

CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL - SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE CASE CONFERENCE

Venue: The Youth Care Centre

Date: 28th June, 1990.

Name of Child & Date of Birth:

Margaret Bullen - 13.12.75.

Home Address:

42 Berryhill, Cowie.

Present Place of Residence:

The Youth Care Centre.

Date of Admission to this Placement:

13.3.90.

Statute:

44 (1) (b)

Reason for Case Conference:

Review of progress.

Present at Case Conference:

Alwyn Lemon, Social Worker.
May Kidd, Educational Assess. Unit.
Brenda Figiel, O.I.C. Dock St.
Ted Fenwick, Key worker.
John O'Shea, Team Leader, Y.C.C.
Neil Maguire, O.I.C. Youth Care Centre.

Apologies:

Rosie Bolton.

Written Reports

tabled by Youth Care Centre and Social Worker.

Discussion:

Social worker talked of Margaret's acceptance of the reality that it was not possible for her to return home at the present time although that was her long term wish. The Youth Care Centre talked of her continuing maturation with less explosions of emotion. She is far more approachable than she has been previously. Margaret deals appropriately with confrontation and is using staff appropriately. A lot more smiling than there used to be.

School commented on her performance in that she works well and participates willingly in activities. A natural organiser although on occasions she can be somewhat enthusiastic and conscious of her being loud on occasion. Margaret clearly has difficulty in sustaining friendships. The Education Unit would recommend that Margaret repeated 3rd year if she returned to mainstream schooling but there is a very clear resistance from Margaret to this idea. The Education Unit emphasised how important it would be that if Margaret was to return to mainstream education that she starts at the beginning of next term.

Brenda Figiel outlined the main role and features of Dock St.

Decisions:

It was not possible for Margaret to return home at the present time.

Margaret should return to mainstream education for the beginning of next term. Brenda Figiel undertook to contact the Education Psychologist Mike O'Connor.

contd.

to further this objective.

It was recommended that Margaret moved to Dock St.

The Panel meeting early next week would be requested to make a 44 (1) (b) order naming Dock St.

NS [Signature]

DP/202600951 - Applicant's Copy

CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL - SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

YOUTH CARE CENTRE

Residential Worker's Report for Case Conference on 28th June 1990.

Subject: MARGARET BULLEN D.O.B. 13.12.75.

D.O.A. 13.03.90.

Home Address: 42 Berryhill
Cowie

Statute: 44(1)b of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968

Introduction

At the Case Conference dated 19.5.90. it was agreed that Margaret should remain within the Youth Care Centre for a further period of six weeks. During this six week period work was to continue via a series of home visits and overnights in an effort to try and establish whether a return home to her parents would prove feasible. Initially these visits appeared to meet with some success, however a more detailed analysis of the home contact is as follows:

1. 23.5.90. Home visit. Feedback would suggest that things had gone fairly well, [REDACTED]
2. 26.5.90. Margaret and Mrs Bullen spent the day out together. This visit was fraught with difficulties arising from Margaret making unrealistic demands of her mother. They spent the afternoon in the family home and this appeared to go fairly well.
3. 6.6.90. The first overnight at home. To date this visit would appear to have been the most successful.
4. 11.6.90. Overnight at home. Margaret reported this visit had gone well, however Mrs Bullen contacted the Youth Care Centre stating that the visit was unsuccessful due to Margaret continually arguing with her and spending time outwith the family home. It would appear that Margaret was threatened with physical assault by the group of Cowie youngsters.
5. 16/17.6.90. Weekend leave. Both parents reported this weekend had proved difficult due to Margaret's attitude and behaviour.

Current Position Within the Youth Care Centre

Margaret now appears to be more relaxed and settled within the Youth Care Centre. At times she presents herself as being a very sad and sullen youngster who still finds it difficult to understand why she is here. Apart from her obvious mood swings which are perceived as being due to her current position, she presents no real management problem and responds appropriately to requests made of her by staff. She mixes fairly well with the other residents, however due to being the only female resident in Unit 3, she spends most of her time in other girls' company outwith the

Unit, going swimming, shopping, etc. It is fairly evident that Margaret is now able to make and sustain appropriate relationships with other residents, this area initially proved difficult for Margaret.

Education

Since 9th May 1990 Margaret has attended the Education Assessment Unit at the Youth Care Centre. From the information received from school staff it would appear Margaret has settled in well, this may be due to Margaret knowing the majority of the other pupils. Margaret has stated on numerous occasions that she would prefer to return to mainstream education. This issue to be discussed with the Education Assessment Unit staff and Mr Michael Connor, the Educational Psychologist.

Child's Wishes For The Future

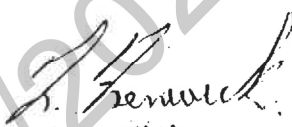
Since her admission to the Youth Care Centre, Margaret has always stated that she would like to return home and live with her parents. Recently however Margaret has resigned herself to the fact that due to the difficulties which remain unresolved within the family home, then this might not prove possible at this time. Margaret has had regular contact from her natural father via telephone and by post.

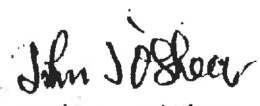
Family's Wishes For The Future

Mrs Bullen has stated that she would prefer Margaret to return home. However due to the obvious areas of difficulties which remain unresolved then Mrs Bullen agrees that overnights and unsupervised home visits should not take place at this time.

Conclusion and Recommendation

After taking into consideration that there still remains a considerable amount of work to be undertaken in an effort to attempt to ascertain whether or not Margaret can return home, then it is the opinion of the staff group within Unit 3 of the Youth Care Centre that arrangements should be made for Margaret to transfer to another Unit. This move would afford Margaret the opportunity to settle with a more age-appropriate peer group and would allow time for the required work to be undertaken. Arrangements have been made for Margaret to visit Dock Street Teenage Unit, Carronshore which subject to the approval of the Case Conference, has been identified as the Unit which would best meet Margaret's needs. Margaret has a Children's Hearing on 2nd July 1990. At this Hearing and subject to the Case Conference's approval then we will be recommending that a 44(1)b of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 naming Dock Street Teenage Unit, should be issued.


Ted Fenwick
Care Officer
25th June 1990


John J. O'Shea
Team Leader

CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

BANNOCKBURN SUB-OFFICE

6 NEW ROAD, BANNOCKBURN

CASE CONFERENCE REPORT

NAME: Margaret BULLEN

D.O.B.: 13.12.75

ADDRESS: c/o Youth Care Centre,
POLMONT.

HOME ADDRESS: 42 Berryhill,
COWIE.

MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: Youth Care Centre, Polmont - 28.6.90 @ 10.30 am.

DATE OF RECEPTION INTO CARE: 13.3.90

STATUTE:

Margaret is subject to Section 44(1)(b), Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

CURRENT SITUATION:

At the Case Conference held on 17.5.90; subsequent to the previous positive development for Margaret it was agreed that we would move towards planned rehabilitation with Margaret and her family:

Since that date, Margaret has had two overnight visits, after which on one occasion Margaret successfully returned to Youth Care Centre by bus herself, the following morning. A recent weekend visit from Saturday 16th June to Monday 18th June, however, was an unsuccessful one. When I collected Margaret from her home on Monday 18th June at 9 am, Margaret was angry, distressed and verbally aggressive towards Mrs Bullen and Mr Kelly.

Margaret's perception as to the "failure" of the weekend was that she felt that Mr Kelly had been constantly "picking" on her and that her mother had been out several times over the weekend. Margaret however, placed the emphasis of blame for the situation, on Mr Kelly.

Mrs Bullen and Mr Kelly however, state that from the time that Margaret entered the home, she found fault with her siblings, placed demands on her mother and Mr Kelly, and refused to do as was expected of her. Mrs Bullen also states that Margaret met with boys with whom she had previously been refused permission to contact.

Subsequent to this weekend, Mrs Bullen states that the relationship between them is extremely strained and that she cannot envisage another weekend visit to take place for some time as it was particularly stressful for her. Margaret is also stating that she does not wish to return home at the present time.

Since/

Since there has clearly been a breakdown in relationships since these visits, it has been suggested to Margaret that since that her period of assessment has now been completed at the Youth Care Centre, that, subsequent to a Childrens Hearing, it may now be appropriate and beneficial for Margaret to move to another local authority childrens home. Margaret agrees that a complete return home in the near future is clearly not a viable proposition and that if moved to another home, would work positively towards an eventual return home at a later date.

Dock Street Childrens Home has been identified by both residential and fieldwork staff as being able to offer Margaret the security of a smaller unit and which will afford her the opportunity of building upon the skills and lessons already taken on board by Margaret at Youth Care Centre, and which will afford her the opportunity to move towards independence while she continues to mature, with the support of residential care staff.

SCHOOL:

Assessment, Woodinghall

Staff at ~~Youth Care Centre~~ Education Unit advise that Margaret settled well within the unit but appeared to share the opinion of Mike O'Connor, Educational Psychologist, that Margaret has the potential to cope with mainstream education. Should a move to Dock Street Childrens Home take place, Larbert High School has been identified as a school in the area with whom staff at Dock Street share an excellent relationship with regards to the children attending there from Dock Street. The possibility of her attending Larbert High School has been discussed with Margaret and to which she has responded in positive terms.

CONCLUSION:

While clearly the family relationship is not conducive to Margaret returning home at the present time, it would appear that a move to Dock Street Childrens Home would be a positive one for Margaret and which would help her deal with emotions and demands with which she still has difficulties. It must be said, however, that Margaret has, within the Youth Care Centre made definite progress in her relationships with both peers and staff and has learnt to discuss any difficulties which she may be experiencing.

I have therefore made application to the Reporter to the Childrens Hearing to request an earlier review of the Supervision Order imposed on 2.5.90 and, subsequent to the decision reached at this Case Conference, will request that the named place of supervision for Margaret may be changed. Dock Street Childrens Home has been identified as being the unit which will most appropriately meet Margaret's requirements.

A M Lemmon

A M Lemmon
Social Worker
 AML/LA
 25.6.90

CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL - SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

Residential Child Care Case Conference

Name of child: Margaret Bullen

Date of Birth: 13.12.75

Home Address: 42 Berryhill, Cowie

Present place of residence: Youth Care Centre

Date of admission: 13.3.90

Statute: Section 15

Reason for case conference: Review of plan

Date and place of case conference: 17.5.90 Youth Care Centre

Present at case conference:

Mr. Alan Boyd	P.O. (Residential Child Care)
Mrs. Bullen	
Ms. May Kydd	Teacher, Youth Care Centre
Ms. Alwyn Lemmon	Social Worker
Mr. Norman Phillip	Care Officer
Mr. Neil McGuire	Officer-in-Charge
Ms. Rosie Bolton	Senior Social Worker

Apologies: Mr. Kelly

Written reports tabled by: Ted Fenwick and Olwen Lemon

In view of the generally positive development that has taken place for Margaret over the last few weeks, it was agreed that we should be moving towards a planned re-habilitation with her and her family. This contract between Margaret and her family will need to be tested out and this will take place over the next three weeks. Margaret has now started to attend the Educational Assessment Unit and so far this has proved to be a successful placement. Review of Supervision Order to take place in due course. Case conference to be arranged prior to this.


Alan Boyd
Principal Officer (Residential Child Care)

CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

BANNOCKBURN SUB-OFFICE, CAPE UNICENTRE

KERSE ROAD, STIRLING

CASE CONFERENCE REPORT

NAME: Margaret BULLEN

D.O.B.: 13.12.75

ADDRESS: c/o Youth Care Centre, Polmont.

HOME ADDRESS: 42 Berryhill, Cowie.

MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: Youth Care Centre, Polmont - 17.5.90 @ 9.30 am.

DATE OF RECEPTION INTO CARE: 13.3.90

STATUTE:

Margaret is subject to Section 44(1)(b), Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

BASIS:

This report is based on ongoing contact with Margaret and her family, liaison with staff at Youth Care Centre and with reference to Departmental records. The case was transferred to the writer on 20.4.90.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Since the last Case Conference held on 19.4.90, Margaret attended a Childrens Hearing when it was decided that Margaret become the subject of a Residential Supervision Requirement as recommended by the previous Social Worker and which was also the decision reached at the Case Conference on 19.4.90. Both Margaret and Mrs Bullen were extremely distressed during the Hearing but accepted the recommendation. Following the Childrens Hearing, Margaret appeared to accept that she now had to work towards going home and that Mrs Bullen no longer had the responsibility of Margaret being discharged from care, a responsibility which Mrs Bullen was relieved to surrender. Margaret and her mother have since then had two supervised visits, outwith the family home which have been extremely positive and which appear to be proving a good basis on which to rebuild the relationship between Margaret and her mother. There has also been one supervised visit to the family home by Margaret, which also appears to have gone extremely well. Margaret still presents as experiencing difficulties in forming relationships with other young people in the Youth Care Centre but who also appears to be finding it somewhat easier at times to confide in and listen to one or two members of staff.

During the last four weeks however, Margaret has again been involved in several incidents which have raised some concerns and has subsequently had repercussions for Margaret.

On/

On Friday 4.5.90 Margaret became involved in a fight with another girl in a disco, following which Margaret was charged with assault on 6.5.90. On 5.5.90, Margaret went to the pictures, with permission of staff but later slipped out and went to Cowie, when Mrs Bullen called staff at Youth Care Centre and Margaret was collected. There were no repercussions at home, but the visit was without consent or knowledge of residential staff.

On 12.4.90 an incident took place in the Youth Care Centre which may have been instigated by Margaret, but which resulted in Margaret being assaulted by another girl in the centre. Margaret has subsequently charged this girl with assault, with staffs' support.

SCHOOL:

Following a meeting at Bannockburn High School on 27.4.90 when Margaret was formally excluded from school, Margaret started at the Education Assessment Unit at Polmont on 8.5.90 and appears to be more at ease and being co-operative.

FAMILY:

Mr Kelly now appears to be willing to leave the decision regarding Margaret's discipline to Mrs Bullen, a decision which Margaret feels will prove more positive towards her return home.

Mrs Bullen, however, is still undergoing medical tests at the present time, and while being more responsive to Margaret's return home in the future is aware that successful overnight visits remain unaccomplished.

Margaret's natural father from Campbelltown has been in contact with her by letter and phone, indicating that he would sometime in the future wish Margaret to visit him. Mrs Bullen however agrees that she would prefer her ex husband to visit Margaret at the Youth Care Centre and under staff supervision. Mrs Bullen states that while she has custody of Margaret she fears that Margaret's father may attempt to abscond with Margaret in his care.

HOUSING:

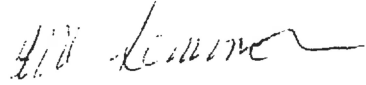
Mrs Bullen has been awarded fifteen medical points but still remains third on the list for most areas and following a discussion with a Housing Department official, I have been informed that there may be some delay before an exchange of house takes place.

CONCLUSION:

Margaret appears to be moving positively towards her return home, realising and accepting that a great deal of work remains to be carried through by all concerned.

It/

It is nevertheless recognised that this return may be sometime in the future, but dependant on joint work with residential staff at Youth Care Centre, Margaret and Social Worker with family involvement. it is to be hoped that by another Review, we may be able to more clearly identify the timescale within which Margaret's return may be undertaken.



A M Lemmon
Social Worker
AML/LA
16.5.90

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CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL - SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

YOUTH CARE CENTRE, POLMONT

Residential Worker's Report for Case Conference on 17th May 1990

Name: MARGARET BULLEN D.O.B. 13.12.75.

Address: 42 Berryhill, Cowie D.O.A. 14.03.90.

Introduction

Margaret was admitted into care at the Youth Care Centre on Tuesday, 13th March 1990 following a breakdown in relationships within the family. This was the result of constant arguments and fighting in the home, together with truanting and theft.

At Margaret's last Case Conference on 19th April 1990 it was decided that:

1. Margaret's relationship with her parents remains very problematic and any immediate return home would be unlikely to succeed. It should be noted however that both Margaret and her parents want her home as soon as this is possible. In view of this, it was agreed to recommend to the forthcoming Children's Hearing that Margaret be made the subject of a residential supervision order, 44(1)b.
2. The programme of family work should be established in order to try and highlight and develop the positive aspects of Margaret's relationship with her family. This will require careful monitoring of her contact with her mother and father.
3. Due to Margaret being expelled from Bannockburn High School it was agreed that a place be sought at the Education Assessment Unit.

Child's Profile

Margaret is a slim 14 year old girl who is age appropriate in her physical development. She takes pride in her appearance and in her level of personal hygiene.

Margaret presents as a very unhappy, irritable girl, who constantly questions adult authority at home, when she was in school and within the Youth Care Centre.

Margaret finds it extremely difficult to make relationships with both the children of similar age and the adults that are around her.

Education

Margaret was referred to the Education Assessment Unit and started there on Wednesday, 9th May 1990. From information gained so far from the Education Assessment Unit staff, Margaret appears to have settled in well. This may be due to the fact that Margaret knows the majority of pupils in the unit.

Current Position Within the Youth Care Centre

Since her last Case Conference on 19th April 1990, Margaret has become more relaxed, however she still feels unhappy about living at the Youth Care Centre. Since then Margaret has refrained from absconding to be with her peer group in Cowie. On one occasion Margaret did attempt to abscond, however was prevented from doing so and was returned to the Unit whereupon she was verbally abusive towards the staff on duty.

Margaret has been charged with assault on a girl whilst attending a youth club in Grangemouth.

Margaret still feels intimidated by a number of female residents within the Youth Care Centre. On three occasions Margaret has been assaulted by female residents, however she still has the tendency to mix with these girls and tries to keep on good terms with them.

On numerous occasions Margaret has inflicted superficial cuts to her arms and wrists. This is perceived to be attention-seeking behaviour.

Lately, Margaret has been talking more positively to staff and of how she is going to make a greater effort on her behaviour and how she will try to refrain from absconding.

Family Contact

Due to Margaret's unacceptable demands on her mother, unsupervised visits had not been going well. Staff at the Youth Care Centre reviewed the situation and agreed to maintain contact on a regular supervised basis. It was suggested by Alwyn Lemmon (Social Worker) to meet with Mrs Bullen and Margaret outwith the family home to try to strengthen the relationship between them without having the home pressures around. To date there has been two successful productive meetings.

Due to the success of these meetings, Mrs Bullen felt able to have Margaret for an unsupervised visit on Sunday, 13th May. Both parties agreed that the afternoon had gone well.

Margaret has also been in contact lately with her natural father who lives in Campbeltown by letter and by telephone.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Home visits have started to go well, however Mr Kelly has been on the periphery on any such meetings. Mrs Bullen has indicated that she would like Margaret to return home, however several issues require to be resolved, namely:

1. Housing situation
2. Increased family contact, i.e. visits and probable overnights

It is the opinion of the Youth Care Centre staff that in view of the above-mentioned issues that Margaret remain resident within the Youth Care Centre, therefore allowing time for the above to be carried out.

T. Fenwick
T. Fenwick
Care Officer
15th May 1990

John O'Shea
John O'Shea
Senior Care Officer

CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL

Child Care Case Conference

Venue Youth Care Centre

Date 19.4.90

Name and Date of Birth Margaret Bullen
13.12.75

Home Address 42 Berryhill, Cowie

Present Address Youth Care Centre

Date of Admission 13.3.90

Statute Section 15

Reason for Case Conference review of plan

Present Alan Boyd, Principal Officer, (Residential Child Care)
Mr Kelly
Mrs Bullen
Neil Maguire, OIC, Youth Care Centre
John O'Shea, Team Leader
Angus McWilliam, Headteacher, Educational Assessment Unit
Rose Hutchin, Social Worker
Alwin Lemmon, Social Worker

Apologies Rosie Bolton, Senior Social Worker
Mrs McCarroll, Banockburn High School

Written Report tabled by Rose Hutchin

At the post admission case conference on 23.3.90 it was agreed that in view of the commitment between Margaret and her family we should be working towards a gradual process of re-habilitation.

In the event this has not taken place and Margaret and her parents have had little positive contact. Mr Kelly and Mrs Bullen expressed their concern and frustration about the lack of change in their daughters circumstances and her apparent unwillingness or inability to change her attitude towards them.

In the Youth Care Centre, Margaret's behaviour has been modified to some extent but she is from time to time verbally aggressive and abusive and finds it very difficult to make relationships with the other young people or with adults.

Margaret has continued to attend Bannockburn High but because of her behaviour has now reached the point where she will be excluded. It was agreed that it was most unlikely that Margaret would successfully transfer to another mainstream school as her parents had planned at this point.

Following extensive discussion the following decisions were taken:

1. Margaret's relationship with her parents remains very problematic and any immediate return home would be unlikely to succeed. It should be noted however that both Margaret and her parents want her home as soon as this is possible. In view of this it was agreed to recommend to the

forthcoming Childrens Hearing that Margaret be made the subject of a residential supervision order.

2. The programme of family work should be established in order to try and highlight and develop the positive aspects of Margaret's relationship with her family. This will require careful monitoring of her contact with her mother and father.
3. In view of Margaret's educational situation it was agreed that she should be admitted to the Educational Assessment Unit actioned by the Youth Care Centre.
4. It was agreed to review the situation again on 17.5.90 at 9.30 am.



Alan Boyd
Principal Officer
(Residential Child Care)

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CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

BANNOCKBURN SUB-OFFICE

CAPE UNICENTRE

CASE CONFERENCE REPORT

NAME: Margaret BULLEN

D.O.B.: 13.12.75

ADDRESS: 42 Berryhill,
COWIE.

VENUE/DATE: Youth Care Centre, Polmont on 19.4.90 at 10.30 am.

DATE OF RECEPTION INTO CARE: 13.3.90

MARGARET:

Margaret has been very unsettled during her time at the Youth Care Centre and is very much wishing to return to her family.

However, during the past 4 weeks, she has been involved in several incidents which have had repercussions for her, both within the centre and in relation to her family. On 23.3.90 she was caught in a compromising situation with a young boy from the unit. He was subsequently moved to another establishment.

The following evening she was fighting with a girl within the unit and both were charged with Breach of the Peace and Assault.

She became isolated within the group and spent an increasing amount of time in her room, apparently justifiably afraid of being attacked.

She has made frequent references to suicide and has cut her arm deliberately.

Margaret has also absconded on two occasions, both times to Cowie, though to the company of her friends, not her family.

On 11.4.90 she was charged with the theft of articles from 3 shops. This included Tipp-Ex which she was allegedly asked to bring back by other young people. These young people, when found with the Tipp-Ex, were quick to incriminate Margaret, and there is a strong impression that she was "set up" through her eagerness to ingratiate herself following her recent difficulties with relationships within the unit. Hopefully, she is beginning to be aware of this.

Within the last 2 weeks I have begun to detect a change in Margaret, in that she appears to be settling at the centre and was able to avoid pressurising her mother at our last meeting. She also agreed to a contract for her return home.

THE FAMILY:



SCHOOL:

Margaret has been attending Bannockburn High School on a part-time timetable. However, there have been some difficulties within the school.

Mrs Bullen and Margaret were to attend Wallace High School on 17.4.90 with a view to enrolment at this school. It was agreed to go ahead with this meeting

HOUSING:

I have informed the family that I shall be leaving on 20.4.90 when Alwyn Lemmon will take over as Margaret's Social Worker.

A Children's Hearing is set for 2.5.90 at 9.45 am.

It has been impressed upon Margaret that the timescale for her return home is very much dependent on her attitude and commitment to adhering to a contract drawn up between her mother and herself. Margaret is visiting home on a daily basis at the moment. To date there have been no overnight stays but it is hoped that this will soon be acceptable to the family.

Rose Sullivan

R Hutcheon
Social Worker
RH/LA
17.4.90

Residential Child Care Case Conference

Venue: Youth Care Centre

Date: 23.3.90

Name and Date of Birth: Margaret Bullen
13.12.75

Home Address: 42 Berryhill, Cowie

Present Place of Residence: Youth Care Centre

Date of Admission: 13.3.90

Statute: Section 15

Reason for Case Conference: Post admission

Present at Case Conference: Alan Boyd, Principal Officer
Kate McCreath, Intermediate Treatment Worker
Rose Hutcheon, Social Worker
Mrs McCarron, Bannockburn High School
Angela Barker, Care Officer
Margaret Bullen,
Neil Maguire, Officer in Charge
John O'Shea, Team Leader
Mrs Bullen,
Mr Kelly, co-habitee

Apologies: Rosie Bolton, Senior Social Worker

Written report tabled by Rose Hutcheon

Margaret was admitted to the Youth Care Centre following a breakdown in her relationship with her family. This was the result of constant arguments and fights at home together with truanting and theft. In the Youth Care Centre, Margaret presents as an unhappy, "grumpy" girl but has been no particular problem in terms of her overall behaviour.

At Bannockburn High she is described as truculent and unwilling to work with teachers although she is not currently suspended her place at Bannockburn High is precarious. She has a reputation as being a surly and aggressive youngster but can be very positive in school if she so chooses. She is described as a very strong personality, determined and self-willed.

Mrs Bullen informed the meeting that she and Mr Kelly intend moving away from Cowie and also have plans to move Margaret from Bannockburn High school to Stirling High School in the hope that this will take Margaret out of the negative peer group influences in Cowie.

Following discussion the following decisions were taken:

1. It was recognised that there was genuine affection between Margaret and her parents and that a programme of family work should be established in order to change Margaret's present attitude towards her parents and help her parents to provide more effective parenting.

2. Further consideration will be given by the staff involved to how Margaret's educational needs can presently be met. This can be by way of a part time timetable at Bannockburn or by referral to the Educational Assessment Unit. It was noted that there might be some advantage in retaining the present status quo if at all possible until it becomes clear what area Margaret's family settle in.
3. It was noted that Margaret is currently involved in an IT group of which she is a positive member and will be encouraged to continue this involvement during her time in care.
4. It was agreed that a plan for Margaret should be a gradual rehabilitation with her family and that a review of progress in this direction would take place at the Youth Care Centre on 19.4.90 at 10.30 am.


Alan Boyd
Principal Officer
(Residential Child Care)

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CASE CONFERENCE REPORT

To be held at Weedingshall Youth Care Centre on 22.3.90 @ 11.30 a.m.

Name: Margaret BULLEN D.O.B. 13.12.75

Address: 42 Berryhill, Cowie

BACKGROUND:

Margaret is the second child of a family of four children. She originates from Campbeltown, Argyll.

Her father, Mr Duncan Townsley, and her mother, Mrs Bullen, separated in 1981 following a violent marriage. In the initial stages of separation, the children witnessed several violent scenes when Mr Townsley assaulted his wife in the street and attempted to abduct the children.

Margaret moved to the Stirling area with her mother, brothers and sister in 1983. [REDACTED]

The children have limited contact with Mr Townsley. The family visit Campbeltown each summer and they spend time with their father and paternal grandparents. Since moving to Stirling, Mrs Bullen has lived with Mr William Kelly. [REDACTED]

Mrs Bullen states that relationships in the home were good following the move to Stirling until the last year or so. She considers that Margaret's behaviour has been a source of family conflict as she constantly argues and fights with family members.

Margaret became involved in incidents both in school and in the community, mainly fighting, and as she did so the boundaries set by Mr Kelly and her mother became more rigid. [REDACTED]

Margaret, on the other hand, has felt isolated within the family and feels that Mr Kelly in particular is overly strict in relation to timekeeping and her choice of friends.

Margaret does however, appear to be involved with a group of adolescents who are experiencing similar difficulties. They had been involved together in incidents of truanting and shoplifting.

SCHOOL:

The school have described Margaret as being severely disruptive to the extent that she makes teaching impossible, and she is said to be aggressive with staff and pupils alike. She has been excluded on several occasions.

Despite assurances that she would attempt to improve her behaviour in school, the staff continues to have difficulty coping with Margaret, and she has now developed/

developed a reputation.

It was hoped that she could transfer to another school and start afresh. She is at present being considered for a place at Stirling High School.

ADMISSION TO YOUTH CARE CENTRE:

On Tuesday 13.3.90, Margaret left home at her usual time to go to school.

Later that day, while Mrs Bullen and Mr Kelly were shopping in the Thistle Centre, they saw Margaret in the company of a girl who is at present excluded from school. Margaret had changed her clothing and was wearing makeup.

Mrs Bullen and Mr Kelly took her home following a struggle. Mrs Bullen then contacted me and I visited the family in the early evening.

Mr Kelly then informed me that he struck Margaret, not on that day, but on the previous Friday, and that she had a bruised eye. This had come about when Margaret had been cheeky to him after being checked for talking to a boy at the ice-cream van.

When questioned further, Margaret stated that Mr Kelly is not violent to her usually, but had struck her once before last summer.

[REDACTED]

Margaret was taken to the Youth Care Centre that evening.

The bruising of Margaret's eye was subject to a joint Police/Social Work investigation, and it was decided that -

[REDACTED]

2) Margaret should not be placed on the Child Protection Register

SOCIAL WORK INVOLVEMENT:

I have been working with Margaret and her family since 14.12.89. During this time I have had extensive contact with the family. Margaret has also been taking part in a weekly groupwork programme at the Unit 2 Project which I am involved in.

In the course of my involvement several areas of concern have emerged:

- 1) relationships within the family
- 2) Margaret's behaviour in school and in the community
- 3) Margaret's reluctance to assume responsibility for her behaviour or to look at the repercussions for her family
- 4) Margaret's possible involvement in sexual activity

[REDACTED]

6) Mrs Bullen and Mr Kelly's rigidity in relation to Margaret's choice of friends and timekeeping. Margaret feels that this has led her to become deceitful

CONCLUSION:

Mrs Bullen and Mr Kelly appear to be genuinely concerned about Margaret, and have made serious attempts to resolve her difficulties. [REDACTED]

Margaret is a very determined and, at times, sullen girl who appears to find it easier to resort to aggression than to show positive feelings. She has, however, participated well in the groupwork programme and has begun to be more communicative in recent weeks.

She appears to be feeling resentful and angry about restraints imposed on her, but finds it difficult to look at her behaviour from other perspectives.

Since moving to the Youth Care Centre, she has, however, been expressing her wish to return home.

I feel that, to ensure the successful return of Margaret to her family, there is a need to address the issues listed above beforehand.

Rose Hutcheon

Rose Hutcheon
Social Worker
20.3.90

RH/VF

Doc 2 Street
Youth Care Centre

CHILD	Margaret Gullan.
DATE OF ADMISSION	13.3.90
DATE OF BIRTH	13.10.75
SOCIAL WORKER	
AREA OFFICE	
SECTION/ACT	
HOME ADDRESS	42 - Garryhill. Bowie
PREVIOUS ADMISSIONS	Y.C.C. 13.3.90 - 18.7.90 Dock St. 18.4.90
COMMENTS	

Myt Buller Y.C.C. cc 19.4-90

Mr ~~Wiley~~ Buller, Mrs Buller, N May, J. O'Shea
Angus ~~W.~~ W. Rose Hitchcock Blusyn Lammor

Report:
Spols

Bannochburn High
Rosie Bolton

V. difficult to express the attitudes
— no start to a planned reintegration
due to entrenched attitudes

School Bannochburn High ~~will~~ ~~likely~~ ~~to~~ be excluded

→ EAU — reference to A Dando

group work — ending — girls

- ① Rose ^H ~~apply~~ ^{to notify Ed U} to ~~SAU~~
- ② stay at Y.C.C.
- ③ family work — slow start
- ④ Heavy 2-5-90 — 44(X6)

CC A Dando