

Depute Director of Social Work (Fieldwork Services)
Mr J. D. Burrowes

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Tayside Regional Council

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

Office Dundee West,
..... 6 Paradise Road,
..... Dundee.

Tel. No. 0382 23281 Ext. 3487

Social Worker Mr S. Brodie
preparing report

SB/DMM



SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT CHILDREN'S HEARING

The following child:—

Surname FERGUSON

Date of Birth (1) 14.12.75
..... (2) 10.5.77

Christian Names (1) Gavin (2) Marjory
or Forenames

Religion

School

Home Address 14 Dronley Place, Dundee

Occupation

Presently c/o Florence Booth House,
..... Clement Park, Dundee

is to appear on Thurs. 24th May 1984 at DUNDEE Children's Hearing
in connection with ANNUAL REVIEW

BASIS OF REPORT

I was introduced to this family as their new social worker only a few weeks ago and have only seen them several times. However I have had in-depth discussions with Ms. M. Black, the previous social worker and also with Mrs McKenzie, family helper, who has been involved with the family for some considerable time. I have also had discussions with Mrs Fisher at Florence Booth. This report has therefore been compiled from the outcome of these discussions in conjunction with my own assessment through my brief contact with the family.

PROGRESS SINCE LAST REVIEW

At the last Hearing, the children were made subject of Residential Supervision Orders under Section 44 (1)(b) Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. At this time, it was decided that the Supervision Orders should remain in force but the children should spend some time at home on a trial basis. If this trial period was successful, then a Review Hearing would be called. However despite a good start to the trial, home leave pressure was clearly building up and the children were returned to Florence Booth on 12th August 1983. This eased the pressure on the household and allowed the home situation to settle. On 1st September 1983 the children resumed a full-time trial period at home. On 16th November 1983 a Departmental Review took place as tension was building up again within the family. Consequently, the children were returned to Florence Booth. There then followed several weeks when Mr Ferguson was unwilling to engage in any work with the Department. He refused to discuss the marital situation and contact with Florence Booth was difficult.

PROGRESS SINCE LAST REVIEW, (cont'd)

In December, Marjory, Sonia and Diane contracted dysentery for which they spent a period in hospital. Unfortunately the dysentery meant that Gavin could not have contact with the family for fear that the infection may spread to Florence Booth. Sonia and Marjory were cleared of dysentery shortly after, but Diane did not receive the all clear until April 1984. During this time, Gavin and Marjory remained in Florence Booth but were unable to visit the home. Mr and Mrs Ferguson began visiting Gavin and Marjory as soon as the all clear had been given for Diane. During this period of dysentery, the Ferguson's were encouraged to keep in touch with Gavin and Marjory by telephone, but seldom did.

On 17th May 1984, a further Departmental Review was held at Florence Booth. After discussion it was agreed that it was still too early to allow the children home permanently. As the holiday season was approaching, it was not thought that Mr and Mrs Ferguson were ready to cope with all four children at home for a lengthy period. However it was agreed that:-

1. Gavin and Marjory stay overnight from Saturday to Sunday on May 19th/20th.
2. Gavin and Marjory to have two nights at home the following weekend and to go from school from their home on Monday 28th May.
3. Gavin and Marjory to be at home from 1st June until the end of the school session.
4. Gavin and Marjory will be at home during the week beginning Monday 4th July and will return to Florence Booth on Friday 8th July.
5. Gavin and Marjory will be on holiday with Florence Booth from 9th July to 16th July.
6. Gavin and Marjory home again from 16th July for two weeks.

If these trial periods at home prove successful, then another Hearing will be requested.

CONCLUSION

It is fair to say that Mr and Mrs Ferguson are well motivated parents and are generally keen to work towards having the children home permanently. Although almost a year has passed since the last Hearing, a great deal of ground has been covered with Mr and Mrs Ferguson. However I do not feel that the children should return home at this stage but I look optimistically to the future.

My recommendation is that the Children's Supervision Orders be continued under Section 44 (1)(b) Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and that the above plan for home trial be implemented.

SBB Brodie

MR S. BRODIE,
SOCIAL WORKER.

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REPORT FOR ANNUAL REVIEW (N.A.I. REGISTER)

NAME .. Gavin and Marjory Ferguson

ADDRESS .. 14 Dronley Place, Dundee.

D.O.B. .. (12.12.75) (10.5.77) respectively

MOTHER .. Mrs Marjory Ferguson D.O.B.

FATHER .. Mr Douglas Ferguson D.O.B.

SIBLINGS .. Gavin Ferguson D.O.B. .. 14.12.75

 .. Marjory Ferguson D.O.B. .. 10.5.77

 .. Diane Ferguson D.O.B. .. 17.9.79

 .. Sonia Ferguson D.O.B. .. 7.10.81

REPORT

All family members are living at 14 Dronley Place but Gavin and Marjory who are subject to a Supervision Order under Section 44(1)(b) Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 return to Florence Booth for an overnight stay every Thursday.

Progress Report

Mr and Mrs Ferguson have achieved a great deal of progress since the last review. Mr Ferguson has persevered in changing his attitude towards his family. He is now much more able to effectively manage the day to day functioning of the family. His relationship with his children is much improved. Mr Ferguson has recently been charged with driving without a licence or insurance which is likely to mean a fairly heavy fine. Mrs Ferguson has also progressed in her motivation towards organising the household, although at times general tidyness leaves a lot to be desired. Mrs Ferguson has just discovered that she is pregnant. Mr Ferguson would rather not have another child but says he will have to adjust when the new baby arrives.

Gavin and Marjory have been spending all but one night at home every week for some considerable time. This is seen as a trial period whilst the family still have the support of Florence Booth. It is expected that the children will return home permanently in the near future.

Although there has been significant progress within the family during the past year several major factors are shortly to influence the family:-

- (1) The expected return home full time for Gavin and Marjory.
- (2) Mr Ferguson's expected heavy fine which may place increased stress on the family.
- (3) Mrs Ferguson's pregnancy and the further stress this may add to an already full household. Mr Ferguson I feel has not yet fully accepted his feelings towards another child.

Recommendation

That both children remain on the Register.

S. Brodie
Mr S. Brodie, Social Worker.

SB/EHC (7.11.84).

CASE REVIEWS – CHILDREN IN CARE

SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT

Please include comments under the following headings:—

Pen picture of the child (including interests as well as physical and emotional attributes);

Summary of Work done since last Review (including frequency of visits);

Suitability of Placement (does it meet the child's needs? What are his views);

School Report (facts about attainment and potential. Also any behavioural or relationship difficulties);

Health (date of last medical and details of any treatment in addition to description of health);

Contact with natural parents/current home situation/parents' views re future;

Parental Contributions: Has parental assessment form been submitted to HQ.?

Social Workers's views re future action (indicating why any change in direction has taken place since last review/initial assessment. Also indicate why particular goals are used and link with understanding of child's behaviour).

NAME	ADDRESS IN CARE	D.O.B.
Gavin Ferguson) Section	c/o Florence Booth House,	10. 5.77
Marjory Ferguson) 44(1)(b)s	Harefield Road, Dundee.	14.12.75

Last Formal Review : 29th August 1984.

Decisions taken at last Review :-

1. Continuation of extended home leave i.e. children home full-time on trial with the exception of one overnight stay in Florence Booth per week.
 2. Family situation to be reviewed shortly after the October school holiday, when consideration will be given to requesting a Review Hearing with regards to the children returning home permanently.
 3. Family Helper to maintain weekly contact.
 4. Florence Booth to continue to offer support to Mr and Mrs Ferguson as and when required.
-

Gavin admitted to Florence Booth House on 13. 3.81.
Marjory admitted to Florence Booth House on 8. 1.82.

Family situation : Both Marjory and Gavin have had continued extended home leave excluding one overnight stay per week in Florence Booth. Mr and Mrs Ferguson have fully co-operated with this arrangement. Generally these home visits have appeared to progress well ; Marjory and Gavin appear settled within the family household and have established a very close relationship with their siblings i.e. Dianne (17.9.79) and Sonia (27.10.81).

It /-

It is felt that Mr and Mrs Ferguson's relationship with Marjory and Gavin has improved considerably since their admission to Florence Booth. Progress which has continued during recent months. However Mr and Mrs Ferguson recognise that they have had to work at developing their relationship with Marjory and Gavin. Everything, however, has not been plain sailing ; Mr and Mrs Ferguson's expectations of the children's ability to accept responsibility, which may be considered inappropriate for their age, can be at times a stumbling block in their relationship.

[REDACTED]

Marjory however appears to need a great deal of attention and "babying" which might be considered in contrast with the responsibility placed on her by her parents. Mr and Mrs Ferguson feel that such responsibility is appropriate at present. Mr Ferguson appears to be more able in coping with the stresses of day to day family life. Mrs Ferguson has recently had confirmation of her pregnancy and looks forward to the birth of the child. Mr Ferguson has expressed some reservations in coping with added emotional responsibility.

School situation : Mr Jack, Headmaster of Rockwell Primary, reports that Gavin and Marjory continue to make progress. They attend regularly and are clean and tidy. Mr Jack is satisfied with Mr and Mrs Ferguson's attitudes towards parental contact with the school.

Suitability of Placement : While Florence Booth have provided the security and care the children have required, consideration must now be given to the long-term plans for Marjory and Gavin. Mr and Mrs Ferguson have expressed their desire to have the children home permanently as soon as possible.

Financial Situation : Mr and Mrs Ferguson cope well on a low income derived from Supplementary Benefit, however Mr Ferguson has recently been charged with a road traffic offence for which they may incur additional financial hardship resulting from a fine if found guilty.

Housing : Mr and Mrs Ferguson have applied to the Housing Division for a larger house i.e. 5 rooms.

Health : I understand that both children are in good health with only childhood illnesses occurring over recent months. Both children appear bright and active.

Conclusion : While recognising the progress made by Mr and Mrs Ferguson with regard to their ability to cope with and understand Marjory and Gavin's needs, continued support is felt necessary to enable this progress to continue. Marjory and Gavin have expressed a wish to be home permanently. It is now felt that the family situation has improved to an extent whereby consideration can be given to such a move. Should this happen emphasis should be placed on continued support which Mr and Mrs Ferguson fully recognise as being fully essential.

Suggested points of Discussion :

- 1) Progress within the family during the extended home leaves.
- 2) The possible implications of the new baby for all the family members.
- 3) Mr and Mrs Ferguson's expectations of Marjory and Gavin
- 4) Future plans for Marjory and Gavin in respect of Review Hearing.

Signed *J McRaney* *SB Brodie*
 (Social Worker)
 Date *12/11/84*

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others.

Described as "quiet, but lively on occasions", Gavin enjoys good health and is quite particular in respect of personal hygiene. During late '83/early '84, Marjory suffered a bout of dysentery, which required her to be hospitalised for some four weeks. Generally speaking, she enjoys good health, but requires some supervision in relation to her personal hygiene.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (a) The present situation re "care" i.e. six days at home with the seventh being spent within Florence Booth House, continue meantime.
- (b) A Children's Hearing be requested by Mr. Brodie - to be as soon as possible - with a view to recommending an amendment to the existing Supervision Requirement i.e. Home Supervision.
- (c) Present support - as offered by Miss McKenzie and Mr. Brodie - to continue.

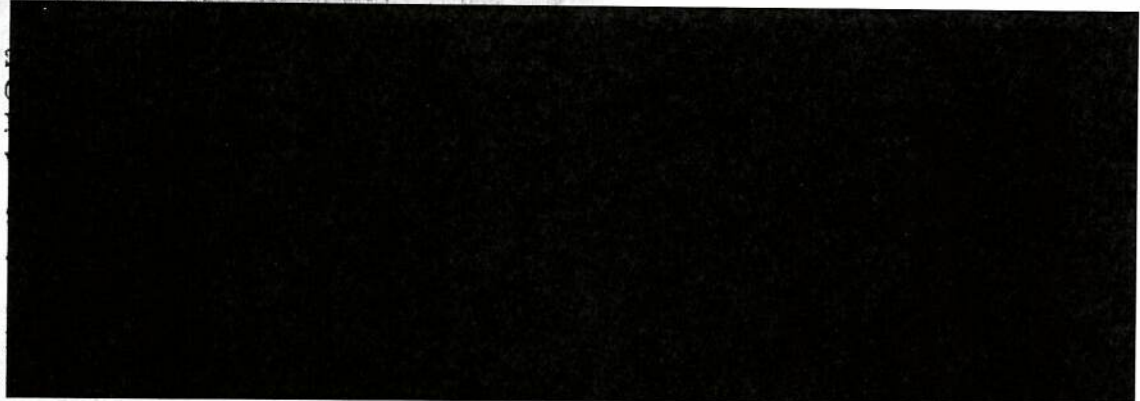
FC/ABS
19.11.84

Mr. F. Cura,
A.F.M.

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REPORT - GAVIN AND MARJORY FERGUSON - 7TH NOVEMBER, 1984

GAVIN FERGUSON - DATE OF BIRTH - 14-12-75



MARJORY FERGUSON - DATE OF BIRTH - 10-05-77

Marjory like Gavin has been spending most time at home. There have been one or two problems which Mr and Mrs Ferguson have been able to handle.

Marjory's general health is good she eats well. We have not had any communication for school as to how she is coping there.

Marjory's feelings on returning to Florence Booth House are mixed and she is giving different messages at different times to staff e.g. on one occasion during lunch time talked non-stop about her sisters and they would be doing and on another occasion said she would like to stay here - this being said after the news of an addition to the staff. She has been very clingy towards staff. The children should be returned home before the new addition arrives.

Mr. Ferguson will always have difficulty in fully accepting Marjory and needs to be encouraged to continue to work at their relationship. He is aware of this problem and is trying.

Close supervision will be necessary for some time with this family to help them cope with the pressures of all 4 children at home permanently as well as a new addition to the family.

Mrs J Fisher
Asst. O.I.C.

J. J. Fisher

CASE REVIEWS

Summary of Review Meeting and Recommendations for the Future

Date of Review..... 15th November, 1984

Name	Present Address	D.O.B.
Marjory Ferguson, Section 44(1)(b))	c/o Florence Booth House,	10.5.77
Gavin Ferguson " " " ")	Dundee	14.12.75

Participants:

Mr. F. Cura, A.F.M., Dundee West.
Mr. D. Ferguson, Children's father.
Miss J. McKenzie, Family Helper, Dundee West.
Mrs. J. Fisher, Dep. O.I.C., Florence Booth House.
Mr. J. Davidson, S.S.W., Dundee West
Mr. S. Brodie, S.W., " "

Apologies tendered on behalf of Mrs. M. Ferguson, children's mother
- hospital appointment.

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

Prior to commencement, Reports from Fieldworkers and Residential Staff were circulated within the group. The contents were duly noted and formed a large part of the discussion which ensued.

A Review concerning Marjory and Gavin had last taken place on 29th August, 1984. The following Recommendations had been agreed upon on that date.

1. Continuation of extended home-leave i.e. children home full-time on trial with the exception of one overnight stay in Florence Booth per week.
2. Family situation to be reviewed after the October school holiday, when consideration will be given to requesting a Review Hearing with regards to the children returning home permanently.
3. Family helper to maintain weekly contact.
4. Florence Booth to continue to offer support to Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson as and when required.

It was now learned that, in respect of Recommendations (a), (c) and (d), all had been complied with, whilst (b) was now in progress.

In relation to (a), both children had continued to reside with their parents on a six days per week basis, i.e. returning to Florence Booth House on Thursday evening following school and leaving the following morning.

Living within the family home are Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, plus their children - Gavin (9), Marjory (7), Diana (5) and Sonia (3). Mrs. Ferguson is also pregnant and the/

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the new baby is expected in February/March of 1985. At this time, the family occupy a four apartment flat in the Beechwood area, but have requested larger accommodation, which hopefully, will be given appropriate consideration by the Housing Division.

Insofar as family relationships are concerned, these have been positive for some considerable time, the last occasion of "rowing" between the Fergusons said to have been during November, 1983. Any problems which arise within the family, are now said to be "talked through" before decisions are arrived at. This relates both to children and parents alike. Miss McKenzie, who has had contact with the Ferguson family since 1981, was in complete agreement that positive changes have come about during her period of involvement, whilst Mr. Brodie, who has only known the family since May of this year, had also noted likewise in the overall situation. Social Work involvement is now accepted in full and advice/support requested as and when necessary.

Within the home situation, both Marjory and Gavin enjoy the normal interaction with their siblings, at the same time giving few concerns for their parents. Whilst wishing to now have his children's "Home" situation formalised on a full-time basis, Mr. Ferguson ventured that the family would continue to require/welcome support from both Social Worker and Family Helper. In view of his wife's pending confinement, there could well be the need for some form of assistance e.g. possible temporary "care", especially in view of non-support being forthcoming from relatives - some of the latter alleged to be undesirable in any case:

During their short periods of "stay" within Florence Booth House, neither Marjory nor Gavin have given cause for concern. Both are now said to be "ready" for full-time parental care and in a sense, just "passing the time" within the establishment.

Both children are presently pupils of Rockwell Primary School. Teaching staff are said to be quite happy with the children's progress - also remarking on the fact that both Gavin and Marjory are "keen, tidy and good time-keepers". Homework assistance is forthcoming, mainly from Mrs. Ferguson and both she and husband have ongoing contact with relevant teaching staff.

Interests pursuits for Marjory, take the form of "Brownies" one night per week, television and games appropriate for her age group. Gavin is a member of the local Boys' Brigade Company, where he is involved in a variety of interests. He also enjoys television, in particular, those relating to education/nature/wildlife. Although both children have friends, Gavin is less inclined to enjoy the company of others. /

- Copies to:-
- Miss A. Crawford, F.M., Dundee West
 - Mr. R. Fisher, O.I.C., Florence Booth Children's Home
 - Mr. J. Davidson, S.S.W., Dundee West
 - ✓ Mr. S. Brodie, S.W., " "
 - Miss J. McKenzie, Family Helper, Dundee West

Signed *S. Brodie*

Signed *J. Ewa*
(Reviewing Consultant)

Date *20-11-84*

Feedback re Resources to Field Work Director via Area Controller

Tayside Regional Council

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

Office Dundee West,
6 Paradise Road,
Dundee DD1 1JB.

Tel. No. 23281 ext 3521

Social Worker
preparing report Mr S.B. Brodie

SBB/IS

**SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT
CHILDREN'S HEARING**

The following child: -

Surname ... FERGUSON Date of Birth

Christian Names
or Forenames ... GAVIN (d.o.b. 14.12.75) Religion

..... MARJORY (d.o.b. 10.5.77)

School

Address Home : 14 Dronley Place, Dundee. Occupation n/a

Presently : Florence Booth House, Clement Park, D'dee.

.....

is to appear on Thursday 29th November 1984 at 3.35p.m. at Dundee Children's Hearing
in connection with Review at Request of Social Worker.

.....

Please refer to my last report to the Hearing dated 24th May 1984.

Progress Since Last Review :

At the last Hearing on 24th May 1984, Gavin and Marjory's supervision orders were continued under Section 44 (1)(b) Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 naming Florence Booth. It was recognised at this time that Mr and Mrs Ferguson had made considerable progress in regard to their parenting of Gavin and Marjory. The plan for trial home leave outlined in my last report to the Panel was successfully achieved and a case review took place on 29th August 1984 to review the progress achieved. At this review it was recognised how well Mr and Mrs Ferguson had managed during the school holidays. Mr and Mrs Ferguson were however somewhat apprehensive about the children's supervision order being varied at that time. It was therefore decided not to request a Hearing at that time but in fact to increase the periods the children spent at home. This was seen as a further positive step towards the children's eventual return home. A further case review would take place after the October school holidays.

On 15th November 1984 a case review took place at Florence Booth House. Since the last case review Gavin and Marjory continued to have extended home leave spending only one night per week in Florence Booth. Gavin and Marjory appear to be very settled within the family and have established a very close relationship with Diane and Sonia. It is felt that Mr and Mrs Ferguson's relationship with Gavin and Marjory has improved considerably since their admission to Florence Booth, progress which has continued during recent months. However Mr and Mrs Ferguson recognise that they have had to work at developing their relationship with Gavin and Marjory. Everything, however, has not been plain sailing ; Mr and Mrs Ferguson's expectations of the children's ability to accept responsibility /-

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Gavin (d.o.b. 14.12.75) & Marjory (d.o.b. 10.5.77) Ferguson, continued

which may be considered inappropriate for their age, can be at times a stumbling block in their relationship. Gavin appears to accept and manage the responsibility placed upon him by his parents, but it should perhaps be considered inappropriate to place such responsibilities on a child of his age. Marjory however appears to need a great deal of attention and "babying" which might be considered in contrast with the responsibility placed on her by her parents. Mr and Mrs Ferguson feel that such responsibility is appropriate at present. Mr Ferguson appears to be more able in coping with the stresses of day to day family life. Mrs Ferguson has recently had confirmation of her pregnancy and looks forward to the birth of the child. Mr Ferguson has expressed some reservations in coping with added emotional responsibility.

School Situation : Mr Jack, Headmaster of Rockwell Primary, reports that Gavin and Marjory continue to make progress. They attend regularly and are clean and tidy. Mr Jack is satisfied with Mr and Mrs Ferguson's attitudes towards parental contact with the school.

Financial Situation : Mr and Mrs Ferguson cope well on a low income derived from Supplementary Benefit, however Mr Ferguson has recently been charged with a road traffic offence for which they may incur additional financial hardship resulting from a fine if found guilty.

Housing : Mr and Mrs Ferguson have applied to the Housing Division for a larger house i.e. 5 rooms. I understand they have just been allocated another house in Harefield Road.

Health : I understand that both children are in good health with only childhood illnesses occurring over recent months. Both children appear bright and active.

Conclusion : While recognising the progress made by Mr and Mrs Ferguson with regard to their ability to cope with and understand Gavin and Marjory's needs, continued support is felt necessary to enable this progress to continue. Gavin and Marjory have expressed a wish to be home permanently. It is now felt that the family situation has improved to an extent whereby consideration can be given to such a move. Should this happen emphasis should be placed on continued support which Mr and Mrs Ferguson fully recognise as being fully essential. I therefore recommend that Gavin and Marjory's supervision order be varied to Section 44 (1) (a) Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 naming their parents' address.

SBBrodie

Mr S.B. Brodie,
Social Worker.

PANEL

MR. FRASER (CHAIR)

MRS GUNN

MISS HALKETT

DECISION

44(1)(a) S.W. (Scot) Act 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

MARJORIE FERGUSON - Notes from Social Work File

D.O.B. 10/05/77
Date of admission to care 14/01/82
Date of discharge from care 24/04/86

1980 Mr Wallace got job in Shetland. Mr and Mrs Wallace were divorced on 26.06.80.

21/02/81 Mr and Mrs Ferguson were married.

09/03/81 RSSPCC visited home. [REDACTED] had sustained injuries. [REDACTED] taken to Dundee Royal Infirmary. Mr Ferguson charged and in June served 4 months in prison.

13/03/81 [REDACTED]

14/03/81 Marjorie went to stay with natural father at his parents' house, in Linlathen. (Children's Hearing - statement of facts - 12 June 1981). Mr Wallace had called on the Fergusons' while [REDACTED] was in hospital and been advised of the situation.

"Marjorie responded well to her father's easy manner and a good rapport was quickly established. With the support of his parents this seemed to provide a temporary solution pending the outcome of a Hearing. However, Mr Wallace moved approximately six weeks ago to live with a friend who is also a single parent and he now hopes to be allocated a house in his own right.

"Gavin and Marjorie are very close and I was able to arrange to take Marjorie on visits to the children's home. Mr and Mrs Ferguson and Diane visited the children with me on a number of occasions.

"Gavin and Marjorie are both delightful, attractive children. They are extremely close and always look very excited about seeing each other. I feel it is important that they should be brought together as soon as possible.

"I do not think it would be appropriate for the children to be returned to Mr and Mrs Ferguson meantime. Equally I have reservations about Mr Wallace's ability to manage and one occasion he admitted that having Marjorie was quite a handful at times. [REDACTED] I am concerned that given Mr Wallace's previously carefree lifestyle he could find the demands of getting to know his children and provide for their needs too great a task.

"Overall, I feel that the needs of Gavin and Marjorie could best be met by placement in a substitute family where caring is coupled with consistent handling." (Ms M Porter, Social Worker. Report for Children's Hearing 19 June 1981)

12/06/81 Childrens Hearing

Marjorie referred because "she is a member of the same household as a child in respect of whom an offence mentioned in respect of

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whom an offence mentioned in paragraph (d) of Schedule 1 to the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975 has been committed, viz. an offence involving bodily injury to a child under the age of seventeen years and may therefore, be in need of compulsory measures of care in terms of Section 32 (2) (d) of the Social Work Scotland Act 1968.

31/07/81 Childrens Hearing

Decision made that [REDACTED] Marjorie remain with her natural father. Placed on supervision orders.

04/12/81 Childrens Hearing - Report by Social Work Department:

Main issues identified at this Hearing was the "strong bond of affection between Gavin and Marjorie and the importance of them being together was stressed. It was also felt that time was needed for me to explore Mr Wallace's situation more fully as his intentions towards the children had not been tested out."

Report outlined agreement that Gavin should go to Mr Wallace each Sunday and therefore see Marjorie too. However, Mr Wallace only called at Home 3 times between September and December. Mr Wallace appears to be "caring for Marjorie quite well" but not keeping contact with social worker. Mr Wallace planning to marry again. "I do not think this is the first girlfriend Mr Wallace has had over the past months and I feel it is confusing for Marjorie not to have a consistent mother figure.

"Mr and Mrs Ferguson have requested this review because they feel they could now cope with the children.....While the Ferguson' are consistently expressing interest I feel that caring for Diane (aged 2 years) and Sonia (age 2 months) is enough for them to cope with meantime.....I would like to stress again that I feel these two children should be brought together, meantime in Florence Booth House until they can be placed together in a fostering situation." (M Porter)

08/01/82 Childrens Hearing: Supplementary Report by Social Worker:

15/12/81 - it was agreed that Marjorie spend overnight in Florence Booth with Mr Wallace to pick her up on Sunday. He did not turn up and it was several days before he could be contacted. Marjorie spent a week in Florence Booth and "Mrs Fisher tells me that she settled quickly and did not show any distress that her father did not collect her at the arranged time. Initially she was rather undisciplined but quickly adapted to the standards of the home. Gavin was very pleased to have his sister with him and they played well together." It was recommended that Marjorie be placed in Florence Booth due to Mr Wallace's "lack of cooperation" and information relating to his future wife.

28/05/82 Case Review

Gavin and Marjorie visit Mr and Mrs Ferguson on a planned basis each Saturday and Sunday. Intention to start overnights at weekends within the next few months. Marjorie needs time to get to know Mr Ferguson again.

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Mr Wallace did not come to last Hearing and has not contacted since.

Mr Ferguson showing commitment to children and visits carried out on a regular basis.

Goals identified at Review:

Emphasis on preparing children to return home. Holiday at home might be possible in August. No firm dates fixed for eventual return home as it was felt that Marjorie would have to be given time to settle in at school.

03/07/82 Overnight stay with Ferguson's. Children returned earlier than arranged. "He (Mr Ferguson) found that he lost his temper on a number of occasions with Marjorie. He cited a number of incidents eg getting up very early, stuffing papers down the toilet and other behaviour which although annoying was not extreme."..... "Mr Ferguson recognised he was not handling the situation well"... "found he was not coping with Marjorie over the extended period" (Social worker's report for Hearing 07/07/82).

07/07/82 Childrens Hearing

Hearing requested by Mr and Mrs Ferguson

No contact by Mr Wallace since Marjorie admitted to care. Mr Ferguson impatient to have children returned home but also recognises that he is not ready to cope with the children for longer periods.

"Conclusion: I feel that Gavin and Marjorie's supervision order should continue, and that they should remain in Florence Booth House meantime. Increased controlled contact with home is of prime importance but we must proceed at a pace that both children can handle". (M Porter)

21/01/83 Case Review:

"Marjorie (5) is an attractive child, Her general health is good but she has had ear trouble creating speech problems - much improved by an operation some time ago."

Social worker trying to help parents develop insight into the developmental needs of the children. " Florence Booth continue to meet the needs of the children at this stage and work well with the parents. Both children appear well settled and happy in the setting.

School - "Recent contact with Mr Jack, Headmaster of Rockwell Primary School indicated that both children have made a good adjustment to school and to date there has been no indication of disturbance from the school's viewpoint. He does comment that Marjorie is emerging as the more dominant personality....

"Both parents - Mr Ferguson in particular continually state their desire to have the children returned to them. At times Mr Ferguson becomes frustrated and verbally aggressive over this issue. During these times I have continued to re-affirm the reasons why the children are in care and the fact that the home has not changed

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sufficiently to allow them to return..... issue centers on Mr Ferguson's ability to satisfactorily adjust his attitude...."

24/02/83

Case Review

Access arrangements: Wed - Thur overnight and Sat - Mon overnight.

"Thought this would encourage Mr and Mrs Ferguson to be involved in taking children to and from school and afford more opportunity for relationships to develop - particularly between Mr Ferguson and Marjorie....Marjorie appears much more relaxed about home visits and there are indications of an improvement in her relationship with Mr Ferguson....

"There are still times when Marjorie annoys Mr Ferguson eg in the mornings he is bad tempered, Marjorie is slow in getting organised for school, so Mrs Ferguson always gets the children up.....

"We would hope to continue with our current plan for increased involvement given that Marjorie and Gavin are making it clear that they are enjoying increased contact with Mr and Mrs Ferguson, Dianne and Sonia" (Margaret Black, social worker 24/02/83)

Discussion at Review:

Concern expressed that lodger living with Fergusons and occupying bedroom in the house. Children have to share with parents. Children would not be allowed to return while lodger there but visiting arrangements would remain same. If lodger left and visits going well, children could spend Easter holiday at home.

26/05/83

Case Review

"Despite some setbacks, and Mr and Mrs Ferguson's limitations, there has been some progress." Plan for children to spend a week at home before Hearing in June. "All being well we would hope they could spend the summer holidays at home."

Mr Wallace called at office asking to visit children. He was discouraged from doing so and has not contacted since.

Decisions made at Review:

- 1) Gavin and Marjorie to go home on Thursday 2 June and will return to Florence Booth House on Monday 13 June.
- 2) If trial successful, a recommendation will be made to the Children's Panel that the children be allowed home on a trial basis. The panel would be asked to make a 44 (1) (b) order naming Florence Booth House and stating that the Social Work Department would have discretion to allow the children home on trial.
- 3) Two beds would be reserved in Florence Booth House for Gavin and Marjorie during the trial period.
- 4) Children Hearing to be arranged for the end of school holidays.

22/06/83

Childrens Hearing

Accepted above recommendations

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16/11/83 Case Review

Children spent school holidays at home - family had a caravan at St Andrews. Latter end of holiday, tensions building up and children returned to Florence Booth House. Children returned home full time on 01/09/83.

Issues around Mr Ferguson's relationship with Marjorie - she is less accepted than Gavin; inappropriate punishments; Mr Ferguson's rigid behaviour; concerns that Mr Ferguson continues to respond to situations in an aggressive manner. "I feel there are still some fairly real risks in this situation" (Margaret Black).

Children returned to live in Florence Booth.

23/11/83 NAI Report

Recommendation: The children's names should remain on the register.

December

Marjorie, Sonia and Diane contracted dysentery and spent a period in hospital. Marjorie returned to Florence Booth.

17/05/84 Review

Agreed too early to allow children home permanently. However, arrangements made for visits and holiday periods at home.

24/05/84 Childrens Hearing

Recommendation that supervision orders continued and plan for home trial to be implemented.

23/10/84

Marjorie and Gavin now spending all week at home apart for Thursdays which they spend at Florence Booth. "Stress levels in the family greatly reduced."

12/11/84 Case Review

Family relationships positive for some time. New baby expected in Feb/March 1985.

"During their short periods of "stay" within Florence Booth House, neither Marjorie nor Gavin gave given cause for concern. Both are now said to be "ready" for full-time parental care and in a sense, just "passing the time" within the establishment.

"Both children are presently pupils of Rockwell Primary School. Teaching staff are said to be quite happy with the children's progress - also remarking on the fact that both Gavin and Marjorie are "keen, tidy and good time-keepers". Homework assistance is forthcoming, mainly from Mrs Ferguson and both she and husband have ongoing contact with relevant teaching staff.

"Interests pursuits for Marjorie, take the form of brownies one night per week, television and games appropriate for her age group".

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Recommendations: Request Childrens Hearing to amendment supervision order to Home supervision; continue with present support offered by Miss McKenzie and Mr Brodie.

29/11/84 Childrens Hearing

Decision: 44 (1) (a) Home supervision order.

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AO 17

CLIENTS NAME: FERGUSON.

SHEET No. _____

January - mid March 84

Gair and Mairing are still unable to visit home as Dianne has still not had the all clear - the medical front. Dianne and Sonia have not been at nursery since mid December - although Sonia is clear she cannot return to nursery until Dianne is clear.

The Fergusons did not visit Mairing in hospital after the New Year - she was discharged on 15.1.84.

Despite attempts by Mrs Fife, Mrs McKenzie & myself to encourage her to visit her and give Gair at F.B.H. they did not do this - coming up with a variety of excuses of they don't like using the phone.

At a meeting on 1.2.84 with Mr & Mrs Ferguson at F.B.H. it was not possible to make arrangements to re-start home visits as Dianne still has dysentery.

As I am leaving in March to go on maternity leave the case is being transferred to P. Deane.

We made an introductory visit to the Fergusons on 24.2.84 and had a meeting with the Fergusons and Mrs Fife at F.B.H. on 7.3.84.

I have advised Mrs McFarlane H.V. of the change of S.W.

As at 16.3.84 Dianne is still not clear of dysentery although the G.P. has prescribed some medication which hopefully will clear up the problem and allow a) return to nursery and b) home visits to re-start.

It has been made clear to the Fergusons both by

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F.B.W. and S.W.D. that if the home situation with the children breaks down again he will have to consider for substitute care for Gail & Marilyn. The Fergusons understand this but do not agree with it. However there is a limit to the number of times that trial periods can be tried. A hearing should have been called at the end of August '83 - had the home visit gone well. The next review will be in May. Hopefully by then home visits will be started and there will be some news to report on how these are going. McFerguson is currently very pleased with the progress he is making in his relationship with Marilyn. She is much more responsive to him - and F.B.W. have noticed this too - and that the parents are visiting the children there.

CLIENTS NAME:

Ferguson

SHEET No.

April - May 1984.

Case transferred to S. Brodie Mid-April 1984. Case originally transferred from M. Black to P. Devlin but due to Departmental reorganisation transferred to S. Brodie.

Diane and all family members now clear of dysentery. Fergusons keen to start home visits again and responded to this as soon as all-clear re. dysentery was given.

At a meeting at F.B.H. on 25/4/84 with Mrs Fisher, Mr & Mrs Ferguson, Mrs McKenzie and S. Brodie continued to discuss developments arising from the children's home leave. Mr Ferguson now feels that his relationship with Marjory is much improved. This was supported by Mrs McKenzie and Mrs Fisher. Mr Ferguson feels that ~~Marjory~~ his improved relationship with Marjory is making Gavin ~~jealous~~ jealous. Some time was spent discussing Mr Ferguson and Gavin's relationship and Mr Ferguson was encouraged to spend time with both children.

On 24/5/84 Gavin and Marjory's ~~annual~~ annual review took place by Children's Panel. At this hearing it was agreed that it was still too early to return

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The children home permanently. Mr & Mrs Ferguson are in agreement with Clipp but are concerned that because of the break in children's home leave they S.W.D. may feel that they are back to square one. However it was explained by S. Brodie that this is not the case but that reassurance can be given to family including Gavin and Marjory if home visits were to continue from F/Booth and to prove successful over quite a few weeks. Panel continued £4(1)(b) on both Gavin and Marjory.

June 1984

Children continue to visit Fri and Sat night and one night per week. These visits proving successful and Gavin and Marjory look forward to visits. At meeting on 12/6/84 at F.B.H it was agreed that children's contact with family should be increased. At this meeting it was recognised that family relationships had much improved. Mr and Mrs Ferguson now asking when Gavin and Marjory can return home. It was agreed that as the school summer holidays were imminent and it was at this time the previous year that the family situation broke down ~~it was~~ it would not be the most appropriate time from the children's point of view to call a Review Hearing

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AO 17

CLIENTS NAME: _____

SHEET No. _____

It was decided however that this was a good time for an extended trial period for Gavin and Marjory at home. This would allow continued support from FBH, and allow the family the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to cope with everyone at home.

SJS

August 1984

During summer holidays home situation remained generally settled. Mrs McKenzie continues to visit the home every week and Mr Brodie when required.

29/8/84 - Meeting at Florence Booth to discuss development during Gavin and Marjory's home leave.

Mr & Mrs Ferguson still indicate signs of finding some day to day situations stressful. Mr Ferguson seems to be anxious about a hearing being called at present. A further period of home leave thought worthwhile until Oct/Nov 1984. However both Mrs Fisher FBH and myself feel that should the home situation be reasonable at this time then a hearing must be called. Failing this alternative plans should be considered for the children. Mrs Ferguson is now keep the house much tidier than before although on some occasions generally tidiness leaves much to be desired. The general

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condition of the home is taken as an indicator of Mrs Ferguson's motivation within the home. Mr Ferguson is much less tense and aggressive than he was several months ago but still allows "small" situations to aggravate him. Mrs Ferguson desperately wants another baby. Mr Ferguson has always stated that he wants a son of his own (Gavin is not his son), however he is beginning to express reservations about the added responsibility. Gavin and Marjory enjoy being back home but look forward to returning to F.B.H.

Sept/October, 1984

SB Brooks

Home situation remains settled, but again some minor incidents have had to be worked through with Mr & Mrs Ferguson. Mrs McKenzie Family Helper feels that at times Mr & Mrs Ferguson place too much responsibility on Gavin and Marjory - Mr Ferguson in particular finds difficulty appreciating & just how much responsibility to place on the children. Mr Ferguson has ~~been~~ purchased a car recently and drives it with no license, insurance etc. He has been warned of the consequence should he be caught by police.

SB

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Nov 1984

Mrs Ferguson now pregnant and very pleased.

Mr Ferguson apprehensive but feels that he'll just have to adjust. Mr Ferguson has been charged for driving without License and insurance which may produce heavy fine placing financial stress on family.

13/11/84 N.A.I. reviews. - Both Gavin and Marjory kept on N.A.I. register due to the imminent return home permanently, the added stress of a new baby on the household and added stress through Mr Ferguson's offence.

SFB Brodie

15-11-84 Casenotes and A016 checked - see

Recommendations of Review held this date. Future recordings to be typed.

J. Guro, C.S.M.

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FERGUSON FAMILY

Developments since last Children's Hearing on 24.6.83

24.6.83 Children's Hearing Review on Marjory and Gavin 44(1)(b).

Supervision Orders to remain in force but children home for a trial period. All being well another Children's Hearing review will be called at the end of the holidays. Mary Orr advised to ^{update} phone N.A.I. register.

14.7.83 Family to caravan ^{holiday} widely in St. Andrews. On 19.7.83 Marjory sustained an injury to her face - tripped while getting up to the toilet in the night. At local cottage hospital G.P. could not find any evidence to substantiate N.A.I. Marjory seemed fine in herself and situation did not appear suspicious.

12.8.83 Despite a good start to the trial home leave pressure was clearly building up (some details in departmental review dated 16.11.83) and following discussions between Mrs. Fisher (F.B.H.), the Fergusons and myself it was agreed that the children return to F.B.H. until situation calms down. Perhaps the summer hols. with the children at home full time was not the best time for a trial period.

1.9.83 Following the previous pattern of spending part of the week at home Gavin and Marjory resumed a full time trial period at home.

16.11.83 Departmental review at F.B.H. attended by Mr. Middleton, Mr. Nicoll, Mr. Gaston, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. McKenzie (family helper who regularly visits the family) and self. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson were present for a large part of the review. See details in S.W.'s review report.

At the review Mr. Ferguson went on at length about the deterioration in his wife's standard of housekeeping and the fact that this had brought him several times to the point of having 'his hands at her throat'. The tension between them was evident although both denied that it was affecting their ability to relate to the children. However, as can be seen from the review report this is clearly not the case. Mrs. Fisher had been at the house the night before the review and felt concerned about "the state of the house" and the general atmosphere. After a lot of discussion it was felt necessary for the children to be returned at this time to F.B.H. The marital strife evident at this time is clearly a source of concern. It is interesting that Mrs. Ferguson has allowed the house-keeping standards to deteriorate so drastically when this is clearly a source of great aggravation to Mr. Ferguson. He is visually quite helpful around the house but in view of his wife's loss of interest he has also given up. This brings into question her commitment to having the children home.

Consequently the children were brought back to F.B.H. by Mr. Ferguson (in a fit of temper).

There followed several weeks when Mr. Ferguson was unwilling to engage in any work with the department - and seemed to want to be talked round. He refused to discuss the marital situation and contact with F.B.H. was difficult.

12.12.83 Meeting at F.B.H. attended by the Fergusons, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. McKenzie and myself to update on developments and discuss contact.

24.12.83/

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24.12.83 Sonia and Dianne returned home from hospital.

15.1.84 Marjory home from hospital. No visits from the Fergusons since the New Year. Gavin in F.B.H. over Xmas and New Year and due to possibility of infection no contact between Fergusons and F.B.H. At the same time the Fergusons made no effort to keep in touch by 'phone or letter with him.