



# BBC STORYVILLE

## 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021: A STATEMENT

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We know that people with experience of care have often experienced trauma within the 'care system'. The Storyville episode may have been a trigger for anger and profound pain. It highlighted features of Jersey's care system which were detailed in the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry and accepted in full by the Government of Jersey. These include the need for the Government to regain trust by being trustworthy in the small things, and be open, honest and reflective about the required changes, how these will happen and who is listened to in the process.

Where we have experienced this approach through advocacy, we have seen difficult situations dealt with well and childhoods greatly improved, wrapped in the protection of loving family; whether the child's birth family or other adults who become family.

Where this has not been experienced (and this is sadly far too often) we see children and young people, already highly traumatised, repeatedly hit against the hard walls of bureaucracy.

We hear too that remarkable individuals, who include foster carers, professionals at all levels and parents, have fought hard to ensure that children in their care can have happy and healing childhoods.

Our vision, and the purpose of our work, is to ensure these happy and healing childhoods are not something which have to be fought for by often weary individuals, rather an experience consistently enabled by the Government when children need their care or protection.

