s): D [REDACTED]	Name of Employer: [REDACTED]	
Other Names: WARNETT [REDACTED]	Countersignatory Details	
Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1970	Registered Person/Body: [REDACTED]	
Place of Birth: CARSHALTON SUTTON	Countersignatory: [REDACTED]	
Gender: MALE		
Police Records of Convictions, Cautions, Reprimands and Warnings		
NONE RECORDED		
Information from the list held under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002		
NONE RECORDED		
DBS Children's Barred List information		
NONE RECORDED		
DBS Adults' Barred List information		
NOT REQUESTED		
Other relevant information disclosed at the Chief Police Officer(s) discretion		
NONE RECORDED		
Enhanced Certificate		
This document is an Enhanced Criminal Record Certificate within the meaning of sections 113B and 116 of the Police Act 1997.		
THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY		Continued on page 2
 Disclosure and Barring Service, PO Box 165, Liverpool, L69 3JD Helpline: 01000 200 190		

The Trial

After waiting for the best part of 2 years everything finally went to trial. Barry Hastings was called before Worcester magistrates court on the 7th December 2017 charged with 5 offences against Derrick. Derrick had been advised that it was not necessary for him to attend but he was by this time on a roll and saw it as part of the healing process. Many people were worried about his reaction to seeing Mr Hastings again after so much time but he knew he was ready. Derrick's employer was worried he would flip again and get ill which just before Christmas would not be a good thing at work. His mother was worried about his reaction to seeing Mr Hastings again but none of them got it as Derrick told me "The reason I flipped and got ill was because I was worried about my own children and now things were different as they had both grown up and were no longer 8 and 11 years old. It was anticipated that Mr Hastings would not attend so Derrick arrived at 10 o'clock to match the time Mr Hastings was to appear and the copper who had been dealing with things was there to receive him. There was like a public bar at the end of court where seemingly anybody could view a trial in progress. Derrick sat down in the corner listening to the various cases that went before Mr Hastings and he told me "To say we have a child abuse problem in this country really is an understatement." There were various cases run one after another with various men charged with hurting children in one way or another and none of them admitted to things, so every case Derrick heard went to the crown court for trial. Derrick told me "I could not get over how the various people in court and by that, I mean the officials just read the charges with a blank and by the way expression about things. For example, there was one guy who had been charged with raping a 12 year old girl and there was both on his face as well as the faces of just about every member of staff in court no emotion what so ever.

Derrick knew Mr Hastings had arrived in court as he sat outside the court room in a chair not 20 feet away from Derrick and Derrick clocked him as soon as he walked in. 30 years had passed and Derrick was not sure if he would recognise him but he did. "What a relief" Derrick told me. "Half a day on a train not to mention £45 the cost of the ticket and the guy actually showed up." Just like all the other cases Mr Hastings pleaded not guilty and just like all the other cases things were sent up to crown court for trial. After waiting so long Derrick was shocked with the speed of which things went up to the next court. It was the 8th December but now things were to be heard proper on the 5th January. Mr Hastings looked rather stuffed and would not even look at Derrick, he was now an old man with hardly any hair walking with a stick a far cry from the would-be X SAS soldier Derrick knew as a child.

When you go to bed and shut your eyes what's the first thing that comes into your mind? I hope its not being a small 15 year old boy underneath a paedophile trying to stick his thing up your behind. OK not every night but right in the middle of this for Derrick it did. Not only that Derrick was convinced the same would happen to his son if they ever took him into care. I hope that is blunt enough for you because childhood sexual abuse is a nightmare just waiting to be reawakened. In the right circumstance it can take over all your thought processes and it lives with you for the rest of your life! Not only that its hardly the sort of thing you really want to go talking about in later life. This is because if you worry like Derrick you will assume others will see you as a threat to other children for having experienced it.

Now put yourself in Derrick's head as a teenager *"You could have walked away, you were not forced to get into bed with him by gunpoint were you? Why did you not say anything the first time? It was your idea wasn't it? You led him on. You did it because he offered you protection, its your fault and you know*

it. You best not tell anybody because you will have to explain why it happened more than once. You misbehaved and got kicked out of school so what do you expect?"

Then you grow up and see things differently. "You best not tell anybody as they will see you as a threat to your own children. You have to protect your children at all costs. Don't be seen to be friendly towards children as people will think you are one of them. You will be considered guilty until proven innocent. Don't tell anybody it will only lead to problems for your own children. Remember most people think abused becomes abuser so they wont listen to you anyway. If they ever take your kids into care the same will happen to them and it will be your fault. You have to protect your children at all costs so don't ever tell anybody. If you did tell anybody they would not believe you. What if you told others, it went to court and they did not believe you?"

Honestly unless you have been there you really would have no idea what it is like for an innocent, shy, possibly a little disturbed child put into a boarding school full of a number of troubled children and thug staff. Then to have an adult who he thinks is an X SAS soldier with possibly aids try to stick his thing up the child's behind.

10 years later on 2018 and Derrick really has landed on his feet. The compensation was a joke £3300 of which the solicitors took over £1000 but as derrick told me, "It was never about the compensation, it was about telling my story."

Derrick told me "I just put my head down and took one day at a time. I even found myself involved with the local scout group and whilst I still struggle to call the various children by their Christian name its far better than sitting in front of the telly on a Friday evening. I found myself involved with the local church as I took over doing the projector and sound system they use for their Sunday service. I found myself getting involved in local activities with the church as I found myself joining in with various groups helping others. Before I knew where I was my children were young men, both employed and doing well. It was a sad day my stepfather died but it gave me the kick I needed as I had by this time built a large loft conversation and was renting it out. So I adjusted the faily home into 2 flats and 2 bedsits although by definition its a shared house. I get away with the HMO definition because my children are living there and I only rent to 2 other people. 10 years ago I was overdrawn with a mortgage payment due, responsible for 2 pre teen children and a nightmare that was my childhood very fresh in my thought processes. I had to sell the family car to make ends meet. Today I've as good as paid off the mortgage and I have £3,500 a month coming in. Ive moved in with my mother and I'm going to build her a large extension. Things could have been a lot worse for example if I had crumbled at my x wifes false rape allegation rather than recording her confession, waiting for her as she does, tell a story and then calling her bluff and telling just about everybody.

Even if you have just turned the book over to read the back cover thanks for taking the time I know its a heavy read. As the author I Derrick wish you all the best in life and would like to offer you this in the way of some guidance.

Being a child is about learning to be an adult and it **can't** be a vulnerable child's fault if they are led into making mistakes by an adult authority figure can it? You can be sure if the child is anything like me they will go through the rest of their life keeping quiet thinking it was.

JUST THINK ABOUT THAT BEFORE YOU ASK A CHILD OR LATER AN ADULT WHY THEY ALLOWED IT TO HAPPEN OR WHY THEY DID NOT SPEAK UP BECAUSE I SPENT 30 YEARS BLAMING MYSELF ASKING THE SAME QUESTION. IT COST ME 2 NURVOUS BREAKDOWNS A NUMBER OF POTENTIAL FRIENDS AND A FAILED MARRIAGE!

I would like to thank a few people for their support and they know who they are. Not least my own children and Mr Crompton who left me with the best childhood lesson I have ever received the 10 commandments believed by a lot of people to be words from our creator God and an instruction as to how we might live and interact with other people.

You shall have no other gods before Me.

You shall not make idols.

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honour your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet.

This is my recollection of my experiences told in a genuine attempt to help others with painful memories of childhood abuse. Memories that can in the right circumstances take over all your thought processes and make a victim in later life become very ill. Unless you have been there in my case a frightened 15 year old boy underneath a 40 something year old man you simply would not have the capability to understand. For others who have genuinely been there, have had their childhood destroyed by a paedophile and have felt the pain of keeping things all bottled up for years frightened of what others might say or think you are not alone and this small book is for you because you are worth something and your not alone. Derrick :-)