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Work Department

NURSERY PLACEMENTS

Re: Gavin Ferguson/Wallace (d/b 14.12.75)
Marjory Ferguson/Wallace (d/b 10.05.77)
1 Dronley Avenue, Beechwood, Dundee.

A Nursery placement is requested for the above two children. A case conference had been held the week previous at which Mr. Nicoll A.A.C. attended. Due to Mr. Ferguson's potential aggressive background it was deemed necessary that it would be in the best interests and concern for the children that a nursery place be allocated.

A. Hughes
Social Worker.

12.02.80

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Social Work Department

Case Conference held at Ninewells Hospital on 26:6:80

[REDACTED]
1 Bronley Avenue, Dundee.

Mother : Marjory Morrison or Wallace, known as Ferguson
Cohabitee : Douglas Ferguson.

Siblings : Marjorie, d.o.b. 10:5:77
[REDACTED]

Present:

Dr. Drillian, Consultant Paediatrician, Armitstead Child Development Centre.
Dr. McKellican, 364 Perth Road, Dundee.
Mr. W. Foy, Inspector, R.S.S.P.C.C. 17 William Street, Dundee.
Sgt. Griggs, Juvenile Liaison, Tayside Police, West Bell Street, Dundee.
Miss Robertson, Matron, Lochee Day Nursery, Marshall Street, Dundee.
Dr. N. Buckney, Senior House Officer, Paediatric Unit, Ninewells Hospital.
Mrs. Walker, Health Visitor, Ryehill Health Centre.
Mr. A. Nicoll, Asst. Area Controller, Area 1.
Mrs. M. Orr, Co-Ordinator for the Child Abuse Register.

A second case conference was called to discuss the Wallace - Ferguson Family situation with particular reference to [REDACTED] (both Gavin and Marjorie are on the At Risk Register in the Suspected category), who was found to have a bruise on [REDACTED] face by Mrs. Robertson, Matron of Lochee Day Nursery. [REDACTED]'s mother had told Mrs. Robertson she had lost her temper with [REDACTED] and hit [REDACTED] on the face, but the bruising proved more serious than Mrs. Robertson had been led to expect and [REDACTED] was taken to Wallacetown Health Centre where [REDACTED] was seen by Dr. Wilson. [REDACTED].

The discussion at the case conference was recorded as follows:-

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Father is very strict with the children and all misdemeanours are punished.
Mrs. Robertson has had a few tussles with Mr. Ferguson about discipline. Mr.

Case Conference 26:6:80 : [REDACTED]

Mr. Ferguson's explanation for his strict discipline is that his father treated him in this same manner and his view is that the treatment he received as a child has made him a better person and therefore he wants to see his step-children grow up, not like the other children in Beechwood, but as he has.

[REDACTED]

child to cry to be remorseful. Mrs. Robertson described an incident that happened on Tuesday - the children slept in and Mum telephoned the nursery to say Gavin was on his way with an uncle who would leave him at the gate; Marjorie had not dressed herself quickly enough, so was punished by being put back to bed for the day. But Mrs. Robertson said mother should dress her and bring her to the nursery.

[REDACTED] Marjorie had marks round her neck, and Mrs. McFarlane (Health Visitor), said she would go to the house to find out about these.

[REDACTED] The ward staff find him a bit wild but behaving

[REDACTED]

Mr. Nicoll feels, because of the greater protection afforded by the nursery, it is advisable for Marjorie to be kept in the nursery in preference to the nursery school and perhaps next year when she is four, the situation can be looked at again. Gavin is going to Rockwell school soon.

Dr. Drillian thinks it a risky situation to leave the parents to continue to manage the children in the way they do. Mrs. Robertson mentioned that Mrs. Ferguson's divorce is going through and they intend to get married and Mr. Ferguson plans to adopt the two children. Mr. Nicoll said the Sheriff would have to be informed if the parents planned to adopt the children. Mrs. Walker said she felt if Mr. Ferguson didn't approve of any decision the family would probably be up and off, and Mrs. Walker asked that something definite be decided in case the parents did take off. It was felt a Children's Hearing would give

Case Conference 26:6:80 : [REDACTED]

Mr. Ferguson the opportunity to state his point of view and might also give the Social Work Department the statutory right of access.

Recommendations:

- 1). Referral to the Reporter to be made by Dr. Buckney.
- 2). Health Visitor support to carry on as in the past.
- 3). [REDACTED]
- 4). The family to be requested to attend the Children's Psychiatric Unit.
- 5). If a Children's Hearing is called, the question of whether or not the children should be under a Supervision Order should be considered.

Mary Orr

Mrs. M. Orr,
Co-Ordinator for the Child Abuse Register.

Social Work Department

Case Conference held at Ninewells Hospital on 24:7:80

Gavin Ferguson, 1 Dronley Avenue, Dundee. d.o.b. 14:12:75

Mother : Marjory Morrison.

Cohabitee : Douglas Ferguson.

Siblings : Marjorie d.o.b. 10:5:77

Diane d.o.b. 17:9:79.

Present:

Dr. Drillian, Consultant Paediatrician, Armitstead Child Development Centre.

Mr. W. Foy, Inspector, R.S.S.P.C.C., 17 William Street, Dundee.

Sgt. Griggs, Juvenile Liaison, Tayside Police, West Bell Street, Dundee.

Miss Robertson, Matron, Lochee Nursery, Dundee.

Mr. A. Nicoll, Asst. Area Controller, Area 1, 22 Crichton Street, Dundee.

Miss McFarlane, Health Visitor, Ryehill Clinic.

Dr. Waterston, Senior Registrar, Paediatric Unit, Ninewells Hospital.

Mrs. M. Orr, Co-Ordinator for the Child Abuse Register.

Apologies:

Dr. McKellican.

A second case conference became necessary [redacted] at the end of June. As the recommendation to refer the case to the Reporter to the Children's Panel made at the case conference on 26:6:80, had not been carried out because on consideration of the case after conference it was felt that in these particular circumstances the referral was not an appropriate one for a member of the Ninewells Paediatric staff to make. The conference therefore, had to decide whether the referral should be made by another agency or whether circumstances had changed in the Ferguson home in such a way as to indicate that continued work on a voluntary basis was the better way to help Gavin and his family.

The discussion included:-

- 1) The advantages and disadvantages of a referral and
 - 2) Recent family history.
- 1). The advantage of a referral if it resulted in a Supervision Order would be of having a statutory right to supervise the children but might make Mr. Ferguson decide to leave Dundee, in a hurry, with the family and could make the parents more antagonistic to those trying to help them. An unsuccessful referral might make the parents feel that their methods of child rearing were being upheld by the Children's Panel.
 - 2). Recent family history indicates that Mr. Ferguson, in particular, may be occupying his time in such a way that his understanding of children may be increased with, hopefully, some benefits for his own daughter and step children.

He is currently taking part in the Beechwood Holiday Camp, with Gavin, and seems to enjoy being a helper and has evidently been able to cope, with one other helper, with 25 children including Gavin. He was also very active in raising funds for the camp by approaching local businesses and asking for donations.

Although there is still a lot of concern about the current methods of disciplining the children and Diane may well soon be subject to the same strict discipline as her step

brother and sister as her mother has acquired a new cot into which she will be put if she 'steps out of line', nevertheless the efforts being made to talk to the parents about child development and child care and Mr. Ferguson's new interests may make some difference in his and his wife's attitudes to their children.

Other points made were:-

- a). Gavin and Marjorie are reported to have been subjected to physical abuse long before their mother met Mr. Ferguson and they stayed in Women's Aid Refuges both in Northampton and Dundee.
- b). That it might be helpful if Mr. Ferguson could visit some place where he could see young children being looked after and possibly be involved in the caring - this might also benefit the mother and the Beechwood Community Centre was suggested as a possibility.
- c). That Mr. Wallace, the father of Gavin and Marjorie is apparently visiting the home.
- d). [REDACTED]
- e). That the mother's divorce has not yet been granted.

After the discussion, the following recommendations were made:-

- 1). That unless there is a further incident no referral will be made to the Reporter.
- 2). That a meeting would be arranged at Lochee Nursery to which Mr. Ferguson and the children's mother would be invited and which would be attended by Mrs. Robertson, Miss McFarlane and Mr. Nicoll so that those who know the family best could discuss the situation with them and explain the areas of concern and also, if appropriate give some recognition of improvement on the part of the parents.
- 3). That the situation at the Beechwood Community Centre might be looked at with a view to the possible involvement of one or other or both parents in some supervised child care project.

Mary Orr

Co-Ordinator for Child Abuse Register.