

CASE REVIEWS

Summary of Reivew Meeting and Recommendations for the Future

Date of Review: 30.01.89 at Carolina House

Name	Present Address	D.O.B
Tommy Tarbert	Carolina House, Strathmore Avenue, Dundee	16.07.73

Participants: Tommy Tarbert, Derry Merideth, Keyworker, Carolina House, Lynne Craig, former Keyworker, Carolina House, Alex Nicol, Assistant Area Fieldwork Manager, Dundee West, Mr. A. Kendrick, Researcher, Dundee University, Mr. S. Watt, Principal Officer

Apologies: Both Mrs. Sue Bardsley, Senior Social Worker and Mr. Peter Devlin Social Worker, were absent through illness.

A report recently completed in October 1988 and a more recent supplementary were supplied by Carolina House but Social Work reports were not available.

Background

With a family background of parental violence in relation to difficulties, there was a history of Tommy and his siblings being left unattended on numerous occasions. Tommy was twice received into care in August and September 1980 on a Section 15 basis, and on this occasion he was returned to his parents care. He was again received into care to Burnside House on 14 September 1981 when it was identified that there was no viable prospect of him being rehabilitated with his parents. He was moved to Carolina House in February 1982 on the basis of him remaining in care on a long term basis with the possibility of his being prepared for a substitute family, and in 1983 the department obtained parental rights in respect of him. Since that time, as Tommy has refused to consider a family placement, the planning focus has been on continuing to support him within Carolina House.

At the last review held on 24 May 1988 it was confirmed that Tommy would be remaining in Carolina House on a longer term basis with arrangements being identified for continuing life story work with him, establishing a regular pattern of contact with his social worker, and his being supported into caring for O-level exams in early 1989.

Current Situation

The most significant development has been Tommy's move from Scot House to Ogilvie House on 3 January 1989. The move was planned on a positive basis as part of the emphasis on developing Tommy's independence skills, and quickly established himself as a member of a new group of youngster of which he was the youngest. Although he had found it a bit strange at first, he had quickly got used to his new group mates, and he had still access to his sister, other youngsters and the staff from Scot House. He quickly established himself into a routine within Ogilvie undertaking all the chores and responsibilities required of him, including cooking his own meals on Friday and Saturday evening and doing his own shopping and working to a budget. His friendship with another young person by the name of Donald who had moved before him from Scot to Ogilvie House had helped him to make the move positively. Terry and I are

just concerned that Tommy had integrated into the group well and cited his ready participation in the group meetings and there has been no incidence of any tantrum behaviour from Tommy and although he was more than able to argue his own position he accepted the limits and expectations made of him by staff.

Tommy's youngest sister, Lisa, remains in Scot Unit and while he acknowledged that he missed her sometimes, Tommy was reassured about his ability to have regular contact with her. Currently, Lisa was in the process of being helped to complete a mainstay application and Tommy was able to accept that she might be placed in a family context and was reassured that he would have continued contact with her and that such planning would not effect his own position in Carolina House.

Schooling

Tommy had recently undertaken O-level prelims in 7 subjects, and he will be sitting the formal exams after Easter. He intended remaining at school to complete highers but he was unclear as to what he might consider as a future career other than working in an office. He had only had brief contact with the Careers Advice Officer, but future appointments would be made for him. Tommy seemed reasonably confident that he would be successful in his O-level exams, but it would be helpful to have a report submitted by the school for the next review. Tommy plays in both the school rugby and football teams, in addition to playing for a Sunday league football team. While he is not able to undertake all the three training sessions because their times clash, he enjoys his sport and is regularly picked for three teams. Overall the school had indicated that Tommy was much more applied in his attitude at school, had pulled his socks up in relation to his class work and clearly had ability to achieve exam success.

Family Contact

In company with his sister Lisa, Tommy had continued to have contact every second Sunday afternoon with his father, visiting at his home where he tends to spend much of his time watching television. It is clear that it has not been easy to get on with his father and there is some recognition that he might be going out of a sense of obligation. It was noted that his sister Lisa became upset if he did not visit with her. Tommy stated that he did not feel particularly pressurised by his sister's attitude, and it was noted that he did not always visit with her if in fact he had some other commitment. On the alternate Sundays Tommy and Lisa visited his maternal grandmother and during these visits he had contact with a large number of cousins and aunts on his mother's side. Tommy had contact with his older brother Derek when he visited his father, but although another brother, David, had a house in Dundee, there was little contact with him. Tommy's third brother, Graham, is still in Greenock prison, and Tommy and Lisa were last taken to visit him in October 1988. In discussing the pattern and significance of the contact with Graham, it was acknowledged that, although there were financial implications for the department because of both the travel costs and the all day commitment of the staff involved, it was recognised that any visit should take place on a planned basis rather than being left to Tommy and Lisa's request to visit. The Carolina House staff indicated that they could play a role in accompanying the children to Greenock Prison, and it was agreed that Mr. Nicol would co-ordinate the necessary authorisation and arrangements for the involvement of the care staff.

As Mrs. Tarberts's whereabouts remain unknown, Tommy has had no contact with his mother and appear to be accepting of this situation.

Leisure Interest

Following a friendship he had established during a group holiday last year, Tommy had spent a weeks holiday in the Blackburn area, but since that time his contact with his friend had drifted and there was no plan for inviting the friend to spend a holiday in Dundee. Any such holiday arrangement would have to managed over a weekend because of the difficulties of providing accommodation during the week at Carolina House. Tommy had several school friends, particularly Kevin, and he always had the opportunity to invite them back to Carolina House. If he was going to offer a meal, this was arranged in advance with staff so that they could assure that Tommy and his friend were afforded the appropriate privacy.

Tommy remains in good health and has regular dental and medical check ups, with the next annual medical due in May 1989.

Contact with Social Worker

With reference back to earlier review discussions about the difficulties of Peter Devlin maintaining regular contact with Tommy, it was again confirmed that similar difficulties remained. Although Tommy had a busy diary of events, it was possible to plan in advance what time he would have free, and although this information had been given to Mr. Devlin on a weeks notice basis, he had not been able to visit at the times identified. While the residential staff sought to keep Mr. Devlin involved of any developments in relation to Tommy, it was noted that it was Mr. Devlin's responsibility to maintain regular contact. Although he was unable to identify this himself, the staff indicated that Tommy did feel fed up and agitated about Mr. Devlin's lack of contact with him and this had now been highlighted by his sister Lisa's contact with a new social worker who was in touch with her on a regular and planned basis. While it may appear that Tommy is well established and supported in Carolina House, it nevertheless remains important that Social Work contact is maintained on a regular basis and Mr. Nicol undertook to ensure that a continuity of visiting was established.

Although life story work had been undertaken in the past with Tommy, mainly by Carolina House staff, there had been little opportunity to do so in the recent past, particularly in relation to the main focus being on his move to Ogilvie House. Tommy himself felt that there was now little purpose in undertaking more life story work, and in respecting this he was advised that he was able to seek information about his family background at any time.

Summary

Tommy remains settled and established within Carolina House and has now successfully moved to the unit for older youngsters where there will be a more specific focus on preparing him for independence. Although able to manage the principle living routines for himself, he continues to require the support of the care staff and is looking for the back up and guidance while preparing for his pending exams and planning for his future.

Conclusions and Tasks

1. Tommy continues to be appropriately placed at Carolina House and it is intended that he remains there until he finalises plans for independent living. It is anticipated that in due course Tommy will be helped to move on to a housing tenancy obtained and supported by Carolina House, with the option of him having the tenancy transferred to his own name.
2. With regard to his pending exams, he will be provided with the necessary support and encouragement.
3. A more regular pattern of visiting requires to be established by Mr. Devlin so that both the staff and Tommy feel that he is being appropriately supported.
4. Tommy, along with his sister Lisa, will maintain the current pattern of contact with both his father and maternal grandmother, visiting them on alternate Sundays.
5. As and when Lisa comes to move to a mainstay family placement, arrangements are to be negotiated for Tommy maintaining regular contact with her.
6. Given that life story work book has previously been undertaken with Tommy and his feeling that it is currently not relevant to pursue any further there will be no active arrangements to undertake this work with him on a continuing basis, although Tommy is aware that he can discuss aspects of his family and background at any time.
7. The next review will take place in June 1989 at a time to be arranged near the date.

G. Stewart-Walt

 Reviewing Officer

8th March 1989

Distribution:

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