

S476

Statement of: CARLTON, JAMES

RESTRICTED

Form MG11(T)
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WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: CARLTON, JAMES

Age if under 18: OVER 18

(if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation:

FREELANCE SOCIAL
WORKER

This statement (consisting of 6 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:

J CARLTON

Date:

27/01/2003

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

Although my full name is shown on the front of this page I have always used the name of Jim CARLTON. I have also given my address to the police. I joined LAMBETH SOCIAL SERVICES in 000890 as Principal Officer Children and Families. This post was a 3rd tier manager and primarily was a 'trouble shooting' role in child protection. The Director of Social Services at that time was David POPE and my two immediate managers were Ainsley FORBES and Verley CHAMBERS. The first occasion I knew of about problems in SOUTHVALE CHILDREN'S HOME was in 000892. It was just before I went on holiday. I was given a confidential briefing by Ainsley FORBES. It appeared a boy called LA-A17 had made allegations of sexual abuse against Les PAUL. He had left the children's home at sixteen and should have gone with his

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mother, but instead went to live with Les PAUL. I think the two senior officers Brian TOMKINS and Bob RANDALL had a meeting with David POPE. I met them at a second meeting. I have been asked if there were any terms of reference. I do not recall any but it was my perception that we were looking at a wider reference than just SOUTHVALE. My main role was to act as a liaison point for the inquiry. I do not recall any protocols that were especially written for the investigation. Any child that needed to be interviewed in accordance with the memorandum of good practice were subject to a strategy meeting where information was shared. These were either chaired by Ainsley FORBES or myself. The police team were not allowed any access to the files. In fact, finding files was sometimes difficult. If they asked for information I would get it for them. This was mainly addresses of ex residents or ex staff. Whenever information was found this was given to the police team in a written form. I kept a copy in a file in my office. This was left in my office until I left LAMBETH on 110396. As far as I can remember the police did not seize any documents and I did not give them any files or documents. Other people may have done. No other staff from LAMBETH were attached to the police team. Ainsley, Verley, David and

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myself had regular meetings with the Police. I cannot remember which staff, children or ex residents were interviewed by the police. I was aware that photographs were taken from Les PAUL's address. I viewed these but could not recognise any of the children as I did not work with them. Other staff members were used for this I have been shown a list of names Exhibit KA79 and asked if I recognise any of the names.

The following I recall. **LA-A75** He was in ANGELL ROAD

CHILDREN'S HOME. I had concerns about him. **LA-A143** **Child**

Child and **Child**, **LA-A12** **Child** **LA-A80**

LA-A80, **LA-A17**, **LA-A113** and **LA-B9** I have been

shown a copy of a memo dated 021192. This was written by me to

Ainsley. I have read this memo. I cannot remember who the ex

resident was mentioned in this memo. I produce this as Exhibit JRC1.

I have also been shown a memo to DI RANDALL. This is dated 081092 and

is signed by me. To the best of my belief this relates to information

sought by the officer. I produce this as Exhibit JRC2. Exhibit JRC3

relates to information sought by the police team. I sent this

information to Yvette ADAMS to research. I cannot remember how

successful the research was I have also been shown three other memos.

These are signed by me. Again they relate to finding out information.

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Out of interest Glenice LAKE was in charge of central records. Kathy who signed the first memo was a member of her staff. I produce this as Exhibit JRC4. I have been shown minutes of a planning meeting dated 220692 this was prior to the start of Operation BELL and the investigation into SOUTHVALE CHILDREN'S HOME. I produce this as Exhibit JRC5. The next document I have been shown is a memo signed by me. It is dated 081292. It mentions four names of children in ANGELL ROAD CHILDREN'S HOME. From memory these were historical investigations and not investigated by Operation BELL, although I recall the name: **Name Redacted**. I produce this as Exhibit JRC6. The last document I have been shown is a memo from David POPE. This is dated 091192. This mentions a questionnaire. The police team did investigate an allegation by **LA-A74** against **LA-F4**. She was resident in ANGELL ROAD CHILDREN'S HOME. She has previously made an allegation against **LA-F4** for which he was sacked. This was because of some sexual interference. I cannot be anymore specific. Whilst SOUTHVALE was being investigated, **LA-A74** told her Social Worker that she had been raped by **LA-F4**. He was arrested and charged with this, but it collapsed at court. I had an interest in ANGELL ROAD due to John CARROLL. I was aware of the discipline hearing and him

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getting sacked. Due to my interest and the fact that David POPE was getting hassle from Anna TAPSELL I created a questionnaire which was sent to about twenty ex residents of ANGELL ROAD. The questionnaire asked if they had any concerns whilst they had been in care. No question identified any particular carer. I sent these by post to last known addresses. I knew of one who rang back, a female. She spoke with Rubina SCANTLEBURY. This memo from David POPE relates to that questionnaire. I produce this as Exhibit JRC7. I do not remember the names of those I sent the questionnaire to. Rubina or Janice WALKLEY may be able to help.

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