

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

Peter J Bates - Director
Social Work Department
6 Kirkton Road
DUNDEE
DD3 OBZ

FAX 01382 436022

Prepared by
Social Worker

Phillip McGill



436031

SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT CHILDREN'S HEARING

The following child:-

Surname TARBETT Date of Birth 1 [REDACTED]
2 09.07.91

Christian Names or Forenames 1 [REDACTED]
2 WILLIAM Religion

School 1 ST CLEMENTS PS, DUNDEE
2 ST CLEMENTS PS, DUNDEE

Address C/O MR & MRS [REDACTED] Occupation

is to appear on at DUNDEE Children's Hearing

in connection with

SUPPLEMENTARY TO REPORT OF 6 MARCH 1997

INTRODUCTION

A placement for William has been identified with [REDACTED] who are experienced foster carers. At this time it has not been possible to arrange a placement for [REDACTED] as there is not a suitable foster placement available.

As it is our assessment of the boys circumstances that they need to live separately, we feel that it would be best to proceed with arranging that William will move-in-care, whilst [REDACTED] will stay in his present placement.

PROSPECTIVE PLACEMENT FOR WILLIAM

Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] whose own family are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been fostering for a number of years and in fact have cared for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

██████████ and William Tarbett

William at different times, for respite, in the past. ██████████ are skilled and confident foster carers and have experienced managing difficult behaviour from their foster children. Overall their home feels warm, comfortable and friendly, with firm boundaries which are reinforced but not over-emphasised, giving the foster children a consistent and nurturing experience. Mr and Mrs ██████████ are also experienced in helping children to prepare for and reflect upon their meetings with their parents.

William, ██████████ and I have visited the ██████████ home, as the first stage of introducing William to them. ██████████ remembered his stay with them and prompted William to remember details of the family.

William will have had a tea-time and an overnight visit by the time of this hearing. If these have gone well I would like to move William into the ██████████ home quickly, as it would be better for William that he does not experience a long period of living "between two places".

Mr and Mrs ██████████ live in a three bedroom apartment, and will shortly be moving within their local area. Mr and Mrs ██████████ are currently caring for ██████████ (7 years) and ██████████ (4 years). William would sleep in the "boys room", sharing with ██████████

██████████ AND WILLIAM'S VIEWS

██████████ indicated that he was disappointed that I had not been able to arrange his move at this time as well. ██████████ also acknowledged for himself and wondering about how it will be to be living without William. ██████████ indicated that he would find it comforting to continue to live with Mr and Mrs ██████████

William listened excitedly to the news about his prospective move and was eager to meet with the ██████████. The meeting went well, as he took in Mr and Mrs ██████████ explored the house and played with ██████████

William gave no further indication of his feelings about being separated from ██████████ and I expect this will not become significant now until after the move has occurred and the excitement has settled.

WILLIAM'S SCHOOL

It is helpful to William that he attends a local school, this helps to settle him into his neighbourhood, allows him to get to know children in the area, and allows his foster carers to build a direct link with the school and his teachers. This latter point is particularly important in reinforcing for William that everyone is working together to keep him happy and safe.

We therefore recommend that William is able to transfer from St Clements to a primary school local to Mr and Mrs ██████████

CONTACT BETWEEN THE BOYS AND WITH THEIR PARENTS

Arrangements for the boys monthly contacts will remain the same, with the boys being collected from and returned to their separate placements, as already happens with their sister ██████████

We will be closely monitoring the affects on the boys of their living apart, and will make arrangements for them to have contacts with each other as seems necessary.

and William Tarbett

The boys are quite familiar with myself and my pattern of working with them, ie that I am in touch with their carers on a weekly basis and that they spend individual time with me every fortnight. We have discussed that some of these meetings could be used to allow the boys to be together, and I will arrange this if this is what the boys feel they would like.

RECOMMENDATION

I request that supervision order be continued as it is at present, naming Mr and Mrs

I request that William's supervision order be varied to name Mr and Mrs of

I request that the present conditions regarding the boys contact with their parents remains in force.

AND WILLIAM'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE HEARING

It is my opinion that William does not understand the process and significance of the Children's Panel, and that he could be confused and/or unsettled by the experience of the Hearing. I recommend that William is not required to attend the Hearing.

has some understanding of the Children's Panel and acknowledges that he can make up his own mind regarding how he feels about attending the Hearing. I intend to discuss this with and will arrange with him how he can attend if this is what he feels he wants to do. Alternatively he may choose to write a letter to the Panel as he did on the occasion of his last Hearing, which I would then deliver for him.

Philip McGinn

Social Worker
Permanence Team

20.03.97
PMcG/DMM
(ao19r_z/supp/tarbe_mw)

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DD3 0BZ

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Prepared by
Social Worker Phillip McGill
 436031

SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT CHILDREN'S HEARING

The following child:-

Surname	<u>TARBETT</u>	Date of Birth	<u>3 - 09.07.91</u>
Christian Names or Forenames	<u>1 - [REDACTED]</u> <u>2 - William</u>	Religion	<u></u>
School	<u>1 - St Clements PS, Dundee</u> <u>2 - St Clements PS, Dundee</u>		
Address	<u>c/o Mr & Mrs [REDACTED]</u>	Occupation	<u></u>
is to appear on	<u></u>	at	<u>Dundee</u> Children's Hearing
in connection with	<u>REVIEW AT REQUEST OF SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT</u>		

INTRODUCTION

A review of [REDACTED] and William's supervision is requested because the boys will be moving out of their present foster placement. In line with this department's considered opinion as to the boys' best interests, we wish to separate them and place with alternative foster families.

This report is adapted from a report prepared by myself and Margaret Leslie, Social Worker, and is based upon Social Work Department records as well as on our observations and casework with the boys and their family.

██████████ and William Tarbett

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Mother: Ms Linda Archer (k/a Robertson) (27), lives outwith Dundee

Father: Mr David Tarbett 49, 7d Bonneathill Court, Dundee

Child: ██████████

Child: ██████████

Child: William Tarbett 5 c/o Mr & Mrs McMaster, 25 Napier Drive, Dundee

██████████ and William Tarbett are the children of Mr David Tarbett and Ms Linda Robertson. The couple apparently met in 1986 and their subsequent relationship has been characterised by frequent separations, usually involving violence and acrimony. During such times, care of the children has alternated between the parents and included a previous period in the care of the Local Authority.

In the main, it would seem that Mr Tarbett has been able to meet the physical needs of the children. However, there have been past concerns about exposure to violence between adults and Mr Tarbett's tendency to involve the children in his disputes with their mother, and his general attitude towards any advice or assistance regarding the care of the children.

Ms Robertson has had periodic difficulties in relation to alcohol and this has contributed to her inability to provide consistent and stable care.

The parents have been separated this time since early 1995. Mr Tarbett continues to reside in Dundee. Ms Robertson has accommodation outside the area.

HISTORY OF SOCIAL WORK INVOLVEMENT/CARE OF CHILDREN

The Social Work Department have been involved with Mr Tarbett's 5 children from a previous marriage, all of whom have spent periods in the care of the Local Authority. These children are now adults and would seem to have regular contact with their father (including residence).

The Social Work Department first became involved with the family between 1989 and 1992. This was initially as a result of ██████████ being made subject to statutory supervision via Matrimonial Proceedings. Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson had separated and father had been granted custody of ██████████

The parents subsequently reconciled. Concerns began to develop regarding the stability of Mr Tarbett's and Ms Robertson's relationship, the resultant changes of address, the level of hostility between the parents and mother's ability to manage the children on her own.

Concerns escalated following the birth of ██████████ the children's youngest brother, in December 1992. Social Work records indicate numerous incidents involving parental separations, acrimony, and the children moving address. There were difficulties in the Social Work Department being able to engage with either parent - in Ms Robertson's case, due to constant "crises", Mr Tarbett was noted to be very negative regarding social work involvement and would reject concerns about the impact his behaviour was having on the children.

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[redacted] and William Tarbett

There was a subsequent referral to the Children's Hearing and on the 15 June 1993, [redacted] and William, were made subject to Supervision Requirements under Section 44(1)(a) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, naming their father's home as place of residence.

The experiences of the children continued much as before. [redacted] was referred to Polepark Family Counselling Centre due to concerns about his aggressive and sexualised behaviour.

In January 1994, Mr Tarbett requested the children be received into care.

They returned to the care of their father approximately two weeks later.

There were continuing attempts to work with the parents towards providing more consistent and stable care and an attempt to increase their awareness of the impact of their behaviour on the children. An assessment of the care of the children was also pursued. This involved a variety of agencies, including Polepark Family Counselling Centre, Lilybank Family Centre and St Matthews Family Centre.

This effected no significant changes in terms of the emotional care of the children. Additionally, Mr Tarbett was extremely resistant to having social work contacts for either himself or the children.

On the 22 September 1994, the children were admitted to the care of the Social Work Department on a place of safety order. This was due to concerns about the children's behaviour, the level of parental supervision in the home and the difficulties experienced by the Social Work Department in monitoring the situation given Mr Tarbett's hostility in this respect.

[redacted] and William were initially placed with foster carers Mr & Mrs [redacted] in Dundee, moving to their current placement in December 1995.

The Social Work Department began to assess the possibility of rehabilitation with Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson, who were at that time reconciled. This assessment concluded it to be unlikely that the parents could effect improvements in the care of children which would enable their needs to be met, and provide stability and security. Mr Tarbett did not recognise any major difficulties regarding his care of the children. Ms Robertson was able to acknowledge her own difficulties and was uncertain regarding her future relationship with Mr Tarbett and her ability to manage the children and provide stability, even with help and support.

As a result, the Social Work Department felt that it would not be in the children's best long-term interests to return to the care of either parent as it was unlikely that previous patterns would change. The plan would therefore be to seek permanent alternative placements.

Given the plans, and the difficulties in Mr Tarbett's relationship with previous social workers (including harassment and verbal abuse) social workers from the Permanence Team became involved in February 1996.

██████████ and William Tarbett

The children's circumstances were considered by the Social Work Department's "Permanence Panel" on the 29 August 1996. This forms part of departmental procedures in respect of permanence planning for children and a recommendation is made as to the appropriateness of social work plans. It was the considered view of the Panel, supported by this Agency's most Senior Child Care Manager, that ██████████ and William require permanent alternative care, and that the difficulties between the boys warrant their being separated, to promote their individual development.

Plans regarding the boys' futures were discussed at their Child-in-Care-Review Meeting in November 1996. At this stage it was recognised that the plan to separate the boys could best be achieved by making it co-incident with the planned move on from their present foster placement, which was expected to end in December/January. Following this Review Meeting, Mr Tarbett decided to inform the boys that they would be leaving the ██████████. This information has had a dramatically unsettling effect upon the boys' behaviour at home and at school, as one might expect given the information is only of a planned move and does not allow them the security of any knowledge about where they are moving to.

By February 1997 this department had not been able to secure long term placements for the boys, and so was required to consider moving the boys to a further short-term foster placement. By this point an escalation in violence and disruption between the boys, coupled with their confused feelings towards their affection for the ██████████ (given their knowledge of moving on) indicated strongly that the plans to separate and move the boys needed to be carried out forthwith.

CONSIDERATION FOR THIS REVIEW HEARING

At the time of preparing this report this department is still consulting with its foster carers regarding indentifying suitable foster placements for ██████████ and William. A provisional date for them to leave Mr and Mrs ██████████ has been set for the boys' Easter holidays (31 March to 11 April). It is likely that the boys will require respite care during these holidays, and it is hoped that respite placements will be arranged with their potential respective new carers to allow the boys to become familiarised with their potential new families.

As a result of changing placements it may be necessary for the boys to move school; appropriate consideration can be given to this when the boys' new placements have been identified.

ABOUT ██████████ AND HIS VIEWS





ABOUT WILLIAM AND HIS VIEWS

William is a stocky and sturdy boy with short dark hair. William believes he is "his own master" and acts accordingly. Sometimes proving to be a warmly loving boy, at other times, an angry, pugnacious and stubborn "wee man". William likes to get the most out of life and enjoys being the centre of attention. William likes to play outside and has some particular fascinations - for dogs, diggers/tractors, vans and workmen.

William began Primary One at St Clements in August 1996, and has settled to some extent, though his concentration is poor. William attended Lilybank Child and Family Centre before this, and we feel that he misses the freedom of the Centre. At school William can be quite demanding with his peers but this can be managed by the responsible adults.

William has had some "sexual" contacts with [REDACTED] and at times "acts out" by "flashing". This whole area of the boys behaviour is closely monitored by the carers and myself, and our feeling is that it may not be possible to prevent the behaviour when the boys are living together. However equally simply separating them is not necessarily likely to stop all future behaviour. At one stage William did seem prepared to talk with Mrs [REDACTED] about the sexual activity, however his present ambivalence to Mrs [REDACTED] because of his feelings about having to move, are preventing him from continuing with this.

William's behaviour, which had been expressing a significant degree of attachment to Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] has altered over the weeks of his waiting for the move to happen.

William expresses less concern than [REDACTED] about returning to his father's care. Generally William's behaviour indicates that he is quite desperate to be claimed.

William says that he thinks it would be 'good' to be living separately from [REDACTED] though I would wish to highlight for William, as for [REDACTED] that their particular view should be tempered by our understanding of their use of each other as scapegoat/target.

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██████████ and William Tarbett

PARENTAL CONTACT

██████████ William and their sister, ██████████ have four weekly contact with Mr Tarbett. This is for one hour, supervised, as specified by the Children's Hearing, and usually takes place at the Whitfield Social Work Department.

Mr Tarbett is usually accompanied by his adult daughter ██████████ and her two year old daughter, ██████████ whom the children seem pleased to see. The atmosphere is generally relaxed with Mr Tarbett more focused on, if not actively playing with, the children.

██████████ William and ██████████ contact with Ms Robertson, their mother, has gradually been reduced to monthly by agreement. This now takes place for one hour every four weeks at Whitfield Child and Family Centre and is supervised. During contact, the children tend to compete for attention with ██████████ being particularly resentful of any demands made by the others.

PARENTAL VIEWS RE FUTURE

Mr Tarbett believes he is well able to provide adequate care for the children and to meet their needs. He would reject any suggestion that his own attitudes or behaviour may be detrimental to the children's welfare. He is strongly opposed to the plans of the Social Work Department to seek permanent placements for the children.

Ms Robertson acknowledges that she would experience difficulties in coping with the demands of caring for ██████████ or William and would wish them to have an experience of a secure and stable home. She is currently not opposing the departmental plans regarding permanency.

ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Tarbett's view of what is best for the boys ie their returning to his care, is opposed by this department, based upon the past history of care as well as our opinion about the present lack of emotional care he demonstrates when, for example, he tells the boys that their mother does not have any love for them.

Ms Robertson has acknowledged that she is not able to resume care of the boys.

This department's considered opinion is that ██████████ and William will benefit from moving into separate foster placements, because their present violent and disruptive relationship acts against their individual welfare.

It is a great disappointment for everyone that long-term placements have not been identified for the boys, and that therefore this will not be their final move in care. However it will remain my responsibility to ensure that the boys are supported through this difficult stage and I will endeavour to carry this out to the best of my ability, with the support of colleagues in this department and from within the Education Department, (regarding plans for the boys' education).

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██████████ and William Tarbett

I request that the Children's Hearing consider varying ██████████ and William's Supervision Orders to name alternative foster placements. Details of the new placements will be available to the Hearing. I request that the present conditions regarding parental contact remain in force.

Barbe McIn

Social Worker
Permanence Team

06.03.97
PM/CK
A019FULL/barbe_mw

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Prepared by PHILLIP MCGILL/
Social Worker MARGARET LESLIE
☎ 436031

SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT CHILDREN'S HEARING

The following child:-

Surname	TARBETT	Date of Birth	1 [REDACTED] 2 [REDACTED] 3 09.07.91
Christian Names or Forenames	1 [REDACTED] 2 [REDACTED] 3 WILLIAM	Religion	
School	1 ST CLEMENTS PS, DUNDEE 2 KINLOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL, CARNOUSTIE 3 ST CLEMENTS PS, DUNDEE		
Address	1 C/O [REDACTED] 2 C/O [REDACTED] 3 C/O [REDACTED]		

is to appear on MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1996 at DUNDEE Children's Hearing

in connection with _____

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

PLANNING

[REDACTED] and William have now been formally approved by the Social Work Department as in need of permanent care. It is felt that, in view of the children's differing needs, separate placements should be sought. Attempts have begun to identify permanent family placements.



MR TARBETT'S RECENT CONTACT WITH THE CHILDREN

At his last access to the children, on 10 October 1996, Mr Tarbett pointed out to the children (when showing them a collection of photographs from access visits) one torn photograph of William, which Mr Tarbett said had been torn by their mother when she was drunk.

At a meeting with Mr Tarbett, on 21 October 1996, we recommended that he should not discuss the children's mother with them in this way as it maintains for the children the sense of turmoil which existed between Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson when the children lived with them. Mr Tarbett's response was to say that he feels he should be entitled to discuss with his children any matter he wishes.

The children had access with their mother on 22 October 1996. Later that day, Mr Tarbett drove past [redacted] and William's foster home, stopped outside the house to talk to the boys, and was overheard asking the boys if they had seen their mother and, if they had, what she had said to them.

Social Worker
Permanence Team

Social Worker
Permanence Team

30.10.96
PM/ML/LA
AO19R_Z/SUPP/tarb_fam

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SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT CHILDREN'S HEARING

The following child:-

Surname

TARBETT

Date of Birth

3 09 07 91

Christian Names or
Forenames

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 William

Religion

School

1 St Clements PS, Dundee
2 Kinloch Primary School, Carnoustie
3 St Clements PS, Dundee

Address

1 c/o [REDACTED]
2 c/o [REDACTED]
3 c/o [REDACTED]

Occupation

is to appear on

Date to be arranged

at

Dundee

Children's Hearing

in connection with

48(3) ANNUAL REVIEW

BASIS OF REPORT

[REDACTED] and William Tarbett are currently in the care of the Local Authority under Section 44(1)(a) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. This report is based on departmental records relating to social work contact with the family. The current social workers for the children have been involved since February of this year.

The social worker for Michael and William is Phillip McGill, and for Linda is Margaret Leslie.

FAMILY STRUCTURE

Mother - Ms Linda Archer (k/a Robertson) (27), lives outwith Dundee

Father - Mr David Tarbett (49), 7d Bonnethill Court, Dundee

Child - William Tarbett (5), c/o Mr & Mrs McMaster, 25 Napier Drive, Dundee

FAMILY BACKGROUND

██████████ and William Tarbett are the children of Mr David Tarbett and Ms Linda Robertson. The couple apparently met in 1986 and their subsequent relationship has been characterised by frequent separations, usually involving violence and acrimony. During such times, care of the children has alternated between the parents and included a previous period in the care of the Local Authority.

In the main, it would seem that Mr Tarbett has been able to meet the physical needs of the children. However, there have been past concerns about exposure to violence between adults and Mr Tarbett's tendency to involve the children in his disputes with their mother, and his general attitude towards any advice or assistance regarding the care of the children.

Ms Robertson has had periodic difficulties in relation to alcohol and this has contributed to her inability to provide consistent and stable care.

The parents have been separated this time since early 1995. Mr Tarbett continues to reside in Dundee. Ms Robertson has accommodation outside the area.

HISTORY OF SOCIAL WORK INVOLVEMENT/CARE OF CHILDREN

The Social Work Department have been involved with Mr Tarbett's 5 children from a previous marriage, all of whom have spent periods in the care of the Local Authority. These children are now adults and would seem to have regular contact with their father (including residence).

The Social Work Department first became involved with the family between 1989 and 1992. This was initially as a result of ██████████ being made subject to statutory supervision via Matrimonial Proceedings. Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson had separated and father had been granted custody of ██████████

The parents subsequently reconciled. Concerns began to develop regarding the stability of Mr Tarbett's and Ms Robertson's relationship, the resultant changes of address, the level of hostility between the parents and mother's ability to manage the children on her own.

Concerns escalated following the birth of [REDACTED] the children's youngest brother, in December 1992. Social Work records indicate numerous incidents involving parental separations, acrimony, and the children moving address. There were difficulties in the Social Work Department being able to engage with either parent - in Ms Robertson's case, due to constant "crises", Mr Tarbett was noted to be very negative regarding social work involvement and would reject concerns about the impact his behaviour was having on the children.

There was a subsequent referral to the Children's Hearing and on the 15 June 1993, [REDACTED] and William, were made subject to Supervision Requirements under Section 44(1)(a) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, naming their father's home as place of residence.

The experiences of the children continued much as before. [REDACTED] was referred to Polepark Family Counselling Centre due to concerns about his aggressive and sexualised behaviour.

In January 1994, Mr Tarbett requested the children be received into care.

They returned to the care of their father approximately two weeks later.

There were continuing attempts to work with the parents towards providing more consistent and stable care and an attempt to increase their awareness of the impact of their behaviour on the children. An assessment of the care of the children was also pursued. This involved a variety of agencies, including Polepark Family Counselling Centre, Lilybank Family Centre and St Matthews Family Centre.

This effected no significant changes in terms of the emotional care of the children. Additionally, Mr Tarbett was extremely resistant to having social work contacts for either himself or the children.

On the 22 September 1994, the children were admitted to the care of the Social Work Department on a place of safety order. This was due to concerns about the children's behaviour, the level of parental supervision in the home and the difficulties experienced by the Social Work Department in monitoring the situation given Mr Tarbett's hostility in this respect.

[REDACTED] and William were initially placed with foster carers Mr & Mrs [REDACTED] in Dundee, moving to their current placement in December 1995.

[REDACTED] was placed with a foster carer in Broughty Ferry, moving to her present placement in October 1994.

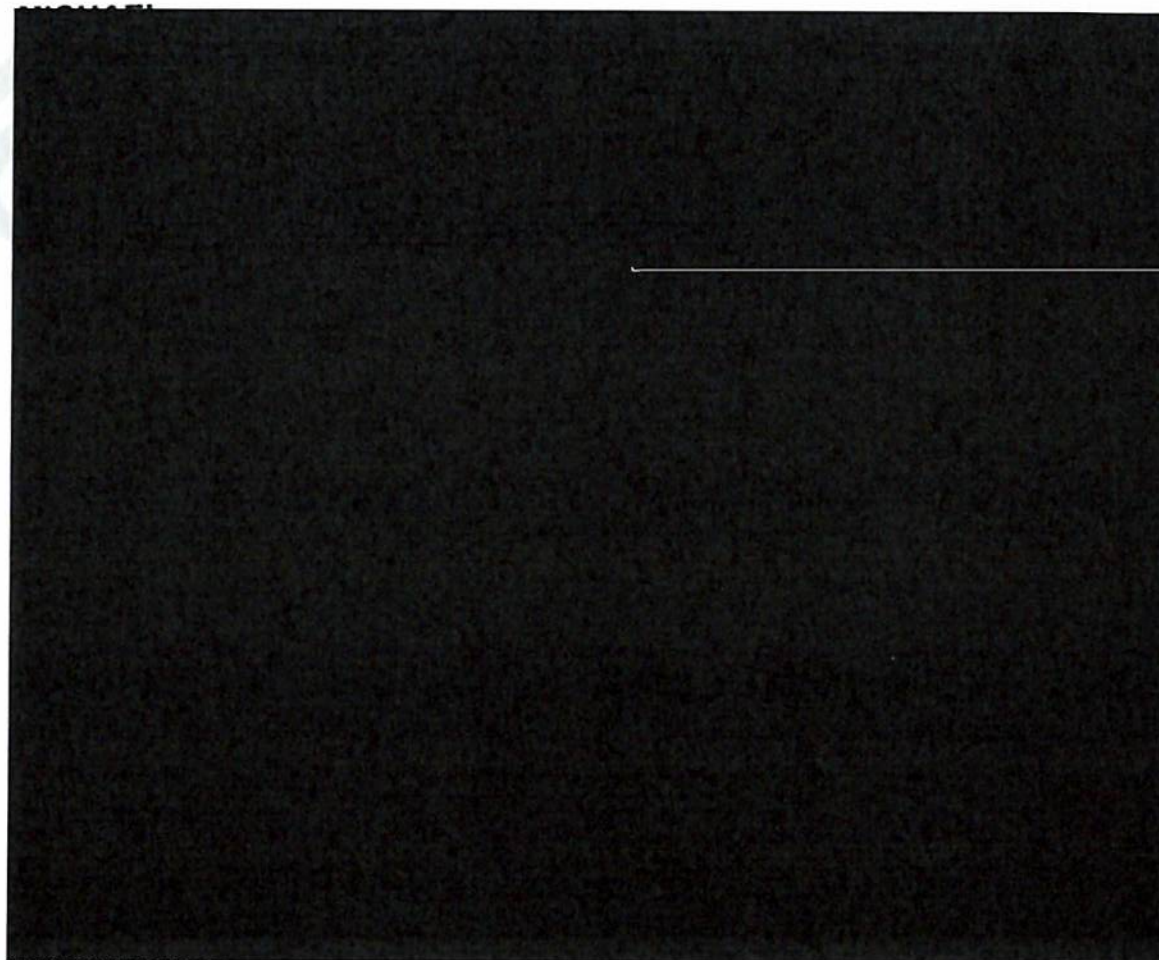
The Social Work Department began to assess the possibility of rehabilitation with Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson, who were at that time reconciled. This assessment concluded it to be unlikely that the parents could effect improvements in the care of children which would enable their needs to be met, and provide stability and security. Mr Tarbett did not recognise any major difficulties regarding his care of the children. Ms Robertson was able to acknowledge her own difficulties and was

uncertain regarding her future relationship with Mr Tarbett and her ability to manage the children and provide stability, even with help and support.

As a result, the Social Work Department felt that it would not be in the children's best long-term interests to return to the care of either parent as it was unlikely that previous patterns would change. The plan would therefore be to seek permanent alternative placements.

Given the plans, and the difficulties in Mr Tarbett's relationship with previous social workers (including harassment and verbal abuse) social workers from the Permanence Team became involved in February of this year.

The children's circumstances were considered by the Social Work Department's "Permanence Panel" on the 29 August 1996. This forms part of departmental procedures in respect of permanence planning for children and a recommendation is made as to the appropriateness of social work plans. A decision is currently being awaited regarding authorisation to seek permanent placements. It is felt that in view of the children's needs and demands separate placements may need to be sought. In this event, contact between the children and their parents, would be arranged on a regular basis.

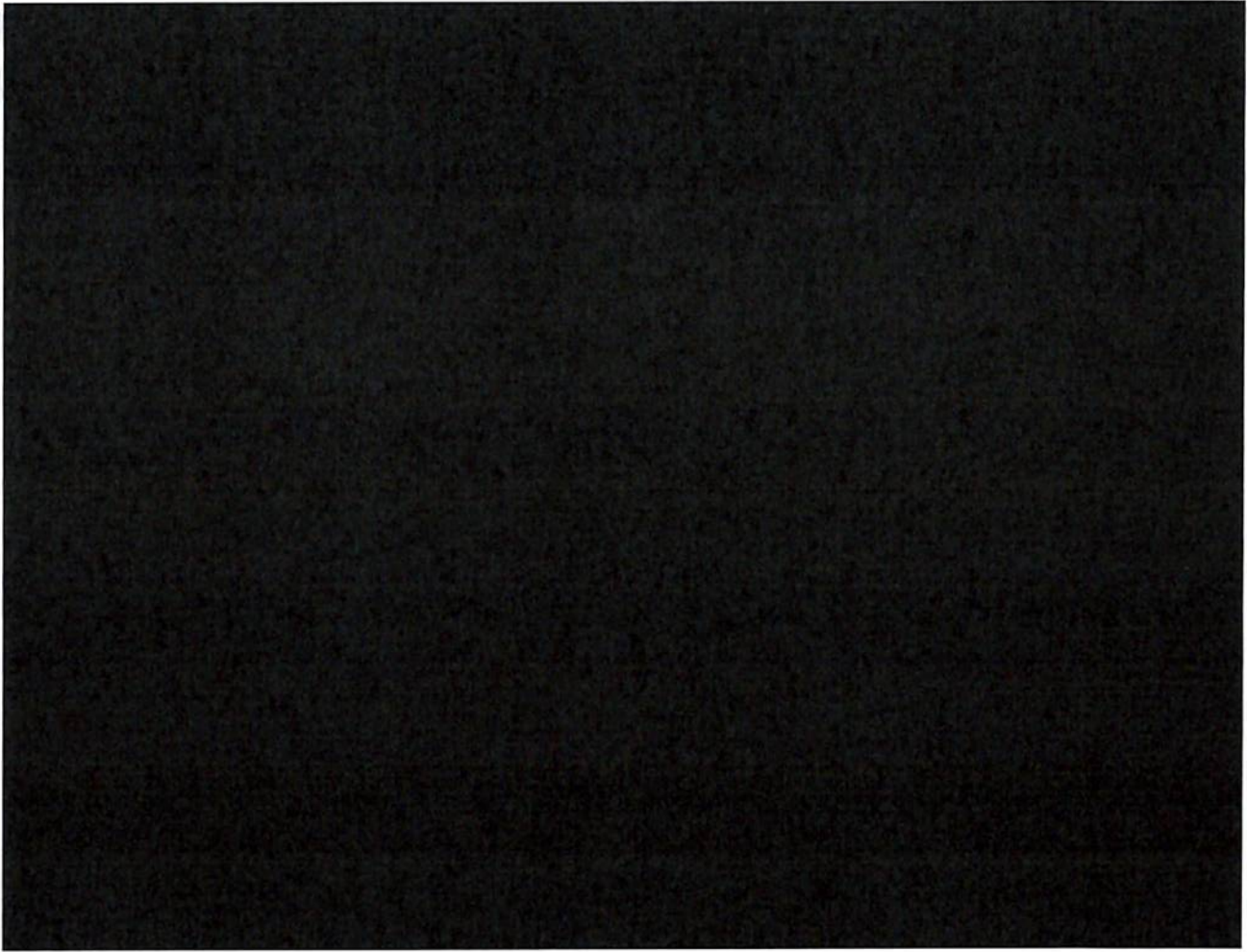


WILLIAM

William is a stocky and sturdy boy with short dark hair. William believes he is "his own master" and acts accordingly. Sometimes proving to be a warmly loving boy, at other times, an angry, pugnacious and stubborn "wee man". William likes to get the most out of life and enjoys being the centre of attention. William likes to play outside and has some particular fascinations - for dogs, diggers/tractors, vans and workmen.

William has just begun Primary One at St Clements, and is finding his feet in the school environment. William attended Lilybank Child and Family Centre until this summer, where he felt able to express himself and enjoy his play. William can be quite demanding with his peers but this can be managed by the responsible adults.

William has had some "sexual" contacts with [REDACTED] and at times "acts out" by "flashing". Recently William has told Mrs [REDACTED] that he wants [REDACTED] to stop [REDACTED]. This whole area of the boys behaviour is closely monitored by the carers and myself, and our feeling is that it may not be possible to prevent the behaviour when the boys are living together. However equally simply separating them is not necessarily likely to stop all future behaviour. William's being prepared to talk to Mrs [REDACTED] may indicate he is now sufficiently confident in his attachment to her to feel he can allie himself with her rather than, as in the past, with [REDACTED].



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PARENTAL CONTACT

The children have four weekly contact with Mr Tarbett. This is for one hour, supervised, as specified by the Children's Hearing, and usually takes place at the Whitfield Social Work Department.

Mr Tarbett is usually accompanied by his adult daughter [REDACTED] and her two year old daughter, [REDACTED] whom the children seem pleased to see. The atmosphere is generally relaxed with Mr Tarbett more focused on, if not actively playing with, the children. All three children are currently expressing a desire to continue seeing their father and this would appear related to the reduction in Mr Tarbett's hostility/anger toward workers during such contact. There would be no recommendation to increase the current frequency of contact as this seems to be at a level which the children can manage and has only recently been experienced as positive.

The children's contact with Ms Robertson, their mother, has gradually been reduced to monthly by agreement. This now takes place for one hour every four weeks at Whitfield Child and Family Centre and is supervised. [REDACTED] and William seem to enjoy seeing their mother. During contact, the children tend to compete for attention with [REDACTED] being particularly resentful of any demands made by the others. In varying degrees, all three children have demonstrated an anxiety about the reduction in contact with their mother.

PARENTAL VIEWS RE FUTURE

Mr Tarbett believes he is well able to provide adequate care for the children and to meet their needs. He would reject any suggestion that his own attitudes or behaviour may be detrimental to the children's welfare. He is strongly opposed to the plans of the Social Work Department to seek permanent placements for the children.

Ms Robertson acknowledges that she would experience difficulties in coping with the demands of caring for [REDACTED] and William and would wish them to have an experience of a secure and stable home. She is currently not opposing the departmental plans regarding permanency.

ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The children do not appear to have experienced much security and stability whilst in the care of their parents. Their physical needs may have been met but there was a great deal of concern about the extent to which the children's emotional and social development was being adversely affected by the relationship and conflict between the parents.

In view of past experiences, stability and long-term security are crucial to maximise the future development of all three children. There is nothing to suggest a change in the circumstances of either parent which would enable the needs of [REDACTED] and William to be met in this respect.

Mr Tarbett continues to appear pre-occupied with the circumstances of the children's mother and should he resume care it is likely that the previous pattern of conflict and acrimony would re-emerge. Furthermore, he would not accept that, at times, his own behaviour and attitudes can create anxiety and distress to the children.

Ms Robertson is not at present requesting the children be returned to her care and is currently accepting of plans made by the Social Work Department.

It is therefore recommended that [REDACTED] and William Tarbett remain in the care of the Local Authority and that the Supervision Requirements in terms of Section 44(1)(a) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, continue as before.

Margaret Aclue

Social Worker
Permanence Team

Social Worker
Permanence Team

ML/PMcG/LM
18.09.96
(AO19r-y/tarb_mlw)

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Social Work Department
6 Kirkton Road
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Prepared by PHILLIP MCGILL/
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436031

SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT
CHILDREN'S HEARING

The following child:-

Surname	TARBETT	Date of Birth	1 [REDACTED] 2 [REDACTED] 3 09.07.91
Christian Names or Forenames	1 [REDACTED] 2 [REDACTED] 3 WILLIAM	Religion	
School	1 ST CLEMENTS PS, DUNDEE 2 KINLOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL, CARNOUSTIE 3 ST CLEMENTS PS, DUNDEE		
Address	1 C/O [REDACTED] 2 C/O [REDACTED] 3 C/O [REDACTED]		
is to appear on	MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1996	at	DUNDEE Children's Hearing
in connection with			

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

PLANNING

[REDACTED] and William have now been formally approved by the Social Work Department as in need of permanent care. It is felt that, in view of the children's differing needs, separate placements should be sought. Attempts have begun to identify permanent family placements.



MR TARBETT'S RECENT CONTACT WITH THE CHILDREN

At his last access to the children, on 10 October 1996, Mr Tarbett pointed out to the children (when showing them a collection of photographs from access visits) one torn photograph of William, which Mr Tarbett said had been torn by their mother when she was drunk.

At a meeting with Mr Tarbett, on 21 October 1996, we recommended that he should not discuss the children's mother with them in this way as it maintains for the children the sense of turmoil which existed between Mr Tarbett and Ms Robertson when the children lived with them. Mr Tarbett's response was to say that he feels he should be entitled to discuss with his children any matter he wishes.

The children had access with their mother on 22 October 1996. Later that day, Mr Tarbett drove past [REDACTED] and William's foster home, stopped outside the house to talk to the boys, and was overheard asking the boys if they had seen their mother and, if they had, what she had said to them.

Social Worker
Permanence Team

Social Worker
Permanence Team

30.10.96
PM/ML/LA
AO19R_Z/SUPP/tarb_fam