

'Lewis's story (not real name)

As a young boy, 'Lewis' Smith was left at Brockhall by his mother in 1942.

Were they nice?

'No! Mr. Green was alright but Mr. Johnson weren't, he kept punching and hitting me and belting me around, he used to do it to me on Hazelwood. He was dreadful to me was Mr. Johnson, he was on the staff at Brockhall, he was dreadful to me was Mr. Johnson... I went from Ivywood to Hazelwood, I think that must have been in 1944. You see when I was in Hazelwood Mr. Johnson would be punching and hitting me, throwing boots and shoes and coat hangers, he used to throw cold water at me and make me sit in the cold bath... he was a bad 'un him, a bad beggar, you know I never liked him. I'm away from that now, you know. Those days will never happen again. [I was there] from 1942 to 1988, forty six years, yes that'll be right. I was on all sorts of different wards.'

Lewis's story was transcribed by his friend, Mary Edwards, who added:
'It is important to Lewis that everybody knows what happened to him at Brockhall Hospital, he was mentally, physically and sexually abused for his forty six years internment. He is a gentleman with great dignity, humour and compassion that, if we take the time out of our relentless schedules to listen to, we can learn and grow from.'

This is taken from page 27 of Liam Concannon's 2005 book, 'Planning for Life. Involving adults with learning disabilities in service planning.' This was published by Routledge.