

CASE REVIEWS

Summary of Review Meeting and Recommendations for the Future

Date of Review 8.1.87 at Carolina House, Dundee

Name	Present Address	D.O.B.
TOMMY TARBETT	Carolina House,	16.7.73
LISA TARBETT	Strathmore Avenue, Dundee	7.8.74

Participants :

Mr. P. Devlin, Social Worker, Dundee West
 Mr. J.R. Anderson, Senior Social Worker, Dundee West
 Ms Lynn Craig, Key Worker, Carolina House
 Miss Pat Walls, Assistant Officer in Charge, Carolina House
 Tommy and Lisa Tarbett, Subject Children
 Mrs. Tarbett, Mother of Subject Children
 Mr. M. Terry, Reviewing Officer
Apologies from Mr. F. Cura, Assistant Area Fieldwork Manager, Dundee West
 (due to illness)

Summary Discussion + Goals / Tasks for the Future (Goals to be listed separately)

Mr. Tarbett was invited to attend but failed to do so.

Reports (A016) were provided in respect of each child by the social worker.

Reviewing Officer notes that the most recent chronological histories available extend only until August 1985 and updated chronological histories and information sheets (A014 and 14a) should be provided for the next review.

Reports were also provided by residential staff and Reviewing Officer notes that these were particularly comprehensive and helpful.

Background

Please see appendix attached to report of review of 8.9.86.

Significant Developments Since Last Review

The major event of significance since the last review has been the reappearance in the family home of Mrs. Tarbett who arrived back in Dundee in early December 1986. As the children have not seen their mother for some seven years, her unexpected reappearance was a shock to both of them and provoked understandable feelings of confusion, uncertainty and questions of loyalty.

In recognition of the effects of Mrs. Tarbett's reappearance it was felt important that each child and Mrs. Tarbett should be given the opportunity to speak frankly to the review free from implicit pressures that might stem from the presence of other members of the family. It was however felt of equal importance that no members of the family should feel that they were being unnecessarily excluded from consideration of the case. In the circumstances it was agreed that each child should individually join the review group and Mrs. Tarbett should also be given similar time and that subsequently both children and their mother would participate together. This decision was communicated to Mrs. Tarbett and the children by the Reviewing Officer and key worker and their agreement was obtained to this arrangement.

Recommendations from Previous Review

Tommy

At the previous review it was indicated that the children normally saw their social worker together and in Carolina House and that this was proving less satisfactory in view of the age of the children and their differing interests. Tommy indicated that since the last review they had normally seen their social worker jointly although this had on occasions taken place outside of Carolina House and recently they were taken on a gorge walk by their social worker.

It is understood that there has been a greater level of communication between social worker and residential staff, in particular since the reappearance on the scene of Mrs. Tarbett, much of this contact being by telephone. The present level of social worker/residential worker contact appears to be satisfactory.

In accordance with the recommendation of the previous review, the supervision requirement in respect of Tommy has now been terminated and he remains subject to Section 16 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

Work on the children's family tree has not progressed to date as information is awaited from the family. The children's albums have however been passed to the social worker who has requested Mrs. Tarbett's assistance to fill in gaps. As yet this assistance has not been provided although Mrs. Tarbett is agreeable to help.

In light of the very considerable disturbance and uncertainty that the children were caused by their mother's reappearance, there has been some disruption to normal access arrangements since the last review. Although the frequency of contact has not been greatly affected, access has needed to be more controlled and supervised to enable the children to cope and these changes are noted in full in the report provided by Carolina House staff.

Tommy admitted to being considerably shocked by his mother's reappearance and his response is fully noted in the residential staff report. He now appears to have come to terms with the changed situation and although he was anxious about visiting over the Christmas period it is understood that the visit went well. He is now visiting his home on a fortnightly basis between 11.30 am and 8.00 pm on a Sunday. He has however indicated that he would wish his parents to visit Carolina House more. In the course of this review Tommy was assured that in respect of access full consideration will always be given to his wishes.

Copies to :-

Area Fieldwork Manager, Dundee West
Mr. Cura, Asst. AFM, Dundee West
Mr. Anderson, SSW, Dundee West
Mr. Devlin, SW, Dundee West
Miss Renton, RDC Manager (Children) (for info)
OIC, Carolina House
Admin, Dundee West

Signed

Signed

(Reviewing Consultant)

Date

18.1.87

Feedback re Resources to Assistant Director (Field Work Services) via Area Field Work Manager.

School - Tommy

The most recent school report was provided in August 1986 and it is understood that Tommy is generally making satisfactory progress although he is understood to be struggling slightly with German. He claims his ambition is to be a footballer.

Health - Tommy

The most recent medical report in respect of Tommy was provided in April 1986. Tommy enjoys good health and residential staff report that he is making good maturing progress.

Hobbies - Tommy

Tommy's main interest is football and he plays for Broughty United. It is understood that this team is expected to go to Holland for a week either in April or October of this year. The social worker is to ensure that appropriate authorisation is obtained to enable Tommy to make this trip.

Recommendations from Previous Review - Lisa

While acknowledging satisfaction with the fact that she has now been meeting her social worker outside of Carolina House, Lisa repeated her request made at the last review that she would wish to see her social worker alone some times. As on the last occasion, she indicates this wish to be motivated largely by the fact that she becomes tired of the conversation invariably focusing on football when Tommy is present.

As with Tommy, the normal visiting pattern was somewhat disturbed by the reappearance of Mrs. Tarbett but has now settled back to the normal routine. Lisa does however also indicate that she wishes her parents to visit Carolina House more.

The supervision requirement in respect of Lisa has also been terminated since the last review and she also now remains subject to Section 16 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. In the course of this review, as with Tommy, Lisa was reassured about her present status and the fact that full consideration will be given to her feelings.

In respect of the life book the situation with Lisa is the same as that pertaining with Tommy.

School - Lisa

[REDACTED]

Health - Lisa

[REDACTED]

Mrs. Tarbett

Mrs. Tarbett was able to recognise that Tommy has been wary and Lisa quiet when she first returned to Dundee and she was able to recognise that these were entirely normal reactions by the children. She did indicate that at the present time she is still very uncertain about how long she might remain in Dundee and that this will depend greatly on the behaviour of Mr. Tarbett. However she did indicate that before leaving the area again (were she so to do) she would wish to speak to the children although she made no promises about the prospects of keeping in touch with them by writing. This view is in keeping with that expressed by Lisa who had indicated that she wished to know where her mother was if she left the area again although she would not necessarily wish to have continuing contact.

Mrs. Tarbett did express her opinion that the children were well adjusted, happy and far better off in Carolina House than they would be at home. She also indicated that she did not feel that the influence they would receive at home would be good for them although she made clear that she would not dare to express such an opinion in the presence of Mr. Tarbett who she considers to be unrealistic and prone to unreasonable outbursts.

The review took note that Mr. Tarbett had presented himself at Carolina House aggressively and insisting that he had the right to see the children at any time that he chose. In the circumstances the review reiterated to Mrs. Tarbett that the children were subject to a parental rights resolution and that those having the care of the children would continue to seek to act in the best interests of the children. It was stressed that while there was no desire to restrict parental contact, such contacts must be by mutual agreement with all parties if it is to operate in the best interests of the children. It was also stressed that the parents must recognise that the children have now developed their own interests and that in pursuing these interests contacts may not always be when the parents wish. It was also made clear to Mrs. Tarbett that it was considered very important and also the wish of the children that she and Mr. Tarbett visit Carolina House periodically.

It was agreed that the social worker would reiterate the fortnightly access arrangements in writing and invite the parents to visit Carolina House periodically. In anticipation of an unreasonable reaction by Mr. Tarbett to receipt of such a notification, it was emphasised to Mrs. Tarbett to pass on to her husband that these were minimum access arrangements and that additional or alternative arrangements were always open to negotiation.

Mrs. Tarbett indicated her willingness to co-operate with the social worker to complete the children's life books.

Conclusions

Both children and Mrs. Tarbett were present for the concluding part of this review.

It was acknowledged to all concerned that there was no thought of any immediate changes in the status of the children as a result of Mrs. Tarbett's reappearance. Apart from the fact that Mrs. Tarbett is still very uncertain about her own future plans, it is clear that both children are uncertain as yet about their own feelings towards the changed family situation. It was reiterated that in consideration of any future plans the needs and wishes of the children will be paramount and that it is hoped that both parents will feel able to co-operate fully with those having care of the children.

Recommendations

The plan for Tommy and Lisa remains that of them continuing to reside in Carolina House for the foreseeable future and provision of all necessary support and developmental guidance appropriate to the parental rights responsibilities held by this Region.

Identified Tasks at the present time are:

1. Social worker to reiterate access arrangements including an invitation for both parents to visit Carolina House regularly.
2. Social worker to seek to complete the children's life books with the assistance of Mrs. Tarbett.
3. Social worker to ensure that appropriate authorisation is obtained for Tommy to visit Holland with his football team. (It is understood that authorisation for a similar trip abroad by Lisa has already been obtained).
4. Close liaison between field and residential workers to continue and social worker to continue efforts to see the children outside of Carolina House and also to endeavour to see the children individually on occasions.
5. Social worker to provide updated A014 and 14a for next review.

Next Review

The next review will be held at 11 am on 26.5.87 at Carolina House.

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