

REPORT ON:

TOMMY TARBETT

D.O.B:

16 7 73

PLACE OF RESIDENCE:

Carolina House Children's Home
281 Strathmore Avenue
DUNDEE

SOCIAL WORKER:

Peter Devlin

OFFICE ADDRESS:

Social Work Dept
6 Kirkton Road
DUNDEE

REPORT FOR:

RANER/REVIEW

DATE:

24 10 88

FOCUS OF WORK

The identified tasks at the last review were:

1. Lifestory book work to continue as appropriate, primarily being undertaken by key worker.
2. Social Worker to continue to liaise with Tommy to try and establish regular contact.
3. Tommy, in conjunction with Social Worker and key worker to consider the possibility of chairing the next review himself.
4. Tommy should be given all possible encouragement to succeed at school, in particular in taking his 'O' levels.
5. Support Tommy with regard to potential difficulties that may arise in his home situation due to the forthcoming birth of a half-sibling.

All these points have been addressed and are discussed more fully under their appropriate heading.

TREATMENT/PERSONAL

Tommy remains in Scott House, the second eldest of five boys and one girl. He is one of the more mature members of Scott House and copes well with the various responsibilities placed on him. In particular the budgeting, buying and the making of his suppers during the week and all his meals at the weekend. He occupies a single bedroom and has recently taken on the responsibility of having his own key to his bedroom. This enables Tommy to have a greater degree of privacy, which he values considerably.

He maintains a good relationship with his peers within Scott House, although his involvement with them is at his discretion. He continues to fluctuate between the houses, seeking out the appropriate company, according to his mood.

Overall, Tommy is presenting as a more confident, mature young adult. There appears to be a decrease in incidents of "sulking" when he doesn't get his own way, although over the last few months he doesn't appear, on occasions, to have been so tolerant of Lisa and her niggles. This may be due to two possible reasons. Firstly, Lisa's demanding, niggly moods increased, (possibly due to her feelings regarding the birth of their half brother, Michael) and secondly, Tommy is of the age where it is quite natural to be less tolerant of younger members of a family.

Life story book continues with Tommy but very slowly. He sees his social commitments as a main priority and is reluctant to commit the time to do direct work. At present, his key worker recognises the difficulties and is concentrating on helping him explore his feelings and work through painful areas in his life in a more informal manner. Although this method of working is long-term, it appears to be a more effective way of

working with Tommy at present.

It was suggested at the last review that Tommy should consider chairing this forthcoming review. Tommy has declined to do so. Although he is a very friendly person, Tommy retains a natural shyness which, at present, would make it extremely uncomfortable for him to cope with the experience of being in the "limelight". He is quite happy with the present format which he feels enables him to fully participate in his review.

FAMILY

Tommy continues to visit his dad and gran on alternative weekends. Mr Tarbett's cohab, [REDACTED] had a baby boy whom they have called [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED]. Although Tommy and Lisa visited their new half brother in hospital after the birth, Tommy said little about how he felt. Subsequently, during chats with his key worker Tommy has expressed mixed feelings about the arrival of [REDACTED]. Dad isn't making any secret of the fact that the baby is getting a great of money spent on him plus Mr Tarbett is showing a great deal of pride and pleasure at becoming a father again. Obviously Tommy is left wondering how dad sees him, if there is still going to be the same place within the family for him since dad now has a "new" family and why should [REDACTED] get all the money spent on him.

David and Karen have parted. David, at one point, was staying with Mr Tarbett and Tommy saw him when he visited dad but it would now appear that David has moved to London. David and Karen's separation has upset Tommy. He looked forward to and enjoyed his visits to Aberdeen.

At present, Tommy's brother Graeme is serving a 5 year sentence in Greenock Prison. Tommy, Lisa and their Social Workers have visited him on 2 occasions and Mr Tarbett and Linda have taken them on one occasion.

Tommy is pleased to see Graeme but is saddened by his situation.

PHYSICAL/MEDICAL

Tommy, overall, remains in good health and has regular dental check-ups. In June he was sent home from school with a sore throat. He was prescribed tablets to gargle with by his GP. He also experienced slight dizzy spells. It was suspected that he may have been suffering from a touch of hay fever but no further symptoms appeared.

OTHER AGENCIES

Tommy appears to have made a good start to the new term at Morgan Academy. During the earlier part of this year there was some concern that Tommy wasn't achieving his full potential. It was recognised that he tended to be lazy at times and needed encouragement. A change in teachers and in subject matter appears to have had a positive effect on Tommy. He is now more willing to try harder and staff will continue to monitor his progress. As yet, Tommy is still undecided about what he wants to do when he leaves school but is more and more appreciating the benefits of staying on at school for further education and, at present, is giving this further consideration.

He continues to play football for the same team but they now have a new name, West Park Boys. Tommy's social calendar is so full that he can, at times, have difficulty deciding where his loyalties lie. He plays football not only for his club but also school and rugby besides. He has a nice circle of friends and the time spent with them usually involves some form of sport. He joined the BB but decided not to continue as it was overlapping into what little spare time Tommy had.

Scott House spent their summer holidays at a holiday caravan park in the Lake District. Despite the atrocious weather, Tommy enjoyed himself and made new friends, particularly a boy called [REDACTED], who came from Blackburn. They kept in touch afterwards and the family invited Tommy to spend a long weekend with them. This took place during the October school holidays and Tommy thoroughly enjoyed himself.

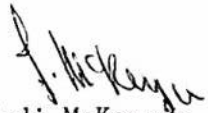
Tommy and his Social Worker continue to have contact but have been unable to establish regular arrangements whereby they can see one another. This is partly due to Tommy's commitments and the fact that training or matches are not always the same night every week.

CONCLUSION

Tommy is continuing to progress satisfactorily. He is a very likeable young man who makes friends easily. He chooses his friends with a degree of maturity and handles the responsibilities placed on him well, but can be wary of change.

He will need continued support to help him move in on Carolina House. At present Tommy is content to stay in Scott House, coping well with the limited responsibilities and choosing to seek out an older peer group environment when he feels the need to do so. Within the coming months staff feel that Tommy may need the environment of an older peer group and a unit more geared towards independence to enable him to continue to progress.

Staff, and in particular his key worker, will continue to support Tommy in helping him come to terms with his home situation and in looking at how best he sees himself progressing.


Judi McKenzie
Unit Manager