

Witness Name: Allan Breeton
Statement No.: 1
Exhibits: 0
Dated: 17th July 2018

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of Allan Breeton

I, Allan Breeton, will say as follows:-

1. I make this statement in response to a Rule 9 Request served by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse ("the Inquiry") on 19th July 2018. I have been asked to provide a statement in connection with my former role within the Child Abuse Investigation Unit.

My role.

2. I served as a Police Officer with Nottinghamshire Police from January 1974 until my retirement in June 2017. During my service I served mainly as a Detective in various roles both operational and strategic, ending my service as a Detective Superintendent.
3. In or around 1989/1990 I worked as a Detective Sergeant on the Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU). I believe I submitted a written application and was interviewed. This role involved managing a small team of Constables investigating allegations of physical and sexual Child Abuse. This was an operational role which I left on promotion to Inspector in 1995.
4. In 1997 I returned to the CAIU as Detective Inspector (Operational Head). I submitted a written application and was interviewed. At this time I had 23 years of experience and significant involvement in partnership working with agencies including Social Services, Health and Probation. I was well respected and still am across partners in Nottinghamshire.

5. In 1999 I took up the role, on promotion, of Detective Chief Inspector (Head of Specialist Investigations). In this role I had responsibility at a strategic level for the CAIU, Fraud Squad and Special Branch. I was also an accredited Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) with specific responsibility for the management of any suspicious child deaths.
6. During my final year with Nottinghamshire Police I helped set up the Nottingham City Crime and Drugs Partnership (CDP) at a time when the City was under the national spotlight for its poor performance on crime related matters. This involved working very closely with a range of partners across the City but also regionally and nationally. I worked as part of a team with Dame Louise Casey on the Government led Justice Seen Justice Done Programme.
7. I am currently the Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire and Derby City Safeguarding Adults Boards and have been in this role for several years. I believe this demonstrates my ongoing passion and standing with partners in public protection.

The CAIU

8. I cannot recall the exact date that the CAIU was established. I recall it began as the Family Support Unit with a Sergeant and 4 Constables. After a few years it expanded to become the CAIU with an Inspector, 4 Sergeants and around 20 Constables. Terms of reference were developed for the Unit although I don't recall their specific detail.
9. The officers on the Unit were selected through a process which I believe involved a written application followed by an interview. Successful officers underwent joint training with Social Service colleagues to enable them to conduct joint investigations.
10. In my opinion, officers within the CAIU had a good working relationship with other agencies and where any tensions arose they were dealt with swiftly by management to ensure professional solution.

11. In my roles within the CAIU I always had a good relationship with partner agencies. Where any difficult issues arose I always made contact with my counterpart to discuss the issues and seek a positive solution. This approach was always well received.

The ACPC.

12. The Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) was a multi-agency Board comprising of senior officers from a range of agencies led by the Local authority but also including Police, Health, Probation, the Voluntary Sector and others. There was one committee for the City and one for the County. They both had terms of reference but I cannot recall the specific detail. In my role as Detective Chief Inspector I represented the police on both committees as vice-chair.

My work in the CAIU.

13. I have covered my roles within the CAIU but I cannot specifically recall my work in relation to allegations of child sexual abuse in foster or residential care.
14. I would not generally be involved in interviewing complainants as those tasks would be carried out by constables in my team. A complaint would come to me from the referral unit and I would allocate the investigation to the most appropriate staff member considering the circumstances of each case.
15. As a Sergeant in the CAIU I reported to the Inspector. As the Inspector I reported to the Chief Inspector and as the Chief Inspector I reported to the Superintendent. For me personally this always worked well.
16. My work with other agencies whilst within the CAIU was mainly my involvement and attendance at the two ACPC's.
17. I recall that where a charging decision was required in more complex investigation, I would liaise with specialist lawyers within the CPS. In the earlier days I cannot recall the process.

18. I cannot recall any political involvement in investigations into allegations of child sexual abuse in residential care or in foster homes. I also cannot recall my role or that of the CAIU in raising concerns with Social Services relating to management or processes within residential or foster care.

John DENT investigation

19. I cannot recall the extent of my involvement in this case. However my role at that time would involve receiving regular briefings on a case from the investigating officer in charge. I would make decisions regarding resource allocation and address any issues concerning investigation management. I would also keep Social Service colleagues at a strategic level informed of progress.

20. In **INQ001683** I detail how the investigation, managed by a team of Detectives, was conducted. I also outline the fact that an investigation of this nature takes a great deal of time in the planning and execution.

21. It is clear that relevant information was shared by Nottinghamshire County Council Social Services Department which was crucial to the investigations success. This included information that enabled officers to trace potential victims and witnesses.

22. From this information I believe that joint meetings took place between police and social service officers to plan how to interview complainants in the most sensitive way.

23. I also refer to the fact that this was one of the worst cases I had come across. This was based on my many years experience of being involved in a range of child abuse investigations.

Barriers to disclosure

24. I believe there are many reasons why children feel barriers to disclosing sexual abuse. These children are extremely vulnerable and can have a number of feelings. They can have a fear of disclosing very personal and sensitive matters. They can have a fear of not being believed or a fear of being punished for

disclosing. They can feel ashamed and embarrassed, sometimes wrongly blaming themselves for the abuse.

25. Within the CAIU officers received joint training with social workers to enable them to deal with victims in a sensitive way having regard to the individual in question.

Other

26. I believe that over time Nottinghamshire Police improved their collaborative working with Nottingham City and County Councils. Both organisations came to better understand their respective roles in dealing with allegations of child abuse.

27. The development of the CAIU and the use of specialised officers to deal with these allegations was a significant improvement. The selection process for these officers meant that only those with a passion for child protection joined the unit which enabled improved relations with complainants and partner agencies.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed: _____ **DPA** _____

Dated: 17/7/18