

Social Care Institute for Excellence

Interview Summary Sheet

Title Page

Ref no: C1597/11

Collection title: Care Leavers' Stories

Interviewee's surname: Nixon

Title: Mr

**Interviewee's
forename:** Darron

Sex: Male

Occupation: Consultant in Care
and Support for
people with learning
disabilities

Date of birth: 1965

Dates of recording: 22.06.13

Location of interview: Social Care Institute for Excellence, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5BH

Name of interviewer: Rahma Mohammed

Type of recorder: Canon XF 305

Recording format : .mxf

Total no. of tracks: 1

Mono or stereo: Stereo

Total Duration: 2:15:12

Additional material:

Copyright/Clearance: Full clearance

**Interviewer's
comments:** The last two questions at [2:13:55] were filmed as clarification about earlier comments in order to be as clear as possible about the situation in the home.

C1597/11 Darron Nixon

Track one [2:15:12] [Session: 22nd June 2013] [00:00:00] Darron Nixon [DN], lives in Durham, currently a commissioner of services for people with learning disabilities, in process of leaving job, in process of starting own consultancy company. Discusses why he would like to leave his job, mentions that job started to affect his health, one of friends died, friends wife asked him to work with her, talks more about his company, talks about what motivates him to do good. Briefly talks about early childhood, did nurse training and is now a registered nurse, discusses that people with learning disabilities weren't treated well in the 1990s, lists areas he has lived in. Talks about memories before a fire, recalls a raging fire, lived in council house with mum, dad was at work as insurance man, mum just left him in front of fire, aged 5, mum went missing for 3 years, mum had secretly been gambling, couldn't pay off debts, mum lived in London for 3 years with a man named Fred Broome FB, mum wanted him back, aged 8 driven to London to live with her [00:05:43].

Track 1 [cont. from 00:05:43] FB worked with social services working with elderly, was a cruel man, used to groom DN, FB married mum, talks about the cruel things FB used to do to him, felt alone, lived in rough neighbourhood in Paddington, mum worked in taxi office, FB worked as relief warden, lived in 1 bed flat, moved around a lot, Hammersmith, FB used to occasionally slap him, DN arrogant child when he was younger, used to break into own home, learnt to cook, clean, sew, moved with nan aged 5, was a lovely woman, aged 8-12 took fishing tackle and ran away, FB used to tell him no one wanted him, father rarely visited him, took him fishing once, describes his route to his grandma's house(mums house), weren't happy to see him, sent him back to London, lived with nan from 12-13, moved home for mum and FBs wedding, FB used to punch him, talks about the abuse he received, asked to go into care, went to Frogmore Assessment Centre [FAC], Wandsworth, FB had a son who changed his name and cut ties with FB, believes mother knew what was going on, FB abused his younger half-brother, DN couldn't speak to anyone [00:14:51].

Track 1 [cont. from 00:14:51] Didn't have any help in his days, mentions that his school life was tempestuous, used to be bullied as he was from the north east, used to change accents to fit in. Describes his father and their current relationship, felt isolated, his nan (dad's mum) was only support system, he knew he loved her, dad had issues, wasn't approachable. DN has become a self-made man, has good relationship with wife of 3 years and 2 children, talks about transition of living at home and being in care, [00:19:53] talks about Wandsworth assessment centre [FAC], den of inequity, no supervision, suffered physical abusive there, saved another child's life who lived in FAC, staff used to use marijuana. Talks about a happy memory eating curried goat with an African girl. Moved to Lillie Road Centre [LRC] after 3 months, based in 2 areas, run by Roman Catholic organisation, strict, organised, moved to Fulham site, run by catholic priest, staff generally cared, found it positive, talks about the outings and family holidays, describes relationships with the staff at LRC, staff suggested he do a voluntary placements, talks about difficulties doing GCSEs and being at sixth form. Talks about his son and his fiancé, wished he had gone into foster care at 8 instead of living with mum and FB, but reflects on fact he wouldn't have met wife [00:29:39]

Track 1 [cont. from 00:29:39] Describes relationship with mum, tried to rekindle relationships with both parents, talks about his relationship with his family, describes mother's relationship with FB, continues to talk about the cruelty FB used to enforce on him, was always strong minded, talks about his father and what he would have done if he had

known about FB, talks about relationship with children in LRC, best memories at LRC, school life and the impact of moving around, racial bullying [00:37:45], went to 4/5 junior schools, 3 secondary schools, feels as though he could have done so much more with regards to education, discusses relationship with social worker, Margaret Clarke [MC], mentions he had abandonment issues, continues to talk about MC, really nice woman who cared, recalls birthdays and Christmases, mothers days and fathers days, his parents reaction to him wanting to talk about what he went through as a child, he is a painful reminder of his mother's past, talks about FBs death of prostate cancer [00:47:08], mother didn't want him at the funeral, describes transition from being in care to leaving care, talks about meeting wife and marrying her, found it difficult financially, wife has been a positive influence, talks about friendships with children at school, describes his school, talks about best school he had been to, talks about stigma attached to kids in care, parents evenings, teachers relationships [00:57:20], felt as though he had missed out on a childhood, constantly tried to prove himself to people [01:01:17] [ten-minute comfort break].

Track 1 [cont. from 01:01:17] talks about making complaints whilst in care, felt disempowered, abandonment issues, other kids in FAC used to self-harm, DN used to self-harm, didn't feel as though he could have spoken to anyone, talks about how he stopped self-harming, talks about a time he felt safe in care, talks about having a copy of his care records, felt misjudged, positives taken from being in care, worst thing FB ever did to him, role models he had whilst in care, talks about his work as a carer, ashamed of being in care [01:13:41], positives taken from care and implemented into the work place, very compassionate about what he believes in, talks about is children's reaction to him being in care, broken the cycle of abusive family relationships, mother used to steal money from him, at age 14 got a Saturday job, worked in a butcher shop, learnt to manage his own money, has no debt, two houses with loans paid off on both of them, thinks things could have gone wrong but didn't because of his attitude, mother was too busy with herself, hurt that father was a father to someone else's children but not to him, describes fathers relationship with his step children, talks about what he thinks life would have been like had he stayed with his father at age 8 [01:24:49]

Track 1 [cont. from 01:24:49] Talks about his relationship with his step mother, lived briefly with his step mother and her 2 sons, other family members tried to look after him, talks about his self-esteem growing up, felt worthless, repeatedly abandoned, digital world didn't exist during his time in care, mentions what he thinks has happened to his previous care homes [01:30:12], never had issues trusting people, reiterates what a positive experience his wife has had, talks about what he would have said to himself at the age of 8 years, talks in more detail about his company that he set up, inspire insight, talks about his current relationships with his family members, father was devoted to his mum, reiterates that he was a remanence of the past [01:43:34], talks about his father's relationship with his wife and children, recalls the time that his nan died, was the only death that really affected him, DN talks of his opinions of social workers- then and now, continues to describe FB's character, mum tried to run away once or twice and took him with her, mentions that his mum has a gambling problem, FB had money and fed the habit, never really felt loved by his mum, recalls arguments and fights between his mum and FB [01:56:56],

Track 1 [cont. from 01:56:56] Talks of his love for fishing, talks of day trips with mum and FB, describes area where he lived with his mum and FB, describes areas where he lived in his children's homes, always went fishing alone [02:07:49], recalls how he got into fishing, how

he saw his life turning out and his aspirations, talks of his children's achievements, talks more of his experience at FAC and the staff that had worked there. [02:15:12] Interview end.