

Social Work Department

Case Conference held at Nimmo Place, Children's Home Perth,
on Tuesday 23 September, 1980 at 10.30a.m., on David Tarbett
Tommy Tarbett (d.o.b. 16 3 73) and Lisa Tarbett

<u>Present:</u>	Mr. and Mrs. Dingwall	Officer in Charge
	Mrs. Christie	Staff - Nimmo Place
	Mrs. Stewart	" "
	Mr. J.R. Anderson	S.S.W. Kirkton
	Mr. B. Hinnie.	S.W. Kirkton.

Background reports had already been supplied to the conference in advance of the meeting. Please find attached to this document copies of same. This background information, as can be seen, illustrates the contact between the family and the local authority, and also the R.S.S.P.C.C., and goes back to 1969.

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Hinnie were in attendance at the Reporter's office on the evening of Monday 15 September, and when we arrived we were informed that Mr. Tarbett wished to speak to Mr. ^{Hinnie} as his wife had deserted the family home and this would necessitate him placing the children in our care. As Mr. Hinnie had two Children's Hearings to deal with Mr. Tarbett was interviewed by Mr. Anderson when he clearly stated that he was unwilling to look after all four children. As a direct result of this Mr. Anderson made contact with Roineach Mhor Assessment Centre and the four children were initially placed there on an emergency basis. Due to the fact that there were no vacancies locally in the Dundee area it was necessary to move David, Tommy and Lisa to Nimmo Place Perth and this took place on Friday 19 September. Since the children's recent admission to care it has been explained to Mr. Tarbett that in the opinion of this department these children are developing into 'yo-yo' kids, and he was pressed by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Hinnie in interview to declare his interest in looking after them on a permanent basis. Mr. Tarbett clearly stated, at this juncture, that he was still unable to look after the children, and in the opinion of this department unwilling. He was duly informed therefore that we would be looking at the care of the children on a long term basis. However, as soon as Mrs. Tarbett is traced and she eventually returns to the family home, apparently will once again demand to have their children back. In an effort to gain some protection for these children the Reporter to the Children's Hearing has been alerted and at the time of writing I am advised that a Children's Hearing will take place on the 15 October for David and Derek, but no confirmed date has yet been set for Tommy and Lisa.

At to-day's discussion Mr. and Mrs. Dingwall and their staff indicated that there appears to be little reaction by the children at their reception into care, however, it is early days.

Tommy impresses as being deeper and could possibly be suffering more. He also blames the social work for their current predicament. David is something of a substitute father figure in relationship to the two youngest children. He has long confabs with brother Tommy

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[redacted]
It has been observed by the staff members that the children enjoy tactile contact with each other. [redacted]
[redacted]

Both Tommy and Lisa are enuretic and this appears to bother Tommy quite considerably [redacted] at the time of writing all three children were behaving in a manner that is considered to be too good! It was felt by all concerned that their true characters may be more forthcoming once they settle in these, still unfamiliar, surroundings.

In conclusion, it was agreed that we should use the time the children remain at Nimmo Place to assess their needs both individually and collectively and hopefully incorporate our findings in the panel report for mid October. At this stage it can only be stated that we must look at the prospects for long term care for the children for the reasons stated at the beginning of this review. More specific information concerning the family can be made available from the case worker, should it be felt necessary.

The date of the next review is Thursday 9 October, 1980 at 10.30a.m. at which it is hoped Mr. Steven will be able to attend.

[redacted]
Mr. J.R. Anderson,
Senior Social Worker.

30 9 80.

REPORT to Reporter to Children's Panel,
Tayside, Dundee Division.**Fathers:** David Tarbett (31) Labourer.**Mothers:** Helen Lundle or (30)

Children:	David Tarbett	[redacted]	Pupil Gillburn Primary
	Graham	"	" West March "
	Derek	"	" Duncarse
	Thomas	" d.o.b.14. 7.78	" Gillburn Primary
	Lisa	" [redacted]	At home.

Home Address: 41 Dunmore Street, Dundee.

20th May, 1976 Both parents appeared at Dundee Sheriff Court charged under a contravention of Childrens and Young Person's (Scotland) Act, 1937. Mother pled Guilty and was fined £15, father's plea of "Not Guilty" was accepted, no action was taken.

16th Aug., 76 Father had called at S. W. Dept., Area 2 requested Thomas and Lisa be taken into care. Mother in desertion.

17th Aug, 76 When mother called at the Society office she stated that she had left the home on 14th August, 1976

[redacted]

Paternal Aunt Mrs Tarbet, 15 Dronley Avenue telephoned complaining that the father had abandoned the five children on her in the street.

18th Aug, 76 Father took custody of all children except Thomas who remained with the mother.

October, 76 Mother and Thomas returned to the family home.

[redacted]

25th Jan, 77 On a visit to the home mother, children Thomas and Lisa were seen. The latter were in need of a wash. The home was in very poor order, clothing, paper, shoes and rubbish scattered over the floor. Hydro supply disconnected, mother receiving assistance from neighbours for cooking facilities. [redacted]

[redacted]

24th Nov., 78 [redacted]

[redacted] Mother
and children placed in "Woman's Aid Refuge" by Mo.

14th Jan, 1979

Father called at Society office with children David, Graham and Derek, other children Thomas and Lisa stated to be with P.G. Mother at 72 Drumlanrig Drive, Dundee. Father claimed that mother was in desertion and as he had to enter Ninewells Hospital for treatment he requested that the three children with him be admitted to care. Father later attended at Area 2 Social Work Department offices, signed Section 15 Forms and the children were admitted to the Children's Shelter, Laurelbanks, Dundee.

On learning later that father had not been admitted to hospital he was contacted and instructed to collect the children from the Children's Shelter. This he failed to do.

16th Jan, 79

Visit to 3 Craigmount Avenue where householder, parents and children were seen with the exception of Lisa who was still resident with the P.G. Mother.

[redacted] contacted father informing him of family's whereabouts resulting in father's visit. Agreement had also been reached between the householder and parents that mother and four children should remain at this address while Lisa remains with P.G. Mother.

17th Jan, 79

Information received from father that all the family were reunited in their own home.

29th Jan, 79

Message from Police Control at 3.55a.m. that Graham, Thomas and Lisa were being cared for by a Mrs Robertson, 37 Dunmore Street, but that she could not cope any longer. On visiting the address given, father was present, having just returned prior to my arrival. His explanation for his absence was that he had been searching unsuccessfully for the mother who had deserted the home on the 27th January, 1979.

Family History

This family became known to the Society in February, 1968 and there have been numerous complaints of the children being left unattended, violence by the father towards the mother, repeated financial difficulties resulting in Hydro supply being disconnected creating hardship in the home.

The children's behaviour at times has caused concern owing to their undisciplined behaviour which can be attributed to the lack of parental care.

On numerous occasions mother has deserted the home creating situations from which the children suffered the traumatic experience of receiving alternative care.

1. General domestic circumstances.

Home not seen.

2. EVIDENCE RELATING TO COMPLAINT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION (5) OVER

Accompanied by Mrs Bubb (Student) visited the home of Flynn 40 Dunmore Street, where the five Tarbett children were seen, they were clean, and appeared in good health. Information given was that both parents were in the street arguing and mother called at Flynn's house requesting that they telephone for Taxi. On arrival Mother asked child to accompany her which they refused. Mother left in the Taxi at approx 8.10a.m. Father was reported to have asked the Flynn's to look after the children for 10 minutes, after an hour they telephoned the Police.

The children did not know where the parents were. A telephone call was made to Society Office requesting Inspector Tarbet to contact mother who was reported to have given the Taxi driver the address 4 Armour Place, (Robertson), Dundee.

The two younger children being in the care of the Parents. David stated that the father had refused to allow the three children to return to their respective Residential Homes after the holiday, also that Mr B. Hinnie was the Social Worker involved. A Children's Hearing was due at the beginning of September. Mr Hinnie was contacted and he arrived at 40 Dunmore Street at approx 10.45a.m. when it was agreed that the children be taken to S.W. Dept., Haldane Terrace.
~~xxxx Evidence relating to Complaint and reasons for Recommendation (5) over xxx~~

The situation was discussed and Mr Hinnie spoke to his senior Mr James Birrell and it was agreed that David, Graham and Derek be returned to their respective Residential Homes and that places be found for Thomas and Lisa.

At approx 10.40a.m. Inspector Tarbet arrived at S.W. Dept., Haldane Terrace with the mother having conveyed her from 4 Armour Place, Dundee. She said that an argument arose with father [redacted]

[redacted] Mother stated she was not going back to the father and requested Mr Hinnie to take the two younger children into care. This was agreed to with Inspector Shield as "witness to her request. [redacted]

[redacted] Thomas and Lisa were given a meal before being taken to the Society Office, from where they were taken to Duncan Place Children's Home.

In view of the statutory responsibility held by the Social Work Dept. no further action is deemed necessary by the [redacted] and [redacted]

Conclusion

continued,

In an environment of violence in an uncaring situation detrimental to their future well being.

The father's history is one of refusing to accept the responsibilities of a wife and family, while the mother's attitude towards her own responsibilities within the home leaves much to be desired.

W. Foy,
Inspector,
R.S.S.P.C.C.

OTHER AGENTS INVOLVED

Miss Butters, Social Worker Area 2.

Mrs Evans,

Mr High Educational Social Worker, Duncarse Annex, Perth Rd.

Mr Marra, Headmaster, Gilburn Primary School.

Mr Cuthbert, Social Worker, Area 2.

Mr Whyte,

Dundee Branch,
17 William Street,
DUNDEE.

2nd March, 1979.



Tayside Regional Council
72/74 Haldane Terrace,
Dundee.

Social Work Department
Dundee Division Area 2

JW

SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT

The following person:—

Surname.....TARBETT.....

Christian Names
or forenames.....

Address.....c/o 25, Drumlanrig Drive.....
.....Dundee.....

Date of Birth.....

Religion.....Protestant.....

Occupation.....

Marital State.....N/A.....

is to appear on.....8 February, 1980.....at.....Dundee Children's Hearing.....in connection
With the crime.....3.35p.m. 48(2) Review at request of Social Worker.....

Previous Appearances as known to the Officer making the Report:

FAMILY:

Father: David Tarbett (31) 41 Dunmore Street. Unemployed.
Mother: Helen Tarbett (30) Present whereabouts unknown. Unemployed.
Others: David Tarbett (12)
Graham Tarbett(11)
Derek Tarbett (9)
Thomas Tarbett(6) Gillburn Primary School.
Lisa Tarbett (5) " " "

HOME CONDITIONS:

At present the entire Tarbett family, except Mrs. Tarbett whose whereabouts are unknown, are residing with Mr. Tarbett's parents at 72 Drumlanrig Drive, Mid Craigie, Dundee.

It is not reasonable to expect Mr. Tarbett to reside at 41, Dunmore Street with the children at present as the electricity supply has been disconnected fully because of outstanding bills, in excess of £350. Mr. Tarbett has hopes of a new house in the Watson Street area but I do not feel that this is a possibility in the near future because there are outstanding rent arrears of approximately £50 as well as the outstanding fuel bills.

Conditions in Drumlanrig Drive are overcrowded and Mrs. Tarbett, (grandmother) is elderly and not in a fit state physically to cope with the present situation.

SOCIAL BACKGROUND:

SOCIAL BACKGROUND:

[REDACTED]

Since I accepted transfer of this case following the last panel I have found Mr. Tarbett to be most co-operative in my dealings with his domestic problems. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I had almost daily contact with the family from 16 10 79 until 5 11 79 when Mr. Tarbett visited me at my office, he informed me that Mrs. Tarbett had deserted the home on Friday 2 11 79.

[REDACTED]

Mr. Tarbett was very upset at his wife's departure but agreed with me that it was better for the children if he, being the father, could look after them.

[REDACTED]

On 8 11 79 I helped Mr. Tarbett make arrangements with a neighbour to look after the children until the following Sunday as Mr. Tarbett had arranged with the Education Department to visit Graham at Monken Hadley that weekend.

On Monday 12 11 79 I was told when I went to work that Strathclyde Social Work Department had contacted the duty social worker over the weekend because Mrs. Tarbett had contacted them - with her children !

Mr. Tarbett duly arrived at my office and explained that he had gone to Glasgow on Friday as his wife had run away to there before, he established her whereabouts, returned to Dundee, picked up the kids and went back to Glasgow, leaving them with their mother in a pub in Charing Cross. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

After many telephoned calls to Strathclyde's various Social Service departments and housing facilities, I established that Mrs. Tarbett and her children had been advised to return to Dundee.

The following day at 9.00. Mrs. Tarbett called at my office with all the children except Derek who was left with an aunt in Glasgow. She told me that she would try to get a house of her own although I informed her that as far as Mr. Tarbett had told me the house at 41 Dunmore Street was open to her. Mrs. Tarbett and the kids had in fact spent the previous night in Dunmore Street, Mr. Tarbett being in Drumlanrig Drive on that occasion, at his mother's house.

SOCIAL BACKGROUND:

[REDACTED]

Eventually I established that Mrs. Tarbett was in the Women's Aid Refuge. The following day she was placed in a homeless unit in Mid-Craigie after much back passing and denial of responsibility in the housing department.

There was a reconciliation between the Tarbetts about three days later and they all returned to live at 41 Dunmore Street.

I then had approximately fortnightly contact, due to the festive break and so on and things seemed settled apart from the outstanding bills. The house was being heated by coal and food was being provided, hot, by a neighbour, Mr. Tarbett was saving towards the bills and Mrs. Tarbett seemed relieved to be back, she told me that she had run away because of the unpaid bills.

However, three weeks ago, Mr. Tarbett came in to my office to inform me that Helen Tarbett had run off again, this time for no apparent reason, she had left on a Monday night saying that she would be back about 11.0pm. but failed to return.

I requested this review as both myself and Mr. Tarbett feel that having worked hard at keeping the family together and having attempted to get through this particularly difficult financial period, Mrs. Tarbett has placed too great a burden of responsibility upon her husband.

Mr. Tarbett has been incapacitated with gout and is suffering from an industrial accident to his right hand which means he is unable to work and must rely on state benefits. Throughout this crisis, Mr. Tarbett has ensured that all the children have attended their various schools in spite of the extra travelling from Mid-Craigie.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have called for a Children's Hearing in respect of Graham, Tommy and Lisa.

RECOMMENDATION:

5 2 80

[REDACTED]

Mr. B. Hinnie,
Social Worker.

I apologise for the delay in submission of this report but I felt that in view of the tendency of this case history to turn round completely in a short space of time, it would be wiser to submit my report as close as possible to the day of the hearing.

I will attend the hearing

The following information was extracted from the files of the R.S.S.P.C.C.
The Panel may find it useful as a reference guide to the relevant family history with regard to the children.

Generally the case first became known to the society in February 1968 when the mother complained that the father was squandering the income. The father was seen and warned.

16 April, 1969.

At the home in 11 Craigie Street the parents admitted leaving a child alone in the home, they were given a warning.

5 July, 1969.

Father put mother and child out of the home. Mrs. Tarbett returned on 7 July 1969

29 March, 1971.

Father complained that mother left the children alone in the home at 33 Inveresk Crescent. Mother was seen and warned - returned home 2 April, 1971.

1 May 1971.

Mother again deserted the home.

6 December, 1971.

Mother left children alone in the home she was again seen and warned.

8 February, 1976.

Complaint received that children were alone in home lighting paper. When police and R.S.S.P.C.C. Inspector called parents had just arrived home - the parents were warned.

23 February 1976.

Children again left alone in home at night. Father was contacted and returned home. He stated that he had left mother caring for the children. Father was warned. Mother was seen and warned - she stated that she had only gone out for cigarettes.

20 May, 1976.

Both parents appeared at Dundee Sheriff Court charged under a contravention of Children and Young Person's (Scotland) Act, 1937. Mother pled Guilty and was fined £15, father's plea of 'Not Guilty' was accepted, no action was taken.

16 August, 1976.

Father had called at Social Work Department, Area 2 requested Thomas and Lisa be taken into care. Mother in desertion.

17 August, 1976.

When mother called at the society office she stated that she had left the home

17 August, 1976 (cont'd)....

/home on 14 August, 1976 [redacted]
[redacted]

Paternal Aunt telephoned complaining that the father had abandoned the five children on her in the street.

18 August, 1976.

Father took custody of all children except Thomas who remained with the mother.

October, 1976.

Mother and Thomas returned to the family home.
[redacted]

25 January, 1977.

On a visit to the home mother, children Thomas and Lisa were seen. The latter were in need of a wash. The home was in very poor order, clothing, paper, shoes and rubbish scattered over the floor. Hydro supply disconnected, mother receiving assistance from neighbours for cooking facilities. [redacted]
[redacted]

24 November, 1978.

[redacted] Mother
and children placed in 'Woman's Aid Refuge', by Mr. Cuthbert, Duty Social Worker. Mother and children returned to the home on the 28 November, 1978.

11 January, 1979.

Mother called at Society office with children David, Graham and Derek, other children Thomas and Lisa stated to be at 72 Drumlanrig Drive, Dundee. Father claimed that mother was in desertion and as he had to enter Ninewells Hospital for treatment he requested that the three children with him be admitted to care. On learning later that father had not been admitted to hospital he was contacted and instructed to collect the children from the Children's Shelter. This he failed to do.
[redacted]

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29 January, 1979.

Message from police control at 3.55a.m. that Graham Thomas and Lisa were being cared for by a Mrs. Robertson, 37 Dunmore Street, but that she could not cope any longer. Father's explanation for his absence was that he had been searching unsuccessfully for the mother who had deserted the home on the 27 January, 1979.

16 October, 1979.

I accepted transfer of this case from the Medical Social Work Department at Ninewells following a Children's Hearing on 12 October, 1979. My subsequent involvement with the family and their recent history is documented in my reports to the Panel.



Mr. B. Hinnie,
Social Worker.

25 4 80

BH/JW

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investigate the likelihood of a place in Barnardos. I will be closely monitoring the home situation and will refer this matter back to the panel should there be significant developments on either front.

I will attend the
Hearing.

29 4 80.


Mr. B. Hinnie,
Social Worker.


Mr. J.R. Anderson,
Senior Social Worker.

Tayside Regional Council

Social Work Department

(Dundee Division)

INFORMATION SHEET

Name of child TOMMY GARBEIT

Date of Birth 16-3-73

Name and Address of G.P. Dr Mallow King St
Dundee

School attended Yellow Primary, Dundee

Social Worker Ben Himmie

Office
Address and Tel. No. 72 Haldane Trce 810101

Senior Social Worker J. R. Anderson

Names and whereabouts of brothers and sisters David and Lisa -

Names and whereabouts of brothers and sisters
 ... Nimmo Place Perth ... Derek - Ronald Mew
 ... Dundee ... Graham Maiber Hastley School Dumfries

Night-time routine

Toilet Routine

Food likes and dislikes

Any behaviour problems

In the case of a baby: feeds, sleep, birth weight, etc.

Parental Contact

Additional Information

Emergency telephone number - Burnside House, Harestone Road, Dundee 88302
(Outwith normal office hours)