

JH/CDG

31st March 1980

Mr D. Thomason,
46 Albert Street,
Leith,
Edinburgh.

Dear Mr Thomason,

As a result of a Children's Hearing on Wednesday, 26:3:80, Hilda and Marvin are to remain at Tenterfield House in Haddington until further notice.

One of the major issues at the Hearing was the question of both Hilda and Marvin visiting your home and whether this was both appropriate and manageable as you are only present for a limited time at weekends. Whilst we appreciate the children's desire to visit you, both Mr Glennie (Marvin's social worker) and myself feel that we should discuss the matter with yourself and Mrs Hannah and see if we can agree to some arrangements being made.

You will appreciate that until we manage to get together over this matter, Hilda and Marvin will not be granted permission to visit you and I would, therefore, ask you to contact Mr Glennie or me as soon as possible to arrange a suitable time, either for you to come to the office or for us to visit you at home.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

J. Hall (Miss)
Social Worker

aman 9/10/64
for information

Tenterfield House,
Haddington.

TP/JM

Mr. C. Part
Divisional Education Officer
Education Office
Council Offices
Court Street
HADDINGTON.

26 March 1960

Dear Mr. Part,

Home address - 22a Durice Park, Edininstone.
Present School - Ross High.

Hilda THOMASON d.o.b. 16.9.64
Home address and School as above.

Hilda was admitted to Tenterfield at the same time and in the same circumstances as her younger brother. It now seems likely that Hilda will remain at Tenterfield whilst she makes the transition from school to work - she is a summer leaver.

I understand that Hilda is not doing well at school and that there are chronic attendance problems. I would request, however, that, as there is such a short time before she is due to leave school, that she be allowed to remain on the roll of Ross High.

I look forward to hearing from you so that appropriate arrangements can be made for the beginning of next term.

Yours sincerely,

T. J. Powell

TREVOR POWELL
Officer in charge.

Dr. H.D. Wilson,
Community Medicine Specialist,
31, Court Street,
Haddington.

ARTH/EC

6th March, 1980

Dear Dr. Wilson,

Re: Hilda Mary Thomason (d/b 16.9.64
X David Marvin Thomason (d/b 26.10.67) X
22A, Duries Park,
Elphinstone

Please note that the above named children were received into care
and placed in Tenterfield House, Haddington, on 4th March, 1980.

Yours sincerely,

JA

A. Ronald T. Henry,
Area Officer

Department of Health & Social Security,
Child Benefit Section (IX),
Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
NE98 1YX.

ARTH/EC

6th March, 1980

Dear Sir,

Re: Hilda Mary Thomason (d/b 16.9.64)
X David Marvin Thomason (d/b 26.10.67) X
22A, Duries Park,
Elphinstone

I wish to inform you that the above named were admitted to the care of this Social Work Committee on 4th March, 1980, in terms of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, Section 37(2) as amended by Children Act 1975 Sec.83(b).

Yours faithfully,

SA

A. Ronald T. Henry,
Area Officer

Mrs. Marshall,
Guidance Teacher,
Ross High School,
Tranent.

NCG/EC

14th September, 1978

Dear Mrs. Marshall,

Re: Hilda & Barbara Thomason,
22a, Duries Park,
Elphinstone

Thank you for letting me know that both Hilda and Barbara were off school on Monday, 11th September, 1978. I followed this up immediately and visited the home on Tuesday, 12th September. Neither girl was at home but Mrs. Thomason was "surprised" to be informed about non-school attendances.

I have told Mrs. Thomason that I would be asking the school to inform us on every occasion that Barbara and Hilda were off school and that this Department would follow this up - this, however, may be practically impossible for you to do.

My own view is that any developing pattern of non-school attendance must be stamped out immediately. Mrs. Thomason informed me that when she appeared in Court for the girls' attendance she was admonished

In the meantime, I would like to thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,

NCG

Norman C. Glennie,
Senior Social Worker

Mr. Glennie

REVIEW REPORTS

SCOTIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
HADDINGTON AREA OFFICE

SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT

for

Children's Hearing to be held on Wednesday, 5.3.80,
at Town House, Haddington, at 8.00 p.m.

on

HILDA THOMASON (d/b 16.9.64)

MARVIN THOMASON (d/b 26.10.67)

Home Address: 22, Duries Park,
Elphinstone

This Hearing has been called as a result of Hilda and Marvin being taken into care to Tenterfield House on 4th March, 1980, on a Place of Safety Order (Social Work (Scotl.) Act 1968, Sec.37(2) as amended by Children Act 1975 Sec. 83(b)).

Hilda Thomason was discharged from St. Margaret's Hostel, Edinburgh, on 23rd January, 1980 [REDACTED]. She was on a Home Supervision Order to the above address and resumed attendance at Ross High School, Tranent. For three weeks this arrangement was proving to be satisfactory and during this time Mrs. Thomason involved herself with the school and this Department, thus adhering to the contract drawn up at Hilda's last panel referring to Mrs. Thomason's own commitment to Hilda's return home. It is felt that Mrs. Thomason has made a genuine effort to ensure that Hilda's return home proved successful, but in doing so resorted to a more lenient approach to Hilda in the hope of gaining some respect and subsequently discipline.

Over the last 2/3 weeks, Hilda has once again begun to truant from school. During these absences she has managed on occasion to get to Edinburgh or visits friends locally.

Hilda, along with Marvin and their younger sister Sharlene, visited her father in Edinburgh the weekend before last. This was with her mother's full knowledge and consent. Mr. Thomason lives with his cohabitee of 6 years, Mrs. Ann [REDACTED] who presently has two children [REDACTED]. These two children [REDACTED]

I.T. report

Hilda & Marvin Thomason (Contd.)

return to their mother most weekends and the presence of a young child of the present relationship makes conditions in the two-apartment flat extremely cramped. Mr. Thomason works away from home during the week, departing on a Monday morning until Saturday morning.

Hilda did not attend school since the visit to her father's home, unknown to Mrs. Thomason who on one occasion escorted Hilda almost to the school gates. Due to this latterly persistent truancy, Hilda faces possible exclusion from Ross High School. She is, however, attending today.

[REDACTED]

Circumstances leading to Place of Safety Order:-

On Friday, 29th February, neither having attended school, Hilda and Marvin took themselves to their father and cohabitee's home at 66, Albert Street, Edinburgh.

Mrs. Thomason surmised that both were there but had not been consulted or informed of their intention. It should be noted, and perhaps indicative of Mrs. Thomason's way of coping with a personal crisis, that she neither informed the Police or this Department that Hilda and Marvin were "missing". On Sunday, 2nd March, Hilda and Marvin returned home. Between Sunday and Monday morning, Mrs. Thomason, Hilda and Marvin had a heated exchange about the weekend's events [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in Tranent. It would appear that Mrs. Thomason became extremely agitated when both appeared indifferent about their mother's anger and anxieties for their welfare. An unhealthy compromise was reached. Marvin and Hilda decided that they no longer wished to live with their mother; Mrs. Thomason concluded that she no longer wished to cope with them. Mrs. Thomason, without prior consultation with this Department or indeed with Marvin's father, subsequently ordered a taxi to convey the children to Edinburgh.

When interviewed by us on Monday evening of this week, Mrs. Thomason openly stated in an emotionally distressed state that she could no longer cope with Marvin and Hilda, and wished them to be taken into care. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] On the same evening following a social worker's visit to 66, Albert Street, Edinburgh, it was agreed that Marvin and Hilda could remain there for that evening.

On Tuesday, 3rd March, Hilda and Marvin were removed from their father's home, much to their displeasure. They were clear in their own minds at that time that they did not want to return to their mother and found difficulty in accepting that they could not remain with their father.

Both children were placed at Tenterfield House on Tuesday, 4th March, on a 48-hour admission arrangement. At this stage it is clear that the future care of both children requires careful thinking and planning /

Hilda and Marvin Thomason (Contd.)

planning and a return home is not recommended. Following negotiations, Tenterfield House have offered a place to both children for a limited period of 21 days, having been given the assurance that alternative care arrangements would be sought.

Given that this resource is available, we would recommend that both remain at Tenterfield on a Place of Safety Order. We would like the Panel to be aware that this Report has been written at short notice and may need to be supplemented further by discussion.

Home Address: 22, Darius Park,
Elphinstone

N. C. Glennie

Norman C. Glennie,
Senior Social Worker

Jacquie Hall

Jacquie Hall (Miss),
Social Worker

Victoria Park,
Haddington

5th March, 1980,
NCG/JH/EC

Minutes of Intake Meeting [redacted] 25th March, 1980.

Hilda and Marvin THOMASON

Present: Trevor, Brian, Norman, Jackie Hall, Rachel.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT
HADWORTH OPEN AREA

17 APR 1980

Ref. N.G.

Mrs. Thomason

[redacted] is committed to the children. [redacted] five or six years ago.

mother of 3 kids [redacted]

flat. Placing the children with their father is not feasible at present. Mrs. Thomason is cohabiting with a [redacted] in a 1 bedroomed flat. The third an infant, lives with them. Mrs. Thomason is presently living with her brother (she has left her own house vacant) and there is a possibility she may stay there for the long term and find employment. If she decides to stay there it would be too overcrowded for the children to return there.

At home the children have been having a rough time with Mrs. Thomason having been unrealistically hard on the children since her husband left. Hilda and Marvin have, perhaps as a result of this, developed a deviousness in their mutual protection. At home they have also had a lot of freedom and there has always been a lot of people visiting. Overall there has been inconsistent structure and control. Mrs. Thomason herself finds adolescents difficult to cope with.

Hilda has been having difficulty fitting in with the panel's wishes [redacted]

frequently. She is also involving Sharon. The school must be involved somehow in the plans for the future. [redacted] Hilda is truanting [redacted]

[REDACTED]

Hilda's school report from the Ross High is likely to suggest that she does not stay at Tenterfield because of her non-attendance. Could she be involved in school/work experience - should be checked out.

The panel will be asked for a condition of school attendance Jackie will be responsible for checking on this.

Hilda could stay at Tenterfield for up to a year. There will at present be no key worker - perhaps to be reviewed - She will be involved in the Independent Living Project. Options must be left open if Hilda is going to seek work. We are in the unfortunate position of continuing the caretaker role for Hilda that 'Care' has given Hilda so far. There is a danger of departure on Care and Tenterfield. There will be a 6 months review for her.