



W Y McNEIL
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

County Council of the County of Renfrew

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT.

SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT ON ROBERT HENDERSON OF 25 Walnut Crescent, Johnstone

CHILDREN'S HEARING AT 20 Back Sneddon Street, Paisley, DATE OF BIRTH:- 11.4.58 AGE:- 17 YEARS.

DATE OF HEARING:- Monday, 30th June, 1975 RELIGION:- Protestant

GROUND(S) OF REFERRAL:- Second Review of Supervision Requirement dated 1.10.73

When Robert last appeared before the Panel for a review of his Supervision Requirement on 1st August, 1974 the requirement of residence in Geilsland List 'D' School was varied and he was allowed to return home to his parents.

Immediately afterwards Robert started work as an apprentice with Horne Engineering where he remained until September 1974 when he started in the Training Centre full-time. Robert has continued in the Training Centre ever since and will remain there until 18th July when he goes on holiday for three weeks. Thereafter he will return to his employers, Messrs. Horne Engineering, on 8th August. While Robert made good progress for the most part during his stay in the Training Centre there were one or two occasions when he was reprimanded quite severely. From my discussion with Robert about this it was evident that this was entirely justified. Robert's attitude to his work can, on occasions, be a little too indifferent and casual. Apparently he was quite good at turning and using a lathe generally. On the other hand he found fitting, sheet metal work and welding rather difficult. As far as the future is concerned Robert can, with a little more application and endeavour in his part, become a useful tradesman. However, should he neglect these two points he could well find himself in difficulties with his employers.

In conclusion it is felt that in view of Robert's age, and in particular the supportive background provided by his parents, a continuation of Supervision is not required and perhaps the Panel may wish to give consideration to terminating the present order.

(JOHN J. BARRETT),

Area Social Worker.

10 Lighthouse
Street, Johnstone.
23.6.75. JJB/IWN

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

W. R. MCGREGOR, T.D.

SUBJECT: SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1968 SECTION 48(5)

SUPERVISION REQUIREMENT REVIEWS

The undernoted* is/are subject to supervision requirement(s) which it is now necessary to review.

Please submit social background report(s) not later than.....²³⁻⁶⁻⁷⁵.....
(Where applicable, background reports should also be requested from residential establishments).

Robert Henderson 11-4-58
25 WALNUT cres,
JOHNSTONE.

COUNTY OF RENFREW
SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT
DISTRICT NO. 2
Rec'd. - 9 JUN 1975
Ref'd. to JTB
Ackg'd.
Ans'd.

Hearing 30th June 1975

Date 4-6-75

Douglas H. Pe
for Reporter

*Delete as appropriate

Robert Henderson.
11.2.75.

Headmaster meeting Mr. Urquhart - Training Officer for Johnstone Engineering Group at a Social Function was informed that Robert was not doing particularly well at work and was failing to make the grade, in particular, recently he had been late back from lunch hour along with another boy and had told a series of convincing lies regarding going to the far side of the town trying to buy a lighter and supposedly witnessing an accident thus causing his delay on return, Mr. Urquhart disbelieved the story, later accumulated proof that it was false, challenged both boys, the other lad told the truth, Robert persisted with the lies. Add to this Robert's work effort has not been satisfactory, Mr. Urquhart is on the verge of writing a letter to the boy's parents, telling them that he will have six weeks to pull up his socks otherwise will have to be dismissed. Headmaster asked Mr. Urquhart if he minded his 'phoning Robert and speaking to him on the subject, Mr. Urquhart was quite in agreement, Headmaster telephoned Robert spoke with Robert who agreed with the facts and in the usual Robert Henderson doleful way stating he would pull up his socks, H/M spoke with Mrs. Henderson who was disappointed at the work report, she stated Robert said he did not have a good report from work this week but had not told her the facts regarding playing snooker pool at lunch time, being late back from lunch and that he was about to receive a warning letter. Mrs. Henderson did admit that Robert had been at the football some little time ago and had been charged with Breach of Peace, apparently a friend of his had been lifted by a Police Officer, Robert had intervened and said that the boy had been doing nothing and had found himself in the Police van, the other boy at the instigation of his parents had pled guilty and was fined £75., Robert went to trial and the Contd.

Robert Henderson. case against him was found not proven.

11.2.75.
(Contd).

13.2.75 Robert reported. His day at college has now been changed to a Monday. Apparently he has not been getting on too well at work and very worried about it. He feels bored because he is given a lot of filing jobs to do and says this is very monotonous work. Mr. Munro, Geilsand School, 'phoned Robert about it, obviously having heard through Mr. Urquhart.

See attached notes from school.

13.3.75 Robert telephoned to say that he was ill in bed and could not report today. Said he suffers from migraine headache and was due to go to the doctor this evening at 7 o'clock. Asked him to get in touch with me as soon as he was better.

18.3.75 Robert reported at lunch time. Said he was being sent home from his work as he was not feeling well. He has tablets from the doctor and he is going to his bed.

3.6.75 Letter to Robert asking him to report.

6.6.76 Robert reported. Still full-time in the Training Centre. Reminded him about failing to report, particularly as he walks past the office twice a day. He said he did not like to come in as he was usually with his pals. According to Robert he is getting on much better now. Advised him that his review of Supervision is likely to be very soon and that I had requested an evening Hearing so as to allow both parents to attend. They are working.

JJB/IWN

SUPERVISION NOTES

Date

- 14.8.74
(contd.) more forthcoming and said he was enjoying his work and in fact felt great being home. After a lot of general conversation I arranged for Robert to call and see me again next week at the same time. Thursdays are not convenient as he is expecting to get some overtime.
- 16.8.74 Copy letter from Mr. Munro, Geilsland School, to Robert and his parents. See file. JJB/IWN
- 28.8.74 Robert reported. Still with Horne Engineering but due to start in the Training Centre full-time next week and thereafter he expects to attend the Reid Kerr College. Robert has a very dour sullen manner and seldom if ever smiles, a very lethargic lackadaisical outlook but seems to appreciate the fact that he has got a very worthwhile opportunity.
- 1/9.74 Robert reported. Started in Training Centre last week. Says he finds it very boring and appears to be doing filing all the time. Tried to get him to understand that at this stage these are the kind of jobs he must expect to have to tolerate. Attends day release at the Reid Kerr College every Thursday. Report again in two weeks.
- 25.9.74 Robert reported. Nothing of significance to record. Apart from going to watch football he stays at home most of the time.
- 10.10.74 Robert telephoned to say he could not manage down yesterday. I explained to him that I would be on holiday for a week and afterwards he should report as usual.

Writer absent until 4.11.74 through illness.
- 27.11.74 Robert reported. Attending the Training Centre and Reid Kerr. Situation at home basically unchanged. His mother has been teaching in the new primary school in Elderslie since the beginning of this term and enjoys her job, although Robert says she takes a lot of work home with her and does a lot of preparation at home. Advised him about his behaviour at weekends. Apparently he has been up to Glasgow to the dancing, something that can cause problems if one is not careful. JJB/IWN
- 6.1.75 Robert reported. Very worried about his appearance for trial before Glasgow Sheriff Court tomorrow, but maintains that he is innocent.
- 7.1.75 When Robert appeared for trial today before Glasgow Sheriff Court the case against him was found 'not proven'. Later Mrs. Henderson 'phoned me she was very relieved at the outcome in that Robert has not got a further conviction but she was annoyed because she felt he should have been found 'not guilty'. JJB/IWN

Name _____

Case No. _____

Sheet No. _____

SUPERVISION NOTESDate

R. Henderson. Scottish Certificate of Education received by Robert awarding him 'O' level passes in English and History, both at 'B' grade.

25. 7. 74.

Robert Henderson

1/8/74

Robert was taken for interview to Horne Engineering, Lancefield Works, Rankine Street, Johnstone, by Mr. Urquhart of the Training Centre. This interview had been arranged by Mr. Urquhart and was for an apprenticeship and mechanical engineering. In fact Robert was informed later on in the afternoon that he had been successful in his interview. This firm is a very good one employing about 50 people and making thermostatic valves. Robert will undergo one year's training at the Training Centre during which time he will be on day release and is due to start work on Monday the 5th. A letter will be in the post to Robert informing him of this. Mr. Urquhart was assured by Deputy H/M that the School would like to be kept informed of Robert's progress and on his part Mr. Urquhart was able to indicate that Horne Engineering were grateful for this and would be happy to see any of the School Staff at the Works and this went also for the Training Centre. The gentleman who will be responsible for Robert at Horne Engineering, is Mr. Spratt Works Manager, or Mr. Achieson Works Director. Their telephone number is JOHNSTONE 21455. Mr. Urquhart's telephone number at the Training Centre is JOHNSTONE 23026. Later ~~at~~ in the day Robert appeared at his Childrens Hearing along with his parents, Social Worker Mr. Barrett and Deputy H/M. Deputy was able to give the good news that Robert had been accepted and was ready to start work on Monday if this was agreeable to the Panel. The Panel were obviously pleased that Robert had done so well and he was duly released to supervision at home which both parents and Social Worker agreed would be desirable. Mr. Henderson took the decision with his usual calm, although mother was obviously highly delighted that Robert had landed such a good job. Robert was encouraged to keep in touch with Geilsland and was wished every success by Deputy H/M at the end of the Hearing. (BN)

1.8.74

Robert appeared at the Children's Panel this evening along with his parents and Mr. Colthart, Deputy Headmaster from Geilsland School. Robert was very nervous and as usual did not give a good account of himself in that he was not really able to respond to the promptings of the Panel. The Deputy Headmaster gave a summary of Robert's progress in the school and also the fact that he had been for an interview to Horne Engineering in Johnstone and furthermore that he was successful in this interview and is to commence work as an apprentice engineer on Monday, 5th August, 1974 despite the fact that this is the local holiday. The first year will be spent attending the Johnstone Training Centre. The members of the panel pointed out to Robert how fortunate he was to secure such a position in view of the number of applicants for the job. Afterwards Mr. Colthart and I spoke to Robert and his parents emphasising the need for Robert to apply himself and for the parents to lend support and encouragement. Mrs. Henderson was really overjoyed at her son's good fortune. She herself has now graduated as a primary school teacher and commences employment in the new school in Elderslie on 19th August, 1974.

9.8.74

Met Mr. Henderson in High Street. He is currently on holiday. Robert as expected has started work and according to his father is enjoying his new job. Apparently the first month will be spent full-time with Messrs. Horne Engineering and he will then commence in the Training Centre. Arranged for Robert to call and see me at the office on Wednesday, 14th August, 1974. This is quite convenient for him as it is on his route home from work.

14.8.74

Robert called at the office to see me as arranged. He was a little more

SUPERVISION NOTES

Date

Robert Henderson. Robert is certainly quite a cookie. Along with certain other boys, Robert had made quite a determined plot to abscond from the school. Fortunately this was detected and Robert along with other lads was punished.
18.10.73.

Robert Henderson. First visit to the school since Robert's admission by Mr. & Mrs. Henderson who took the opportunity to have a walk round with Robert prior to interview with Headmaster. The visit in total seemed to be a great success. Mrs. Henderson mentioned that Robert had said he hoped to sit three 'O' Levels and was currently working toward this end, Headmaster reminded Mrs. Henderson of the difficulties he would face in preparing for this but Mr. Henderson was quick to state that Robert appeared enthusiastic about undertaking Engineering in the school. To Headmaster's astonishment, Mrs. Henderson then said that whilst she would be glad if he could get his three 'O' Levels she was not worried about them now since seeing the change and improvement in Robert's personality regardless of whether he got 'O' Levels or not, his being in Geilsland was well justified! Needless to say, compared to earlier attitudes this seemed to be a considerable breakthrough. Robert described with glowing detail what went on in the school and appeared to delight in letting the parents see that while the discipline was tough, he could take it! This too was quite a change for Robert. On return to the school in the evening, Mr. & Mrs. Henderson brought Mr. & Mrs. Carson who are relatives and live in Paisley and were clearly keen that they too should have a look round the school. A rehearsal was in progress for the Minstrel Show at Christmastime and the parents were delighted to take a poster to put in the local shop in Johnstone and anticipate making up a party of Robert's friends and any other relatives to come and see him in the show on Saturday 15th December.
27.10.73.

Robert Henderson. Visit to the school by two Principal Teachers of Guidance, Mr. Easton and Mr. Campbell from Johnstone High School. Appeared interested in what they saw in the school and took the chance to speak freely with Robert whilst being taken round the school. According to the two Guidance Teachers, Robert keeps very bad company at home and this will be one of his draw backs whilst on leave.
5.11.73.

Robert Henderson. Returned from his first leave as instructed, Mother 'phoned Headmaster said he had been excellent at home and that she would be very pleased to have him home if allowed any additional leave, Headmaster said that dependent on Robert's attitude on return to school he may be allowed home for a few days at Hogmanay.
29.12.73.

Robert Henderson. 'Phone call from Mrs. Henderson saying that she will be away at Rowardenan from next Friday night at 6.30 until Sunday night sometime in the afternoon or evening with a Youth Club party of 12, if Robert was to get home, /Contd.
13.5.74.

Robert Henderson. having earned a leave, could he get home on Friday evening before 6.30. to be in Johnstone indeed by 6.30 to leave with them, otherwise should he get home, there would be nobody in, however, she was not asking if he could get home, but simply stating that she wouldn't be home in case Robert arrived home and found no one in.
13.5.74.
(Contd).

R. Henderson. Visit to school by Mrs. Henderson. Robert has an interview with the gas Board on Monday and was allowed home for Weekend to attend this.
6.7.74

SUPERVISION NOTES

Date

25.9.73.

Appeal heard in Paisley Sheriff Court against the decision of the Children's Panel to send Robert to List 'D' School.

Witnesses cited to appear included the parents, Dr. Nelson, Mrs. Browning, Mr. Parker - Assistant Director, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Campbell - Guidance Teacher and myself. The Sheriff who was Sheriff Ingles, after considering all reports available and hearing the opening statements of Mr. Caufield the Henderson's lawyer and Mr. Kelly the Reporter - dismissed the appeal.

Robert was taken back to Bellfield by Mr. Barrett and myself. Before doing so the parents were assured that Robert would be taken to appointment with skin specialist.

27.9.73.

1) Taken to Skin Specialist by Mr. Barrett.
2) Letter received from Mr. Munro, Geilsland School on the subject of 'O' Grade education. Mr. Campbellm Johnstone High is willing to co-operate in the matter of Robert's education and Geilsland feel confident that they can educate him in Arithmetic, English and History - the subjects Robert may obtain a possible pass in.

1.10.73.

Robert appeared as witness for prosecution in Johnstone Burgh Court. In the afternoon on the completion of the court proceedings Robert was taken to Geilsland.

ALR/SZ

RECEIVED (8)

Robert Henderson.
25.9.73.

Mr. Neil attended Paisley Sheriff Court on the 25th September as a witness on the subject of the Education provided by Geilsland School as one Robert Henderson due in the school in the near future was appealing against the Panel decision for him to go to a List 'D' School. The appeal was dismissed and Mr. Neil had an opportunity of speaking to a Mr. Campbell - Guidance Teacher of Robert Henderson's school and discovered that while Robert's verbal I.Q. was 143 his M.H.T. I.Q. taken at primary time was 100 and 102 i.e. M.H.T. I.Q. 100 and 102 it would appear that Robert had not been working at school to his best ability was inattentive and a bit of a nuisance. Mr. Campbell showed Mr. Neil his record and it would appear that he is a possible pass in ~~Maths~~ Arithmetic, possible pass in History and a possible pass in English, all subjects which we should be well able to cope with. Other subjects were not deemed to be very practical according to his report. Mr. Neil has the promise of Mr. Campbell's co-operation in the matter of the education of Robert Henderson, if and when he arrives in the school.

Robert Henderson.
7.10.73.

Absconded from school just before 5.00 p.m. apprehended locally by staff and was aggressive in resisting the compulsion to return to the school. Mother had been notified by the Headmaster of Robert's absconsion and was similarly notified of his recovery. Robert was punished thoroughly for his action and assured H/M this was the end of Robert Henderson and foolish nonsense. Lad certainly appeared genuinely a bit homesick but in other respects has settled well in the school.

SUPERVISION NOTESDateAssessment of Robert

I feel he is a disturbed youth who has not been able as yet to express what is troubling him. He has co-operated and attended regularly without question but the period of time (5 weeks) is too short to come to any definite predictions of his future behaviour.

Children's Hearing, 29th.

Panel decided to send Robert to List 'D' school. Until such time as a place is available he has to be detained at Bellfield Assessment Centre. The Hearing was very fraught, the parents being dumstruck and very upset.

After Children's Hearing I took Robert's medicine which had been handed in to the Social Work Department to Police Headquarters, New Street, Paisley to be given to Robert who was awaiting transportation to Bellfield.

There have been several phone calls from Mrs Henderson re. Robert. On the 11th Mr McDade and myself took Robert to an appointment with Dr. Nelson, Psychiatrist. It transpired that this appointment need not have been kept if Dr. Nelson knew Robert was in Bellfield.

Robert mentioned an appointment with skin specialist on Thursday, 13th. He did not find out time of appointment when asked to do so.

17th. Mrs Henderson phoned. Robert had missed his skin specialist appointment. This was due to combination of circumstances:-

- (1) during the previous week I had been off work.
- (2) Robert thought appointment was last Thursday.
- (3) difficulties of transport

18.9.73 Emergency Hearing to consider application by Henderson family for suspension of Supervision Requirement until appeal is heard by Sheriff on Tuesday, 25th.

Application was dismissed by Panel.

There was a certain unhappiness regarding Robert missing his skin specialist appointment. This was explained and it was made clear Social Work Dept. not at fault. Panel still unhappy and asked for assurances that

- (a) contact would be maintained with parents.
- (b) contact maintained with Bellfield.
- (c) appointment arranged with skin specialist and Robert transported to it.

As a Trainee Social Worker I felt unable to give such assurances and so it was said they would be implemented subject to approval of Director of Social Work.

19.9.73 Telephoned Geilsland School. New Date of admission 1st October. Monday morning.

New appointment arranged with skin specialist for 27th September, 1973.

ALR/MMCL

SUPERVISION NOTESDate

19.7.73

Robert appeared at a continued hearing this morning in Paisley. The original hearing was held on the 14th June but at that time it was felt necessary to continue the case for assessment. The Grounds of Referral at this hearing were truancy.

On the 12th July an assessment meeting took place and the recommendation from this Panel was that a supervision requirement should be made with a condition of attendance at Dr. Nelson's Clinic. On this same date I was informed that Robert had been arrested by the police in Saltcoats as he had stabbed another youth in the wrist.

On the 22nd June, a second Grounds of Referral were received, the nature of the offences being:-

- (a) B.O.P.
- (b) Contravention of the Prevention of Crime Act 1963 Section 1.

The Panel met together on the 19th July and had to consider:-

1. (i) The Truancy which was accepted
2. (i) Contravention of the Prevention of Crime Act 1963 Section 1, i.e. The possession of an iron bar in pursuit of other youths - partial acceptance.
- (ii) Breach of the Peace - Abandoned by the Reporter
3. The assault and Breach of the Peace in Saltcoats, both which Grounds of Referral were accepted by Robert.

The Panel wished to continue the case yet again for further assessment and also gave consideration to placing Robert in Bellfield Assessment Centre for a period of three weeks. During the discussion I intervened as the Social Worker and suggested that Robert be allowed to remain at home and I would undertake to supervise him closely. This recommendation was accepted by the Panel and Robert was allowed to go home with his parents. The recommendation of the Assessment Panel that Robert attend Dr. Nelson's Clinic was also accepted.

Home Visit. Visited the Hendersons at home and explained very clearly to them Robert's situation, pointing out that it was still very much a reality that Robert be placed in a list 'D' School. Mrs Henderson felt that supervision at home might work as Robert owed me a debt of gratitude for not allowing him to be sent to Bellfield Assessment Centre. It was generally agreed that it was up to Robert to rectify his own bad behaviour and it was felt that this period at home while waiting for the report from the Assessment Panel would be an opportunity for Robert to indicate what measures he intended taking to alter his present situation.

Office Visits. Over the past few days, a fair quantity of information has been gleaned concerning Robert. We have a picture of an intelligent youth with high verbal ability. His interests for such a person are surprisingly mundane and Robert appears superficially content to engage in such pastimes as football, cards and sitting around the park. We discussed the possibility of a youth club starting up sometime this Autumn in the Community Centre in Johnstone Castle. Robert felt that such a club with facilities for darts, billiards and table tennis etc., would provide a place for people of his age. It would have the advantage of keeping youths off the street.

We also discussed Robert's employment prospects. He was interested in either Factory Work or an apprenticeship in engineering. He/..

20, 23, 25,
25 27 July.



County Council of the County of Renfrew

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT.

W Y McNEIL

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT ON ROBERT HENDERSON OF Home Address: 25 Walnut Crescent, Johnstone
Presently: Pupil in Geilsland School, Beith

CHILDREN'S HEARING AT Maxwell Street, Paisley DATE OF BIRTH 11.4.58 AGE: 16 YEARS.

DATE OF HEARING: Thursday, 1st August, 1974 RELIGION: Protestant

GROUNDS OF REFERRAL: Review of Supervision Requirement dated 1st October, 1973

Robert has now been a pupil of Geilsland List 'D' School, Beith, since 1st October, 1973. The attached report prepared by the Headmaster, Mr. S.L. Munro, outlines in considerable detail Robert's progress at the school.

As far as the family situation is concerned, Mrs. Henderson has now graduated as a primary school teacher and is due to take up full-time employment at the beginning of the new school term on 19th August, 1974. According to Mrs. Henderson Robert has made considerable progress since going to Geilsland School and she is looking forward very much to his return home. She feels that he has developed a much more positive attitude and that his confidence and moral have been boosted considerably by his success in obtaining 'B' passes in 'O' level English and History. He is apparently anxious to secure an engineering apprenticeship and has had several interviews to date.

Clearly Robert has reached the stage where it is appropriate to consider him for release. However, both the school authorities and his mother feel that the timing of his release is very important and in order to gain the maximum benefit from his period of residential training it is suggested that he is not released until he first secures suitable employment.

Mr. Munro. (Chair)

*Mrs. Cameron -
Mr. Hills.*

(JOHN J. BARRETT),

Senior Social Worker.

10 Laigncartside
Street, Johnstone.
31.7.74. JJB/INN

Starts in the Training Centre.

Mr. A. L. Rodger

ALR/SZ

17th September, 1973.

Mr. & Mrs. Henderson,
25 Walnut Crescent,
Johnstone.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Henderson,

I have taken up the matter with my Senior of the difficulties of transportation of Robert to and from Bellfield Assessment Centre to attend medical appointments and regret to say that it is not possible for an Officer to be spared to transport Robert to such appointments. As a suggestion I would advise that any further appointments be allowed to lapse until such time as Robert is residing at Geilsland School. Once, at Geilsland I have been given to understand that arrangements may be made to take Robert to such appointments.

I trust that this will clarify the situation for you with regard to Robert's attendance at medical appointments.

Yours sincerely,

ALR

A L. Rodger (Mr.)
Social Worker.