

APPENDIX B2: CASE CONFERENCE

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

1 MINUTE

Type of Conference:	INITIAL		
Date of Conference:	21 APRIL 1993		
Subject Child(ren):	WILLIAM TARBETT (09.07.91) 7D BONNETHILL COURT, DUNDEE		
Chair:	D Stephen	Responsible Social Work District: Dundee	
Office:	Balmerino Road	Children & Young People's Services	
		Group Manager: Ms J Roberts	
Tel No:	501133	Office:	Balmerino Road
		Tel No:	501133
<u>Participants</u>			<u>REPORT SUBMITTED (Y/N)</u>
<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	
Ms Dawn Wilson	Social Worker	Balmerino Road SWD	N
Mr Eric Harper	Senior Social Worker	" " "	N
PC Lesley Masson		CAFSES	N
Mrs Janice Brown		Dens Road Nursery	N
Mrs E Murison	Health Visitor	Wallacetown HC	N
<u>Absent/Unable to Attend:</u>			<u>REPORT SUBMITTED (Y/N)</u>
<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	
Dr Maureen G Dale	Con Paediatrician	Comm Child Health Armitstead	
Mrs S Findlay	ADNS	Tayside Health Board	
Mrs L O'Donnell	Police Sergeant	CAFSES Tayside Police	
Ms J Shepherd	Centre Worker	Lilybank CFC	
<u>COPIES ALSO FORWARDED TO:</u>			
Mrs D Part	Acting PO (C & F)	Tayside House	
Mrs L Paterson	Snr Co-Ordinator	Out of Hours Service	
Mrs J Roberts	Group Manager (C & F)	Kirkton Road SWD	
Dr Gemmell	GP	Wallacetown Health Centre	

NB: Attach all previous sections - chair to check information for correctness at outset.

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PARENTAL ATTENDANCE

FAMILY COMPOSITION

Subject - William Tarbett (09.07.91))
- in the care of Ms Archer

Mr Stephen advised that this was an Initial Case Conference to discuss the circumstances of [REDACTED], William Tarbett (09.07.91) & [REDACTED]. The conference would require to consider the circumstances leading to the referral to the conference and the conference would have to decide whether the children should be placed on the Child Protection Register. A decision will also be made re referral to the Reporter.

I will be unable to attend the meeting.

Mr Dirk Stephen, Manager (Child Protection) summarising the family background stated that [REDACTED] was placed on the Child Protection Register under the category of Physical Abuse on 19 December 1991 as a result of concern surrounding bruising to [REDACTED] face and neck. At this time Linda Archer alleged that Mr Tarbett had caused the injuries. The injuries were not thought to be medically serious but charges were made against Mr Tarbett and later dropped. It was noted at this time that Mr Tarbett had custody of

There is a lengthy history of separations and reconciliations and also of physical violence towards Linda Archer. Linda Archer, herself, had a long period in care and Mr Tarbett had 5 children of his own in care under Section 16.

At a Review Conference on 30 June 1992 a decision was made to discharge [redacted] name from the Child Protection Register. At this time [redacted] was in Mr Tarbett's care while [redacted] & William were in the care of Mrs Archer.

Today's conference was called following two investigations; the first concerning an incident on 10 February 1993 when Linda Archer alleged David Tarbett had hit [redacted], on one occasion with a yard stick and on another, when [redacted] was in bed covered by a quilt, with a vacuum cleaner hose. At this time it was also noted that there had been a history of allegations and counter allegations from one parent against the other. On 20 January 1993 it was noted [redacted] had a bruise on his left eye and Linda Archer stated that she had thrown a wellington boot into the room and it had hit him accidentally; however Mr Tarbett has since claimed that Ms Archer hit him deliberately.

Ms Lesley Masson, WPC, CAFSES stated that, at the time of investigation, Mr Tarbett gave no explanation and is now maintaining that he was never asked about these allegations.

Mr Stephen noted that, on 1 March 1993 Mr Tarbett took [redacted] from the Lilybank Child & Family Centre and, on 6 March, Mr Tarbett forcibly entered Ms Archer's house and removed [redacted] & William.

The most recent investigation occurred on 29 March 1993 following a referral from Lilybank Child & Family Centre. Jan Shepherd, Centre Worker stated that on 22 March, 1993 [redacted] had become disruptive while waiting to go home. He stated to Ms Shepherd that he would stab her, lick her bum and urinate over her. At an interview on 30 March 1993 [redacted] was not very forthcoming and on leaving the room said "Tom Thumb lick your bum". On further enquiry [redacted] stated that [redacted] had said this.

During the interview Mr Tarbett alleged that [redacted] had talked about [redacted] and that there had also been an incident [redacted] Following further enquiries [redacted]

[redacted] she said that she & [redacted] had played [redacted] on the bed, and [redacted] also stated that on one occasion [redacted] William and herself had all been in bed with Linda Archer & [redacted] but nothing had happened.

PC Masson stated that it had been very difficult to interview the children as David Tarbett constantly interrupted.

Mr Eric Harper, Senior Social Worker informed that Mr Tarbett had stated prior to the meeting that the children had told him that they had [redacted] although it was unclear whether this was recently or in Tullibody.

CHILDREN

Michael Tarbett (dob 22.04.88)

Lesley Masson, CAFSES stated that she did not know what [redacted] actually knows and what has been suggested to him. She agreed with Ms Wilson that referral to a child psychologist would benefit him, and possibly his sister [redacted] Ms Masson believes [redacted] has witnessed inappropriate behaviour but was unsure whether this could be proved to be an offence, as it may have been accidental,

not deliberate; however enquiries are continuing. Ms Masson stated that she was concerned about the allegations of physical abuse made by both Ms Archer & Mr Tarbett against each other as, so far, there has been insufficient evidence to prove that abuse has taken place and only the nursery has noticed any marks on the children.

In discussing [REDACTED] health & development Ms Dawn Wilson, Social Worker stated that as far as she was aware [REDACTED] was very healthy.

Mrs Betty Murison, Health Visitor stated that apart from dental problems there were no real concerns regarding [REDACTED] health. The only thing that was mentioned frequently in [REDACTED] records was that he was an attention seeking child and was rough with his siblings. The only concern noted was regarding the home safety situation.

Mr Stephen raised the issue of [REDACTED] sexualised behaviour to which Ms Wilson replied that there had been no specific allegations from [REDACTED] in interview but [REDACTED] had been playing [REDACTED] e. Ms Masson stated that [REDACTED] was similar to that with [REDACTED] in that he was reported to have been [REDACTED] the waist and [REDACTED] and given his young age this was a concern.

Ms Wilson stated that, within Lilybank CFC, [REDACTED] displayed very aggressive behaviour, and this was escalating, and was more extreme towards his brother & sister than his peer group. In the last week [REDACTED] had head-butted the Centre Manager and had been extremely disruptive on Monday following the Easter break when David Tarbett had taken [REDACTED] to see his mother.

Ms Wilson stated that this behaviour has been apparent since she became involved with the family in January of this year when she had noted that all the children were extremely aggressive towards each and appeared to have no real concept of respect towards each other. Ms Wilson also stated that while David Tarbett's physical care of the children is adequate, the emotional care was somewhat lacking.

Ms Wilson stated that her main concerns regarding [REDACTED] were in respect of his sexualised behaviour, his aggression and also that he is in the middle of the custody dispute between his parents.

Her only other concern was regarding an incident where Mr Tarbett had taken [REDACTED] to the dentist to have several teeth extracted and, following this, Mr Tarbett took [REDACTED] round to his mother's house while still under the influence of a general anaesthetic and Ms Wilson felt this was very manipulative and abusive.

Ms Wilson informed that a referral had been made to Polepark Family Counselling Centre. A referral has also been made to Educational Psychology to work in conjunction with Lilybank regarding management of his behaviour with a view to his going to primary school.

Mrs Janice Brown, Dens Rd Nursery stated that initially [REDACTED] had displayed aggressive behaviour towards the other children but this behaviour was lessening when he left. He was never aggressive towards the staff.

Linda Tarbett (dob 23.11.89)

Ms Dawn Wilson, Social Worker stated that she believed Linda's health to be good. The main concern regarding Linda is her speech and a referral has been made to Speech Therapy. She attends Lilybank CFC and, like Michael, is very aggressive towards her siblings, although at the same time she is very protective of William, especially since [REDACTED] was taken from Lilybank by his father. She is more aggressive in her peer group than Michael although this may be related to the fact that she has difficulty in making herself understood. However, she is beginning to settle down and is benefitting from the Family Centre environment.

Mrs Betty Murison, Health Visitor stated that the information she had gathered from [REDACTED] notes all pointed to her being a very friendly, chatty little girl. Again, like [REDACTED] there was concern noted regarding the home safety situation.

Ms Wilson stated that [REDACTED] suffers from asthma and this week has not attended the Family Centre because of this. She takes Ventolin for her asthma.

William Tarbett (09.07.91)

Ms Dawn Wilson, Social Worker informed that William was a robust little boy who always had a bottle hanging out of his mouth and is learning aggressive behaviour from his siblings. William suffers from asthma and was hospitalised last Thursday, discharged on Monday and is due for a follow-up appointment in 4 weeks time. William also has difficult passing bowel motions and while in hospital was given a softener to take. This appears to have been a longstanding problem. It has also been noted by the Family Centre that William is very anxious around the time of passing bowel movements. Ms Wilson stated that she had talked to one of the nurses today and there may be a possibility that William has an anal fissure, although no wider concerns were raised about this.

Mrs Betty Murison, Health Visitor stated that it was noted that William was overweight and had chest problems. He is also overdue immunisations. Developmentally there are no problems. As before with his siblings the only concern was the home safety situation.

John Archer (dob 18.12.92) (currently in the care of his mother)

Ms Dawn Wilson, Social Worker stated that as far as she was aware [REDACTED] was developmentally reaching his milestones. He suffers from chest infections and his most recent visit to a GP was in March at the Lochee Health Centre. Ms Archer has stated that she is taking [REDACTED] to a new GP today to register him.

Ms Wilson stated that her main concern regarding [REDACTED] was when the family were living together as Linda would lay him down on the couch while the other siblings were jumping about. As a result [REDACTED] was very jumpy and he obviously would not have been able to get out of the way, because of his age. However, no injuries were ever sustained. [REDACTED] appears to be more contented and happy now as he is receiving his mother's full attention.

PARENTS

Ms Wilson stated that Ms Archer is saying she definitely wants to end the relationship, however she continually phones to speak to the children and at times can be quite ambivalent. Ms Wilson also stated that Mr Tarbett hounds Ms Archer and it was her opinion that, even if Ms Archer said to him she wanted to live by herself, Mr Tarbett would not leave her in peace. However it is equally unclear how much Ms Archer actually leads Mr Tarbett on.

There is a history of allegations from both parents about physical abuse by the other parent but no charges have been made as it has been very difficult to get co-operation and there has been an absence of supportive evidence.

Mr Harper informed that, from discussion with Mr Tarbett before the meeting, it appears that he had visited Napier Drive, the family's old address, to collect statements from neighbours regarding Linda's ability to look after the children.

Ms Wilson stated that there had been a couple of incidents while the family lived in Napier Drive, one of which involved the police, as Linda had been drinking. However when the police arrived it was felt Linda was not incapable of looking after the children. Linda does appear to have drink problem and admits she can "blow a stack" if police are involved.

Mrs Brown, Dens Road Nursery said that, on a couple of occasions when Ms Archer had come to collect [REDACTED] she was smelling of drink; however she was still able to hold the baby.

The possibility of family counselling was raised however Ms Wilson felt this would not be in the best interests of the children at the moment with both parents fighting for custody as they would not hesitate to use anything the children said.

CURRENT AND FUTURE RISKS

- 1 [REDACTED] aggression and sexualised behaviour.
- 2 Continued allegations and counter allegations made by parents and involvement of children in these, especially [REDACTED]
- 3 [REDACTED] involvement of Linda in possible sexualised play and the need for adult supervision to try to prevent this.

FUTURE PLANS

- 1 Referral to be made to Polepark Family Counselling Centre in respect of [REDACTED]
- 2 Involvement of Educational Psychology re [REDACTED] to work with Lilybank Child & Family Centre on management of his behaviour towards his forthcoming primary school admission.
- 3 Referral to Speech Therapy in respect of [REDACTED]
- 4 All three children will continue to have fulltime placements at Lilybank Child & Family Centre.
- 5 Initial Children's Hearing has been held and will go to proof on 7 May 1993.
- 6 Care arrangements outwith Family Centre to be monitored ie babysitting.

ANY OTHER ISSUES

Ms Wilson stated that her only other concern was regarding [REDACTED] David Tarbett's son by his first marriage. Ms Wilson has witnessed his presence in the house on several occasions and is concerned as his children's names are on the Strathclyde Child Protection Register under the category of Physical Abuse - abuse allegedly carried out by [REDACTED] Ms Wilson has asked David Tarbett if his son is staying with him but Mr Tarbett has denied this.

Ms Masson expressed concern about babysitting arrangements for the children as, in the past, this was an issue for concern. Ms Wilson replied that [REDACTED] Tarbett, David Tarbett's ^{daughter} [REDACTED] was babysitting now, and she was very responsible. It had been because of [REDACTED] concern that William had been admitted to hospital recently. She is very concerned that the children do not go into care as she herself was a child in care. However Ms Wilson has tried to point out to her that it is Mr Tarbett's responsibility and she has her own life to lead - she is currently involved in the Department's Independent Living Programme. Ms Wilson is to monitor the care arrangements outwith the Family Centre.

REGISTRATION

Mr Dirk Stephen (Chair) in summarising the situation stated that in his view [REDACTED] & William's names should not be placed on the Register although he was concerned about what had been reported in respect of [REDACTED]. In relation to [REDACTED] Mr Stephen felt he would be more inclined to include his name on the Child Protection Register under the Emotional Abuse category however there was not enough evidence to meet the criteria of this category at the present time.

Thus it was agreed by all parties that the names of [REDACTED] & William Tarbett should not be placed on the Child Protection Register. However Ms Masson wished it noted that, although she accepted this decision, she felt that [REDACTED] would be better off placed on the Register.

CHILDREN'S HEARING REFERRAL

This is not required as the referral process is ongoing.

At this point Mr Tarbett was invited into the meeting and Mr Stephen's explained what had been discussed and the decisions that were made. He emphasised to Mr Tarbett that, although the children's names were not placed on the Register, this did not mean that the Department did not have any concerns and he explained the concerns which had been discussed.

Mr Stephen thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close.

D Stephen
Chair

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Recommendations and Agreed Tasks:	Person/Agency Responsible:
1 Referral to be made to Polepark Family Counselling Centre in respect of [REDACTED]	Dawn Wilson
2 Involvement of Educational Psychology re [REDACTED] to work with Lilybank Child & Family Centre on management of his behaviour towards his forthcoming primary school admission.	Dawn Wilson/Lilybank
3 Referral to Speech Therapy in respect of Linda	Dawn Wilson
4 All three children will continue to have fulltime placements at Lilybank Child & Family Centre	Lilybank CFC
5 Initial Children's Hearing has been held and will go to proof on 7 May 1993.	
6 Care arrangements outwith Family Centre to be monitored ie babysitting.	Dawn Wilson

Should child(ren) be referred to the Reporter?	NO
If Yes, who will provide Report?	
If No, state reasons why:	
This is already in progress.	
Is child subject to Statutory Care Order?	NO

Was concern such that child has been registered?	NO
Date of registration:	

2 AREA OF IDENTIFIED ABUSE (See guidelines)

Area of Abuse (1)	Level of Certainty:
Area of Abuse (2) (Optional)	Level of Certainty:

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3 IF OUTCOME DE-REGISTRATION, REASONS:

Please detail below:

4 OTHER DETAILS:

Dissent:

Other:

5 CORE WORKERS:

Case Co-ordinator:	Mr Eric Harper SSW	Keyworker:	Ms Dawn Wilson SW
Office:	Balmerino Road	Office:	Balmerino Road
Tel No:	501133	Tel No:	501133

Other Core Workers or Agencies involved in case:

AGENCY NAME or WORKER
NAME AND DESIGNATION

ADDRESS

TEL NO

Ms Lesley Masson, WPC CAFSES, Tayside Police
Mrs E Murison, Health Visitor, Wallacetown Health Centre, Dundee
Dr Gemmell, Wallacetown Health Centre, Lyon Street, Dundee
Lilybank Child & Family Centre, Thornbank Street, Dundee
Educational Psychology, St Mary's School, Lochee, Dundee

6 NEXT CONFERENCE:

Date of Next Conference:	N/A
Details of any other agencies or individuals to be invited:	
Minute prepared by Catherine Chubb (clerk/typist)	
..... J. [Signature] (chair)	
..... 15/5/93 (date)	

CONFIDENTIALITY

The information in this document is confidential to you and must not be disclosed to any other person or agency without the written consent of the Case Conference Chairman.

NOTE TO ADDRESSEES

If you disagree with any aspect of this report you should contact the District Manager immediately in writing. If you agree with the content please return the acknowledgement below.

Please do not write on this tear-off slip

To: District Manager, Social Work Department, Dundee (East) District,
Balmerino Road, Douglas, Dundee, DD4 8RW

I have received a copy of the Minute of the Case Conference/Review
held on Wednesday 21 April 1993 regarding: [Redacted]

[Redacted]
William Tarbett (09.07.91)

and agree with the content and recommendations.

Signature

Designation

Date

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