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## Joy as mauled Sinead is reunited with mum

Tuesday, December 16, 2008, 17:54

A YOUNG girl who was left with a lasting scar after being mauled by a dog – just days after being placed in foster care – has been reunited with her real mother.

Speaking exclusively to the *Newquay Guardian* this week, mother Delia Taylor said she was "overjoyed" to have daughter Sinead back at the family home in Fraddon.

Sinead was placed with a foster family in the St Austell area back in June but just days into her stay, she was attacked by the foster family's pet cocker spaniel.

The attack left Sinead needing 30 stitches in her right cheek.

But now, six months on from the incident, Sinead has returned to live with her mother and will spend Christmas together as a family.



Mrs Taylor said: "I am so happy that she is back here; I am so pleased we are together again now; I've missed her so much."

Sinead was placed in the hands of a foster family by Cornwall County Council's social services department, who acted due to fears for her safety.

Mrs Taylor was married to a man who was jailed in 2005 for more than a decade of domestic violence against her. A paramedic described one incident of violence as the worst he had seen in 14 years.

However, after the husband's release earlier this year, the couple vowed to give their relationship another go.

But, after Mrs Taylor reported a violent incident to social services, Sinead was taken into care – despite a successful injunction being granted against the father.

Mrs Taylor said: "I have had to jump through hoops – I have done absolutely everything that has been asked of me by the courts and then a lot more on top to get Sinead back here.

"But, my role of being a good mother was never in question in the first place; it was my violent ex-partner who was the issue.

"I have done so much, and I am pleased that the council and the courts finally agreed that she should be at home with me now. I am so lucky to have her back."

Mrs Taylor, 40, said her daughter was starting to get back to normality after a traumatic year.

"She is settling down well in school, which is very pleasing. But she always wears her hair down over her scar so she is very conscious of that.

"It will take a long time for her to come to terms with what happened but we'll deal with that as a family; together."

She added: "I'm just chuffed she is back here, with her friends and family around her, especially at Christmas. I feel very lucky because I know there are mothers out there who were in my position who will never get their children back no matter how hard they try."

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