

Item No (DW) Thomas Tarbett (dob 16.07.91)
Termination of Parental Rights

Tommy's parents, David and Helen Tarbett, had been known to the RSSPCC since February 1968. Their home situation was characterised by domestic violence and the children being left unattended on numerous occasions. Mr Tarbett had convictions of wife assault and breach of the peace and his wife deserted the family frequently. During her absence the children were either received into the care of the Local Authority or cared for by their paternal grandparents. The three oldest boys, David, Graham and Derek, showed extremely disturbed reactions to these disruptions and their behaviour was a cause for great concern.

The parents relationship continued to deteriorate and the couple finally separated in 1982. Derek, Tommy and Lisa, the youngest child, were left in the care of their father, David and Graham were already in residential establishments. Within a short period of time Mr Tarbett declared himself unable and unwilling to continue to care for the children and they were received into care in February 1982, initially to Burnside House before being transferred to Carolina House, Dundee. Parental rights were assumed in January 1982 and upheld following an appeal by Mr Tarbett.

Tommy and Lisa settled happily at Carolina House and adjusted to the units move to Strathmore Avenue without much difficulty. Intensive preparation towards placement in a foster home was undertaken during 1984 but the children withdrew from this programme after introductions to a family had taken place. Their strong feelings of attachment and loyalty to their family appeared the underlying reasons for this. Lisa responded well to the idea of family placement but Tommy was very much against it. The children's relationship was such that Lisa did not wish to move without Tommy.

Tommy remained in Carolina House until July 1990. Within the unit he proved a popular boy with both staff and residents. He was heavily involved in sports of all kinds, both at school and in the community, and established a wide range of friends outwith Carolina House.

In July 1990 Tommy moved into a flat at 10 Fintryside, Dundee. Carolina House had the lease of this flat and provided daily support to Tommy and the other resident from Carolina House within whom he shared. Tommy was able to cope with this transition well and showed he was able to maintain the flat and budget for this. He remained here until July 1991 until he moved to his present address. This is a flat with Gowrie Housing for which Carolina House holds the lease. This lease will be transferred to Tommy after six months. District Manager

Tommy attended Morgan Academy until June 1991. He obtained three "O" Grades and one "H" Grade and was a prefect in his final year. He is at present attending Dundee College of Further Education doing a one year course in Sports Management. Depending on Tommy's wishes and abilities this can extend into a further year. He has expressed a wish to involve himself in work of this nature for a number of years and appears ideally suited for this.

Thomas Tarbett

Tommy's contact with his family has been erratic over the years. He remained with Lisa until he left Carolina House and Lisa then felt able to move to mainstay. He sees his father and his brothers fairly regularly but this is decided by Tommy. His mother has visited only twice since 1982 and on the last occasion Tommy refused to see her.

Future Plans

Tommy is an extremely pleasant young man who is well liked both by the many people he has come into contact with on a professional basis and by his peers, both in Carolina House and the community as a whole. He has shown an ability and a willingness to succeed at school and has now entered a field of study he has wanted to do for a number of years.

He is coping well with his own flat and the lease will be transferred to him. He has regular contact with staff at Carolina House and continues to attend ex-residents meetings.

Tommy is now subject to Section 24 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 which allows us to continue giving financial and emotional support to Tommy initially to ensure his financial security whilst completing his course and then to carry on to assist him to settling in the community.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Case Sub Committee note that Parental Rights in terms of Sec 16 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and in respect of Thomas Tarbett terminated on 16 July 1991 and that social work support will continue to be made available in terms of Sec 24 of the Social Work (Scot) Act 1968 when required and appropriate until Thomas reaches the age of 21 years.

District Manager

20.09.91
PD/LS
SW.COMM/tarbett.t