Interview adult other RCH1 MARCH 2024 CL - DEPTH - 35 MINS

[Other comments:]

**What I would just say before we start is what we'll do with the recording is we'll get it transcribed into a written document. We'll change your name. We'll not refer to [S\*] or anything like that or anybody that you name in the interview. All of that will all be completely anonymised. Then once we've done that, we'll delete the recording, so it will just be the anonymised transcript, so none of this will be able to come back to you. The only limitation with that is if you were to tell a story that you'd told to somebody else here, and we were to quote something you said, they might be able to recognise you, but nobody outside this or that you don't know or didn't know you well wouldn't be able to recognise it.**

Okay, that's great.

**If there are any questions that you don't want to ask, you don't need to - sorry, you don't want to answer - you don't need to answer them. You don't need to explain to me why, you can just say, 'I don't want to answer that question.' That's absolutely fine. If at any point you think, do you know what? I'm done with this interview, I'd like it to be over, you can do that as well. It's just to give you as much control as possible, and so that you know exactly what's happening with what you're saying and all that kind of thing, so that you can be comfortable with that. One of the things that we've done in the other interviews when we were in the other children's home, was we asked people to bring something with them of their own, that reminded them of something that was good or important for the past, that they'd kept. I know I'm putting you on the spot here, but if I had asked you in advance of this interview, is there anything that comes to your mind that you thought I would have probably brought that photograph, that concert ticket, that toy, that piece of clothing, whatever?**

Probably a guitar I got for my birthday from a family member. That holds a lot of memories to me, but that would be a big one to bring in, but yes, I'd probably bring that. Yes.

**Is it okay to tell me a bit about the, why that object and…?**

I got given that by my uncle, and my uncle then had a motorbike accident, so he's disabled now, so that holds a lot of memories for me, just as a nice keepsake for before. Yes, that's a nice one for me.

**Do you play the guitar then?**

No, so I've tried, but I really can't and I really, I tried to do lessons, but music's just, I like listening to music, but it's not my strong point.

**My partner can play the guitar, but I've tried, I'm just not very good at it at all. Generally speaking then, would you say that you're the kind of person that does keep things? Do you keep things to remind you of anything?**

Yes, I keep my birthday cards that have nice messages. I think that's quite important for when you get later in life and it's nice to look back and think, oh, that was nice that I got. Yes, I do, I'm quite sentimental, I would say.

**You keep wee things then.**

Yes.

**For you personally, do you keep things just for you to look at and think, oh, that was nice, or do you keep things to show other people and share with other people?**

I would say it's more for me, but I have certain things that, like I've got a photo book that I got given on my birthday from my mum, so I've got that out and if anyone was to come in, I would be more than happy to show anyone, but I would say it's more for me that I keep it.

**That's interesting then, so your mum kept photographs for you. Did she keep other things for you as well? Was she a memory-keeper for you?**

It was more like she took photos of things I was doing or like when I, my first day at secondary school, stuff like that, and she's put loads of it up and she basically talked me through my life growing up. So that was nice to have, to see where I am now.

**Did she get any other things for you, other than the photograph books?**

She's got wee keepsakes that I made when I was at school and stuff like that, she keeps all them in her house. I look back and I'm like, oh, don't want to see that, that was awful, but yes.

**Things with pasta glued to them and things like that, yes.**

Yes.

**That sounds like she may be keeping these things for her memory then.**

Yes.

**You may get passed them at some point, yes, when she's clearing the loft or whatever it is that's happening.**

Probably. I don't know if I want them though, but yes!

**Good. I'll just double-check I'm getting all my - do you ever ask your mum or anybody else to keep things for you?**

I don't think so. My mum's quite good at taking photos and keeping things from say a birthday, say a specific birthday, she would keep the candles from it and stuff like that. She just, she's very good at doing that, so it's like I don't really need to worry about, I know she'll do it, so it's nice.

**That's lovely actually. You feel reassured because your mum's good at that stuff and knows the things to keep and knows how to do things, yes.**

Yes.

**You can have that confidence that she's going to…**

…do it anyway, yes, do it.

**Yes, she's going to do it. Good, excellent, thank you very much for sharing that.**

That's all right.

**What about for the young people that you're working with here, what do you think might be important for them in terms of their memories when they, as they grow?**

I think every kid, every child's a bit different. Some of them, I know, they keep photos from when they were younger and memory books. Whereas some of them don't really have any from when they were younger, so but they do express that they would like to have that. I think it's important for the children that do want to keep memories, and keep showing their experiences throughout their life, that we do that for them. I think that's an important thing for me, I like to make sure the children are seeing themselves grow and if that's something they want to do, I think that is really important for them.

**Memory books then, is that something you do with the kids here or something they do or…?**

I've been here just over a year, but when I first arrived, there was a few children that had photo albums and stuff, and they're doing crafty stuff and that. So I've not done it specifically with them, but there's been, one of them has been talking with me about making more photo books from being here now. I know my team down at [unclear location 0:06:37.9] they are building a scrapbook for one of the children. I think we just all muck together and try and create that for them, with them, so that they are experiencing it too.

**In there you said a particular young person had said that they wanted to do, create a new memory book, so they were the person that was asking?**

Saying it, yes.

**Do you notice differences between the children for that then, that some children do ask for that stuff and other children don't?**

Yes, I think it just depends on their past experiences and the memories they want to keep and not to keep. Yes, I think it's just - and kids are creative in different ways. It's just trying to find a way to help them explore that creativity, I think.

**Finding out what they're into, like the crafty stuff that you mentioned and things like that.**

Yes.

**Do you guys ever, do you keep stuff for children here even if they don't ask you, would you keep stuff for them anyway?**

Yes, so on our server and stuff we've got a lot of photos of them and they can access them any time, just daily diaries they get, so that records their days and they can read over them to see how their day was, what kind of things they've done. It's always there for them to go back and look on and go, oh, I remember that, doing that, and yes.

**You can put photographs into your daily logs, your daily diary things, you can attach them in your recording system, basically, yes?**

Yes.

**How do young people get access to that, is that…?**

The daily diaries, they can just say that they would like to read it. They've got a children's journey, which has their photos on it, and it's obviously all secure, but they can just say that they would like to do that, and you sit with them and you go through it and you just show them. Obviously, if they wanted anything printed off, they could get it printed off and laminated or… They can ask to access it. It's up to them whether they want that or not. Yes.

**Yes, and they might in the future, I guess, that's the thing, isn't it. That's interesting as well. You mentioned something there, a children's journey, so is that a particular part of the recording system or…?**

Yes, so the children's journey, it's got a year, like of every year they've been there, and it's just got photos from that whole year. Then I remember a couple of months ago, one of the children was going through it and they were like, 'Oh my goodness, look how much I've changed.' I was like, 'I know.' They looked completely different and it was… Yes, so that's just on there, and it's basically photos from every year, up until now.

**That sounds great. I imagine that must be an aspect of it here, and I only know this because I was here myself a few years ago, doing some research, but I guess the children here, certainly when I was here, come in quite young, maybe nine, ten, just at that stage where they are going to go through a lot of changes. I guess you must see quite a bit of change. Even though you've only been here a year, but you've probably seen quite a bit of change.**

Yes, I have. There was one specific child, and I couldn't believe how much they've changed in the past even couple of months, never mind a year. They are evolving and changing really quickly. Yes.

**Yes, just in that period, yes, that we all have to go through rapid change.**

That time of their life, yes!

**Shooting up in height. Everything else that's going on as well. You mentioned there that you had a young person, a child or young person come and asked to look at their child story then.**

Yes.

**Is that a common thing, do children ask to see it?**

Children I work with, there's one particular one that has asked to do that and does enjoy looking at that. Some of the other children don't. It just depends on how they're feeling. Sometimes looking back can make them feel a bit emotional, which is understandable. We always promote that if they want to look at that, that's something that can happen. It's just about how they're feeling within themselves really and in a couple of months they might be like, I want to look through everything and… Yes, it just depends really.

**I'm slightly interested in, so that young person that came back and asked and was talking about how much they'd changed, what's the conversation - I'm not asking for the details of the conversation - but what's the conversation like? Is that storytelling, are they directing it or is it a combination of you and the child and young person?**

That specific child, at that point I was there just under a year, so some of the photos - from 2023, was it - I had seen and I had put in there. So I knew and I was like, 'That was that time.' Then there was other photos and they were explaining to me what they had done and who they were with and… Yes, so it's just, they, the photos that I hadn't known, they were explaining them to me, and then we were both discussing the photos from when I had been there and I'd put them in, or other times they were just speaking about… So yes, it was a bit of both.

**Yes, a combination where you're, they're able to tell you a bit of their story maybe.**

Yes.

**Just check my questions to make sure I'm getting everything. Since you've been here, have you been aware of any young person who previously lived here coming back, maybe looking for something or somebody or anything like that?**

No. I've not really - do you mean photos and stuff or do you mean just reaching out to people that they've previously…?

**Anything like that, where they've tried to connect back to their time here. So maybe they've phoned up to try and speak to a particular worker or they've asked if there are any photographs or they've asked to access their file or any of that kind of…**

Any kind of thing.

**Yes.**

I've not known of a child, I've not been working with children specifically who have left recently. I know a child who was from this house here, and they've just recently moved, and I know they phone up regularly and talk about how happy they are, but that they miss certain people. I think that's really nice. The kids, they do take away things with them that holds memories, but they also have the option to ask for the stuff like that. I don't really know if that gets passed on when, if they do leave. I don't really, I don't know the details of that.

**The things, you mean?**

Obviously, everything's stored online and stuff, but the things they take away with them, if it's an object, but with certain photos and stuff, I don't know particularly what happens with that. Yes. They can always contact, and people who they have good relationships with, they do keep them and that is really nice - if they want to, that's their decision. I think that's really nice, that's important for them.

**Yes, and nice that, I guess, if they phone up and there is, they remember you, you've been an important person in their life as well, yes.**

Yes.

**What kind of objects do they take away, just out of interest, is it…?**

Wee toys that they've maybe got or a certain thing, or if they've been to an arcade with someone, like they would keep something. Books. It just depends - or they have photos with specific people that they take away. The kids have loads of things they take. If they do move on, they can take whatever they want to. I think a lot of the rooms are decorated with photos and stuff, so they will take them when they go and that will be nice for them to look back and go, I remember that time with someone.

**So they get photographs to put up that…?**

Yes.

**Do they take the photographs, are you taking them, a mixture?**

We take them mainly, but they, obviously, know about it and everything like that, and they want to take the photo and then it gets applied on to the database.

**When you are taking pictures then of or for children and young people, are there certain things that you think I'm going to take a picture of this? What makes the difference for you, how do you decide?**

I think if I'm taking a photo of a child or with a child, it's when I see that they're expressing happiness and they can look back on and think, wow, I remember that and that made me really happy. If they're doing an activity and they're… Just, I don't know, there's loads of different things, but I think - or they complete a task and they're really proud of themselves for it, I think it's important to document that, so they can look back and go, 'I done that', or, 'I managed to actually achieve that.' I think it's important, showing them things they are achieving as well, so they grow up and they go, 'Aye, well, I can get past things that I'm not sure I can do', or… Yes.

**That's interesting, so I guess there's something in there about particular activities or particular things that children are doing, but quite an interesting emotional content that you talk about there, about happiness, about achievement, things like that.**

Yes, I think that's important for the children because they feel so many emotions every day, and a lot of the time, they just remember when they weren't feeling their best. It's important to show them that, no, you were doing great this day, and you do have happy times and it's not all negative. Things may seem like, oh, they're so bad, but they're not always like that.

**Yes, bring balance to the story.**

Yes, for sure.

**In terms of you personally working here, is there anything, for your time working here, that you think that's going to stay with me, I'm going to always remember these experiences or…?**

Do you know? So many. I recently took part in a trip, and it was really nice and it was, it got, I can't remember who funded it, but they got, basically the children made a video and they said why they wanted to go here, and it was a Center Parcs trip. They said the reasons they wanted to go and why they felt like they should be given the opportunity. They got gifted it and they won whatever, I think it was, I don't know, it wasn't a competition, but it was that. I took part in that, and that was really nice because there was a vary [sic] of different children, and very different adults, and it was really nice to see them experience opportunities like that and the things they got to do and having time away. It was just, it was a really nice experience. I think I'll always remember that, a memory.

**Yes, I remembered that sometimes you guys go on holiday with the kids and go away for trips and things like that.**

Yes. I think that's important for them, to feel like they can experience situations like that, which would be normal and every day-to-day kind of homes and lives. A lot of them say, 'I want to go on holiday and I want to go on a plane', and things. I think trying to achieve that for them is really important for them growing up. Yes.

**I think that's all the questions I've got that are around about memory and memory-keeping. I'll tell you a wee bit more. As I mentioned earlier, we've been trying to build this archive basically. It's an online, it's basically a website almost, the way it has been designed, where digital items can be stored. It's for the group who live in the house to store things, rather than an individual record. So photographs, audios, videos, different things like that can go in there. Basically what happens is, so you get a login and then you could potentially if it was to last into the future, you could potentially log back in whenever you feel like to look at things, and potentially have interaction as well, be able to comment on photographs, that kind of thing.**

Yes.

**What do you think generally about that as an idea?**

Do you know what? I think that would be quite a positive thing for them. I think it is really important for children to be able to look back on memories, and having it all there and them being able to even comment on it and go, 'Oh, I remember that time', I think that would be quite a positive thing for them to have. I think that would be quite beneficial.

**Do you think that there could be any problems with an idea like that, any difficulties?**

I don't really know to be honest. I guess, maybe - sorry, I don't really know.

**Don't worry, it's all right. You're not at a job interview!**

No, I know. No, I don't really know. I feel like there's always potentially problems with any sort of thing that happens, but I think overall it would be quite good for that and I think that is a really good idea. I don't really see many problems, but obviously sometimes there is problems and…

**Yes, definitely! I'll ask you some questions, do you think, aye, do you think that young people would use something like that? Do you think the young people you've been working with specifically, do you think they'd be…?**

Yes, I think a few of them specifically would because I think memories are important for them. Some of the children that I work with maybe struggled with receiving memories like that, but I think it's just about the support they have within, while looking at things like that. I think that's really important, and that's what I specifically try and do, and make sure that the children feel like they are supported through seeing those experiences and that makes it a bit easier for them. Yes, I think they would like it.

**What kinds of things do you think you would like to see included in an archive like that? If we were to create one here, for example, what would you like to see going into it?**

I think it would be quite nice to see every year the children were here, how they have progressed. Maybe have a slideshow of their time within somewhere would be nice because it shows how they've evolved and it… I've seen a slideshow made once and it was really nice, of a child, and it actually made you feel a bit emotional. I think that would be really, I think that is really lovely for the children to see how they're growing and for them to be able to go, woah, that's, I've changed so much and… Yes. I think just capturing their moments and their achievements is nice. I think that would be nice to have on it.

**Is there anything you think shouldn't be included in an archive like that?**

Not really. I think it's important for the kids to be able to see the positive experiences, but I'm not saying like their negative experiences, but to know that things maybe don't go to plan or things go well, but it's all there, and it shows them how they were resilient within those times and… Yes, I think, I don't, I can't think of anything specifically I wouldn't think should be in there.

**Maybe not necessarily sugar-coating everything is the sense I'm getting from what you're… Yes.**

Yes, because it is, I find, throughout my days of working, that reminding the children, this maybe wasn't the best, but you came back and you turned it round, like they go, 'Right, okay. I managed to turn it round.' I think that's really important for them to realise that things are getting better and it's not just rubbish or however they would see it. So yes, I think that's important to show them anyway.

**Yes, life's tough sometimes, yes.**

Yes.

**Yes, got to try and come back from it. Good. What about consent, what about if we were to talk about consent for this, if we were going to be putting content on this archive, how do you think that could be handled?**

I think speaking to the children who would be on it, the children I think are very much open to going, 'I would like that', or, 'I wouldn't like that', so I think as long as they are okay with that, they'll tell you. I think that would, you would know straightaway whether that was okay. It's important for them to have a say in whether it happens or not, for them, but yes, just they'll tell you straightaway if they thought that or not.

**Very clear in their opinions!**

Yes.

**I guess there's a thing there about, for an archive like this, do you think you could get a general consent kind of thing, in the way that you describe, or do you think you would need to check each piece of content that you put up? For example, is this photograph okay or…?**

Yes. I think it's hard because I know when, say I'm documenting anything, the children know I've taken the photo and they've agreed to it. I think if it's something that's been already stored for them and they agreed to it, then I would think that would be okay because they have agreed to it. Yes.

**What if somebody changes their mind about something on that?**

So say they're like, 'I don't want that up there', I would remove it. That's their decision. Say they were like, 'Well, I don't want that', then would there be a thing where it could be removed?

**Yes.**

Yes, so I think, again, they'll tell you whether they want it or not. I think if they don't want that, then that's okay, that's their decision.

**I guess the interesting thing about this is if it works, which we're not sure it will, is that it could potentially last, say it lasts for the next 20 or 30 years. So they may be coming back later, at a later date, I guess, to say, 'Can you take me off of this?' I guess that's part of that question about that. The other thing that comes up from that longer-term doing it as, well, you'll know, children and adults move on from here, and so the population changes.**

Yes.

**One of the things that we built into it was, so you can actually give people particular permissions, so they can access these folders, basically. The basic standard thing that we put into it was that you can only access content in the archive for the time that you lived or worked here. If you lived here from 2015 to 2020…**

That's what you could see.

**…you can only access the content for that. Rather than being able to see people who used to live or work here or people who might live or work here in the future.**

[Over speaking 0:27:03.2]

**What's your thoughts on that as a [over speaking 0:27:06.6]?**

Yes, I think that's quite good. I think they only really need to see that time of that they were there. They don't need to see what's happening now or previously. No, I think that would be, the time that they're there and the people they've experienced within that time is okay. I don't think seeing what people were there now or what kind of things they were doing would be very good.

**No worries. Got to think about, data protection's kind of complicated.**

No, I know. There's so much!

**I know, it's such a tricky project, it's been really a tricky project.**

I can imagine, I do.

**Yes, so what about collecting things and putting them on the archive then? Who should be doing that, do you think? If you were, if we were to set it up here, for example, who should be doing that, do you think?**

The kind of things that happen here with, documents for staff is, I'll complete something, then my manager will approve it. So I think probably, say, people who work with the children make something up or the photos or anything, and then the manager of the house that would be able to approve that and make sure that that was all okay to go on to the archive.

**You're kind of describing, so there's users and then there's moderators in the system.**

Yes.

**Uploads go in, they go into your inbox, and then the moderator decides is this going to go on? What folder is it going to go into? Who's going to have access to it? That kind of thing. Yes. Just checking here, yes. What about access to the archive? I guess, to help you answer that question, there is that, you can give people different permissions. There's a user permission and a moderator position that can be given, so the users can view content that they're given access to basically, and they can put in content, in the sense that they can upload it, although it goes into an inbox and has to be agreed by the moderator before it gets actually added to the archive. So that's the two…**

…processes kind of…

**…processes that are there, just so that, because I'm asking you who should have access? I suppose it's understanding what that access looks like. Yes, so who do you think should…? Do you think, for example, children and young people should have access to that, that they would be able to get, and staff members should have access to that? What about staff members who move on, children who move on, how do you feel about that in terms of being able to access the archive?**

I think children who maybe are a bit younger, it would be good for, so there's key workers and stuff, for them to be able to have access, to help the children to have access, I think would be good. If I was to move on from here, it would be nice to be able to access those kind of things myself, but I think as long as the children who I was accessing those things to were happy for that, I think that's important to make sure they're okay with that and we're not just going and looking on and going, 'Oh! Ah!' Yes, I think it would be nice for the previous adults who were, shared those experiences to be able to access that, but I think that's all about whether the children who are in that want that. Yes, I think that would be important.

**Yes, I guess that chimes with care-experienced adults as well. It depends on who because, obviously, people have different relationships and everything else.**

Yes.

**That's interesting then, so young people, access maybe facilitated by a key worker or something like that.**

Yes.

**Is that because maybe they struggle with technology or is there something else that's going on there for you?**

Yes, a lot of children I work with, some of them are really just, know their ways about working technology, and some of them don't really know how to do that, they struggle with spelling and things and I think they need support within that. Maybe having an allocated person to help them access that would be beneficial for them if they're still at a stage where they can't do it themselves.

**Access, yes, and you spoke about adults. Yes, if people move on. We'd always envisaged that actually because that's the whole point is that you live as part of a group, which includes adults and other children. It's been quite an interesting variability in how people respond to that question. Everybody feels, all right, children and young people access it and they can access it for as long as they want, but adults who work here seems a wee bit more complicated sometimes. I've spoken to you about the date restrictions. I wonder if I could ask, so the place that we're doing it, and it was quite interesting, so I know I explained that date restriction, like if you lived here or worked here between 2015 and 2020, that's what you could see. The place where we've been doing it is quite, are quite interesting, I guess, in the sense that they have young people who come back regularly to the house, for their tea or for Christmas or things like that.**

Right, okay. Right.

**I don't know if that happens here. I guess what I'm asking is it kind of complicates the date thing for us a wee bit.**

Yes.

**They might be at a Christmas dinner thing or an event or whatever else, and there might be photographs or something that they would be in, even though they don't live there anymore.**

Yes.

**Does anything like that ever happen here?**

I know some children get visited by a lot of people who have maybe worked with them and stuff if they've moved on, but here, I don't think I've ever really known anyone to come back. That's not to say that they might not within some time, but I've not really known that, so I wouldn't really know that answer.

**No worries. You might see it.**

Yes, I know. Watch yourselves, it will be tomorrow with someone!

**One of the things that we, and certainly that young people are keen for, is this ability to interact with the archive, so to be able to like things, to leave comments, to potentially interact with each other in the archive space. What do you think about that?**

I think there's pros and negatives to that. I know children who really get on with children who were here beforehand and that would be really beneficial for them. Also, some people maybe don't get on and that could cause a bit of conflict on that. So I think just as long as that was maintained and if there was any negative comments towards others, that was shut down, I think that would be okay, but yes. It's kind of like social media and stuff, isn't it.

**It's exactly the concern, yes, so there is a moderator there to be able to take comments off if they're bullying or abusive or whatever else, yes. I think that's me really. Are there any questions that you have or anything?**

No, I just, I think that's a really nice idea. I think that would be really positive.

**Right, I'll turn this off.**

**[END OF TRANSCRIPT]**