

Commemorative statement of Mrs A Sefton

With ref to our daughter Georgina Sefton, you asked what she was like.

Gina was a good baby, who was always laughing and she grew into a good girl. She loved music and loved to dance, and she used to dance at home.

Gina also loved art and was a good artist, just like her Dad!

Gina was over the moon when her daughter was born.

Gina was thoughtful. In 2005, after our son Tony had died, she wrote to the Essex Chronicle about me and I ended up winning the Essex Achievement over Adversity Award – all because Gina wrote in to nominate me.

Gina was a user of drugs, this we do believe was part of her bipolar. Going back, Gina whilst at school got on well with her brother and sisters, mostly her brother Tony who she always went to with her problems. He used to go all night fishing and Georgina used to say can I go with him – she did and loved it.

As regarding her art work, Tony taught her how to shadow her drawing and she was really good, like her brother. They talked a lot and laughed all the time. Sometimes she would ask him for advice on different things, she also got advice from her older sister. Tony used to take her under his wing, those was her happiest days, then something happened, we don't know what or why she became re-closed and very against the system.

When she was good, she was very good, a bundle of laughs and when she was bad, she was uncontrollable. Going forward, we tried on several occasions to get her into rehab and failed. We [finally] got her a place in a rehab and then was told that Gina had to be 3 months clear of drugs before they would [accept] her. This is something I couldn't understand. How you ask an addict to clean up because if she could stop the drugs on her own why would she need rehab?

Same applies to the Linden Centre, we went to go and see her there, she seemed happy and something happened and it all went wrong. We are here now and we still don't know why. In the Linden Centre, they didn't ask for our advice at any time, shame on them.

I would like to know the truth. I want to know why she wasn't kept safe.

Gina took her life whilst visiting her friend in London. At the time she was an inpatient in the Linden Centre and was allowed to go to London. She didn't come back to the Linden Centre in the morning.

I found out that Gina had taken her life when police knocked on my door to say "We've found Georgina".

I am now a broken woman.