

Social Work Department

Minutes of Case Conference held at Carolina House on Friday,
2nd April, 1982, at 3.30 p.m.

Re: Planned admission on 5th February, 1982.

Present: Mr F. Cura, A.A.C., Area 2, Chairman.
Mr G. McIntosh, S.W., Area 2.
Mr H. Tosh, Dep. O.I.C., Carolina House.
Miss P. Walls, Team Member, Carolina House.
Miss A. McDonald, Team Member, Carolina House.

Tommy Tarbett, d.o.b. 16.3.73
Lisa Tarbett, d.o.b. 7.8.74

The writer would first apologise for the lateness of this Minute. Arrangements for Tommy and Lisa's Case Conference had been made for several earlier dates, but on each occasion these had required to be cancelled for a variety of valid reasons.

Tommy (9) and Lisa (7) are the youngest children of a family of five. The Tarbett family have been known to the Social Work Department since 1969. The parents have separated on numerous occasions and have received repeated warnings from the Social Work Department, R.S.S.P.C.C. and Police re leaving the children unattended, possible physical abuse, etc.. At this point in time, all five children are in various establishments, Mr Tarbett is living with the paternal grandparents at Drumlanrig Drive, Dundee, and Mrs Tarbett is believed to be in the London area.

On 9th September, 1981, Mr Tarbett approached Area 2 staff (at the Sub-Office) and requested all five children be received into care. He was, at that time, advised as to the seriousness of his request and asked to give the matter further consideration. On 14th September, 1981, Mr Tarbett again called at Area 2 Sub-Office and requested his children be received into care. He alleged that he was "unwilling and unable to cope". On that date, all five children were placed in Burnside House under the terms of Section 15.

A Children's Hearing held on 23rd December, 1981, passed the situation (alluding to Tommy and Lisa being under age) to Dundee Sheriff Court for proof. At the Sheriff Court on 21st January, 1982, proof was substantiated (Mr Tarbett did not deny any of the 10 charges re lack of parental care). A further Children's Hearing held on 3rd February, 1982, made both Tommy and Lisa subject to Supervision Requirement 44 (1)(b) Social Work (Scotland) Act, 1968, and Carolina House was specified as their place of residence.

At the time of their admission to Carolina House on 5th February, 1982, David, an elder brother, was also resident in the establishment. Due to his further offending, David was transferred to List 'D' school on 16th March, 1982.

Both Tommy and Lisa were quick "to settle in" at Carolina House, the latter, if anything, more quickly than the former. Whilst David was there, he was often used as a threat against other residents. His waygoing, however, created little upset for Tommy and Lisa. In general, both children now relate well with the other residents, although Lisa often plays the role of "stirrer", then quietly disappears. On occasion, Lisa can be "huffy" with staff, said to be a favourite ploy of her "attention seeking". Tommy is seen to be the more relaxed of the two. Both children can be affectionate - on occasion to the extreme.

Contact between children and father is, at the moment, on a fairly regular basis. Mr Tarbett normally visits Carolina House on Sundays. He spends most of his visiting time viewing television, and on occasion has been known to fall asleep. Although, initially, both Lisa and Tommy accepted father's behaviour and, to some extent, retaliated in a likewise fashion, this past few weeks has seen them look forward to his visits. Mr Tarbett is still guilty of making promises to the children and failing to keep them. During his visits, Mr Tarbett makes no attempt to approach Residential Staff. During February, while David was still a resident, Mr Tarbett made a late night call to Carolina House. He was "under the influence" and had called to see David re the latter's further offences. At that time, Mr Tarbett's way of dealing with David was to cuff him about the head. The police had been called to deal with Mr Tarbett, but he had gone by the time the former arrived.

School and health raise few problems for Tommy and Lisa.

Mr McIntosh has regular contact with both children at Carolina House. Any relationship he has with Tommy and Lisa is, in Mr McIntosh's opinion, only a superficial one. Mr Tarbett has, throughout the years, tended to make his family view Social Workers with suspicion, to say the least. Mr McIntosh's contact with Mr Tarbett has "eased off" in recent weeks. This is attributed mainly to the latter "not getting his own way" in relation to the children.

In an effort to protect the children (all five) on a long term basis, Mr McIntosh mooted the possibility of Parental Rights being discussed at Area level. In view of Mr Tarbett's normal mode of disruptive behaviour, it was felt that a "fostering base" be left meantime.

Recommendations

1. Tommy and Lisa continue to reside at Carolina House.
2. Possible Parental Rights (alluding to all five children) be discussed at Area level.
3. Contact between Lisa/Tommy/Mr Tarbett be encouraged but closely monitored.
4. There be ongoing liaison between Mr McIntosh and Residential Staff.
5. The children next be Reviewed at Carolina House on 26th August, 1982, at 3.30 p.m.

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Mr F. Cura,
Assistant Area Controller.

Copies: Mr J. P. Ingram, A.C., Area 2.
Mr R. Steven, R.S.M. (Children's Homes & Hostels).
Mr W. Black, O.I.C., Carolina House.
Mr G. McIntosh, S.W., Area 2. ✓