

S1 Report : 2003-2004

English

Name: William Tarbett

Class: 1 D 1

Progress in Course Work

Area	Level Achieved P7	Working Within	Working to potential	Not working to potential
Reading	C	D	☹	
Writing	C	D		*
Talking	N/A	C		*
Listening	N/A	C	☹	

Comments/Next Steps

- More attention needed to basic grammar skills ~ in particular :
 - Sentence / paragraph structure
 - Spelling
 - Use of capital letters
 - Listen carefully to instructions given

Pupil Profile

Behaviour	Effort/Concentration	Homework	Preparation for Class
well behaved....disruptive	conscientious little effort	exemplary .. causes concern	always..rarely
☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	☐ ☐ ☒ ☐	☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

General Comment ~ William has settled into the class well , but can sometimes be too distracted. He needs to gain more confidence in his ability and try not too give up too easily. William must ask for help rather than sit and worry.

All parents are encouraged to attend Parents' Evenings.

On this occasion I would very much like to meet you to discuss concerns.

☐

Signed:



(Class Teacher)

S1 Report : 2003-2004

French

Name: William Tarbett

Clas : 101

Progress in Course Work

Area	Working Within Level	Working to potential	Not working to potential
Reading	C		/
Listening	C		/
Speaking	C		✓
Writing	C	✓	/

Comments/Next Steps

William continues to need considerable help and reassurance with his French. He could, however be putting more effort into answering in class. Keep working at it!

Pupil Profile

Behaviour	Effort/Concentration	Homework	Preparation for Class
well behaved.....disruptive	conscientious little effort	exemplary .. causes concern	alwaysrarely
☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

General Comment

William should be going over each day's class work regularly to help his memory. He must also remain 'on task' all the time in class.

All parents are encouraged to attend Parents' Evenings.

On this occasion I would very much like to meet you to discuss concerns.

☐

Signed: E. Anderson

(Class Teacher)

S1 Report : 2003-2004

Geography

Name: WILLIAM TARBETTClass: 1D1

Progress in Course Work

Area	Level now	Working potential	Not working to potential
Knowledge & Understanding	C	✓	
Enquiry Skills	C	✓	

Comments/Next Steps

William has made steady progress through the curriculum this year. He should concentrate on his course work to improve his grades.

Pupil Profile

Behaviour

Effort/Concentration

Homework

Preparedness for Class

well behaved.....disruptive

conscientious.....little effort

exemplary.....causes concern

always.....rarely

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐
☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐
☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

General Comment

William should avoid distractions to reach his full potential.

All parents are encouraged to attend Parents' Evenings.

On this occasion I would very much like to meet you to discuss concerns.



Signed: _____

(Class Teacher)

S1 Report : 2003-2004

History

Name: WILLIAM TARBETT

Class: 1D1

Progress in Course Work

Area	Level now	Working potential	Not working to potential
Knowledge & Understanding	C	✓	
Enquiry Skills	C	✓	

Comments/Next Steps

William has made some progress in history. He is capable of producing good work, with supervision. Improvement will come with practice and increased confidence.

Pupil Profile

Behaviour	Effort/Concentration	Homework	Preparedness for Class
well behaved.....disruptive	conscientious little effort	exemplary .. causes concern	alwaysrarely
☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

General Comment

William is easily distracted and must learn to concentrate on his own work.

All parents are encouraged to attend Parents' Evenings.
On this occasion I would very much like to meet you to discuss concerns.

☐

Signed: M. Bzuchlo

(Class Teacher)



William Tarbett

Class 1D1

Information Technology

Attainment Outcomes

Working Within Level

Using Information Technology			D
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Level of Commitment

Behaviour	Excellent
Effort/Concentration	Good
Homework	
Preparedness	Good

Next Steps

This course gives William skills in word processing, spreadsheet, database, Internet and e-mail.

William should practise and develop these skills to enhance performance in all areas of the curriculum.

General Comment

William is a cheerful boy who always tries his best. With direction and support, he is making good progress so far. He should try to increase his workrate so that he can progress to the next level.

Keep working hard!

Parents' Evening	
All parents are encouraged to attend Parents' Evenings.	
On this occasion I would very much like to meet you to discuss concerns.	
I have no particular concerns I wish to discuss with you. However if you wish to see me, please make an appointment.	✓

Class Teacher D Scrimgeour

Date 27/4/2004

S1 Report : 2003-2004

Mathematics

Name: William Tarkett

Class : 10/

Progress in Course Work

Area	Interim Level	Working potential	Not working to potential
Information Handling	C		☒
Number, Money and Measurement	C		☒
Shape, Position and Movement	C		☒

Comments/Next Steps

William must

- fix up his presentation of work
- study at home / complete homework
- constantly revise topics covered in class
- concentrate more.

Pupil Profile

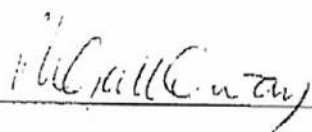
Behaviour	Effort/Concentration	Homework	Preparedness
well behaved disruptive	conscientious little effort	exemplary causes concern	always rarely
☒ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

General Comment

William is a pleasant pupil who finds some of the work quite challenging. He must try to concentrate more and be less easily distracted.

All parents are encouraged to attend Parents' Evenings.

Signed:



(Class Teacher)



William Tarbett
Science

Class D1

Attainment Outcomes

Working Within Level

Knowledge & Understanding		C
Skills		C

Level of Commitment

Behaviour	Satisfactory
Effort/Concentration	Satisfactory
Homework	Satisfactory
Preparedness	Satisfactory

Next Steps

William would benefit from a schedule of regular revision. He needs to look over notes regularly at home to consolidate work covered in class. He must be less reticent in asking for help if he is unsure of any ideas. When, early on in the course he applied these 'rules' his marks and attitude to the subject benefited immensely and he rightly earned a commendation. In the last couple of months attitude and effort has slipped and he has started to see offers of help or suggested next steps in terms of both behaviour and study habits as intrusive or even a cause for him to question in a somewhat confrontational style. As a result he is not doing as well as he could or enjoying the subject.

General Comment

I am aware that William has personal circumstances which mean that much of what he achieved early in the year was highly commendable. He did his best and this was all that was asked for and was rightly recognised. I do not believe that this is now true. If he returns to the person that tried hard, laughed and worked with others and recognised that the teacher valued all these attributes - he and I would be happier.

Parents' Evening

All parents are encouraged to attend Parents' Evenings.

On this occasion I would very much like to meet you to discuss concerns.

✓

I have no particular concerns I wish to discuss with you. However if you wish to see me, please make an appointment.

Class Teacher A Milburn

Date 23/4/2004



Unique Reference Number

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Looking After Children in Scotland: Good Parenting, Good Outcomes

REVIEW OF THE CARE PLAN

Part 6

Minute of the Review Meeting

Name of child/young person

WILLIAM TARBETT

Date of Review

Day

1	4
---	---

Month

0	4
---	---

Year

2	0	0	4
---	---	---	---

- 1 Have reports been received from the following?
(See Question 8 in social worker's report for those requested to submit a report).

	Yes	No	Not Requested
Child/young person	☐	☐	☐
Mother	☐	☐	☐
Father	☐	☐	☐
Carer(s)/residential care worker	☒	☐	☐
Health professional	☐	☐	☐
Educational professional	☒	☐	☐
Other interested parties (please specify)			
Social Worker	☒	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐

2 Agenda for the Review

The agenda should be drawn up at the start of the Review. All those invited to the Review should have had an opportunity to read the reports prior to the Review. The chairperson should ensure that action on previous Review decisions, and all issues of progress, change, difficulty or concern in the reports, are put on the agenda for discussion.

Tasks from the last Review

Progress in placement

Health

Education

Contact

Tasks

3 Record of Discussion of the Review

Tasks from the last Review

- 1 William lost interest in ice-skating very quickly after the last Review.
- 2 Dental treatment continues.
- 3 This has been resolved.
- 4 Contact nominally remains the same but it is known that William is visiting his father at other times. Mr Tarbett has also been collecting William from school.
- 5 William has glasses but declines to wear them.
- 6 This is currently under discussion.
- 7 This has been done but William has turned down a family placement and now wishes to remain at Strathcarron Place.

Progress in Placement

Graham Webster said that William, or Billy, as he prefers to be known, is not a management problem in placement. Any aggression he expresses is not targeted specifically at women and it is only after a contact with his father after school when there is any likelihood of any difficulty in his behaviour. At these times, he is confrontational but this is thought to be because of the almost intolerable situation he finds himself in due to his loyalty towards his father. He expresses sorrow at what happened at the [REDACTED] but is adamant that he wants to stay at Strathcarron possibly as he fears another breakdown.

In situations where William presents as confrontational, he will quickly draw back when handled with reason. There have been no situations where he has had to be restrained. William sleeps well and eats a well balanced diet although he has put on a lot of weight recently. His self care skills are said to be fair for his age.

Recently he visited "M&Ds" Leisure Park with other youngsters from the Unit and thoroughly enjoyed the day. He has also attended a skiing outing to Glenshee and all had gone well there too.

Education

Bill shared the contents of the school report with those present.

This indicated that William was working just below the average for 1st year pupils and receives shared support in most of his classes. He gets on well with his peers but has been associating with older more challenging pupils of late. He can be reluctant to follow instructions at first and has been a bit defiant, eg not wearing his tie although required to do so by the school rules. He has also been of late, defiant and cheeky to teachers in an effort to look "big". He has had one exclusion.

Health

William is in robust good health and is due a 6 month dental check. He visited A & E following an injury to his chest and had an x-ray. No broken bones were found and painkillers were described. He had no lasting effects.

Contact

June Hopkins explained that for a time, Ms Robertson was back living with Mr Tarbett but had left after he had objected to her single sex relationship. It is believed that she is now living elsewhere. William, as stated above, has frequent contact with his father and with his brother [REDACTED] who is in another Young Person's Unit. He has also had contact with his sister [REDACTED], whose long term placement has broken down.

4 Review Chairperson's Checklist

Have all the following been discussed at the Review? If the answer is no to any item, either discuss before moving on to the making recommendations/decisions, or confirm that it is not necessary/applicable at this Review.

		Yes	No	N/A
1	Recommendations/decisions of last Review and actions taken	☒	☐	☐
2	Legal Developments and any need for further legal change	☐	☒	☐
3	Need for/actions to be taken as a result of completion of an Assessment & Action Record	☐	☒	☐
4	Changes/progress in placement	☒	☐	☐
5	Use of sanctions	☒	☐	☐
6	Child/young person's safety	☒	☐	☐
7	Stability of placement	☒	☐	☐
8	Health/disability	☒	☐	☐
9	Learning/education/employment	☒	☐	☐
10	Identity	☒	☐	☐
11	Contact/family and social relationships	☒	☐	☐
12	Social presentation	☒	☐	☐
13	Emotional and behavioural development	☒	☐	☐
14	Self-care skills	☒	☐	☐
15	Relationship of child/young person and family with social worker	☒	☐	☐
16	Whether the period of looking after should end and, if so, the actions needed to achieve this	☐	☐	☒
17	If applicable, leaving care and after care arrangements	☐	☐	☒
18	If applicable, pursuit of a claim for criminal injuries compensation	☐	☐	☒

5 Recommendations/Decisions made at the Review:

	Recommendations/Decisions and Action to be taken	By Whom	By When
1	Billy to remain at Strathcarron Place Young People's Unit.	All parties	Until Review
2	Billy to continue at Monifieth High School.	All parties	Until Review
3	Billy to have ongoing dental treatment appointed.	Staff at Strathcarron	Until Review
4	Contact to be kept under review.	June Hopkins	As appropriate

Did anyone present at the Review not agree with any decision(s) or recommendation(s)?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, please outline who and what and any action to be taken to resolve the disagreement(s)

6 Attendance at the Review

Please list all those who attended the Review and whether they should receive all/part of the record.

Name and Role/Relationship	Parts of the Record to be provided eg all reports, some reports (specify), minute, decision/recommendation only
Bill Chalmers, Review Officer (Chair and Minutes)	
June Hopkins, Social Worker	Full Minute
Maureen Petrie, Social Work Assistant	Full Minute
Graham Webster, Keyworker, Strathcarron Young People's Unit	Full Minute

List anyone invited who was unable/did not attend and whether they should receive all/part of the record

Name and Role/Relationship	Parts of the Record to be provided eg all reports, some reports (specify), minute, decision/recommendation only
William Tarbett, Young Person-declined to attend	Full Minute via Social Worker
Mr Tarbett, Father	Full Minute via Social Worker
Ms Robertson, Mother	Full Minute via Social Worker
Ms L Low, Senior Social Worker	Full Minute

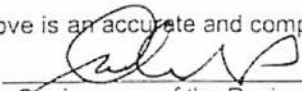
List anyone else who should receive all/part of the record.

Name and Role/Relationship	Parts of the Record to be provided eg all reports, some reports (specify), minute, decision/recommendation only
Ms M Dymock, Manager	Full Minute
Ms M Moyes, Manager	Full Minute

7 Date and time of next Review Day Month Year
at am/pm

Venue of next Review

Part 6 above is an accurate and complete record of the Review meeting.

Signed  Name MR BILL CHALMERS
Chairperson of the Review Meeting (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Date 15/7/04

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Alan G Baird - Director
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DD3 OBZ

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REPORT TO SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S REPORTER ADMINISTRATION SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT

The following child:-

Surname	<u>Tarbett</u>
Christian Names or Forenames	<u>William</u>
Date of Birth	<u>09.07.91</u> Sex <u>Male</u>
Address	<u>Strathcarron YPU, Strathcarron Place, Dundee</u>
School attended	<u>Monifieth High School</u>
Religion	<u>Protestant</u>

BASIS OF REPORT REQUESTED

Section 73(4)(a) Variation of Supervision Requirement.

Casework responsibility transferred from Ingrid von Arnim to June Hopkins in October 2003. This report is based on my contact with William since that date and from copious Social Work Department records.

FAMILY COMPOSITION

Name	Dob/ Age	Relationship to child	Employment/ School/Other etc	Income/ Source	Residence if different
Linda Robertson	17.6.69	Birth mother	none		7C Court St, Dundee
David Tarbett	8.4.47	Birth father	none		7D Bonnethill Court Dundee

Child's Name: William Tarbett

INTRODUCTION TO WILLIAM'S CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES

William was placed in the care of the Social Work Department on a Place of Safety Order at a Children's Hearing in September 1994. The Panel at that time had serious concerns about the behaviour of William and his siblings [REDACTED] and the lack of adequate parental control. William was three years old at that time. In October 1994 William and his siblings were placed on a Supervision Order (Away from Home). The Supervision Order has been continued since that date.

In March 2000 William was placed on a long-term fostering basis with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] foster carers with Dundee City Council. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] provided an excellent placement for William. However, in mid -2002 the quality of the relationship between William and his carers began to deteriorate. In November 2002 Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] indicated to the Social Work Department that they were unlikely to be able to continue William's placement beyond June 2003 at that latest. At a Network Meeting on 11th February 2003 Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] informed the Department that the placement would need to end by Saturday 5th April 2003.

As the placement neared an end the situation for the [REDACTED] Family and William became increasingly strained and was not helped by the inability of the Department to identify a placement for William. Following a series of increasingly frequent aggressive incidents, it was decided that William needed to be removed immediately, for his own safety and that of the [REDACTED] family and others, including fellow pupils at school.

On 19th March 2003, William was placed on an emergency basis with Mr [REDACTED], ACE Carer, in Dundee for a period of three weeks. On 11th April 2003, William was moved to Strathcarron YPU due to a shortage of foster placements. William has continued to reside at Strathcarron Young People's Unit as the Social Work Department has been unable to identify an alternative more suitable placement.

In February 2004, a carer, [REDACTED] was identified for William and introductory visits took place. However, William decided not to proceed with this prospective placement. His reasons were that he wanted a couple to look after him, also that he wanted carers who could drive so that he could continue to visit friends in Auchterhouse. Alongside this, William has recently strengthened links with his parents and siblings and his loyalties are towards them at present. Both [REDACTED] foster placements broke down, and [REDACTED] has now returned home to his father's address with no supervision requirement.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Mr Tarbett has five adult children by a previous marriage. The relationship ended in 1979 and the children were received into care. In February 1983 Parental rights were assumed in respect of all five children.

Ms Robertson and her older brother were received into care when she was 18 months old. Her parents had separated and both had been convicted of neglect. She spent all her childhood years in the care of the local authority apart from a two year period, 1980 -1982, when she returned to her mother's care. She has many negative memories from this time, having lived in nine different placements including foster homes and residential units.

Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson met and began their relationship when he was 39 and she was 17. Ms Robertson and Mr Tarbett set up home in Whitfield shortly after they met. Ms Robertson became pregnant [REDACTED]

William's brother [REDACTED] was born in 1988 and his sister [REDACTED] in 1989. William was born in 1991 and a half-brother, [REDACTED], by a different father, in 1992.

Child's Name: William Tarbett

Following [REDACTED] birth it would appear that the parental relationship deteriorated quickly. It continued to be problematic, with numerous separations and reconciliations. When together, the relationship was reported as acrimonious, with many arguments, fights and incidents of physical violence. Both parties were described as strong willed and unwilling to back down. The children were present during many of their parents' arguments and witnessed physical violence between them. Against this background the children received poor, often neglectful, parental care.

William, [REDACTED] were received into the care of the Social Work Department in September 1994 as a direct consequence of the conflictual parental relationship and its impact on their care and subsequent behaviour.

Since their separation Ms Robertson has maintained that she does not intend to renew her relationship with Mr Tarbett. Nevertheless, it would appear that Ms Robertson maintains almost daily communication with Mr Tarbett. Ms Robertson does not talk about this with the children unless they raise it.

Mr Tarbett has seemed to the Social Work Department to remain quite preoccupied by the ending of his relationship with Ms Robertson. For many years he raised concerns and allegations regarding Ms Robertson's behaviour on a regular basis. This subsided between 2000 - 2002 but has again become a major feature of Mr Tarbett's communication with the Department. It is Mr Tarbett's view, as expressed to previous social workers, that the children's mother does not love them, because she has not fought to have them returned to her care as he has, and that she is now neglecting to maintain contact with them.

CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO COMPULSORY MEASURES OF CARE FOR WILLIAM AND HIS SIBLINGS

There has been regular and more or less continuous Social Work department contact with [REDACTED] and William throughout their lives.

The children were received into care for the first time on 21st January 1994 ([REDACTED] then aged 5 years 7 months [REDACTED] 4 years 10 months and William 2 years 4 months.) Ms Robertson had left the family home and Mr Tarbett felt unable to care for the children. The children came into care for the second time on 22nd September 1994 after the Children's Hearing made a Place of Safety Order. They have remained in care ever since. The principle areas of concern, leading to proceedings and their reception into care were:

a) Parents' acrimonious relationship and their willingness to involve the children in this conflict

Both Ms Robertson and Mr Tarbett made numerous allegations to the Social Work department about each other and about each other's care of the children. These included:-

- That Ms Robertson [REDACTED]
- That Mr Tarbett had assaulted her.
- Allegations from both parents against the other of physical abuse of the children/ inappropriate care of the children/ being drunk while in charge of the children.

Many of these allegations were made in front of the children.

Child's Name: William Tarbett

Workers noted that neither parent made any attempt to keep the children separate from their relationship difficulties.

Mr Tarbett frequently directly involved the children in his disputes with Ms Robertson, for example:-

- Telling the children that their mum's "away with a Paki" or that she doesn't love them.
- On another occasion he left the three children at the Social work department in Whitfield saying it was Ms Robertson's turn to care for them.
- On one occasion, when they were living separately, Mr Tarbett took [REDACTED] to sit outside Ms Robertson's flat in the car even though [REDACTED] had had nine teeth extracted under general anaesthetic only two hours previously.

Following their more serious disputes Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson frequently separated in the early years of [REDACTED] life. This normally meant that Ms Robertson would leave and [REDACTED] would stay with Mr Tarbett. From the time [REDACTED] was three years old, the separations more often involved him and his brother and sister leaving with Ms Robertson. The Social Work department may not have known about all the separations that took place, but there are 26 such changes in living situation recorded for [REDACTED] prior to the first reception into care. Again these changes frequently happened in a way that was highly unsettling for the children.

- On one occasion when [REDACTED] was living with Ms Robertson, Mr Tarbett removed him from the Social Work assistant who was taking him to the child and family centre
- On another occasion when Ms Robertson had been granted interim custody of [REDACTED] and William, Mr Tarbett forced entry into Ms Robertson's flat and removed the children. On this occasion the interim custody had not been properly served so they could not be returned to their mother.
- On a further occasion Ms Robertson and the three children were required to leave the Women's aid shelter where they were staying after Ms Robertson had assaulted another resident.

Ms Robertson frequently said she wanted to finish the relationship once and for all, but found it hard to manage as a parent by herself. Mr Tarbett also constantly sought to undermine her ability to cope on her own. As a result there was a long-standing pattern that even after bitter separations, they were reconciled.

b) Concerns over lack of appropriate supervision

When the children were in the care of Mr Tarbett or Ms Robertson, whether jointly or separately, there were periodic concerns about the level of supervision they received.

- While living with Mr Tarbett, [REDACTED] was seen a number of times unsupervised in the Hilltown.
- On one occasion [REDACTED] were picked up by the police in the Wellgate Centre

Child's Name: William Tarbett

having stolen pot plants. They were then aged 5 and 3.

- On another occasion [REDACTED] arrived at Lilybank Family Centre nearly two miles from home, alone, on his scooter. Mr Tarbett's response was that if he could make it to the centre alone he could get himself back.
- While living with Ms Robertson there were reports from neighbours that the three children were playing outside completely unsupervised. On one occasion they were found outside at night having opened the unlocked front door of the flat themselves.

Ms Robertson acknowledged that she sometimes felt unable to provide close enough supervision for the children, but argued that when living with Mr Tarbett he undermined her attempts to impose appropriate controls. Mr Tarbett took the view that since he was catering adequately for their physical needs, there was nothing wrong with the way he was caring for the children.

c) Concerns over lack of appropriate boundaries to the children's behaviour

Linked to the concerns about inadequate supervision were worries about the children's behaviour and the fact that Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson appeared unable or unwilling to impose appropriate controls. The children were observed to be aggressive towards one and other and to behave in an inappropriately sexualised manner (see below). Both Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson had difficulty controlling the children. In addition to finding it hard to manage the children's behaviour, they also presented, through their own actions some very unhelpful examples.

- The children frequently witnessed violence between their parents, between adults and children and with people outwith the household.
- On one occasion the children watched from the car as Mr Tarbett got out and assaulted [REDACTED] father of Ms Robertson's youngest child.

Both parents' use of alcohol affected their ability to relate appropriately to the children at different times.

- On one occasion Mr Tarbett returned after drinking to find that [REDACTED] had wet the bed and hit him in the face (see child protection investigations below).
- On another occasion, Linda Robertson was found to be drunk while the children played unsupervised outside.

While Ms Robertson was caring for the children, she was noted on a number of occasions to be very depressed, emotionally flat and unresponsive to the children's needs.

The children's understanding of what was acceptable behaviour was moulded to a significant extent by the example they were being set.

d) Children's sexualised behaviour and language

When [REDACTED] was four years old concerns were expressed about his sexualised language and behaviour by staff at the Child and Family Centre. There were related concerns about

Child's Name: William Tarbett

amid allegations by Mr Tarbett that [REDACTED] These were the first of persisting concerns in relation to the fact that all three children clearly had knowledge of sex and sexual language quite inappropriate for their age. The concerns persisted when the children were in foster care and were noted when [REDACTED] started school.

- [REDACTED] was found, for example, [REDACTED]
- The children would speak about specific sexual acts.

A referral to Polepark family counselling centre was made in May 1993 and again in December 1994. On the second occasion work was done with [REDACTED] and William. In relation to the sexualised behaviour, the workers concluded that it was unlikely that [REDACTED] had been sexually abused, but likely that he had witnessed sexual acts between adults.

The allegations in relation to [REDACTED] were considered by a child protection case conference which, at that stage, could find no evidence to support them. Mr Tarbett continued to talk about the details of the allegations with the children present, despite being told that it was not appropriate for them to be involved in these discussions.

e) Children's aggressive behaviour

The social workers, health visitors and family centre workers involved with the children all commented from the earliest involvement with the family on the aggressive relationship between the children.

- The children were observed to hit, bite and kick each other while their parents were present.
- They fought and jumped over the furniture while their baby brother [REDACTED] was in the room.

This behaviour appeared to be accepted by the parents. Ms Robertson maintains that she tried to impose tighter controls, but that this was undermined by Mr Tarbett, who allowed the children more leeway. The aggressiveness between the siblings continued after they moved into foster care and was one of the main reasons why it proved so hard for them to stay together with the same carer.

f) Child Protection Investigations

In addition to the general and long-standing concerns about the parenting that the children were receiving, there were a number of specific incidents which were investigated more formally. Between December 1991 and September 1994 there were 15 observed incidents or allegations which led to enquiries, and 9 of these were followed up with a formal child protection investigation. The focus of these investigations was:-

- Dec 91 Mr Tarbett hit [REDACTED] in the face while he was asleep for wetting the bed. (Charges dropped by procurator fiscal but grounds found to be established by sheriff in relation to Children's Hearing).
- Jan 93 Ms Robertson hit [REDACTED] with a wellington boot. Found to be accidental.

Child's Name: William Tarbett

- Feb 93 Ms Robertson alleged Mr Tarbett hit [REDACTED] with a yardstick and hose from a vacuum cleaner. Not pursued through lack of evidence.
- Mar 93 Investigation into [REDACTED] sexualised behaviour and language, [REDACTED]
- May 93 Allegation by Mr Tarbett that [REDACTED]
- June 93 [REDACTED] nose was hurt when he was pulled off a table by Mr Tarbett. Accepted as accidental.
- Aug 93 [REDACTED] alleged that Mr Tarbett threw him across the room - parents refused to give consent for a medical examination. All three children were placed on 'at risk register'; [REDACTED] on grounds of physical abuse (proven) and physical neglect (suspicious).
- Feb 94 [REDACTED] alleged that Mr Tarbett assaulted him. No further action.
- May 95 [REDACTED] and his sister were found playing in the Wellgate centre.

g) Mr Tarbett's unwillingness to work with agencies for benefit of the children.

Throughout the time of his involvement with the Department Mr Tarbett maintained that there had been nothing wrong with his parenting of the children. He was adamant that his children should be returned to his care and completely opposed to the Social Work Department's plans. Mr Tarbett's refusal to acknowledge any shortcomings made it virtually impossible to work with him to reduce the level of concerns or make rehabilitation feasible. This has been a continuing problem in relation to planning for the children:

- When Mr Tarbett was granted interim custody of [REDACTED] in 1989 one of the conditions was that [REDACTED] care should be subject to the supervision of the Local Authority. The Social Work department had to take this back to the court because Mr Tarbett refused to meet with the supervising worker.
- The Children's Hearing in September 1994 which imposed a Place of Safety order on all the children, gave as one of its reasons, 'Mr Tarbett's point blank refusal to adhere to the conditions of the care order, to work with the Social Work Department or other support agencies.'

As well as refusing to work constructively with the Social Work department, Mr Tarbett consistently undermined attempts by Ms Robertson to care effectively for the children. He always sought to find out where she was staying, even where this meant tracking down the address and phone numbers of Women's Aid refuges. He would then harass her or try to influence her to return.

- Mr Tarbett phoned a Women's aid hostel where Ms Robertson was staying with her youngest child, at 2 am, sounding under the influence of alcohol, and put one of the other children on the phone.
- Workers at another Women's Aid hostel told Mr Tarbett that Ms Robertson was no longer there after receiving as many as 20 abusive phone calls in a day.

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There was no evidence over this period that Mr Tarbett developed any insight into the children's emotional needs or the way his own behaviour could have a seriously detrimental affect on them.

RECEPTION INTO CARE

On 26th June 1992 [REDACTED] and William were received into care for a few hours while Ms Robertson was interviewed by the police. This followed an incident where Ms Robertson had assaulted another resident at the Women's Aid hostel where they were staying.

They were received into care for the second time on 21st January 1994. This followed a particularly acrimonious period in the relationship between Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson. The events that led up to this reception into care were, briefly:-

On November 27th 1993 Ms Robertson left the house on her own at 3 am after an argument with Mr Tarbett and under the influence of alcohol. The following day she lodged a court action requesting the return of her son [REDACTED] to her care. She returned home on December 14th.

On December 17th Mr Tarbett alleged that Ms Robertson kicked [REDACTED]. Social workers who visited to investigate found no evidence. They were concerned that neither parent was present and the children were 'running amok'. Mr Tarbett's son, who was ostensibly in charge, was in the bath.

On December 26th Ms Robertson left the house at 4 am with [REDACTED]. She claimed that Mr Tarbett assaulted her two nights previously. Police returned the children to Mr Tarbett. Ms Robertson returned the next day.

On January 20th 1994 Ms Robertson left the home with [REDACTED]

On January 21st [REDACTED] and William were received into care on Mr Tarbett's request. Mr Tarbett stated that he was troubled with gout and unable to care for the three children on his own. Ms Robertson alleged that this was untrue. [REDACTED] returned to the care of Mr Tarbett ten days later. [REDACTED] and William returned a week later.

The third reception into care, was eight months later on 22 September 1994. The events that led to this decision were, briefly:-

On September 2nd 1994 the children moved from Ms Robertson's care (in a Women's Aid hostel) to Mr Tarbett when Ms Robertson said she was no longer able to care for them. Staff at the hostel were also concerned that [REDACTED] behaviour was a danger to other children.

Mr Tarbett made it clear that he was not willing to co-operate with the requirements of the previous Children's Hearing order which specified that [REDACTED] were to attend at St Matthew's for an assessment of their behaviour and that the children should be allowed access with Ms Robertson. On September 21st Mr Tarbett threatened that he would bring the children to the Children's hearing and leave them there.

At the Children's Hearing on September 22nd a Place of Safety order taken by the Children's Hearing on [REDACTED] and William. The Hearing's reasons for this decision were:-

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- Mr Tarbett's point blank refusal to work with the Social Work department or other support agencies.
- Mr Tarbett's clear inability to exercise control over the children, thereby placing them at risk.
- Mr Tarbett's continuing denial of access to the children by Ms Robertson.

Mr Tarbett appealed the decision of the hearing, but the sheriff subsequently dismissed the appeal.

When the Place of Safety order expired, the Children's Hearing made a supervision order requiring the children to remain in foster care. The reasons the Hearing gave for this decision included:-

- The children's behaviour improved following reception into care.
- Mr Tarbett's refusal to co-operate with the supervision order and work with Social work department and other agencies.
- Ms Robertson's inability at this time to offer the children a home.
- Mr Tarbett's attitude to the care of the children, which the Hearing regarded as totally selfish and failing to meet their physical and emotional needs.

REHABILITATION

It was agreed that work needed to be done with both the parents and the children to consider whether rehabilitation was a feasible option. The rehabilitation assessment was organised in several parts and addressed the parents relationship, previous difficulties with the children and the parenting skills needed to meet the needs of the children. [REDACTED] and William were referred to Polepark Family counselling centre, for work in relation to their difficult and sexualised behaviour.

The assessment continued until February 1995 and included both individual and joint sessions with Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson. At that stage a decision was taken to halt the assessment for the following reasons:

- Refusal by both parents to accept any responsibility for the children being received into care.
- Mr Tarbett's refusal to acknowledge that there had ever been a problem with the way he cared for the children or that he needed to change this in any way.
- No commitment from either Mr Tarbett or Ms Robertson to maintain their relationship in a way which would allow them to care jointly for the children.

The workers concluded that there was no merit in continuing to meet with Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson as they remained completely unwilling to address the issues that had given rise to the children being received into care. All three children have remained Looked After since that date.

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PREVIOUS PLACEMENTS IN THE CARE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

William lived with his older brother [REDACTED] in successive foster placements; from September 1994 to December 1995 with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED], from December 1995 to January 1996 with Mrs [REDACTED] from January 1996 until March 1997 with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] and with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] from March 1997, first with [REDACTED] and then on his own, until March 2000.

In 1996 The Social Work Department decided that William and his siblings, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were unable to return home and required long-term substitute care, with an appropriate placement to be identified for each child where they might stay without further disruption. The Social Work Department then sought such a placement for William over an extended period, without success. It is unfortunately the case that there is a serious shortage of long-term placements for primary-age children, particularly boys, across Scotland.

Given continued dispute with the birth parents, particularly Mr Tarbett, over the future plans for the children, the Social Work Department had referred to *Children 1st* in 1997 and early 1998, for independent assessments regarding:-

- 1 The contact arrangements between William, [REDACTED] and their parents
- 2 The potential likelihood of either parent being able to have the children returned to their care

The first assessment concluded that (a) parental and sibling contact should be separate in order for each child to gain the most out of each contact (b) Parental ability to manage contact was limited, therefore contact should be carefully planned, managed, and supervised by the Social Work Department and limited to 45 minute sessions once per month (c) Contact should involve enjoyable activities. This was agreed at the Children's Hearing on 1st April 1998 and the same conditions repeated at subsequent Children's Hearings to date.

The second assessment (14.04.98) concluded that rehabilitation was not feasible with either Miss Robertson or Mr Tarbett and reinforced the earlier assessment of the Social Work Department and decision of the Adoption and Fostering Panel.

Given the assessment that William could not return home, but that birth family contact was important to him, the plan to place William in a long-term foster placement remained unchanged and renewed efforts were made to secure a placement, without success. Notwithstanding the insecurity William experienced in living with a 'temporary' family, William spent three years with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] and established a degree of security and a radical improvement in his behaviour and overall functioning during that period.

During this time William attended Longhaugh Primary School, where he struggled to progress academically. In 1998 he was diagnosed as suffering from dyspraxia and requiring additional and specific educational support to help him meet his potential within mainstream schooling.

In February 2000 a suitable placement was finally identified and approved by Dundee City Council Fostering and Adoption panel and William was placed with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] and

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their three sons, now aged 10 to 15 years, at the end of March 2000. William's mother was fully involved in the plan and was in agreement. At the time of placement the [REDACTED] family lived in northeast Dundee and William transferred to Macalpine Primary School in April 2000. The school was fully committed to William and he made exceptional progress, both academically and socially, while he was there.

In February 2001 the [REDACTED] family moved to a large farmhouse near Auchterhouse in Angus so that all the children in the household could have more space and a room to themselves. William settled well into the large household and also into rural life, relishing the opportunities the location gave him to observe and participate in farming activities.

Along with two of the [REDACTED] children, William transferred to Auchterhouse Primary School, where he made slow but consistent academic progress and was well liked by his teachers and peers.

During the first two years in placement with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] William settled exceptionally well into the [REDACTED] household. He developed a strong and trusting relationship with his foster carers, who gave him every encouragement, including open acceptance of his relationships with his birth parents and siblings. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] also set clear and strong boundaries to his behaviour, which William generally accepted and was increasingly responsive to. After some initial difficulties with the carers' own children, all four children found their own 'place' in the household, although there remained the occasional conflict. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] were highly sensitive to William's particular needs, while ensuring that he was treated equally with their own boys.

Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] were approved to offer a further placement, with the proviso that this must not jeopardise William's place in the family. They hoped to offer a long-term placement to a younger, female child.

However, in July 2002 a 13-year-old boy was placed with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] on an emergency basis. The child has a diagnosis of ADHD. Although this was intended as a short-term placement until other arrangements were made, the placement has continued.

This placement had a significant impact on William's sense of 'belonging' to the [REDACTED] family and his perception of the amount of positive attention that he felt he received. In consequence, there was a reduction in his responsiveness within the family, and deterioration in his behaviour, which became increasingly aggressive and difficult to control, with consequences for the whole family. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] stressed that difficulties were already becoming evident prior to July 2002, but agree that the arrival of the new boy increased and highlighted the problems William presented within the family. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] became increasingly frustrated by William's emotional withdrawal from the family and felt that there was major breakdown in the relationship between William and themselves. William reported feeling unloved and scapegoated.

Sustained efforts were made by the Social Work Department to improve relationships between William and the [REDACTED] and save the placement. Consultations were undertaken with the Department of Child and Family and Psychiatry for advice on strategies to manage and resolve the difficulties caused by William's increasingly aggressive behaviour. These sessions were attended by the Social Worker, Mrs [REDACTED] and the carers' support worker. The Social Worker intensified sessions with William, focussing on behavioural management and communication. The Social Work Department offered Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] regular respite

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care for William, which was accepted and used. Although initially wary, William came to enjoy these weekends once a month. Regular Network Meetings were set up between all workers involved and the carers to plan and monitor progress.

William was aware that the placement was in danger of breaking down and made some effort, with his social worker and Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] to improve his behaviour and relationships at the end of 2002. However, he was unable to sustain this, and despite the intense support offered to the placement Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] began to find it impossible to provide continuing emotional support to William.

At a Network Meeting on 27th November Mrs [REDACTED] informed the Department that they would be terminating the placement by the end of June 2003 at the latest. In the event Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] were unable to sustain the placement for that length of time, and on 11th February 2003 Mrs [REDACTED] informed the Social Work Department that the placement would need to end on 5th April. This proved impossible and William was removed on an emergency basis to Strathcarron Young People's Unit on 19th March 2003, where he has remained since that date.

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

William made good progress in respect of his emotional development following his placement with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]. He began to express appropriate emotional responses to those around him, to express affection and anger, and also to control his emotions and reflect on his behaviour and its impact on others around him. Although much of this was due to normal emotional development, William was also being greatly assisted in this process by Mr and Mrs [REDACTED].

However, the last eighteen months have been difficult for William in a number of respects:

- In February 2002, as a result of lifestory work being undertaken, William began to talk about abuses to other children that had allegedly taken place in a previous placement. This was a traumatic event for him, and was followed later in the year by further disclosures about abuses he alleges he experienced in this placement.
- William experienced a very erratic pattern of contact with his mother, and contact with her broke down between October 2002 and January 2004. Although he is aware of her own difficulties in respect of the death of her partner in May 2002, and in coping with her two young children, he is both angry with her and concerned for her well being.
- The placement of a child with severe behavioural and learning difficulties within the [REDACTED] household displaced William's established position in the family and he subsequently had to leave.
- William was in final year at primary school and had expressed his anxieties about the transition to secondary school. His move up to Monifieth High has been challenging for him in various ways.
- William is now nearly 13 years old and it is to be expected that he will be progressing into puberty with its attendant impact on his mood and behaviour.
- Following the breakdown of [REDACTED] respective placements, and [REDACTED]

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subsequent return home, there has been a much-increased level of contact between the whole family including Linda Robertson. William now sees family members, particularly Mr Tarbett, on a daily basis and although managing to sustain his placement at Strathcarron Young People's Unit, he is clearly being sucked into family matters. This adds to the pressures on his social and emotional development.

These past events have exposed William's uneven pattern of development and ability to cope. William has suffered a continuing tendency to labile moods and strong and inappropriate reactions to events around him, which have increased in frequency and intensity during the year.

In January 2002 Social Worker and then Carer, took advice from Dr Esparon, Child Psychiatrist and Mrs Sheridan, Child Psychotherapist, on strategies to help William deal with his impulsive anger and inability to express his feelings more appropriately. A follow-up in June 2002 concluded that William was making steady progress in his emotional development and that the quality of his relationships had improved.

However, a further consultation was taken in November 2002, given the deterioration within the placement from July. The Department of Child and Family Psychiatry encouraged Mrs [REDACTED] to consider realistically whether her family could continue to offer a viable long-term placement, and also recommended that William should have some form of psychotherapy to address his anxieties and vulnerabilities. Unfortunately, NHS Tayside did not have the resources to offer William such treatment.

Despite such difficulties William continues to mature. At Strathcarron Young People's Unit he has displayed a degree of maturity in his social behaviour, in avoiding participation in some of the 'anti-social' behaviour that has occurred recently involving other young residents. As his time at Strathcarron, has continued, it has clearly become more difficult for William to distance himself from all incidents, particularly given the influence of particular residents. Overall however, William does keep himself out of the more entrenched negative behaviour at Strathcarron and staff continue to regard him highly.

EDUCATION

William attended Auchterhouse Primary School from March 2001 - June 2003. He moved to Monifieth High in August 2003 and initially settled well there. As the academic year has progressed, William's behaviour at school has become increasingly challenging. He is often cheeky and disrespectful to staff and his displays of bravado at school have brought him negative attention from teaching staff.

William has been excluded several times and has had unexplained absences which, coupled with his poor attitude, have left his placement at Monifieth High very fragile.

On a positive note, William does get up for school willingly enough and makes his way to Monifieth by bus most days. He must be careful not to jeopardise his school placement however, with a downward spiral in behaviour and attitude.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

William is a sturdy boy who enjoys good general physical health. He is rarely ill and has an excellent appetite. All routine dental/doctor appointments are up to date. As previously noted, William has a specific motor-visual deficit (dyspraxia). In general this

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does not interfere with his normal functioning, although there are days when he can tire easily and his motor skills and concentration deteriorate. Sensitive support of his condition at home and school during the last three years has minimized the impact on his development.

BIRTH FAMILY

Current Circumstances

There have been major changes in birth family circumstances over the past year, which have impacted on William's level of contact with birth family members and his relationships with them.

In May 2002 Ms Robertson's partner, the father of [REDACTED] died suddenly. Ms Robertson became increasingly depressed and unable to cope with the care of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Although she moved back to Dundee from Perth to live with her mother, who provides some support, Ms Robertson was unable to use the support offered to her by the Social Work Department over the ensuing months. On 7th January 2003 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were placed on the Child Protection Register under the category of Neglect-At Risk.

I have made several attempts to meet with Ms Robertson and to keep her informed of William's changing circumstances. However, Ms Robertson has made no effort to communicate with the Social Work Department, attend meetings, Reviews or Hearings and had also ceased her contact with William until recently when they saw one another through Mr Tarbett.

Mr Tarbett continues to live in Dundee and has regular contact with Ms Robertson. Given the breakdown of their respective placements, Mr Tarbett has recently also had a lot of contact with his children, [REDACTED] and has been involved in future plans in respect of [REDACTED]. Inevitably, William has become very involved in family meetings and he is very loyal towards his father taking every possible opportunity to see Mr Tarbett. This has often meant contact with Michael and this has been a negative influence in recent weeks because of [REDACTED] own very challenging behaviour. To William's credit, he returns to Strathcarron the majority of the time and this has become a respite for him from the complex family issues he faces.

BIRTH FAMILY CONTACT

In 1998, parental contact was amended at a Children's Hearing on 1st April, to take into account the conclusions of a report prepared by *Children 1st*, which recommended that all parental contact should be on an individual parent/child basis, once a month, supervised by the Social Work Department.

During 2001 monthly individual contact between William and his parents was regularly maintained and settled into a routine, which William was happy with. Each contact was for one hour, supervised by Mrs Petrie, who has known the family for many years. Previously, Mr Tarbett's unreliability in attending contact had been a source of great anxiety and upset for William.

During 2002 Mr Tarbett became fairly reliable in attending contact, and, although the quality was very limited, he became more attentive to William's needs and wishes.

Until May 2002 Ms Robertson's attendance at contact was very reliable. However, following the death of her partner, she became increasingly erratic in her attendance for contact with William, [REDACTED] and managed only three contacts with William between July and October 2002. Since January 2004, (and perhaps occasionally prior to that) William has

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seen his mother informally through Mr Tarbett, but he continues to have very mixed feelings about her.

On 22 January 2004, Social Worker, Social Work Assistant and Keyworker met with William and Mr Tarbett to discuss future contacts. This was particularly necessary given that Mr Tarbett had not attended contact arranged by Maureen Petrie, Social Work Assistant, on 8 January 2004 at a snooker hall in Broughty Ferry, a venue specifically requested by Mr Tarbett. This meeting reached no agreement re continuing supervised contact with both Mr Tarbett and William, saying that they can see each other when they wish - every day if they want to. There was no negotiation of what might be in William's best interests i.e. a measure of protection from a variety of very fraught family issues.

Given that William has had a longstanding relationship with the Social Work Assistant, Maureen Petrie has continued to see him and take him on activities as a supplement to limited Social Worker visits due to pressure of other work.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

William has remained at Strathcarron Young People's Unit and, although he has had some difficulties there, he has generally complied with staff expectations of him. The current pull towards his birth family has been stressful for this youth and it is to William's credit that he has been able to sustain his placements at Strathcarron Young People's Unit and Monifieth High.

It has been very difficult for William to maintain stability given the very disruptive time he has witnessed in respect of [REDACTED] and indeed, his mother. It is encouraging to see that William will continue to use some of the supports put in place at Strathcarron and he remains close to staff there.

A Family Placement was identified for William in February 2004, but this came at a time when he was very much involved in family matters. Although the plan to find a family for William has not been abandoned I feel, that for now, he needs to be able to link with his birth family without the intensity of a Foster Family Placement. I believe that William's placement at Strathcarron enables him to have a degree of stability and security from which he can explore family contacts. It does not threaten family loyalties in the way which William might perceive a Foster Family might.

I would therefore recommend that William's current Supervision Order be continued to allow him to remain at Strathcarron Young People's Unit.

I would have no recommendation in respect of more specific conditions i.e. with regard to contact, which takes place informally at this time.

William has not used respite care recently, therefore I feel that condition is no longer required.

Report compiled by June Hopkins

Date completed 24 May 2004

Sent to Reporter 24 May 2004

Signed

Designation Social Worker

reporter/sbr/tarbett_w5

JH/HB

24.05.04