

The smiles that hid long reign of sex attacks by Caldicott teachers

Friends of Nick Clegg were among the young victims of a cycle of abuse at prep school, writes **Andrew Norfolk**

Standing shoulder to shoulder for their annual school photograph, four young friends smile into the camera as they pose for an image that will one day tell a tale of dreams fulfilled and betrayed.

One boy became Deputy Prime Minister, another played rugby for England. They were not used for sex by their teachers at Caldicott School.

Yet their two companions were, and one is central to a story that reveals how easily such crimes mutate into a cycle of abuse that spreads from school to school.

The 1979 photograph shows Nick Clegg, second from the left. On the far right is Chris Sheasby, a former England rugby union international. Between them stands a pupil who would become, one year later, joint head boy with Mr Clegg.

He has given evidence in court of his abuse by one teacher at the Buckinghamshire school. Police and prosecutors also wanted to charge Peter Wright, the school's headmaster, with offences against him. They were blocked by a court.

Wright, found guilty this week of 12 offences against another five Caldicott boys between 1959 and 1971, was originally charged ten years ago with sex offences against former pupils. The prosecution was terminated by a judge who ruled that it would be unfair to put him on trial, largely because the alleged offences happened so long ago.

He is the fourth former teacher at the school to be convicted, belatedly, of sex crimes against pupils. A fifth died before he could be charged and a sixth was acquitted after a retrial.

The fourth boy in the photograph, on the far left, is Ian McFadyen. At the age of 11 he was regularly raped by Caldicott's deputy headmaster, George Hill, who later committed suicide. Another member of staff, John Addrison, 54, is serving a five-year prison sentence for offences against six children, including Mr McFadyen.

Addrison was himself a former Caldicott pupil. He appears in a 1971 photograph standing next to ten-year-old Alastair Rolfe who, by 1973, was being systematically raped by a science teacher, Martin Carson. Thirty years later, Carson was jailed after admitting



A life ruined by Caldicott paedophile

Prep school pupils break their silence

He would stand there, a man in his fifties with leather patches on his tweed jacket, and rape me', Ian McFadyen tells Andrew Norfolk of his ordeal

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Ian McFadyen, left, Nick Clegg, the unnamed joint head boy and Chris Sheasby, right, pose for a school photo at Caldicott in 1979. Mr Clegg and Mr Sheasby were not abused and there is no evidence that any of the other boys in the photograph were either. Left: How The Times reported Mr McFadyen's decision to make his abuse public

buggery and indecent assault against Mr Rolfe and another boy.

After leaving Caldicott, Addrison went to a leading independent school for five years. He completed his secondary education and returned in 1978, aged 19, to spend a year at his former prep school as a student teacher. He has admitted four sex offences during that year against two boys. Each took place during sessions of English tuition in the school library. Mr McFadyen, who was scarred by years of abuse at the hands of Addrison and Hill, was expelled from his secondary school. By his 20s, he was a homeless drug addict, sleeping rough. His student abuser completed his gap year, went to university and qualified as a teacher. Addrison taught initially in Kenya, at a school where Keith Geddes, another ex-Caldicott teacher, was the deputy headmaster.

Earlier this year, Mr Geddes, 71, was found not guilty of five counts of sexual abuse against pupils at Caldicott, including Mr McFadyen. He taught at the school in the early 1970s, when Addrison was one of his pupils.

Addrison's next job, aged 26, was a history teacher at a Catholic prep

school, Moor Park, in Ludlow. He arrived in 1985 and left suddenly, three years later, after being caught at night in a boys' dormitory.

Derek Henderson, the school's then headmaster, was informed. He dismissed the 29-year-old after sending him to see a school governor who was a friend of the Addrison family. He left the school, promising that he would not teach again. No child protection authorities were informed of the incident. The whole affair was hushed up. It would be 24 years before he was held to account for his crimes at Caldicott and Moor Park.

At his sentencing last September, for offences against two Caldicott pupils and four boys at Moor Park, Aylesbury Crown Court was told, in mitigation, that Addrison had himself been sexually abused during his school days.

Mr Clegg said yesterday that he was stunned to realise he been entirely unaware that "horrific abuse" was happening during his Caldicott years. "It's very unsettling to know that this kind of abuse can go on and yet an appearance of normality can be maintained. The school seemed entirely normal to the rest of us."

Protection agencies 'let down child abuse victims at every stage'

Andrew Norfolk
Chief Investigative Reporter

Girls who suffered years of abuse by members of a sex-grooming network were failed at every stage by child-protection agencies that made "moral judgments" about the victims because of their "class and background", a review has found.

Agencies in Rochdale had "limited expectations" of the teenagers and "a high level of tolerance" when incidents came to light that suggested children were being used for sex by adults. They

also seemed reluctant to ask "legitimate questions" about why socially disadvantaged white girls were spending so much time with "middle-aged Asian men".

Last year nine men aged from 22 to 59, largely of Pakistani origin, were jailed for offences against girls who were abused and sold for sex in kebab shops, taxis, flats and houses. The victims were all from deprived backgrounds.

The judge who sentenced the men said that they treated their victims as "worthless and beyond all respect". The review of the agencies' dealings with six

of the children, published today, concludes that some care professionals were similarly dismissive.

Girls as young as 13 who were subjected to repeated sexual exploitation, often under the influence of alcohol and drugs fed to them by their abusers, were held to be making "lifestyle choices". The father of one was told by social workers that his daughter was a child prostitute. "It's what they expected of our children," he said.

The study catalogues "a widespread pattern of weaknesses and failures, both in relation to agencies and to indi-

vidual practice" that "together acted to undermine the system's ability to protect and safeguard the young people over a period of years".

Damningly, it concludes: "It should have been possible to have prevented a significant part of the abuse that took place. Had the sexual exploitation been recognised and responded to at the earliest stages, these young people may have been protected from repeat victimisation and other young people may also have been protected from becoming victims."

Although many internal reports re-

ferred to the offenders as being Asian, there was "little evidence that practitioners asked questions as to why quite well-established social and racial boundaries were being crossed so frequently". The report adds: "Questions could have been legitimately asked as to whether 'friendships' between middle-aged Asian men and predominantly socially disadvantaged white teenagers required further examination."

It suggests that considering such questions might have "led to the recognition that the girls were being targeted and groomed by the men".