

Conference: Children Screaming to be Heard.

Grantham, 4th September 2013.

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Parents Protecting Children UK

<http://www.facebook.com/PPPC.UK>

<http://www.parents-protecting-children.org.uk/>

I'm very excited to be here today to meet you all and hear your stories. I also have a few things for which I need to request your help. We've heard a lot about marches and protests. I think we are more likely to make ourselves heard by putting clear information into the public eye. I think we need something like the Independent Panel Inquiry, which after so many years of cover up, finally brought the reality of what happened at Hillsborough out into the open and showed how the police had contaminated evidence to protect their careers.

You don't need to take notes, my children will put the slides and this speech online. Links will be posted later on the Facebook pages for Parents Protecting Children UK, Children Screaming to be Heard & Parents Against Injustice Network.

Many people have asked how I became involved. As you can see I'm now a careworn OAP, but when I was young I qualified as a teacher and worked in primary and special schools. I ran holiday play schemes and set up a training course for adventure playground leaders. I appeared on the front cover of Woman's Own magazine as 'the girl who cares for latchkey kids', helped advise Thames TV on which children's projects to fund from the first two Telethons, vetted children's play projects for grants from public donations, UK

Association for International Year of the Child, Marks & Spencer and the Baring Foundation. I set up the National Out of School Alliance which became Kids Club Network and is now known as 4Children. I sat in the Commons gallery and heard my own postgraduate research on children's play needs quoted by MPs on both sides.

Belatedly I took time out to have children. I found a lovely part time job in a local special school, but lost it because my son was never fully well. I therefore became both Carer and parent.

Five years later I had a daughter who seemed healthier than her brother. I helped at mothers & toddlers, did a bit of childminding and lots of arts & crafts with my children and their friends.

We bumped along, My son was privately diagnosed as having a high IQ together with a Specific Learning Difficulty. We went to a SENDIST Tribunal and the Local Authority were instructed to undertake a Statutory Assessment of Special Educational Need, but they failed to do so. He had an ENT infection which the GP dismissed as a 'snotty nosed kid with an over anxious mother'. It progressed to serious bilateral pneumonia for which he was hospitalised and in its wake he developed the symptoms of ME / CFS and missed a lot of school.

His school had an OFSTED Inspection and were worried that his attendance would affect their statistics. They sent an Education Welfare Officer to counsel us about returning him to school. We declined to participate as our son was not truanting, he was ill. So the EWO visited my daughter's church school to warn them to expect trouble as she had an uncooperative family.

I took the children for an extended half term break in a caravan in Brittany and returned via Normandy on the 45th Anniversary of D Day, Sunday 6th June 1999. We had spent a wonderful last day in France listening to kilted Scottish Pipers on the pier and following balloon decked tanks on country roads. My sons health was much improved by the sea air.

On Tuesday the 8th of June a letter arrived informing us that a Child Protection inquiry had begun.

The process was entirely brutal. The social workers highly intrusive. It felt as if burglars were rifling through my bedroom with hob nailed boots on the carpet and filthy gardening gloves snagging delicate underwear.

Our lives would never be the same again.

I'd been a well respected Children's work professional and wasn't prepared for an intrusion such as this. It was surreal to have supposed professionals, young enough to have been taught by me in an infant school classroom, questioning and criticising my care of my own children.

I was no longer allowed to accompany my daughter on school trips, to help on the classroom cooking rota or to attend class assemblies. The head teacher gossiped and the news got out via the church. Parents didn't want their precious offspring anywhere near me, so my 5 year old daughter suddenly found herself with no invitations to parties, or to play at other people's houses. Nobody accepted our invitations to anything at all. My daughter was ostracised and bullied. My son was forced out of his school and

became reclusive and isolated. My career in education and children's services was forever finished.

The charges against me at the so called Professionals Meeting, of which we later obtained forbidden minutes, would have been funny if their consequences weren't so devastating. They included:

- Disrupting the children's education by having a second week in Brittany.
- Eating crisps in a school governors meeting.
- Applying to SENDIST for a Statutory Assessment of Special Educational Need - they suggested that this was attention seeking on my part and that testing my son would be harmful to him!
- Arriving late for a church service and stepping on the noisy metal church floor gratings as we came in.
- Being obsessed with death and dying because I wore a silver crucifix and had Spanish Icons (bought on our honeymoon) on my living room wall.
- Neglecting to send my son to school when he was ill.
- Delivering my daughter to school late on a small number of occasions when her brother had made the morning difficult.
- Upsetting the peripatetic woodwind teacher by copying her letter notes onto stave notation, because my dyslexic son could read music, but not letters.

We were convicted by a kangaroo court, masquerading as a Child Protection conference. My children spent about 10 months on the register in the category 'likelihood of future emotional harm'.

The Local Authority Child Protection plan couldn't be implemented because, after contacting the Australian researcher Helen Hayward Brown for advice, we pursued a policy of tactical non cooperation and refused all tests,

investigations, appointments and meetings. Tactical non cooperation had worked well in Australia but there were no other UK reported cases.

The Local Authority were prevented from taking the children away by the intervention the late Dr Rudi Vis MP, who said that he had known me for many years and that these charges didn't make any sense to him. Also by a senior local Councillor, now a Lord, who met the chief executive, Jewish patriarch to Jewish patriarch, and told him that families should be left in peace to make their own decisions about family life and their children's upbringing. The chief executive reportedly told social services 'to get themselves out of this one' .

We were taken off the register but the damage was done.

It took us six years from first asking and three years from the Child Protection scam, to finally win a Statutory Assessment of Special Educational Need and a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome for my son. He was given an excellent Statement of Special Educational Need, which was then withdrawn at a critical time. His health concerns were largely un-investigated until he was adult. Children's Social Services ignored his needs but Adult Social Services now treat him well. He's part time at a local university and is recognised as an innovative young composer, but his pathway need not have been so fraught with difficulty.

My 19 year old daughter was to be here with me today but she was ill last night and couldn't come - she made the PowerPoint presentation. Last month I sat with her in a London hospital, discussing with a top specialist consultant why her recent ill health is preventing her progressing to university. He noted

that symptoms had been reported since she was eight and asked 'why weren't these investigated much earlier?' I could hardly tell him that when she became ill in school year 3, the PCT blocked all paediatric referrals on the basis that her mother was supposedly suffering from Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy. She waited over 10 years until she was 18 for anybody to take her health seriously. It now seems that medication could have allowed her an easier progression through adolescence and her teenage years and possibly avoided or reduced the severity of current serious ill health. This was denied by the precipitous action of inadequately trained professionals, who failed to spot her brothers Aspergers Syndrome. She has most certainly been abused by the system.

I'm here today because in the wake of what happened to us I contacted Charles Pragnell, who had been part of the team which uncovered wrongdoings by medical and social work personnel in Cleveland in 1986. Charles told me that the way out of depression at the loss of my career and the intrusion into our family life was to fight!

In conjunction with Charles and others and facilitated by St Margaret's URC Church in Finchley, I set up a network and a website and later a Facebook group known as Parents Protecting Children UK; through which we have supported many parents.

Parents Protecting Children UK works very closely with Parents Against Injustice Network and False Accusations Support Organisation. Without the back up of the sterling work done by Alison Stevens at PAIN (who is sad not to be here today because her husband is ill) and by Margaret Gardener at

FASO, smaller organisations like ours would find it much more difficult to provide support where it is needed.

Parents Protecting Children UK strength is in preparing and submitting documentation to Government and other bodies, I have a postgraduate diploma in Child Development, so I learned how to put information together. It's ironic that I was more highly qualified, than the people who thought I didn't know how to bring up my children.

Parents Protecting Children UK works primarily with families where the issue is around undiagnosed neurological and medical conditions, notably Asperger's syndrome and the symptoms of ME / CFS. We are beginning to see cases where Ehlers Danlos Syndrome is part of the picture, relating to the hyper mobility and acute sensitivities of Aspie kids or to misdiagnosed Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome & Dysautonomia in kids thought to have ME / CFS. This is an area of cutting edge new medical information.

The most frequent Child Protection problem which reaches Parents Protecting Children UK is around failed diagnosis of Aspergers Syndrome in child or parent or both. Teachers, School Ancillary Workers, GPs, Midwives, Health Visitors, Social Workers and the like aren't trained to understand Autism Spectrum Differences & Difficulties. I've even met a hospital psychiatrist who said that it wasn't in her training. Aspergers Syndrome in women and girls has been massively under diagnosed. It is very widely missed. Schools resist applications for expensive assessments. Lists of symptoms of supposed Child Abuse, produced on websites and training courses by Save the Children, Barnado's, NSPCC et al overlap with lists of symptoms of Aspergers Syndrome, Dyspraxia, ADHD and related conditions.

Many many cases get into the Child Protection system because an over zealous poorly trained support worker confuses symptoms of Autism Spectrum Differences & Difficulties, with symptoms they have been wrongly taught to identify and report as abuse. Well meaning but mistaken primary school ancillary workers have much to answer for.

Freud died before Aspergers Syndrome was properly understood. By definition Freudian trained psychiatrists and counsellors don't understand autism & Aspergers Syndrome. I've seen several cases where a mother, weary of educational and social services incompetence, has fought for a medical opinion and been mistakenly fed to Freudians, who have spat her family out with a string of harmful misdiagnosis, creating further problems. She then needs yet another assessment to refute this. As the Family Courts are now allowing fewer reports this could get even more difficult.

The new DSM (American diagnostic 'bible' used extensively in the UK & Europe) which recently came into force, will make things more difficult for identifying children with Autism Spectrum Differences & Difficulties, as the term 'Asperger's Syndrome' is disappearing. I think we could be in for a bad time.

However as regards mothers & girls on the spectrum some work is being done on new criteria which should eventually mean that less are missed. The problem to date has been that criteria which were drawn up when it was assumed to be a male condition, fail to identify women & girls on the spectrum. I've come across a number of Child Protection cases where a very capable but clearly Aspie mother has been wrongly assumed to be difficult and obstructive or to have a borderline personality disorder.

There's one I've been involved with, in which an Aspie widow has been treated absolutely abominably and her children's lives totally wrecked. She has the Aspie trait of tenacity and will fight on and on and on. She's just starting to turn things around in a situation where most others would have given up long before now.

We have all been let down and betrayed by both Labour and Coalition Governments.

On 8th May 2000 Kirsty Wark reported on BBC2 Newsnight that there would be an enquiry into the validity of the diagnosis of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy as espoused by David Southall & Roy Meadow. This never happened and sometime later, John Hutton, then in a junior position at the DoH, performed a conjuring trick, which presented an inquiry into whether MSBP existed, as a set of guidelines as to how MSBP, or Fictitious and Induced illness as he renamed it, could be identified. This was the same Svengali who later at the MoD helped to pull the wool over our eyes concerning Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction. Don't ever trust this man - he is now a Lord and was on the radio this very morning having a go at the long term unemployed! For those who want to know more about the failure to investigate MSBP, the old but excellent 105 page Concensus Document, which has recently been doing the rounds on Facebook, explains a great deal. My much shorter 2004 UCAFAA speech explains enough to give a basic understanding. The critical factor was the involvement of personnel associated with major children's charities, who have a vested interest in Child Protection witch hunts, which generate both jobs and funds. Both links are on the slides.

I was interviewed by Michael Rosen on John Peel's 'Home Truths' and sent transcripts to Government Ministers Harriet Harman & Margaret Hodge who, as the Sunday Times & Evening Standard later reported, ignored me!

I also sent a transcript to Dr Liam Fox then at the DoH. He recognised the scenario from his work as a GP and asked his Lords Spokesperson, Earl Frederick Howe to investigate. This led to the 2001 House of Lords debate on False Accusation of Child Abuse in which Earl Howe and the Lib Dem Peer Lord Tim Clement Jones called for a Government inquiry. I've forgotten to put links to this in the PowerPoint, but you can find transcripts in the documents section on the Parents Protecting Children UK website. Some speeches make very interesting reading, from people who in opposition had much to say, but in office have done nothing.

Our family story has been referred to by Earl Howe, Baroness Williams, Tim Loughton and other parliamentarians, in and out of parliament. I appear in documents as the 'educated North London woman'. I've spoken on Radio 4 and been reported in various national, regional and local news papers. I've submitted documents to several government committees and enquiries. I'm appalled at how long this has gone on and how much worse it is getting. 10 years ago I thought we were winning, now I know that we are not!

Earl Howe, Tim Loughton, Liam Fox, Dominic Grieve, Caroline Spellman, Baroness Williams, Lord Tim Clement Jones and many of their colleagues in the Coalition are very very knowledgeable about false accusation of child abuse, spurious diagnosis of MSBP / FII and the horrific happenings in the Family Courts, leading in some cases to Forced Adoption. I fail to understand how they can have stood by whilst Michael Gove and his henchman Martin

Narey have made everything so very much worse. I remember Howe once quoting Edmund Burke who is reported to have said "all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing".

In 2002 the case of P,C & S v UK reached the European Court of Human Rights. They ruled that parenting skill should be tested before children were removed for adoption. For a while it was helpful but it now seems forgotten, especially in the wake of Baby P. It has never been revoked, I'm ever hopeful that a new case will find its way to the ECHR and demonstrate how the Brits have ignored its ruling.

I remember the case extensively reported online at Family Wrongs. The father and I used the P,C & S ruling to avoid his baby being removed from the Labour Ward and eventually to secure the homecoming of his two older children. But it didn't work out well for them as his wife died later of grief, never having recovered from the mauling by social services.

I wanted to tell you briefly about two other cases.

One where a mother bleeding heavily and waiting for a hysterectomy was struggling with an adolescent son now diagnosed with ADHD & probable Tourette's Syndrome. Education and Social Services conspired to accuse her of having a Borderline Personality Disorder and being an unfit parent. Her spurious diagnosis is refuted by a specialist NHS Hospital and her sons later diagnoses prove that she wasn't responsible. She's recovered from her gynae problems and three years later is still fighting to get the boy home from a series of highly unsuccessful & inappropriate kinship care & foster care

placements. The extent Social Services will go to to protect their own careers, at the expense of this boys teenage years, is beyond belief.

Another case where some years previously a young woman had been involved in trying to protect trees from destruction in a controversial road scheme. She spent a few days in prison for contempt of court because she refused to leave her tree. Much later she was respectably married and pregnant, but the health visitor or midwife found out that she had a 'criminal record'. The baby girl was born on the Child Protection register and when she became ill everyone ignored it, assuming her mother to be attention seeking. Having a criminal record for protecting trees somehow implied that she must also have MSBP. The little girl had a life threatening illness, which was not identified or treated and resulted in a stroke which has left her permanently disabled.

It's not just the forced adoptions which create life sentences for children and their parents.

I've got a number of things for which I need to request your help.

1/ little recognition or notice seems to have been paid to Gove's attempts to reform GCSEs. Schools are driven by cash and statistics. It will become impossible for them to admit children at Secondary Transfer who could pose an exam risk. This will include bright children with Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD, Aspergers Syndrome & a whole host of neurological differences. Those with fluctuating or permanent ill health, including ME / CFS and even severe Hay Fever may all be refused places because they can't deal with a

system that has no coursework and no winter repeats, a system where everything hinges on a pressurised exam in May or June.

I foresee many more fights for school places and many more arguments over children's conditions, inevitably some of these will end up in Child Protection Conferences & Family Courts.

My epetition has only about a fortnight to run. There's a flyer on your chair. Please pick up your mobile now or go home to your computer tonight and sign!

Please pass the flyer onto your friend or relative or colleague and get them to sign too.

Please Tweet it & post it to Facebook groups and networks - lets see how far we can take it! We have very little time left .

2/ I've found another epetition that I didn't know about concerning social services - it looks worth signing - the link is on the slides.

3/ I've applied for another epetition demanding an inquiry into False Accusations of Child Abuse and Forced Adoptions, preferably by an Independent Panel, like the one which exposed the Hillsborough Tragedy. We need an inquiry which would listen to parents and children and see through the defences put up by Social Services, Paediatricians and Education Authorities.

If it gets accepted I will post the link everywhere I can think of - so please look out for it in the next few days.

4/ My son & I created an online survey questionnaire. I will paste the link everywhere I can think of and invite you all to share it widely. Please complete it!

If you are gagged you can do it anonymously as names aren't required information.

Lets see how much evidence we can compile and see if that makes the media or the government or the major religious bodies wake up and take notice of us. I want to demonstrate the urgent need for an inquiry.

I'd love them back by the end of the month so it doesn't drag on and we can present our evidence as soon as possible.

If you can't complete it online please email me and we will send you a printable copy.

I've had a few offers via the Parents Protecting Children UK Facebook page for people to help me collate replies. We will need more help, so if you can offer even a little time, please message me via Parents Protecting Children UK on Facebook or email me at Parents Protecting Children UK.

THANKYOU for listening and please remember to sign epetitions and complete the survey.

Jan Loxley Blount 04:09:2013