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Our ref RM/JMcE

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If phoning or
calling ask for

Date 27 November 1987

[REDACTED]
Area Reporter to the Children's Panel
Reporter's Department
11 Alloway Place
AYR

HOME ASSESSMENT REPORT

LEE JOHNSTONE (DOB 09.02.76)
28 LINDEN AVENUE, GIRVAN

Report of Assessment Meeting held in Girvan Social Work Department on
19 November 1987.

To be read in conjunction with Social Enquiry Report and Psychologist's Report.

Present

[REDACTED]	Senior Educational Psychologist
Mr M Orr	Assistant District Officer (Child Care) - Chairman
Mrs R Murray	Senior Social Worker
Mrs S Barnett	Student Social Worker
[REDACTED]	& Lee

Discussion centred round the following areas:-

- 1) Behaviour at school.
- 2) Behaviour at home.
- 3) Family relationships.
- 4) Parental control.

1) Behaviour at School: [REDACTED] describe Lee as having difficulty from his first day at school and identified Lee as having no problems prior to this. These behaviour problems increased, although he seemed to settle at Girvan in Primary 5, before his move to Fife. On their return to Girvan, Lee had not wanted to return to Girvan Primary and his parents considered changing schools but decided against this idea. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Presently Lee is isolated from other pupils within the class setting. [REDACTED] stated that Lee's earlier school problems, particularly not sustaining work educationally, were still in existence. It appears that he is unpopular with boys his own age at school due to his cruel treatment of them. They would seem to be afraid to form a friendship with him in case this leads them into trouble either with Lee or some of his older friends.

2)/...

2) Behaviour at Home: Normally, [REDACTED] feels confident of her ability to cope with Lee at home where there are no concerns. Lee and his brother [REDACTED] have the usual squabbles over toys but [REDACTED] views this as normal behaviour. However, she did relate difficulties over the previous week when Lee threatened to run away from home. He did "run away" but returned home at 5.00pm for his meal after which his mother kept him in. She believes this behaviour was prompted by Lee's need for constant attention and that his school behaviour stems from the same need. She agreed with the Chairman's suggestion that it could be prompted by feelings of insecurity.

3) Family Relationships: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] makes constant comparisons between Lee and his brother in the hope this will encourage Lee to improve. [REDACTED] stressed the strong maternal bond between Lee and his mother prior to [REDACTED] birth. This demand for attention at home has spread into demand for attention at school over the years. In [REDACTED] opinion, Lee has not been able to verbalise his feelings and this has presented as behaviour problems. There is a lack of real communication between Lee and his mother. [REDACTED] states he does not have a good relationship with Lee, tending to be impatient, and hard on him although not physically. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Nicholl [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] expressed concern that Lee's problems appeared to be quite deep. [REDACTED] felt that due to his father's earlier "dropping out" in their relationship, difficulties were now coming to the fore and suggested it would help if [REDACTED] could be more directly involved with Lee.

4) Parental Control: [REDACTED] states that when he was younger, he used to be physically chastised. Now, they exert control by withdrawal of privileges, particularly keeping Lee indoors as a sanction. They feel this is effective as Lee has so much energy and loves being outdoors at play. They have no problems exercising controls over Lee within the home.

The group discussed Lee's apparent inability to make friends of his own age, relating more to older 15 year olds, who, it was felt, exercised an influence over him. To offset this and improve the father/son relationship, it was felt that [REDACTED] should spend more time with Lee on a one to one basis, on his free time. [REDACTED] agreed to this suggestion, saying he would consider joint activities. It was recognised that transfer next year to Secondary School would pose additional problems with Lee needing to relate to different teachers and peer groups. The Chairman suggested this could be tackled by either remaining in his present school with social work support and trying to effect a change in attitude, which would carry on into Secondary, or by considering some specialist educational resource at this stage. [REDACTED] felt that Lee's problems would best be handled by continuing at his present school with social work supervision and he would be able to monitor Lee's progress. However, if this intervention proved unsuccessful, it may be necessary to consider residential provision for Lee in the future. [REDACTED] felt that any supervision of Lee would require to be closely monitored, involving close links between the social worker, the family, school and [REDACTED]. In view of Lee's attitudes, it may/.

be better to work on a short-term contract basis with Lee, with clearly defined tasks and objectives.

The group therefore agreed to recommend to the Panel that a compulsory Supervision Requirement Order would be the most appropriate disposal in this instance.

Yours sincerely



Ray Murray (Mrs)
Senior Social Worker

REPORT

TO THE CHILDREN'S HEARING

Date of Hearing

3/11/87.

Outcome

HOME ASSESSMENT.

Name

Lee David JOHNSTONE

Date of Birth

09.02.76

Address

28 Linden Avenue,

School Attended

Girvan Primary

GIRVAN.

Grounds of Referral Con. Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act, 1990
section 78(1) Vandalism; Con. Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act, 1972
section 78 Theft.

Religion Protestant -
Church of Scotland

Basis of Report

This report is based on several interviews with the family; two with [redacted] and Lee, two with [redacted] and Lee. Interviews were held both at home and the office and Lee was also seen on his own in the office. Contact was made by phone with Girvan Primary, Crossgates Primary, Cowdenbeath, [redacted] Child Psychologist and Girvan Police. At time of writing this report I have been unsuccessful in my attempts to contact [redacted], Psychiatrist.

FAMILY DETAILS

Name	Age	Relationship to child	Employment/School other eg. ATC	Income and Source
[redacted]		Mother	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]		Father	[redacted]	[redacted]
Lee Johnstone	11	SUBJECT	Attends Girvan Primary	[redacted]
[redacted]		Brother	[redacted]	[redacted]

Financial Situation

[redacted]

Other Agencies involved

Police

Teacher - Education

Child Guidance - [redacted]

[redacted] - Psychiatrist

Matters of Particular concern (to be listed numerically)

- 1) Number of offences.
- 2) Stress on relationship between parents.
- 3) Contact with other agencies.

Report compiled by

Susan Barnett (Mrs.)
Student Social Worker

Date completed

22nd October, 1987

Date Sent to Reporter

22nd October, 1987

Signed

Designation
Student Social Worker and
Social Worker

MAIN BODY OF REPORT

Points to be covered. (plus any other relevant areas)

1. Analysis of Family Background
2. The Child
3. School
4. Attitudes to Grounds of Referral
5. Matters of Particular Concern
6. Assessment and Possible Options

1. Analysis of Family Background:

The family home is a three-apartment maisonette, in a five storey block of council flats. They have only lived at this address since August of this year. The house is comfortably furnished, well maintained, and the family feel quite settled there.

Lee aged eleven [REDACTED] As a family they have moved between Girvan and Maybole. They have only recently moved back to Girvan after a two year stay in Cowdenbeath. This has resulted in Lee changing schools on four occasions.

Lee appears to have no difficulty in relating to his parents and gets on well with his younger brother. Lee's parents admit there is the usual sibling rivalry, with Lee at times demanding more attention than his younger brother. This could be considered to be jealousy.

[REDACTED] talks quite freely about the problems relating to Lee and other issues within the family.

Lee's parents have made every effort to provide him with a good homelife, and state that he is well behaved in his home environment. While I have been present this would appear to be the case. Lee responds positively to any instructions/requests given to him by his parents in the home.

Outwith the home environment Lee appears to be constantly in trouble, both at school and with his friends. Lee's parents find it difficult to comprehend his actions/behaviour. They say the trouble began when Lee started school. This was about the same time as the birth of his younger brother, which his mother believes may be of some significance. Lee's behaviour at school, was such at this time, 1982-1984 approximately, that he was referred to [REDACTED] Child Psychologist.

[REDACTED] It would appear that, at that time Lee was being manipulative and was 'playing' one parent against the other.

Both Lee's parents are now aware of this ploy, and attempt to present a more unified approach in their handling of Lee. Contact with the family suggests there are still inconsistencies in their approach and it is felt that this is an area in which this Department could assist.

Continued/...

The method they use to discipline Lee is to deny him the privilege of going out to play. They believe past experience has taught them, that this is the most effective sanction in relation to Lee. Lee's parents describe him as being "easily led". On the other hand, they say they have tried to bring him up to be responsible for his own actions. Both of them have expressed concern that Lee does not appear to know the difference between right and wrong, despite their attempts to achieve this. Lee is at ease and appears happy when he is with his family. I only met his younger brother briefly, but he and Lee appeared to have a good relationship. The whole family go for walks to the beach with Lee's dog, Pepper. At home there are many family activities and [REDACTED] helps Lee with his homework.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. They are very concerned by Lee's constant disruptive behaviour outwith the home and his continued involvement in offences. Both parents identify the need for help in relation to Lee. This seems particularly true in the case of his mother, who feels the burden of dealing with police, school etc, rests more with her than her husband.

2. The Child

Lee impresses as a friendly boy, who can at times present as quiet, depending on what is being discussed. When he is asked questions relating to the offences he appears to give the expected responses. He openly condemns himself by talking of participation in other offences.

He is given pocket money weekly by his parents. He enjoys playing football, and goes for football practice training on Wednesday evenings. Lee also enjoys going swimming on Saturdays with his older cousin [REDACTED]. He enjoys playing pool with his father and is very fond of his Aunt [REDACTED] who babysits when his parents go out socially about once a fortnight. Lee seems unable/unwilling to sustain conversation and appears to lose interest. Lee at times has a nervous twitch which I observed to be more noticeable when interviewing on a one-to-one basis. Perhaps this would suggest anxiety about this situation.

3. School

The school describe Lee as a disruptive pupil and a persistent liar. He has only been attending Girvan Primary since 19th September, 1987, therefore, I contacted his last school in Cowdenbeath. They too described Lee as a liar, but, said that after some trouble in the early days, Lee's teacher "was able to control him". They went on to say that his involvement in offences took place outwith school.

When Lee had attended Girvan Primary two years ago his behaviour was such that he had to be referred to [REDACTED], Child Psychologist.

4. Attitudes to Grounds of Referral

[REDACTED] are very concerned about Lee's behaviour. [REDACTED], in particular, is welcoming of any possible assistance.

Lee did not give me any strong impression of whether he really understood his actions, nor the consequences in relation to them.

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5. Matters of Particular Concern

1. Number of Offences

Lee has been involved in offences of varying degrees over the past few years. He has had at least two police warnings that we are aware of and yet he continues to offend. Offences have occurred before he left Girvan two years ago; while he was in Cowdenbeath; and since his return to Girvan.

2. Stress on Relationship between Parents

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3. Contact with Other Agencies

Lee's behaviour has led to contact with various other agencies over the past few years. He was referred to [REDACTED] Child Psychologist. He referred to Lee as being "a real problem" and "amoral in behaviour" and as "quite a phenomena". He also said that he had made some progress in 1985 with Lee in relation to his behaviour.

I contacted Girvan Primary and spoke to his teacher [REDACTED]. She described him as a disruptive pupil and a persistent liar.

I made enquiries of Lee at Crossgates Primary, Cowdenbeath and they too were concerned about his behaviour and attitude. His teacher [REDACTED] said, "you do not know if he is telling the truth". The Police in Girvan describe him as, "their Number 1 Offender".

At the time of writing this, I have been unable to contact [REDACTED], Psychiatrist, to whom Lee was referred, after his mother visited their General Practitioner.

6. Assessment and Possible Options

Both the Department and the family recognise the need for supervision in this case. However, the seriousness and quantity of the offences coupled with Lee's apparent lack of concern about his behaviour leads me to suggest at this stage, that a future treatment plan would be more appropriately structured following the assistance offered by a Home Assessment.

[REDACTED]
Susan Barnett (Mrs.)
Student Social Worker

[REDACTED]
Edith M. Scobie (Mrs.)
Social Worker