

# Social Care Institute for Excellence

## Interview Summary Sheet

## Title Page

**Ref no:** C1597/02

**Collection title:** Care Leavers' Stories

**Interviewee's surname:** Sekhon

**Title:** Miss

**Interviewee's forename:** Khadija

**Sex:** Female

**Occupation:** Student Social Worker

**Date of birth:** 1988

**Dates of recording:** 23.04.13

**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:** 2:29:29

**Additional material:**

**Copyright/Clearance:** Full clearance

**Interviewer's comments:**

Track 1 [02:29:29] [Session one: 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013][00:00:00] Khadija Sekhon (KS) discusses currently studying Social Work at Brunel University; KS has a son; KS cares for mother; works for Hammersmith and Fulham Council; career motivations; family [00:04:13] Discusses decision to not care for sisters; visiting sisters. [00:09:11] Description of Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). [00:12:22] Experience of attending Court [00:18:24] Describes mother's Bipolar illness and behaviour, mother's actions in a Sikh temple. [00:24:17] Discusses previous foster carer as role model; trusting people [00:27:20] KS's desire to become a CAFCAS [Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service] worker; impact of experiencing care [00:30:07]

Track 1 [cont. from 00:30:07] Mentions Social Services conducted an assessment on KS once son was born; KS experiencing domestic violence from father and husband; KS's various coping strategies; decision to do NVQ's in Childcare [00:35:45] Mentions friends; working with people with learning disabilities; KS's plans for the future [00:39:39] KS feeling proud of achievements so far [00:41:11] Mentions moving from America to England on December 25<sup>th</sup> 1999; description of family home in Northolt; mentions KS went to school in Southall; KS mentions her (KS's) son's view of their family home now [00:46:38] Discusses earliest childhood memories; Asian culture; visiting family in India and America [00:51:32] KS moving to America with Mother and Brother to live with Father; child abuse, domestic violence and KS being beaten with a Kirpan [00:56:10] Discusses racism and how KS's Asian Father was racist towards black people [00:57:53] KS describes telling her American school teacher about abuse KS had received; memories of entering foster care for the first time and memories of food [01:00:19].

Track 1 [cont. from 01:00:19] Mentions KS's Grandfather buying tickets for KS, her Mother and brother to fly back to England from America; being in Foster care in America and having contact with Mother at a Contact Centre; discusses moving back to England in 1999; mistreatment went undetected by Social Services for a couple of years; an emergency care order was put in place and KS and her brother went back into care in England [01:06:27]. [BREAK] Mentions KS's Mother admitted to St. Bernard's Ealing Hospital when KS was very young; describes relationship between KS and KS's mother as more of a friendship [01:10:14]. Discusses attempted overdose; not having control over decisions that affect KS [01:12:04] Mentions being 14 years old and unhappy in a foster Placement when KS took an overdose; stigma against Asian children in care; social class system within Asian culture; differentiation in treatment between KS and foster carer's own children particularly with food and holidays; feelings of family exclusion and KS mistreated by foster carers; Foster carer voiced negative opinions of KS's mother [01:17:23] KS moving to different placements and living with a Jamaican foster carer until KS was 18 years old; mentions experiencing different cultures, interacting with black people, stereotypes; Foster carers being paid to look after children and seeing it as employment [01:22:43] Comparisons between the care system in America and England; KS describes fathers' behaviour towards KS's mother [01:30:33].

Track 1 [cont. from 01:30:33] Description of gender roles within Asian culture; KS mentions how mistreatment by father has impacted on KS's life including personal relationships [01:32:40] Discusses family, trust and relationship issues [01:39:00] Discusses the importance of informing children and about their rights and decisions made regarding their lives [01:39:00] Talks about making friends in America, teacher in America giving KS a penguin teddy, KS having an insight into other peoples' lives as a result of care experience [01:46:04] Describes teacher in America called Miss Winter, likens her to the teacher in the film Matilda; describes acknowledging other children had separate experiences to KS [01:49:20] Describes KS's relationship with fathers' girlfriend; Mentions how father's

girlfriend knew KS and KS's Mother were being mistreated by Father; describes Father's girlfriend [01:52:40] KS mentions unsure why Social Services did not intervene earlier when KS moved back to England, possibly a lack of communication; KS being bullied and having bad experiences in High School with other children; English school friends being proud of KS [01:56:43],

Track 1 [cont. from 01:56:43] Describes struggling with education and GCSEs, KS gaining a bronze award for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, drug awareness magazine, discovering KS had Dyslexia whilst at University [01:59:07] KS remembers receiving special treatment at school due to being in care; describes seeking attention; Teachers were very supportive and pushed KS to achieve academically; KS remembers social workers filling out paperwork but not being supportive; Foster carer was not supportive of KS and her education; KS describes how grandfather taught KS that books and education were important [02:04:48]. Discusses how others have a negative view of those in care; stigma [02:08:08] KS advises that others in care should know their rights; discusses letting people learn from their mistakes, having control of decisions [02:12:32] Describes receiving counselling at 14 years old; social workers not reading KS's file before talking to her which created a trust issue, was a negative and positive experience; counselling as a coping strategy whilst in foster care with the Asian family [02:18:56] Discusses fear of telling son about KS's care experience; KS encourages contact between son and son's father; KS mentions encouraging son to achieve and be aware of different cultures [02:24:24] KS has had various employment roles through Caremed Recruitment Agency; worked at a SEN school (special educational needs); KS enjoys networking [02:26:08].

Track 1 [cont. from 02:26:08] Discusses opportunities and experience of learning disabilities and contact work; describes having good and bad experiences in care, experiences have defined KS and made her a stronger person [02:29:29][End of interview].