

PRESS RELEASE

27 April 2010

For immediate use

Book claiming multiple child protection failings by Nottinghamshire County Council set to win author "major compensation"



An autobiography claiming to expose multiple failings in child protection by Nottinghamshire County Council is being used as a statement by a woman who has instituted legal proceedings. Following a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the local authority by her solicitor, author Angela Bayley (a pen name) has said, "The documents we now hold support much of what I describe in my autobiography, *Disruptive*, published at the end of last year with names and places disguised. I had earlier presented the book to my solicitor as my initial statement, telling him the real identities of people. Impressed by the detail of my account, he was happy to take the case on.

"I am a paramedic, and my book opens with my being sexually assaulted by a colleague in the back of an ambulance followed months of sexual harassment, endemic in the particular ambulance station I was attached to.

This was bad enough in itself, but its major significance was the buried memories of my childhood that it revived.

"My mother died in a car crash when I was six. That triggered a series of awful events. I was physically and emotionally abused by my father and stepmother, who sent me to a paedophile for chess and bell-ringing lessons. When I told them he was abusing me they called me a liar and sent me back for more.

"I was also dyslexic. I was labelled 'disruptive' at school and then my father told them I was a compulsive liar. After that the deputy head raped me. Eventually the bruises from my father's beating were spotted by the authorities and I was sent to a care home, but I was sexually assaulted there too, and then fostered by a paedophile.

"It's hardly surprising I self-harmed, and suffered from bulimia and anorexia, and then got involved with petty crime. Despite being let down right, left and centre, however, I got my life together, and was happily married and working as an ambulance technician when I was assaulted by my colleague.

"I then went through years of hell, re-living my past and fighting for appropriate treatment and justice, and I am still fighting a legal battle. Now that we have solid evidence of the appalling negligence and culpability of the council, following our FOI request, I believe I am likely to win major damages and that it is safe to reveal the name of the local authority which failed to protect me from the multiple physical, sexual and psychological abuse I have detailed. I can also start to publicise the book.

"Called *Disruptive*, because I was dismissed as a disruptive troublemaker when education and social services authorities failed to identify the roots of my behaviour, I started to write it for therapeutic reasons on the advice of my consultant psychiatrist. I then realised that not only could it help other people facing similar issues, it could serve as a legal statement in my fight for justice, and most important of all, my fight to make sure that lessons are learned and no one else has to experience what happened to me. I urge anyone else who was abused as child in the Nottinghamshire area in the 1980s

to contact my solicitor, Andrew Grove.

"I think my story will be an eye-opener for many, and will be of huge benefit to those who have suffered abuse as I did. There is a chapter by my consultant psychiatrist, and I have already received a couple of endorsements by organisations that deal with the issues that my book raises, with others promised, so this is certainly not your average misery memoir.

"It wasn't easy getting it into print. Produced with the help of Edinburgh-based writer, Dr R. Eric Swanepoel, the manuscript was praised by two major publishers who later turned it down after legal advice, one cancelling a publishing contract only a month before it was due out.

"That was gutting, but I haven't got this far without overcoming a setback or two. I was determined that my story should be told, so that others wouldn't have to go through what I had experienced. My conscience compels me to get this book out, no matter the risk.

Swanepoel comments: "It was an honour to help Angela with this astounding book. Her years of therapy – notably at [The Retreat in York](#), which Angela praises in her book – have helped her recall every detail of her childhood and when you see how events unfolded you lose your amazement that all these things could happen to one person. In fact, you start to suspect that such things can happen all too easily, and are probably still happening all over the UK.

"Angela's amazing perspective, analysis and maturity, and the moving chapter by her psychiatrist, distinguish this book from so-called 'misery memoirs' if the feedback we have had so far is to be believed."

Angela Bayley is now a fully qualified paramedic who divides her time between saving lives, family life, promoting her book and fighting for justice.

Contact

People who had similar experiences to Angela's in Nottinghamshire in the 1980s are requested to contact [Andrew Grove and Company, Solicitors](#).

For further information, review copies, images of the book, and to arrange interviews with Angela Bayley and Eric Swanepoel, please contact:



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Notes to Editors

Disruptive (How I triumphed over years of abuse from those who were supposed to protect me) (ISBN-10: 956325807; ISBN-13: 9780956325808) is available from the publisher, Amazon and other outlets. RRP £11.99. Special offers available from various retailers.

Endorsements to date:

Particularly helpful to those who intend to work professionally with children

This book [...] would be particularly helpful to those who work or intend to work professionally with children and young people, in helping them to understand the impact that a damaged, disrupted childhood can have on a person's life, behaviour and relationships. Pauline Pearson, Dip. Counselling, [Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service](#).

Well-written

Angela suffered neglect and abuse in childhood, the legacy of which resurfaced after she was raped as an adult and resulted in her being sectioned. Although graphic at times, this well-written story tells how she emerged a stronger person, wanting to help others. Jenny Stucke, Project Manager, [Directory and Book Services](#).

Reveals a larger slice of the bigger picture than many other books

Angela has not only retold the events on a 'surface level' basis but she extends a hand to the reader and takes them into the depths of her experiences, sharing the innermost vulnerable parts of those experiences. I believe that this story needs to be told. It reveals a larger slice of the bigger picture (in terms of the impact of abuse) than many other books of its kind. Helen Munt, Office Manager, [National Association for People Abused in Childhood](#).