

Mirror

Boy, 10, tried to kill himself after school bullies framed him for rape

EXCLUSIVE: The boy's mum says their lives have been "turned upside down" by the sick lies

BY GRACE MACASKILL

21:05, 18 AUG 2018



The boy's mum says he was treated by police as if he were guilty (Image: John Gladwin)

A boy of ten tried to kill himself twice after playground bullies who threatened to "ruin his life" made false rape allegations against him.

The distressed primary pupil was grilled by police for four hours over the sick lies. The bullying began after he refused to join in an abusive game with three classmates.

The lad's family were told he was a potential danger to his two siblings. They felt he was treated as though he was guilty from day one.

The ordeal went on for 10 months before one bully finally said it had just been a "joke" and police said there would be no charges.

The mum, who we cannot name for legal reasons, said: "Our lives have been turned upside down and have changed for ever. And all on the word of a 10-year-old bully who decided to pick on my son.



The boy with his mum, who cannot be named for legal reasons (Image: JOHN GLADWIN)

"My son has tried to take his own life twice as a result of these vicious lies.

"It has stolen his innocence completely. He is a different little boy. We have moved schools and moved areas, and all on the word of a stupid and evil bully making up a lie.

"It cannot go unpunished. What my son has been through would be bad enough for an adult, let alone a little boy.

“These are the worst bullies in the country and they will probably get away with it.”

The child’s nightmare was sparked by a game in which the last person to reach the school gates in the morning agreed to be bullied for the rest of the day.

The mum said when she told him not to take part, the bullying got worse and the so-called pals threatened to “ruin his life”. Weeks later, she got a call from the school telling her to pick up her son after an “incident”.

She said: “They wouldn’t tell me what had happened. They said there had been an allegation and that my son couldn’t be at school at a result.”



The ordeal went on for 10 months (Image: JOHN GLADWIN)

The mum-of-three picked up her bewildered and waited for a knock at the door.

She said: “He had no idea what he was supposed to have done. We waited and, soon after, a social services man arrived.

“He also refused to tell me what the allegation was, only that it had been passed to the police. I was furious.

“He then told me that if I wanted to keep custody of my children – an older girl and younger boy – I must keep them away from my 10-year-old.

“We are a happy, close family living under one roof. How was I supposed to do that?”

The mum tried to find out what her son had supposedly done but police refused to give details while “gathering evidence”. She said: “I didn’t know what to do, I felt so helpless. He is just a child.”

The family were left in limbo for a month before they were finally called to the local station, where the full seriousness of the situation was revealed. The mum said: “They told us he was being arrested on suspicion of two counts of rape and four of sexual assault.

“My son asked what that meant. He was so innocent, he didn’t even have a clue what the words meant.

“My stomach dropped, I thought there must have been a mistake. I didn’t want to let go of my boy but they refused to let me or his stepdad in as they questioned him.



Humberside Police investigated the claims (Image: Humberside Police)

“Apparently it was claimed the incident had happened at our home on a play date, so we couldn’t accompany him. We called his biological dad and he went in with him. I was beside myself. He was in there for four hours. How is that right? He is a child.”

The family finally learned the allegations had been made by three schoolkids who were meant to be the boy’s friends.

Speaking about the vile game the boys played, the mum said: “My son was being bullied. The ringleader was turfed out of his house early by his mum, who wanted him out.

“Because he didn’t want to wait for schooltime alone, he created this game, but I wouldn’t let my son leave before it was the right time. As a result, he was always the bullied one. I had no idea.

“They told him because he was always the ‘loser’ they would make a rumour up about him to ‘ruin his life’. But this was a couple of months before the allegation. We told the police this but it was ignored.”

There then came an anxious wait to see if there would be a trial. She said: “The police didn’t care about the impact on my son, who was a child and should have been treated as innocent until proven guilty.

“I was told they make charging decisions every 28 days, so every month I would call, only to be given no news.”

In that time, the family had a visit from a witness protection service agent. The lad’s mum said: “We were told if the case got the go-ahead my son would be the youngest person to face trial for one of the allegations. It made me physically sick.

“They told us that if it was given the green light for trial, the entire family would have to be given new identities. We would be moved and protected in the interests of our own safety.”

It was only after 10 months of suffering that the family got a bit of good news. “We got a letter telling us that for now there would be no charges but it’s open. That is not good enough. It is so wrong.”

The family have now hired a lawyer to get the charges dropped completely after one of the boys allegedly admitted it was all “just a joke”. The mum said: “They should face charges for wasting police time and the police should face consequences for how they treated us and how long they kept us in that hell waiting.

“My little boy is ten, yet was treated like a grown man who has committed rape, as though he was guilty without a trial. It is sick and wrong. Something needs to be done about it.”

DCI Pete Thorp, from Humberside Police’s Protecting Vulnerable People Unit, said: “All appropriate action was taken at the time and we conducted a thorough investigation into the allegations. The Crown Prosecution Service made a decision not to prosecute and the matter is closed.”