



Criminalisation of Children in Care

The experiences of
a care leaver

Tell us about your experience of criminalisation whilst in care

It wasn't great, at the time obviously cause it was this one time when the staff tried to get you done for possession of an offensive weapon it was a blade out of a disposable razor, I forgot to give it back after id asked staff for it to shave my legs and left it in my room and it got broken and staff then phoned the police and the police eventually turned up and I explained what had happened. the police listened to my story and they dropped the accusation from the said staff member.

What impact did this have on you?

I wasn't happy about it at the time, the staff member first accused me of using for my own personal use to harm yourself and then when I denied they then said I was going to use it on someone else. Not only would I not use it for that purpose but do you know how small the blades are and how much force I would have to use to get any sort of damage from a female disposable razor. the member of staff apologised and the manger did too for the misunderstanding.

How did this experience affect your relationship with the police?

It affected me but didn't hinder any relationships towards the police as they understand and listened to my side of the story however I was fuming and stayed on my friends couch for 3 days after this incident had happened.

What could be done differently?

Nobody approached me initially to talk to me about the incident they just phoned the police instead so that showed the relationship I had with the staff members at this placement.