



Tayside
Regional Council

**Social Work
Department**

MS/ES

24 May 1994

Douglas Children &
Young People's Services
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Prepared by
Social Worker Marion Selfridge

Tel ext 210

SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT CHILDREN'S HEARING

The following child:-

Surname Tarbett Dates of Birth (1) [REDACTED]
(2) [REDACTED]
(3) 09.07.91

Christian Names (2) [REDACTED]
or Forenames (3) William Religion

School Rosebank Primary School
Lilybank Child and Family Centre

Address 7D Bonneathill Court Occupation
Dundee

is to appear on at Dundee Children's Hearing
in connection with Request Review Hearing Section 48(2)

FAMILY STRUCTURE

David Tarbett Father 7D Bonneathill Court
[REDACTED]

William Tarbett Subject 7D Bonneathill Court

Director
Peter James Bates

Tarbett Family

Linda Archer Mother c/o Social Work Department
[REDACTED]

A review hearing has been requested in terms of Section 48(2) Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 as a result of continued concerns for the care of [REDACTED] and William Tarbett.

Mr Tarbett has failed to comply with two of the conditions in Section 44(1)(a) Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 dated 28 February 1994.

Condition 3 - The child shall attend Polepark Family Counselling Centre

Condition 4 - The child shall have supervised access to her mother.

Mr Tarbett has refused to allow the children to be part of assessment programme at Polepark Family Counselling Centre and he has refused to take part in this arranged programme.

Mr Tarbett has refused to allow the children access to their mother Ms Archer.

UPDATE ON AREAS OF CONCERN SINCE 28 FEBRUARY 1994

23 March 1994

Rosebank Primary School continuing reports of [REDACTED] difficult behaviour which previously had been in the playground is now also displayed in the classroom. On this date [REDACTED] had been very abusive towards a parent and had told her to "Fucking well do this if you want to!" and to "Suck my cock!" The school have serious concerns regarding [REDACTED] sexualised behaviour ie looking up girls' skirts and sexually explicit innuendoes/ comments.

27 March 1994

Mr Tarbett took all three children to Women's Aid Refuge looking for Ms Archer. He sent the children to the door to ask for their mother and Women's Aid worker alleged that Mr Tarbett encouraged [REDACTED]

Family Centre worker reported that she had seen [REDACTED] on a main road in the town centre on her bike. [REDACTED] was with her but no adults present.

6 April 1994

Concerns from Sandra Smillie, Polepark, subsequent to her sessions with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The children's behaviour appeared very intensive and inappropriate with references to living each other and [REDACTED] having babies in her tummy (step-sister pregnant at present).

Tarbett Family

11 April 1994

Mr Tarbett had telephoned Women's Aid worker at 2.00 am on 9 April 1994. She reported he was very drunk and had put a child on the telephone who was very distressed/crying but the worker could not say who the child was.

[REDACTED]

12 April 1994

[REDACTED] had gone from Bonnethill Court to Lilybank Family Centre on his toy scooter. Jean Dorward (Lilybank) attempted to take [REDACTED] home but he refused. When she contacted Mr Tarbett he thought [REDACTED] should make his own way home. After telephone call from the Social Worker, Mr Tarbett agreed to collect [REDACTED] but when the Social worker and Jean Dorward attended, [REDACTED] was still playing in the park near the Family Centre.

Mr Tarbett reported that [REDACTED] often plays out on his own or with [REDACTED] and they often play in the Wellgate Centre. Even after discussion, Mr Tarbett refused to see any risks with the children playing in the Wellgate Centre unattended.

13 April 1994

Mr Tarbett making allegations that [REDACTED] He is to approach [REDACTED] This discussed in front of children.

[REDACTED] at Polepark. [REDACTED] behaving in a very sexualised way with the Social Worker. [REDACTED] reports he had seen this on television.

14 April 1994

[REDACTED] told Family Centre worker that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Child Protection Investigation

[REDACTED] would disclose no information to police. Police also spoke to [REDACTED] - no proof to back up [REDACTED] allegations therefore no further action. [REDACTED] made further allegation to another Family Centre worker (21 April 1994).

[REDACTED] had stated to police that he turns his eyelids inside out to frighten the children and that [REDACTED] calls him the "bogey man" as opposed to saying "bobo".

19 April 1994

Worker from Lilybank Family Centre saw Linda on Saturday 16 April 1994 in the middle of Victoria Road waving her arms about trying to stop the traffic.

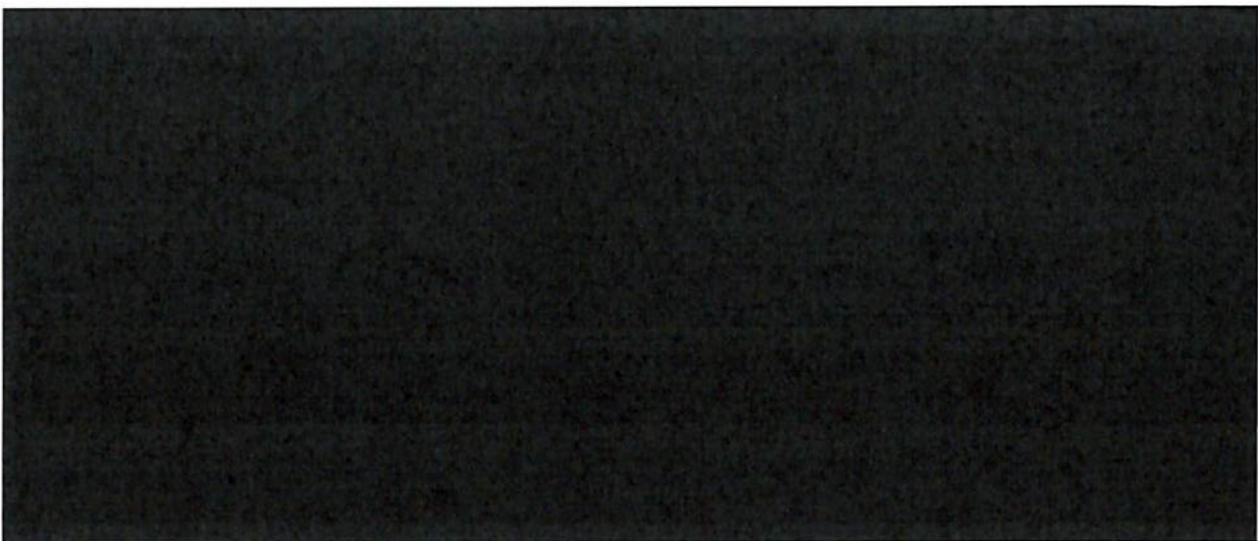
Tarbett Family

Mr Tarbett at this time refusing to have the Social Worker visit and refusing to attend or allow the children to attend assessment sessions at Polepark Family Counselling Centre.

7 May 1994

Child Protection Investigation

See Appendix B1. [REDACTED] found playing unsupervised in Wellgate Centre. They were returned home by Social workers and police at 1630 hours having left home at 1400 hours. The children had not been reported as missing. Mr Tarbett did not accept the children are at danger. Former discussion with family's Social Worker would indicate that Mr Tarbett will not accept the dangers to the children, playing for long periods unattended in the Wellgate Centre and also crossing the Hilltown to playpark outwith sight of the home.



Tarbett Family

WILLIAM

William appears to be able to accept his situation with an easy going placid nature. William does not get out to play unsupervised.

Within the home William is very much the baby and obviously enjoys this position, getting the attention of adults and siblings.

MS ARCHER (mother) and [REDACTED] continue to live outwith the family home. Ms Archer has continuously expressed a wish to see the children although this has been blocked by Mr Tarbett. She continues to show an interest in the children by seeking information from social worker.

MR TARBETT has refused to co-operate with assessment programme at Polepark Family Counselling Centre and with access plans between Ms Archer, [REDACTED] and William. He refuses to accept the risks the children are exposed to while playing in an area with busy roads and shopping centre. Mr Tarbett has refused to allow Social Worker visits to the children on some occasions and is presently refusing to have further contact with Social Work Department. all the children continue to be exposed to the present acrimony between Mr Tarbett and Ms Archer.

Marion Selfridge
Social Worker
Children & Families

23.05.94
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POLEPARK FAMILY COUNSELLING CENTRE

Minute of Workers' Reviewing/Planning Meeting held at Polepark Family Counselling Centre on 20 April 1994 regarding [REDACTED] and William Tarbett.

Present Colleen Gibb, Depute Head, Polepark FCC
(Chair and Minutes)
Steve Murray, Senior Social Worker, Douglas, Dundee
Marion Selfridge, Social Worker, Douglas, Dundee
Sandra Smillie, Family Counsellor, Polepark FCC
Jean Dorward, Centre Manager, Lilybank C & F Centre

Purpose of Meeting

To review progress of assessment plan as formulated at the meeting held at Polepark Family Counselling Centre on 14 March 1994 and to plan ahead.

Structure of Meeting/Agenda

Using the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting held at Polepark on 14 March 1994 and the meeting held at Lilybank on 1 April 1994 the agenda was agreed as follows:-

1. A decision is required for the children in relation to whether home or in care is the appropriate option (this decision needs to be considered individually for each child - [REDACTED] and William).
2. Progress of assessment:-
 - i. Davy Tarbett as a parent to [REDACTED] and William parenting abilities and parent-child relationships.
 - ii. Linda Archer as a parent to [REDACTED] William and [REDACTED] - parenting abilities and parent child relationships.
 - iii. The children's experience
3. Status of concerns expressed on 1 April 1994
 - i. Davy Tarbett's refusal to comply with the condition of the three elder children's supervision requirement as regards access to their mother - Linda Archer
 - ii. Davy Tarbett's refusal to allow the children, especially [REDACTED] to attend Polepark Family Counselling Centre.
 - iii. [REDACTED] sexualised behaviour.
 - iv. [REDACTED]

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4. Action agreed from 1 April 1994:

- i. Continue to encourage Davy Tarbett to engage in the assessment.
- ii. consider reasons and aims as regards requesting a review children's hearing.

Update Reports

1. As regards assessment of Davy Tarbett as a parent to [REDACTED] and William:-

Sandra advised of she and Dougie Law's attempts to engage Davy (Sandra and Dougie have these recorded). There has been no success here.

Marion advised that Davy is continuing not to allow the children to have contact with their mother.

Davy had allowed the children to come to Polepark (see below) however, he is now saying that the children are not coming back to Polepark following [REDACTED]

There is a view that Davy delegates much of the care of the children to others, however, it was acknowledged that this would be difficult to prove.

Davy's obsession regarding Linda Archer and [REDACTED] continue to the children's detriment eg, Davy took the children through to the women's aid refuge in Fife and told [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] One evening about 2 am Davy phoned the refuge, a distressed child was heard on Davy's end of the phone. Davy denies that this was one of his children. The audio tape Davy has was played for Sandra, by Davy, in front of the children.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] turned up at the child and family centre one day on his scooter. Jean phoned Davy. Davy told Jean just to send him home. Jean tried to escort [REDACTED] home but he ran off.

Both children were seen in the Victoria Road, crossing over to the Wellgate Centre. A domestic worker from the child and family centre saw [REDACTED] playing dares amongst the traffic on the Arbroath Road. Both children are seen on their own in the library at the Wellgate a great deal.

[REDACTED] was coming into the centre "smelly", Jean thinks this may have improved.

Marion is concerned that Davy denies that anything is wrong for the children.

One positive is that Davy, despite no longer having his own transport, brings [REDACTED] and William into the child and family centre and collects them promptly.

2. As regards the assessment of Linda Archer as a parent to [REDACTED] and William:

The social workers and Polepark are denied opportunities to have an update assessment because Davy refuses to allow the children contact with their mother. Historically there is evidence of Linda being unable to cope, however, there are no opportunities to reassess this area.

Marion advised that Linda feels she would be unable to cope with all the children but would want to in the future once her situation is more stable.

As regards Linda's abilities to parent [REDACTED] Marion advised that this appears to be positive. The health visitor reports that [REDACTED] development is fine. Marion added that Linda has support within the refuge. Historically, [REDACTED] was seen to be kept in his buggy a lot whilst in the child and family centre.

Marion sees that [REDACTED] is becoming wild. It was acknowledged that [REDACTED] has had many moves and separations for child of his age.

3. As regards listening to the children's experience:

[REDACTED]

Davy spoke to Sandra about his concerns with regard to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] being in bed together and thus he was going to get a psychologist for [REDACTED]. Sandra passed this information on to Dougie Law. There was some confusion as to whether Davy is referring to a recent incident or one in the past which Marion knows about. Marion to try to check this out.

Sandra described a session she had with [REDACTED], collecting them from home, stopping of at a park and coming in to Polepark. [REDACTED] appear to have stopped relying on the adults at home for emotional nurturance and are using each other. These needs are sometimes manifested in inappropriate sexualised activities. There was much talk about love, kissing and marrying each other. [REDACTED] tends to look to [REDACTED] for emotional nurturance and approval and [REDACTED] accepts this.

Davy has told Sandra and Marion that [REDACTED] does not want to come to Polepark, however, Sandra when she arrived at

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home found [REDACTED] to be very keen to come. Marion also found this to be the case when she brought [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for a session at Polepark.

[REDACTED] told Sandra that he is mental at school whereas he is not at Polepark.

When Marion was with the children at the park and Polepark she found they played separately. [REDACTED] wanted to phone mum (in play) and when [REDACTED] took the phone he said she hung up. When Marion told the children it was time to go [REDACTED] started to play up. He cuddled Marion which was more like a strangle-hold; Marion told [REDACTED] she did not like it. [REDACTED]

During the session there was a strange exchange between [REDACTED] with reference to a doll's private parts. [REDACTED] wanted Marion to lie on the bed which she refused. The children gave strange looks; Sandra has also noticed this.

Marion had hoped for a school report for today's meeting which has not arrived. Marion advised that she is aware that [REDACTED] difficult behaviour is not only restricted to the playground now, it is also emerging in the classroom setting. [REDACTED] behaviour is aggressive and sexualised. He looks up girls skirts and makes sexualised comments to pupils' mothers. Jean advised that [REDACTED] made such comments when he attended the centre.

[REDACTED] when looking at a book where there was reference [REDACTED] she cried and he has broken teeth. Debbie started to facilitate [REDACTED] to elaborate and [REDACTED] changed the story; the [REDACTED] on the floor. When this was investigated [REDACTED] said nothing, she ran to Marion and said are you taking me to my mum now. [REDACTED] asked Jean whether the police were taking dad away.

There was a delay in investigating as the police needed Davy's permission. Davy was not to be found, therefore there was a time lapse in which Davy learned that someone had been at his door, he had thought it was in relation to [REDACTED] Davy did give his permission. His response to the allegation re [REDACTED] was that it was nonsense and is now refusing to have contact with Marion, Dougie Law and Sandra.

Jean advised that staff feel that things are worse for [REDACTED] whereas she feels they are no better or no worse.

Colleen labelled a pattern whereby the children are given opportunities to "tell" they tell of something other than what Davy wants to hear ie, [REDACTED] and Davy

responds by cutting off the children's access to social work personnel. This occurred when [REDACTED] told Sandra, last year, about dad hurting his neck.

Jean advised that there are no concerns re. William in the centre.

Davy controls the department's access to relevant information for the purpose of assessment by blocking contact with the children, and them and their mother and by refusing to be part of the assessment plan.

Sandra noted that [REDACTED] do not verbally communicate directly. [REDACTED] uses books, to be able to talk about her mum or other things which are happening to her or which she is concerned about. [REDACTED] is so guarded that when Sandra mentioned dad's car was in the garage he replied "I didn't tell you that".

Concluding Comments

1. Concerns continue and in some instances have exacerbated with regard to
 - i. Davy's refusal to comply with access for the children to their mother.
 - ii. [REDACTED] sexualised behaviour and
 - iii. [REDACTED]
2. Davy had allowed the children to come to Polepark, however, he is now saying that he won't let them come.
3. Workers are being thwarted from the undertaking of a comprehensive assessment with regard to either parent in relation to their parenting abilities and thus workers are thwarted from undertaking relevant parts of the process towards making decisions for these children's best interests.

Recommendations

1. As regards William there is little evidence to warrant a level of concern which requires consideration of reception into care.
2. As regards [REDACTED], Colleen recommended that a reception into care, placing both children together is sought. This would allow for a further assessment of the children, which would include foster carers in the working system, where the children are distanced from the threat of parental pressure. Possibly we would gain a better undertaking of the children's emotional needs and of both the nature of the sexualised behaviour and what underlies it.

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3. A request for a review children's hearing with a view to placing [REDACTED] in care would be framed in terms of lack of parental care, especially with regard to the care afforded the children in terms of their emotional and safety needs and in terms of the sexual concerns.
4. Meantime workers are to continue efforts to undertake work for the assessment as proposed at the meeting held on 14 March 1994 ie, to continue planning sessions for Davy Tarbett, Linda Archer and the children and continue to inform Davy of appointments etc.

Colleen Gibb

Colleen Gibb
Depute Head

26 March 1994
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NETWORK MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 1994 AT 1.30 AM
AT LILYBANK FAMILY CENTRE

TARBETT/ARCHER FAMILY

PRESENT

Steve Murray, Senior Social Worker
Marion Selfridge, Social Worker
Laura Dunbar, Lilybank Family Centre
Sandra Smillie, Polepark
Colleen Gibb, Polepark
Helen Anderson, Rosebank Primary School

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PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AT POLEPARK (see attached copy)

The programme of meetings arranged jointly with staff from Polepark have not commenced.

Mr Tarbett is refusing to attend meetings.

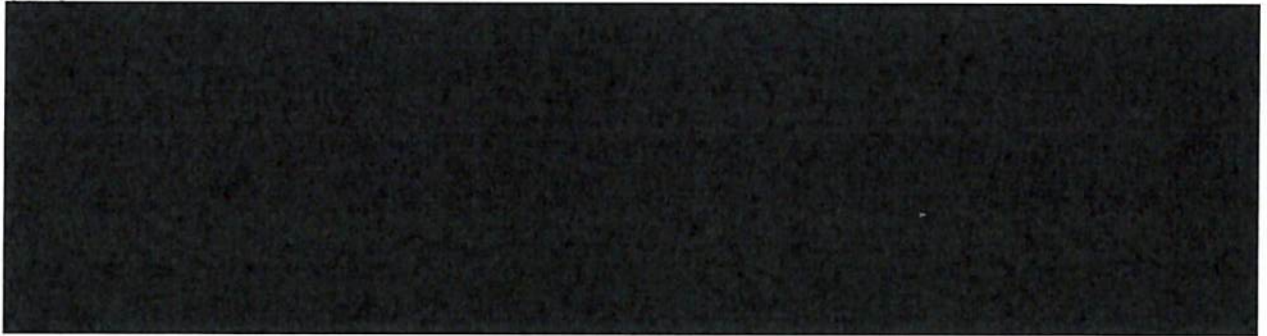
Mr Tarbett is refusing to allow [REDACTED] and William to attend meetings with Ms Archer and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has also stated he will not attend (comments such as - this is a daft school).

One to one work with [REDACTED] and staff from Lilybank Family Centre ongoing on a weekly basis.

CHILDREN'S PROGRESS

[REDACTED]



William

Lilybank report no changes in William's behaviour. Problems within the family do not appear to put him up or down.

In the home William is usually placid and happy but can show signs of aggression occasionally especially towards Social Worker.

Davy had taken all three children to Women's Aid Hostels in Kirkcaldy looking for their mother Linda.

CONCERNS

- 1 Davy's refusal to comply with supervision requirement of access.
- 2 Davy's refusal to attend/allow children to attend programme of meetings at Polepark.
- 3 [REDACTED] sexualised behaviour.
- 4 [REDACTED]

ACTION

Continue to encourage Davy to co-operate with programme at Polepark. Ensure that workers are available for the arranged meetings.

Consider request for Children's Hearing grounds

- Davy's resistance to assessment at Polepark
- [REDACTED] increased sexualised behaviour

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Next Network Meeting 20 April 1994, 2.00 pm at Polepark. J Tocher to be invited.

Marion Selfridge
Social Worker
Children & Families Team 1

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POLEPARK FAMILY COUNSELLING CENTRE

NOTES OF WORKERS' MEETING HELD AT POLEPARK FCC ON 14.03.94 REGARDING THE TARBETT FAMILY

PRESENT

Dianne Cochrane Children's Worker Lilybank C&F Centre
Marion Selfridge Social Worker Douglas Dundee
Dougie Law Social Worker Douglas Dundee
✓ Steve Murray Senior Social Worker Douglas Dundee
Jillian Russell Student Social Worker Polepark FCC
Sandra Smillie Family Counsellor Polepark FCC
Colleen Gibb Depute Head Polepark FCC

The purpose of calling today's meeting is to try and clarify the plans for these children, workers' roles and tasks.

MAIN POINTS RE DISCUSSION

- 1 Colleen advised that Polepark's concerns were that we were encouraging the children to relax and trust and to tell, however, this is meaningless unless it is taken on board by the adults.
- 2 All the children, with exception of [REDACTED] are in Davy's care in terms of a 44(1)(a) home supervision requirement, with a condition that the children have access to their mother, Linda.

[REDACTED] returned to Linda's care in a Women's Aid Refuge in Fife. Davy inadvertently became aware of this information and threatened to go through to see Linda, Linda has been alerted to this by Marion. Linda says that she will get the police if Davy shows up.
- 3 As regards Davy's response to Linda's access to the children; initially Davy said that the children could have access to their mother, however, if they were upset... Davy is now saying that the children will not have access to their mother, since finding out that Linda is living within the Women's Aid Refuge.
- 4 Davy has said that he is appealing against the hearing's decision.
- 5 Dougie advised that he had held the case before Dawn Wilson and before Sandra's involvement. Dougie's view is that there are no changes and wonders how much more assessment is required. Dougie also queried at what point would the Department consider reception of the children into care.

Dogie's views were acknowledged, however, the view expressed was that we needed to undertake, or attempt to

undertake further work prior to reaching a decision as to whether the children require reception into care or not.

- 6 Sandra advised that she felt she and Dawn had got so far in terms of helping the children to tell and helping to make Linda stronger, however, the big stumbling block was Davy.

Sandra advised that we should stick with taking it from the children's perspective and try to avoid being pulled into the dynamics between Linda and Davy.

Sandra went on to say that the children appear to get good things and good care from the child and family centre and also they get good bits from their parents.

- 7 The children appear to cope differently with their turbulent lives. [REDACTED] tries to get his needs met by being aggressive, whilst wee [REDACTED] tends to just focus on the here and now.

It is the emotional care of these children that is the main worry but lately there have been some concerns as regards the physical care, [REDACTED] has been noticed to be smelly at the child and family centre.

- 8 There was some discussion as regards a framework for further assessment in terms of how to frame the information collated and how to interpret this information. Basically, we require a sound assessment of the children's needs, the parents' ability to understand their needs and act upon this appropriately, and a sound assessment as regards how the children are affected by the lack of parental care, information such as [REDACTED] being smelly, [REDACTED] talking to Sandra of Davy hitting [REDACTED] etc all needs to be logged.

Dianne advised that the child and family centre log all their information.

There have been a number of investigations to no avail, whereby [REDACTED] says that Dad hits him and then either retracts or Davy's explanation is seen to be accepted. One requires to ask the question, "why does [REDACTED] persist in saying that Dad hits him?"

Colleen wondered if there was conflict between Lilybank and Polepark in terms of viewing Davy and Linda differently as regards their differential abilities in relation to the children. Dianne advised that at Lilybank they do see more of Davy, whereas Polepark seems to have seen more of Linda and heard more of Linda. Sandra advised that she does acknowledge Davy's positives, however, feels that she needs to fight to be heard with regard to the positives which Linda possesses. Sandra advised that she would not say at this moment that Linda could cope with all four children.

9 The proposed plan is as follows:

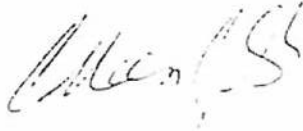
- A further assessment towards decision making, ie a decision as to whether the children require reception into care or whether it is safe enough for them to remain at home, continuing work.

- A structured assessment as to each parent's abilities in relation to all four children is required. It was suggested that Sandra co-works with Marion in having sessions with Linda and all four children.

- Sandra also co-works with Dougie in assessing Davy with [REDACTED] and William in structured sessions. Within the work with Sandra, Dougie is to try to find some time to work with Davy in relation to his feelings etc around Linda.

Whilst the above work is undertaken, there is a need for workers to provide the children with opportunities to talk and to work through their feelings etc and to express their views as to how home life is going and as regards access with their mother. The child and family centre are providing Linda with individual space and there are thoughts as to providing similar work for William. Marion expressed a desire to undertake some individual work with Michael. It was suggested that Sandra links with both the child and family centre and Marion in terms of transferring the work and the process she has undertaken with both children to the prospective workers.

Six week plan covering the work as identified above is to be drawn up.



Colleen Gibb
Depute Head

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