

Social Care Institute for Excellence

Interview Summary Sheet

Title Page

Ref no: C1597/06

Collection title: Care Leavers' Stories

Interviewee's surname: Prendergast

Title: Mr

**Interviewee's
forename:** Eddie

Sex: Male

Occupation: Senior SHE Advisor

Date of birth: 1970

Dates of recording: 09.05.13

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

Name of interviewer: Camelia Borg

Type of recorder: Canon XF 305

Recording format : .mxf

Total no. of tracks: 1

Mono or stereo:

Stereo

Total Duration:

3:17:04

Additional material:

Copyright/Clearance: Full clearance

**Interviewer's
comments:**

Track 1 [03:17:04] [Session one: 9th May 2013][00:00:00] Eddie Prendergast (EP) living in Liverpool for over twenty years, grew up in Battersea and Wandsworth in London; working on the Crossrail C510 project, discusses commute into London [00:03:32] EP works for Morgan Sindall as a Senior Health and Safety Advisor; discusses evolution of construction industry [00:06:32] EP mentions wife, twenty year old daughter at University and two sons aged eleven and eight; mentions being born in Lambeth Clapham, lived in Battersea until 7 years old, lived in Wandsworth until 15 years old, lived in Ireland then in London Tulse Hill from 18 years old [00:10:21] Discusses earliest memory of first day at school at St. Joseph's in Wandsworth; Mother and Father divorced when EP was three years old, EP has sister Annette (AP) and two brothers Pat (PP) and Sean (SP); discusses family; playing football; friends and Facebook [00:16:00] EP mentions good relationship with Mothers' Iranian Muslim partner, discusses food [00:21:21] Discusses Mother's other previous partner and moving into partner's pub where partner's three children lived when EP was 12 years old; pub was in Pitstone; EP went to school in Sloane Square, discusses travelling to school via Tring; relationship with EP's Mother's partners' children [00:25:17] Memories of working behind the bar; police mistaking EP for a burglar called the Fox; mentions swimming in the Grand Union Canal; lack of contact with EP's Father [00:31:32] Mentions running away to Ireland; discusses attending Catholic schools and being suspended; EP's Mother threatened to put EP in Care [00:32:52]

Track 1 [cont. from 00:32:52] Describes running away to Ireland at 15 years old; mentions negative experience of being in Care as a baby and when eleven years old [00:36:05] Describes coach journey from Victoria to Holyhead and the clothes EP wore; memories of travelling similar route to see EP's Mother's sister in Longford [00:39:45] EP's Father receiving message on his fishing trawler off the coast of Donegal; EP's expectations; describes Father collecting EP from the Police Station in Dublin; discusses relationship with Step-mum who died a few years ago [00:44:53] Describes education system in Ireland; attending a convent; discusses friends and Irish TD's, senators, Irish political system [00:51:22] Describes Step-mum being ill before passing away; going into Care as a baby and not knowing the reason, EP's Mother's addiction to drugs and Valium; describes earliest memory of living in a children's home on West Hill, approximately aged six or seven [00:56:51] Memories of Mother going to Hospital; siblings; describes West Hill children's home and going to the shop with pocket money [00:59:52]

Track 1 [cont. from 00:59:52] Mentions being punished and memories of making sandwiches; mentions another children's home Garrett Lane opposite the Arndale Centre; discusses moving in and out of children's homes; EP describes personal preference for structure and routine, enjoyed this from the children's homes [01:07:31] Describes positive relationship with EP's Social Workers; discusses birthdays and Christmas, enjoying school [01:15:00] Discusses how Teachers knew of EP's family situation; stigma; memories of choosing Salesian College in Battersea but not being accepted into the school, memories of conversation with Headmaster and stigma from Teachers [01:20:42] Discusses PP attending John Griffiths School, AP went to Notre Dame, SP went to London Oratory and EP went to St. Thomas Moore in Sloane Square; EP discusses AP living in Care in Margate and EP not knowing the reason; discusses Social Workers [01:25:03] Describes female Social Worker taking EP to a children's home, no explanation; mentions EP's Mother working as a care assistant when EP was a child; food, milk vouchers, school uniform vouchers [01:30:32]

Track 1 [cont. from 01:30:32] EP describes siblings success and achievements despite Care experience; discusses inner strength, being stigmatised; strong relationship with wife [01:35:10] [BREAK] Discusses stigma in the convent in Milford; memory of class vote on subject of divorce [01:43:26] Discusses colleagues' and family's perception of EP and not knowing about his Care experience; mentions EP's children do not know of his Care experience; EP mentions showing his children DVD of this interview as a way to tell them; EP's children's friends are not Care experienced; discusses EP's children's schools [01:48:36] Discusses comparison between London and Liverpool; EP not knowing of other Care experienced people in England or Ireland; discusses employment aspirations held as a child, having an interest in social care and caring for others, applying for the Royal Marines, constraints for Catholics of Irish descent serving in Northern Ireland; EP wanting to become a Social Worker [01:55:25] Mentions boxing and the Marine Boxing and training programme; EP works as an Independent Volunteer for Action for Children, discusses Independent Volunteer role [02:00:25]

Track 1 [cont. from 02:00:25] EP is an NVQ Assessor for Crossrail and assists apprentices; discusses entry into Independent Volunteer role; describes wife's and children's activities; EP enrolled on an A Level Psychology course [02:05:53] EP's views on not hitting children; describes being caned in school by class Teacher Mr Durkin [02:09:58] EP discusses Mother's childhood as an orphan and EP's Grandparents on Mother's side [02:13:03] EP discusses Father and Grandparents on Father's side; EP mentions not having Grandparents when growing up; discusses EP's wife's parents [02:16:00] Coping strategies; support from friend's parents; EP describes being an Altar Boy, receiving a St. Stephen's medal for service and work undertaken within role [02:20:00] Discusses childhood routine whilst living with EP's Mother; working and playing in Ireland; learning to cook and clean in Ireland; EP's future employment plans, two years away from being chartered [02:27:18] Discusses EP's daughter's activities and aspirations in teaching Dance, EP's views on son being in the military; EP mentions being proud of own achievements [02:29:59]

Track 1 [cont. from 02:29:59] Acknowledges siblings and own achievements; discusses life after returning from Ireland, working in construction; friends [02:35:45] EP had no childhood role models except Glenn Hoddle as a football idol; EP's view on his future, retirement; EP gained an NVQ Level 6 Diploma; Family members who gained Degrees [02:41:31] EP's Father's education [02:44:55] Mentions not being offered therapy or counselling; purchasing first flat in Tulse Hill; childhood holidays; discusses Social Worker taking EP and siblings to a big farm in the country for holiday breaks [02:50:59] Discusses good memories of dogs and food [02:53:26] Learning to drive in Ireland; EP took Driving Test in England in 1990; discusses support from in-laws; childhood expectations of marriage [03:00:41] Discusses holiday plans for 2013 and visiting Majorca [03:02:29]

Track 1 [cont. from 03:02:29] Describes visits to Portugal and Majorca; EP describes being in Care aged eleven and lying to friend about why he was in a children's home; describes bullying in the children's home and gang divides between cultures [03:07:04] EP felt the children's home was like a borstal; rules and routines [03:11:33] Describes witnessing fights; CRB checks; chores; EP's interest in comparisons between children's homes during the same timeframe [03:17:04][End of interview]