

INTERIM REPORT ON CHILD ABUSE

Shirley Oaks Childrens' Home 'Looking for a Place Called Home'

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1 Aim of this Interim Report

1.a This report summarises key parts of the final Shirley Oaks report with the aim of expediting Lambeth Council's understanding and acceptance that its failure as a corporate body to effectively oversee and manage Shirley Oaks Children's Home contributed to it becoming a hedonistic paradise for paedophiles and other abusers. Whether this was an intentional action by Lambeth Council or the result of a vile paedophile ring which had membership from across the Council and beyond or merely mis-management – it is our view that Lambeth Council is vicariously liable for the actions of its staff.

1.b The victims' case studies collated by Shirley Oaks Survivors Association (SOSA) can be found at the end of this report and demonstrate the effect of Lambeth Council's ineffective/non-existent management and oversight practices and how this impacted on the lives of the Shirley Oaks victims from cradle to adulthood and in some cases – to their early graves.

1.c Throughout this report we examine the relationships between the local management of Shirley Oaks; Lambeth Council; various central government entities; the police and the various independent Inquiries to determine why the true extent of the abuse was not, until now, uncovered. We also question why there was only one conviction for sexual abuse at Shirley Oaks when this behavior by its staff was so prevalent? To this end we attempt to establish once and for all if there was a cover up?

1.d This report will expose the far reaching failures of Lambeth Council, its Children's Department, Social Services and other entities and how this led directly or indirectly to the premature deaths of many care children and contributed to others becoming addicts and/or experiencing mental health problems and/or leading dysfunctional adult lives.

1.e We also provide summaries of the actions of some of the perpetrators of physical and sexual abuse at Shirley Oaks, their histories and their crimes. Most of these vile, Lambeth employees were not subject to internal or external justice systems, despite complaints about their conduct; only Lambeth Council can answer why?

1.f To date, SOSA has over 600 members and the number is growing exponentially. Many of our members were previously among the 90% of child sexual abuse victims who never reveal their physical and sexual abuse. The process of getting them to open up has required extensive encouragement and support, 2 - 3 months of counselling and then piecing together their stories from their case files and their verbal accounts.

1.g We have purposely anonymized these brave survivors of abuse to maintain their privacy. We have however named the children who died in care or after care, as a result of the abuse they experienced. We have done this with the permission of their families who are anxious that these children's stories also need to be heard and that they should be identified so their deaths were not in vain.

1.h We have also taken the step of naming some of the perpetrators of abuse in this report because we have received separate accounts, of a similar nature, from a number of different sources and are confident that our claims are true.

1.i Our key aim in preparing this report is to seek reparations and redress for the collective injuries whether long term or short term e.g. physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, psychological abuse, and racial abuse that our members and others have suffered. This will be discussed further later in the report.

2. Definition of Terms

2.a What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse or child maltreatment is physical, sexual, or psychological mistreatment or neglect of a child or children, especially by a parent or other caregiver. It may include any act, or failure to act, by a parent or other caregiver that results in actual, or potential harm to a child. It can occur in a child's home, or in the organisations, schools or communities the child interacts with. (Wikipedia, 2016)

2.b What is a Paedophile?

The word pedophilia comes from the Greek: *παῖς, παιδός* (paîs, paidós), meaning "child", and *φιλία* (philía), "friendly love" or "friendship". Pedophilia is used for individuals with a primary or exclusive sexual interest in prepubescent children aged 13 or younger. Nepiophilia (from the Greek: *νήπιος* (népios) meaning "infant" or "child," which in turn derives from "ne-" and "epos" meaning "not speaking"), sometimes called infantophilia, is a sub-type of pedophilia; it is used to refer to a sexual preference for infants and toddlers (ages 0–3 or those under age 5). Hebephilia is defined as individuals with a primary or exclusive sexual interest in 11- to 14-year-old pubescents. (Wikipedia 2016)

All the types of predators defined above operated at Shirley Oaks plus other groups with a preference for racial profiling, abusing children with disabilities and those who were classified as maladjusted. In the case of Lambeth Council who had a duty to protect the children in its care until the age of 18, we argue that any employee that engaged in sexual activity with a care child up to the age of 18 is guilty of the same crimes attributed to paedophilia outlined above. Such individuals will be referred to as paedophiles throughout this report.

3 Introduction by the Author – Raymond Stevenson

3.a I always knew that investigating what took place at Shirley Oaks Children’s Home was not going to be easy. The task was made even more complex when I discovered the extent of the sexual and physical abuse that occurred at Shirley Oaks. This was further compounded by the fact that many of the historical records about Shirley Oaks in the local and national archive libraries were restricted by a 100 year banning order. There was an even larger obstacle that I would face and this was Lambeth Council’s own lack of historical records which would have blindsided any other investigation of this nature, in the past or present.

3.b By Lambeth Council’s own admission, while it was investigating claims of historical sexual abuse on children in its care homes, council officers who were implicated in the abuse had removed files relating to the children who were being investigated. This discovery forced us to take an innovative approach to our fact finding mission, which would ultimately lead to a more comprehensive and informed understanding of what had taken place at Shirley Oaks between 1950 and 1983, which we consider to be the dark ages of childcare.

3.c The approach of our investigation was to contact as many people as possible who had attended Shirley Oaks as children and document their first, second, and third-hand accounts of abuse, including personal experiences, witnessed experiences and rumours. From this we then set about cross-referencing the allegations with information contained in over 100 Lambeth Social Services care files. To add to the factual matrix we incorporated the background of Lambeth’s historical failings in caring for looked after children, previous related Inquiries, along with the rules, laws and procedures that were in operation at the time.

3.1 About the Author

3.1.a What most people were unaware of is that as well running a successful management company and working in America, Japan and extensively in Europe, Lucia (my business partner for 25 years) and myself have a background in carrying out investigations and national campaigns. We have listed two of our high profile campaigns and investigations.

3.1.b 2007 under the banner of Urban Concepts, we developed two successful nationwide anti-gun campaigns, which were funded by the Home Office and the Mayor’s Office. The campaign featured one hundred mothers who had lost children to gun and knife crime. News items included BBC News, ITV News, Panorama and Channel 4. Other TV coverage included ‘Guns Are Cool’ and an MTV show inspired by our campaign. The anti-gun campaigns were successful and led to a reduction in gun crime.





Due to the success of our work which were used as tools by Amnesty international we were invited to Number 10 to meet Tony Blair. Little did we know that our current investigation would lead us back to the same door. We followed up our anti-gun campaign by investigating the cause and effects of gun crime and were invited to meet Mayor Bloomberg in New York and undertook further research in Jamaica. We had a close working relationship with the Police and they even suggested that I worked for them as an informant which I politely refused. Months later our funding was stopped and we knew why.

3.1.c In 2004 we carried out our own investigation into corruption in Southwark Council's planning department after they had given planning permission to build flats three metres away from our nightclub; even though they accepted that we had a legitimate right to oppose the application, their response was that they "accidentally forgot" to canvas us.

3.1.d The District Auditor was called in and we provided him with a one hundred page report. Having been informed by our report, he found in our favour and issued a damning report into Southwark Council's planning department. He commended us on our ability to piece the facts together but noted that our methods of investigation were not readily available to the public. During this investigation into Southwark Council we were told that two Councillors had an unhealthy interest in underage girls and we reported this to the police. Needless to say nothing was done but we were not shocked when years later Southwark Cllr John Friary was arrested for having child pornography on his computer.

3.1.e The year that we spent investigating Southwark Council and learning first hand of the extent officers and councillors would go to cover up their wrong doing would prepare us for investigating Lambeth. However, in the case of Lambeth, we soon discovered that it wasn't just the historical aspect of this investigation that set it apart, it was the layer cake of seemingly unconnected strands that needed to be pieced together; we soon realised we were batting blind up a dark alley of unchartered waters - a necessary mixed metaphor.

3.1.f In trying to uncover what had transpired at Shirley Oaks I knew I first had to accept I had been living in denial all my life because despite me hating Shirley Oaks I also wanted to protect it; we all did - especially the long-termers. This was partly to do with our instinct to bury all the bad memories and the fact that Shirley Oaks was the only place we could call home. We all now realise that this was just another self-imposed excuse for us to suffer in singular silence but now it is time to speak out collectively and receive justice for the innocence of our childhoods that was taken away and from which we will never fully recover.

3.1.g Upon embarking on this investigation, I knew I was about to go on a journey back to my own hell so I set about deciding on a name for this report. Thinking about the wider objectives I knew if we succeeded in exposing the evil that had stained all our lives, we, the children of Shirley Oaks could reclaim our legacy. I also wanted a name that would inspire me in the darkest days. This was when I decided to call this investigation 'Looking for a Place Called Home', because as care children this was all we had ever wanted.

3.1.h It is important for me to pay homage to the many Shirley Oaks survivors who bravely gave evidence to myself and my team; using the word 'heroic' to describe you is an

understatement. I say this from the uncomfortable position of knowing first hand of the hell you went through. Equally I pay homage to all the brave whistle blowers who tried in vain over the years to alert Lambeth Council - just knowing there were people out there who cared is helping to heal our wounds today.

3.1.i During the two years of our investigation, which included hundreds of face to face interviews, I always tried to remain objective and never once shed a tear in front of anyone which is something I learnt to do during my time at Shirley Oaks. Haunted by the many childhood faces from my past and now knowing what had happened to them behind closed doors, I once again waited until my own front door was closed before I cried my eyes out for all those who had suffered immeasurably. However, each time I dried my tears, I repeated the old Shirley Oaks mantra. 'All for one and one for-all' but this time I added, "Together we shall reclaim the legacy of Shirley Oaks and finally unbury the lies and resurrect the truth".



Raymond Stevenson - Memories of Shirley Oaks

Years in Care: 1966- 1981

Shirley Oaks Houses: House 11, House 24, new House 24

Other Children's Homes:

South Vale Assessment Centre

St. Saviours Children's Home; Oakhill Boarding School.

3.1.j *The fact I spent eleven years at Shirley Oaks means I can give you, the reader, a 3D perspective of what it was like living in chaos and how it affected me. I did not suffer sexual abuse but I now know I was targeted and my experience is relevant to this investigation. Like many children I was ashamed of being in care so I only told a few people.*

4. Shirley Oaks – Looking for a Place Called Home

4.1 About Shirley Oaks Children's Home

4.1.a The following historical narrative about Shirley Oaks was taken from excerpts of a document held by the Lambeth archives. It provides a context for how and why the home was set up which will help the reader to contextualize the original concept for establishing Shirley Oaks, its intended ethos and how it was managed and overseen over the years. At Appendix 1 we have set out the Guardians' rules for running the homes. This context can then be used to assess the extent to which many of the children's experiences of Shirley Oaks, as set out in the latter sections of this report, was in direct contrast to its original remit and purpose and how and why this contradiction was allowed to occur.



4.1.b The children's home at Shirley Oaks was opened in 1904 by the Bermondsey Board of Guardians and the idea behind it was that children should be brought up in a home environment rather than a large regimented institution. A report by Mrs. Nassau Senior to the Local Government Board in 1874 recommended the use of 'cottage homes' as an alternative. Shirley was an example of this system, the children living in small groups with house parents, on a site including school, workshops, administration block, infirmary etc., in a self-contained community. A swimming bath, farm, workshops (for training as well as maintenance) and laundry were also included in the scheme. The headmaster and headmistress were



responsible for general administration as well as education, and the cottages were run by Mothers with the help of Assistant Housemothers. The Guardians' original ethos for the home was *'A place where (the children) may receive kindly and homely parental care, a sound education and industrial training to enable them upon leaving the home to secure a livelihood'*

4.1.c In 1930, the functions of the Guardians of the Poor were taken over by the London County Council, and the School was placed under the control of a Managing Committee responsible to a sub-committee of the Education Committee. Following a report on the School by LCC inspectors, attempts were made to widen the rather inward-looking, self-sufficient attitude and bring the children into greater contact with the world outside. The appointment of a separate headmaster, with responsibility only for the school, was one step in this direction. Individual bedrooms for the older girls were encouraged to promote independence and more scope allowed for individual activities outside school. The inspectors also recommended the abolition of the general farm, although pigs and poultry could still be kept.

4.1.d The transfer of responsibility to the LCC Children's Department in 1949 brought little change, but the attempt to 'de-institutionalise' was taken further in 1955 when the name Shirley Oaks replaced Shirley Residential School. Numbers gradually fell, and by 1950 there were 370 children (of whom 259 had families) whereas in 1930 there were 619.

4.1.e When the London Boroughs were formed in 1965, Lambeth took over Shirley Oaks, although the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) was responsible for the school. Less than twenty years later, the old 'cottage home' system had in its turn been superseded by other methods of care. But the main aim of these changes was that managers and staff of Shirley Oaks have shared throughout its eighty-year history - the provision of the best possible care for the children in their charge".

4.2 Who are the Shirley Oaks Children?

4.2.a The circumstances for children being taken into care were tragic, many children were taken to Shirley Oaks Children's Home for their own protection as they had been neglected or abused by their parents. The state could have also sent your children to live in Shirley Oaks: if you or your partner had become seriously ill and you couldn't cope with bringing up your child/children; if one of you died or had a nervous break-down; if you were a teenage mother; if you had fallen on hard times; if your housing was unsatisfactory or if you were sent to prison.

4.2.b In many cases screaming children would cling onto their parents for dear life whilst strangers would rip them away from their grasp. Whatever the reason you were taken into care, whatever decade, it was a traumatic experience for every child because they felt the withdrawal from their parents as the ultimate biological rejection. Sadly, the stigma would only increase as they grew older, because no-one bothered to explain to the children why they had been put into care; inevitably many children would blame themselves. All this was difficult to cope with but Shirley Oaks children were hardy souls and without the interference of subversive adults they would have recovered from their early trauma.

4.2.c Situated in the leafy outskirts of Croydon on a seventy-acre site, Shirley Oaks Children's Home had all the comforts and facilities of a picture box village where the damaged souls could recover in a safe environment away from negative influences. However, despite its glowing CV, all was not as it seemed at the state-run children's home. Away from monitoring ears, the children would be less complimentary about its virtues and they would whisperingly refer to it as 'Shirley Hell'. This childlike nickname would prove not to be so infantile once we discovered the extent of the unpalatable and sickening practices that had been taking place inside its perimeter walls.

4.3 Lambeth's Back Story

4.3.a There has always been a Dickensian decadence for South London's then least fashionable enclave, the borough of Lambeth. This has nothing to do with Brixton's reputation for being infamous as a place of racial tension, with the streets awash with muggings. If you were to point the finger in any direction, it was more to do with its unfortunate location. Bordering the borough of Westminster, a world of perverse power, Lambeth was the opposite, a borough of adverse poverty.

4.3.b In the 18th and 19th centuries Lambeth was a feeder town for unscrupulous politicians who would take the cart ride across South bridge where they would spend an unspecified amount servicing their perverse delights. It was a catch-all situation because it brought more currency to the area but with it came a devaluing of its residents, as they were referred to and thought of as common as muck.

4.3.c In the 20th century there was an urban myth centred around a group of white men who worked in senior management at Lambeth Council who were known as 'The Untouchables'. The leader of the council around this time was Ted Knight, who was infamous for bankrupting the council financially, and some would say, morally. For those in the know, who had their fingers in the pie and their snouts in the trough, it was said to be a time when the lunatics and sycophants ran the asylum.

4.3.d In a report on Lambeth Council's corruption in 1995 Elizabeth Appleby QC made reference to many staff who claimed that the Freemasons were in operation. Other people said it was renowned south London gangs. The local black community believe it was a renegade Police force, consisting of the two groups above and their informers.

Lambeth's Recent Past: A Place that facilitated Paedophiles and Celebrity Client list

4.3.e Echoing its medieval past, in the recent focus on paedophiles in powerful positions we have discovered many dubious politicians and celebrities who had links to Lambeth. Once again it is clear that the location of Lambeth played a part; firstly its close proximity to the Houses of Parliament and some of its employees. Secondly, Lambeth had one of the highest ratios of children in care which, this report will highlight, were easy targets.

4.3.f As part of our background research we wanted to know if any of these people had visited Shirley Oaks or other Lambeth Children's homes or may have come into contact with care children. We were shocked to find that paedophiles from all political parties considered Lambeth a welcoming place. For this interim report we have highlighted 4 men.

4.3.g The investigations into Jimmy Savile's past confirm that he visited numerous Lambeth children's homes where sexual abuse took place. One of these was Chevington Children's Home where many Shirley residents were sent. More importantly, Geoff Clark one of Shirley Oaks most prolific paedophiles was linked to this home where he had abused boys along with another paedophile who also previously worked at Shirley Oaks.

4.3.h We also discovered that Jimmy Savile had attended the opening of a swimming pool for disabled children in West Norwood, Lambeth. It is said that Savile visited a South London hospital in the 1980s and it was also suggested that his brother was implicated in sexual abuse at a South London hospital.

4.3.i During our preliminary investigations into Shirley Oaks we received numerous accounts that Jimmy Savile was friends with one of the Superintendents, Clifford Heap who ran Shirley Oaks during the 1950s and 60s. We also learned from ex residents that Jimmy Savile had DJ'ed at the Shirley Oaks Community Centre with Ed 'Stupot' Stuart.

4.3.j Having learnt from the recent revelations that Jimmy Savile had a fixation with children who had mental disabilities we are concerned that he may have visited 3 cottages at Shirley Oaks which were designated for children with various disabilities. We make no direct allegations against Jimmy Savile at this time but we do question how he was allowed unhindered access to Lambeth's children's homes.

Profile of Politicians Caught with Their Trousers Down:

4.3.k MP, paedophile and sadistic predator Cyril Smith was also known to have visited Lambeth. The BBC have connected him to Coronation Building, a run-down tenement on South Lambeth Road, which was in the sight line of Parliament. During a three-month inquiry, officers gathered a substantial amount of evidence of men abusing boys aged around 14 years old at Coronation Building.

4.3.l The evidence compiled by the police, included pictures and videos taken from inside the flat, as a hidden camera had been installed with the help of a caretaker. The police inquiry

found that Smith was said to have been one of those caught on camera, another being a senior member of Britain's intelligence agencies. Smith was later seized at a property in Streatham, Lambeth, where he had reportedly been taking part in a sex party with teenage boys. None of the claims could be proved because the police lost the evidence.

4.3.m There was also the case of Ron Davies MP who was caught on Clapham Common in a sexual scandal which destroyed his career. What was never said was that the place he was caught was known for unscrupulous people peddling children from South London children's homes. Local police were also implicated in Lambeth's murky past, it was reported in the media that officers had built a sex dungeon in the basement of Lambeth's Police HQ in which it was said that young children, mainly from children's homes, were being regularly abused.

4.3.n On the 1st March 2016, BBC's Newsnight alleged that in 1998 former Met Officer Clive Driscoll was removed from Operation Middleton, the Lambeth police inquiry because he wanted to interview Lord Paul Boating about his connections with convicted Lambeth paedophile Michael John Carroll, also known as John Carroll. What was relevant to Shirley Oaks was all these high profile people had links with Lambeth and most got away with their crimes, so we believe there must have been a cover up.

4.3.o Following the revelation of Jimmy Savile the media and police focused on the many high profile claims of sexual abuse and everyone seemed to forget the hundreds of unresolved allegations of child abuse in Lambeth and other children's homes around the country.

4.4 PAL/PIE Moves to Lambeth

4.4.a What justifies our belief that Lambeth was an unsafe environment for children in care was discovering that a network of like-minded individuals, Paedophile Action for Liberation (PAL) was set up in the 1970s, in a run-down flat in Brixton, to peddle its evil. It cannot be a co-incidence that this was around the time when Social Services took over the running of Shirley Oaks and there was an exponential increase in paedophile activity at Shirley Oaks.

4.4.b The Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) an affiliate company of PAL was brazen enough to promote the virtues of paedophilia and its benefit to care children:

"The organisation observed that teachers, clergymen, scoutmasters and youth workers, social workers and residential care workers were particularly prone to 'child love.'" "Paedophiles are naturally drawn to work involving children, for which many of them have extraordinary talent and devotion. Often they are the ones the children value most. If this field were to be 'purged', there would be a damaging reduction of people left to look after deprived children". (Published PIE literature)

4.4.c The following advertisements from published PIE literature demonstrate that the paedophiles were networking:

No. 273: *Energetic middle-aged male sincere and discreet likes boys 8-15 years and the various ways in which they dress. Into swimming, would like to hear from others.*

No. 390: *Male. Interested public school type boys, 12-16 either in football shorts or corduroy trousers, would like to meet young male, 20-30, with similar interests. (S W London/Surrey).*

No. 379: *Male; Into girls 6-13 would like to correspond/meet others with similar interests; music, sports, fashion, Hi-Fi, photography, dance, reading, films.*

No. 373: *Doctor, male. Poet and author, interested photos little girls in white pants and little boys out of white pants. Would like to hear from male or female with similar interests. All letters answered. Perfect discretion. (Reading, Berks).*

No. 401: *Anglican priest, south London, anxious to meet other paedcs for friendship.*

4.4.d When given airtime, PIE's doctrine would be to try and justify their hidden objective, to have unhindered access to children as young as four. It was always presented as a passive argument as if they were speaking on behalf of the children and for their benefit. In this and the final Lambeth report you will learn when these seemingly innocent liberators did not get their way, they would revert to criminal behaviour to deceive and consequently abuse children. The lack of effective vetting and management control by Lambeth Council would provide an ideal environment and opportunities for them and their friends to abuse care children.

4.4.e Included in the dark labyrinth of child paedophiles at Shirley Oaks was a list of men that was similar to the PIE membership. This included; teachers at the in-house primary school, one of whom was the headmaster, two resident doctors and just as disturbingly allegations that members of the clergy were also part of the ring of abuse. There were numerous, poorly vetted or perhaps purposefully selected contracted swimming teachers, photography instructors, drama teachers, football coaches and scout masters. Lastly those with direct control of the children; House Fathers, House Mothers, Social services, volunteers and Lambeth Council staff were all abusing the children or failing to protect them.

4.4.f It is clear that when Lambeth was in control of Shirley Oaks it failed to carry out regular inspections of children's homes in line with its duty of care. In the final report we have a statement from Clare Wheelan, a Lambeth Councillor where she confirms that she was refused access to the children's homes which was part of her lawful duty. The lack of oversight by Lambeth Councillors of its children's homes and the extent to which this contravened the legal requirements at the time, is also clearly set out in the Barratt Report (1999-2000).

4.4.g We would argue that the strategy to reduce oversight by Lambeth Councillors was an intentional tactic by some Lambeth Council managers to facilitate people with a similar philosophy to those mentioned in the PIE adverts to have unhindered access to the most vulnerable: Lambeth's looked after children.

4.5 Management and Staffing at Shirley Oaks and its Endorsement of Sexual Abuse

4.5.a From as early as the 1960 it was common knowledge amongst the paedophile network that two of the Superintendents that ran Shirley Oaks were paedophiles. Superintendent Clifford Heap, was employed from 1952-1965 and the other, Fred Cummings, the deputy Superintendent was employed from 1957-1973. In 1965 the Superintendent that took over from Heap was Mr. Holman, who had previously run another children's home where girls and boys were sexually abused. Needless to say he was the main instigator for covering up the sexual abuse at Shirley Oaks when it was managed by Lambeth council and Mr Heap would often visit.

4.5.b In 1971 Holman had a nervous breakdown while he was in charge but this was only after he had allowed hundreds of lives to be destroyed whilst he reigned. Just to add to his CV, he was also Justice of the Peace when he physically abused children. His son contacted us and informed us that his father had tried to set fire to his mother while they lived at Shirley Oaks. He also described him as a bully like many of the victims he abused. The person who took over the running of Shirley Oaks on behalf of Lambeth Social Services was Don Thomas who officially worked from 1967 but we believe he previously worked under Mr Heap in the 1950s. As you will learn in this report, Don Thomas maintained the dysfunctional management structure. At the end of this report are case studies relating to the Superintendents who ran Shirley Oaks. The profiles of the Shirley Oak's management team explain why for three decades there was an 'institutionalised evil' that permeated the children's home.

4.5.c Throughout this interim report we allude to the fact that the management team at Shirley Oaks were facilitators and/or paedophiles. Having completed our investigation, we can now confirm that sexual abuse, on an industrial scale, started in the 1950s when Clifford Heap took over the role of Superintendent. Mr Heap was instrumental in bringing the concept of Social Uncles and Aunts whose remit was to visit children with no parents; some of these Social Uncles and Aunts would also become candidates for fostering the Shirley Oaks children.

4.5.d In an LCC report they made clear warnings about strangers. It was agreed that: *'all friendless children considered as suitable should if possible be boarded out'*, that is, fostered. The report remarked, *'It will be realised that any scheme whereby local residents are allowed to have even the temporary care of our children must be carefully watched, and the Superintendent is alive to the difficulty'*.

4.5.e Excluding the teachers at The Shirley Oaks Primary school, in the early days of Shirley Oaks, Heap's staff in the 38 cottages included 4 men and 70 women. However, there were also ancillary workers, who were all men, employed for roles in the store room, as gate keepers, drivers, gardener's, store man, boiler man, the lodge keeper for example.

4.5.f Following a directive from the LCC to employ more housefathers to work alongside their wives to recreate a family structure, some of the ancillary staff would become housefathers. In the case of Shirley Oaks these people were not chosen on merit and some went on to hide the abuse that was taking place and in some cases joined in.

4.5.g The career progression of some staff at Shirley Oaks is questionable; an example being the shoe maker Jimmy Atwood, a cobbler who then became a house parent and Fred Cummings, who started work as a helping hand, but somehow, inexplicably House 32 to the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Shirley Oaks.

4.5.h Judging by the amount of new house-parents who we would later identify as abusers, we suspect Heap had the following selection criteria for his staff and managers:

- *They were like-minded paedophiles and/or abusers;*
- *They were not very capable so were grateful for their position and therefore would not question what was taking place;*
- *They were of dubious character and would be more interested in feathering their cap, e.g. stealing food or clothes from the children, withholding pocket money and generally treating*

the children in their care as if they were a commodity.

4.5.i It was later confirmed that as part of the deceit that was ingrained in Shirley Oaks, some individuals would marry in order to fulfil the remit of being house parents and the lucrative opportunities the positions would bring. This would allow unscrupulous men to have access to the children with their wives either turning a blind eye, joining in or acting as facilitators. The rest were duped by their husbands whose real motives in marrying them were not the financial rewards of being a house parent but having unhindered access to the children.

4.5.j The Shirley Oaks management who were mostly from a military back ground had influential friends including some who were judges and senior police officers. Some of these 'friends' were in the Croydon round table and some were also Freemasons. Echoing Shirley Oaks' Dickensian past, the recent focus on paedophiles in powerful positions led us to pose the question "*did any of these dubious people have links to Shirley Oaks or Lambeth?*" In the final Lambeth report we highlight the activities of these individuals.

4.5.k Aside from the high profile paedophiles, at the end of our 2 year investigation we were shocked to discover that there were at least 60 paedophiles that operated in Shirley Oaks. Both boys and girls had been abused, including young infants. Some of the victims were only in Shirley Oaks for a few months and others had been in the home for most of their lives. The sexual abuse impacted on all races and in some cases the paedophiles were women but more often than not the women were passive partners and the paedophiles were men.

4.6 Football Coaches, Football Scouts, FA Links to Shirley Oaks

4.6.a The case Study on Geoff Clark who was a Lambeth employee, football coach and volunteer Uncle to some Shirley Oaks' children, highlights how the national sport, football was used by paedophiles to target children.

4.6.b Even though we have used Geoff Clark as a case study below, he was not the only paedophile to use football as a way to interact with children in the care of Lambeth Council. We have highlighted two other football coaches who worked on a voluntary basis at Shirley Oaks Children's in the late 1960's who went on to work for the FA in scouting programs for football clubs. Due to ongoing inquiries we are limited to what we can say in this report. However, it is clear from our investigations that they were part of a ring of abusers that started off in Shirley Oaks Children's Home and then extended their tentacles further afield.

4.6.c As well as the two (undisclosed) individuals discussed above, John Butcher was part of this ring. Butcher was a football scout and convicted paedophile who was charged with bringing in child pornography from Holland. It is also said Butcher took children from Lambeth Homes to take part in child porn movies and to be abused by other paedophiles in Holland. This is consistent with other another paedophile who worked at Shirley Oaks who the children knew as 'Touch man' as in Dutch man, who was also from Holland.

4.6.d John Butcher had connections to Crystal Palace, Chelsea, Fulham and Millwall football clubs, in his guise as a football scout. When former Met Officer Clive Driscoll approached Crystal Palace with regard to concerns about Butcher they were dismissive and derisory. We now know that numerous children were taken from Shirley Oaks to Crystal Palace FC for special treats, which was sanctioned by the management.

4.6.e John Butcher knew Eddie Heath a Football scout at Millwall who has been accused in the latest allegations of child abuse in football revelations. We also now know Butcher has recent convictions. What is most disturbing is his connection to St Matthew Church West Norwood which opens up another Pandoras Box of Police officer and former Lambeth employees.

4.6.f What is concerning about John Butcher is the claims his crimes were under-played because of his close association with Police officers. John Butcher was also part of the Association of Combined Youth Clubs (ACYC) with convicted paedophile Michael John Carroll (known hereafter in this report as John Carroll). The foundation of this evil collective started at Shirley Oaks and later evolved into the ACYC and led to the Kent football League which was eventually closed down because of the activity of Mark Harwood another paedophile. We have more information on John Butcher which is being verified and will appear in the final report.

4.6.g ACYC members need to be investigated as part of the Lambeth Paedophile Ring because it holds the secrets to how paedophiles developed their strategies to control the access of children through developing community activities on a large scale:

- Cannon Devan,
- John Butcher,
- Mr Thompson,
- Terrence Spazinski (convicted paedophile) a Priest,
- Michael John Carroll (Convicted) ,
- John Wentworth,
- Stan Willman,
- Desmond St Peters,
- Keith Cornfield,
- Ernie Randall
- (Chief Exec) Don Dunc (Assistant and convicted paedophile),
- Mark Harwood (Sports Officer, convicted of abusing boys),

4.6.h Included in the working structures of this organisation were senior Police officers and politicians, many attended the camping holidays, one of which was said to be Paul Boateng.

Case Study on Geoff Clark and the Connecting Themes at Shirley Oaks

4.6.i Geoff Clark was introduced to Shirley Oaks by Mr Wyatt who worked for Lambeth Council in the Finance department as a senior manager. As well as working for Lambeth Council, he was an unpaid housefather with his wife in House 8. We have received many claims of physical abuse from the Wyatts and the allegations were substantiated when we discovered that Mr Wyatt was sacked for physically abusing children in his care and his wife was moved to another cottage with older girls who could protect themselves from the abuse.

Sexual and Physical Abuse in House 17

House parents: Derek and Pauline Lamden

Personal Statements from: Children 1, 2 and 3

Extract from the Final Lambeth Report – Geoff Clark:

Our research on Geoff Clark delivered a Pandora's Box of allegations, this is when we were forced to come to terms with the extent of the abuse that had taken place at Shirley Oaks and its connection to officers who were employed by Lambeth Council.

Rita Clarke and Don Thomas were middle management working in various roles in Lambeth. Both had previously worked at Shirley Oaks in the 1960s as house parents or assistants. Rita Clarke met her Husband Terry Clarke, at Wood Vale children's home in Lambeth where Mr Cummings another member of Shirley Oaks staff had previously worked and abused boys. Rita Clarke was from Liverpool and she was the person who invited now convicted paedophile John Carroll and Irene O'Brien from Liverpool to work in Lambeth. Their involvement in what took place at Shirley Oaks amounts to criminal behavior along with facilitating other abusers, both Irene and Rita were aware of Michael Carroll's sexual offence at a previous children's care home in Liverpool where he was convicted of a schedule one offence against a child.

Geoff Clark was not employed in any childcare capacity at Shirley Oaks or any other Lambeth children's home but was known to be a Social Uncle. Geoff Clark was accused of sexually abusing numerous boys at Shirley Oaks. At our first Shirley Oaks survivors meeting we threw up the names of children that we suspected Geoff Clark had abused and we would later find supporting evidence to confirm our belief that he was a prolific child sex abuser.

Some of Geoff Clark's Victims:

- Child 1, Child 2, X and Child 3.
- We believe he may have abused X, son of the house parents from House 8. Clark took him to his parents' house at weekends.
- Whilst at another home, Clark "adopted" Child 1 who always went to Clark's house at the weekends. Child 1 was around 8 years old. The adoption might have been in the 'social uncle' term used by Lambeth.
- Clark was being investigated as a suspect in Operation Middleton but because he killed himself before his trial no one knew the true extent of his abuse at Shirley Oaks.

Extract from Lambeth CHILE Investigation, Theresa Johnston, Group Management Officer for Children's Homes in Lambeth:

"Geoff would take the children out, spend time with them, and get to know them on a one to one basis. The senior staff such as Don Thomas and Rita Clarke allowed him unfettered access. Very dangerous Social Uncles and Aunts were..."

Child 2 Personal Statement
Abusers Geoff Clark and William Hook:



"I went into Shirley Oaks aged 6 in 1972 with my siblings. We were taken into care as my parents had a breakdown. Geoff Clark had an orange Mini with tinted windows and would let me drive the Mini whilst sitting on his lap. Geoff would always have an erection. When the children from House 17 would go swimming, I would be left with Geoff in the pool. Geoff would take off his swimming trunks and instruct me to do the same which led to oral sex and me masturbating Geoff. Geoff would shower me with presents and told me it's what people do to show their love for one another. He would buy me sportswear and trainers as well as a bike that was kept at his house.

Geoff Clark had worked for Lambeth in the Finance department as a Computer Programmer and would take me to his office. When it got late I would sleep in the chair in his office and once Geoff had finished work he would take me back to his house.

After spending the weekends at his, I would come back to Shirley on a number of occasions feeling ill and I now believe I was being drugged by him.

Around the age of 11/12 years old me and my siblings left Shirley Oaks and went back home with our parents. I would still attend Geoff's Judo Club once or twice a week. I would tell my parents that I was catching a bus to the classes but Geoff would always be at the bottom of the road waiting to take me.

After Judo, Geoff and I would spend time together until Geoff dropped me home. My dad was a bully and he never wanted us to have memories of our home life. He wanted me to go to a boy's school in Tulse Hill. I refused because when my brother was there he had a knife put to his throat. I was placed back at Shirley Oaks, Geoff was pleased. Geoff took me to his sister's house who lived with her husband and their 2 children. They would give me wine and were very welcoming although I felt that they did not know what Geoff was doing to me.

In 1983 when Shirley Oaks was about to close I asked Geoff if he wanted to foster me but he said "no I don't".

Author's Comment:

It is clear from Child 2's personal statement that Geoff Clark had groomed and bewitched him from a young age. Child 2 lived in House 17 and the officer in charge Pauline Lamden would allow Geoff unhindered access to the children in her care. We would later learn that she had also allowed other adults to abuse children in the previous houses where she worked. The inappropriate relationship between Child 2 and Geoff Clark broke his family apart as his father suspected what was going on and disowned him.

Child 2's personal Account (Continued):

During my time in care I attended Croydon Judo Club which was based at Purley Swimming Pool (outdoor pool) in a hall above the changing room. Then the club moved to a school in a building within the grounds of the school. Geoff would take me to Judo which started off one night a week increasing to 2 nights a week. Geoff was part of the set-up, I'm not sure in what way, maybe a helper or instructor but I clearly remember him taking part in the sessions with both the younger children and older children. Geoff would collect me from House 19/Hawthorn house to take me to Judo. I remember a black girl coming in the car also - I do not remember her name. She was good at Judo. Also the daughter of the female house parent at House 21 would attend the classes. The house parent allowed Geoff to use House 21 as a base i.e. park his car there and eat there. Geoff would drop me back to Shirley Oaks. When other children were not present in the car Geoff would abuse me.

The abuse from Geoff was a weekly occurrence which started off as what would now be known as 'grooming' to make friends and trust me. This progressed into the following assaults:

- *Sitting on his lap in his car and he would put his hands on my penis, I was fully clothed;*
- *Masturbation of him by me in his car at Shirley Oaks - I remember he had his own handkerchief with the initial GC on which he used to clean himself up;*
- *Oral sex in the car by me on Geoff which took place in his car at Shirley Oaks;*
- *I was abused by Geoff at the Shirley Oaks swimming pool when my house parents took us swimming Geoff would be in attendance. I would stand in the shallow end of the pool and Geoff would go under the water and masturbate and give me oral sex. He would make me masturbate him in the shower;*
- *Geoff took me to his home which was his mother and fathers house in New Cross. I would sleep in a separate room to Geoff on a camp bed. This room was like a den - small TV, billiards, music system. During the night Geoff would wake me up saying 'ssshhh be quiet' and take me to his bedroom which was on the same level. Geoff had a double bed. Geoff would say lie on your side and scrunch up - I would call this with my knowledge as an adult the fetal position;*
- *Geoff would lie behind me and put his penis in my bottom. After this abuse I would have to stay with him. Geoff would wake up early and wake me up and told me to pretend we were talking. He said if his parents came in to sit on end of the bed and pretend we were talking about what we were going to do that day. This act happened to me on numerous occasions over many years at the New Cross address and also happened to me at Geoff's parents other house near Herne Bay.*

Geoff was not a friend of the Lamdens (House parents) that I recall but looking back with hindsight Pauline allowed Geoff to take me out of the home and stay with him overnight. Pauline allowed Geoff to come on holiday with us to Pontins. I don't recall him being there the whole time just a few days so someone would have had to tell him where we were going. Geoff would spend a lot of time with me whilst on the holiday.

I was also abused by Mr Mark (Hook) at Shirley Oaks at the age of approximately 7 years old when my class at the Shirley Primary school would go swimming. He would make the boys leave their lockers open. He would come into the locker and dry me paying particular attention to my penis and bottom area. He would fondle me whilst doing this and took pleasure from it. This went on for a period of time approx. 6 months - 1 year."

Child 2's Impact Statement:

"When I was 16 or 17 living in a bedsit I started having panic attacks which was followed by depression because I didn't understand what was going on and this is still with me to date. I am currently on medication for depression and panic attacks and have been for many years. I have in the past had individual and group counselling sessions to discuss the abuse I suffered as a child and the effects it had and has had on my life. My doctor is fully aware of my past experiences. I was a qualified chef and from the age of 18 to 24 and worked at a Hotel in London but as time went on the panic attacks and depression worsened and consequently I was asked to leave due to the time I was constantly taking off. I have never been able to hold down a full time job since.

At the age of 17 I started self-harming by cutting myself on my right arm - I have scars all on my arm which I have to face on a daily basis. I burnt a cross onto my right leg and have burnt my left arm with cigarettes as a result of dealing with the pain in my head - I wanted the physical pain to take away the physiological pain. The physiological pain was and still is worst for me.

In my early 20s I attempted to commit suicide by slitting my right wrist. I asked for help but during 1987/88 help was not readily available and I was not treated. I recall visiting a doctor who stated that he could Section me in order for me to be seen to society as someone who had suffered. Even though I was not in a good place being sectioned was not the answer for me. I met my wife and had a son. My wife and I are not together any longer. During this relationship I found sexual and loving actions to my partner very difficult - they were alien to me. I had no concept.

Author's Comments: Geoff Clark was a Danger to all Shirley Oaks' Children:

Shirley children remember Geoff by his Mini Cooper. He would offer them sweets and he would let children get into his car with him and make them sit on his lap. There are other people who have given evidence to us about Geoff Clark who want to remain anonymous. They have done so purely to support the claims of other children and we will not reveal their names. Needless to say their lives have been destroyed by Geoff Clark's abuse.

Child 3 – abuse by Geoff Clark

The house parents at House 9 where Child 3 lived was Jim and his wife Edna Atwood. The wife played a subservient role in the care of the children. In the 1950's Jim Atwood was initially the on-site cobbler. There are various allegations of racial abuse from the black children who were in his cottage and this is supported by the claims of one of the few black staff, William Henry, who worked in House 30. Jim Atwood was also part of a group of men, including Don Thomas, who were involved in corruption at Shirley Oaks and this alone is an indication on how unsuitable he was as a house father.

Child 3's Claims of Physical, Sexual, Racial Abuse and Neglect:

"Whilst living in House 9 I remember Jim Atwood kicking me in my groin, for being obstinate (e.g. not wanting to wash up) I had to see a doctor, suffering from a ruptured testicle. With both my sisters being removed from Shirley during my time at House 10, I was now invited to

join a football & swimming group ran by Geoff Clark. This was a welcome change as it gave me respite from House 9. Geoff Clark seemed extra friendly and I felt like I belonged. I and the other children would follow Clark to playing fields & swimming sessions. During these swimming sessions Clark would behave in the same manner as William Hook had done previously under the guise of the swimming instructor.

As children, we were keen to assert physical contact with him, and this physical contact he encouraged, by initiating horse play and allowing us to climb on to his shoulders. Clark would insist that we all crammed into the shower together afterwards. I remember we would spend just as long in the showers as we did in the pool. Clark would make sure he showered at the back with a boy always in front of him. I can clearly remember him pressing himself up against me. I also remember going to a football tournament outside of the homes with Clark on a very hot day, and he rubbed sun tan lotion all over my body including down below my shorts.”

Author’s Comments:

An example of how a corrupt system leads to more layers of corruption is the story of Child 3’s life. One of his sisters was sexually abused at Shirley Oaks, his other sister witnessed sexual abuse, and both were removed from Shirley Oaks when they were of an age that they could speak because they became a threat to abusers at Shirley Oaks.

Child 3 did not only suffer from the loss of his 2 sisters he suffered racial and physical abuse from his new house father and left alone at Shirley Oaks without his 2 sisters the real agenda would unravel; paedophile Geoff Clark enticed him to be part of his gang where he would join others who were being sexually abused.

Shirley Oaks: Child on Child Abuse:

In the case of Child 2 he was not the only one of three siblings to be abused, whilst in the care of Nancy Wise, his sibling, Child 4, suffered child on child abuse by a boy they knew well. We believe the boy had been sexually abused from a young age by an adult. Child 4 was around 9 years old when the first incident of abuse took place. This impacted their life, because as well as the abuse they suffered, the damage their sibling also suffered meant they effectively lost a sibling as they broke off all contact with the family.

“My father blamed the social service department and Geoff Clark’s influence over my brother for the reason he went back to Shirley Oaks. My father was aware that Child 2 had spent time in Shirley Oaks with Geoff Clark. My father was already dubious of the Council because he had already tried to get us out of Shirley Oaks in the early to mid-1970s by taking Lambeth to Court. I now know this was the time Clark was abusing my brother Child 2. I remember going to Court and telling the Court that I wanted to be at home with my parents as I loved them. On my records its shows that my father complained about Geoff Clark’s relationship with Child 2. After Child 2 went back to Shirley Oaks, our father disowned him, and forbade me and my other brother from ever having any contact with Child 2 again.....It tore our family apart.”

Extract from the Final Lambeth Report:

House 19: Physical Abuse Can Be Sexual Abuse:

We have numerous claims that Derek Lamden, the housefather of House 19, was a violent man who would physically abuse the children under his care. Child 5 contacted us having lived in the cottage, he called Pauline Lamden a “cold, vicious, nasty bitch”. He also said her husband Derek would make the boys in the home fight each other when nobody else was in the house. “While we were encouraged to punch and strangle each other I now realize he was getting turned on, the sick bastard”. Another person who wants to remain anonymous stated, “There was something disturbingly sick about this man.” Child 2 said: “During my time at House 19 Derek Lamden would pay me 50p to fight other boys in front of him. Pauline was not present.”

4.7 London County Council and Lambeth’s Facilities for Special Needs Children, Babies and Toddlers

4.7.a Both the LCC and Lambeth Council developed several specialist establishments, with highly qualified staff, for children presenting acute difficulties of behavior. Shirley Oaks catered for many of these homes and specialist units. In the final Shirley Oaks report we establish that these units were also targeted by abusers and we have included claims of abuse from children from these establishments.

4.7.b Many of the children who were placed in these specialist establishments may not have recognized the abuse due to their varying disabilities. They were considered the perfect targets because they had no voice, however this does not mean they had no rights or were unable to feel. We also know many of these children were on medication so we now suspect this was a tool used to subdue and therefore abuse the children.

4.7.c We have identified the following houses and cottages at Shirley Oaks, as places where abuse was prevalent: House 42, House 1, House 35 and the Shirley Oaks Nursery. We have included the case studies of victims in the final Lambeth Report.

- **House 42:** *investigation sexual abuse on girl – the person was dismissed. A former houseparent stated, “Parties were held by staff. Bad things happened. People would go upstairs where the children were... Outsiders were invited to the parties”. It was also reported to the police that a man was found abusing a boy at the back of the house and he had work at the sweet shop just outside the gates of Shirley Oaks.*
- **House 1** (a girls’ unit): *Children from this cottage were invited to the parties where alcohol and drugs were readily available and sexual activity was encouraged between staff, outsiders and children.*
- **House 35:** *claims of sexual abuse investigated by management and covered up. Many boys claimed that they were subjected to sexual abuse from many staff.*

4.7.d Similar to House 42 where the Council investigated a claim of sexual abuse on a child with a disability, there were allegations in another Lambeth special unit, Monkton Street Children’s Home. Both of these children’s homes were run by the same Management team, Pat Salter and Don Thomas. The parent of the abused child at Monkton Street states that a

pill was pushed into her son's mouth and her son was abused in the bedroom and the bathroom. What is most disturbing is that other children in the home were unable to communicate due to their disabilities which meant their accounts would remain untold even though upon examination there were signs of sexual abuse on the children. A police surgeon who examined the abused boy stated she had to sedate him to make a proper examination. Then she said' *"this is the worst case I have ever seen. He will heal, but it will take a long time"*. She also found bruises on his shoulders where he had been held down. Investigating the other children she confirmed that there were signs that they had also been abused.

1950 -1970 Shirley Oaks Nursery



4.7.e Children who were sent to the nursery from the ages of 6 months to 3 were in particular danger as they would not be able to recognise the abuse or remember it. It is clear that the use of unprescribed drugs to aid sleep added to the vulnerability of the children. There have been some appalling stories about the nursery however most of these were vague childhood memories that could not be substantiated. However, we were able to confirm through the children's records that they were all placed in the nursey. There are four accounts we have decided to reference.

4.7.f **Nursery child 1:** gave us a harrowing account of mistreatment and sexual abuse that she remembered whilst being in the Nursery. For her this not only manifested itself in nightmares but she also had some vivid recollections.

4.7.g It was clear from the onset that she is suffering from psychiatric issues and mindful of this we first ascertained that she had been a patient at Maudsley Psychiatric Hospital. However, we continued taking her evidence over the phone because she had taken her time to contact us and we felt duty bound to investigate her allegations. The reason we believe she was sexually abused is because the description she gave of the nursery in her account is consistent with things only Shirley Oaks residents would know.

4.7.h We confirmed with her that she was still undertaking psychiatric care and we promised to include her account in our report. In the case of Nursery Child 1, we felt it was better to encourage her to try to move on but we will continue the fight for justice in her name and others who are not in a position to speak out.

4.7.i **Nursery Child 2** was in the nursery and then moved into House 15. She is now Youth Worker and has also provided counselling to young people. She had a nervous breakdown and has always suffered from mental health issues. She remembers being told that she was an oversexualized young person and attributed this to her time in the nursery.

4.7.j **Nursery Child 3** remembers one of the staff's boyfriend used to come into the nursery. They would sit her on their knees and sexually abuse her. She also remembers this man sexually abusing her in the bedroom. We know that Peter Davis was also in nursery and we suspect he was abused in this place before he was sent to live in another house with an abuser. There was the issue of Mr Holman (then Superintendent) wanting to adopt Peter - we ask whether this was so the paedophiles would have access to him?

4.7.k The Times newspaper stated on 12th April 2001 that *"police Superintendent Kay said that convicted paedophile William Hook would have been in contact with children as young as two in the nurseries of the care home"*. The horror of what we were discovering was compounded by the fact that surrounding the nursery, with unhindered access, to the children were 5 other predators: Jacobs, Fitzgerald, Cummings, Graham and Hosegood as well as doctors. Many of the senior matrons in the nursery were also facilitators or simply 'turned a blind eye.'



Shirley Oaks Primary School

4.7.l Prior to the 1950's, the Superintendent, Mr Instrell had the dual role of looking after the 38 cottages and the Shirley Oaks Primary School. The school was for children aged 5 years to 11 years housing approximately 100 children at any one time. When Mr Heap took over Shirley Oaks in the early 1950's, Mr Knight was made Headmaster of the school which would now be run independently and should have been a safe haven. However, the senior teachers

were also abusing Shirley children with the knowledge that Shirley Oaks' Children's Home managers would 'turn a blind eye' because they were doing the same.

4.7.m Judging from our interviews with some of the early survivors, it would appear that Mr Heap and Mr Cummings, his deputy superintendent, would have unfettered access to the children at the school. They would take an interest in the school productions and pay attention to their favourite children. The interaction between Heap and Cummings, Mr Thompson and Sumner clearly shows that they were abusing with the knowledge of each other and were sometimes abusing in packs. There is even a suggestion that they made claims on certain children and these children were left alone by the other paedophiles.

Paedophiles Operating in the Shirley Primary School:

Name	Date	Position	Victims
Mr Sumner		School Teacher	Girls
Mr ?	1950s	School Teacher	Boys
Mr ?	1964	ILEA	Boys
Mr Whiteman	1970	Headmaster	Boys

Shirley Oaks Primary School Teacher, Mr Sumner:

Abuse Victims: Child 6, Child 7, Child 8, Child 9, Child 10, Child 11, and Child 12 and Child 13

Child 6 (Taken from Interview) – Pre 1965: Mr Sumner, Primary school teacher was known by Shirley residents for the irony of being 6ft tall and driving a Mini Cooper. We have had various claims of Mr Sumner abusing girls. Child 6, an ex-Shirley Oaks resident who was at the home from the early 1950's, was sexually abused by him as well as by Mr Cummings. Child 6 would attend band practice every week which would entice Mr Cummings and Mr Sumner to go and watch them. Mr Sumner, who had a preference for young girls, would stand next to where the girls would be changing and touch them inappropriately.

Both Mr Sumner and Mr Cummings would make remarks at Child 6 such as *"you're not ready yet, are you?"* when they touched her between the legs. On a few occasions, Cummings would make inappropriate remarks towards Child 6 such as *"oh, you're very ripe, aren't you?"* or *"I know you're on your period at the moment, so I won't touch you just yet"*. He would drop into the community centre to purposely watch the girls practice ballet and also watch them get changed.

Mr Sumner and Mr Cummings would attend the girls' swimming classes and make them hang their swimming costumes on the cubicle door so they would know who was naked. During a swimming session with Mr Cummings, he pulled out his genitals and told Child 6 to touch it to which she refused. Cummings grabbed her hand and made her do it anyway. She was also sexually abused by him. At some point during her time at Shirley Oaks, Sumner tried to rape her but only stopped when she started crying.

Child 7 (Taken from Interview) – Post 1965: Child 7 was in Shirley Oaks from 1962 until 1970 and was placed in House 30 and House 12. She has stated that one of the teachers at the school, Mr Sumner, would come into the changing rooms when they went swimming on the pretext of helping them to dry their hair. Instead of doing so, he told Child 7 and other children to take off their towel and would stare at them which made them feel really uncomfortable.

Child 8 (Taken from Interview) – Post 1965: According to Child 8, Mr Sumner was a dirty old man with curly hair who always wore the same clothes: tweed jacket, suit trousers and arm pads. She states that before he got his own class in the school he was the Shirley Oaks Librarian. When the children would go to the desk to check out a book, he would make them stand next to him so he was able to rub their backside.

This happened to all the girls who took a book out. Although Sumner tried to touch Child 8, she knew what he was doing so would always pull away from him.

Child 9 (Taken from Interview) – Post 1965: Like the numerous claims we have had from girls regarding Mr Sumner, Child 9 was also abused by him over a long period of time. Sumner was the teacher who was in the last year of Shirley Primary. The girls in his class would warn the smaller girls that he was a pervert and they should not go near him.

Child 10 (Taken from Interview) – Post 1965: Child 10 had three brothers who were at Shirley Oaks and two of them were abused. One of the abusers, Philip Temple has recently been charged and will appear in court later this year. Child 10 recalls having to stand next to Mr Sumner like many of the other girls at his desk and read to him. During this time Mr Sumner would touch her very inappropriately.

Children 11 and 12 (Taken from Interview) – Post 1965: Children 11 and 12 were in House 20. Both girls were Jehovah's Witnesses and because of this, they were not allowed to attend school assembly. They were made to stay in the classroom with Mr Sumner. During this time, Mr Sumner would inappropriately touch the sisters.

Child 13 Personal Statement

Child 13's Personal Statement summary; sexual and physical abuse, which was part of the general failing to protect the children.

Child 13 (Taken from Interview) – Post 1965: Mr Sumner would often ask Child 13 to go up to his desk under the pretext of showing her something. However, when she would get there, he would make her stand on his left hand side and would touch her up. Child 13 went to the CHILE Inquiry after seeing it on the television and she made a complaint against Mr Sumner but feels as if the team was not interested in what she had to say. Because they were uninterested, she put in a court action on her own with the help of Victim Support and was awarded £3,600.00.

Child 13 was in House 2 with her sister whilst her three brothers were with Aunty Mac in House 14. There are numerous claims of abuse in House 14 and as well as William Hook it would appear that many men were given unfettered access to the children. In a note on a council file, Lambeth stated that Aunty Mac was not a good house parent and this was the reason she was not offered a new children's home when Shirley Oaks closed in 1983.

Taken from Child 13's Interview at Office – 28th March 2016: Child 13, whose sister is in SOSA, suffered abuse from a boy in the home. Child 13 told her social worker and ran away back to her mum's but the police told her she had to go back to Shirley. Aunty Mary came to her mum's house to take her back. Cathy Storer the first house mother that beat Child 13 made her run off and Cathy sent a man to get her and he dragged her back to the house and she was made to write a letter of apology. Uncle Jim used to sex up Aunty Phil (house mother after Aunty Mary). He would also sit kids on his lap. Aunty Mary's husband used to plead with Mary not to hurt the girls. He would come to the house and visit. Another house parent was Francis who was mixed race and violent to the children.

The effects of being brought up in Shirley Oaks are magnified by the abuse that was suffered by all her siblings who were in care with her. Child 13 herself has never come to terms with the trauma she suffered at Shirley Oaks and like many children holds Lambeth responsible. The money she received does not reflect the life time of misery she has experienced.

4.8 Children Abusing Children

4.8.a Lambeth Council's duty of care meant not only were they suppose to protect the children from adults who were inappropriate carers but also they were duty bound to protect the children from other children. In the climate of Shirley Oaks, we argue that the adults and management abusers would not, or could not report the child on child abuse because this would shed light on their own perverse activities. Knowing they could get away with it, some of the children would act with impunity. The allegations include rapes, sexual abuse with threats and in one case even the involvement of a house father.

4.8.b We have outlined a few cases in this Interim Report of child on child abuse:

An Account of Physical Abuse and Child on Child Abuse by Child 14 Personal Statement

Child 14, born 19xx. Total time in care Approx. 8 years. Total time in Shirley Oaks 2 years.

"I first went to Shirley Oaks (House 16) with my 2 sisters in 1973 for reasons unclear to me but was likely because my mother could not cope or that was the excuse she probably gave? One of my sisters was only there for a day or so then went away, whether it was back home with mum or to another home I am unsure? Me and my other sister, Child 15, stayed.

During our stay, myself and my sister were subjected to sexual abuse from an older boy in our house. I reported the incidents to the head of the house, I think her name was Aunty xxx or Mrs xxx, I'm not sure? She did not believe me and called my sister and I liars and after that she showed a dislike for both me and Child 15. Always telling us off and not letting us out to play - ever!

We would spend practically all day in our rooms only being let out for toilet and meals. I had a bed wetting problem and in the night Aunty xxx or Mrs xxx would wake me to go to the toilet but if I was already wet she would often smack and make me sleep in my wet bed, sometimes I would have skin sores all up my back from continuously sleeping in my own urine. I did not stop wetting the bed until I was 16 years old!

If we could not eat all of our meals she would force feed us at the dining table until we were physically sick and then punish us both for being sick by making us clean up the mess and often were smacked around the head very hard that we would reel across the room and made to go to bed straight after tea time and as I recall this punishment would last at least a week. Every time something happened, I would get a smack then straight to bed sometimes not allowed out of my room all weekend.

Meanwhile the older boy xxxx would continue to sexually abuse me and often beat me for refusing or protecting my sister. This went on for the whole of our stay in House 16. I believe xxxx was Aunty /Mrs xxx favourite and she would not have a bad word said about him and he knew that and that is why he could do what he wanted to us!

I was put in South Vale again after getting into trouble stealing again and then placed back into Shirley Oaks. I was in House 24 and for the first part I was happy and enjoyed being able to go to school because at home mum would keep us from school so she could send us out shoplifting! Although I was scared to go back there and protested once I was there, in a different house I soon settled down. Life seemed good for a few months I was clean, fed and looked after well until an older boy in my house began to regularly sexually and physically abuse me after we were moved into the same bedroom.

I threatened to tell Aunty xxx on him and as a result he would wait until I was out of the house then he would beat me over and over until I agreed not to tell! Eventually it got too much for me so I confided to a member of staff called xxx. She did not work there very long maybe a few months but I trusted her. Nothing came of it, she did not tell Aunty xxx or anyone as far as I remember so the abuse continued through the rest of my stay until I left to go to the Cotswold community in 1977.

I had many different social workers all through childhood and I remember telling one of them (when she asked me why I keep stealing and bunking off school?) that it was mum who was keeping us from going to school and instead sending us out to steal, the social worker did not believe me or Child 15 so she had us put into Maudsley children's psychiatric hospital! That was the last time I ever told my social workers the truth about anything!

I was in care from an early age and Lambeth put its trust into those who looked after me. Ok I was not always a good kid I know but hardly surprising after the life I had had up until then. I was easily led and had a temper on me but that did not give those responsible for my care and well-being the right to neglect me in the ways they did! They should have been there for me, to protect me and my little sister but they let us down and allowed me to be physically, mentally and sexually abused.

I was a young troubled child suffering from neglect and lack of care and affection since I was a baby so I knew no better and needed to be looked after properly. So here I am 51 years old and still struggling with the effects of my childhood neglect and abuse! I have always been afraid of people in authority especially women and suffer from lack of self-esteem, confidence and self-worth. I have had very troubled sexual relationships due to my sexual abuse and I always feel a sense of guilt like the abuse was all my own doing... my own fault, I deserved it!!

I knew many kids in Shirley Oaks and other children's homes who have suffered like me but to us at the time it was "normal behaviour" we did not know any different but surely many of

the staff in our and other homes knew what went on so why didn't they say or report any of this to the authorities...or did they?? And how come Lambeth have been able to get away unscathed by all this for so long?

I have spent most of my adult life struggling to come to terms with my experiences and just trying to be "normal" if there is such a thing? I have suffered paranoia, panic attacks, feelings of hopelessness, attempted suicide twice, been diagnosed with severe depression, had drink and drug problems and still do suffer depression, bouts of drink and drug abuse...if anything because it helps me to forget!

This has been a very hard and emotional experience writing this letter and remembering the bad stuff I have tried all my life to forget!"

Child 16 Personal Statement

South Vale Children's Home- an Assessment Centre:

"When I was around 9 / 10 years old, I was placed in South Vale care home. Whilst I was taken to social events like puppet shows, ice skating and the pictures, I did not receive any academic education.

They neglected to teach me basic education such as reading or writing. I left South Vale without knowing how to read. I cannot remember ever being given any spelling or reading tests in order to assess my academic ability."

Shirley Oaks Children's Home:

"I was around 10 years old when I was placed at Shirley Oaks. They assigned me to House 24. I cannot remember the names of the House Mistress or Master there.

One day, I was walking from the fields towards the house when one of the older boys grabbed me, pulled me in the bushes and raped me. I ran back to the house in a state of distress and went to my bed crying. One of my room mates came over to comfort me. Another girl came in and asked why we were both lying in the bed and she went downstairs to tell the house Aunty. The house Aunty never came up to enquire how I was and why we were in the bed together or anything. Then a few weeks later I was sent to St Saviours without any notice.

St Saviours Children's Home:

"At St Saviours, I was fed, clothed and entertained and that was it. We were pretty much left to our own devices. I went to school, but there was no help with academic work or homework. No one took a real interest in me or my welfare.

I fell pregnant at 16 years old whilst at St Saviours. The staff there just arranged for me to be taken to the Doctors and get checked and that was it. I felt neglected emotionally. I left the care system with very poor literacy and without much confidence in myself."

The effects of being raped at such a young age has affected me throughout my life and it made me think that I was unworthy. Because it happened to me so young it tainted my childhood but more than this I feel angry because of the way I was treated and the fact that other children could have also been raped by this person. Seeing all the stuff on TV about Shirley Oaks made me realise how much Lambeth failed me and others in care."

Author's Comment:

The house parents in House 24 are unlikely to have wanted to report the complaint because during our investigation we discovered that they had been involved in sexual activity with a child, which meant all they could do was move Child 16 away and ignore the danger still posed to other children.

Research: On 11th July 2016, the BBC reported that a parliamentary inquiry, supported by charity Barnardos, stated that child abuse offenders should be seen as children *“first and foremost”*. They also confirmed our belief *that “children who sexually abuse other children have often suffered abuse and trauma themselves.”*

4.9 Physical Abuse (Torture) at Shirley Oaks

The Law and Corporal Punishment at Shirley Oaks

4.9.a SOSA recognises that throughout the period that Shirley Oaks was in operation, there were specific provisions in respect of corporal punishment pursuant to Regulation 11 of the Administration of Children's Homes Regulations 1951 (which governed both community and voluntary homes); a child could only be caned by the Superintendent or the Headmaster of the school.

4.9.b The Laws on corporal punishment did not give the Shirley Oaks management or House parents the right to physically abuse the children by punching, biting, slapping, strangulation, hitting with a belt, shoe, whip or a wooden spoon or threats to kill. Nor did the law allow the use of torture, such as flushing the child's head down the toilet, sleep deprivation punishments, withdrawing food, washing children's mouths out with soap or withholding meals. It also did not allow for punishments such as incarceration in the outside coal shed or shutting a child in a cupboard, or him or her being locked outside in the dark.

4.9.c For Shirley Oaks children, the above treatment was the norm and was in contradiction to the rules set by the Guardians, LCC and Lambeth Council, all of whom had administered and managed Shirley Oaks.

Allegations of physical abuse at Shirley Oaks 1950 -1983

Case Study

Raymond Stevenson: Physical Abuse

“At the beginning of this investigation most of my memories of my time in care were limited to flashbacks and nightmares. I had always hidden the fact that I had suffered extreme physical abuse at Shirley Oaks, which was mind altering and personality warping because I thought it was normal and my curse. I remember having my head flushed down the toilet by staff many times which was similar to waterboarding, gasping for breath and thinking that I was going to die. It got worse and there was nowhere to hide from the senseless beatings; but this didn't explain why forty years later I still sleep with the light and TV on.

I was a little black boy, who was full of the joys of spring in the early 1970s but I went on to develop a severe speech impediment and wet my bed every night. The doctor treated me and I had speech therapy lessons but no one ever asked me what made me scared of everything, including my own shadow. If they had I still wouldn't have said anything for fear

that Aunty Osbourne would find out, which meant more beatings and then off to the Superintendent's office for even more beatings.

As the investigation went on, slowly and painfully the memories came back and I remembered spending many nights incarcerated in the cupboard and worse than this, outside in the coal shed which distorted my perception of the world and taught me how to hate. When I dared to go outside I would look up at the sky and I begged God to help me but he never listened, so I just talked to myself. Once the morning came I knew I would finally be let out to face another day but as soon as I heard anyone approaching I would pretend to be a sleep on the mound of coal as if I hadn't been scared, because I didn't want the staff to get one over on me. The coal shed was where I was told devils dwelled and this was where I came up with the phrase "welcome to Shirley Hell".

One of the most damning aspects of my time in care was being expelled from the Shirley Oaks in-house primary school. At the time I protested this decision and so did my House parent. It is only now it has been confirmed that the person who expelled me was a paedophile. This led to an 18 month period where I received no formal education which resulted in me spending a lifetime trying to catch up. Reading my care files, I also learnt that I had been put on medication but when I went to boarding school they refused to administer the drugs and I was free to feel again.

I will never forget the care, love and attention I received from some of the older girls. Whilst they were going through their own trauma they would act as surrogate mothers to the younger children and tried to protect us from the beatings. As I grew older I would try to emulate this behaviour, trying to protect others

The effect of the physical abuse on my life means despite me being perceived by others as a successful person it has limited my opportunities. I always knew this hence the reason everything I did in life was designed to counter balance the anger that I had inherited as a child. After working for various people I always knew I would have to run my own business as anything else would bring me into long term contact with people who would have authority over me.

I have never considered myself a successful person because that would mean for the last 35 years I would have to deny the struggles I have been through. Like many care children there were times in my late twenties when I turned to drugs as a form of escapism. For me it was mostly recreational which enabled me to be around large groups of people without my inherited paranoia. Even today, I will not be alone in someone's company unless I have known them for a while.

I have never been able to sleep more than four hours which has been an ongoing condition to which the doctor's remedy was to prescribe sleeping tablets. I now know that my subconscious reason for refusing to take tablets was because of the drugs that were forced upon me as a child. I now realise Shirley Oaks altered my life in such a way that it changed my personality and my ability to communicate in a normal way and have normal relationships. Learning all of this was hard enough but seeing the impact it had on other children I now realise for some the physical abuse was similar to the sexual abuse because of the long term damage and the debilitating effects.

4.9.d The following accounts of physical abuse and neglect are provided from extracts of the final report. The above accounts relating to House 24 provide examples of the abuse that took place over the decades, under one house mother and sadly this pattern was replicated in many of the other cottages.

House 24, Shirley Oaks: Person 1: *“At the age of 9, in the late 1950’s/early 1960’s I found myself placed into House 24 in Shirley Oaks which was run by Aunty Osbourne, who I felt on many occasions in my 10 months there, punished me for no reason. I was sworn at constantly and abused for swearing even though I remember I hadn’t sworn. Carbolic soap was rubbed into my mouth and teeth and I had to bite off a piece and keep it in my mouth. I was sick in the corridor, and I was made to clean it up, while she (Aunty Osbourne) was in her room enjoying watching television.*

I remember spinach being served for dinner and I refused to eat it. For the next 3 days it was served to me every meal and I still wouldn’t eat it. I remember how hungry I was. I was put in the cupboard under the stairs all night and locked in the dark in my pyjamas; cold and alone with a mop that frightened me in the dark. Sometimes the door was not locked and I would sneak for a peek but was too scared to come out. I remember the loud tick of the clock continually haunting me as I stood there and I’m still reminded.”

House 24: Person 2: *“There was only one House parent in House 24 from 1965 onwards her name was Miss Osbourne, a vile woman, who hit kids with her hands, slippers, rolling pins or the fire poker. She locked me inside the coal shed all night on half a dozen times and would put me in freezing cold baths and held my head under water. Kids were made to stand on chairs for hours for just talking or not eating all their dinner, or being late in from playing out. She would send you to go to the toilet and kids were made to stand there until they wet themselves and then you were beaten for being dirty.”*

House 32: Person 4: *“I think Miss Hereford and Miss Simms were only in House 32 for about my first year and they were replaced by Miss Cartwright and Miss Shepherd. We called them Aunty Cartwright and Aunty Shepherd. Miss Cartwright was the Senior Cottage Mother and made strict rules but Miss Shepherd implemented the rules and did the beatings. As well as the many other beatings I received, I recall being 7 years old when I was dragged out of bed, pushed from wall to wall and down the stairs (I was screaming); she was also clouting me with a wooden hairbrush.*

*I was locked under the stairs, this was where the cleaning materials were kept and it smelt of polish (very toxic). The floor was marble and cold, I was bare footed and in skimpy pyjamas. I screamed to be let out for some hours and sobbed the rest of the night, shivering. When I was let out next morning my eyes were red and puffy and my throat was sore for days, I was black and blue with bruises”. **This person was also sexually abused.***

Shirley Oaks Primary School: Person 5: *“At this time I was in the last year of the Primary School (which was in the grounds) and the teacher of the top class was Mr Thompson (not the deputy superintendent of the home). He was wicked and used to hit and cane children regularly. At every opportunity he would take great pleasure in beating the children. It was obvious he took great pleasure in his unofficial role as the executioner.” **This person was also sexually abused.***

Person 6: *“The first time I remember seeing someone mistreated was by the deputy*

headmaster in the playground of the Primary School within Shirley Oaks. I watched him pick up a hard snowball, walk across the playground, and saw him ram the snowball into the face of a mixed race girl who lived in my house. She was only little. It wasn't any kind of playful game, he made a bee line for her and it was done maliciously. I remember being profoundly shocked by what I witnessed." **This person was also sexually abused.**

Person 7: "In 1956 I was only 2 years of age when my mother died, I also have a brother and two sisters who are all older than myself and as a family we were all sent to Shirley Oaks Children's Home 1956/57. I first went into House 36 for a short time then I was moved to House 32 which was run by a housemother called Ms Hart and an assistant call Ms Sargent. While I was in House 32 I was physically abused by the housemother Ms Hart and assistant Ms Sargent over a period of years. There would be regular beatings like using a belt to whip me; using a hairbrush to hit me; using a scrubbing brush to scrub out my mouth with carbolic soap for not pronouncing my words properly. This was a daily occurrence as well as being locked in a coal bunker in my pants and vest in all weathers. It was hell living in House 32. I lived this cottage until I was 11/12". **This person was also sexually abused.**

Person 8: "I was scrubbed with a scrubbing brush and I overheard the staff saying I was getting whiter the more they scrubbed. The staff thought this was funny. Even at a young age it felt like I was being racially abused. These type of comments continued whilst I was in the house. I had a knife put to my throat by an older teenager on many occasions. I reported this to the staff several times but nothing was done about it until another child had his hands and feet bound by the same teenager and was left in the middle of the field till late hours. It was only then that the staff decided to take action. The staff used to physically abuse me and I was made to stand in a corner for many hours."

Person 9: I was 18 months old when I went into care at Shirley Oaks. When I was about 6 years old I was in House 11. I remember getting slapped regularly by the House Parents, Catherine and Steve Hedger. At times I got slapped in the face. Mr & Mrs Hedger were there for around 2 years. I was in House 12 in 1977 and Peter and Doris Graham took over as House Parents. They had two older sons who used to regularly bully me by practising their Martial Arts moves on me in their Judo outfits whilst their parents cheered them on. They had me in neck locks, wrestling with me and I used to struggle to get away. It always left me in tears. The worse thing was that their dad, Peter Graham, used to throttle me unexpectedly by grabbing me by the neck and pinning me to the wall and telling me "don't you ever mess with me."

The physical abuse continued relentlessly for quite a few years. I remember one time, one of the staff members grabbed my mouth and forcibly rubbed strong disinfectant soap in my mouth to the point where the soap bits went in between my teeth. I was told it was because I swore. Also the one staff member poured dirt and gravel in my mouth because I said a bad word, i.e. "shit". As a black child I needed to have my afro hair combed with care. However, the female staff members used to hold me down and rake my hair through from the back to the front causing me great pain. They did nothing to soften my hair to make it easier to comb. They blatantly did not care nor were they remotely interested in properly looking after black afro hair.

There were times when we were in the depths of deep sleep and one of the House Masters used to wake us up and make us walk barefoot on the cold ground into the very cold kitchen and make us stand and face the wall in silence for about 2 hours. We were not allowed to

move or make a sound. The Housemaster did this to us just because we were giggling in our beds. Peter Graham in particular used to terrorise me by his physical abuse of me. He was the most prolific one. I sensed he used to enjoy this. These experiences made me feel unloved and unlikable. I had no confidence in myself whatsoever, down to today.”

There are further accounts of physical abuse contained in the case studies of sexual abuse victims at the end of this report. Most of these are from the 1970s but mirrors the abuse that took place in the 1950s and 1960s.

4.10 General Neglect from 1950-1983

4.10.a Many of the managers of Shirley Oaks were stealing food which was meant for the children. This would progress to subverting the clothing allowance and other forms of corruption. The misappropriation of the food at management level had a direct relationship to what was put on the table, which we can prove was substandard.

4.10.b House parents were also stealing the food and pocket money; allowing their family members and friends to benefit from the provisions meant for the Shirley Oaks children. The substandard skills and lack of care displayed by many of the house parents meant that what little food there was did not satisfy a child's dietary needs or appetite. Much of the food fed to the children was old, stale or mouldy and it is clear that the better foods were being syphoned off by the staff.

4.10.c In the late seventies, senior members of the Shirley Oaks management were arrested for misappropriating large amounts of food that was meant for the children. It is clear from the statements from ex-residents, in both this Interim Report and the final Lambeth Report that this had been going on for decades. Further, ten years after Shirley Oaks closed, one of Lambeth's management team, Don Thomas was arrested after a police sting.

4.10.d Don Thomas had worked at Shirley Oaks from 1967 until it closed in 1983. He was the architect of the criminal activity that was taking place and was stealing food and other benefits from the children. He went on to be a group manager of various children's homes which enabled him to continue his activity when Shirley Oaks closed. Consistent with a cover up, Lambeth failed to provide any evidence for his crimes so the perpetrator got away with it - again.

Extract from Personal Account: *“I was a difficult eater. If I didn't eat my breakfast or dinner etc., the same food was placed in front of me at the next meal time. If I still wouldn't eat it at bed time, I was put to stand in the pantry. I would stand until I fell asleep on the floor. One time, when I was 4/5, this went on for four or five days. I still would not eat the meal and the housemother relented because she realised I would rather starve than eat food I didn't like. It didn't help me and has left me with a permanent eating disorder”.* **This person was also sexually abused**

4.11 Death of Care Children in Lambeth

4.11.a Included in the Shirley Oaks report are numerous case studies of children who died, who ex-Shirley residents remember from the various Lambeth children's homes. Many of the dead children's living siblings were placed at Shirley Oaks or other Lambeth homes and they are now part of SOSA.

4.11.b At the time of their deaths no one considered whether their lives had been blighted by the extenuating circumstances of being brought up in a Lambeth children's home. Therefore, many death certificates would only list one of a number of associated mental health issues and/or addictions that come from the nightmares caused by living in a program of de-humanisation. In fact, the real cause of their demise should have read: *"another Lambeth Council Children's Home casualty; neglected by the state, beaten by the state, raped by the state and morally infected by the state."* A number of concerning deaths are summarised below:

Peter Davis: born in 1961 was placed into care in 1962 and died 1977. Peter died in mysterious circumstances in Shirley Oaks after being sexually abused all his childhood by two managers and possibly three.

Sarah Specterman was born in 1974 and died 4 days before her 1st birthday. Sarah was a baby in Chevington Children's Home who died by 'constriction' i.e. unable to breathe due to baby straps wrapped around her neck.

John Bulmer was born in 1963 and died in South Vale Assessment Centre. It was said that John died from epilepsy in 1976. However, the DCI who inspected the scene said of his death that he found *"the circumstances to be suspicious."*

Joanna died in care due to lack of care. Her sibling was sexually abused in one of Lambeth Children's home.

Keith Care: hung himself in 1981 and we believe he was a victim of sexual abuse.

Paul Francis: was in St Saviours Children's Home from approximately 1976-1980, however he was not there officially and his stay was against Lambeth Council's then policy. Paul died years later after jumping off the roof of an 11 storey building.

Janina: and her brother **Pietor Marchelak** were both at Shirley Oaks and died after they left care, one suffered sexual abuse whilst in care and both suffered neglect in care with no after care.

Victor King: an ex-Shirley resident was found dead in his flat.

Paul Kemsley: was a boy in Chevington. He had health problems and another child from the home said he was being abused.

Peter Maloney: was found dead in a squat and **Dyana** his sister was found dead in her flat - both were sexually abused at Shirley Oaks. Their brother Stephen reported his abuse to the police but has also sadly passed away.

Linda: her brother killed himself after leaving Shirley Oaks.

Mark Annon: died of alcohol abuse but his two brothers who were also in Shirley Oaks believe he was hiding a secret from Shirley Oaks.

Sarah Fearon-Doyle: another Shirley Oaks sexual abuse victim, would never recover from her ordeal.

Carlton Hanson: lived at Shirley Oaks in the 70's and he jumped onto a train track and it was over. It has now been confirmed by one of his House parents that he was sexually abused in Shirley Oaks.

John Hicks: died in a Lido and was a child in Telford Avenue.

Godfrey: We must not forget the hell he and his family went through in Shirley Oaks. We now know in his cottage were two paedophiles.

Craig Butler: died aged 32. Craig's sibling informed us her brother was abused in Shirley Oaks

Anthony McCabe: suffered from severe paranoid schizophrenia for the whole of his life as a result of the sexual, physical, emotional and psychological abuse he suffered as a child in care. In and out of mental health institutions, Anthony's suffering finally ended when he died aged just 49, from untreated and undiagnosed double pneumonia, having been placed into a local mental health care home by the local health authority.

Anthony Collett: died aged 16 after spending his life in care which was an extremely harrowing time which is documented on his care files.

Terry Doyle: killed himself aged 29 in Brixton Prison after suffering abuse in Lambeth's care.

James McCourt: killed himself in 1999 in Highpoint Prison. James suffered abuse. His time in care was appalling which destroyed him as a person

Sandra Jessup: in care from the age of 2, Sandra's existence, for her short life may as well have been in hell.

Elaine: was a popular girl at Shirley Oaks. Her story is starting to unravel and we now know she was abused at Shirley Oaks. Some years later she drove back to Shirley Oaks in her car, parked up and put a tube into the exhaust and killed herself.

4.11.c The histories of all the above victims of sexual and physical abuse will appear in the final report in more detail and some will appear in case studies at the back of this interim report where we name many of the abusers. Like many of their living, surviving siblings, as well as being sexually abused, these people suffered the indignation of being deceived and not believed. All will be fondly remembered, when their lights were still burning brightly and their childhood innocence could never be questioned.

Gillian Delahunty – Report: 20 Years in Child Care

4.11.d Following up on our theory that there had been an unprecedented number of deaths in Lambeth's children's homes we contacted a social worker who had worked for Lambeth and produced a report as part of her dissertation in the early nineties. Shockingly, it states that there were 48 deaths in Lambeth's children's homes between 1970 and 1989.

4.11.e As well as meeting Gillian in person, her report has been a great source of background information for our investigation but we still ask: *“how many of these children had been in Shirley Oaks? Who from Lambeth provided the statistics? Why was xxxx' death not recorded in the month he died in May 1977? And if his death is missing, were there any other deaths that had not been included on this list?”*

4.12 Attempted Suicides and Other Self-inflicted Harm

4.12.a We have included in this report a cross-section of people who attempted to commit suicide after their time at Shirley Oaks. The question we asked the victims that came forward was how many had attempted to commit suicide after leaving Shirley Oaks, or had suicidal thoughts or had self-medicated through drugs, alcohol or self-harmed? The results were conclusive: 85%, which confirmed our belief that the Shirley Oaks' legacy was a self-destructive pathway to hell. There was also another indicator that a collective trauma had been suffered by Shirley Oaks residents and this was apparent in how many ex-residents, would become 'troubled' and, as a consequence, led chaotic lives which meant they were labelled as 'a menace to society'.

4.13 The Long Term impact of Abuse on the Shirley Oaks Children

4.13.a The final report demonstrates that what happened at Shirley Oaks from 1950 -1983 meant that no child that lived at the home was likely to achieve their full potential; even if they had survived the trauma they experienced whilst living in such a chaotic environment.

4.13.b Researcher, Dr Carrion Studying Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Children stated that stress has to be extreme to cause damage. "*We are not talking about the everyday stress of doing your homework or fighting with your dad.*" The 15 children he and his team studied all had PTSD as a result of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, witnessing violence or experiencing lasting separation and loss.

4.13.c Professor Joe Herbert, professor of neuroscience at Cambridge University, has stated "*There is increasing evidence that adversity in early life can have long-lasting results on subsequent mental and physical health, and that at least some of these associations are the result of changes in the secretion of cortisol.*"

4.13.d Cortisol is a steroid hormone which regulates a wide range of processes throughout the body including metabolism and the immune response. It also has a very important role in helping the body respond to stress.

4.14 SOSA Counselling for Victims

4.14.a Before we conducted our in-depth and intrusive interviews with the abuse victims, in which we would ask them to describe their abuser and abuse in graphic detail, we arranged and offered an independent counselling service, funded by Lambeth for our members to access. We knew it could take months for the process to finally allow people to relay their stories and for us to cross-examine them so we always asked for an outline of their allegations beforehand. There were two reasons for this, one was so we could investigate their claims and to see if they were linked to other allegations from children over the decades and the second reason was to ensure there was no influence from other Shirley Survivors. A year into the programme, the independent counsellor relayed a message to Lambeth Council. She said the people she was seeing were "*so damaged they could never be fixed*" and that all she could do was "*try and make the rest of their lives more bearable*". SOSA already knew this because the stories we were hearing would make Dante's Inferno seem like a walk in the park and we knew there was more to come.

4.15 The Detrimental Impact of Race on Lambeth's Care Children

Black Children

4.15.a The final report takes into consideration the Race Relations Acts of 1965, 1968, 1976 and the amended Act of 2000. The 1965 Act outlawed discrimination in public places and the 1968 Act made it illegal to refuse housing, employment or public services to a person on the grounds of colour, race, ethnic or national origins.

4.15.b Neither the 1965 nor 1968 Acts made special provisions for local authorities. However, this was corrected by Section 71 in the 1976 Act which stated *"it shall be the duty of every local authority to make appropriate arrangements with a view to securing that their various functions are carried out with due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups."* This was subsequently replaced by the 2000 amendment Act with a new text placing a general statutory duty on public authorities to have due regard to the need:

- a. To eliminate unlawful discrimination and
- b. To promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups.

4.15.c Despite Lambeth Council's exemplary policies on race that had been developed in the mid-seventies, these were not applied and were just aspirations which it failed to achieve, even within its own organisation. From our research we have found that this led to numerous staff making claims of racial discrimination over the years, all aimed at the stark hierarchy that ran Lambeth Council. Black staff were often overlooked for promotion, were not listened to and felt marginalized. The extent to which this occurred because these staff did not fit into 'the mould' is arguable. The trickle-down effect of the failures of Lambeth Council to implement its policies on race equality internally was inevitably passed on to Lambeth's Children's Social Services and, as a consequence - the black children in care.

4.15.d It is clear from our discussions with over 600 victims that every child in Shirley Oaks was discriminated against and not treated fairly because they were care children. However this should not detract from the fact that the placement of black children at Shirley Oaks meant many were brought up with house parents who were openly or blindly racist. Even from the non-abusers there was an assumption that black children needed to be disciplined more coarsely due to their ethnicity, when in fact in most cases it was the opposite.

4.15.e Judging by our preliminary investigations 80% of the black care children we represent gave varying accounts of racial discrimination from name calling such as "you little wog" or "monkey", to targeted sexual abuse by other sexual or physical abuse, neglect or a combination of all three. This treatment explains why so many black children in the care of Shirley Oaks would grow up feeling the double burden of their abuse and racial inheritance.

4.15.f Black children were not the only group to be targeted due to profiling by abusers. They join a long list which includes; physically and mentally disabled children, and infants. In this report we have chosen two examples where racial abuse would directly or indirectly lead to a high proportion of black children being neglected, and/or physically or sexually abused:

Extract from Shirley Oaks Inspection report by the Department for the Secretary of State (Home Office Sanctioned visit): dated 1967

Subject: Intake of Children in Shirley Oaks:

“Over a third of the children being admitted are now coloured, mainly of West Indian parentage. As Brixton is within the Borough of Lambeth this must be regarded as a continuing problem and as one which must be faced realistically. There are few manifestations of prejudice, although some of the older house mothers will not receive coloured children and one couple was said to have left because of a preponderance of immigrant children in their houses.”

White Children

4.15.g During our investigation into the impact on race we realised that the placement of black children in the cottages on the Shirley Oaks complex also had a detrimental impact on white children. Many white children, especially boys of a young age, would be cherry picked and placed in cottages that were run by racist paedophiles.

4.15.h This left many black children accommodated in crowded cottages whilst those cherry picked white children would suffer targeted sexual abuse by paedophiles with a preference for white children. Some of these children were made available to Shirley Oaks management and their associates and the house parents were the facilitators.

4.15.i In many cases the white siblings would be split up and communication would be limited. Older boys would be classified as ‘maladjusted’ and sent to special schools whilst their siblings would be left alone at the mercy of their abusers. In an attempt to hide their abuse and to protect themselves from any allegations, social workers and house parents would indicate on the child’s file that the child was highly sexualized, without any explanation of how the child had become that way.

4.15.j In the case of Philip Temple, who was recently convicted and sentenced (in August 2016) of historical child abuse in House 33, Shirley Oaks, this practice was laid to bare in open court. He had manipulated the case file of his victims not only to imply that they were sexualized but so that they would also be deemed as unreliable and unstable witnesses. The blight on their character was bad enough, but it would also have been an indicator to other paedophiles that these children could be targeted. Included in this interim report are case studies of two families which outline the premeditated nature of the abuse on white children in Shirley Oaks.

Race and Housing

4.15.k It is clear from reading the files that many BME ex-Shirley residents were initially taken into care because of inappropriate living conditions at home, this was compounded by Lambeth Council refusing to provide appropriate housing to alleviate the problem. We believe that Lambeth Council discriminated in the allocation of housing to black families which resulted in black children spending disproportionately more time in care.

Extract taken from an Interview with a former Lambeth Council Housing Officer who worked at Lambeth from 1975- 2004.

“When I came in we were three young graduate types, which they (Lambeth) weren’t so used to having in those days and we did research on allocations of housing and we found these cards marked “whites only”. And I went to the director and said “look we have found these cards, this is appalling what are you going to do about it” and he gave me a bollocking and he said “this is good housing management, what we have got is a lot of black people moving in, so we have to keep some, to make sure there is a balance on the estate”. He said its good housing management. This comment meant that Lambeth’s Housing policy and practice was not based on the needs of the family; however terrible their situation. It was a quota system that failed the black community.

**Chief Inspector London County Council (Home Office sanctioned visit).
Extract from report – Inspection into Shirley Oaks dated 10th June 1964**

“There is a constant demand for places from almost every area, and a permanent waiting list. Large facilities predominate; few single children are admitted. There is a certain amount of short stay work and a number of children are regular holiday visitors. The majority, however, are long stay admissions, some of whom have lived in Shirley Oaks for most of their lives. An increasing number are in regular contact with their parents. About one third of children go home every weekend, either for a day or for a weekend visit. Some cottages are almost empty at weekends. A number of these children, who are virtually mid-week borders, are members of coloured families who cannot find adequate accommodation to have their children home all the time, but who try to maintain some degree of family life. While this has great advantages for the children, the duality of control makes problems for the house parents.”

4.15.l The following case of Tyra Henry supports our claims that black families were being discriminated against in the allocation of Lambeth Council housing. As a result of Lambeth Council’s failures, in 1984 aged 22 months, Tyra tragically lost her life at the hands of her father. The racial implications to what we now know was the Housing department’s ‘apartheid’ policies and their impact upon BME children being placed in care were never explored, until now.

Extract: Whose Child? The Report of Public Inquiry into the Death of Tyra Henry (1984)

“The tone of social worker Ann Daniels’ letter of May 1984 could not be firmer or clearer that she was doing all that could possibly be done to get the Henry family re-housed together, with the grandparents as guardians. At the time when the requests for emergency housing were coming in it was discovered during the Inquiry that the Housing Department had a modest supply of suitable large dwellings, mainly houses. “

Conclusion from Whose Child Report: *We have to say that, although it is explicable and perhaps even excusable in the light of the growing burdens and shrinking resources of the housing department in 1982-4, it is scandalous that Lambeth was unable to provide one of its own dwellings to enable Beatrice Henry to do the council’s own job of keeping Tyra safe and well.”*

4.15.m The question we ask is a simple one – were these large dwellings the ‘Whites Only’ stock? Judging by the black dominated estates and the housing stock offered to black care

children, the policy of 'black ghetto estates' continued even after the housing officers identified the 'whites only' policy in the seventies.

4.15.n An early intervention into the Housing department, following the revelation in Tyra Henry's report, should have led to a full inquiry into the operation of the Housing department. This may have exposed the culture of sexual abuse of staff that was highlighted ten years later in the Harris Report (1994) which exposed the Housing department's unwillingness to abide by many of the Council's HR and Equal Opportunities policies. The failure to investigate the Housing department earlier, also arguably contributed to the perpetrators feeling that they were the "untouchables", a name they had coined for themselves.

4.15.o What makes this situation even more abhorrent, was two years after the Council was forced to close all its children's homes in 1994, following two investigations into the Housing department Lambeth got rid of six senior managers from the department; all of whom were implicated in claims of sexual abuse, the distribution of child and adult pornography and covering up their behaviour.

Black Children: Race and Fostering

4.15.p Lambeth's fostering and adoption practices were equally toxic and hazardous for all Lambeth children who fell within its auspices. An indication of how serious these failings were can be found in one of the Council's own investigations (Barratt 1999 – 2000) in which it was noted that the licenses of 135 foster carers was revoked as the Council had not undertaken appropriate checks and on Barratt's advice these were undertaken and the individuals were deemed unsuitable. This was due in part to the general failings of Lambeth Council to provide a duty of care for all its children and was consistent with them not carrying out the necessary checks or reviews of adults that were required for working with children. We believe in some cases this was also motivated by a lack of care in the placement of black children who were placed with either black or white foster parents, with no prior vetting, which led to many black children being racially abused, neglected or ill-treated in care.

4.15.q The issue of race and the placement of black children with white, un-vetted, foster parents can be summed up by the case of Child 17. Kennedy's, Lambeth Council's lawyers recently sent a letter to Child 17, dated 8th July 2016 stating:

"Lambeth Council admits that it is liable to compensate you in respect of your experiences at Shirley Oaks Children's Home and during your foster placement with Mr & Mrs Norman."

4.15.h Even though this letter does not mention race as a factor it is clear from the allegations made by Child 17 that racism was the primary failing from which all the other failings derived including racial abuse, neglect and sexual abuse.

White Children: Race and Fostering

4.15.i We have many cases where white children appear to have been chosen to be fostered 'to order' and this was facilitated, first by the Shirley Oaks management and then Lambeth Social Services department. The Shirley Oaks report has numerous case studies of children who were subjected to abuse in foster care.

4.15.j September 2016 saw the conviction of June Entecott (formerly Hudson), a Lambeth foster carer and her sister Brenda Ball. Entecott was convicted for child cruelty and perverting the course of justice and Ball for perverting the course of Justice. Entecott's former husband John Hudson who cared for the foster children with her, was a former Scotland Yard Detective Sergeant on the Mets Vice Squad for Obscene Publications and subjected the girls to years of sexual abuse.

4.15. k **Girl A** ran away from Entecott's care aged 15 having been a victim of abuse. **Girl B** who was sent to Entecott as a baby after a short period in Shirley Oaks was also subjected to abuse. Having reported her treatment to a teacher at school in 1979, Girl B was taken to the police and removed from the home and placed in South Vale Assessment Centre for over 12 months. Eventually she was placed with good foster parents but nothing could put right the severe damage that had already taken place.

4.15.l These former care children fought valiantly over the decades to achieve justice and they tried to prosecute these abusers in 1999 but the CPS did not take the case forward as they said it was 'historical'. The former care children did not give up. In 2007 a damning letter came to light which was given to the police but a prosecution failed to occur again as the perpetrator, John Hudson had cancer. Eventually Entecott and Ball were charged and during the trial in 2016 evidence was given by a former South Vale care worker who stated that she was so ashamed about what she had written about the child in her reports but explained that she was instructed to write this and was also told *"that's how we were told to write things"*.

4.15.m This case demonstrates how the battle to be believed and listened to can last decades, which prolongs the pain and anguish for survivors and means there is less time for any recovery. It also highlights the abuse some children suffered whilst in foster care and the ineffectiveness of Lambeth Council to deal with the abuse.

Shirley Oaks Cottages and Paedophile Activity

From 1950 to 1980, at least sixty paedophiles operated in the Shirley Oaks cottages or the ancillary buildings:

Shirley Cottages: 42 Houses/Cottages (the terms house and cottage are used interchangeably throughout this report and reflect what they were called over different time periods)

Ancillary Buildings: Farm House, Staff House, Staff Training Cottage, Stores, Office, Lodge House Residence, Sick Bay, Lodge House, Redwood House (Superintendent's Residence), Second House (Superintendent's Residence), Swimming Pool, Shirley Oaks Primary School.

4.16.d By the mid-1950s a new strategy had developed to deal with children with 'leaky mouths'. Some were threatened in graphic detail that they would be killed and others were told they would be split up from their siblings and would be spirited off to another equally hellishly run institution.

4.16.e In fear of those in charge, all of us children would play 'child-like' by day with the knowledge that, whatever abuse you suffered at night, it must never come out in the light. There were a few caring adult souls we fondly remember as trying to protect us but they were few and far between and often, sometimes in a flash, moved on to pastures new.

4.16.f In the 1960s each new influx of sprogs learned the art of smiling through gritted teeth and bruised cheeks. Substituting the low standard of our inappropriate carers, many teenage girls would be forced to become surrogate mothers to the new nurslings, whilst trying to shield themselves from the man-made manifestation of hell.

4.16.g As in the previous decades, there was no one for us children to turn to because everyone seemed to have a dark smile as they played God and carried out their shame in God's name. For some of the children their experience was instantly mind altering and for the rest, the damage would be a slow burner.

4.16.h The 1970s arrived and the old buildings were crumbling. Even though Shirley Oaks was earmarked for closure, there were still over three hundred children living a retrograde existence, on seventy acres of grounds. This was a period of uncalculated turmoil and upheaval. The abuse reached an unparalleled scale which had increased exponentially after Lambeth social services took over the management of Shirley Oaks.

4.16.i During its life span thousands of children were brought up in Shirley Oaks and more passed through its revolving doors on a short term basis. You would have thought that those who had managed the home over the years would have been obligated to ask at least one question: *"What was it like being brought up in Lambeth's flagship children's home?"* But in fear of the answer no one ever asked the question.

4.16.j Shirley Oaks was never meant to have all the answers but it should have at least carried out its mandate to protect all the children who came into its world blind to the ways of mankind; in essence be their saving grace. This is why 50 years later the ex-residents make this statement: *"What is the worth of being saved, when you are treated like the bastard child of a lesser God?"*

Author's Comments:

Who knows what would have been said if the question were ever asked because by the time the truth finally started to surface most of the children had left Lambeth's care.

Shirley children were conditioned to stay silent through fear and shame and an ingrained belief that no one would ever listen to the echoes of their infant screams. Relying on this outcome, those who committed the crimes believed their grubby shared secrets would remain buried in the Shirley Oaks suburbs, but with the list of paedophiles we have provided below they can hide no more.

Interim Chart of Abuser at Shirley Oaks Children's Home 1950 – 1983

Name of abuser	Paedophile or facilitator	Type of abuse	Position	Year(s) of abuse	Known victims	Possible victims
Clifford Heap & Alice Heap	Paedophile	PMS	Superintendent & wife	1952-1964		
Ron Holman	Abuser	PM	Superintendent	1952-1973		
Dr Graham	Paedophile	PMS	Doctor (psychiatrist)	1963+		
Dr Whittaker	Paedophile	PMS	Doctor (resident GP)	1962-1980		
Fred Cummings	Paedophile	PMS	Deputy Superintendent	1958-1982		
Mr Thompson	Paedophile	PMS		1964		
Fred Fincham	Paedophile	PM	Head Storekeeper	1965-1973		
Don Thomas	Corrupt officer and facilitator	PM	Children's Home Officer	1967-1987		
XXXX	Suspected	PM	Blue Peter Club	1964+		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Visitor (Elm)	1967+		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Housemother	1975-1982		Sleeping with numerous young males
Sheila MacMasters	Turned a blind eye - facilitator	M	Housemother			
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Housemother	In between 1963 - 1976		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Social Uncle	Pre 1983		Went on to abuse at Angell Road
The Mackenzie twins	Turned a blind eye	PM	Housemothers	Pre 1965		
XXXX		PM	Housemother	1974-1981		
Brian Fitzgerald	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	Pre 1971		
XXXX		PM	Superintendent/ Headmaster	1946-1959		
Derek Hoare	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1971-1976		Went on to abuse more girls at Chevington
Joan Hoare	facilitator	PM	Housemother	1971-1976		
Robert (Dewi) Black	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1979-1982		Went on to abuse at St Saviours

Name of abuser	Paedophile or facilitator	Type of abuse	Position	Year(s) of abuse	Known victims	Possible victims
XXXX		PM	Housefather	1968-1970		Went on to a home where abuse has taken place
XXXX		PM	Housemother			
Stella Hosegood (nee Hume)		PMS	Housemother	1968-1974		Facilitated her husband's abuse
Donald Hosegood	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1968-1974		Went to court regarding allegations of sexual abuse
Jimmy Gent		PM	Housefather	1978-1981		Dismissed on the grounds of racism
June Gent		PM	Housemother	1972-1981		
Mr Whiteman	Paedophile	PMS	Headmaster of Shirley Primary	Pre 1977		
Mr ?	Paedophile	PMS	School teacher	1955		
XXXX		PM	Housemother	1951/2		
XXXX		PM	Outward bound/Blue Peter Club			
John Derby	Paedophile	PMS	Key Worker	1971-1983		Charged. Committed suicide
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Our Lady of Annunciation Church	Pre and post 1965		Numerous Shirley boys
Geoff Clark	Paedophile	PMS	Social Uncle/ Football and Sport Coach	1969-1983		Killed himself during investigation
XXXX	Suspected	PMS	XXXX	1977-1983		
Jergen Sandler	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1974-1983		Went on to abuse at Angell Road under Michael Carroll

Name of abuser	Paedophile or facilitator	Type of abuse	Position	Year(s) of abuse	Known victims	Possible victims
Jimmy Atwood	Corruption – married his stepsister – physical abuser	PMS	Housefather	1967-1980		Suspended relating to financial irregularities for stealing food from children's homes
Uncle Tony	Paedophile	PMS	Visitor - Santa	1965+		
Uncle Ray	Paedophile	PMS	Visitor - Santa	1965+		
XXXX	Turned a blind eye	PM	Housemother	1951/2		
Mr Potter	Suspected	PMS	Housefather			We believe he was charged. However, he committed suicide.
Joyce Cook		PM	Housemother	Pre and post 1965		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Visitor - football			
Miriam Evans	Facilitator – turned a blind eye	PM	Matron	Pre and post 1965		Had an affair with Ron Holman
XXXX	Facilitator – turned a blind eye	PM	Housemother	1965-1980		
Mr Simms	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1965-1980		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1972-1973		
XXXX	Suspected	PM	Poultry farmer	1956+		
XXXX	Facilitator – turned a blind eye	PM	Housemother			Later worked at Highland Road
Tony Lewis	allegations	PMS	Housefather	1969+		
XXXX	Suspected	PMS	Swimming instructor			Was very close to William Hook
XXXX	Suspected	PM	School teacher			Numerous claims of extreme physical abuse
Mr Sumner	Paedophile	PMS	School teacher			Over 100 girls
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	The Lady of Our Annunciation	Pre and post 1965		Numerous boys

Name of abuser	Paedophile or facilitator	Type of abuse	Position	Year(s) of abuse	Known victims	Possible victims
xxxxxx	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1977-1978		
Pauline Lamden	Facilitator	PM	Housemother	1968-1976		
Derek Lamden	Sexual pleasure from making boys fight	PMS	Housefather	1968-1976		
Phillip Temple	Convicted Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1975-1977		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1979-1980		Went on to abuse children
David Revill	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1979-1980		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1966		Family member confirms he is a paedophile
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1978-1983		Went on to abuse children at Highland Road
XXXX	Facilitator – turned a blind eye	PM	Housemother	1970s		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1970s		
xxxxxx	Paedophile	PMS	Visitor - ILEA			
XXXX	Facilitator	PMS	Housemother	1971-1982		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1971-1982		
Rugby player	Paedophile	PMS	Visitor	1967+		
XXXX	Facilitator – turned a blind eye	PM	Housemother			
XXXX	Suspected	PMS	Housefather			
XXXX	Facilitator – turned a blind eye	PM	Housemother	1972-1974		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1972-1974		
XXXX	Facilitator	PM	Housemother			Allowed visitors to come and sexually abuse children

Name of abuser	of Paedophile or facilitator	Type of abuse	Position	Year(s) of abuse	Known victims	Possible victims
XXXX	Facilitator – turned a blind eye	PM	Housemother	1968		
Thomas Abdul		PMS	Housefather	1968-no end date		Connected to Geoff Clark
XXXX	Facilitator – turned a blind eye	PM	Housemother	1972-1979		
XXXX	Suspected	PM	Housefather	1972-1979		Worked with Geoff Clark
XXXX	Suspected	PM	Maintenance Man			XXXX
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Visitor	In between 1963-1976		
XXXX	Suspected	PM	Assistant Deputy Superintendent			
XXXX	Suspected	PM	Housefather			
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Visitor			
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS	Housemother			Threatened to kill all the children and was taken into a 'mad house'
XXXX	Suspected	PM	Housefather			Had a breakdown at Samuel House
XXXX	Facilitator – turned a blind eye	PMS	Housemother			Knew about the Hosegoods abusing children
XXXX	Suspected	PMS	Housefather			
Dr Nadar	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	1970-1971		
Uncle Ron	Paedophile	PMS	Social Uncle	1969		
Miss Storar	Facilitator – turned a blind eye	PM	Housemother	Pre and post 1965		Extreme physical abuse
XXXX	Facilitator – turned a blind eye	PM	Housemother	Pre 1965		XXXX

Name of abuser	Paedophile or facilitator	Type of abuse	Position	Year(s) of abuse	Known victims	Possible victims
XXXX	Suspected	PM	Housefather			Used to flash the children – parents complained
Holiday abuser	Paedophile	PMS	Visitor	1972		
Ivy House abuse	Paedophile	PMS	Houseparent			
Sweet shop man	Paedophile	PMS	Shopkeeper			Houseparent caught shop man sexually abusing a Shirley boy behind Ivy House
Dutch man	Paedophile	PMS	Housefather	Pre 1974		Always flashed the children
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS		1978		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS		1973-1980		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS		1962-1971		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS				
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS		1974-1976		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS		Post 1965		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS		Post 1965		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS		1971-1977		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS		1972-1974		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS		1971-1977		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS		1972-1974		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS		1975-1976		
XXXX	Paedophile	PMS				
XXXX	Suspected	PMS		1973-1974		Tried to encourage children to go back to his house
Uncle Brian	Suspected	PMS		1956-1972		Associate of William Hook
Mr Wilson	Suspected	PMS		Pre 1965		Friend of the Paedophile group
XXXX	Suspected	PMS	Visitor	Post 1965		XXXX
XXXX	Suspected	PMS	Staff	Post 1966		Friends with paedophiles

Name of abuser	Paedophile or facilitator	Type of abuse	Position	Year(s) of abuse	Known victims	Possible victims
XXXX	Suspected	PM	Staff	Post 1966		Extreme physical abuse
XXXX	Suspected	PM	Houseparent			Extreme physical abuse
XXXX	Suspected	PM	Houseparent			Extreme physical abuse
xxxxx	Paedophile		school teacher			Abused boys
Child on child	Predominantly girls between 10-15 years old		Predominantly boys between ages 7-14 years old.			Numerous claims from children who were sexually abused or raped by children in the home
Joe Kimber	Paedophile	PS	Houseparent			
Peter Ackroyd	Paedophile	S	Lambeth Social Worker			
Leslie Paul	convicted Paedophile		Residential Care Worker			Numerous boys
Michael John Carroll	convicted Paedophile		Residential Care Worker			Numerous children
William Hook	Convicted Paedophile	PMS	Swimming instructor	1968-1978		

Key:

Types of abuse: P=Physical; M=Mental; S=Sexual

Initially we were going to name 31 however there are 4 we are still investigating who have not been included in the list above. The anonymised abusers above are people we are still investigating or who may be subject to police investigation or abusers where we require further evidence from children we seeking.

We have given the Police 15 names of staff who worked in ancillary roles at Shirley Oaks who we have as suspects of abusing children at Shirley Oaks, 9 of these are already known to the Police We have received allegations against numerous Lambeth foster carers these will appear in the Lambeth report. Many children from Shirley Oaks were sent to foster carers during their time in care.

Despite the inhumane treatment, what no-one realised was that over the years, a unique bond had developed amongst each generation of Shirley children, which would come back and haunt the perpetrators.

This time the abusers are the ones who are living in fear and shame as we, the survivors of their degrading acts, shine a spotlight on their deviant activities and pitiful lives.

5. Lambeth Council and its Invisible Veil

“The invisible veil is a worldview which affects all individuals as products of cultural conditioning and which operates outside the level of conscious awareness.” (Sue, D. W., & Sue, D. (1999). *Counselling the culturally different: Theory and practice*. New York: John Wiley). Further, they state that the *“values, assumptions, beliefs, and practices of our society are structured in a manner as to serve only one narrow segment of the population”*

5.1 Historical Reports on Child Abuse Commissioned by Lambeth Council

5.1.a Whilst trying to get a better understanding of what had taken place in Shirley Oaks and how so many abusers were allowed to operate without checks, SOSA set about reading 15 reports that Lambeth had commissioned after Shirley Oaks had closed. All of the reports related to allegations of corruption, sexual and physical abuse and neglect. In general, the reports’ recommendations were not implemented and this is why we started to suspect that Lambeth Council was institutionally evil, defined by its premediated intention to disregard all the policies, including the exemplar ones that it had created, with the intent of protecting perpetrators of corruption and abuse rather than the majority of its staff and the looked after children in its care.

5.1.b The first Lambeth Council report was commissioned a year after Shirley Oaks closed and far from learning from the failures it exposed, the Council appears to have exported them into all of its practices, as indicated by the steady stream of reports that followed, which continued in a similar vein for the next two decades:

- 1984 Tyra Henry died leading to the Whose Child Report
- 1987 Allegations of Sexual Abuse to a Child at House 42 (Shirley Oaks)
- 1990 The Enquiry into South Vale Assessment Centre.
- 1993 Clough Report
- 1994 The Harris Report.
- 1995 Appleby Report
- 1999 The Barratt Report Background Part 1
- 1999 The Barratt Final Report
- 2000 Middleton 1st Interim Report
- 2001 Middleton 2nd Interim Report
- 2002 Middleton 3rd Interim Report
- 2003 Middleton 4th and Final Report
- Children Homes in Lambeth Inquiry (CHILE) 1998 – 2003, Summary.
- 2015 Single Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services and Review of LSCB

5.1.c We are aware that other investigations occurred prior to or during this timeframe but for now at least, we have not been able to access the outcomes of these.

5.2 Lambeth's Culture of Blame and Cover-up

5.2.a It has been posited that Lambeth Council's response to any crisis was to first try to deal with it on a local level which in reality meant ignoring it and only when the public were alerted did they take any action. Having read all the above reports, SOSA has come to the conclusion that the Children's Homes being managed by Lambeth Council were being failed by the inaction of Lambeth Council's then senior managers.

5.2.b It was clear from reading each report that over the years, managers and officers had relied on a policy of blaming a catalogue of errors and staff mismanagement as integral ingredients of the failings whilst ignoring the fact that hundreds of children were being physically and sexually abused. What is consistent by its absence in the reports is a coherent explanation as to why Lambeth Council's senior managers allowed the same recurring failings to continue over the decades and how the significance of the abuse we have uncovered was never made apparent. It would appear that no-one dared investigate whether the continued and recurring failures were mis-management or an intended consequence of a hidden agenda. In either event, the impact upon or interests of the children whose lives were destroyed appear not to have been of paramount importance - this was Lambeth's Council's invisible veil, its inability to see beyond its own short term interests and that of its managers, protecting and covering up for them at any cost, irrespective of the impact upon the vulnerable children it was being paid to serve.

5.2.c It is clear from what we have read from these various reports that something untoward had been taking place in Lambeth Council for decades, in particular, within its social services and housing departments. We were astounded by the fact that the Council, having received so many damning reports over the years, did little of substance to root out the vile, toxic behaviour and practices that were taking place that had the consequence of negatively impacting many looked after children's lives – forever. To further investigate our concerns we commissioned an independent report under the title: 'Turning a Blind Eye for 33 Years'. We also commissioned four other reports around the actions or inactions of the Social Service Inspectorate (SSI), the Health Department, the Met Police, a Race Report and an independent review of the report "Turning a Blind Eye for 33 Years" by an expert in social care. The outcomes of these reports further support our findings and claims.

5.3 A few Glaring Omissions from Past Inquiries/Investigations

5.3.a In our view, some of the omissions and failings of past Inquiries contradict our findings and suggest that these prior Inquiries were economical with the truth and aimed at concealing the extent of the abuse of children in the care of Lambeth Council rather than focused upon bringing the many perpetrators to justice.

5.3.b The Clough Report (1993) was centred on convicted paedophile Michael John Carroll and was commissioned six years before his eventual conviction in 1999 for abusing numerous children in Lambeth and Liverpool. The report did not look into his deviant sexual activities but focused upon his attempts to adopt children whilst being employed as an Officer in Charge of Angell Road Children's Home. During the process of the attempted adoptions it was discovered that Lambeth Council had employed Carroll even though he had a schedule 1

offence for abusing a child. When it finally came out in the open Lambeth let him off with a warning. This should have led to a full inquiry into Carroll's activity and exposed the fact he was a paedophile. Instead, the issues that Clough was asked to investigate were purely around his attempt to adopt children and that even though his adoption was turned down by numerous local authorities, Lambeth still let Carroll have access to the boys in question and the boys would have overnight stays at his house. Carroll's most avid supporter was Lambeth's then Director of Social Services David Pope but there were other high profile people and staff in Wandsworth Council who were trying to support his application by ignoring his section 1 offence.

5.3.c Another problem with the Clough Inquiry was that there was no mention that Carroll and his wife had also applied to Southwark Council to adopt two boys and that Janet and Paul Boateng were purportedly involved in supporting the Carroll's application. There was no mention that five other paedophiles worked in Angell Road, many of whom had previously worked at Shirley Oaks. The Clough report did not refer to the fact that Carroll had lived in the staff quarters at Shirley Oaks, which was confirmed by a former houseparent and we have been given the name of John as an abuser at Shirley Oaks. There was also no mention of sexual abuse claims against Carroll in either Highland Road or Angell Road; information that could easily have been obtained if the Inquiry had spoken to all the children in the homes, had Clough's remit not been so narrow to the point of being restricted. Testimony from former residents of Angell Road will appear in our final report.

5.3.d The controversy surrounding Angell Road Children's home and the reason it was said to have been under-investigated was because of allegations that Paul Boating had visited the home along with police officers and senior managers from Lambeth Council. Even to date the full extent of Carroll's vile behaviour has not been exposed and we have been contacted by numerous victims he had abused.

5.3.e The Harris Report (1993) commissioned by the Director of Social Services, was centred on Lambeth's Housing department and claims that pornographic material was being distributed on council premises and that staff were being subjected to sexual harassment and rape. The Panel was chaired by Eithne Harris, a senior Lambeth employee who was also instructed to investigate whether the Senior Assistant Director of Housing, had deliberately sought to improperly interfere with the process of the investigation. There was no investigation on the more serious allegations that hundreds of pornographic photos of children were found in a cupboard of a senior Lambeth Council employee and that children were also part of the sexual abuse claims/ rituals.

5.3.f The Appleby Report (1995) was initially focused on the Housing department of Lambeth, again specifically looking at sexual abuse and sexual harassment claims made by staff. By the time Elizabeth Appleby's remit had been written, her investigation was re-focused around corruption and nepotism and there was hardly any mention of any sexual abuse allegations. In the meantime, the Director of Social Services instigated his own Inquiry into the sexual abuse allegations. What is most disturbing about the Appleby Report was her opinion that the Council should stop investigating the past and start afresh, which may have given the Council the green light to bury the true extent of what had and was happening in its children's homes at the hands of its staff.

5.3.g The Barratt Report (1998) was another investigation into sexual abuse at Angell Road Children's Home in relation to abuse by Steven Forrest (where convicted paedophile Michael

John Carroll had also worked). Lambeth had failed to tell a victim that Steven Forrest, the child's alleged abuser, had died of Aids. Sometime during Barratt's Inquiry, Liverpool Police contacted the Met with concerns about Carroll, who they were investigating in relation to allegations of abuse in Liverpool's children's homes, Liverpool police believed he may have also abused children in Lambeth children's homes.

5.3.h The real bombshell that should have steered the direction of the Barratt Report was Carroll's connection with Steven Forrest. Forrest and Carroll had abused children over the same period of time at Angel Road in the 1980's. What is most disturbing is we have acquired photographs of these two paedophiles: Carroll and Forrest with the same two children sitting inappropriately on their laps.

5.3.i Initially Barratt was supposed to investigate all the abuse in Lambeth homes but he was directed by the Council to look at just one perpetrator – Steven Forrest. Barratt's appointment and terms of reference were as follows:

"I was formally appointed by the London Borough of Lambeth on 15th December 1998 to conduct an independent investigation with the following terms of reference:

1. *To examine the Council's response to any allegations of abuse made by XXXXX [a young person in Lambeth Council's care] about [Steven] Forrest during and after his appointment [as a social worker in Lambeth].*
2. *To refer any allegations of abuse made by XXXXX to the police.*
3. *To identify any failure to comply with legal requirements, established good practice and procedures of the Council at the time.*
4. *To make explicit any demonstrable failure by current or past employees to act in the best interests of children and young people which may become evidence in the course of [the] investigation.*
5. *To make recommendations as to any amendments to procedures and practices of the Council that will ensure the proper care and protection of children and young people in the Council's care".*

5.3.j One of the problems with the Barratt Report was that point 4 of his remit was never fully fulfilled. More importantly, the details of point 1 were blatantly inaccurate. In the report it identified the complaints from the victim as being in 1996; however, in the report Barratt suggested it could have been 1994 when in fact the first complaint by the child that was notified was in 1992.

5.3.k What Barratt didn't state was there had been numerous complaints about Carroll to David Pope, who was the Assistant Director of Social Services at the time. The reason for Pope's reluctance to act upon the complaints may have been due to the fact that he was one of the Council Officers regularly visiting Angell Road Children's Home, where many of its residents would later claim to have been sexually abused. We also noted that he worked for Lambeth when it ran and operated Shirley Oaks during one of the worst periods.

5.3.l It should be noted that David Pope had been employed by Lambeth Council in the early 1970s. It should also be noted that following the full Council's discussion of Barratt's two Inquiries, in December 2000, four years after Pope left Lambeth's employment, the following motion was carried: *"This Council believes that in the light of the findings of the Barratt Report there should be an urgent investigation into whether David Pope is a fit*

person to hold the office of Director of Social Services.” The vote was carried 33 for and 14 against.

5.3.m All of our reports and investigations were carried out in response to our belief that Lambeth Council, as an entity, was implicated in the continued failings that took place at Lambeth’s children’s homes. Together with its oversight bodies, we believe there was a shared understanding of what was taking place at Shirley Oaks and other children’s homes and a shared determination to cover this up; which in turn allowed the victims of the abuse to continue to suffer.

5.4 SOSA’s Commissioned Report: Turning a Blind Eye for 33 Years

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. *Analyse various reports that have been produced over the years and to cut and paste any sections where Lambeth Council have admitted to failing to follow national, local guidelines or their own policies;*
2. *Investigate the institutional responses to the sexual abuse of children in the care of Lambeth Council, including those cared for in children’s homes, by foster carers and /or by adoptive parents;*
3. *Review the appropriateness of the response of the Council, prosecuting authorities and other public authorities or statutory agencies to the reports of child sexual abuse involving children cared for by the Council, and/or reports of child sexual abuse by individuals, who were employed by or contracted by the Council;*
4. *The extent to which the Council sought to investigate, learn lessons, implement changes and provide support and reparations to victims and survivors, in response to reports, reviews and inquiries into child sex abuse;*
5. *Safeguarding, including but not limited to the Clough Report, the Harris Report, the Barrett Report and the Children’s Homes in Lambeth Inquiry; and/or other external guidance;*
6. *The extent to which there was a culture within the Council which inhibited the proper investigation, exposure, prevention and reparation for the child sexual abuse; and the appropriateness of the relevant inspection and regulatory regimes.*

Extract from Turning a Blind Eye for 33 Years Report

“In spite of the passage of time, the actions/inactions of Lambeth Council have left an immovable scar on children who had little choice but to see Lambeth Council as their parents. It is however most unlikely, that any sanctions imposed upon Lambeth will erase the mental, physical and emotional abuse experienced by some of the children in its care and for this, serious consideration should be given to the Council’s vicarious liability for its inability to carry out its corporate parenting role and the negative impact this has had on so many vulnerable children’s lives.”

Extract from Review of Turning a Blind Eye for 33 Years Report. Child Abuse - Hidden in Plain Sight:

“One of the most striking aspects of Turning a Blind Eye, is the degree to which the Council’s own inquiries and panels (and to some extent independent inquiries, commissioned by them) conflate child care and child protection matters with other things including staffing issues, management concerns and financial matters. The ordinary business of investigating child

abuse and protecting children from harm, becomes lost among a plethora of other concerns. In my opinion, this constitutes an unusual approach by Lambeth and looking at the number of occasions on which accepted child protection policy and practice appears to have been subverted into some other process, I really do question whether it was deliberate.”

5.5 Middleton and CHILE Investigation into Child Abuse in Lambeth 1998 -2003

5.5.a What makes SOSA members unique amongst all the survivor groups is that many had taken part in what had been called the ground breaking, first of its kind, Middleton and CHILE Inquires. The background to these two Inquiries and how they came about is mired in confusion. We are led to believe investigations started in 1998 when Merseyside Police contacted Lambeth in regards to the activities of convicted paedophile John Carroll. This would mean that despite the overwhelming evidence prior to this time, which arguably led to the closure of Lambeth’s Children’s Homes in 1994; without the Merseyside Police’s intervention, there would have been no large scale police investigation into child abuse in Lambeth.

5.5.b SOSA members are confused about why this investigation did not start earlier. It is clear that both the Police and Council knew there were problems in many of Lambeth’s children’s homes prior to this date. Both had received numerous complaints from children and staff and, according to our records, the Met had been given information from an outside police force as early as 1993; however, the biggest indicator of the abuse should have been the nature and subject matter of previous investigations and reports. Even though many concerns and allegations were apparently under investigated, a clear pattern was emerging that anyone would have had to ‘turn a blind eye’ not to see.

Extract from Operation Middleton Reports (1998 to 2003)

1. Context

1.1 *Operation Middleton was established in November 1998. It is a joint Metropolitan Police and Lambeth Council investigation into allegations of abuse of children in the care of Lambeth in residential homes under the control of Lambeth Social Services Department, or with other carers, between 1974 and 1994.*

1.2 *During the period under investigation Lambeth operated and used 35 Children’s homes and 7003 children looked after were placed in care. The last Lambeth run children’s home was closed in 1995. Whilst the investigation has concentrated on its original terms of reference, it has inevitably and properly been drawn beyond them through the need to ensure that the interests of children are at the centre of its work.*

2. Method of Operation

2.1.1 *The Lambeth Council element of the Middleton operation known as CHILE – Children in Lambeth Enquiry - was established in November 1998. Whilst the Team is employed by Lambeth Council, apart from one seconded member of Lambeth’s staff it consists of agency staff and consultants who are independent of the Council. The Team is headed by a Consultant childcare worker who is an acknowledged expert in the field and advisor to many Local authorities and Police forces. The Team consists of 16 carefully selected staff with a range of skills appropriate to the task in hand.*

2.1.2 *The Team is not based within Social Services and acts independently of Council Departments. It was established to report and continues to report to the Chief Executive and the Director of Policy. The Team also reports to a Strategy Group which includes Senior Police Officers and a representative from the Social Services Inspectorate. Whilst the telephone number publicised for the public to call on is a Council number this is because the team has been provided with secure accommodation within the Town Hall.*

2.1.3 The Police element of the operation consists of a similar sized team. The operation is a true joint operation with joint working between Police and Child care staff facilitated on a daily basis in order to secure the most robust investigation. The operation also works closely with the Department of Health Social Services Inspectorate and ensures that relevant information is shared with other child care organisations and Local authorities to protect the safety of children.

5.5.c Middleton/CHILE was the last and most comprehensive child abuse Inquiry commissioned by Lambeth Council but in 2003 it came to a premature ending without explanation. Even Lambeth staff that had worked on the CHILE part of the investigation were shocked when it ended.

5.5.d Many Shirley Oaks victims, who were contacted by Middleton and spoke to the police, were subsequently left waiting, not knowing how/if their evidence was pursued - after dredging up the past that they had been trying to forget and spilling their guts, sometimes for first time – they heard nothing, not even an acknowledgment slip. Other victims who were expecting the knock on their front doors gave up waiting.

5.5.e Hidden by the cloak of anonymity, sniggering parasites celebrated their reprisal believing that their murky pasts would continue to remain buried at Shirley Oaks, in Lambeth Council and within the National archives. They must have had faith in their belief that Lambeth Council and the Met police would maintain the shroud of secrecy as they were complicit in allowing the continued abuse of children in the care of Lambeth Council and protecting their current and former employees. Reducing the risk to their corporate reputations was more important than safeguarding and putting right the wrongs that was experienced by vulnerable children.

5.5.f Buried in the fourth and final joint statement by Middleton and CHILE were some startling contradictions that proved all the previous inquires had dubious outcomes because none of them had discovered or divulged the true extent of the abuse at Shirley Oaks and other Lambeth children's homes.

The Fourth and Final Middleton Report, 2003 - Detailed Analysis:

Operation Middleton investigated over 120 allegations of sexual abuse / assault and was successful in bringing a number of perpetrators to justice:

- *3 perpetrators were imprisoned for periods of between 18 months and 10 years.*
- *The Operation also assisted a number of other Police forces in completing investigations, including Merseyside Constabulary [which purportedly acted as the catalyst for Middleton] in the case of Michael Carroll who was imprisoned for 10 years in 1999.*

The following factors hampered further successful prosecutions against alleged perpetrators:

- *16 alleged perpetrators died either before or during the Operation's life, including 1 suicide during trial in March 2003.*
- *11 cases where the Crown Prosecution Service decided no further action was possible.*
- *19 cases where the alleged perpetrators could not be identified.*
- *1 case where the victim died before being able to give evidence.*
- *A further 4 cases were passed onto other forces since the case was outside the parameters of the Operation but are being handled elsewhere.*

5.5.g Finally, the report states that it would be unreasonable to judge the success of Middleton considering there are only a few convictions arising from the investigations into paedophile rings in Lambeth.

5.5.h In most cases of historical child abuse it is widely accepted that only ten percent of victims report these crimes. Therefore, in the case of the Lambeth paedophiles there appears to be an oxymoron – however you calculate it, the numbers do not add up.

5.5.i In 1999 the Met police said they had received 200 allegations of sexual abuse in Lambeth's children's homes. Printed in the Mail on Sunday, 26th March 2000, Gloucestershire Chief, Tony Butler, the Association of Chief Police Officer spokesman on sex crimes said *"the biggest investigation is into 20 homes in Lambeth...the Police feared up to 100 paedophiles worked in Lambeth Children's homes."*

5.5.j In two years, SOSA, on its limited budget and with very few staff has identified 60 paedophiles and numerous abusers that worked in Shirley Oaks and numerous others who worked in other Lambeth children's homes; this raises key questions:

- *Why were there only 3 paedophiles convicted? This is a minute fraction of the number identified and the result of years of work; especially when we know £1.8m was paid out in compensation to many victims some of whom are our members.*
- *Where are the other 97 paedophiles identified by Tony Butler (Gloucestershire Police). Have they vanished into the ether?*
- *In which children's homes did the alleged paedophiles operate?*
- *Why are the victims of Shirley Oaks still not being told if a suspected paedophile was operating in their cottage? Are they still unworthy of the truth because of their stained status as care children or is there another reason why the truth has been buried in lies?*

5.6 [SOSA - Our Historical Mistrust of the Police](#)

5.6.a Trying to understand why the conviction rate of paedophiles in Lambeth was so low we started digging even deeper and in new directions and after speaking to various established 'gangsters' we gained a new insight into Lambeth's history. What most concerned us were the allegations that the police were interconnected with much of the historical criminal

activity and sexual abuse that took place across Lambeth and were very good at covering it up.

5.6.b It should be clear from reading this report that the instincts of Raymond Stevenson, Lucia Hinton and the majority of those represented by SOSA were correct in not trusting the police as we embarked on our own investigations. This mistrust is deep-rooted and attached not only to the Metropolitan Police but particularly to the Lambeth Police force. The fact that the current police officers investigating abuse in Lambeth were not police officers at the time that the systemic abuse of children in Lambeth children's home took place, is of no solace. Lambeth police as an entity are, in the minds of SOSA members, 'the enemy' because they turned their back on them and therefore are not to be trusted so any investigation carried out by them will be treated with deep-rooted scepticism.

5.6.c Despite this mistrust of Lambeth Police by SOSA, we are currently working with some good officers. However, we still wonder if the Met Police are the best people to investigate their own activities.

5.6.d During our investigation we were told that in the past Police investigations they had seized numerous photos showing paedophiles interacting with Lambeth care children - some of these people are now convicted and the others we have gathered overwhelming evidence against.

5.6.e We were told by a reliable source that photos were taken from convicted paedophile Leslie Paul, John Carroll, David Hamilton and a house parent from Shirley Oaks. Photos were also seized from convicted paedophile William Hook and from John Butcher who was convicted of bringing in child porn from Holland.

5.6.f The Police have now confirmed that many of these photos have been lost or misplaced. We have been told that some of these photos include prominent people abusing children in Lambeth children's homes or those in the care of the authority.

5.6.g We have received a catalogue of photos in which children are posing in what could be perceived to be clothed child porn adverts. These photos were discovered 20 years ago at the home of a former Lambeth residential social worker and this person has confirmed that people we suspect of being paedophiles would have had access to these photos.

5.6.h We have now acquired a number of these photographs including some that were initially in the possession of the Police but they failed to print out the negatives. These include photos of John Carroll interacting with children in an overtly sexualised way. It looks as if they were posing with children for other Paedophiles.

5.6.i Former Lambeth care children are now demanding that however horrific these photos are, they want to know if they are in any and if the Police are hiding the identities of the perpetrators who were either grooming or abusing the children.

History of Corrupt Policing in South London

5.6.j In the 1970s the Met Police was rife with corruption and improper relationships which had been largely ignored for years. The clear-out of more than 400 officers under Sir Robert Mark in the late Seventies and early Eighties happened during Operation Countryman. The primary investigation was in Clubs and Vice and looked at the corrupt behaviour of the Met and City of London Police force. There are two names that resonate in this investigation which may be relevant to Shirley Oaks and other Lambeth Children's Homes. But first It is important to note that former Lambeth foster carer and paedophile John Hudson (now deceased) was abusing the children in his care at the time when he was working in Vice Publications.

5.6.k The first person that we believe had an undue influence on the failure to investigate paedophile rings in the early 1970s was the then head of the Paedophile unit, Mark Hames. He was eventually forced to resign along with other suspected police paedophiles. The second person was Paul Humphries who was the head of Britain's largest porn ring at the time and boasted he had corrupted many of the Police vice officers both senior and junior.

5.6.l In the 1990s/2000 Sir Paul Condon believed that corruption was once again rife in the Met. In response to this he formed the "ghost" squad which was set up in 1993 and based at a secret location with the backing of Michael Howard, the then Home Secretary, to assess the scale of the problem. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary in 1997, was also consulted.

5.6.m The official name for this investigation was Operation Othona. The work and findings of the operation were kept separate from other intelligence gathered by the Metropolitan Police. Networks of serving and retired police officers and villains were uncovered in the sting . *"What shocked some people was the arrogance of these people. They believed their networks were so secure, no one could get at them,"* said a source. The police have confirmed that nearly all records from this operation were destroyed in 2001 or 2003. Ironically, this is when Lambeth's records in relation to the history of Shirley Oaks had a 100 year order put upon them.

5.6.o In South London in the 1970s and 1980s, the situation of Police corruption was at critical mass and it impacted on aspects of the Lambeth community and had a detrimental effect on all the good Police officers. There were many hushed up inquiries and police officers were allowed to retire without prosecution. Our research confirms our theory that these were the same officers who were 'turning a blind eye' to what was taking place in Lambeth's children's homes. All relevant information providing these connections will be provided in our Police Report.

5.6.p In November 1997, the South London Press reported the finding of a sex dungeon complete with manacles, chains, bedding and a sleazy red light in Lambeth's high-security Police Head Quarters. The civilian staff who leaked the story were suspended and Officers from Scotland Yard's Criminal Investigation Bureau were called in.

5.6.q Other Police related incidents and allegations:

DCI Clive Driscoll – Former Met Officer removed from investigating child abuse in Lambeth;

Leslie Paul - Residential Care Worker at South Vale – convicted paedophile and former Met Special Constable. **Paul had been investigated by the police on three separate occasions and the true extent of his abuse was not uncovered which meant he avoided prosecution for many of his crimes until 2016 when he was imprisoned for historic child sex abuse**

John Carroll Residential Care Worker at Angell Road – convicted paedophile, Police informant, who had many Police friends who sought to protect him and ‘turn a blind eye’ to his activities;

Bill McCredy - Residential Care Worker at St Saviours – paedophile and Police informant; A child that lived in his flat and slept in his bed later went on and killed himself

Junior Shabazz a former Lambeth Youth worker states he gave photos to the police which included **John Carroll** and ACYC members on a camping holiday with numerous other paedophiles we have named. The police state they cannot find these photos.

John Hudson former Scotland Yard Vice Officer and Lambeth foster carer committed sexual abuse on underage girls and was protected by the Police. Hudson died before he could be convicted – wife convicted in 2016 for child cruelty/neglect and perverting the course of justice;

Un-named former houseparent at Shirley Oaks - became a Met police child protection officer - allegations of abuse from a child in Shirley Oaks;

Gary Pankhurst – Detective Sergeant and investigating officer for Middleton - providing misleading information to victims; informing one victim that their abuser was dead when in fact he was alive. We have numerous complaints that he did not take allegations seriously or follow up. Judging by the amount of paedophiles we have found, we concur with this; Pankhurst was ineffective in his job and/or was compromised in some way.

Various Police Officers - were having inappropriate relationships with former care children who made complaints during Middleton

Richard Gargini – Lead Met Officer for Middleton Inquiry - allegations of intimidation from Lambeth whistleblowers. Questions over his suitability and possible conflict of interest in his involvement in the Middleton investigation;

Un-named Met Officer - informed victim that Heap a former superintendent at Shirley Oaks was too old to prosecute. The allegations against Heap were not relayed to Lambeth Council and therefore not investigated which meant there would be no reparation for his victims.

Ron Holman - ran Shirley Oaks from 1965 - interfering with natural justice and covering up of allegations of abuse that was carried out by a Superintendent is of concern. Not only did he not adhere to his moral duty to investigate the claims of abuse, he failed in his dual role as a Justice of the Peace in Croydon to maintain the law. Holman was also physically abusing boys who complained of abuse and intimidated them not to speak out.

David Roach - a senior Freemason who worked in Lambeth - The Police failed to pursue and prosecute Roach for having child pornography in his possession on Council property and failed to investigate his role in facilitating paedophiles operating in Shirley Oaks.

Sir Dennis O’Connor - Met Police Assistant Commissioner 1997, who headed up the Middleton Inquiry - We ask the question about his impartiality and could this be the reason for the failings of Operation Middleton? We also now question many of the cases which the Police

presented to the CPS during Operation Middleton where no action was taken. Did the Police present the cases in such a way that the CPS could not take any action or was this an example of sloppy police work? Judging by our own findings we believe there was an attempt by someone in the Police force to prevent the course of justice and the current IPCC investigations into past wrongdoing is supposed to be looking into these allegations.

The Police announced at the end of Operation Middleton in 2003 that there were 19 paedophiles they could not identify. We believe we have now identified most of these suspects and we question why the Police with their vast resources and expertise could not do the same? It is clear the Police did not contact 5000 children as they originally stated and what we believe they covered up any connections that linked Police Officers to the abuse.

It is clear the Police failed to investigate paedophiles who were either Police Officers or who had connections to the Police or they failed to present the allegations to the CPS in a proper way, in the interest of the victims.

5.6.q When Helen Kenwood was employed by Lambeth to undertake CHILE, the joint investigation with Middleton, this was sanctioned by Jo Clearly from the then Social Services Inspectorate. However, it would appear that Kenwood would be serving more than one master. Her previous relationships with the Police may have been the reason why she proposed separate investigations by the Council, information from which she would share with the Police and not Lambeth Council. We know this from information that was shared at Cabinet level in the Government.

5.6.r Judging from what we have discovered, it is clear that the Lambeth Council was not the only institution that had an interest in suppressing the extent of the sexual abuse allegations in Lambeth Children's Homes. Equally, the Police were happy to steer Kenwood into a non-effective role because they had a vested interest in quashing allegations where their own officers were involved.

5.6.s It would appear that the Police did however have the confidence of Heather Rabbatts, then Lambeth Chief Executive Officer (who more recently became a Director at the Football Association) as she came to her job with her own list of contacts in the Met. In 1995, after various damning reports into Lambeth Social Services and its failure to protect children in its care, Rabbatts was employed as the New Labour's 'new broom' with the remit of cleaning up an 'old mess'. However, things remained very much the same but this time they attempted to bury the truth (clean up the mess) once and for all. Rabbatts was Lambeth's CEO at the launch of Operation Middleton in 1999/2000 and she also commissioned the CHILE investigation.

5.6.t Former Assistant Director of Lambeth Social Services, Dr Nigel Goldie confirms that Rabbatts stated that DCI Clive Driscoll had mentioned Paul Boateng as someone he wanted to interview but Rabbatts clearly did not make sure this line of inquiry was pursued. In fact, Clive Driscoll was subsequently removed from the investigation and none of his lines of inquiry were followed up. There is a paper trail of documents we have obtained that show that the issues around Middleton were discussed at Cabinet level. This of course included discussions with the Home Office where Paul Boateng was then employed. It is important to add that Dr Nigel Goldie contradicts Rabbatts' version of events and when attempts have been made to clarify issues, she sent heavily weighted legal letters written by lawyers who worked for the FA. We will be seeking clarification from the FA about why they felt they should protect

Rabbatts on issues they were unfamiliar with which sit outside the scope of her role at the FA. The FA also has questions to answer in relation to its representatives that worked in community football in Lambeth. For example, Junior Shabazz reported John Butcher's lewd behavior to the FA – they did nothing.

The death of Bulic Forsythe and the Police's failure to investigate

5.6.u Whilst the Harris and Clough Inquiries were taking place and officers of the Housing department were involved in corruption and distributing child pornography, Bulic Forsythe was murdered when his home was set alight - he died an agonising death. He had told colleagues he was about to expose a paedophile ring in Lambeth. Before his murder he was transferred to the Social Services department because of intimidation from his manager. What he didn't know was that the corruption and sexual abuse were interlinked in both of the departments.

5.6.v The Police failed to properly investigate Forsythe's death at the time and they denied there was a paedophile ring operating in Lambeth, which we now know was not the case. Consistent with the policing strategy within Lambeth at that time they set about trying to discredit Forsythe with spurious allegations. What most people didn't know, was there was another death of a member of staff from the Housing department. Tom Hosey jumped off a balcony in 1987 after stating that he had stumbled across a paedophile ring operating in Lambeth Council. We now know that 12 years later, in 1999, the Police were so concerned about a ring of dangerous men operating in Lambeth, the person Forsythe had confided in was deemed at risk of her life and they proposed to rehouse her.

Recent Update on Missing Documents

5.6.w Following a tip off we had received at the start of our investigation, nearing the completion of this Interim report, it was confirmed in confidence that 140 boxes of documents, connected to Lambeth Council's own investigations into child abuse had been destroyed. This set off our alarm bells because it was incongruent with the 70-year rule, for which all files related to children in care were meant to be kept. The biggest shock was learning it happened six years after the Middleton investigation had closed, in the late 2000's and five years before we started our investigation.

5.6.x The discovery that staff at Lambeth were still trying to bury the truth is consistent with claims from the Lambeth whistleblowers we have interviewed. All have given us varying accounts of Lambeth's failures in all aspects of its civil duties, most notably those relating to its Children's and Social Services departments. Knowing how dysfunctional these departments were explains why, when Lambeth took over the reins of running Shirley Oaks, the abuse not only continued but escalated.

5.6.y Once Shirley Oaks was earmarked for closure, some children who had been abused were sent far away to children's homes in Bristol, Wales and other UK locations; others were sent to homes in Lambeth which were already infected by paedophiles. Some were fostered to inappropriate adults, some of whom were paedophiles; others were sent to maladjusted schools, whilst those children still living in Shirley Oaks were targeted by new and old staff.

Lambeth Whistle-blowers Silenced

5.6.z The most shocking aspect of our investigation was learning that some Lambeth Council employees had known about the abuse at the time but had been compromised because of their own wrong doing or fear and therefore kept quiet. Some unwittingly became a part of the cover up and others did not want to lose any promotion opportunities so they deliberately turned a blind eye and used it as an opportunity to protect themselves and their jobs. The few who spoke out were marginalised and in some cases forced out of their jobs.

5.6.aa The following statements were submitted to SOSA by former Shirley Oaks and Lambeth Council employees, who over the years had complained about the failure to protect the children and where no action was taken:

Whistle-blower's Statement: House Parent Claire Crawley (nee Probert) Shirley Oaks

Claire was 20 and was Philip Temple's deputy in House 33 in 1975. Temple was 7 years older. *"He had an odd view of women. He expressed radical religious views and regularly quoted Saint Paul. I would ask boys where they were getting sweets and food they could not afford on the pocket money they were given. One was eight and one was twelve. They said they were being abused by Temple. They described things I had never heard of and I was not particularly naïve."*

The police who investigated Temple at the time said he was innocent. They said the boys were telling lies because they cried in the interviews and that they had got their ideas from girlie magazines. A senior manager informed Claire that he would reinstate Temple. Claire threatened to go to the press. It was only this which stopped Temple being reinstated. After being so badly let down by the police and management Claire didn't want to stay and the children lost another saviour. What Claire doesn't know was another paedophile was sent to work in the cottage to take her place when she left.

In 2016, Temple was charged with historical child sex abuse against children in House 33 House. He was also charged with abusing children after he left Shirley Oaks which means Lambeth Council and the Police officers, having allowed him to walk free, are responsible for any further abuse he inflicted at Shirley Oaks after the initial police investigation and the abuse he carried out at other children's homes following his departure. The court found that Temple abused numerous children.

Whistle-blower's Statement: House Parent: William Henry - Shirley Oaks

"I William Henry was employed by London Borough of Lambeth Social Services, as a grade 2 Residential Social Worker in 1978 to 1982. I was assigned to one of the cottages which was part of the Shirley Oaks complex; there was an officer in charge and a deputy. I remonstrated with the group home manager, Don Thomas that I was being left alone on my shift and the deputy would never work but it was to no avail."

In 1979/1980, it was noticed that a boy was sleeping frequently in the house parents' bedroom. Their excuse for this odd behaviour was that they were doing 'specialist' work with the child, though there was never any entry on his file outlining the alleged 'specialist work'. In

1981/1982, this person established another 'special' relationship, with another boy who was frequently in their accommodation, which included him sleeping in her flat; the boy would often come out into the young people's area in just his trousers. Again, I was told they were doing 'specialist' work with him, but without supporting evidence placed on his file.

The 'specialist' work with this particular young person and the staff member continued for a number of years. I frequently complained and expressed concerns to the group managers Don Thomas and Pat Salter regarding the practices but to no avail. Part of my concerns about this cottage included children going without food as part of a method to punish 'bad behaviour', children losing their pocket money and children allegedly being sexual abused.

A great number of young people were wards of the court, thus placing a duty of care on the local authority (Lambeth Council). Young people were more at risk in the care of Lambeth Social Services than with their biological parents. Instead of protecting the children, Lambeth Social Services exposed the majority of Shirley Oaks children to abuse on a monumental scale that was emotional, physical and sexual, leaving blood on the hands of the Council."

Helena Allen: worked at Lambeth Social Services from 1972 to 1985

Former Lambeth Social Worker Helena Allen was assigned to the x family. Three of the four siblings were in care for most of their lives and they spent a significant time in Shirley Oaks. Two of these siblings were sexually abused in Shirley Oaks and the remaining one was abused in another Lambeth Care home. The fourth sibling was adopted and went on to be a public person.

Prior to the 3 siblings being sent to Shirley Oaks their youngest sibling x died in another Lambeth Children's Home just before her first birthday. It was said at the time there was no Officer in Charge of the home for many months – this is what was said by Lambeth. Her death was due to being strapped to the top bunk bed by a baby harnesses and in the morning she was found to have inexplicably died from asphyxiation.

Helena Allen wrote a letter to the children, earlier this year (2016), extracts of which follows:

"It was hard to reconcile the compassionate woman your mother X was with vulnerable adults, with the neglect and emotional cruelty that she sometimes inflicted on all of you. X did not shirk however from telling both Social Work Managers and the Social Services Committee what they had done to her following xxx's death. She would often say "if I had done that, (was responsible for xxx's death) they would have put me in Holloway." And of course, she was right".

".....I do not need to write further about the pain filled teenage years that the three of you suffered in your placements at home and in the 'care system'. Lambeth did finally learn from what happened to you, and so many children of your generation in the system. As a result of the failure to provide you with the stability, love, protection and education that you needed and deserved, a total rethink of policy took place in the 1980's."

Judging by Helena Allen's letter this was another failed aspiration because sadly all Lambeth Social Services appeared to learn was the contrite practice of apologies and cover-ups. Judging by the many investigations into sexual abuse that followed, 'the contrite apology'

was something Lambeth were used to doing.

To learn from the past, there must be a willingness to dig up the lies and resurrect the truth and judging by the behavior of Lambeth and the police in the past, it was something they seemed to have been unwilling to do.

The case study on this family also highlights an improper relationship between Lambeth Social Services and a parent of children in their care and resulted in the children being placed back with their mother, even though there was an obvious danger to them. Like many children who were returned home prematurely all three siblings were abused and were eventually put back into care. In this interim report we have included part of the case study on the X siblings because it best sums up Lambeth's failings in absolute terms on every level.

Barbara, Former Lambeth Employee sent via email 2016

“My name is Barbara I worked at Angell Road Children's Home during the early 1980s, I complained to David Pope about John Carroll's behaviour. Not long after my complaint I was pushed out of my job. In hindsight if Lambeth had listened to me, maybe John Carroll wouldn't have been able to continue to deceive so many people.”

It is clear from the whistleblowers' statements that the failure to report the paedophiles either at Shirley Oaks or other children's homes resulted in more children being abused. This is not something we say with the luxury of hindsight; it is a common sense conclusion that demonstrates how the cycle of abuse continues when you 'turn a blind eye'.

Teresa Johnston Former Residential Social Worker Shirley Oaks

Teresa Johnston had given evidence to the CHILE inquiry. We have acquired a document that outlines a timeline of some of Theresa's significant issues that related to her employment at Shirley Oaks and these are summarised below:

- 1975 - 1978 she had worked at House 8, Shirley Oaks, with Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt. Mr. Wyatt worked for Lambeth in the Finance department alongside one of Shirley Oaks' most prolific paedophiles Geoff Clark. Mr Wyatt invited him to the cottage and without any checks he became a social uncle. Teresa made complaints against him.
- House 8: with the help of Teresa and complaints from the children, Mr Wyatt was dismissed for violence towards the children.
- In 1978 Teresa worked at House 24, Shirley Oaks with two people we would later identify as paedophiles.
- 1979 Theresa worked at House 36, Shirley Oaks, with Tony and Pat Lewis. House 36 is where Peter David died in suspicious circumstances. We are currently looking into claims in this house.

Teresa's Employment in other Lambeth Children's Homes

- 1984 - Teresa worked at Stockwell Park Children's Home when a management inquiry was conducted regarding Lionel Roberts where there were allegations of mismanagement/racism. Teresa subsequently acted as officer in charge to replace Roberts.
- 1986 - Teresa was officer in charge at Stockwell Park when Robert O'Brien was dismissed for burning a child's neck with a toasting implement.
- 1989 - Teresa supported staff making complaints against South Vale Children's Home staff which led to a number of suspensions and the South Vale inquiry. Most importantly this led to the arrest of Leslie Paul.
- 1991 - Teresa was John Carroll's line manager at Angell Road where she and David Hine presented a case to the disciplinary panel leading to Carroll's dismissal. The charge was for corruption and his dismissal meant he was able to avoid the later allegations of sexual abuse.

Theresa's CHILE risk assessment states that: *"She is a witness in a potentially high profile case. There is a possibility of her being in some danger due to the extra sensitive nature of the case and the level of security involved. There is a possibility that Theresa may be relocated to protect her and to keep her identity secret. She could be removed at short notice. Mrs Kenward believes that there may be a network of about seven men who may be involved, who have been violent to children."*

One man, [which we know to be John Carroll] is serving a ten-year sentence and it is believed that he is part of this network of seven. There may be connections with the accused in this case. There have been efforts made to frustrate CHILE's work, and files have had to be removed with police and it is believed that some people have interest in files not being investigated."

5.7 Turning on Whistle-blowers

Before Reading this section please review the Whistleblowers video on our website <http://www.shirleyoakssurvivorsassociation.co.uk/whistleblowers>

5.7.a The Public Interest Disclosure Act, 1998, provided guidance and protection for whistleblowers. Despite this, during the CHILE investigation the treatment of Theresa Johnston and her evidence changed as soon as she stated that Paul Boateng had turned up at a Lambeth children's home. Johnston began to be treated with hostility and this increased when she made claims that she was assaulted at Shirley Oaks in the 1970's and then it intensified exponentially when she made a confession to the Council and Police about another incident about her then line manager. She received threats, mostly from Lambeth Council staff. How staff became aware of Teresa's claims which were made in a confidential interview is in itself a matter of concern. In an attempt to silence one of the few people who tried to

protect the children in Lambeth's care, the tables were turned and Teresa was investigated for child neglect and more serious allegations none of which were substantiated.

5.7.b The treatment of Teresa Johnston was consistent with the evidence compiled in the 'Turning a Blind Eye' report: that Lambeth was run by a white male hierarchy who had connections with criminals and gangsters. It was clear that they would do anything to hide their activity and maintain the then status quo including ruining or ending the lives of whistle-blowers or others that stood in their way. This would mean any claims against Lambeth managers would remain unpunished in case it shed light on their collective interests and behaviors. Employees who did not collude with the status quo, like Teresa Johnston, were compromised and vilified whilst paedophile behavior, racism and physical abuse continued, unchallenged in contravention of the Council's exemplar equal opportunities and other human resources policies. This type of behaviour was highlighted in the Lambeth Council commissioned Harris report 1994 and despite this, the treatment of Teresa Johnston demonstrates that little had changed.

5.7.c Clive Driscoll, the initial DCI of Middleton, has stated publicly that he was taken off the case of investigating Lambeth when he revealed that he wanted to question Paul Boating about his connections to convicted paedophile, Michael John Carroll. Following our investigation, Driscoll has stated "*what chance did the children have in Lambeth's care when there were so many subversive people in the Council, many of who had connections with the Police?*"

5.7.d There was an ambiguity between Lambeth's actions and the statements it espoused in its policies. For example, an extract of the Council's then disciplinary code was clearly not enforced consistently:

Disciplinary Rules for staff at Shirley Oaks:

"The disciplinary rules applicable to you will be found in both conditions of service referred to in paragraph 3 of your written Statement of Particulars of Employment and in this document. Any breaches of these disciplinary rules will render you liable to disciplinary action as set out below: Gross Misconduct is defined as misconduct by you of such a serious nature that the Council is justified in no longer tolerating your continued presence at your place of work. An allegation of gross misconduct will normally lead to your immediate suspension from work, pending investigation. Where, after due consideration, the allegations against you are substantiated, you will be dismissed either with or without notice unless there are any mitigating circumstances. Examples of gross misconduct relating to all employees include:

1. *Unauthorised removal, possession or theft of property belonging to the Council, a fellow employee, client, or member of the public.*
2. *Acts of violence, physical assault of a fellow employee, client or the public.*
3. *Falsification of qualification which are a statutory requirement of employment or which result in additional remuneration.*
4. *Sexual misconduct at work.*
5. *Malicious damage to Council property.*
6. *Deliberate falsification of time sheets, bonus sheets, expensive claims etc.*
7. *Acceptance of bribes or other corrupt practices.*
8. *Disclosure of highly confidential matters to public sources.*
9. *Conviction for a criminal offence unconnected with the Council but which removed an*

employee's acceptability to remain in employment e.g. a cashier convicted of theft, a residential child care officer convicted of indecency, a driver convicted of driving under the influence of drink and drugs.

10. *Serious breaches of safety rules including deliberate damage to or misappropriation will apply specifically to your current employment."*

5.7.e It further states: The list of examples of gross misconduct quoted are neither exclusive or exhaustive and in addition there may be other offences of a similar nature which may constitute gross misconduct and therefore result in dismissal without previous warning.

5.7.f Judging by the poor conduct of most of the management; the house parents at Shirley Oaks and many other Lambeth Council staff that came into contact with the Shirley Oaks children – a significant number should have been charged with gross misconduct and a dereliction of duties.

5.7.g What is most concerning however is point 8 of the staff rules on gross misconduct. It was clear that there were consequences for the disclosure of confidential documents and there was no caveat to protect people who were whistle-blowers on sexual abuse or other serious allegations. This suggests that whistle-blowers were not welcome which proved to be a fact, in reality.

6. Basis of SOSA Allegations

6.a We have posed this question to ourselves, over and over, *"could any of the authorities that ran Shirley Oaks, including but not limited to Lambeth Council, ever have achieved any level of duty of care?"*

6.b In Lambeth Council's case, we state "no" because its own reports confirm its management structures were deficient in delivering the expected outcomes. This would mean the Shirley Oaks residents would end up being in double jeopardy because the management team that lived on site were also unable to deliver their duty of care.

6.c Whilst considering the serious failures of Lambeth Council and Shirley Oaks employees to carry out their duty of care, we came up with the working theory that Shirley Oaks Children's Home had been infected by a virus. For the purpose of this Interim report and the final Shirley Oaks report we define the word 'virus' as known, and then our interpretation in bold as intended for the duration of the remainder of this report. A virus is:

- *An infective agent able to multiply only within the living cells of a host:*
- ***In this case Shirley Oaks Children's Home.***
- *An infection or disease caused by a virus:*
- ***A group of persons who willfully infect children with their polluted agenda.***
- *A harmful or corrupting influence:*
- ***A paedophile ring that affects an institution and renders it ineffective which then allows abusers to act with impunity.***

6.d During the two years of our investigation into the role Lambeth played into the abuse at Shirley Oaks and other Lambeth Children's home we have identified structural weaknesses in the management and we can now confirm that Lambeth was also infected by a virus of abusers and paedophiles.

6.1 Was there a Cover Up at Shirley Oaks?

What is a Cover-up?

A **cover-up** is an attempt, whether successful or not, to conceal evidence of wrongdoing, error, incompetence or other embarrassing information. In a passive cover-up, information is simply not provided; in an active cover-up, deception is used.

The expression is usually applied to people in positions of authority, such as police, who abuse their power to avoid or silence criticism or to deflect guilt of wrongdoing. Those who initiate a cover-up (or their allies) may be responsible for a misdeed, a breach of trust or duty, or a crime. (Wikipedia, 2016)

6.1.a For Shirley Oaks survivors, their interpretation of a cover-up is simple: a cover-up is when the facts don't add up in any coherent way and for years the children and then later on as adults, are dismissed as liars and fabricators. If there was a cover-up this would have added to any injury because the opportunity for justice and therefore any opportunity to recover has been unduly delayed?

6.1.b The selection process for who is appointed to head an Inquiry can also be an indication there has been a cover up. Equally, the remit of an Inquiry, either due to the limitations or the extent of its scope can be an indication that an attempt is being made to manufacture a non-conclusive outcome. In Lambeth's case, judging by their own commissioned reports the evidence that there was a cover-up is overwhelming. In any event, even where recommendations were made, there is little evidence that these were implemented effectively as the status quo was maintained.

6.1.c In addition to the claims of physical and sexual child abuse and the failure of both the Middleton and CHILE investigations, Lambeth Council's corporate failings extend to all the Inquiries it conducted into child abuse. None of these Inquiries provided a true account of what had taken place at Shirley Oaks and therefore they could not deliver transparent and absolute justice for victims.

6.1.d The evidence we have gathered and presented in this report provides a true account of what actually took place at Shirley Oaks and as this evidence was purportedly not uncovered during the numerous previous investigations paid for by Lambeth, this raises a number of questions about whether there was a genuine desire to uncover or share the truth and whether there was a coordinated cover-up? The evidence we have found also demonstrates that the Council failed to follow its own policies on numerous occasions and in some cases acted outside of the Law.



6.1.e The cover-up was far reaching and the Council's various illegal practices were covered by many laws but they also fell under Misfeasance in Public Office. Even though this is always difficult to prove, with the overwhelming evidence contained in this and the final Lambeth Report. We believe that it is clear there has been a cover-up.

6.1.f Following various damning reports on Lambeth's corrupt practices, it could be argued that history was against the Shirley Oaks children because Lambeth Council, instead of representing its constituents, many living in poverty, chose to exploit the tax, rent and rate payers at every opportunity.

6.1.g The deceit in Lambeth was so engrained in the fabric of the structures, many of the staff were blissfully unaware and unwittingly became a conduit for the abusers as they would hand over children they were mandated to protect to people we now know were monsters. When those children later spoke out they were gagged by the perception that what came out of their mouths could only be lies, so no one heard their cries. So behind this facade, from 1965 to 2003 Lambeth Town Hall may have seemed like a cathedral in a swamp but in fact it was an evil institution.

7. Our Case for Reparations

7.a All historical sex abuse claims inevitably face the problems that arise from the courts' attempts to assess the extent to which the claimant's problems in adult life, including any criminal behaviour, were caused by the abuse they suffered in care.

7.b We recognize that the courts have limited scope to assess the impact of the injury on the individual cases but we can show the collective and collateral damage in comparison to norms; without taking a discriminatory approach. Only then can we assess the impact on the Shirley Oaks children in later life.

7.c Thankfully, most Judges have now accepted that it is wrong to discount any damages simply because a person may have suffered similar problems later in life. We believe this is also relevant to those who were not physically or sexually abused in Lambeth's children's homes.

7.d To argue that a child may have suffered these outcomes, regardless of the abuse, is the same as stating that a person who suffers from post-traumatic stress in war zones could have easily suffered from his or her ailment due to normal work pressure, a breakdown of a relationship, or a death of a relative etc.

7.e The opportunity for social mobility, however remote, should not be excluded from care children because their early lives had been traumatic and due to no fault of their own, their life chances stunted by the catastrophic failings of their corporate guardians.

7.f The position taken by most defendants in child sexual abuse cases discriminates against care children. We make this point: in the best of all possible worlds, adults are free agents and if they choose a path that minimizes their life chances, they alone are the ones who have to suffer the consequences. In a world that now understands the devastating effects of child abuse and its relationship to the mental well-being of the child as they grow into an adult, it is about the lost opportunity to buck any trend; to enable care children to have a chance to turn their lives around so they have the same opportunity as non-care children to be the next Prime Minister, a footballer, a doctor, but mostly to be normal.

7.g If a collective trauma is suffered by care children due to the Council's catastrophic failure to protect them, it is not for the Council or the courts to decide what a child's potential would have been by adopting the law of probability. It is what the child could have been if it wasn't for the consequences of being in a Lambeth run children's home.

7.h The penalty for parents failing to look after their children was to have their children put in care for their protection and in many cases these parents were imprisoned whilst the children's new guardians, many of whom were child abusers, were afforded the luxury of hiding behind the mask of a cover-up.

7.i If those in authority could not realistically guarantee the safety of the children or at the very least stabilise them, these children should not have been taken into care in the first place. Only then could the state and Lambeth Council have absolved themselves of any blame in relation to the life outcomes of the Shirley Oaks care children.

7.j It is important to state that SOSA is made up of four distinct groups:

- *Ex-residents who have never spoken of their abuse who want reparation and answers as to why their abusers were never investigated in the past inquiries.*

- *Ex-residents who have either been to court and given evidence and have received compensation; whose only interest is to support the claims of other victims who were abused*
- *Ex-residents who were abused and not listened to and may or may not be seeking reparations*
- *Ex-residents who do not want to make any claim and want nothing to do with Lambeth and have only given SOSA evidence to support the claims of others in care.*

7.k For the avoidance of doubt, all members of the Shirley Oaks Survivor's Association have agreed that if Lambeth fails to accept the findings of this Interim report, we will all stand side by side in court and give evidence collectively as part of a Group Litigation process. This will of course increase Lambeth's liability four-fold and no doubt will lead to more allegations. We can only hope that the current administration does not attempt to cause further distress and further frustrate our members, which would inevitably leave the Council exposed to a long drawn out civil action which may in turn lead to further reputational risk.

7.1 Shirley Oaks Survivors Association Claims

7.1.a It is now clear that victims and whistle-blowers made various complaints over the years to Shirley Oaks management, Lambeth Council, social workers and the police and they were ignored. It SOSA's collective view that:

i) From 1945 until Shirley Oaks closed in 1983 those who were mandated to run, manage, oversee, or regulate Shirley Oaks, failed in their duty of care to protect the children from all forms of child abuse.

ii) The failure to protect the children was compounded by a management team, some of whom, were like-minded abusers and paedophiles. This meant over the years they would employ staff who were either abusers themselves or sympathetic to their behavior or people who were substandard or criminal types who did not have the best interests of the children at heart and easy to manipulate.

iii) In 1965 when Lambeth Council took over the running of Shirley Oaks, it inherited all the previous duties and liabilities relating to the home from the London County Council (LCC). This should have resulted in Lambeth Council undertaking an audit of its assets and liabilities which should have led to the immediate closure of Shirley Oaks and the police being called in to investigate the management structure; the failure to do so meant that any child that was still resident or sent to Shirley Oaks post 1965 was failed by Lambeth Council and would suffer the perverse consequences that would impact the rest of their lives.

7.1.b SOSA is considering three options to ensure appropriate remedies or compensation are made available to its members for the injuries they suffered and are still suffering as a direct result of the abuse they were subject to whilst in the care of Lambeth Council. The proposed options are set out below:

Option 1: *To present this interim report to Lambeth Council along with a sample of case studies to enable the Council to accept that it failed in its Duty of Care to the children in its care and then to seek remedies to compensate each victim of abuse; whether dead or alive, in a fair and equitable manner.*

Option 2: *Concurrently, SOSA is preparing Group Litigation against Lambeth Council, Lambeth Social Services, the Government and any other institution that played its part in what took place in Shirley Oaks Children's Home over many decades, in which Lambeth Council will be the main defendant.*

Our draft defining issues will be to prove that the Claimants were:

- a) themselves physically and/or sexually abused and/or neglected while under the care of the Defendant at Shirley Oaks Children's Home, or
- b) injured by witnessing the physical or sexual abuse of other residents at Shirley Oaks Children's Home, or
- c) injured by learning of the abuse of close relatives at Shirley Oaks Children's Home.

We ask the following questions:

(i) Is the Defendant(s) vicariously liable for the actions of those persons who perpetrated the abuse?

(ii) Is the Defendant a public authority for the purposes of the Human Rights Act 1998?

(iii) What are the appropriate levels of (i) general damages, (ii) past losses, (iii) future losses, and (iv), if appropriate, Human Rights Act damages for the Claimants?

7.1.c In pursuing Group Litigation, we believe it is a cost effective way to claim against Lambeth Council, rather than engaging in individual cases and the associated cost to the tax payer. We believe justice will be best served by hearing the claims as one and therefore judging the failings of Shirley Oaks and by extension Lambeth Council and other government entities, to deliver its duty of care inside of its own policies and the legal framework that existed at the time.

7.1.d We are sadly of the view that the option of further criminal convictions and therefore justice are now remote. Lambeth Council's failure to act for over three decades means most of the perpetrators are dead. Therefore, the only way for institutions to be punished for historical crimes and for them to recognise the damage they have done is either dragging them through the civil courts or making them pay for their crimes. Sadly this may be the only way for lessons to be learnt.

7.1.e In presenting Group Litigation, we will rely on the collective memory of Shirley Oaks children to verify and substantiate the individual claims and the general claims that Shirley Oaks was an unfit environment to send any child to, the reasons why this was the case and to highlight the impact their dysfunctional childhood experiences had on the rest of their lives.

7.1.f If options 1 and 2 highlighted above fail, or cannot be pursued, we reserve our right to undertake option 3 below:

Option 3: *To upload, via the internet, the full and unedited facts surrounding Lambeth's failures and seek to pursue individual claims and publicise each one to ensure the victims' stories and the failure of Lambeth to compensate the abuse victims are highlighted.*

SOSA will be seeking compensation, reparations and redress for the multi-layered failures of Lambeth Council inflicted on the Shirley Oaks children.

A summary of the reparations we seek are as follows: (however we reserve the right to add to this list if new information comes forward)

Reparation 1

We will be seeking reparations for all the children from aged birth to 18, who were subsequently neglected and sexually and physically abused by house parents, social aunts & uncles or third parties at Shirley Oaks Children's Home. The case of Geoff Clark and the associated abuse shows the extent and extreme nature of the sexual abuse of children that occurred at Shirley Oaks which is evident throughout this report and features in the case studies at the end of this report. SOSA will be seeking reparations for all those children who were placed in harm's way because Lambeth Council allowed a paedophile to act as a carer or allowed paedophiles access to the children in its care through their various roles.

Reparation 2

SOSA will be seeking reparations for all those children who were placed in specialist establishments. The starting point for our allegations was that we had identified 6 paedophiles that either worked in these specialist establishments or lived in the surrounding cottages. The sadistic nature of the allegations on other children in the surrounding cottages means that the Council has to accept that they could not offer protection to any of the children in these specialist premises.

Reparation 3

It is clear from the evidence provided by ex-residents of Shirley Oaks that like the Children's Home, the school management were either paedophiles, facilitators or ineffective teachers. Despite the laws on corporal punishment, children were physically and sexually abused and everyone that entered the Shirley Oaks Primary School received a substandard education. The school teachers also allowed unfettered access to the Shirley Oaks management to recreational activities such as swimming, ballet lessons and sports days. This would be another opportunity for both management teams to abuse the children.

Reparation 4

SOSA will be seeking reparations for the child on child sexual abuse that occurred. We have created a section in the final Shirley Oaks Report to demonstrate the impact child on child abuse had on child victims. In essence it was a self-fulfilling prophecy;

you were put into care because you were neglected or abused, only to be abused and sexualised by your guardians and then as children, some turned on other children and the virus spread.

Reparation 5

SOSA will be seeking reparations and acknowledgement that the Council's failure extended beyond the sexual abuse of children by adults in its care. An indirect consequence of the sexualisation and a lack of aftercare meant many boys would end up as child prostitutes. One of the country's most prolific pimps of under age children was Abraham Jacobs. Jacobs worked at Shirley Oaks and was friends with many of the abusers such as convicted paedophile William Hook. Equally disturbingly, many of the girls who were abused in Shirley Oaks left care and went straight into prostitution. Not only were their life chances stunted by their sexualisation in care there are many occasions when they were encouraged by adults connected to Lambeth Council (either house parents and/or social workers or associates) to solicit themselves.

Reparation 6

SOSA will be seeking reparations for the systemic physical abuse inflicted on both boys and girls which was interwoven with all forms of psychological trauma. The personal accounts demonstrate the catastrophic impact this had on children at the time and how it affected them into their adult lives. We now believe that many of the children were physically abused as part of a strategy to crush them in preparation for the sexual abuse. When you consider the same pattern of abuse was happening at Shirley Oaks for decades it reinforces our belief that the authorities should have known and acted to at the very least stop this abuse from occurring.

Reparation 7

SOSA will be seeking reparations for the failure to offer children a suitable diet. The food deprivation had many consequences. Firstly, it would encourage children to steal food from the pantry and suffer the consequences if they were caught. It also led to children begging and stealing at the local shops. In many cases this resulted in children being taken to court which was a direct consequence of Lambeth's failure to provide them with a suitable diet. As we have demonstrated from the numerous claims of physical abuse, the issues around food had serious consequences and it was the trigger for many children suffering from eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia which has stayed with them for the rest of their lives.

Reparation 8

SOSA will be seeking reparations for all those who died and suffered sexual abuse, extreme physical abuse or neglect in Lambeth's care and for any awards to be passed onto their children or next of kin. We are also seeking a letter of apology for the surviving family members and an acknowledgement that the abuse their family member(s) suffered in care was instrumental in their own lives being blighted.

Reparation 9

SOSA are claiming redress for the failure to properly investigate the claims of sexual abuse by its members. Proper investigations and justice would have given many of the

victims the opportunity to recover from the injuries and appropriate treatment and support would have helped them cope for the rest of their lives. The failure to carry out proper investigations into what had taken place at Shirley Oaks while it was in operation, or after it had closed, has increased Lambeth Council's liability and if it is proved that the opportunity for justice has been perverted by unlawful behaviour, the Council is responsible for prolonging the damage suffered by the victims.

Reparation 10

SOSA make the claim that many of the children who spent most of their childhood at Shirley Oaks, left care with the label of 'maladjusted'. Unless it can be proved that they had inherited this disorder this confirms our belief that their time in care had a detrimental effect on the rest of their lives. Either way, the acts of sexual and physical abuse were committed on children, many of whom ended up being classified as having 'Special Needs'. In compensation terms this is highly relevant.

Reparation 11

SOSA will be seeking reparations for the failure to properly vet carers and monitor all Shirley Oaks children from 1950 - 1983. This failing resulted in numerous children being sexually, physically and/or psychologically abused in the care of foster parents. In the case of black children, we will also assess whether race was an extenuating issue in these failings and we will seek compensation for this injury.

Reparation 12

SOSA is seeking reparations for Lambeth Council's failure to stop the sexual abuse of children despite being informed by whistle-blowers of what was occurring. This resulted in children on the Shirley Oaks complex, and in other children's homes being put at risk, or being abused by the very same people who Lambeth Council should have investigated, dismissed or prosecuted. The Council failed to implement its own guidelines in respect of misconduct. On many occasions the Council failed to alert the Police. More often, after making an allegation of abuse, the abuser remained in their job whilst their victim would suffer further injury such as being uprooted from siblings or away from their family, which felt like a punishment. The same was true for whistleblowers, these admirable employees who should have been thanked, offered support and basically promoted for demonstrating strength and resolve were instead vilified and in at least one case accused of the very accusation they were try to expose.

7.2 The Nature of the Redress we seek

7.2.a Survivors and their families have suffered unimaginable harm and trauma. They have by and large been significantly disadvantaged, experiencing high levels of unemployment, drug abuse, poor physical and mental health and poverty. It is SOSA's view that any redress scheme should enable survivors to access fair and just retribution for the historical abuse they have suffered. Many survivors commenced their journey as care children due to the abuse or neglect they had suffered as children in their own homes. Instead of providing a sanctuary, for these children to recover and thrive despite their traumas, Shirley Oaks facilitated the abuse many of these children suffered and provided the 'hell' that reinforced the negative self-belief of some of these children which resulted in their life chances being hindered and their

lives, in most cases, spiralling downward into a pit of chaos.

7.2.b This report demonstrates that some of these children could have avoided further trauma if at least one of the authorities in charge or in a supervisory capacity took charge, acknowledged the wrong doing and sought to address, instead of covering up the wrong doing. How would the reader of this report feel, if the atrocities described here had happened to their siblings, children, nieces or nephews?

7.2.c Lambeth Council has publicly stated that they are preparing a draft redress scheme and we suspect they are preparing to follow a chart base theory along the lines of government recordations. In the case of Shirley Oaks, we believe that the claims are more complex and therefore a more robust approach is required to truly deliver appropriate justice.

7.2.d To this end, we are of the view that any redress scheme should not only seek to address the abuse that occurred whilst the survivor was a resident at Shirley Oaks but also to acknowledge the impact this had on survivors' life chances and their day to day lives. Similarly, any redress should strive to support survivors to come to terms with their past and make the best of their futures. The report "*Historical Abuse, What Survivors Want from Redress*" (Professor Patricia Lundy Ulster University, March 2016) is a good starting point in this regard and suggests that any redress scheme should address the following:

- I. Financial Compensation
- II. Acknowledgement and Apology
- III. Access to Records
- IV. Counselling and Well-being Service Provision
- V. Monuments and Memory Projects
- VI. Restorative Justice
- VII. Repatriation & Family Reunification Fund
- VIII. Inter-generational Issues

7.2.e We recognise that any Redress Scheme should be bespoke to each survivor and his or her experiences and wishes although we would seek a tariff based system that would facilitate a fair and equitable distribution of assistance. We also believe the Scheme should be made available to all survivors, irrespective of whether or not they chose to expose their abuse to the public and to those who were previously offered and accepted minimal amounts of compensation from Lambeth Council that did not in any way address the abuse they suffered whilst in the care of Lambeth Council and it's consequent impact upon the rest of their lives.

7.2.f Another key component, as outlined by Lundy (2016) is "*.... a clause or stipulation be made to protect survivors' benefits in any future compensation arrangements. A redress scheme should protect the interests of survivors and must not result in reduction or removal of benefits. It was felt that a redress scheme that does not include such a protection could result in the re-victimisation of survivors and could result in an unsuccessful programme due to low survivor participation rates.*"

8. Conclusion on the Absolute Failure of the State, Lambeth Council and Shirley Oaks Management

8.a The reason it has taken 2 years to uncover the truth of what took place at Shirley Oaks Children's Home was that the cover-ups were so ingrained in Lambeth Council's history that we had to deconstruct and then reconstruct the building blocks to develop a comprehensive picture of what happened at Shirley Oaks and in other Lambeth Children's Homes.

8.b The failures at Shirley Oaks can only be described as extraordinary. If we had not heard the first-hand accounts from the children, we would not believe that such cruelty was allowed to take place over such a long period of time and on such a scale without challenge. The only thing that could rival this evil was the consistent cover ups. For so many managers to have turned a blind eye to the suffering of vulnerable children confirms what the children thought at the time; that they "*were the children of a lesser God*". How such un-godly acts were allowed to take place, over such an extended timespan, whilst victims were continually marginalised and perpetrators protected, defies belief. If it wasn't for the collective bravery of the former victims of abuse at Shirley Oaks - the truth would have remained buried forever.

8.c The following section of this report provides a snap shot of the case studies we have developed based on the testimony of survivors.

9. Case Studies of Victims and their Abusers

Clifford Heap – Superintendent 1952



- Probation Officer in Holloway Prison.
- 1951 - 1952 Scout Master at Beechholme Children's Home.
- 1952 - 1964 Superintendent at Shirley Oaks Children's Home.
- 1964 - 1970 Stamford House Remand Centre.
- 1970 Cumberlow Lodge Children's Home .
- 1971 – 1980 Blue Star House Islington

Surname	1st Name	Role	Group	Appointed	Cancelled
Hart	Thomas	ACM	1st Banstead	30/01/1951	21/05/1952
Heap	Clifford	ACM	1st Banstead	30/01/1951	16/01/1952

Clifford Heap's History:

Accounts of child abuse had been reported at every home Mr Heap worked at. This suggests he either wasn't an effective superintendent or he was part of the ring of abuse. Coincidentally three abusers Thomas Hart, Clifford Heap and William Hook had all previously worked at the same home previously and would end up working at Shirley Oaks.

Cumberlow Lodge was a secure accommodation for girls who were sent from all around the country. *"Male staff had to be careful so they didn't lay themselves for any allegations of abuse against girls"*– this suggests equal care should have been taken in the appointment of any Superintendent or male staff working at the centre. We believe that, similar to Shirley Oaks, any appointment would have to seek the approval of the Home Secretary or the Secretary of State. There were two other staff, Mrs Scholl and Sister Pepper, who joined Heap at Cumberlow Lodge; they had previously worked at Shirley Oaks under Heap. Pepper and Scholl both looked after children who had been abused in their cottages and we categorise them as facilitators.

Cumberlow Lodge was featured in the Middleton Inquiry. *"The completion of a project to catalogue 6000 client files from Cumberlow Lodge and prepare for returning to originating authorities. This included conducting research on a sample of 600 files."* Once you have read our investigations on Clifford Heap, it may explain why they were concerned about Cumberlow Lodge.

Warnings

When Mr Heap, the Superintendent, used to visit House 10 all the children were sent upstairs and were told to keep quiet. When he left, Mary Gay (the house parent) would always say to the children that Heap was an awful man and she was never going to allow them to have

house fathers in her cottage. This suggests she knew what was taking place.

Clifford Heap went on to work at Blue Star House in Islington as assistant Director of Social Services, in essence in a more powerful position enabling him to have unhindered access to children. We have seen documents that confirm this. It now transpires he was involved in Children's Home in Islington where abuse took place. During our investigations we have found many links between Lambeth and Islington where paedophiles were abusing children in both authorities. Further evidence of this will be set out in our final report.

Shirley Oaks' then Management Strategy for Targeting Vulnerable Children

Mr Heap, the Superintendent had access to all the children's medical records and this was a source of information for identifying children to abuse. They targeted: children whose parents had died; those who had been sexually abused at home and children whose parents who were not interested in visiting them.

They split up siblings groups and sent them to different house parents who were facilitators. They classified older children as 'Maladjusted' and sent them to boarding schools leaving younger siblings to suffer in silence. They attempted to discredit parents by informing the children they were bad people and they would be better off without them.

Working alongside Mr Heap from 1957 – 1973 was the Deputy Superintendent Fred Cummings. During our investigation we were contacted by Child 18 who confirmed Fred Cummings had previously worked at Wood Vale in the 1950's. Child 18 states that he was raped at Wood Vale by Mr Cummings when he had been a swimming instructor. Fred Cummings was friends with convicted paedophile William Hook.

Other long term staff who were paedophiles were Dr Graham and Dr Whittaker, both had unlimited access to the children. There was no respite for the children because the headmaster of the on-site primary school, Mr Whiteman and the Deputy Assistant Mr Sumner, who started off as a librarian, were also paedophiles.

It is clear from conversations with ex-Shirley Oaks residents that the Superintendents, the Doctors and senior teachers were complicit in the abuse and did so with the knowledge of each other. We believe this constitutes a paedophile ring and was consistent with them employing and allowing other paedophiles, including members of the clergy, to abuse the children.

When Mr Heap left in 1965 a new paedophile ring formed, centred on Fred Cummings and William Hook who had both been swimming instructors in one of their previous jobs. Joining them were other staff such as Donald Hosegood and Geoff Clark.

Child 19 abused by Superintendent Clifford Heap

One of the first families we chose to present as a case study was the X family because they are both unique and typical of siblings in the care system. Unique because they were in Shirley Oaks spanning 3 decades, from the 1950's until the 1980's, which enabled us to examine their experiences under various management structures. Typical because their treatment was the 'norm' and despite their mother's efforts, she couldn't protect them from the State and Lambeth. This family also features in the final Lambeth Report. Child 19 was a member of the X family.



Child 19 Personal Statement:

I am 63 years old now, so any dates are approximate. I am one of a large family of 9 children, the eldest two were fostered and the other seven of us were all long term in Shirley Oaks. The eldest two were also in Shirley Oaks at one point. I am 4th from eldest. We are a close family and I am sure we have survived all of this because 'we have each other'. I was just 2 years old when I went into care and was 17 years old when I was discharged from care. I spent my whole childhood in care.



1955 Ladywell Babies Home Aged 2 years old

I went into Ladywell Babies Home and my elder sister was taken to Wood Vale as she was 5 years old. I have no memories of being at Ladywell but remember being transported by car to Shirley Oaks.

1956 (Jan) House 1, Shirley Oaks Aged 2 years 11 Months old

*I went into what was then the 'Baby' cottage of Shirley Oaks (House 1) up near the front gates. The **Cottage Mothers were Miss Davey and Joyce Cook**. My only memory of House 1 is of being bathed by Joyce Cook, jointly with another child. The other child had poo'ed in the bath and I wanted to get out. Joyce Cook made me stay in the water while she finished washing me. I remember being tearful and upset over this.*

Shortly after this, House 1 ceased to be the Baby Cottage and we were all moved to House 18 which was situated behind the Nursery School opposite the Sick Bay. I don't have many memories of being in House 18 but remember being in Nursery School and woken after a nap

and stripped naked and taken outside to be hosed down with water. It was a sunny day and the other children were enjoying it. I went hysterical as I thought it was rude and demanded to go back in and have my clothes put on, which they did. The hosing was being done by Cottage Father (Mr Sims). I also remember being carted backwards and forwards on a pram full of our belongings as they moved (my sister and me) to House 32. I was still 3 years old.

1956-1963 House 32 (double cottage)

Aged 3 years old

*Initially the **Cottage Mothers were Miss Herford and Miss Sims.** I remember meal times as being very traumatic (I was 3 years old) and I could not eat as quickly as the older children. They would clear the table and put me in the kitchen to finish mine. The surface my dinner was on was above my head (I was standing); I had trouble reaching the plate. Every time Miss Herford came into the kitchen as the tables were being cleared, she would clout me round the head and say "come on eat up". I used to cry and wish I could eat quicker.*

*I think Miss Herford and Miss Sims were only in House 32 for about my first year and they were replaced by **Miss Cartwright and Miss Sheppard.** We called them Auntie Cart and Auntie Shep. Miss Cartwright was the Senior Cottage Mother and made strict rules but Miss Sheppard implemented the rules and did the beatings. An example of getting a beating was: Talking in bed; Auntie Shep would sneak up stairs and if she caught anyone talking, we would be beaten with a wooden hairbrush. This would result in bruises to arms, legs and body. This happened on a regular basis, as we talked most nights, difficult to be quiet when six of you in a room. Some nights, she would single one of you out and then take you down stairs. I was 7 years old when I was dragged out of bed, pushed from wall to wall and down the stairs (I was screaming); she was also clouting me with the wooden hairbrush. I was locked under the stairs, this was where the cleaning materials were kept and it smelt of polish (very toxic). The floor was marble and cold, I was bare footed and in skimpy pyjamas. I screamed to be let out for some hours and sobbed the rest of the night shivering. When I was let out next morning my eyes were red and puffy and my throat was sore for days, I was black and blue with bruises.*

Meal times could also be traumatic as they had a rule that everything on your plate had to be eaten. If we left anything we were given it back the next meal and this would continue until it was eaten. We were not allowed anything else to eat or drink (only water). This went on until the food was eaten. I lasted 3 days with runner beans but my sister lasted a week with liver (unknown to the staff, we gave the liver bit by bit to the cat). We often used to put food in our apron pockets, to be emptied out on the way to school, especially if it was fish for breakfast (kippers), which nobody liked.

We were also given jobs to do daily, tasks basically everything.

In 1958 on my 5th birthday I went into hospital to have my Tonsils and Adenoids out. I really did not want to go back to Shirley Oaks afterwards as the nurses were so nice.

When I was 6 years old, I woke up with a bad tummy ache but was sent to school anyway. About 10am I started to cry with pain and was taken to the Sick Bay, where I was put into bed. At 5pm I was taken back to my Cottage as they said I did not have a pain but I did and it was getting worse. While tea was being dished up I started to scream with the pain and one of the older girls dragged me back to the Sick Bay as she was angry at missing her tea. They put me to bed again and tried to make me eat some bread and jam, I did not want it but it was forced into my mouth. I then started to vomit a green liquid. The nurse in the sick Bay called

to doctor, who told her to call an ambulance. I had a burst appendix and Peritonitis had set in. I was rushed to Carshalton Children's Hospital and given an emergency operation. I woke up to find tubes up my nose into my stomach, drips in both arms giving me blood. I was very frightened. I remained in hospital for 3 weeks and then went to a convalescent home in Margate for 4 weeks.

1961/1962

Sexual Abuse

Aged 8-9 years old

My two sisters and I had gone home with our mother for the weekend. I often made an excuse of not being well, as I did not want to go back to Shirley Oaks on the Sunday night. I wanted to stay with my mother. We had gone out for the day on the Monday with my mother's friend Uncle Frank in his car. My mother complained of pain in her tummy and Uncle Frank gave her two tablets. She got worse and he took her to hospital (Billericay). I had got it into my head that Uncle Frank had poisoned her. Uncle Frank offered to take me back in the car to Shirley Oaks. I told my Mum I was frightened to go alone with him in the car. She said fine and rang Mr Heap the Superintendent at Shirley Oaks. He came and collected me. On the way home we stopped by some woods. He bought me an ice lolly; we walked into the woods and sat on his coat.

This is where he raped me via my anus. I was crying and he said that if I told anyone, my mum would find out and have 'one of her tempers' and the police would come and take her to prison and it would be my fault. I did not tell anyone.

Sometime after that, I was told by my Cottage mother Miss Cartwright that my friend and I from Ballet (a girl in my class at school) had been asked to go to Mr Heap's Cottage to practice our ballet for him and his wife. We were both sexually abused by Clifford Heap and his wife in their bed. This happened on a number of occasions until Mr Heap and his wife left Shirley Oaks when I was 9 or 10 years old. At this time my elder sister had left Shirley Oaks, my mother took her home for a year.

1963-1966

House 15

Age 10 or 11 years old

The **Cottage Mother was Barbara Mills** and a young woman who we called **Auntie Anita**

Miss Cartwright and Miss Sheppard retired and House 32 became empty. My sister and I were moved to House 15. My eldest sister had been there a few months as she came back to Shirley Oaks. This was a traumatic move as Barbara Mills was very, very strict and not a nice person. She shouted and punched us all the time. Most of the chores in the cottage were done by the children. She seemed to take a dislike to me and another girl in the cottage and picked on us in particular. She told me that I spoiled every photograph as I was so ugly. This had a marked effect on my self-confidence, self-worth and self-esteem which is still with me.

Barbara Mills had a boyfriend who was Naval Officer who used to come and stay for weekends on a regular basis. He always brought 6 cadets with him. The boy's dormitory had to double up to accommodate the cadets. God knows what happened in there! We (the girls) were aware that the boys were not happy about this and dreaded them coming.

My younger sister joined us in House 15 at some point. This could have coincided with my other sister leaving school and going to a hostel in Stockwell.

1966 (3 months) House 16

Age 13 years old

*Due to staff leaving, House 15 closed and it was difficult to place myself and two of my sisters as other Cottage Mothers were afraid of my mother. The **Deputy Superintendent at the time Mr Keith Mackenzie and his wife Barbara** offered to have us until new Cottage parents arrived. I was 13 and my sisters were 11 and 5. Barbara was pregnant with their first child. These were the happiest 3 months of my childhood – they were both so nice and we thought we were in heaven.*

1966 -1968 House 23

Age 13 to 15 years old

*The new Cottage Parents were **Dorothy and Brian Webb**. This was the first time we had a Cottage Father. They were a lovely couple who had a 3 year old daughter. I was in my teens and I could talk to them. Unfortunately they left because Dorothy had a miscarriage. The doctor advised her to leave if they tried again. I know they went to live in the Pevensy Bay area in Sussex. I think they were only at Shirley Oaks for about a year.*

*In **1967-1968** still in Cottage 23, new Cottage Parents were appointed, **Esme Driver and Mr Driver** (I can't remember his first name). They were quite the opposite from the Webbs. They openly admitted they had landed on their feet as they were being paid to live in such an idyllic setting. They had two little girls, she was Welsh and he was from Birmingham and had been a Bus Driver. The meals were so small and there was never much food around, we never got our pocket money and I never saw any clothing allowance. All clothes for the under 13 year olds were supplied by the clothing stores in the grounds of Shirley Oaks. Over 13 year olds had a clothing allowance for essentials.*

When asked why we could not have our pocket money they would say we had been naughty and they were giving it to charity. Clothes that my elder sister had bought for my little sister were put on their two girls. We suspected they were on the fiddle. I was always complaining to Mr Mackenzie who was sympathetic to me but said his hands were tied. The superintendent that replaced Mr Heap was called Mr Holman and he was a horrible man. He seemed hell bent on putting kids into remand homes or borstal for no apparent reason other than he had the power to do so. It was decided (to shut me up from complaining) to move me to the Stockwell Hostel a year early. (Supposed to go if you left school), I had opted to stay on to do a secretarial course.

1968 - February 1970

xxxxxx Hostel

15-17 years old

***Miss Beeston** (who was a Cottage mother at Shirley Oaks previously) and **Miss Larkin** were in charge at the hostel.*

I lived there for about 18 months completing my last year at school. Then I gained employment as a Junior Secretary and left when I reached 17. I got my father to sign me out as I did not want to be treated like my elder sister and receive a letter on my 18th birthday telling me to leave without any support. I was lucky I could share a flat with her in Streatham. I received no help what so ever on leaving, either advice or financial.

At the age of 36 years old I had a nervous breakdown. My husband came home to find me in the corner of a room, cowering and saying "please don't hit me anymore". He called the doctor and I was taken into a private hospital (Ticehurst Cottage). Apparently I had regressed to being six years old. I then went into a stupor for several days not being able to speak or eat at all. It was a long recovery, I was in hospital for 6 months and it was then that the sexual abuse was also disclosed. I then had 2 years as an outpatient and on medication. I seemed to have a full recovery and came off the medication. I just suffer with flashbacks now and again (usually when anything from the past in Shirley Oaks has been discussed).

Flashbacks

I think it is important to explain about the flashbacks. It is not just a 'bad memory' which upsets me. I can get one at any time – sometimes there may be triggers but not always.

I may be driving on a fast motorway and suddenly get one, I start crying and can't drive in a straight line, and I have to pull over on the hard shoulder as I could be 20 miles from the nearest exit junction. I have also had them at work in meetings and have to rush out. It is very embarrassing at times.

Physical Pain

Because of the sexual abuse I suffered when I was 8/9 years old, I was left with physical pain to my anus which stayed with me until I had the nervous breakdown and was able to get treatment physically and mentally."

Author's Comments:

We would later discover from another member of the x family that Mr Heap had known the children's mother, from the time she had spent at Holloway Prison. Heap was a probation officer for her cellmate and he was having an affair with her. To add to the misery, while her children were living in Shirley Oaks, their mother disappeared and was never seen again. There was even a Crime Watch TV appeal about her sudden disappearance.

While all the children struggled to cope with life after their time in Shirley Oaks, Mr Heap lived a charmed life. When he left Shirley Oaks, Heap continued to work in childcare and he let it be known to anyone who would listen that he was in line for an MBE for his services to children.

Child 19's interaction with Middleton

In 2001 Child 19 took her complaint to her then local Police in Merseyside and they put her in contact with Middleton. She was interviewed. The Police informed her that Heap was too old to prosecute but they would make sure he wouldn't get his MBE.

In 2016 we were contacted by an ex Shirley Oaks resident who was in the home in 1955 and who was abused by the drama teacher. He informed us he reported his abuse in 2015 to his local police who then referred it to the Met. We have included his full account in the final report but for this report we have included a comment made to him by the Met investigating officer.

Comment by Met Officer: *"I know a lot about Shirley Oaks and one of the people who set it up was a paedophile."* He added, *"they [the Police] couldn't get him into court before he died."* He also mentioned the year 1953 which was around the time Heap took over the running of Shirley Oaks and he didn't leave until 1965.

Investigation Update:

Supporting Child 19's claim, her sister remembers another girl with blonde hair who was similar to Child 19 who she believes was abused by Mr Heap. They became good friends and both left Shirley to go to xxxx Hostel. Two staff from Shirley Oaks who worked under Heap were running the hostel which is consistent with Heap being in a position to keep tabs on both girls. Heap was also in contact with Child 19's sister and would constantly ask her questions about Child 19 and her mental breakdown. Heap would even take time to visit Child 19's sister at her xxxxxx address when he was Assistant Director of Social Services at Islington Council.

The girl Child 19's sister believes was abused by Mr Heap was called xxxx. xxxx confirmed to Child 19's sister that whilst at the hostel she was raped by a boy at 5 years old whilst she was living House 29 and she also mentioned that she had been in Mr Heap's private grounds which none of the children were allowed access to. His grounds were gated and fenced off. What convinces Child 19's sister that this girl was abused was they had been friends for life and when xxxx got married her husband explained that something had happened in her childhood and she didn't want anything to do with Shirley Oaks.

Child 19's sister also states that when she attended the Shirley Oaks reunions she asked Mr Heap why no other girls turned up and he said some of the girls didn't have as such a good time as she had. She now knows this included her sister who he had abused on many occasions.

Child 20, Shirley Oaks 1957 – 1971. Personal Statement from Middleton and Interview at SOSA office 27th September 2016 and numerous phone calls.

Child 20 was one of the last of the X family to contact us. She has little communication with her other siblings and has a vivid account of growing up as a neglected and unfavoured child by her mother and her care-givers at Shirley Oaks.

Child 20 was contacted by PC Gary Pankhurst from Operation Middleton on 31st March 1999, about her experiences in Shirley Oaks. We believe the motivation for his enquiry was centred around the allegations that William Hook had abused children in House 18 and other Cottages in Shirley Oaks. Child 20 who lived in House 18 as well as many other cottages gave a damning indictment of the brutal abuse delivered by Miss Davey and Joyce Cook and the unsuitability of both of them as house parents. It is important to note that Joyce Cook took the Home Office child care course despite being unable to read or write. We do not know the background to this but she took over the house from Miss Davey and she would later state that Hook was her boyfriend; which is clearly untrue as he slept on a make-shift bed in a downstairs room.

Two years into our investigation and after counselling, Child 20 felt she could finally speak to us face to face and be open about her experiences at Shirley Oaks. In our only meeting she went through her experiences and shared photographs and documents and this included her statement to Middleton. Below is an extract from this statement:

“Whilst at House 32 I would go to school within the home. There was a teacher there called Mr Sumner. He would take our class for swimming. There was a pool onsite. It was passed amongst the children that he was a pervert. The cubicles were not secured and he would tell you to put your costumes over the cubicle when they were taken off so we always put our clothes on before putting the costumes over as he had gone into cubicles of the other children when they were naked.”

Following her discussions with us we believe that Child 20's survival instinct may have been to disengage from the darker elements of her past. At the end of our meeting with Child 20 she confirmed that Mr Summer had entered her cubicle at the pool. We have not pushed her to explain what transpired in any detail. From her reluctance to discuss what happened after this and from her other comments we believe that she may have been sexually abused.

Child 20's Life in various Shirley Oaks' cottages

“The staff in House 32 were Miss Cartwright and Miss Shephard. I stayed there for about five years. It was an unhappy time when I was in there. I was dragged down the stairs by my hair. Everyone was got up and made to stand up in different places for hours, until staff went to bed. The worst places were under the stairs in the cupboard which was pitch black or the bowl room otherwise it was the stairs or the landing. The bowl room had a marble floor so it was very cold. I would wrap myself in the towels to keep warm then lie down, if you fell asleep they would come and hit you with a wooden brush, hairbrush. It would generally be on the back. Miss Cartwright would know what was happening however it was always Miss Shephard who carried out the punishment and hit us.

I remember a meal of pig's liver. I just could not eat it. They just served me the same meal for breakfast, dinner and tea. They would only give me a drink. This went on for a week until the food went mouldy. I cannot remember if it was this incident that started it but I ended up in the sickbay with an eating disorder. I found it difficult to eat anything. I witnessed an incident that happened to a boy called xxxx: He did have a brother; they both lived in House 32. Xxxx was about my age, this happened when he was around about five years old. Miss Shepherd would regularly beat him. On this occasion, she nearly killed him. It happened at the dining room. I do not know what started it however Miss Shephard rammed the dining room table against xxxx's neck so only his head was above the table. She had flown off the handle, was really mad. xxxx was gasping and choking for breath. Her sister was cleaning the shoes nearby. She heard the commotion and started to throw the shoes at Miss Shephard to stop her. Mr Heap the Superintendent was called in. She did not get in any trouble and the matter was not spoken about again.

I then moved to House 15, I was aged about 8; it was about 1963. The staff was Barbara Mills. She did not hit us but she was regimented and controlling. She would also be verbally abusive. She also had a boyfriend who would stay. He would order us about using a whistle. The abuse we got from her and often from the other house mother was about our mother. They would call our mother a prostitute and said we would end up just like her.

I moved to another house I can't remember the name, the staff there were a husband and wife who were alright to me. It was at this time that an accumulation of the things that happened started to tell on me. I developed bulimia, I also tried to kill myself and took an overdose which made me really sick. I did not tell anyone why I was ill I just felt so low and

wanted help from someone. Reading my files I have discovered that I spent lots of my time in the sick bay and I have memories of Dr Whitaker which I can't piece together. I believe I was put on medication but I don't remember anything but I know something terrible happened.

I left Shirley Oaks for good aged 16 and went to xxxxx Hostel. I only stayed there about 6 weeks before leaving care. The problems I have had with my health that developed late in care became worse throughout my later teenage years. I think altogether my bulimia lasted about 10 years. I did attempt suicide a number of times after leaving Shirley and nearly died after an overdose. I also nearly lost the use of my arm due to trying to cut my wrist. I feel that these serious problems were caused by my time in care and also the behaviour of my mother towards us. I am willing to attend court and give evidence if required.

Fred Cummings Deputy Superintendent 1965 - 1973



- 1950's Swimming Instructor at South Vale/Wood Vale
- 1957 Boys Club, worked with the band and organised events outside of Shirley Oaks with the band, worked in some of the cottages and worked on the grounds.
- 1957 - 1973 Deputy Superintendent of Shirley Oaks Children's Home.

Allegation:

Sexual abuse against boys and girls Investigated by Middleton.

Fred Cummings had been at Shirley Oaks since 1957 and he would continue abusing children right up to the end of his reign. We are led to believe that Cummings lived in the Lodge House right up until 1982 when he was said to have died of a heart attack. Fred Cummings was a brutal man that engaged in sadistic behaviour with boys and girls. We believe he was abusing children in many of the cottages and also more disturbingly, the nursery. His victims could run into the hundreds and even when the police were called he got away with his crimes. He was shielded by the other managers, some of whom were Freemasons and Mr Holman (the new Superintendent) was a Justice of the Peace.

Child 21: Noted on Child 21's file is a comment from Mr Cummings which hauntingly said *Child 21 was one of the more fortunate children and that he received special privileges.* We now know what these privileges entailed. Cummings took Child 21 to where he lived at the Lodge and sexually abused him when he was around 6/7 years old. He was also abused by another senior staff member at Shirley Oaks.

Child 22: Was sexually and physically abused by Cummings. He would start by taking Child 22 out of the home to places such as Brighton, Eastbourne and Westerham. He groomed him until he felt relaxed enough to go to his house at the Lodge for a cup of tea and a sandwich. It was at this point Cummings started to kiss Child 22 at which time he told him that he was scaring him and to please stop but the sexual abuse continued. Sometime later, Cummings started to become very physical when he was sexually abusing Child 22 to the point where he had his hands around his neck and Child 22 genuinely thought he was going to die. From this Cummings threatened Child 22 that if he told anyone that he would "get him". Child 22 was petrified of Cummings, especially because he was still being abused by Hook, so he told his housemother Miss Boland. He was then summoned to Mr Holman, the Superintendent who told him that he was a "dirty little liar" and if Child 22 told the police what he had just told him that he would be in very serious trouble. Holman then went on to say *"If you tell this story to the police, they won't believe you. If you do not change your story I have a cane here and I will beat you with it."* He then continued to beat up Child 22 and told him he was *"a little shit"*.

Child 22 went ahead and told the Police about Cummings and was taken to the station to be interviewed. Miss Boland the house parent and facilitator accompanied him and diverted every question that the police asked him. The Police told Child 22 that they felt sorry for him but there was nothing they could do about it.

After failing in his attempts to stop Cummings abusing him, by reporting him to the police, when Mr Hook the swimming teacher started to abuse Child 22, he was too scared to say anything to anyone. He was not the only person to be abused by both of these men.

Child 23, a boy who was abused by Cummings, made an allegation to the police in 2014 about being sexually abused in the 1960's when he was aged 6 - 10 years old. The police informed Child 23 that they couldn't prosecute Cummings because he had died of a heart attack in 1982, aged 61. The police confirmed that they had received over 150 complaints against him and insisted Child 22 went for criminal injuries rather than compensation.

House 18 1970 -1983

Convicted Paedophile William Hook and Numerous Abuse Victims

Child 25's Abuse from Dr Graham and Joyce Cook

Child 26's Abuse from Dr Whittaker

Child 24 and Child 21

As well as their sisters, who were in Shirley Oaks in the 1950 -1960's, in the 1970's two other members of the X family were abused. Twenty-five years later one of the abusers, William Hook the swimming instructor, would end up in court. Numerous boys from Shirley Oaks have made allegations to us about abuse by this swimming instructor.

Child 24's Story of abuse in House 18 house. (Author's summary)

Child 24 is the youngest sibling out of nine and he was one of the last generation of Shirley children before it closed in 1982. He was the first person to call me and if it hadn't been for him, we would have never started this investigation. I had known him from the age of 3 until he was around 12 years old when I was kicked out of Shirley Oaks.

Thinking back to our childhood, he was a bright enthusiastic boy but he also had a quiet resilience. We had met again in our mid-twenties and he did some security work for me when I owned a nightclub; he was perfect for the job as he was over six foot tall. I sensed he was troubled but never believed it was anything more than the growing up pains that all care children shared.

On leaving Shirley Oaks I was one of the lucky ones, I fell on my feet and ended up in a strict but brilliant boarding school, which was the start of a long and painful process in my rehabilitation. Sadly, Child 24 was not so fortunate and at the beginning of this investigation I was shocked to learn that not long after I had left Shirley Oaks he had tried to kill himself. It all made sense when he informed me that 'Mr Mark' (William Hook), the swimming instructor and convicted paedophile had lived in his house under the pretext of being a house father.

**The Shirley Oaks Swimming Instructor (Published by the BBC, 11th April 2001):
Judge Kenneth MacCray Summing up at the William Hook Court Trial.**



“This is a sordid tale of depravity, self-gratification and corruption, you robbed children of their innocence. Embarking upon classic grooming techniques, you bought their affection and otherwise you made them fearfully reliant on you, or submissive to you. The indictment dates back to 1970... your victims have had to live with their memories of what you did to them for - I suspect - every one of the days that has passed, filled with self-doubt, lack of self-esteem and in many instances unjustified self-blame. Their worry that they might not be believed can at least be put to rest”.

The Judge's summing up was well informed and could have been an impact statement from any Shirley victim, but sadly in the case of these and many more victims they couldn't move on and four of Hook's victims like many other Shirley residents tried to commit suicide. The question that comes to mind is how many more children were there like Child 24 who had not reported their abuse to the police and suffered in silence?

After a little persuading, Child 24 confirmed to me the names of other Shirley boys who had given evidence against Hook at the trial. Child 21 (House 18), xxxx (House 18), Child 22 (House 31), xxxx (House 15) and xxxx. What disturbed us was that Hook abused children in numerous cottages which implied he had free access to all 38 cottages. We have now spoken to what we believe are all the Shirley victims abused by William Hook and taken their accounts individually. However, Child 22 has sadly died but even he spoke to us from his grave in a statement he had given to the police; Child 22 confirmed that he was sexually abused by William Hook and Mr Cummings the Deputy Superintendent. This meant he would join the hundreds of children that suffered under these two deviants, who were both part of the Shirley Oaks management team that were paedophiles.

The management had the sole authority for the placement of children in House where Hook abused children. Once Lambeth Social Services took over direct control of Shirley Oaks they would continue to provide Hook with the opportunity to abuse all the boys in the home. This took place whilst the house mother Joyce Cook, herself an abuser, stood by and allowed it to happen. From the statement he had given to the police we learned of the damage caused to Child 22 by the sexual abuse; and like many of us care children, he had grown up full of bile and self-hate which culminated in him becoming a self-destructive teenager.

Child 24's Personal Statement (Taken from Interview):

I suffered sexual abuse from Mr Mark (William Hook) when I was in House 18 aged around 7 to 8. This abuse happened on many occasions.

In the study where Hook had a camp bed I would be in my PJs and Mr Mark (Hook) would play a game. 'Eeny, meeny, miny, moe, where he would touch my penis through the opening of the front of my PJs and fondle me.

In 1980 at House 18 I attempted to commit suicide from the window sill. This is on my file. My brother (Child 21) saved me.

Over the fifteen years I was placed at Shirley Oaks, I was physically abused by Joyce Cook during my time in House 18. Joyce Cook would inflict the following on me: whip me with a rope, hit me with wooden brush, punch me and bite me, she would wrestle me on the floor and be on top of me.

Child 24's Impact Statement

"At the age of 13 I was sent to two secure units Stamford House and Orchard Lodge on Remand and then sent to the S.E.N.D Detention Centre to serve a 6 months' sentence aged 14. This was for an attack on my social worker at Shirley Oaks. The attack was due to numerous incidents, such as: not listening to me when expressing my concerns and threatening to move me away from my sister who was in Shirley Oaks. Like myself, my sister was very vulnerable and exposed to physical and sexual abuse from house parents.

After serving my sentence I should have been allowed to go to a standard children's home however, I was sent to Orchard Lodge secure unit. This made me extremely angry as I had served my time and yet was still being punished. I was then sent to Boarding School where at weekends I was placed back at Shirley Oaks. Being sent back to the secure unit made me very angry against the system this had a detrimental impact on my life."

Child 24's Interaction with Operation Middleton:

"I gave a statement to PC Pankhurst in relation to Mr Mark (Hook) and the abuse on other children in my house. I did not speak about myself even though Pankhurst encouraged me to do so. However I had blocked out all personal situations in relation to myself. At the court case I was a witness and as soon as I heard his voice I jumped the court barriers to try and get him - his voice triggered all the memories and emotions that I had been blocking over many years. After Middleton I undertook counselling. Despite knowing my brother had only received £3,000 compensation, I wanted justice for what Hook had done to me so in 2014 I contacted the police in regards to my abuse by Mr Mark (Hook). I attended Stratford Police Station."

Child 24's Racial Abuse in Shirley Oaks:

Child 24 is mixed race. *"Whilst in care I was not allowed to write my surname and I was excluded and caned from school for continuing to write it. In 1980 aged 12 my birth certificate was issued in the surname of X. It is only since receiving my file in 2015 that my identity has been verified. On my file it clearly states my father's surname is X so why was my birth certificate in my mother's marriage name?"*

In terms of my life in Shirley Oaks and in other Lambeth institutions my experiences have resulted in me having panic attacks, distrust of people, doubting myself, long term depression of which I have been prescribed medication from my GP along with counselling. After leaving care aged 17 I regularly got into trouble with the Police. I was an angry, aggressive teenager who distrusted authority and had no respect for authority. Having a criminal record meant I

was unable to fulfil my ambitions. My first official job was at the age of 47 and is not a job I aspired to have when I was young."

Author's comments:

We believe that some of the ill treatment towards Child 24 was on racial grounds because out of the nine siblings, he was the only one who was mixed race. This was highlighted by the fact that Child 24 wanted to have his black father's name because it gave him a sense of identity. Child 25, whose commentary follows, would also support the argument that he was abused on racial grounds by Hook and Joyce Cook and therefore Lambeth.

Summary of Lambeth's Compensation Pay-out to Child 21:

Child 24's brother Child 21, was also living in House 18 and was abused by Hook and Cummings, who was part of the management paedophile ring. Not only did Child 21 have to deal with his own abuse, twenty years later he learned of his sister's abuse and his younger brother's abuse by Hook. Over the years, Child 21 has been consumed with guilt, believing it had been his duty to protect Child 24 and his sisters. For a lifetime of being abused, Child 21 received £3,000 from Lambeth Council.

We intend to challenge Child 21's compensation and some of the other victims because the pay-outs wouldn't cover the cost of the supply of tissues, needed to wipe a lifetime of tears away. In denying him and other victims fair recompense for their injuries, twenty years after Shirley Oaks had closed, Lambeth were still abusing the victims. What the Judge, Lambeth Council or the Police did not examine was the impact of having a paedophile as a house parent had on the victims and the rest of the children in the cottage. All the children would suffer for years under Hook's influence because he treated them with contempt and subjected them to a life of mental torture.

Child 25's Personal Statement

Child 25's Sexual Abuse at Shirley Oaks – Extract from the Shirley Oaks Report:

Child 25's Personal Statement 2016 – Physical Abuse:

"I was born on the xx of xxxx 1963. I was placed into care (Ladywell Nursery Home near Lewisham) by my father in 1964. My mother was forced to give me up by her husband (my mother's husband wasn't my biological father).

I was placed into the care of House 18 in Shirley Oaks in 1966. By that time, I was already suffering from asthma and severe eczema. The officer in charge was a lady named Ms Davey. As I grew up from three years old I learned very quickly to fear and dread whenever Ms Davey had a day off for that meant that her second-in-command, Ms Joyce Cook, was in charge.

Joyce Cook beat me and tortured me for the rest of my childhood. Wooden brushes, belts, shoes, fire pokers were all implements she used to thrash me with.

Despite me suffering from asthma, I was also forced to fetch coal and coke from the dusty outhouse slags and piles which made my asthma worse, making me get more ill.

Sometimes, when I wet the bed, Joyce Cook would force the soiled bed-sheet into my mouth, gagging and choking me.

I spent my mornings throughout my childhood wondering if I would survive the next day. The torture only relented when I grew big enough to fight back.”

Authors Comments:

During their second telephone call I listened in silent horror as Child 25 finally felt confident enough to relay the accounts of sexual abuse he had endured by Dr Graham, the Shirley Oaks psychiatric doctor. I remember this man as another faceless person from my past. Child 25's claims would later be backed up by two other Shirley residents who said they had reported Dr Graham to the Police, as part of the Middleton Inquiry. What concerned us was Dr Graham's position as the resident psychiatric doctor meant he would be in contact with thousands of children over the 20 years he had worked at Shirley Oaks. Sadly for Child 25, Doctor Graham died before going to trial but this would not deter us seeking justice for his victims and learning the extent of the abuse at Shirley Oaks Children's Home.

Child 25 has another claim against Lambeth Council, which seems to be a recurring theme. While he was in Shirley Oaks he remembers a Bible and Crucifix being thrust in his hand, and being marched off to the Catholic Church. It is only now, having read his file, he has discovered that he was not an only child as he had believed and he was not Catholic. The abuse of power was experienced by many of the children, however we later learned that some of the management paedophiles were specifically targeting Catholic children.

The claims of sexual abuse by religious leaders appears in the final report but it is clear that it was connected to the Shirley Oaks management abusers. This was consistent with the information we had received from many children. On the 10th August 2015, house parent Philip Temple of House 33 was convicted of child abuse at Shirley Oaks, whilst he was working at the home under a religious pretext.

Summary of the physical sexual and mental abuse in House 18:

All the children in House 18 suffered physical abuse from Joyce Cook and many of the boys suffered sexual and physical abuse from William Hook. Most of the children in this house were there from a very young age and due to the ulterior motives of the house parents, they were neglected emotionally and educationally. Hook was part of the management team of paedophiles and Joyce Cook was an abuser and a facilitator who had worked in Shirley Oaks under Mr Heap, the superintendent in the 1950's when Child 19 was abused.

Child 26 - In response to Child 24 passing on my number we were contacted by another ex-Shirley resident who relayed allegations against another doctor and we would later discover there were other claims against this person.

Child 26's Account of Dr Whittaker and the Surgery:

“Going for medicals and health check-ups was a regular thing in our lives at Shirley Oaks and the person we were sent to was Dr Whittaker. All of the children at House 10 would cringe when it was announced that an appointment had been made to see him. I can't remember

much from a young age, but from the age of 7 onwards a shadow overcast me which I reflect to the visits I had at the surgery.

I always went to our so-called medical sessions with my sibling sister and we were always told to strip down to our vests and knickers. We used to feel very self-conscious and scared as Dr Whittaker would stare very intensely at us. His features were very cold and serious and he wore a monocle. He seemed very old with yellow waxy skin, and his breath stank and his eyes were piercing as if he could see right through you. He repeatedly would say: "ah the siblings, how beautiful", then he would observe us from head to toe while we were standing. Me and my sister would hold hands while this very invasive observation went on. After the visual inspection he would call us separately into his private room.

The room had an examination couch with a rail around it. There were all sorts of instruments hanging around in trays and on hooks. It was cold and there was a bright light that hung overhead. Once on the couch he would lift up my vest and put his stethoscope on my body. He would then take my vest and knickers off and ask me to lie down. His hands would then be all over my body, stroking, pressing, squeezing and poking me in my private parts (vagina and anus). He would ask me to shut my eyes and say "no" when it hurt too much. I had to lay in various positions: on my back, on my front and on my sides.

I remember hearing his head breathing and feeling drops of sweat dripping onto my body. When I was told to get up and dress he would turn his back and pull out a handkerchief and wipe his face. He would cough and turn around and say "are you decent now?" - I remember that phrase so vividly as those were the words he would always say at the end of my medical along with: "this medical is private, it's between us, I'm here to check your body is growing correctly, don't even tell your sibling, or anybody else". I would leave the surgery feeling dirty and ashamed.

As soon as I got back to House 10 I would ask Aunt Mary if I could have a bath. I never told a soul about Dr Whittaker until I was in my 50's. My sibling revealed to me about her experiences with him thinking it only happened to her.

Author's Comments:

During the many calls we received we would learn more about the life of the X family and the hell they suffered at Shirley Oaks. Needless to say it did not get any better for the twins or the other children in this cottage but there was one positive; most of the children in this cottage would praise Aunt Mary, the housemother, as a good soul.

Judging by the amount of times the children in Aunt Mary's cottage were sent to Dr Whittaker, we believe she may have been aware of what was taking place with the children. And if this was the case we would charge her with a lesser charge of being a facilitator.

We have questioned at times whether there were a few good souls who have been labelled as facilitators who may have simply been surrounded by evil people. However, all employees did have a duty of care to the children in their care.

Author's Comments:

If we are to believe the accounts of Children 25 and 26 about the improper behaviour of Dr Whittaker and Dr Graham, it would mean that every child who was sent to Shirley Oaks was in danger of these two professional paedophiles. When you add the many ex-residents who have claimed to have been drugged 'as a calming solution' we are concerned that this may have been used as a mechanism for the Doctors to carry out their abuse.

House 15 Shirley Oaks Case Study

Child 27

The X & the X's

Child 28 at House 16 and House 11(?)

Donald Hosegood – Houseparent - Abuser



The history of this house from 1950 until 1974 supports our claim that over the decades the house parents were conspiring with the managers to abuse children and a few of the house parents were unwittingly failing in their duty to protect the children from unscrupulous adults. When the long term managers left Shirley Oaks in 1973 the truth would unravel but the abuse would continue under a new management structure run directly by Lambeth Council under a scheme of Group Management Officers (GMO's).

History of House 15 and the Claims of Sexual Abuse from 1950:

Mrs Scholl 1950's: The case study on Child 27 which follows confirms that Doreen Scholl was sending him to the school in the evenings to meet with a school teacher who regularly sexually abused him. The detailed claims of Child 27 and his siblings appear in the final Lambeth report as a case study.

Child 27 - An Early Account of Sexual Abuse:

Child 27, a boy who resided at Shirley Oaks from 1952 - 1956 has come forward with one of the earliest claims of sexual abuse. Despite the abuse Child 27 suffered, he became a Major in the army and received an MBE, but this did not stop the torment and nightmares of his sexual abuse. His statement follows:



"I personally suffered abuse from the male teachers at the in-house Shirley Oaks Primary School. As I recall, he must have been in his early to mid-30's. Unfortunately, I can't remember the name, so I shall refer to him as 'Mr?' When I was called out to his desk to discuss any work, he used to put his hand up my trouser leg to fondle and play with me. We always had to stand on his left and he always used his left hand. I recall one other, in particular, an Afro-Caribbean girl, of my age, who said to me that it wasn't right what he was doing! I don't know whether she expressed her views to the teacher herself. He continued this practice whenever he took our class!

In early 1955 this teacher was responsible for producing/directing a play as part of, what I believe was, a school open day. I was playing a cornet solo of "Bless This House" as well as being in the cast, which was about Easter! I distinctly recall being instructed by Miss Scholl to report to Mr ? At the school hall stage as he was conducting a costume and play rehearsal. The time-frame was after our evening meal and it was quite dark. The school, as I recall, was situated where Pinewood Flat 1 and 2 and 'House 41' are located on the map. I assumed that other cast members would also be there, but on arrival I found myself to be alone, however I found Mr? behind the curtains of the stage.

Mr ? advised me that the other children had been and gone and he had been waiting for me!! I was told to take all my clothes off and put on my Arab costume which was just like a large nightdress. I also had to wear a large nappy style type of underpants. Needless to say he went further than he was able to in class without the clothes!! After 5 minutes or so of dishing my part and 'adjusting' my costume, he then helped me out of my costume. I was then sent back to Miss Scholl and he said that he would speak to her soon as he would need me again for a further fitting.

I am not sure of the time-frame to the next 'costume fit' and rehearsal but I don't think that it was too long. Miss Scholl told me again to report to Mr? at the school. At this time, I don't recall there being any mention of other members of the cast. We repeated the same procedure as before, of getting undressed and being fitted with my costume. I had to get undressed again. Once undressed, he got me to sit on his right knee whilst he used his left hand to fondle me more insanely than ever before whilst telling me about the differences between boys and girls. Mr ? started to get really agitated as he could see that I was starting to experience feelings that were clearly quite new to me.

With adult and mature hindsight, I later realised that he had been masturbating me and that I had experienced an orgasm without ejaculating! Once he had finished, he helped me to get properly dressed again and told me not to tell anyone what we had been doing! Mr ? then said

that he would ask Miss Scholl to send me down again when he was ready for our next rehearsal, Where I could also practice my cornet solo from the stage.

The next call to rehearsal seemed to be not long in coming and I was sent down to the school again by Miss Scholl. Mr ? told me that we could only do the costume fit as we didn't have enough time for anything else. I was told to get changed into my costume and Mr ? remarked how well it fitted. Mr ? then helped me to get undressed and as before, he sat me on his knee. He talked about what we had done before as he repeated his actions telling me that this was what big boys did! Here he paused and took his own trousers and pants off telling me that I would be big like him one day!!

He continued to masturbate me until I experienced a further orgasm without ejaculating. Mr ? then said that I should do the same to him so that I could see "what happens when big boys do it". His left hand held my right hand around his penis until he had finished, whilst his right hand continued to fondle me. Once he had cleaned himself up, he hugged me and kissed me, got me dressed, then dressed himself. Sending me back to Miss Scholl, he reminded me that this was our special secret that no one else must know!"

Barbara Mills – 1962 - 1968: Miss Mills eventually took over House 15 and many of the children state that she was a very strict and horrible woman. She would shout and punch the children all the time. It has now been confirmed by Child 19 who lived in this house that Barbara Mills' boyfriend was a Naval Officer who would come to stay on the weekends on a regular basis.

"He would bring around 6 of his cadet friends with him and would stay in the boy's dormitory which had to double up in room so they could all stay overnight. This was against the management rules. God knows what happened in there! We (the girls) were aware the boys were not happy about this and dreaded them coming." – Child 19

We have spoken to another girl in this cottage and she confirms our belief that the boys were being abused. We now know Child 29 and Child 30 were in this cottage from a very young age. We now know that Child 29 was being abused as a baby and we believe Mills was a facilitator to the abuse. We also believe that xxx and xxx were victims of sexual abuse along with xxx and other boys who will remain anonymous at this time.

Authors Comments:

Consistent with the behaviour of the management, in order to keep their secret, they would make sure the next house parents were also like minded abusers. This meant they would could keep their dark secrets from outsiders. Just as importantly, it would allow the main conspirers, the management, and unhindered access to their victims which included Child 29 and his brother Child 30.

House 15 – New House parents: Mr and Mrs Hosegood, 1968– 1975:

Donald Hosegood was at Shirley Oaks from 1968 and left around 1975. We believe his marriage to Stella was a marriage of convenience, which took place in 1966 in Sutton and allowed the paedophile Don Hosegood to take on the authority as an unpaid house father with his new wife. Stella had previously worked in House 9 and at the time she was an assistant staff.

Stella Hosegood (nee Hume) had previously worked at a children's home in Banstead before arriving at Shirley Oaks. Coincidentally, Clifford Heap, William Hook and Thomas Hart had all previously worked or were associated with this home from the 1950's. All three appear in our final Lambeth report with claims of sexual or physical abuse. The children's home in Banstead was a Wandsworth home and two of its ex-staff, superintendent at Shirley Oaks Clifford Heap, and swimming coordinator and houseparent William Hook were reported to Middleton. There was a close working relationship between Shirley Oaks and the children's home in Banstead and this seemed to centre on like-minded abusers working at both homes.

Profile of Donald Hosegood from Children Including Raymond Stevenson:

Before Donald Hosegood married Stella, he was previously married to another lady who ended up in a mental institution. He became an unpaid house father in 1968 and he lived in House 15. He was a military type who was the master of the house and his wife, who was 15 years younger, was very quiet. Hosegood had previously been in the RAF which is consistent with many people in Shirley Oaks who were abusing children.

There was an overbearing presence around this house and all the Shirley Oaks children remember Mr Hosegood. The black children were wary of this house and instinctively deemed this man to be a racist. There were no black children in the house. In hindsight, from an adult's perspective, we now know he was projecting arrogance to hide his deceit. There were rumours that he was abusing the children in House 15 and even house parents were aware that something untoward was going on.

Gill Fotheringham from House 30 always asked xxxx (a child in her care) if xxxx or xxxx from House 15 had said anything bad about Stella and Don Hosegood. xxxx believes the Fotheringham's must have known what they were up to because the Fotheringham's were close friends who socialised with the Hosegoods. Eventually the children from House 15 spoke to other children and rumours circulated that the Hosegoods were taking inappropriate photographs of the children as well as interfering with them.

Complaints to Shirley Oaks Lodge:

Child 31: *"I have been asked to write my recollection of an incident that in as far as I can recall, happened in the summer of 1974 when I was fifteen years of age. There was a group of us playing in the piggery which included children from House 15. The house parents were Donald and Stella Hosegood. There were probably six to eight of us in the group of which about five I remember. One of the group, mentioned about photographs being taken of them in the bath. Some of us persuaded them to go to the Lodge House which was based at the entrance of Shirley Oaks and report these incidents, which they did. Four or five of us went with them.*

One of my best friends Child 30 who was in House 15 with his siblings and is now deceased, had told me on several occasions that he believed his sister was being sexually abused in some way, but had begged me not to say or do anything as he was frightened of what might happen if Hosegood found out. Several days after this incident two social workers took a statement from me of what had been said and happened. Nothing happened immediately, but I know a copy of this statement was put in my file, as several months later a social worker

read the report and talked to me about the incident. That's actually all that happened as there was no discussion of any action being taken."

Child 32: *"In 1974 a friend of mine xxxx was telling me how the house parents in his house were taking pictures of him in the bath. So me, Child 31 and few of my friends went up to the lodge and complained to the head person up at the lodge, about what has been going on in the house. Which then made them close the house down and put all the kids into different houses."*

Authors Comments:

There are many more children who have confirmed that they had reported what was taking place at House 15 to the Lodge House. We now know, due to the many complaints, Lambeth Council were forced to intervene and the house was closed down and Hosegood were taken to court over allegations of sexual abuse. What happened afterwards was a warning to all the children at Shirley Oaks that even if you speak out, you will not get justice.

EveningStandard. Housefather on Sex Charges.

"The housefather at a council children's home twice raped a 15-year-old girl and indecently assaulted two young boys in care, it was alleged at the Old Bailey today. The 52-year-old part-time housefather at a home run by Lambeth Council showed the boys pornographic pictures and suggested indecent acts when he went to their bedroom to say "goodnight", said Mr Richard Hawkins, prosecuting. Technical instructor Donald Hosegood, from Croydon, denied four charges of indecently assaulting the boys, one of committing and two of inciting the boys to commit indecent acts and two charges of rape between October 1970, and September, 1974.

Mr Hawkins said Hosegood's wife was a house mother at the home and he worked part-time as a house father. It was alleged that Hosegood went to the bedroom of two young sisters, now aged 13 and 11, exposed himself and suggested indecent acts. When questioned about the children's allegations, Hosegood describe the 15-year-old girl as a "little sex maniac" and said her claims were a "pack of lies."

Authors Comments:

The judge in the Hosegood court case was more interested in his RAF records and treated him like he was a hero. As far as the judge was concerned, he thought the children were all making their claims up. Halfway through the court case, before x even took the stand, the judge directed the jury to find Hosegood not guilty. We make this comment that the police officer in charge of the Hosegood case was Detective O'Connor. If it is the same police officer who was involved in leading Middleton, we have some serious concerns about his impartiality.

It is also important to note that the Child Care Officer for the X family was David Roach which can be confirmed from the employment dates from Lambeth Council. The allegations against David Roach will feature in the final Lambeth report.

Court Verdict - *Hosegood was acquitted but he lost his job. The children who had grown up together as a family for years were scattered everywhere. The X family were sent to House*

27, X was sent to Chevington Children's Home and Child 29 was moved to House 36. In the next episode of Child 29's life, we identify 2 male house parents in House 36 with suspicious backgrounds.

To discover what took place in House 15 from 1970 – 1975 was always going to be difficult because Child 29 had died at Shirley Oaks, Child 30 had passed away and their sister was too ill to talk. The only way to find out what took place at House 15 was to make contact with another family. This proved to be a difficult exercise, until a year into our investigation Child 33 saw an article in 'Take a Break' Magazine about SOSA's campaign.

The X Family Search had come to an End:

No one had been in contact with the X family apart from when Child 34 gave evidence at the court trial about the abuse he had received from William Hook. This confirmed our belief that there were multiple abusers working in House 15 while Hosegood was in charge and one of them was convicted paedophile William Hook. As well as being abused by Hosegood we also know from Child 22's police statement that Child 29 was also being sexually abused whilst in this house by William Hook.

Once we tracked down the X family we learned that William Hook was a frequent visitor at House 15. He was friends with Donald Hosegood to the extent that he used to come and have tea and coffee, do the washing up and they used to talk a lot in the kitchen together.

House 15 House Children:



Investigation Update:

Meeting Children 33 and 34 we were told the abuse and grooming started when they were at House 9. The house parents who ran House 9 at the time were Mr and Mrs Evans. However, we knew Stella was an assistant house mother in House 9 at the same time. Child 33 states that Don Hosegood was also at this house and even as a young child, she felt that he was very touchy feely. Checking the family's social services files, there is no reference to them ever being in this house. However, we have spoken to their mother and she confirms that they were there for one month before moving to House 15. We have seen documents that state House 15 was closed for a period of time which may have been due to refurbishment. Therefore, the claims from Child 33 that the grooming and improper behaviour started in House 9 are consistent with the facts and therefore the opportunity, even though the timelines to corroborate the evidence is inconsistent. To prove that the Xs and the Xs were placed in House 9, prior to House 15, we have a picture of them sitting in the dining room.



Let's first start by stating that the Xs were a popular family in Shirley Oaks however they were unfortunate enough to be placed in a house which we considered to have direct management control. The Xs describe Hosegood as a psychopath. This description is consistent with xxx's claims. Like myself, any of us who had friends in that house were always mindful never to knock on the door.

Hosegood's Shed of Abuse:



*Photo: Donald Hosegood
His 'abuse' shed which doubled as a photographer's dark room.*

Three out of four of the X family were sexually abused by Hosegood and Children 29 and 30 also claimed to be sexually abused as well as their sister. The abuse would take place in either Hosegood's bedroom or the girls' or boys' bedrooms or in his caravan, shed or the outside coal bunker. None of the other house parents had their own caravan or purpose built shed and this provided an opportunity for Hosegood to hide his deceit. Depending on the weather and who he was abusing, Donald's wife Stella would ship the other children out of the house when Hosegood was abusing one of the children. This confirmed our belief that she knew what was going on. Hosegood was always taking photos and had his own dark room which is one of the places where xxxx would be abused.

When Child 33 resisted and tried to fight back, Hosegood would constantly threaten them by saying *"I'm going to chop you up if you say anything and bury your body parts 'cos no one wants you and no one cares!"*

Child 35's Complaint of Abuse in the Early 70's:

When he was 8 years old, Child 35 first reported to the Lodge about what Hosegood was doing to him. Hosegood found out about this and threatened him with a knife stating that if he said anything he was "going to get him". This petrified Child 35 and even when he left Shirley Oaks some years later to go to boarding school, he was constantly terrified that Hosegood was going to come through the window and get him.

Child 35's Complaint of Abuse to the Dutch Man:

After he was threatened with a knife by Hosegood, a few weeks later Child 35 heard noises coming from his sister Child 33's bedroom. He entered her room and caught Hosegood lying on top of his sister, being very protective he ran out of the house and ran to the opposite house and complained to one of the house parents about what Hosegood was doing. He remembers the man he spoke to as being Dutch and he had blonde hair.

Authors Comments:

Unfortunately for Child 35, when he made his complaints to the Dutch man, he was unaware he was also an abuser and was part of the same paedophile ring that worked on site. The Dutch man worked at House 17 which was 20 metres away from House 15. 30 metres away was paedophile William Hook in House 18.

When the police finally arrived they told Child 35 that he couldn't make a statement because he suffered from violent tendencies and over exaggerated. Soon after this incident Child 35 was taken to a borstal by Stella Hosegood and another woman. They told him to have a look around. Suddenly they disappeared and Child 35 was left there and never returned to Shirley Oaks. This meant his sisters would be left alone with Hosegood which he now believes was part of his plan to continue abusing the girls.

Children 33, 34 and 35's Mother - Complaint to Blue Star House:

Unaware what was happening to her own children, one day Mrs X noticed xxxx (a child from another family) had red marks around her neck and asked her what had happened? xxxx told her that she wasn't going to say anything whilst in the house and if she could step outside with her. xxx then informed her that "*Uncle Don did it. He got hold of my neck and broke my cross and chain*". Mrs X went to see her children's social worker at Blue Star House and reported it.

The Effects on the X Siblings of the Hosegood Court Case:

Having suffered years of physical and sexual abuse by Donald Hosegood, the siblings' injuries were compounded by the distress of going to court and watching Hosegood get off with his crime. Needless to say they returned home in a worst state than the day they were received into care. There was worse to come for this family because similar to many Shirley Oaks victims of physical and sexual abuse, their nightmares would follow them into their adult life.

Child 34 started to drink heavily and joined the army for 22 years in the hope he could hide away from his past. Even though he eventually became a Sergeant, he was never able to stop drinking and was found dead in his flat because of the alcohol abuse. Child 34 had a family. The sisters also grew up haunted by their experience of Shirley Oaks - their impact statements appear in the final report.

With regard to xxxx, we know she attempted to commit suicide whilst she was living in House 15 under Hosegood's care. Children 29 and 30 would never be the same again and we believe that Child 29's death, 3 years later, was connected to the abuse he had suffered from Hosegood, Hook and other management staff.

Each time there was an Inquiry, the X's were spoken to and interviewed and the memories were relived, but Hosegood was still untouchable. By 2000 CHILE/Middleton was running and Met Officer Gary Pankhurst came unannounced to Child 35's house to ask some questions. He told Pankhurst his whole story of how he and his sisters were sexually abused by Hosegood over many years.

We believe the police were responding to xxxx's complaint or as the Council has indicated, they were looking into past allegations as part of Middleton/CHILE. Either way, x never heard from Pankhurst or the police again. In the same year, Child 33 decided to take action by herself

and introduced her case to solicitors. Her solicitor, told her that the case couldn't move on because there were 3 discrepancies:

- *the first was that her dates didn't add and;*
- *the second was that the individual psychiatrist that came to her house stated that it was her home life that affected her; and*
- *the third was that her solicitor was told by the police that Hosegood had died and the case couldn't move on because he wasn't alive to stand up for himself.*

What is most disturbing about this whole case is that we now know that Hosegood was not dead. Even Lambeth Council have now confirmed that Hosegood was in fact alive at the time. There is a CHILE confidential internal document stating that he was deceased and the case could not be taken any further. This brings on a very serious claim that victims were being lied to in order to protect paedophiles or to cover up the extent of abuse at Shirley Oaks. We now know that Hosegood was alive 10 years after the Middleton/CHILE Inquiry and only died in May 2011. Lambeth Council are also of the same belief.

The question is how many more people who were investigated under Middleton/CHILE who were said to be dead were in fact alive?

Child 28:

After interviewing Children 33 and 35 they added to the allegations that a girl, Child 28 was being abused by Hosegood and other male staff. Child 35 once found Child 28 in Hosegood's shed partially naked and he instantly knew she was being sexually abused. The other house fathers who were said to be abusing Child 28 were Ron Marshall, Mr Simms and Derek Hoare; all of whom appear in the final Lambeth report with numerous claims of sexual abuse. Child 28 was often seen by the children wandering the grounds and we all regret not recognising the signs.

There were many other children in Shirley Oaks that would end up in a similar state. In most normal cases, any children that showed signs of being disturbed would be sent to the doctor and then a psychiatrist. In the case of Shirley Oaks, both Dr Graham and Dr Whittaker were both paedophiles which would have meant it would be like jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

Investigation Update: All of our theories were confirmed when we received Child 28's CHILE files. It is important for us to make reference to the fact CHILE were searching for Child 28 but they discovered that she died 5 months into their search. She would have been a very important witness because her accounts of sexual abuse would corroborate the evidence of the X and the X siblings that Hosegood was a paedophile.

Child 28's CHILE File:

Child 28 was born in 1959 and was taken into care at 4 years old in 1963. In the CHILE team file on Child 28 it states that 'x led a very unhappy life characterised by abusive relationships'. A further note dated 25th Jan 2001 states "*Tragically 3 weeks ago at Christmas, Child 28, aged 42, died during an asthma attack.*" Former children who gave evidence to CHILE mentioned Child 28. She was known as being a girl with learning difficulties and well developed.

There were similar allegations that we had received which were reported to the police in 2000 that Hosegood would take Child 28 to his workshop in his shed which doubled as a dark room and she would pose naked or in school uniform. It is also stated that Hosegood used to take Child 28 to his caravan which was parked next to his shed and he would have sexual intercourse with her. Child 28 also told a former Shirley Oaks child that she had sex with the house father at House 27.

CHILE noted that there were rumours that Child 28 spent a lot of time at House 15 and Donald Hosegood got her pregnant. Child 28 had also confirmed this to another girl and this was later confirmed by other children. CHILE have stated that they cannot find Child 28's files, which is consistent with our belief that there has been a cover up. This was confirmed by Lambeth Council when they stated that documents had been taken from the children's files. Recently we have confirmation that 150 boxes relating to Middleton/CHILE were destroyed just some years ago.

Conclusions on Donald Hosegood:

The abuse against Child 28 and the X and X siblings and then the subsequent death of Child 29 has left a scar on their families and the rest of the children at Shirley Oaks. How many times can one man get away with the same crime and is it a coincidence, when justice was about to prevail, the police and council stopped any investigations under the pretext of him being dead, when in fact he was alive and should have joined his friend William Hook in the dock, as they both abused children?

The initial Hosegood court case in 1975 was a travesty of justice and we believe that the judge was corrupt. This may have been because it was a sign of the times not to believe care children or there may have been improper influence from friends who were Freemasons. What we now know due to the recent convictions, which included Hook the swimming teacher, Philip Temple, and the many abusers who died before going to trial: Geoff Clark, Doctor Graham and Doctor Whittaker, is that they were all Hosegood's friends, and associates. This included managers who were paedophiles such as abusers Cummings and Heap the Superintendent.

Investigation Update:

We ask this one question: Did any of the management who we have identified as paedophiles, give a character reference to Hosegood or appear in court as one of his witnesses? We now know that Hosegood's friend, former superintendent Ron Holman, was a Justice of the Peace in Croydon. This is only relevant because we claim that Holman had covered up the claims of sexual abuse prior to this and in the previous homes he had worked. An insight into Ron Holman from x confirms and supports our allegations that he was known for brutalising children.

The X Family Case Study

A Black Family: 5 Children

The X children were all placed in Shirley Oaks as their mother suffered a series of mental breakdowns. Their father was absent from the household. The following is a summary of three of the children's experiences at Shirley Oaks, whilst in the care of Lambeth Council.



The X's arrived at Shirley Oaks in 1971, six years after Lambeth took over its control. Unfortunately for these defenseless siblings the house they were sent to was House 30 and would render them vulnerable. Out of the six children we know three were definitely sexually abused, we have reason to believe that the other three siblings were also abused although we have not questioned them. This is because two of the siblings are suffering from mental health problems and all three of them are suffering from the stigma of being brought up in care. We have therefore only interviewed those of the siblings who were willing and able to be questioned and we initially did not feel it was appropriate to ask them questions about their siblings.

Despite only speaking to three of the children, the profile of the house parents who Lambeth chose to look after them can only be described as suspicious. The first house parents were the Fotheringhams. Gillian Fotheringham was a senior house mother at Shirley Oaks from 1966 until 1976. Her husband Antony worked officially at House 30 from 1971 until 1973 and then moved to House 32 for a further 2 years. On the face of it, they were good people however our research tells us that they were very close friends of the Hosegoods, house parents at House 15.

Mr Donald Hosegood was accused of abusing all the girls in his house, plus Child 29. Child 36 remembers Gillian Fotheringham asking her if her friends, x and Child 33 who lived at House 15, had said anything bad about Stella and Donald Hosegood. This was before Donald Hosegood was sacked and went to court in 1974 for sexually abusing the children in his care.

A house parent who worked at Shirley Oaks also confirmed the close friendship between the Fotheringhams and Hosegood's. Whilst the Fortheringhams were in charge, Child 37 was being sexually abused at the Primary school. None of the children are sure why the Fortheringhams suddenly left but there are suggestions that this had something to do with their friendship with the Hosegoods. Like House 30, there were many more cottages that would appear to be under the hand of malevolent forces.

Like many black children, prior to the X siblings arrival and after their departure, there were obvious cultural failings and misunderstandings on how to bring up children from an ethnic background. However, when you have a house parent whose boyfriend, Jimmy Gent, is a tattooed racist the last thing you would want is for him to be your house father. Who would employ this man to be the guardian of vulnerable black children?

His obnoxious behaviour was such that he found it funny to drop Child 37, the youngest of the siblings at eight years old, in a racist area and tell him to make his own way home. Jimmy Gent had two children, a girl and a boy. The son was caught engaging in sexual activity with a younger boy from the children's home.

Jimmy Gent was a thug. He admitted to being a fan of Hitler and a supporter of the Neo Nazis. Gent would call the children 'nig-nog's' and refer to them as 'monkeys'. In the end it took Child 36 to make a complaint to Lambeth about his racist behavior; he was eventually dismissed. None of the family were surprised when they heard that there were many complaints about his behaviour.

Investigation Update:

Shirley Oaks consisted of single and double cottages which housed between 8 to 14 children. The double cottages such as House 30 and House 31, had connecting fire doors upstairs and downstairs – a design fault that would haunt children. Jergen Sandler (house parent at House 31) would utilise the connecting doors for his own advantage and we will follow him on his midnight excursions into House 30 where he would abuse two of the younger X sisters; the ones that have not given statements. Before this, he would abuse children in his own cottage. Where were the management you may ask? They knew what was going on because Jergen and Lyn were encouraged to marry so they could become house parents. Even the children were involved in this fake wedding, unaware that they would be the ultimate victims.

Authors Comments:

It was bad enough for the children in House 30 having Jergen lurking behind the door, but the children still had to deal with the predators who were assigned to look after them in their own cottage. The choices were completely inappropriate – or were they? It would depend on the scyphantic nature of these people. A child's risk of abuse started with which house they were

placed in and whether or not the house parents were able to appropriately manage the needs of the children?

One night Child 37 remembers his sister, who was around 8/9 years old, screaming so he went into her room, she was hysterical, then the house parents came up and no one could calm her down. The Shirley medics were called and they medicated her and she was never normal again. Child 37 recalls hearing Jergen, the houseparent from House 31, with his sister in another room. In around 1979 the siblings moved to House 8 where the Gents would follow.

After this, one sister was removed and never returned to Shirley Oaks. She was taken to a house in Tulse Hill. We have also learnt that at some point she was in South Vale. We now believe the abuse in the connecting houses was organised.

Girls or young boys were often placed in the bedrooms with connecting doors and in the case of the X's this was the room of Children 36 and 37's, two sisters. Equally from House 31, we had complaints that staff from House 30 were using these rooms as an access point to abuse children.

Child 36's Story, 1969 – 1983:

Child 36 was part of a Social Services advertisement campaign where they put her picture in a magazine under the banner "Looking for Social Aunties and Uncles to befriend a child from Shirley Oaks Children's Home." A man called Ron responded to the advert.

Ron was a married man whose Asian wife worked as a Maths teacher. Child 36 would stay with Ron at weekends when she was around 12/13 years old and he would sexually abuse her. He would later go onto sexually abuse the other younger sisters, xxxx and xxxx, as they would also visit him.

Child 36 complained about the sexual abuse she had suffered to June Gent and it was brushed off. Her social worker Jack Nathan, is the person responsible for introducing Uncle Ron to the X family. In an attempt to reinvent herself, Child 36 has now changed her name because of the association and the damage it had done to her at Shirley Oaks.

Child 37's Story:

"I was born in the 1970's, I was abused by the headmaster at the in-house primary school, Mr Whiteman, the head master, between the years of 1975 to 1977, and I was around five or six at the time. During my time at Shirley Oaks Children's Home, I would be sent to the Head Masters office for misbehaving in class. Mr Whiteman, would sit me on his lap but more to the point on his dick, take a pornographic magazine from his draw, open the magazines on the desk, and begin masturbating by rubbing himself on my backside.

On more than one occasion I remember being asked to hold his private parts whilst he moved his hips back and forth. I also remember the smell and watching other children playing outside through the window. My teenage years were the hardest. I felt different and found everyday life difficult to deal with, and I suffered severe bouts of insecurity and found it hard to form relationships with people.

As an adult I still suffer from the effects of Shirley Oaks, I am a father of three and I swear my children will never suffer the same way I had to. No child should have to suffer at the hands of an abuser.”

Author’s Comments:

Child 37’s sister, Child 36 has recently informed him that a cleaner had caught someone interfering with him.

Whatever race you were and whatever religion, despite the treatment of the adults, a new type of nuclear family was formed, which included children of all colours who often classed themselves as brothers and sisters. Below is a photo which sums up of all the positive things of Shirley Oaks and this is reflected in one phrase –‘the children’.



Sadly, 3 of the children in the picture have confirmed they were being sexually abused around the time this photo was taken and one of the others we suspect was abused. We know of the family’s story and the abuse they suffered in this house but there were others who also suffered in this house. xxxx and xxxx were quiet siblings who were in House 30 at the same time as the X’s. We have only recently made contact with x who confirmed what we had been told that his sister was raped by a visitor to Shirley Oaks, Kenroy Payne who lived In Croydon.

All the staff knew what had happened to her at Shirley Oaks but nothing was done. Child 36 remembers that xxxx and xxxx were suddenly moved from Shirley Oaks and sent to another home. When she left care Payne found out where she lived and moved into her flat where she suffered years of sexual abuse.

Author's Comments:

Historically House 30 was used by many paedophiles and many children have given us evidence confirming this.

Case Study – the X Family

The plight of one of the white families mentioned at the first SOSA meeting

The X family's story commences below with a summary of an account from their then social worker, followed by accounts relating to four of the children, some of which are first-hand, and others taken from information held on file. This report highlights the perverse experiences of the X family, which would be echoed by many other families.



Personal Account of Helena Allen (former Social Worker to the Xs)

“I was a Social Worker employed by Lambeth Social Services from 1972 until 1985. I have a clear recall of the initial meeting with the family; their previous Social Worker took me, with three of the children, to see the children's mother in H.M.P Holloway.

Now retired, I have recently been in contact with Children 38, 39 and 40 and very recently their sister xxxx, after a gap of approximately 30 years. I recently made contact again to give them a parcel of childhood photographs that I and others had taken of them, plus a couple of their mother, and the only one that existed of their deceased sister, Child 41. They said that her first daughter xxxx, was born in 1960, and was a product of her life as a prostitute. Eventually, xxxx was taken into the care of Kensington and Chelsea Social Services. I found out many years later that x had been fortunate to be sent to very loving adoptive parents who cared for her from the age of 5 until she was 18. This enabled her to recover from the early traumas she suffered under her mother and she would end up going to University and becoming a successful person.

X's other children would not be so lucky, in the hands of Lambeth. Her second child, x, was adopted. Child 38, born fairly soon after xxxx was also subjected to early separation from her mother and father. I do not know after all these years where Child 38 was placed at this early stage in her life and by which local authority.

Reports on the Lambeth file by their mother's Probation Officer stated that marriage to x did steady their mother for several years. Sadly, by the early 1970's she was in Holloway and I believe that Children 38, 39 and 40 were placed in South Vale Assessment Centre, which is where I met them.

Following their mother's discharge from prison, a new flat was allocated to the family. [This was strange and we suspect Helena may have been pulling the strings for the children's mother]. Their father was also part of the rehabilitation plan now that he too was home from prison. Sadly, the relationship difficulties between Mrs and Mr X exploded in 1974 fueled by alcohol. All three children were removed by the Police and taken into care by the Social Work Emergency Team. We believe this was the point that Mrs and Mr X separated.

An application was made by me to the Juvenile Court for Care Orders on all three children – the application was rejected by the court without it even making a Supervision Order. Mrs X was pregnant at the time with Child 41, a few months later I went away to college, the next I knew I was reading of Child 41's death in the 'care' of Lambeth Council in a national newspaper. Returning to Lambeth after my 2-year absence at college I was again asked to take on work with Children 38, 39 and 40 and their sibling.

"...The children's mother did not shirk however from telling both Social Work Managers and the Social Services Committee what they had done to her following Child 41's death. She would often say "if I hadn't done that, (was responsible for Child 41's death) they would have put me in Holloway." And of course, she was right."

Child 41:

Child 41 was born on 21st October 1974. Put into care at a very young age with tragic consequences. The following extracts from the file were written by M Moyce, Principal Officer, dated 20th October 1975: "On the 18th October 1975 three days before [her] first birthday, Don Thomas from Lambeth Council and I went to Chevington at 9am on receipt of a telephone call from Sylvia Jocelyn, RCC), that [Child 41] had been found dead in bed when the children were roused in the morning. Before we arrived the local rota doctor had called and would not certify death as he said it was a case for the coroner. The police had already arrived and took statements from the staff (3 in all) who were resident on the night of 17th/18th October. I discussed the matter Mr J A Powell, Coroners who said there would be a post mortem on Monday 20th Oct 1974.

The inquest was opened on Wednesday 22nd October 1975 and adjourned to a later date. The baby was removed by Rowlands (undertakers for Croydon Council) 301 Whitehorse Road Thornton Heath. Val Howarth agreed to visit the mother at her home address and tell her about [Child 41]. In fact it took some time before her mother was finally seen by the duty social worker and brought down to see Child 40 her 6 year old daughter who was also in Chevington but who by this time had been moved to House 9 for the weekend, with the help of Mr and Mrs Atwood from House 9." It states on council files: "A disturbing feature is that this baby was not sleeping in a cot but in a top bunk bed into which she was fastened by a harnesses. However, on enquiry it emerged that this was a positive decision taken by Sylvia Jocelyn because the baby was so distressed and wakeful during the early nights in Chevington."

Author's Comments:

There are a few things that concern SOSA about this death, first is the assumption that strapping a baby on the top of a bunk bed by harness was a positive decision when later on the Council banned the use of harnesses to strap children into beds. It is also clear by the Councillor's notes that the mother had complained about the baby being strapped to a bunk bed but in other correspondence on file, it states that the mother was happy with the harnesses and Child 41 being strapped to the bed. This is further contradicted by the fact that the mother offered to bring a cot for the baby and the Chevington staff said no as they had 2 cots at Chevington. From the notes it would appear that the Council were attempting to blame either Child 40 or her mother for the circumstances that led to Child 41 being strapped to the top of the bunk bed.

This house had no officer in charge at the time; was there a statement at the time from any children? Someone we have spoken to, who was a child at the time gives a different story to the one on file.

Child 40:

Child 40 vividly remembers popping her head round the door and there were people inside the room Child 41 was staying in - taking photographs. *"All I remember is like a big white satellite dish and flashes. I could see my sister slumped over, hanging over the edge. There were straps I think they were around her neck. They quickly rushed me out of the room, I was like "What's wrong with my sister? What's wrong with my sister?" And they said to me "Oh she's okay, you've got to go to another home". It was about four days before her first birthday and at the time I didn't know I would never see her again. I was 7 years old at the time but there was worse to come for me and my family."*

After the incident none of the children were given counselling and none of the house parents, who were their guardians, made any attempt to deal with the children's emotional wellbeing. The impact of the Council's failings and the death of Child 41 on the lives of her siblings were inevitable and can be demonstrated by a file note found on Child 40's file when four years later she screamed at the staff *"you killed my sister – you're murderers, you're murderers, you're murderers, you're murderers!"*

Child 40 was born in the 1960's and had many placements in her time in care. She was sent to Shirley Oaks where she was sexually abused by Aunty Judy's husband John, in House 9. She was also made to stand naked or in just knickers in the coal shed. She was abused at the back of the house near the Doctors' office. She was subjected to physical abuse from Uncle Sam, which was confirmed in a document at the Library. Child 40 recalls a black boy she thinks was called x who was also subjected to horrific physical abuse from Uncle Sam.

Child 40 was sent to Frank Court where she was sexually abused by a male staff member which she reported to the head of the unit. The payback was being physically assaulted by a staff member called Warrick. It was around 20 years ago that Child 40 was approached by someone who she thinks was a social worker or a police person.

The person turned up on her doorstep unannounced to discuss sexual abuse in her time in the care of Lambeth Council. Child 40 gave an account but heard nothing from them. Her

traumatic childhood has had devastating consequences on her personally; she has battled with drugs and alcohol during her life.

Child 41's death impacted Child 40 as a child as did being exposed to sexual abuse at home and whilst in the care of Lambeth Council. She did not receive counselling and this has added to her continued vulnerability. Even though Child 40 was in care most of her life she received no care and blames Lambeth Council for failing to save her from the perils of her mother and then placing her in children's homes which were mired in sexual scandals and led to her being physically and sexually abused.

Child 39

I was born xxxxxx 1965 I went into care aged 1 years old and was initially placed into Ladywell Nursery. I left care in 1981 after being recommended by my social worker to attend a Detention Centre, I also went to Borstal. Judging by my records I attended Shirley Oaks in 1970 until 1974 aged 5 to 9. I attended the primary school but don't remember much of Shirley Oaks, which in my life is an indication that it wasn't a happy experience. I know this because all the bad experiences in my life I have blocked out and they only come back to me as recurring nightmares. I believe we were all in House 9.

I remember being in South Vale on a few occasions and I know I was there as a young child. My experiences at South Vale are of Mr X. He was a bully and a manipulator and I remember him trying to turn the other boys against me by revealing why I had been sent to South Vale. He told the other boys I had broken my mother's ribs and I believed he did this so they would dislike me. He used to take me to the boot room and physically abuse me as a form of control; I also witnessed him beating other boys. He seemed to enjoy the role of being the South Vale executioner. I was at the home when a young boy died and they said it was because of an asthma attack which of course brought back memories of my sister Child 41. I spent all my time in South Vale being scared.

I was placed in foster care with Mrs Page in 1974, aged 9 years old. I remember being humiliated and remember thinking how horrible this place was. She was an evil bitch, so much so that at 9 years old I ran away but the police brought me back. I went to boarding school from the age of 10 years old to 13 and an incident took place where I brought an air rifle to school so I was kicked out and sent to Stamford House.

My Lambeth timeline states I was in Stamford House twice however I only remember once. Stamford house was an all-boys remand centre and it was a place where the staff had total control over our lives. This is where I suffered sexual abuse by a man I knew as Mr Whitely (he had glasses, blonde hair). He used to take the children out of their cells at night separately, let them watch TV and sexually abuse them.

Author's Comments:

It is clear that the children's mother could never have provided a safe environment for her children. The children now believe the reason the Council's failure to recognise this was due to an improper sexual relationship between the mother and a social worker. She was the one who granted their mother's wishes by returning the children so they could be prostituted and then putting them back in care when she couldn't cope. The fact that their mother had given

the worker the only picture she had of some of the children and some of their birth certificates and other documents is an indication that their mother held the social worker in high esteem.

There have been numerous claims against Mr X of physical abuse from Shirley residents who had been in South Vale prior to going to Shirley Oaks. The claims are so serious we have noted each one and this will appear in the final report. As part of our research into Shirley Oaks we have spoken to Mr X on numerous occasions after he contacted us. He subsequently sent me a photo of myself at South Vale. It came as a shock because I had forgotten I had been sent to this place and even when I remembered I didn't believe anyone had taken a photograph of me. However, my memory came back and I can confirm he was a sadistic bully.

We would later discover that Mr. X who I was forced to be cordial with for the sake of the investigation had in his possession hundreds of photos of children, many of which he has now handed over to the Police. **We requested the photos and he sent them.**

Child 38:

In 1970 Children 38, 39 and 40 were sent to Shirley Oaks, all went into House 9 initially with house parents Aunty Judy and Uncle John. Aunty Judy mentally and physically abused and humiliated all of the children. All the children in House 9 suffered abuse from Judy. For example, one girl wet the bed and Judy made her wear a nappy, she was 9/10 years old and left to feel humiliated.

Uncle John never had much to do with the children or the house; he looked after their daughter, xxxx who was 8 months old. Uncle John and the baby left suddenly one day. We believe he was sexually abusing Child 40, we suspect he may have been caught; so general staff took over until Aunty Pat and a new Uncle John were placed in charge. Child 38 was fostered by a teacher (non-Shirley Oaks) Sheila Ram and her husband David for 9 months whilst Children 39 and 40 stayed in Shirley Oaks.

At home, the sexual abuse towards Children 38 and 40 from men their mother brought home would continue - some of these men she would meet at pubs and were "casual boyfriends". The girls state that they don't know if mum was aware that this was happening "mum was out on alcohol all the time". Instead of creating a better environment for them to recover from their trauma, the sexual abuse would continue under the care of Lambeth Council for Children 38, 39 and 40.

Child 38 was away from the family for 9 months whilst fostered, then went home with the whole family for a year. After that, all the children went into South Vale. Child 38 was in foster care for a short time when her mum was in hospital with Child 41. In 1974, they went into care for a while, whilst their mother 'dried out'. Child 38 was 10 years old whilst at Shirley Oaks, when she was sexually abused by 3 boys who lived at the children's home.

Child 38 believes that when she was in care with Mr and Mrs Hill, Lambeth Social Services knew about her unhappiness and did nothing about it. Mrs Hill was struck-off the fostering list in 2010, Child 38 believes this is because Mr Hill had a temper as he was alcohol dependent. The Hills would foster children with Downs Syndrome and make them massage her feet.

One disabled child was 16 when he was fostered by the Hills. Mrs Hill was horrible to him. Eventually he ran away for 3 months but then came back. He then couldn't handle it so ran

away again and again. On the third occasion he ran away, he killed himself; he was 21 years old when he died. Lambeth Council should never have placed the disabled child or Child 38 at this home. After the sexual abuse she endured, Child 38 now finds it hard to have relationships; she has trust issues, is semi-literate and has family issues.

House 35 – Case Study

Child 42

Placed in Chevington (briefly) then Shirley Oaks - 1966 to 69/70
House 32 and House 22

“I was sexually abused” (buggery) at 6 years old by a man in House 35 where my two younger brothers were staying. I was led to him by a woman who shut the door and left me with him. She knew what was going on. I have no names, I only went there once to see my brothers who had been separated from me two years prior (64). Shortly after House 35 was closed my brothers moved in with me in House 22. My aunties in House 32 and House 22 were decent people as far as I know. But somebody needs to look into who was running House 35 in the year of 66/67 as there was a paedophile gang in there. The effects on my two brothers who lived in the cottage is a life-time of suffering and self-doubt and being damaged by the whole sick affair.”

Author’s Comments:

The first thing we do at SOSA when an allegation comes in is to create a paper file on the house, in this case House 35. We then collate all the information we have on the house from various sources. House 35; was used as a placement for maladjusted boys; however, there were periods when it was an all-girls’ house. Checking through our records we discovered there was another boy who lived in House 35 in the relevant period. He wasn’t sexually abused but confirmed the allegations about this house.

Child 43

South Vale 1969, Shirley Oaks (12 years old) 1969 to 1972 - into foster care until 1974.

House 35 and House 40.

“I was physically abused by Uncle Sam in House 40.”

Author’s Comments:

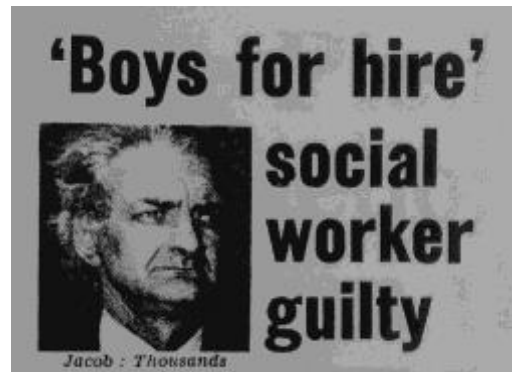
Whilst noting Child 43’s complaint against Uncle Sam, which is consistent with other claims, he mentioned three other people that instantly took our attention. One of these was Abraham Jacobs, a man we had been tracking because another resident had mentioned that he had worked in Shirley Oaks in the 1960s.

We believe this is the convicted prolific paedophile Abraham Jacobs who would end up in

prison for abusing numerous boys in a sadistic manner. We called the other resident to check the facts and she confirmed that in 1964/5 Abraham Jacob worked on the Shirley grounds doing odd jobs such as working in the garden, shop, being at the front gate and working around the school. She also stated that he was drinking buddies with William Hook, another convicted paedophile. The media were aware that he worked in Lambeth child care before moving to Islington, another borough that was riddled with paedophiles. *'The 46 year old former residential care officer working with elderly people with Islington Council in August 1970 after previously working for Lambeth as a house father in one of its children's home'*. There was no mention in any of the press or police statements that he had worked at Shirley Oaks.

'Boys for Hire' Social Worker Guilty (Daily Mail, 15th May 1986):

"A HOMOSEXUAL social worker showed no emotion last night as he was found guilty of running a boy prostitution racket in the heart of London. Two women jurors wept as the Old Bailey heard the majority verdict on 44-year-old Abraham Jacob, a senior care officer for the elderly in Islington. He had denied living off immoral earnings. The jury took nearly 14 hours to reach their decision, and spent a night at a secret hotel.



Jacob, of Holland Walk, Upper Holloway, London, will be sentenced today. He is the 25th man to be convicted in a police investigation called Operation Circus. He earned thousands from young runaways who had fallen on hard times. Using the Wimpy Bar in Piccadilly Circus as his headquarters, he had up to 20 boys under his control at any one time. Boys sat behind a window in the hamburger bar waiting to be chosen by men found by Jacob. Police officers watched him hawking for business by sliding up to potential customers."

Author's Comments:

The court heard that London was known as the boy prostitution 'centre of Europe' and judging by what we have been told, many of the children were from Lambeth's children's homes. The men rounded up in the clean-up campaign included a history master at a public school, **a superintendent at a children's home**, a scout master and another teacher. Sentences were given of up to four-and-a-half years. Jacob, who once worked in a London children's home, was convicted in 1974 of indecency with a boy in a toilet.

First Follow Up Call to Child 43:

Child 43 clarified that Jacob had progressed from being the odd jobs man /when he arrived at Shirley Oaks to becoming an assistant house father. He recalls Abraham Jacob taking the boys to the onsite Shirley swimming baths where he would insist the boys swim with no swimming trunks on. He noticed that the younger boys would be the ones who would get all the attention.

Child 43 confirmed our fears that another house father, Brian Fitzgerald had an interest in younger boys and would make them sit on his lap. xxxx and xxxx would be his favourites and he believes that Fitzgerald and one of the boys were in a relationship. Child 43 also confirmed that Fitzgerald was in the RAF. At some point in 1970/71, an investigation was conducted by the Shirley Oaks management. All the children were interviewed and following this, the house

was closed overnight which is consistent with the evidence from one resident regarding the closure. This investigation was conducted when Fitzgerald was the house parent.

Investigation Update:

There is one other person who worked in House 35 who we have received complaints against. He was said to beat the children for pleasure and all the children were scared of him. We were later contacted by an ex-Shirley resident who stated that she was in House 35. In her statement she confirms she was sexually, physically and mentally abused. However, she is too distraught to disclose all the details at the moment but she wanted to support other victim; we also put her in touch with a counsellor.

There was another girl who was abused in this house. For the period that Fitzgerald was the house father, she was the only girl in the house but she used to sleep next door in the adjoining house in the staff quarters. The boys used to sneak through the adjoining door and abuse her. We believe that her placement was premeditated and the boys abusing her were being monitored.

Some of the staff that worked at House 35:

- *W Bennett – Assistant Housemother – Left in July 1965.*
- *Michael James Godfrey – Child Care Officer – Oct 1972 – July 1973*
- *John Antony Mahon – Officer in Charge – Oct 1972 – July 1973*
- *Margaret Purdy – Child Care Officer – Nov 1972 – July 1973*
- *? Whiting – Jan 1973*

Margaret Purdy who became a house parent had initially given us evidence with another house parent but she contacted us a second time and confirmed that she worked at House 35 a second time around 1975 and there was an occasion when the children went swimming and a member of staff was allegedly touching the boys in the pool. Margaret believes this person to be a non-residential worker called Keith. Margaret states he was removed straight away and she believes that one of the boys involved was called xxxx. Margaret said that Keith used to be a teacher before working at Shirley Oaks.

Investigation Update:

There are people who are mentioned in this report that worked at Ingleton Boys Home and many of the children who were residents at the home were sent to Shirley Oaks' House 35. The relevant people to mention are: Abraham Jacobs, John Mahon, Mr Matwaka, David Revill, Don Thomas and Jergen Sandler.

Child 43 also remembered a Dutch man who used to wear glasses and clogs. He would sit on the Shirley grounds with shorts and no pants and make sure his penis was slipping out. Child 43 remembers children saying that this Dutch man abused them and the boys would go into detail about what he would do to them. xxxx who lived in House 14 remembers a man of the same description, blonde hair and glasses, who was caught embezzling money. He used the money to go on holiday to Holland and would bring clogs back for Shirley children. He was suspended and we believe this was connected with the claims that he was sexually abusing the children.

Checking through our notes, the first reference to the Dutch man was made by Child 24. Child 43 and xxxx did not know each other at Shirley Oaks and they had not been in contact after leaving Shirley Oaks or during this investigation so their independent accounts are corroboratory.

House 30 House

Child 44



House 30 and House 31 were known by Shirley Oaks children as two of the 'dark houses'. This was in part due to the location of the cottages which were surrounded by giant 50ft Oak and Fir trees, which created a constant shadow. Whilst other parts of Shirley Oaks were blazed in sunshine during the summer months, these two houses were shrouded in a dark fog.

Child 44

House 30

"We were subjected to physical and mental abuse almost every day from the Carrol twins. We were locked under the stairs, had our hair pulled, slapped around the head and made to stand in just our knickers waiting to be inspected. We had to use the same sanitary towel for the whole of our menstrual cycle so we stank. We were not told when my father died until my social worker came two days later.

One of the teachers at the school Mr Sumner would come into the changing room when we went swimming on the pretext of helping us to dry our hair. He would tell us to take our towel away and would look at us. This used to make me feel really uncomfortable."

Author's Comments:

The Carrols both received a long service award in 1966 which is usually associated with 25 years' service. After the Carroll twins left House 30, we know the house was taken over by an Asian man who had a wife and a child. We believe this was the husband of Helen Nadar. We would later discover that this man would use the access door between House 30 and House 31, which was supposed to be used as a fire escape. It was the perfect opportunity for abusing children in the connecting cottage as one young girl would discover.

Child 45

House 31

Child 45 sadly died but in keeping with the Shirley spirit she has helped us from her grave via a statement she gave to the police in 2001.

"I was born in Lambeth on 17/04/1959. I am the sixth child in the family of seven. Out of the seven, the eldest was x (now deceased), then xxxx and myself (as we are twins), and then xxxx.

I was in bed one night and I was awoken by a man. I was really frightened. The whole house had gone to bed. I can't remember exactly when it was, or how old I was, and have a problem remembering years and days. Behind my bed was a door and this led directly into the next house which was called House 30.

This man was standing at the bottom of my bunk bed, he was tall enough so that as he was standing up, his chest was in line with my bunk, where he could reach me quite easily. I didn't hear him come in. I wasn't aware he was in there until he started touching me. I was really frightened. I was only too aware that my sister and another girl were there too, and were younger and smaller than me, and I felt I needed to stay as long as I could because he'd start on them. He put his hand between my legs and was touching me between my legs. He touched my vagina with his fingers and it stung.

I made out I thought he was one of the girls sleepwalking and he actually fell for it. He never said anything to me, not a word and he was fully clothed. I pushed him and said, "Now look that's enough you're sleep walking and I'm going to get really angry, xxx get back into bed, I'm going to the toilet now." This went on for a while until I knew I had to get out so I jumped off and run out.

I went to Miss Boland's room and shouted at her "Miss Boland, there's a man in my room". She sat up and looked at me and I repeated myself. So she put something on and said "come with me". So we went through, and she looked around. I'm looking under the bed, and he's gone, and she said "Oh, there's nothing here". She was about to go away, and I said, "No, no, look", and underneath the door, to next door, there was a light under the door. I said to her "There's a light under there". She looked at me and said "Oh". So she went through and asked me to hold the "fire door".

This door opened inwards into a bedroom in House 30. She was looking around, we're both looking ahead, and I can't see anything, she obviously can't see anything, then she went to come back and the next bit nearly finished me. She stood there, she went really pale, she

looked ever so ill. She was really pale, and it suddenly dawned on me, she'd got me holding the door and he's behind it. No wonder she looked so ill. Then she looked disgusted. It was then I sort of realised from her reaction and the look on her face that she actually knew who was behind the door.

I heard some men's voices downstairs. I think she must have called "The Cavalry". By this I mean the men in charge of running the home, the house mothers' bosses. I truly believe they'd come over and cover it all up when something like this happened. Then she got me downstairs and asked me, "What happened, what was he doing?" It wasn't what she asked; it was the way she asked me, like I'd done something wrong.

I understand on reflection that the woman was very angry. I said "I think he was looking for sweets under my pillow" and she said "Pardon?" I never actually told her what he did to me as I thought I'd get into trouble and I thought she wouldn't believe me anyway. Then she really freaked me out when she went to put her arm around me. Now I knew there was definitely something wrong because in all the years she looked after me she never once gave me a cuddle."

Investigation Update:

Child 45's statement has been confirmed by a house parent, Margaret Purdy, who previously worked at another cottage and was told the next morning of the alleged incident. She remembers being called by Nellie Rouse, who had been contacted by Don Thomas, one of the Lambeth management team, who had asked her to take over the running of House 30. The person she replaced was the Asian man - and his wife. We know this is the same person and with Margaret's help and Child 45's police statement we pinpointed the date to around 1971 which would have made Child 45 10/11 years old.

Middleton investigated Child 45's claim and we believe she did not receive any compensation as she was not believed - we are shocked that the police did not interview Margaret Purdy as she was a key witness to what happened at that time. The Shirley Oaks management did not call the police when this happened as they had no record of the incident and Don Thomas was in charge of the cover up.

The residents of the adjacent cottage, House 30, didn't fare any better than Child 45 in House 31, because there were abusers operating in this home also. The man called Jergen also worked there, Geoff Clark and they were all be able to utilise the fire escape to extend their abuse to children in the neighbouring cottage.

Dewi Black, also known as Robert Black worked in House 30 at Shirley Oaks before he worked at St Saviours in Lambeth in 1983. Robert's change of name, should have been an indication he was hiding something he had done in House 30 or House 31. If we judge him by his placement in St Saviours from 1982 – 1986, we can confirm that he is a paedophile. Lambeth Council confirmed that there were complaints against him in the early 1980's and some of his victims are members of SOSA. The story of Dewi Black will appear in the Lambeth report under St Saviours children's home.

These are the confirmed house parents that worked at House 30. We have identified five of them as paedophiles or abusers but there could be more:

A Carroll	Housemother	? – 31/10/1969
Helen Nadar	O.I.C	17/08/1970 – 15/03/1971
Mr Nadar		
Anthony Fotheringham	R.C.C.O	20/09/1971 – 30/04/1973
Gillian Fotheringham	O.I.C	01/04/1975 – 26/08/1976
Doris Graham	R.C.C.O	19/07/1976 – 12/12/1976
Rinske Taekema	R.C.C.O	04/04/1977 – 02/08/197?
Sue Burgess	Housemother	16/05/1977 – 19/12/1977
James Gent	Housefather	15/05/1978 – 30/06/1978
Dale Exton	O.I.C	04/08/1978 – 13/07/1982
Richard Harris	A.O.I.C	19/10/1978 – 18/07/1982
Dewi Black	Housefather	02/04/1979 – 15/02/1981
Dewi Black	A.O.I.C	16/02/1981 – 14/10/1981
Cindy Cardew	C.R.C.O	03/08/1981 – 12/04/1982
Elizabeth Boley	S.A.O.I.C	31/08/1981 – 20/04/1982



Pre 1965, House 31 was run by Miss Boland who was a staunch Catholic and the children pre and post 1965 were all Catholic. The only men who were constantly in the house were priests and they were from the church situated just outside the grounds of Shirley Oaks which all the children would attend.

Child 45 mentioned in her police statement that many priests would visit the cottage. One of them was Father McKenna who we now know was abusing Shirley children. Father McKenna also held Catholic meetings in the nursery where paedophiles and facilitators would meet and 50 children aged from 3 months to three years lived.

McKenna was part of the Lady of our Annunciation Church. We know that McKenna would split up the boys and girls when they went to church and we were told by a female child that he would touch them up. He would also do the same to the boys. The children would come out of the back in tears.

Child 45 (Extract from Statement to the Police)

“My name’s Child 45. As well as the Asian man, I was also abused by the boiler man. I don’t know whether or not he lived at Shirley. Both the swimming pool and the laundry needed heating and this is where the boiler man came in, as he shovelled the coal and looked after the boilers for the laundry and the swimming pool. I was a very good swimmer and enjoyed it as well, so I was in that area of the premises on a regular basis. The boiler room was just around the corner from the swimming pool.

One day I ventured into the boiler room out of pure curiosity, and because you weren’t supposed to. I don’t know when it was or how old I was but I do know I was still at primary school and I went there during daylight. Then this chap caught me in there. I don’t know his name, Michael rings a bell, but I am unsure. However, I always refer to him as the boiler man. I don’t know how old he was but I don’t think he was as young as the Asian house father from House 30; he had an old face in comparison. I was there on my own, and I froze because I knew I shouldn’t have been there. He called me over and pulled me by my arm behind one of the big boilers.

I can’t remember saying anything. I’d been making my way out, but he pulled me out of the way behind this boiler thing and stuck his hand down my knickers and put his fingers in my vagina. He was holding my arm firmly with his other hand. He was staring at me the whole time. He was creepy. I didn’t try and pull away, as it was obvious I wasn’t going anywhere. I couldn’t tell anyone because I would have got into trouble for being in there in the first place. After that I ran off.”

Child 46

House 31

“My name is Child 46 D.O.B xx/xx/1970. I was born in London, Lambeth. I was placed in Shirley Oaks in 1971 and moved from Shirley Oaks to Chevington’s children’s home in September 1975. Whilst at Shirley Oaks I was described as a bright, bubbly, friendly and above average intelligence child. When I arrived at Chevington, my abuse ensued.

Members of staff, physically, sexually and emotionally abused and traumatised me. I was dissuaded from learning; a particular member of staff would beat me if he caught me attempting to write or read. Me and my sister were denied any form of personal care products, to the point that we would moisturize our skin with our own saliva. Often at Chevington I was overwrought with fear to the point that I had to bang my head at night against the headboard of the bed, or violently rock myself to sleep.

My brother Child 47, whom is now deceased (xxxxxx), was also denied an education at Shirley Oaks. He often spoke of suffering from physical, sexual and emotional abuse in House 31 by two members of staff, Jergen and Geoff Clark. As a result he ended up in prison for a large portion of his adult life.

My sister and I were contacted by the CHILE team AKA Middleton inquiry in 2000-2001. They wanted to investigate allegations made by former children in care; their inquiry sought to confirm whether the purported reports of children suffering from emotional, sexual, physical and psychological abuse were true. I made a written statement to the team which went on record and is in my personal file."

Author's comments:

xxxx stated to his sister that he was abused by both Geoff Clark and Jergen Sandler. However, we believe xxxx was also abused by both of them at the same time. He was very vulnerable and all the children remember him always being sad. Knowing what we know through the other victims anyone in these houses was a target. Whilst the sexual and physical abuse was taking place there was no attempt by house parents to appropriately deal with the children's wellbeing or educational needs let alone inspiring them to be respectable citizens.

Author's Concluding Points about the Case Studies

During our investigation we were contacted by hundreds of former children who had been sexually and physically abused and an equal number who gave accounts of physical and sexual abuse who did not want to seek compensation because of the stigma attached to the crimes committed on them. Many had not even told family members, including husbands, wives and children. The reason they gave their evidence was to support the claims of other Shirley Oaks children. We were also contacted by many ex-residents with a view to us filling in the missing pieces of their childhoods. In some cases they wanted to know whether the nightmares that had permeated their lives were because they had been sexually abused.

10.b After interviewing and speaking to hundreds of people and requesting their care files for them and then cross referencing the activity of the paedophiles that operated at Shirley Oaks, we have come to a stark and terrifying conclusion. There are various reasons why survivors may have blockages in the recall of some of their childhood memories;

1. Maybe because they were too young to remember the abuse;
2. They have deliberately blocked their recall or
3. Most disturbingly the widespread use of drugs administered without the necessary checks in Shirley Oaks provided an opportunity to the paedophiles.

Whatever is the case, what is clear is there are claims of abuse against the management team, Doctors, psychiatrists, priests, vicars, scout masters, social uncles/aunts, house parents and Lambeth employees. With such a wide cross section of individuals all carrying out their vile acts in one children's home, we believe they were operating with the knowledge of each other and knowing they would be protected by senior members of the social services and housing departments.

10. Conclusions

10.a This report demonstrates the scale of the child abuse that occurred at Shirley Oaks. over decades, many children were sexually, physically, racially and mentally abuse, the extent of the abuse they experienced impacted their lives forever. For some children, those that died in care or those who died subsequently, as a result of the trauma of the horrendous abuse they suffered in care, we dedicate this report, in remembrance of their suffering. Similarly, for all those brave survivors that spoke out, after so many years, we thank you for your courage and tenacity.

10.b What is damning for us as a society and particularly those in power, is the extent to which this abuse was allowed to continue over decades, with little intervention or remedial action. What this demonstrates is what we as care child felt, 'we were children of a lesser god'. The trauma of being put in care and torn away from our families was distressing enough. Being placed into local authority care and being re-traumatised has, as this report highlights, done untold, long term damage to many of us. Although some of us may look successful on the surface, the impact of suffering abuse at Shirley Oaks has irreparably damaged us to the core of our souls. To suffer abuse at the hands of our House parents/ carers; the lack of intervention by Lambeth Council and the unwillingness of the Police to believe us or carry out thorough investigations has tainted our lives and left indelible stains on theirs.

10.c I am still in shock by what we have uncovered but hope this, and the final Lambeth report, will at the very least, reduce the possibility of child abuse occurring on this scale in the future.

10.d Many children's homes are now run privately and there is a greater emphasis on foster care but that does not mean that local authorities who retain a duty of care towards care children should release their reins. In our view, the opposite is true, as we have seen with older people's care, hands off commissioning of services may allow abuse to occur out of plain sight and with tightened Social Care budgets, it may be easier for local authorities to 'turn a blind eye' due to lack of resources, rather than tackle issues head on in the first instance. What is more than likely true, is there are still many paedophiles and other abusers who will be attracted to working within the childcare system – we need collectively to be working towards eradicating this evil and thus, allowing care children to thrive and reach their potential. We hope this point is taken on board by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) as part of its overarching recommendations.

10.e The reasons we were forced to pull out of the Inquiry after providing the Inquiry team with a copy of our first report 'Turning a Blind Eye' are multi-faceted. Firstly, we do not believe Professor Alexis Jay is the right person to carry out the type of Inquiry that is necessary. Our fear that she will not carry out a forensic investigation has been substantiated by her public responses. We believe she will conduct a superficial exercise, with an emphasis on the truth project and old fashioned, hashed-up seminars and forums. In essence an enlarged therapeutic counselling session. We are also concerned that there is a conflict of interest with the Home Office being involved in the Inquiry and this is best summed up by their refusal, despite numerous requests, to outline their liability over children's homes during the period historic child abuse was at its worst. The response the Home Office did provide contradicted the evidence we had obtained from our own endeavours which suggests they are still covering-up.

10.f Another reason we pulled out of the Inquiry was our concern about the Inquiry's lack of interest in exploring all avenues to encourage the widest input from victims of historical abuse. Part of SOSA's success has been the fact that we have been able to use our own funding to raise the profile of Shirley Oaks through various videos and media campaigns which has encouraged more survivors to come forward. Once we had established the absolute failure to protect the children in its care we asked Lambeth to fund various campaigns and additional staff for particular elements of our investigation.

10.g Using our own model as an example we made various approaches to the Independent Inquiry about them funding a national campaign to encourage survivors of sexual abuse to come forward. We knew from our own experience that many victims were (and still are) undecided about whether or not to take part in what may be their first and last opportunity to seek justice for the crimes committed towards them. This once in a lifetime opportunity may not be for everyone but a campaign would have allowed the silent majority of survivors to arrive at an informed opinion of the merits of being part of the Inquiry.

10.h The fact that the campaign would have been designed for survivors would have shown the Inquiry to be reaching out to them –with this approach it would have been more likely that survivors would have responded positively. It is clear from the media’s success in exposing Jimmy Savile and the recent revelations about abuse in football that survivors need encouragement to come forward.

10.g At various meetings attended by Ben Emmerson with a few members of the Victim Support Panel, we once again lobbied for all the core participants survivor groups to receive funding commensurate with their numbers. The Inquiry’s response was to create a layer of red tape:

‘On the face of it therefore the Inquiry has no power to fund the day to day running costs of an organisation such as SOSA, not least because SOSA exists for a number of reasons besides its core participant role’.

10.h What the Inquiry failed to understand was our efforts to seek funding were in support other victim organisations because we were already funded but more importantly at the time we were already considering pulling out.

10.j What angered us was discovering that the Inquiry had given back millions of pounds to the Home office as an under-spend. We hope the Inquiry will allow all survivor groups to apply for funding separate from their legal fees so that they have the opportunity to follow our model and have ownership over their Core Participant status. This is an important point as large organisations, such as the Police, CPS and Councils have a vast array of resources at their disposal to support their own investigations – whilst most survivor groups have no funding at all and this will inevitably impede their progress.

10.j The reason we have made the momentous decision to publish our own report is that we have simply lost trust in the Inquiry and do not want them to become the custodians of our story. We believe that the only way for people to truly learn from the child abuse experienced by so many is to re-examine the past in detail and expose fully what went wrong. We take this responsibility very seriously and it was always a part of our remit; we believe that the injuries suffered by those at Shirley Oaks should never be swept under the carpet even if liability is accepted and compensation paid.

After two years of investigations we may never know the true extent of the abuse that occurred at Shirley Oaks Children’s Home, but what we do know is every child was unwittingly put at risk.

N.B:

- *We hope this report will encourage more people to come forward.*
- *All information contained in this report has come from our own research, Minet Library, London Metropolitan Archive, National Archives, former Shirley Oaks children, former Shirley Oaks house parents and whistle blowers.*
- *This interim report was presented to Lambeth Council who had four weeks to challenge any key findings in writing.*

Shirley Oaks Survivors Association
Interim Report
15th December 2016

Looking for a Place Called Home is dedicated to all those Shirley Oaks children who are sadly not alive to witness the reclaiming of Shirley Oaks. Your childhood innocence will never be forgotten. Your memory will now live on. R.I.P.



Going Forward

Shirley Oaks did not fail because the concept was flawed or undeliverable, it failed because of the people who were mandated to deliver the concept. The lesson society should learn from this is that evil institutions derive from evil people.

We hope that our investigation and its findings, however painful, will finally enable Lambeth Council and the community to bury the lies and resurrect the truth. In doing so, Lambeth is now in a position to learn from its mistakes and share them with other institutions.

