

16.4.79. Returned to work from a week's leave to hear about the Andrews children being in care.

Later. Rang Shelter. Children O.K. Had a visit from Grandmother yesterday. Mrs. Andrews and Mr. Bremner at office to see about the children getting home. Seemingly no one had been able to find them on Friday and they had not come to the office or telephoned.

See
XX 12/4/79.

Mr. Gaston and I saw Mrs. Andrew and Mr. Brebner. They said that they had spent all Friday phoning around trying to get in touch with Mr. Nicoll and had just been passed from one number to another. They had gone to Mrs. Markie's to find she was not there and they had eventually seen her at AUncle David's. It was pointed out to them that every effort had been made to contact them by this Dept.

I asked what had happened. Mrs. Andrew blamed her mother for causing trouble and calling the police (she did not say that she had been hit by Mr. Bremner nor did she say that it was ~~HELE~~ who had phoned the police). She said that there had been no need to take the children into care. I explained that my concern went further than the "incident last Thursday" and that I had been most disappointed that they had moved house without letting me know. I added that I had been concerned about the children as I had heard that they have not been happy and that they have been complaining about the amount of drinking that Mrs. Andrews and Mr. Bremner have been doing. Mrs. Andrews denied the drinking and said the children were perfectly happy at home. On the question of her moving house without letting me know all she could say was that they did not know they were moving until the last minute (the children, however, had been able to tell their teachers a few days previous).

Mr. Bremner was a lot pushier than Mrs. Andrews and said that they wanted to know if they could have the children home today.

Discussed position with Mr. Gaston. We felt we had no grounds for holding children and that they should be allowed home. However, we agreed that first of all we would do a home visit to check that things are o.k. there and that I see the children in the Shelter first to make sure that they want to go home. (I had heard from staff at St. Francis' that they were saying they would like to stay there). We also thought it would be a good idea to ask a family helper to call in regularly to see what was going on. The reporter is to be informed of recent events and a review requested.

Told Mrs. Andrews that we would collect the children this evening around 6-7 pm. as I explained we would like to visit home and the children first. Mrs. Andrews accepted this and did not raise any objections to family helper visiting. She was not too happy about us calling a hearing.

Told Mrs. Andrews and Mr. Bremner that we would be visiting early afternoon. They left to go to Education Dept to find out about enrolling the children at school in Fintry.

Client Copy

This house in Cheviot Crescent belongs to Mr. Bremner. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mr. Bremner could be quite a difficult customer to deal with.

GN.

2.30 Called at 22 Cheviot Cres. with Mr. Gaston. Found noone at home, despite their knowing that we would be visiting. I left a message saying that I thought it would be best if they postponed collecting the children until they had had a further discussion with me. I suggested they call to see me at the office tomorrow at 10 a.m.

4.30 Called at the Shelter to be told that children had been taken home by Mrs. Andrews and Mr. Bremner. Mr. Gaston had phoned to say that we had no reason to keep them if parents insist on taking them to let them go. David, Helen and Sharon out of care.

Seemingly Mr. Gaston had received a telephone call from Mrs. Andrews and Mr. Bremner. Said they had not been at home for our visit because they had had to go to Fintry Primary. The conversation had got a bit heated and when Mr. Gaston had said that he still felt it would be best if they waited until tomorrow before collecting the children, Mr. Bremner asked if the police would be called if they just took the children. Mr. Gaston said "no" but added that this would be reported to the Children's Panel.

GN

17.4.79 Telephoned *Jillian* to let Miss *Anderson* know about Andrews Children. She had heard nothing.

GN

Visited with Mr. Gaston. Only David and Mr. Bremner at home. Mrs. Andrews and the girls had gone to Gilburn P. to get transfer slips. Children can be enrolled at Fintry Pr. on Thursday. House seemed clean enough and David was content in front of T.V. He had little to say for himself. I asked Mr. Bremner if he would ask Mrs. Andrews to phone me this afternoon as I would like to arrange for her to meet family helper.

Later Mrs. Andrews telephoned.

** 12.4.79
X X 5.20 PM

Phone call from a houseparent at St. Francis Children's Home. She said that Mrs. Markie had arrived at the home, with her three grandchildren David, [REDACTED] Andrews, and had asked for the children to be admitted there. Mrs. Markie said that her daughter, the children's mother, had been assaulted by her (the daughter's) co-habitee, and while this was happening, Mrs. Markie boarded a bus, with the children and took them to St. Francis. I asked the houseparent to put the children up for the night, and that she should ask Mrs. Markie to come to the office to see me.

6.05 Office visit by Mrs. Markie. She said that David, the oldest child, had been staying with her for Easter, and that his mother had come to visit her, bringing the other two children with her. Once in the house, the daughter,

20.04.79

Home Visit. Children had been sent for supper. I did not gain a chance to speak to them. Mrs. Andrews very talkative saying children were quite settled.

H. Smith.

24.04.79

Home Visit. Mrs. Andrews and Mr. Brebner at home. David at training, Helen had gone with him. Sharon at home doing homework with Mrs. Andrews. Sharon very happy to see us. Mrs. Andrews stated that the children were being a bit difficult about going down to sleep as they seemed to be afraid in the dark. Mr. Brebner polite but not much conversation. Mrs. Andrews has still not had contact with her mother. They had received letter for children's panel.

H. Smith.

27.04.79

Called at 4 p.m. on Andrews family. Sharon and Helen at home with Mrs. Andrews and a cousin. Mr. Brebner came back about 4.20 p.m. with young David. Mr. Brebner had been to collect social security. He did not acknowledge me and the children were off unkept appearance and were not clean. I left about 4.30 p.m. The children and Mrs. Andrews saw me out and Mrs. Andrews mentioned that she had been to her mother's a couple of times and things were slightly better between them. Mr. Brebner still did not acknowledge me.

H. Smith.

1.05.79

Home Visit with Mrs. Norris, S.W.

H. Smith.

4.05.79

Home Visit with Mrs. Norrie, S.W.

H. Smith.

16.05.79

Home Visit to Mrs. Markie who has been given care of children till next hearing. Grandmother managing very well, children far brighter and cleaner looking. Mother had called occasionally but was not too concerned about them at this point in time.

H. Smith.

22.05.79

Home Visit to Mrs. Markie. Children very happy. Mrs. Andrews "mother" had been showing more interest and spending a little more time with the children. Mrs. Andrews in her mother's house when I called and talked continuously about the children, but did not seem at this point willing to stop relationship with Mr. Brebner.

H. Smith.

23.05.79

Mrs. Andrews called into the office.

H. Smith.

24.05.79

Home Visit to Mrs. Markie

Mrs. Andrews has been seeing another friend

Graham who has been taking her and kids out. Mrs. Andrews has planned to meet Mr. Brembner at Perth on Saturday. Mrs. Markie does not expect to see her daughter over the weekend because of this.

H. Smith.

28.05.79 Mrs. Markie had not seen Mrs. Andrews all wekkend. Mrs. Andrews had also failed to come along with family allowance, Mrs. Markie very short of money. Social Security informed.

H. Smith.

6.06.79 Mrs. Markie into office after panel hearing. Mrs. Markie awarded custody of kids. Family Allowance Book to be sent off to Newcastle to be adjusted to her name; in the meantime she is to get money added to her pension book.

H. Smith.

8.06.79 Home Visit. Mrs. Markie coping quite well, kids very happy but quite bitter about mother. They are happy to be with gran and are helping about the house etc.

H. Smith.

11.06.79 Mrs. Markie still managing fine, in fact she stressed that she really could not be without them. Mrs. Andrews has not visited.

H. Smith.

15.06.79 Home Visit. Mrs. Markie got back pension book today for money. Her cooker has been sorted, and arrangements have been made to go to the corporation about a bigger house. Mrs. Andrews had been up to see her mother and had brought two coats for David. Mr. Brembner has said he is going to appeal to the panel for the children. Some word of Mrs. Andrews going down South.

H. Smith.

6.07.79 Met Mrs. Markie and Helen, Sharon and David while they were in the office with Mrs. Smith. They all seemed quite happy. Mrs. Markies Giro hadn't arrived. Miss Fraser telephoned and she was assured it would arrive next day. Mrs. Markie asked if it was possible to get a chest of drawers. This is to be looked into. Also I said I would make enquiries about the Queen Victoria School at Dunblane as she wondered if David might be eligible for this school.

J. Rennie.

10.07.79 Mrs. Smith told me that Mrs. Markie could do with some sheets. W.R.V.S. have some. I've to call on Friday.

J. Rennie.

13.07.79 Valled on W.R.V.S. and managed to get 2 pairs of sheets and a pair of pillow-slips.

J. Rennie.

ANDREWSSHEET 3

- 18.07.79 Visited Mrs. Markie with Mrs. Smith and she seems to be coping although the children are obviously a handful to her. She is obviously making a big effort in bringing her house up to scratch for the housing inspector. There is one neighbour (daughter of the tenant upstairs) who is always complaining. I tried to tell her not to let her worry her too much. She said she was keeping her temper for the sake of the children.
- J. Rennie.
- 19.07.79 Discussed Mrs. Markie and the Andrew's children with Mr. Gaston regarding the possibility of fostering allowance for them. This would relieve their financial difficulties and raise the children's standard of care. We are to discuss this with Mr. Middleton on his return from holiday.
- J. Rennie.
- 24.07.79 Mrs. Markie called in at the office to say her Giro cheque was only £16 instead of £38. I 'phoned the N.H.S.S. and they said her book was being processed and she should receive it tomorrow. Mrs. Markie also admitted she was worried about her electric bill. As her cheque was short she couldn't pay it and she had received a final demand. I 'phoned N.S.H.E.B. and explained the situation. She is to pay it as soon as she can. Gave her £3 Direct Aid this afternoon when I called on her.
- J. Rennie.
- 25.07.79 Mrs. Markie 'phoned to say she had received her book but could not draw any money until Friday. Rang N.H.S.S. and they assured me her book was made out to draw on Monday past. Visited Mrs. Markie and checked her books. They were made out as she said for Friday. Gave her the £30 received on her behalf from B.B.C. Appeal Fund. Arranged to take her books to Social Security for her. S.S. agreed the books were wrong. They are to get a giro in the post today.
- Discussed the situation with Mr. Middleton and Mr. Gaston. It was agreed to authorize payments of fostering allowance as an interim basis and start the process of approving Mrs. Markie.
- J. Rennie.
- 26.07.79 Mr. Middleton said it would be in order to apply for school clothing for the children and the initial clothing allowance.
- J. Rennie.
- 26.07.79 Returned Mrs. Markie's books to her this afternoon and told her the outcome of our meeting. I have warned her that we cannot guarantee that the approval will go through. She fully understands the position with regards to medical and housing reports.

31.07.79

Called on Mrs. Markie with Miss Gordon to explain fostering situation and she signed the application form. The house was tidy compared to usual. David, Helen and Sharon were there usual cheery selves with a lot to say. Mrs. Markie informed me that Mrs. Andrews had called at the week-end and is in the Dundee area for a 'few weeks'. She was concerned for her daughter's health. She seemingly has lost a lot of weight. Mrs. Markie is calling in at the office on Thursday to discuss school uniforms.

J. Rennie.

2.08.79

Mrs. Markie called into the office with school uniform list. Issued her with initial clothing allowance. The children were 'full of beans'.

J. Rennie.

6.09.79

Helen Smith was to meet David at 4.15 p.m. today. As she is off sick I decided to keep this appointment with him. I waited until 4.45 p.m. but he did not turn up. Called in to see Mrs. Markie and she told me that David had just left! I explained I had expected to see him at 4.15. I said I would visit them again soon.

J. Rennie.

19.09.79

Visited Mrs. Markie. The children were home for lunch. David was full of the cold and was going to have the afternoon off. Mrs. Markie says the children are presently no real problems and are quite a help to her at times. No word of a bigger house yet.

J. Rennie.

3.10.79

Quick visit to invite the children to our bus outing tomorrow. I thought it would give Gran a break. At first David said he didn't want to go but he was just fooling around. Arranged to pick them up next day. Mrs. Andrews is now ~~finding~~ living in Dundee. I got her address from Mrs. Markie. She had the children for a day. I want to talk this over with Mrs. Markie on her own.

J. Rennie.

4.10.79

Picked up the children. They had a good day at the farm but the girls were quite cheeky on the bus home. Gave them a lift home.

J. Rennie.

7.11.80. I have been visiting still on a weekly basis. I find it increasingly difficult to find Mrs. Markie at home. Mrs. Markie eventually appeared at the office to see me after I had left letters at her house for her to contact me. I have had the impression that on numerous occasions that I have called she has been there but has not answered the door. Mrs. Markie told me at the office she definitely was to give up the tenancy of her house at the end of November!! Mrs. Markie was agreeable to having the children at home with her for that weekend.

Later I called at Carolina House to escort the children home as I had informed Mrs. Markie we would be with her at 4.45 p.m. Mr. Tosh, Officer-in-Charge at Carolina House informed me that the weekend previous Mrs. Markie had taken only David for the weekend and not the girls. Mrs. Markie had not mentioned this to me. I wondered if she had disposed of her beds and bedding. Sharon and Helen were pleased to see me but David would not say anything, nor answer any of the questions I put to him.

David appears to be presenting more difficulties towards the staff whereas the girls are becoming more settled. We arrived at Gran's at 5.15 p.m. No lights on and no one at home. We sat for 10-15 minutes then I took the kids to the shops. They were becoming very anxious. We returned at 6 p.m. There were still no lights on but this time the door was ajar and Mrs. Markie hurried to the stair and told the children to come in. I was not invited in and Mrs. Markie offered no explanation as to why she was late. The children informed me in the car that Mrs. Markie had changed her name to Ballantyne. I informed my senior Mr. Nicoll on Monday of what had taken place.

The children's natural mother Mrs. Janette Andrews has not had any contact with us for a number of months. The children's natural father called at the office in August to express a desire to see them again. Mr. Andrews has not been in touch since. Mr. Andrews has 3 young boys of his own and his

H. Smith

10.11.80. I decided to visit Mrs. Markie's daughter Mrs. Khan, 8 Hepburn Street. Mrs. Khan has always taken an interest in the children. I wondered if Mrs. Khan would have any knowledge if Mrs. Markie was actually giving up the house at Mid Craigie.

I found Mrs. Khan more than anxious to co-operate. She expressed concern about David having taken him, along with Sharon and Helen and her own two boys to the swimming at the October fast, found his behaviour intolerable. Mrs. Khan who is a very patient capable lady informed me that David bullied and threatened the other children to the stage that the girls were frightened to return to Carolina with him. He challenged Mrs. Khan in front of the Leisure Centre to fight and to Mrs. Khan's embarrassment continued in this manner of shouting/

Client Copy
shouting and swearing right through the town. Mrs. Khan thinks her mother
is not able even at the weekends to cope with the children. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

H. Smith.

ANDREWS/MARKIE

Summary

I have visited Mrs. Markie on a three times weekly basis, while children were there for school holidays. Once again the impression came over that Mrs. Markie stresses that she can cope - children no bother and not too much work for her, when all along you feel this is not so. The children can easily manoeuvre Granny into whatever they want to do and she cannot or does not seem to be able to assert much authority over them. Children's natural mother Mrs. J. Andrews frequently visits Granny but really for her own gain i.e. nowhere to go, no money or food etc. This attitude upsets the children greatly. Towards end of school holidays Mrs. Markie asked me to call to have a talk with her. Mrs. Markie informed me then that she wished and had in fact done so to give up the tenancy of her house. Once again she stressed that she ~~housed~~ and wanted the children very much, and reasons behind giving up tenancy were that she was frightened and lonely on her own!! I feel this lady cannot bring herself to admit she just cannot cope. Mrs. Markie has made arrangements to go and stay with her brother who has a two-roomed apartment and also Mrs. Markie intends to give all her furniture away which is another indication that Mrs. Markie does not intend to set up house again in the near future. The children were present while Mrs. Markie had told me about her plans for the future.

14th Aug.

Received 'phone call from Mr. Tosh, Carolina House. The three Andrews children had been caught smoking plus David [redacted] had stayed off school the first day back. When questioned where they had obtained money to buy cigarettes [redacted] David admitted to stealing four pounds from an Uncle Alec whom they had visited while they were truanting. David [redacted] also admitted they had taken money to the sum of thirty pounds from Mrs. Markie's purse. [redacted] had not admitted to taking the money but had been willing to share in the spoils. Mrs. Markie had not apparently noticed the money missing!!

15th Aug.

Visited children at Carolina House. At first they did not seem to be repentant at what they had done. Only very resentful at not being allowed to visit Granny for a full week plus pay the money back out of their pocket money as punishment but as they were questioned on their feelings toward Gran the children became very tearful and said they stated they were only stealing to get their own back at Granny for giving up house.

19th Aug.

H.V. Mrs. Markie had said she was willing to have the children this weekend. I gave her the fourteen pounds the children had saved to repay her. I said I would call on Mr. Walker, Carolina House, to see if it was possible for children to go home for weekend. This was agreed by Mr. Walker.

22nd Aug.

Mr. Walker 'phoned to say David was again staying off school and felt case conference was urgent. I called at Carolina to take children home to Granny's. [redacted] David was pretty moody [redacted] is talkative, I told Mr. Walker when Mrs. Rennie, S.W. was back to work she would 'phone and arrange Case Conference.

H.S.