

DR. BARNARDO'S-THORNTOWN SCHOOL-REPORT

Name MARK ASHTON
 Average age of class 14.2
 Number in class 4

Age 13.10

Date MAY 1984
 Height 153 cms.
 Weight 44 kgs.

SUBJECT		
ENGLISH Reading Writing Spoken	C- C- C	Mark's efforts can fluctuate so much but the main disappointment is the amount of effort I have to make to motivate him. P.D.
MATHEMATICS Arithmetic Practical problems Other	C- C	Again, it is Mark's distractability which is preventing any improvement and he is getting well behind in basic understanding.
SCIENCE Physics Chemistry Biology Environmental	C. C-	Mark has ability but finds it very difficult to work in a class group. H.H. I would like to see Mark co-operate a little more and probably he would enjoy the lesson more as a result. A.C.
ART AND CRAFTS	D	Mark has produced a painting but continues to come to lesson. I feel he is settling more & is not quite so obstructive as before. I.C.F.
SOCIAL STUDIES Geography History	D+ C-	Although Mark still does very little work, he is not as disruptive as he used to be. J.M. Mark's oral contributions can be both interesting and valuable. P.H.
DOMESTIC SUBJECTS Baking Sewing	D.	Does not settle well in class. Has been absent for last three weeks.
WOODWORK AND WORKSHOP	D.	Difficulty settling and distracts others. Occasionally shows a spark of interest. A.W.
LANGUAGE		
MUSIC		
GARDENING		
GAMES AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES	C	Mark is very good at gym but finds work in a group difficult. He is easily distracted out of class. E.H.
OTHER INTERESTS OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES		Mark seems to both enjoy and be able in climbing and activities needing physical

HEALTH
 Generally good health

HOUSE REPORT
 Last term I had hopes that Mark was at last benefiting at Thornton. However this term has been a disaster, and I am very concerned about his future.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT
 We are very concerned by the lack of progress Mark is making at Thornton

[Signature]
 Principal

DR. BARNARDO'S—THORNTOUN SCHOOL—REPORT

Name..... Mark Ashton
 Average age of class..... 13.2
 Number in class..... 5

Age..... 13. 3

Date..... October 1983
 Height..... 132 cms.
 Weight..... 45 kgs.

SUBJECT		
ENGLISH Reading Writing Spoken	C	It is pleasing to see the real effort that Mark is making with written work. I look for Mark's oral contribution to improve and we can build to make his work reach a more appropriate standard.
MATHEMATICS Arithmetic Practical problems Other	C-	Mark still needs to make great effort to reach a better standard of numeracy. Feb.
SCIENCE Physics Chemistry Biology	C-	Mark can do well but too often his time is taken up with nonsense when he cannot work. Feb.
ART AND CRAFTS	C-	Mark has achieved very little with his time in my lesson however I feel that he could do well if he settled down and applied himself. Feb.
SOCIAL STUDIES Geography History Environmental	D C C	Mark does not make good use of his class time. However, once or twice there have been signs of him beginning to settle and produce good work. Jan. Mark's effort is improving along with his behaviour Feb. Has produced some good work. A definite improvement AC
DOMESTIC SUBJECTS Baking Sewing		
WOODWORK AND WORKSHOP	C	When Mark is interested in his work he performs well. He is so easily distracted and often distracts others. AW.
LANGUAGE		
MUSIC		
GARDENING		
GAMES AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES	D	Mark could do well in P.E. if he wanted but he wastes too much time trying to distract others. E.M.
OTHER INTERESTS		

HEALTH General health good. CTB

HOUSE REPORT
 Since the summer Mark has tried very hard to settle in the unit but nevertheless has encountered a lot of difficulty. There is plenty of room for improvement, especially in his ability to form appropriate relationships presently he has a knack of annoying others, and then being quite unable to face the consequences.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

Mark is often frightened and aggressive - He has considerable personal experience to contrast with. We would like to see him able to trust us a little more.

J. S. [Signature]
Principal

Name..... MARK ASHTON.....

Age..... 12.8.....

Date..... March 1983.....

Average age of class..... 14.5.....

Height..... cms.....

Number in class..... 6.....

Weight..... kgs.....

SUBJECT		
ENGLISH Reading Writing Spoken	D	Mark has not done much classroom yet as he is in the difficult settling period.
MATHEMATICS Arithmetic Practical problems Other	D D	Mark has done some work but it is too early to judge much of a picture of his abilities. (10) Mark is still settling in. fm
SCIENCE Physics Chemistry Biology Plant	D- D	Mark has done very little work. C.H. Room for improvement. Not keen to write at all. He
ART AND CRAFTS	D C	Mark has not settled sufficiently, as yet, to produce any Art work. JB. Mark's craftwork can be improved when he is more settled. JB
SOCIAL STUDIES Geography History	D	Mark has done little work in the class so far.
DOMESTIC SUBJECTS Baking Sewing		
WOODWORK AND WORKSHOP	C	Mark's theory work is quite satisfactory and I hope that his practical work will improve with greater concentration. JB.
LANGUAGE English Literature	C	Coming along nicely! JB
MUSIC		
GARDENING		
GAMES AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES	C	Mark shows some potential at Games. A P. I. and I will watch for his progress in future. JB.
OTHER INTERESTS		

HEALTH

Good

HOUSE REPORT

Mark has been more settled over the past three weeks.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

Potentially Mark can do very well at Thornstane once he accepts and uses his position here.

J. S. P. [Signature]
Principal

MEDICAL RECORDS

(E)

Normal handwriting pressure (preferably ball-point pen) will produce a duplicate without a carbon

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL RECORD AND IMMUNIZATIONS (before and after admission)

Name..... **MARK ASHTON**

	Please enter date or 'pre adm'					Immunization completed MO's initials
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	
Whooping cough	1970	1970	1971			
Diphtheria	1970	1970	1971	1971		
Tetanus	1970	1970	1971	1971		
Smallpox						
Poliomyelitis	1970	1970	1971	1971		
Tuberculosis	Mantoux result		-	BCG	in infancy	
Any other immunizations	malaria immunisation 1971					

MEDICAL SUMMARY, INCLUDING IMPORTANT ILLNESSES, OPERATIONS, AND HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS, AND NOTES OF ANY TREATMENT OR SPECIAL DIET STILL REQUIRED

(For completion when the child leaves the Home or foster-home for restoration to relatives or for employment, or stays in the foster-home for employment, but NOT when boarded-out or transferred to another Home.)

MO's initials

Date

CMD 285

**BARNARD'S
DIVISIONAL OFFICE
EDINBURGH**

DR. BARNARDO'S

Head Office: Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex

Application Register No. 3277

Divisional Office

FREEDOM FROM INFECTION CERTIFICATE

235 Corstorphine Road
EDINBURGH
EH12 7AR

To be signed by Medical Practitioner.

This is to certify that

MARK ASHTON

is/~~are~~ free from infectious or contagious disease; from all infectious skin complaints; and to the best of my knowledge and belief has/~~have~~ not recently been in contact with any persons suffering from infectious or contagious disease.

SIGNED.....*A.G. Thomas*..... DATE...*30.12.82*.....

223 (12/78)

POST-ADMISSION PAPERS

PRE-ADMISSION PAPERS



CASE NOTES

Name: ASHTON MARK

CARNARDO'S
DIVISIONAL OFFICE
EDINBURGH

23 AUG 1985

Ref'd to HM

Ask

AUGUST 1985

I became Family Social Worker to the Ashtons in April '84, when the previous worker, Cathy Johnson, left.

My Involvement in Mark's situation was influenced by the feelings of Mrs Ashton and school staff that his place at home and at Thorntoun were uncertain and that possible alternatives for his care should be examined.

Around this time, Doug Foreman, the LASW from Kilwinning, who was Mark's Supervising Social Worker, left the Area Team. The new worker, Ian McAlpine, took over just after my initial contact with Mrs Ashton. In the next weeks Mark's situation became more critical with his increased involvement in delinquent acts, running away from home and school and inability to accept controls at home or at school. Due to this, Ian McAlpine, LASW, became more intensively involved in Mark's situation. I maintained contact with Mrs Ashton and liased between her, Ian McAlpine and the school staff but was clear that the Social Work Department had primary responsibility for work with Mark and his family.

FAMILY SITUATION - There was considerable anxiety on Mrs Ashton's part about her responsibility for Mark during the summer holidays and recognition that he might require an emergency residential placement. Mark's Supervision Order, a 441A, had to be reviewed in July and there were further Grounds of Referral in respect of a break-in at a shop.

Mrs Ashton during my contact with her, had stated her inability to cope with Mark but moved between considering other options to Thorntoun, her husband's increased responsibility for Mark and her own rejection of him. A major concern to her was the effect on young Aaron of all the crisis at home surrounding Mark. Mrs Ashton was upset that her husband's contact with the boys, particularly Mark, was so variable. She felt that much of Mark's ongoing difficulty was due to his uncertainty about the relationship with his father and the changeable nature and frequency of their contact.

Divorce proceedings were continuing between Mr & Mrs Ashton with discussion regarding settlements and financial provision for the boys. Mrs Ashton was unhappy that her husband had not paid maintenance for Mark and Aaron since their separation due to his own financial commitments. She felt that he was living comfortably in his Glasgow flat with his girlfriend and she was determined to obtain a lump sum from him as part of their divorce agreement. Mrs Ashton moved between wanting her husband

/...

(2)

increased involvement in Mark's care, even considering his having custody and feeling that Mr Ashton was not interested in his son but wanted to reduce the amount of the lump sum by assuming responsibility for one of the children. Aaron *3rd party information*
3rd party information

Mrs Ashton was concerned that her husband seemed casual about arrangements for the boys, and she was very upset when one weekend Mark stayed with his dad, left the flat on the Saturday and returned to Irvine without telling his father he was going. Mr Ashton did not enquire of her or anyone in the family about Mark's whereabouts. Mrs Ashton felt that her husband was prepared to be seen to do his duty by having the boys to stay with him but was not prepared to accept any real responsibility or do any worrying about them. Despite reservations about her husband's motives, Mrs Ashton was glad of his resumed interest in the boys and his offer to have them to stay with him on alternative weekends and for two weeks during the summer.

SCHOOL - There was a general concensus among Thorntoun staff that Mark would be best helped in a very small, structured List G School further removed geographically from home that would allow him to retain his links with his parents, particularly his mother. It was felt that Thorntoun was too near home and school and that this allowed Mark to run away from difficulties in both situations. Mark's involvement in delinquent activities was regarded as a factor which could result in his placement in a List D School rather than within the maladjusted range and that suitable List G Schools might be reluctant to accept his range of difficulty.

CHILDRENS' HEARING - 11.7.84 - Mark, Mr & Mrs Ashton, Ian McAlpine -LASW, Alison Cuthill - Psychologist and self were at Hearing.

Mark accepted amended new Grounds of Referral and the Review proceeded.

Mr Ashton gave a commitment to be more consistently involved with Mark and blamed much of the difficulty on his wife and her 'neurotic' behaviour. He made it clear that he found Thorntoun unacceptable for Mark and favoured a small boarding school for which he was prepared to pay part of the fees. The Panel members seemed very impressed by Mr Ashton.

/...

Mrs Ashton expressed her distress about Mark and clearly wanted to accept her husband's reassurances, despite his sniping at her.

I put forward Thorntoun's view about an alternative List G placement but mentioned possible placement difficulty due to Mark's involvement in delinquent activity. Panel members made it clear that they were not considering a List D placement.

Ian McAlpine, LASW, suggested possibility of fostering for Mark. A reasonable suggestion in view of the level of parental rejection but he had never discussed this suggestion with Mark or his mother. Both were very upset about this coming out of the blue.

It was eventually decided that a Home Assessment should be completed to examine the available options for Mark more closely. It was recognised tht Mark's behaviour at home could necessitate his emergency admission to an Assessment Centre, in which case the Assessment process would be residentially based.

Mark's difficulties continued in the next weeks with him controlling his behaviour when at hid dad's flat and running off to his mother where he felt safe enough to misbehave. Mrs Ashton felt herself to be under tremendous pressure as a result of this tactic.

Mark returned to Thorntoun at the start of term in August. His behaviour at home and at school continued to be uncontrolled, aggressive and unco-operative.

At a continued Childrens' Hearing on 28th August, Mrs Ashton said that she was not prepared to have Mark home with her as she was afraid for Aaron and herself. Mark had caused another fire in the house and it was sheer accident that she found it before it became dangerous. The Panel decided that Mark should be placed in Balrossie List D school as soon as a place was available. In the meantime Mark returned to Thorntoun under a 'Place of Safety' order naming the school.

It was later learned that Balrossie would be unlikely to be able to offer Mark a place before Christmas. This delay was not felt to be in Marks', or Thorntouns' interests. Mr Scott decided that Mark's placement should be terminated at the end of September.

A review hearing - was held on 26th September when the Panel decided in view of the breakdown at home and at school that Mark should be placed in an Assessment Centre pending his possible placement at Balrossie.

In view of the circumstances it was not appropriate for me to continue to remain involved for the usual period of After-care. Mrs Ashton and I said our good-byes and acknowledged all the sadness that was around for her and for Mark and their worries about the future.

DEVELOPMENTS - Mr Ashton visited Mark at the Assessment Centre and arranged to have him stay with him for odd days and then for a couple of weekends. Ian McAlpine, LASW, took the view that Mark would be best placed living with his father and attending a day unit such as Cartvale, near Mr Ashton's home in Glasgow. Mrs Ashton maintained contact with Mark but was not prepared to have him live with her and Aaron.

I felt that Mr Ashton had shown little commitment to Mark and that a fairly lengthy period of assessment and testing would be required before he assumed responsibility as his primary carer. Ian and I discussed the situation and he clearly felt more positive about the relationship between Mark and his dad than I did. I expressed my anxiety to Ian about Mark not having a safe place to blow up because of the standards, expected of him by dad and also in a day school.

Mr Scott and I attended a Case Conference at Cartvale on 29th November when Mark's possible placement was discussed.

As Mark was already staying with his father there was a sense of a fait accompli about the discussion. Mr Scott and I gave carefully worded opinions but it was clear that Mark had to be given his chance at Cartvale in view of the expectations raised by his staying with his father already.

It was agreed that Mark would begin at Cartvale after the Christmas holidays.

I was out of touch regarding Mark's situation for some time until his £25.00 Leaving Grant reached Elmbank Street in March. I contacted Ian McAlpine's office and spoke to his senior in his absence who told me that Mark had been admitted to Redheugh Hostel after a very difficult time.

I later learned from some of the Irvine boys at Thornton that Mark was at Kerelaw List D. I know nothing of his contact with either parent.

CLOSING SUMMARY - MARK ASHTON

From an early age, Mark's aggressive defiant behaviour presented problems for the family. He was referred to Child Guidance at age 5 for aggressive behaviour to other children both in and out of school. In 1979 when Mark was 8, he was admitted to Kirkmichael House due to his difficult behaviour and relationship problems at home, particularly with his father. Mr Ashton was said to view Mark as a failure and to be rejecting in his attitudes to the child. In late 1981, Mr & Mrs Ashton separated and Mr Ashton moved to Glasgow to live. His contact with Mark and his younger brother, Aaron, was erratic. Mark, who was felt to have progressed educationally and emotionally at Kirkmichael, was very distressed by his parent's separation. A brief period attending the local primary school ended with breakdown at home.

Mark was admitted to Thorntoun on a residential basis, on 12.1.83. Mrs Ashton found it hard to cope with the pressure of sharing care of Mark. Mark found it hard to settle at Thorntoun, and moved between school and home at will with periods when he was outwith control and could be considered to be at risk. In July 1983 Mark became the subject of a 441A Supervision Order as a result of an incident of fire in a workers' hut.

Mark's home and school situation became more uncontrolled and a Review Hearing on 11.7.84 called for an Assessment team to look at options for his care. In September 1984 Thorntoun terminated Mark's placement as it was not felt to be in his interests for him to continue at the school.

Mark was subsequently placed in Assessment Centre with a view to his placement at Balrossie List D School. Mrs Ashton refused to have Mark living with her and Aaron because of her fears for her younger child. After several visits and weekend stays Mark was placed with his father and later attended Cartvale Day Unit from January 1980. This arrangement broke down and Mark was placed in Kerelaw List D School around February 1985.

Mark is an unhappy, disturbed boy who has an intolerable level of anxiety and is unable to sustain the necessary behaviour and image to sustain his wished for relationship with his father. He and his mother have a bond of affection but she is unable to cope with the heavy demands that Mark makes of her and felt forced to put her younger son's needs first.

Mark's future prospects look bleak and his involvement in delinquent activity bodes ill for his future. His ability to make relationships is limited and his feelings of anger, rejection and failure find expression in a variety of aggressive and uncontrolled activities.

There was much sadness and regret that Thorntoun was unable to give Mark the kind of structure and sense of security he needed and that the combination of family and school breakdown resulted in his placement within the List D system.

Norma Lynch
Family Social Worker.

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Mr. Mackintosh, ADD (for information)

9th October 1984

Mr. A. Mackie,
Depute Principal Psychologist,
Child Guidance Centre,
6A Kilwinning Road,
Vineburgh Park,
IRVINE.

Dear Mr. Mackie,

Mark Ashton, 2 West Bowhouse Way, Girdle Toll, Irvine

Mark was removed to the Assessment Centre pending a placement at List D. School on 26. 9.84. This followed a Children's Hearing on the grounds of Mark being outwith parental control.

In the circumstances Mark is removed from our role as from 8.10.84.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN S. SCOTT.
Principal.

HEATHWOOD'S
DIVISIONAL OFFICE
IRVINE
11 OCT 1984
Ack.....

MARK ASHTON - 25th May 1984

A Meeting was called to discuss Mark and his future. Mother came unexpectedly, and the new Local Authority Social Worker, Mr. McQuire. Norma Lynch has recently taken over from Cathy as Barnardo Social Worker.

It was agreed that although we were containing Mark to a great degree, we were not helping him as much as we would like to. Mother agrees that he is out of her control.

As a result we should look at other possibilities for Mark. First he needs 52 week care, and second he needs a smaller staff ratio to relate with. Third, he needs to be further away from home.

Merton Hall was suggested, and South Annan (although the latter may not have enough structure). Mrs. Ashton was concerned that Mark did not go to a List D although it was pointed out that the Children's Panel may make its own decisions about where Mark should go. Mark has attended less than 6 school days in the past 10, and attendance and investment in Thorntoun had declined since last term.

ROGER FERRIE,
Group Leader.

A



H. Mackintosh

18th September 1984

Mr. McAlpine,
Social Worker,
Social Work Department,
17 Byres Road,
KILWINNING.

Dear Mr. McAlpine,

Mark Ashton, 2 West Bowhouse Way, Irvine.

Since the last Children's Panel Mark's situation has deteriorated. Following the Panel, Mark returned to Thornton to reside in a place of safety "pending the place at Balrossie List D. School".

This has made the situation worse in the following ways:-

1. Mark no longer has any sense of purpose or hope at Thornton and sees his future as completely uncertain. He has been violently destructive and needs almost constant supervision to keep within the simplest rules. He has continued to abscond.
2. Mark has continued to visit his mother and manipulate the situation there.
3. Mark has visited his father and exacerbated the relationship between his mother and father.
4. Mark is, in effect, still outwith effective control by adults.

From October 10th to 22nd the school will be closed and no alternative provision has been made for Mark.

So that the situation can be brought to a head and, in the interests of Mark, we propose that from Wednesday 26th September (Date of next Panel?) Mark's place at Thornton will be terminated for which date an alternative place of safety must be found.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN S. SCOTT,
Principal.

J.S.S.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

R5

REVIEW SUMMARY

Date of Review : 20 December 1983 Time: 2.30 p.m. Unit: Thorntoun

Child to be reviewed: Mark Ashton

Date of Birth: 2.7.70

Date Admitted: 12.1.83

Responsible Local Authority: Strathclyde Region Education - Ayr

Plans made at last Annual Review

Date: 16.5.83

1. To help Mrs Ashton to make and keep realistic day time plans for Mark. Mrs Ashton - family visit at the end of term.
2. To consolidate Mark's use of the unit and acceptance of the school - further consultation with David Clark, Psychologist.
3. To arrange specialist remedial help.

CURRENT REVIEW Mark Ashton

DATE: 20 December 1983.

PRESENT AT REVIEW: Mr Hugh Mackintosh - Chair. Mr John Scott, Group Leaders, unit staff, Cathy Johnson, Mr JH Bale, Miss Alison Cuthill, Psychologist.

Comments from this review: Long term plan and way to progress this; any action to be taken and by whom:

Mother has recently rejected Mark completely then undergone complete change. Mark himself is a boy of extremes - sometimes very pleasant but more often disruptive. Has not absconded as frequently as previously. He has had a short spell in a room removed from the unit but now re-integrated into the unit.

Mark's running away has always a connection with bullying but may well have as much to do with uncertainties at home. e.g. cohabitee.

Mark seems more settled in class. Not so scapegoated as previously. Has become friendly with *3rd party information* The friendship certainly is helping Mark socially though there would be some concern over possible delinquent activity in Bourtreehill. Mark wants to please in class (PMD). He now needs to build on his limited academic base. He enjoys climbing unfortunately without fear.

Cathy Johnson has tried to develop a consistency of approach in Mrs Ashton but without success. Mother seems unable to work to a plan, has no control over Mark who steals from home, breaks in when locked out, even plays football in the living room. She swings between acceptance and rejection of both children.

Divorce will come through in three months' time. Some of her attitude changes may have to do with custody and maintenance payments. The children seem to be pawns in the divorce infighting game. Their future must be uncertain after the divorce is finalised. Father is happy to take Mark any weekend or holiday.

Mark himself has asked about becoming a day pupil. It would seem inappropriate just yet in view of the home situation.

Plans/

CURRENT REVIEW Mark Ashton

DATE: 20 December 1983.

PRESENT AT REVIEW: Mr Hugh Mackintosh - Chair. Mr John Scott, Group Leaders,
unit staff, Cathy Johnson, Mr JH Bale, Miss Alison Cuthill,
Psychologist.

Comments from this review: Long term plan and way to progress this: any
action to be taken and by whom:

Plans

1. Cathy Johnson to write to local G.P. suggesting psychiatric help for Mrs Ashton.
2. School and unit to build on the positive aspects of Mark's behaviour just recently revealing themselves.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

PROVISIONAL
EDINBURGH
23

Date of Review: 20.12.83 Time: 2.30 p.m. Unit: Thorntoun
Child to be reviewed Date of Birth Date admitted
MARK ASHTON 2. 7.80 11. 1.83
Responsible Local Authority Strathclyde Regional Council - Ayr - Education

Mother has recently rejected Mark completely then undergone complete change. Mark himself is a boy of extremes - sometimes very pleasant but more often disruptive. Has not absconded as frequently as previously. He has had a short spell in a room removed from the unit but now re-integrated into the unit.

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Mark himself has asked about becoming a day pupil. It would seem inappropriate just yet in view of the home situation.

Plans

1. Cathy Johnson to write to local G.P. suggesting psychiatric help for Mrs. Ashton.
2. School and unit to build on the positive aspects of Mark's behaviour just recently revealing themselves.

JOHN J. SCOTT,
Principal.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT

Review Chair Person - Mr. H. McIntosh

Date of Review: 20th December, '83 Time: 2.30 p.m. Unit: Thorntoun
Child for Review: Date of Birth: Date Admitted into Care:
Mark Ashton 2.7.70 12.1.83

Responsible Local Authority: Strathclyde Regional Education - Ayr

Casework Responsibility: Barnardo's/Joint/Local Authority

Name of Local Authority Social Worker (if appropriate) Doug Foreman

Mark was last reviewed on 16th May, 1983 although as a result of the problems he has presented since admission to Thorntoun there have been several meetings with Mrs. Ashton at Thorntoun school and discussions with his local authority social worker, Doug Foreman.

Mark's first few months at Thorntoun were punctuated by numerous absconsions home, usually as a result of an incident at the school which he couldn't wait to get resolved. However, he always seemed to run home and if Mrs. Ashton was out of the house would use a number of seemingly pre-planned means of entry eg. breaking open the downstairs bathroom window but having planted a door at the side of the house to use as a ramp to reach the height of the window. Mrs. Ashton demonstrated varying responses to this side of Mark's behaviour, often welcoming him home because she was worried about his well being and even keeping him at home overnight or a couple of days but she also on occasions rejected him, asking for an alternative seven day a week placement further from home.

cont../

Mrs. Ashton's behaviour and attitudes have been both confused and confusing since Mark's admission. She feels guilty about Mark being in a residential placement and I feel, has tried to make this up to him. She has little control over his behaviour at home; confrontations about particular incidents have led to physical chastisement which she immediately regrets and will then cuddle Mark to make up for it. However, a major problem for Mrs. Ashton is Mark's lack of emotional response towards her in whatever circumstances and I suspect that some of her verbal tirades directed to elicit a response could have had a more damaging effect upon Mark.

My involvement with Mrs. Ashton has concentrated on trying initially to support her through a difficult time in her life whilst working with her to a) gain some insight into Mark's behaviour and adapt her attitudes accordingly and also b) trying to get her to stick by the decisions that she has made for any length of time at all.

Her situation is complicated by her impending divorce from Mr. Ashton.

3rd party information

3rd party information

Unfortunately, her social life can occasionally be impeded by the demands of Mark and Aaron and I am uncertain as to the committment she feels towards her sons. *3rd party information*

3rd party Aaron *3rd party information*

3rd party *ti* albeit to Mark's benefit, she has given active support to Mark spending his weekends home with his father. On the other hand, she has called Mark a "Judas" for spending time with his father and at one time tried to prevent both boys from visiting him. Her present position is one of rejecting Mark. She is no longer willing to offer him a home because he has been stealing from the house (both money and goods) *3rd party information* Aaron, *3rd party information*

Mr. Ashton remains a somewhat shadowy figure to me but has become increasingly involved with Mark at Thorntoun School; Mark has now had several weekends with his dad and spent a week of the October break with him.

There are some suspicions around the sudden display of interest in Mark by a man who appears to have rejected him from an early age ; Mrs. Ashton feels that he is using Mark as a weapon in the divorce case to both blacken her character and decrease his maintenance payments to her.

Mark, himself, has not had an easy time at Thorntoun or at home. Whilst leaving comments about his behaviour in Thorntoun to the residential report, I would like to draw attention to his panel appearance in July as a result of him being involved in a fire which burnt down a workman's hut. He is now on a residential order but continues to show little regard for social norms and expectations of behaviour tending to do as he himself pleases. He has disappeared for periods of 24 hours or more during the past few weeks and seems to be mixing with older, perhaps more delinquent, boys in the Irvine area.

I am, therefore, extremely concerned about Mark's future; I do not feel that Mrs. Ashton is able to offer Mark a stable home environment given her own present confusion and am uncertain about Mr. Ashton's willingness or intention to do so. Despite all his difficulties in coping with Thorncoun, it would seem that a residential placement is perhaps his only hope of stability and continuity of care and my only query in this area is whether he needs a placement for 52 weeks of the year, 7 days a week.

R4

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

<u>Date of Review:</u> 20.12.83	<u>Time:</u> 2.30 p.m.	<u>Unit:</u> Thorntoun	
<u>Child to be reviewed</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Date Admitted</u>	<u>Act</u>
MARK ASHTON	2. 7.70	11. 1.83	
<u>Responsible Local Authority</u>	Strathclyde Regional Council		

Progress Report from Unit

Progress: Mark has more investment in Thorntoun now, compared with 6 months ago and I think regards it as his base. However he has run away from Thorntoun 7 times since the last Children's Hearing but some of these occasions were because of the group 'out to get him'. To generalise it seems he has improved at school but home situation has worsened.

Dave Clark did some special input into Mark but found it hard to get Mark to respond to him so not much resulted from 4 mornings with Mark. Dr. James has found this similar refusal to respond.

Personality - Mark is a strange boy and people have said they would like to know what makes him tick. At times he almost seems to be on a suicide mission. It was almost as if he wanted expelled from the house on 7.11.83. He is a compulsive liar and when other lads accuse him it is difficult to get to the truth of the matter because of Mark's inability to tell the truth. Very rarely will he think things through but just seems to live for the moment. He seems to enjoy teasing, provoking and being chased for doing things wrong. He has no close relationship with any residential boy but does seem to get on well with ^{3rd party} (day boy living in same home area). The relationship is not beneficial. ⁱ

The boys still scapegoat Mark and he often is the provocation for this happening to him. It has been noted that he finds it difficult to take a compliment but takes pleasure in being hurt or persecuted.

Play - He has had some very constructive times of play. One instance was when he and others in the unit made camouflage hide-outs in the woods. His was by far the best but he could not sustain the interest and reverted back to his usual wanderings about the place. Inside games he will only play with staff in a settled atmosphere and the games have to be more juvenile.

Family - Mother in the past has proved to be an unstable figure, one moment saying and doing one thing then within minutes doing entirely the opposite. She has been more consistent recently due to Cathy's input) but that has not helped the relationship. Indeed by 7.11.83 Mother was not wanting anything more to do with Mark. (Mother down for discussion 6.10.83). Relationships with Dad have progressively become better with Mark staying weekends with Dad.

Health is good. The only incident was when he broke his finger in June.

Points for Discussion

1. At the point of writing 11.11.83 there is uncertainty about home base and the probability of a Panel. Both points need discussing.
2. Depending on the above there is the question of Dad's involvement and the results of the divorce.
3. How can low self esteem be boosted.
4. Relationships home/school.
5. Is Thorntoun the best place for Mark? If so, are we being specific enough in our provision for his needs?



5th December 1983

JOHN J. SCOTT,
Principal.

