

# Social Care Institute for Excellence

## Interview Summary Sheet

## Title Page

**Ref no:** C1597/03

**Collection title:** Care Leavers' Stories

**Interviewee's surname:** Mulcahy

**Title:** Mr

**Interviewee's  
forename:** David

**Sex:** Male

**Occupation:** Student/ unemployed

**Date of birth:** 1986

**Dates of recording:** 02.05.13

**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:**  
2:13:32

**Additional material:**

**Copyright/Clearance:** Full clearance

**Interviewer's  
comments:**

C1597/04 David Mulcahy

Track 1 [2:54:57] [Session: 7th May 2013] [00:00:00] David Mulcahy [DM], introduces himself - 27 years old, currently unemployed, lives in North London, lived in North London his whole life, talks about living in North London, mentions first being in care Sidcup, Kent, Somerset, describes Somerset, describes Kent, lived next to Sidcup station, talks about living in care in Kent, felt it to be a place to just rest his head, didn't want to be in care, discusses how he ended up in care, talks about his destructive behaviour as a child [00:03:46], describes how he felt being in care, took a selfish approach to life, briefly talks about his brother, they were separated, talks briefly about friends, couldn't allow himself to get close to anybody, talks about the good and bad sides of being in care, age 14 was put forward to do his GCSEs, mentions being at placements where the staff didn't care, describes a typical day at Somerset, had their in house school centre, talks about the 3 workers at the children's home and his relationship with them, describes relationship with the other children, [00:11:53] both had similar lifestyles, talks briefly about his mum, constantly tried to leave London, describes relationship with social workers, talks about how he felt about being in foster care, spent one night in foster care, didn't want a new family, talks about his relationship with the police, continues talking about his mum, [00:17:02]

Track 1 [cont. from 00:17:02] felt as though his mother chose her boyfriend over him, talks about relationship with his mums partner, wasn't prepared to call him his father, talks about friendships and the stigma attached to being in care, recalls losing a friendship due to this stigma, talks about birthdays and celebrations, social services handed him back to his mum, social services never tried to improve the placement, talks about living with his mum again [00:24:15] didn't get any support from his mum whilst in care, didn't miss his brother, saw his brother 5/6 times in 3-5 years, talks about his dads absence, never saw his dad, his dad taught him the things he wouldn't do if he ever had a child, recollects fond memories of being in care, recalls fond memories in Somerset talks about being isolated in care, says why he became so reserved in care, talks about staff at Tuffnell house that cared about him, [00:31:37] lived at tuffnell house twice, social services wanted to try the countryside approach, slightly blames social services for being neglectful, talks about involvement with the borough of Islington, talks about being a young person's trustee, DM wanted to change the wrongs that were done to him for young people, talks about his opinion of foster care and residential homes, got a flat at age of 17, his relationship with his mother had deteriorated, talks about transition into independence, been living in his flat now for 10 years, always wanted to be independent, talks about deterioration with his mother's relationship [00:41:22],

Track 1 [cont. from 00:41:22] they were more like brother and sister than mother and son, says that if he ever has kids he won't make the same mistakes his mother made, talks about relationship between his mother and brother, they have a closer relationship, talks about his closeness with his grandparents, grandparents loved him more than his brother so his mother tried to compensate, life at home unravelled when his nan died, his nan would never have allowed them to go into care, has a lot of family members that he doesn't contact, mum's partner was always interested in alcohol, hated his mums partner, talks more about his mum's partner and his violence towards him and his mum, talks about his mum's partners death, died 5/6 years ago, he didn't shed a tear, talks in depth about his mum's partner- the good times and the bad, recollects a memory when he was 7/8 when his mums partner went to prison, talks about his mum's partners alcohol addiction, doesn't think his parents were given enough support, continues to talk about his mum's partners death and funeral [00:55:07] felt

it was a twisted sort of fate, talks about his mum's relationship with her partner, reminisces about a happy family trip to south end, mum and her partner didn't work well together, talks about his mum's relationship with her partner's sister, hated each other, mum didn't want any family members looking after him and his brother [01:00:22] [ten-minute comfort break]

Track 1 [cont. from 01:00:22] talks about first night living alone in independence, felt scared and alone, wasn't really supported, talks about being independent in general [01:03:50] talks about learning how to cook, was encouraged to do so at Tuffnell house, talks about rent and being in rent arrears, leaving care team failed to do so, talks about attending college, attended when he could be bothered, nobody was there to wake him up, when he first moved in the flat was in a bad state, talks about managing finances, talks about his frequent gambling, began whilst living at Tuffnell house, staff didn't notice his gambling, talks about the allowance Tuffnell house gave him, other children used to go to him for money, talks about accessing his leaving care records [01:12:50] there aren't any answers he needs, talks about what care taught him, felt that he had acquired a degree in life, mentions that initially his reviews were useless, he learnt to use the reviews to his benefit, got kicked out of his reviews quite often, talks about his opinion of being in care, talks about being unappreciated by social services, reminisces on a time when he absconded to social services' offices, talks about the number of different social workers he had [01:22:08],

Track 1 [cont. from 01:22:08], had six social workers in six years, under the age of 16 he had 2, talks about a good social worker he had, demanded her as she was his last one, without her he could be in prison, talks about what he would have changed from his past, wished he had stayed at Sedgemoor, talks about keeping contact with his previous staff, talks more about his previous behaviour [01:30:22], his actions were unnecessary, talks about his mum's reaction to his absconding back to her, mother never turned him away, may have been easier if she had rejected him, felt as though his mum tried hard but it wasn't enough, talks about being involved with younger children and winning an award for it, talks about mentoring and working with challenging young people, talks about a happy memory of a birthday party being thrown for him, talks about the positives aspects of individual staff members at tuffnell house [01:38:03], talks further about his time at tuffnell house, talks about his friend and her mum who helped him abscond from his home [01:42:05], talks further about how he felt running away, talks about how he feels about being in care [01:50:01] mentions how being in care has helped him, talks about his hopes and aspirations for the future, talks about he felt living alone, talks about his dislike for rules and regulations, talks about his advanced mental abilities [01:56:58],

Track 1 [cont. from 01:56:58], Talks about having the sense of a family unit whilst living care, talks about some of the other children that he lived with in care, talks about his severe dislike for having been taken into care initially [02:01:44], had 2 police officers take him into care, talks about going to school whilst being in care, talks about his teacher's reaction to him going into care, talks about the change in his school life, talks about the education system [02:12:16], sums up care experience [02:13:32] Interview End