

CASE REVIEWS

Summary of Review Meeting and Recommendations for the Future

Date of Review..... 4.3.86 at Carolina House, Dundee

Name	Present Address	D.O.B.
THOMAS (TOMMY) TARBETT	c/o Carolina House	16.7.73
LISA TARBETT (Section 16)	Strathmore Avenue, Dundee	7.8.74

Participants:

Mr. F. Cura, Assistant Area Fieldwork Manager, Dundee West
 Mr. J.R. Anderson, Senior Social Worker, Dundee West
 Mr. P. Devlin, Social Worker, Dundee West
 Mr. M. Murphy, Assistant Residential & Day Care Manager (Children)
 Ms Pat Walls, Assistant Officer in Charge, Carolina House
 Ms Caroline Lamb, Care Staff, Carolina House
 Mrs. P. Bouchier, Reviewing Officer
 Tommy and Lisa Tarbett, children in care, attended part of the review

Apologies: Miss Lynn Craig, Key Worker, Carolina House

Mr. D. Tarbett, father of the children, was informed of the review and chose

not to attend
 Summary of Discussion + Goals/Tasks for the Future (Goals to be listed separately)

An information sheet (A014), a chronological history (A014a), a social worker's report (A016) and a residential staff report (RDC45) were available in respect of each child.

Background

A summary of the family history is recorded on the summary of the review meeting held on 13.9.85.

Agenda

1. Recommendations from the last review.
2. Progress in placement.
3. Health.
4. School.
5. Focus of future work with the children and family.
6. Recommendations.

Recommendations from the Last Review (13.9.85)

Despite the acknowledged drawbacks to the placement for children of this age it had been accepted that the children would remain in Carolina House where they have continued to derive benefit from the stability of their situation.

A pattern of frequent and regular visits by the social worker to the children, usually on a weekly basis, has been established with the result that they have built up and improved relationships.

Mr. Devlin plans to adjust his visits so that they coincide with the days on which the children's key worker, Lynn Craig, is on duty.

Contact with the natural family has been maintained. The children visit their father's home fortnightly on Sundays and pay visits to their Uncle Peter in Dundee.

Both paternal grandparents have died within the past six months. The children were upset about this loss but appear to have adjusted appropriately. It was established that any specific work on dealing with feelings of loss or bereavement would be undertaken by the key worker. Mr. Murphy informed the meeting that a course for residential staff is planned to take place in the near future.

The children's paternal aunt, Kathleen Tarbett, had only been visiting her parents' home during their illnesses and had returned to her own home, possibly in Glasgow, when her father died. The children appear to miss this contact and enjoyed seeing her when she visited at Christmas.

Their older brother David has been back in Dundee for a few weeks with his wife and new baby. He has asked about the possibility of Tommy and Lisa spending a night with him in Aberdeen but this appears to have been more in the nature of a casual enquiry than an actual invitation. The suitability of such a visit would require full investigation.

The regular visits to keep in touch with members of their family are important to Tommy and Lisa but they profess themselves to be bored at times and receive little or no stimulation from the contact. The children have asked their father to visit them in Carolina House but he has shown no inclination to undertake this type of commitment.

The background information requested at the last review has been completed for the Reviewing Officer's records.

Progress in Placement

Tommy has recently begun to share his room with another boy aged 13. Initially their relationship seemed strained but this has eased and staff feel less concerned about the situation. His new room-mate does not share Tommy's interest in football or pool and is less mature for his age than Tommy himself.

Copies to:-
Area Fieldwork Manager, Dundee West
Mr. Cura, Asst. AFM, Dundee West
Mr. Anderson, SSW, Dundee West
Mr. Devlin, SW, Dundee West ✓
Mr. Murphy, Asst. RDC Manager (Children)
OIC, Carolina House
Admin, Dundee West

Signed
Signed Patricia N. Bouchier
(Reviewing Consultant)
Date 19.3.86

Feedback re Resources to Field Work Director via Area Controller

Recent signs of adolescent resistance to instruction and reprimand have been noticed by residential staff. When angry, Tommy follows the family pattern of shouting and refusing to accept responsibility for his actions until he realises that this is unproductive. Assistance in handling these outbursts is likely to be necessary for the next few years.

It has also been noticed that Tommy has periods of withdrawing from the group and becoming very quiet. Apart from the normal needs of adolescence no other likely cause has been identified.

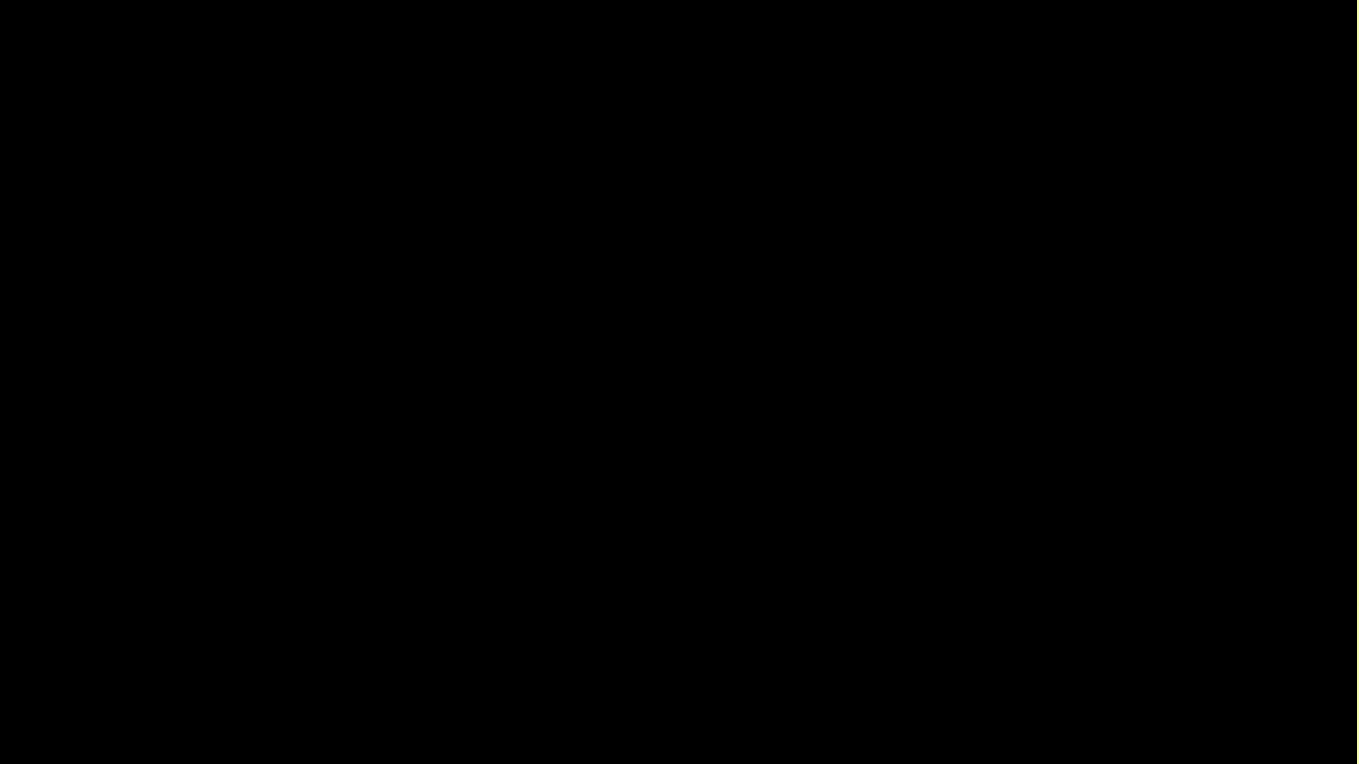
Tommy is well integrated into his peer group and is capable of showing affection towards the adults in the unit.

He is being given more responsibility for certain tasks in the unit, specifically helping to prepare the next evening's meal. He is at the early stages of acquiring new skills and, as he has high standards for himself and can be very competitive, he becomes very frustrated at times.

His last school report was dated September 1985. Tommy has continued to enjoy Morgan Academy and the school was satisfied with his progress.

He is fit and active, starting to grow taller and has had no health problems during the last six months.

Lisa has become more outspoken and demanding of attention, having gained some support following the departure of the eldest girl in her unit. She has used



It was the Reviewing Officer's view that the necessary work with the family should be done to encourage them to view this type of development in a positive manner as some basic acceptance of the children's needs must have been achieved when the plan for fostering was instituted several years ago. As the involvement of a befriender is much less threatening to Mr. Tarbett and, as his only daughter Lisa has special needs to be met if she is to become a successful mother herself, her father might be less hostile.

It was agreed that, by the next review, alternative opportunities of this kind for Lisa would be explored by all the workers concerned without involving the children in any discussion at this stage. It was stressed that positive support from the workers concerned was an essential ingredient in achieving the success of the plan.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Contact with Family

The children have continued to visit their father every second Sunday and accept these as routine. They have expressed a strong desire for their father to visit them in the children's home on alternate weekends and for other members to do the same. It is felt that Mr. Tarbett's perception of his commitment is unlikely to include this kind of development but it is important to the children that he should be encouraged as far as possible.

When he joined the review Tommy mentioned that Derek did not think he was allowed to visit Carolina House. It was explained that his earlier visits had not been to Tommy and Lisa but to some of the older members of the unit. Incidents of disruptive behaviour in which he was believed to have been an instigator were the cause of his ban. The present position about Derek's visits requires further discussion with the children and clarification of a visiting contract will be necessary.

Recommendations

The plan for Tommy and Lisa Tarbett is that they should remain in Carolina House and that special attention should be focussed on their individual needs in view of the length of time which they have spent in residential care.

Present predictions are that they will eventually return to the home of their natural father but this environment offers little apart from family solidarity in the face of authority and the benefits of a wide circle of family members. Opportunities for developing close personal relationships or of receiving age appropriate stimulation in the form of outside interests or activities appear to be non-existent.

The responsibility of the local authority to recognise and meet the needs of these children by providing opportunities for their all round development is of paramount importance. Opposition from Mr. Tarbett and his older sons is anticipated and considerable work will be needed in order to help him accept that the Department is acting in the children's long term interests. The immediate tasks will include:

1. Close liaison to be maintained between the social worker and staff at Carolina House with particular emphasis on the weekly contact with the children's key worker.
2. Home visits to continue on the present fortnightly basis. Mr. Tarbett to be encouraged to respond to the children's request for his visits to Carolina House.

Written confirmation of visits to continue to be sent to the children's home.

3. The introduction of befrienders, particularly for Lisa, to be discussed in detail by all workers concerned between now and the next review. It was not envisaged that the children will be involved at this stage.
4. The next review will be held at Carolina House on 8 September 1986 at 10.30 am. Adjustments to this arrangement to be made if the children's key worker is unable to attend.