

CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL
SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

MINUTES OF CASE CONFERENCE
HELD AT WEEDINGSHALL ON 29TH JANUARY 1987

Subject:

JANIE VERHEES D.O.B. 28.2.72.

Legislation: Section 16

Present at Case Conference:

Alan Boyd	Principal Officer (Assessment)
Wendy Walker	Educational Psychologist
Jim Sexton	Social Worker
William Parfery	Acting Officer-In-Charge
Teresa McGowan	Assistant Care Officer
Brenda Figiel	Acting Assistant Officer-In-Charge

Apologies: D.R. McCullough Principal Officer (Residential Child Care)
R. Driscoll Senior Social Worker

Reports were tabled by Jim Sexton, Teresa McGowan and Wendy Walker.

This meeting had been arranged to pull together conclusions about the future care of Janie and Raymond and to look at their future educational needs in the light of Wendy Walker's assessment.

Janie

Janie has successfully shut off from many of her problems and following our decision at the last Case Conference, has not attended school this term. Janie has missed out on significant parts of her emotional development and maintains a superficiality in her relationships with adults. It will be some considerable time before Janie is prepared to make trusting relationships with adults who so often in the past, have let her down. She will need consistency and security in the future to enable her to do this. it is unlikely that Janie will be able to re-establish herself in mainstream schooling and her name should be placed on the waiting list for small group education.

Despite the ambivalence which Janie sometimes appear to have for each/

each other, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] we felt that it was important for the two children to live together. We also agreed that it was important to maintain the relationship between these children and their father but that this relationship should be realistic in terms of what was on offer to the children.

Decisions

1. Janie and Raymond should be placed in a residential unit together in the Stirling area to enable them to have trial placements at Bannockburn High School. This will be subject to negotiation with the school and should it fail, they should be considered for small group education placement. We agreed that Wendy Walker should be involved in liaising with the educational establishments involved.

It was agreed that the most suitable residential establishment for these two youngsters would be Aberlour Trust's Braehead Unit. This conclusion is reached for two reasons:

- a) The stability and staff ratio of the Unit, and
- b) The commitment that both children would have to being there and the fact that Janie appears to have established sound relationships with certain staff members during their previous placement at this Unit.



Alan Boyd

REPORT FOR CASE CONFERENCE

TO BE HELD AT

WEEDINGSHALL YOUTH CARE CENTRE ON 29.1.87

SUBJECTS : ELIZABETH JANE VERHEES (D.O.B. 28.2.72)

ADDRESS : WEEDINGSHALL YOUTH CARE CENTRE

LEGISLATION APPLYING : S.16 Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

EVENTS SINCE THE LAST CONFERENCE OF 22.12.86

JANIE:

School:

Attempts to have Janie attend school proved futile and Janie has been provided with work at Weedingshall since the beginning of December 1986. Staff at Woodlands High have indicated that they would welcome her back with a minimum of fuss but Janie has refused to attend.

I feel that the uncertainty of her present situation has contributed to the breakdown of her school placement and I believe she may now have little investment in formal education.

Home:

Prior to the meeting of 22.12.86, Janie had decided that she would no longer live with her dad and Jeanette on a permanent basis. - The decision of the meeting did not therefore come as a surprise and was greeted with a degree of indifference.

Access visits have continued but the success of these fluctuates from visit to visit. The parents' attitude seems to be if Janie behaves then she is welcome in the home but if she absconds to relatives or spreads stories then visits will be cancelled. The children feel that Henry cancels visits without good cause.

Up to 16.1.87 Janie had refrained from absconding for 2 weeks and was expressing a renewed interest in California. Further access visits revealed Janie being helpful in the home and helping Jeanette write invitations for her marriage to Henry on 13.3.87. The parents and children discussed their future at this juncture and the children stated they would like to return to California. Henry and Jeanette's response however was more cautious, delaying their own decision until perhaps June this year.

At the time of writing Janie has again run off from Weedingshall and Henry and Jeanette have re-affirmed that the children will be welcome at home if they behave.

CONCLUSION:

I believe that Janie's own goals are aimed at independent living and feel that a placement geared to this end would be appropriate. Although more than one place can meet this criteria, Janie has shown a commitment verbally and throughout a previous placement, to the Aberlour Child Care Trust's Braehead Unit. Janie has also demonstrated an ability to undermine a placement which she does not agree with and has, as was predicted, absconded continuously from Weedingshall.

James Sexton

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MR. J. SEXTON
Social Worker
28.1.87

WEEDINGSHALL YOUTH CARE CENTRE

It was agreed that Janie would not attend school because she was absconding and that by remaining here at Weedingshall we may get to know her better.

Conclusion

Staff at Weedingshall feel that Janie needs to move to a more settled environment and would therefore recommend that a long term placement be sought. We also feel that educational provision should be made for her as a matter of urgency.

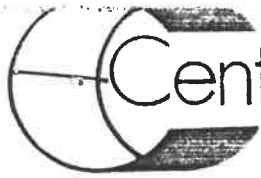


Teresa McGowan
Assistant Care Officer



Brenda Figiel
Acting Assistant O-I-C

DP/202600930 - Applicant's Copy



Central Regional Council

Child Guidance Service,
Springwood House,
Polmaise Road,
Stirling FK7 9JJ
Telephone: 70069

Telephoning or
Calling ask for
Miss W. Walker
Extension 23/31

Our Ref WW/EC
Your Ref

Date 19th January, 1987

• CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. J. Sexton,
Social Worker,
Falkirk Area Office,
Brockville,
Hope Street,
FALKIRK.

PSYCHOLOGIST'S REPORT: ELIZABETH JANE VERHEES (28.02.72)
Weedingshall Children's Home, Polmont
Woodlands High School

Janie was referred to this Service by Mr. Sexton, Social Worker, as an outcome of a case review in November, 1986. Janie had been admitted to Weedingshall Children's Home that month following a breakdown in her family situation. Janie was running away and refusing to talk about her feelings to either her family or the professionals involved. Janie had not attended school since her admission to care and prior to this her attendance had been erratic. I was asked to carry out an assessment of Janie which would aid planning for her care and education in particular to establish her ability to relate, her views of her present situation and forthcoming move and her educational needs.

I have now met Janie individually on four occasions and discussed her with the other professionals involved. Unfortunately my meeting with guidance staff at Woodlands High School had to be postponed and will take place next week. This has clearly limited my assessment to date.

On one occasion Janie failed to attend an appointment as she had run away.

I found Janie rather detached and lacking in spontaneity or animation. She rarely showed her feelings but would answer my questions generally in a rather flat way. However, she was co-operative, gave some thought to my questions and was willing to discuss her feelings about her situation and her wishes.

I focused on this last year of Janie's life.

She spoke fairly positively of life with her foster parents, the Rolfes. She liked Cowie and the fact that as a family they did things together. She had gone to see them, I understand, on one of the occasions she ran away from Weedingshall, but she was unsure if they were pleased to see her. It was when discussing the Rolfes she showed some anger and she says she would not like to have contact with them in the future. She sees the breakdown of her

Mr. J. Sexton

19th January, 1987

ELIZABETH JANE VERHEES (28.02.72)

placement there as her own fault as she wanted to live with her father.

As a result of the breakdown of her foster placement she was admitted to Braehead Children's Home and she says she enjoyed her stay there but could not give reasons for this.

Janie says she hoped that living with her father would work out but that deep down she knew all along it wouldn't. She feels there are a number of reasons that it broke down. She says that she and her brother Raymond fought a good deal and that she 'never hit it off' with her father's co-habitee Jeanette. Janie says her father was drinking a lot when she was home and that this contributed to the problems as, at these times, he was not interested in either Raymond or herself and he often ended up fighting with Jeanette. Janie says she would like, in the long term, to return to live with her father but that both she and her father need to change if this is to work. In the short term Janie talked of wanting to return to Braehead Children's Home.

As well as contact with her father and Jeanette Janie says she would like to be able to visit her Aunt Sandra and her Grandmother.

Janie does not see herself as getting on very well with Raymond and is unsure if she would like to continue to live with him.

Janie described recent contact with her natural mother when she had run away. She sees her mother as being more interested in drinking than in Janie. She says she does not wish further contact with Mrs. Verhees.

Part of Janie wishes she were old enough to look after herself.

Janie has mixed feelings about school. She says she likes some of the teachers and subjects there. She preferred Bannockburn High School to her present school as she says she knows more people there. She feels that when her living situation is more settled she will find it easier to attend school.

Summary and Recommendations

In order to cope with the stress and insecurity presently in her life, I think Janie is largely shutting off from her feelings. She has experienced much rejection from the adults in her life and I think this has left her very lacking in trust. Because her experiences of relationships have been so painful I think she is fighting to keep adults at a distance at present hence her running away.

Given the 'shell' that is around her at present it was difficult to get a clear idea of her ability to relate in depth. Janie has, I think, a very poor self image and sees herself as powerful in a destructive sense.

I think Janie's lack of trust of adults and her fear of what she sees as her own destructiveness leave her feeling on one level that it is safer to look after herself than to become dependent again on adults.

I think that the following issues are important when considering Janie's next placement.

Mr. J. Sexton19th January, 1987ELIZABETH JANE VERHEES (28.02.72)

She is vehement that she does not wish an alternative family placement as she feels she has tried this and it was a failure. I do not think she is ready at this stage to live in another family. I think that regardless of the plans Janie would benefit from the opportunity when in a settled placement to discuss her time with the Rolfes and to be helped to understand the reasons for the breakdown with them.

Given her experiences Janie may continue for some time to try to keep adults at a distance and may become quite testing of limits. This has implications for her next placement in terms of the staffing levels and their confidence in handling difficult behaviour.

Although, given her age, she will need help in preparing for independence alongside this I feel it will be important to continue to recognise her more childlike needs for nurturing and security.

As I have not yet met with school staff I do not yet feel in a position to make a recommendation regarding Janie's educational needs.

Wendy Walker
WENDY WALKER
Psychologist

Memo



To D.R. McCullough
Principal Officer
(Residential Child Care)

From A. Boyd
Principal Officer (Assessment)

Extension

Our ref AB/JW

Your ref

Date 8th January 1987

Subject : JANIE VERHEES [REDACTED]

As you may recall I chaired a post-admission Case Conference on this case on 19.11.86. (see Minute on file). As a result of this meeting, we agreed to undertake some short-term work with Janie and to this end, Wendy Walker was included in what became an ad hoc Primary Assessment Team. During the course of this work Raymond Verhees was also admitted to care and Wendy has also arranged to see Raymond.

This work will be completed within the next few weeks when we should have clear recommendations about the future of these two youngsters.

It would seem to be appropriate to convene a Case Conference in the near future and to this end, I have provisionally arranged one for 11 a.m. on the morning of Thursday, 22nd January 1987 at Weedingshall.

I am attaching Janie's file for your information.


Alan Boyd

WEEDINGSHALL RECEPTION/ASSESSMENT CENTRE

SUBJECT: JANIE VERHEES D.O.B.
D.O.A.

Intelligence and Level of Functioning/

Intelligence and Level of Functioning

Functioning level may be affected by Janie's own realisation that she would be unable to cope if she were to return to live with her natural father and his fiancée. At times she seems apathetic and emotionless as if she is reacting to frustration and traumas she has experienced by withdrawing from the situation. If put to her room after absconding, Janie goes without complaint, settles down and quietly reads a book. She has an extremely poor self-image and finds difficulty in accepting praise or a compliment.

On the numerous occasions she has absconded from Weedingshall, Janie has more often than not visited Aunts or Uncles who live in the region. She has little appreciation of 'the risk' involved at such times and of the danger surrounding her nocturnal and daytime absences.

School

Attendance at school has now reached such a low level that Janie has been allowed to do school work in Weedingshall. This decision was taken as it was felt there was little hope of her remaining in school after she was taken there by staff and also as a means of ensuring we know her whereabouts.

The Guidance Teacher at school finds Janie pleasant and states she behaves well and is attentive when she is in class.

Social Links in the Community

Janie appears to have few friends of her own age in the community. Contact outside Weedingshall has been with relatives and mainly during the time she has absconded.

Child's Relationship with the Natural Family

Visits have been made by Mr Verheese and his fiancée Janette. Janie obviously welcomes this and enjoys their company. At these meetings Janie never selects to sit next to her father, but sits closely by his fiancée. She is alert to how both adults react to her responses to their questions although she does not comment on this and does not communicate with them freely or in depth.

Her reaction to Mr Verheese's fiancée when she telephones is however, rather abrupt. When the call is terminated she swears loudly in an angry manner. The three family members agree that circumstances have not altered to a degree whereby they could solve problems and live together in the near future. Recently, Janie received a phone call from her Dad and his fiancée when they were under the influence of drink and she reacted to this by quietly replacing the receiver and withdrawing to her room, stating that as usual they wouldn't visit as arranged.

She has also been in touch with her natural Mother, albeit during times she has absconded.

Meetings with Wendy Walker: Psychologist

Janie has explained that she feels more relaxed and able to talk when she meets with Wendy. When she returns from these meetings she appears more at ease and smiles more readily. At Weedingshall she feels that other children may overhear what is said and therefore know her business.

Future Plans

Although Janie is realistic and understands why she is unlikely to return to live with her natural father, she has expressed a need to be able to visit and spend time with him.

An alternative place of residence should therefore be sought for Janie as at present her absconding and truanting are causing great concern as regards her safety and welfare. Janie appears unable to cope with present educational arrangements and alternative schooling where she will get more individual attention should be sought.

Sheila Woodburn

Sheila Woodburn
Senior Care Officer

Sheila Mastersen
Officer-In-Charge

file

CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL - SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

CASE CONFERENCE - MINUTE

SUBJECT: ELIZABETH JANE VERHEES (K/A JANEY)

D.O.B. 28.2.72

STATUTE: Section 16

PLACEMENT: Weedingshall

DATE OF ADMISSION: 7.11.86

PRESENT: A Boyd (Principal Officer - Assessment)
S Masterson (Officer in Charge Weedingshall)
S Woodburn (Senior Care Officer)
B Driscoll (SSW)
J Sexton (SSW)

Apologies - D McCullough

A written report was provided by Jim Sexton, together with recent case conference minute.

Janey's admission to Weedingshall follows an unsuccessful 'home on trial' arrangement with her father and stepmother.

Janey has manipulated and undermined family relationships and has been unable to share her father with her stepmother and siblings.

Although she is not creating any significant problems in Weedingshall, Janey is described as an angry and uncommunicative youngster. She is not without insight into the problems which have led to her reception into care, but seems to lack any motivation to resolve any of the problems which existed for her while at home.

In addition, Janey has now established contact with her natural mother, but the ramifications of this development are as yet unclear.

Janey continues to attend Woodlands High School, and despite some relatively minor problems of attendance and one recent incident of theft, this appears to be reasonably secure.

Concern was expressed about Janey's current entrenched and uncommunicative attitude and it was agreed that some short term work should be undertaken with her before any further decisions about her future care could be taken.

This short term work will be co-ordinated by A Boyd, and Wendy Walker educational psychologist will be involved in this process.

Jim Sexton will also form part of this short term group.

Work to be undertaken will include the production of a history of Janey's life (similar to a RAG referral document), a 'stock-taking' exercise with Janey about her life involving work on a life story book. An assessment of her relationships with both her parents and work with her regarding relationships and communication in general.

First meeting to take place at Falkirk Area Office Monday 24.11.86 3.30p.m.

REPORT FOR CASE CONFERENCE

TO BE HELD IN WEEDINGS SHALL ON 19.11.86

SUBJECT : ELIZABETH JANE VERHEES (D.O.B. 28.2.72)

LEGISLATION APPLYING: SECTION 16 SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968.

BACKGROUND:

See Minutes of Case Conference held at Brightons Sub-Office on 5.11.86 plus minutes of the 20A Review of 29.10.86.

Janey was received into care at Weedingshall on 7.11.86. The specific event which led to this was Janey spreading stories to her aunt and grandparents about her dad and stepmother spending the housekeeping money on alcohol.

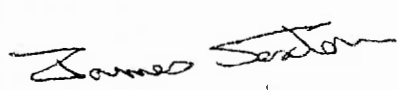
EVENTS SINCE RECEPTION INTO CARE:

Home:



Janey:

Janey seems to have settled at Weedingshall better than had been expected. She has truanted from school and visited her natural mother, who is denied access, but this had been anticipated and should not pose any real problem. What is more encouraging is that Janey has listened to her father's advice about sharing problems and she has asked to see me on 19.11.86. Janey has also decided that she does not like her natural mother and she has reiterated her wish to return to Henry and Jeanette.


.....
MR. J. SEXTON
Social Worker
JS/SJP
18.11.86

CONFIDENTIAL

Central Regional Council

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

Review of Children in Care - Record of Review

Name Elizabeth Jane Verhees

Date of Birth 28.2.72 Statute Section 16 Social Work (Secl) Act

Date and Place of Review 2.15 p.m. on 29.10.86 at Grangemouth Area Office.

Reason for Review Section 20 (a)

Present at Review Ms.M.Aitken, Area Officer., Mr.J.Sexton, Social Worker.,
Mr. Verhees, Father., Mrs. Verhees, Step-mother.,
Raymond Verhees, Elizabeth Verhees.

If the child was not present, state reason

Not applicable

If the parents were not present, state reason

Not applicable

Summary of Discussion (Continue on separate sheet if necessary)

Janie has been causing friction, within the family, since she came to stay with her father in August 1986. She is jealous of her step-mother's relationship, with her father and tries to disrupt the family, in the hope of splitting them up. She had in one instance put pills in her step-mother's coffee.

Janie is seen as an intelligent child who has a strong influence on the family. With her co-operation the family could live in greater harmony. Janie has lived away, from her father, for nine years and in all that time she has missed him and it will take time until she gets to know him again. Ideally she would have liked to have stayed with her father on his own and sees her step-mother as the person who comes between them. She must be prepared to share her father with her step-mother.

Ms.Aitken drew to Mr.Verhees's attention that both children and his wife all need part of his love and attention. Janie in particular needs special help, because she has tried to shut everyone out and will not talk to anyone about how she feels. Janie has to be made realise that someone is on her side. The only person she will talk to is Alice, her aunt.

tries to involve Janie in the home environment, by asking her about certain matters. As a result, of her step-mother's influence, she is more fashionably dressed and has been shown how to put on make-up. Janie received a reasonable school report which showed that she gets well with staff and pupils although her attendance is poor. She has a good relationship with Mrs. Montgomery, her guidance teacher.

Differences, were identified in Janie, for the good, since going to live with her father. Ms. Aitken told the group that six months ago she did not think the family would all still be together and that this achievement was commendable. However she pointed out that the Social Work Department still had parental rights, over both children, and would take action, if they felt it was necessary.

Summary of Points made at review were as follows:-

1. Janie need to receive special attention from her father.
2. Janie must acknowledge that she will try and improve her relationship with her step-mother.
3. Mrs. Verhees to try and relax about Janie's untidiness and accept this as natural for a child of her age.
4. Janie to be spoken to about personal hygiene problems, which she has.

Decisions

Act 10

(a) What are the current and future plans for accommodation?

To remain as at present.

J. Sexton

(b) What are the current and future plans for education and/or work?

To remain as at present.

J. Sexton

(c) What are the plans for access?

Not applicable

(d) What, if any, legal initiatives need to be taken?

Children to remain under Section 16.

(e) Any other important considerations.

Not applicable.

(f) Arrangements for notifying child and family of the review decision.

Date, Place and Time of next Review

Greenwich Area Office

c.c. Mrs. Blaikie, Legal & Admin

Mary Clark
3/1/8

CASE CONFERENCE

HELD AT BRIGHTONS SUB-OFFICE ON 5.11.86

SUBJECT : ELIZABETH JANE VERHEES (D.O.B. 28.2.72.

LEGISLATION APPLYING: Section 16 Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

Present : Miss M. Reddie, Resource Allocations Officer
Mr. R. Driscoll, Senior Social Worker
Mr. J. Sexton, Social Worker.

Apologies: Miss M. Aitken, Area Officer.
Mr. F. McCullough, P.O. (Residential Child Care).

Reports: Reports presented by Mr. Sexton.

REASONS FOR CONFERENCE:

1. Impending breakdown of trial period at home with father, step-mother and family.
2. Necessity for thorough forward planning given the previous disruptions in Janey's life.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

The background to the present situation was described in terms of Janey's move from long term foster care to Weedingshall, to Braehead, to father. The care plan had been to integrate Janey back with father and family for a trial period and then seek Committee's approval for rescision of Parental Rights. Currently, there is Committee approval for Janey and Raymond to be home on a trial basis.

Since Janey's return to father in August 1986 however, the family situation had become extremely stressful with Janey manipulating crises involving all family members, with the only apparent "pay off" for her being the hope that she and father could live together to the exclusion of, certainly step-mother, but possibly also Raymond and the baby. To this end there had been various episodes of problematic behaviour including putting pills in step-mother's coffee and creating a recent crisis between Raymond and his parents [REDACTED]

The issues of Janey's fantasies about life with father; her inability to share father with step-mother; and the general pre-disposition to create discord between other family members has been pointed out to her, but the girl has been unable/unwilling to modify her behaviour. Essentially, she is currently a very angry, resentful young lady who has great difficulty in making any use of the services offered to her, either by the social worker or the family, and who appears determined to create difficulties if she cannot have her own way.

Over the past months both adults in the family and Raymond have been the victims of Janey's manipulation, but on the positive side there is now a recognition on their /

their part of Janey's ability to "pull the strings. Although, however, the family are aware of this, and although Janey acknowledges their awareness, she has continued to make life intolerable to the extent that the viability of the marriage and Raymond's placement are being severely undermined. Janey has been advised that the other family members also have rights and that it is our intention to support those who wish to continue living together. Janey is not perturbed at the prospect of having to leave home because of her conduct.

Given the chronic and severe nature of Janey's behaviour, the meeting clearly acknowledged that life for her at home was now untenable and that the girl would have to come back into care.

The meeting then considered the appropriateness of alternative placements in the belief that we were not merely looking at "time out" for this girl. In considering alternatives, the following issues were felt to be of vital importance.

1. The Social Work Department has a fairly comprehensive view of Janey's need to reflect upon her past and work through emotional issues which are impinging upon her at the moment.
2. To this end it was felt that an actual period of assessment was not necessary and that what was needed was inter-professional input which would encourage Janey to embark on essential work if she is to make a success of adolescence and adult life.
3. The group considered that this could best be achieved against the reasonably stable background of a longer term unit. A further family placement was felt to be untenable at this point because of Janey's manipulation and the likelihood of transference to a new family situation.
4. Janey's co-operation in any further placement was considered as crucial because of her ability to undermine care plans with which she was not in full agreement. This was a feature of later life with the foster parents, Weedingshall, and recently at home. If Janey's co-operation is not forthcoming a regime with clear and consistently imposable limits will be necessary or the girl will run virtually daily and place herself at risk.
5. During the previous stay in Braehead Janey, to the surprise of many, formed reasonable relationships with staff in that establishment and responded to the boundaries placed upon her as she considered alternatives to Braehead as being less desirable. Currently, Janey is expressing a willingness to return to that establishment and given this, the history of beginning to form relationships in that establishment, and the previously positive experience of it, the group concluded that permission should again be sought for Janey to be speedily placed in Braehead.
6. In reaching this conclusion the group did however acknowledge that there may be problems of Janey periodically running away and that if permission can be obtained for utilising Braehead then a further Case Conference will need to be quickly convened in order to provide the comprehensive care package involving input from Educational Psychologist and/or Child Psychiatrist and family.

.....
 MR. R. DRISCOLL
 Senior Social Worker
 RD/SJP
 5.11.86