



NORTH AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL

REPORT

TO THE CHILDREN'S HEARING

11 FEB 2000

Date of Hearing

Outcome

Name Lewis Duncan

Date of Birth 22/10/84

Address 65 Portland Street, Troon

School Attended Kibble School

Grounds of Referral Review

Religion

Basis of Report (The information contained in this report is an historical summary, based on information contained in Social Work Directorate files and is offered for general guidance only.)

Information contained in this report is derived from case records gained in the course of social services contact, school reports and contact with Lewis and Mr Cameron.

FAMILY DETAILS

Name	Age	Relationship to child	Employment/School other eg ATC	Income and Source
Carolyn Duncan	35	Mother	Part time Hairdresser	
Lewis Duncan	14	Subject	Schoolboy	
Grant Duncan	12	Brother	Schoolboy	
John Cameron		Significant Person	Employed	Salary

Financial Situation

Mr Cameron states he and Lewis manage on his income.

Other Agencies Involved

Psychological Services

Matters of Particular Concern (to be listed numerically)

Report Compiled by Ann Johnston

Date Completed 11/02/00

Date Sent to Reporter 11/02/00

Signed

Designation Social Worker

MAIN BODY OF REPORT

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

1. Analysis of Family Background.
2. Previous History of Involvement with Hearing System.
3. The Child.
4. The School.
5. Attitude to Grounds of Referral.
6. Plan of Work.
7. Matters of Particular Concern.
8. Assessment and Possible Options.

Analysis of Family Background

Mrs Duncan, Lewis's mother, was born in Lurgan, Northern Ireland. Her father was in the RAF and in the course of her upbringing she lived abroad and in various parts of the United Kingdom.

She met her husband, the father of both her sons, whilst living in Kinloss, Scotland. They were married for approximately six years. When Lewis was approximately three and a half years old, the marital relationship broke down. Lewis has vague recollections of his birth father, but has always regarded John Cameron as his father.

Following the break down of the marital relationship Mrs Duncan met and formed a co-habiting relationship with John Cameron. The couple resided together for eight years and both Lewis and Grant regard Mr Cameron as 'Dad'. The couple moved from the North of Scotland to Troon approximately four years ago. Soon after this move the couple's relationship broke down and Mrs Duncan resided independently with her children until she formed a relationship with George Wilson. Mr Wilson bought a house in Irvine and Mrs Duncan and the boys moved to reside in this area. However, the boys continued to enjoy a close relationship with Mr Cameron.

Lewis did not have a settled relationship with Mr Wilson. On 17th December 1996, a Child Protection Investigation was undertaken when Lewis alleged that Mr Wilson had assaulted him. No further action was taken at that time as there was no evidence to corroborate Lewis' statement.

On 29th May 1997 a further Child Protection Investigation was undertaken when Mr Wilson assaulted Lewis in the local community, this assault being witnessed by neighbours. Following this incident work was undertaken with the family when Mr Wilson was asked to take a 'back seat' leaving Mrs Duncan to deal with any disciplinary issues regarding Lewis. By December 1997 the relationship between Mr Wilson and Mrs Duncan had broken down, following a further violent incident. Mrs Duncan and her children moved to bed and breakfast accommodation until they were allocated a tenancy in Castlepark.

On 27th August 1997 Mrs Duncan contacted the family social worker to inform her that during an argument with Lewis a cereal bowl had struck him in the face, cutting him. Child Protection Procedures were undertaken and Lewis was treated at Crosshouse Hospital for a cut to his forehead and nose.

Though it was recognised that the injury was likely to have been accidental, it was considered the relationship between Lewis and Mrs Duncan had deteriorated to such point where Lewis was Looked After under Section 25 Children (Scotland) Act 1995 for a period.

However, due to ongoing school attendance problems, as well as relationship problems, Lewis continued to be Looked After. This was initially undertaken in Dalrymple Place Childrens Unit, followed by Newfield Assessment Centre. Lewis transferred to Kibble School in July 1998.

Since Lewis was accommodated and looked after, Mrs Duncan and Mr Cameron have established a pattern of shared care whereby Lewis spends time with both parents. This was established via contact Contract meetings chaired by Social Services staff. Lewis was reluctant to reside with his mother and consistently stated his wish to reside with Mr Cameron on a permanent basis.

Mr Cameron remained in contact with Lewis and his brother, spending weekends and holiday periods together.

However, Mrs Duncan states she did not wish Lewis to reside with Mr Cameron on a permanent basis.

Social Services records show that by December 1998 the relationship between Lewis and his mother had deteriorated and following a confrontation in the family home, contact ceased. At a Looked After Review on 22nd December 1998 a decision was taken that, as Mrs Duncan no longer objected to plans that Lewis move to a day pupil placement within Kibble Educational Centre and reside with Mr Cameron, this would be initiated. Currently however, Mrs Duncan disputes she agreed to this arrangement.

At a Children's Hearing on 16.02.99 this arrangement was formalised and initially proved positive. Lewis had contact with his mother on a regular basis and the relationship between Mr Cameron and Mrs Duncan has been amicable.

However, more recently Lewis' attendance at Kibble Educational Centre had become irregular. He had long periods where he has failed to attend school and this caused some tension between himself and Mr Cameron. Their relationship appears strong otherwise and both Lewis and Mr Cameron are continuing to co-operate with Social Services in an attempt to reach a solution.

Previous History of Involvement with Hearing System

October 1996	Lewis was made subject to a Voluntary Supervision Order under Section 39(2) Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.
2 nd September 1997	Children's Hearing Decision: - Lewis admitted to Newfield under Section 69(4) for residential assessment.
30 th September 1997	Children's Hearing Decision: Residential Supervision Requirement Order under Section 70 naming Newfield.
10 th March 1998	Children's Hearing - continued for supplementary report.

14 th April 1998	Children's Hearing - continued Psychological and Safeguarder reports.
19 th May 1998	Children's Hearing - continued for Psychological report.
17 th July 1998	Childrens Hearing - decision to vary the Supervision Requirement Order to name Kibble School.
13 th August 1998	Childrens Hearing, Supervision Requirement Order varied to name Kibble School.
16 th February 1999	Children's Hearing - Supervision Requirement Order varied to allow Lewis to reside with Mr Cameron. He also became a day pupil on this date.
18 th January 2000	Review - Home Supervision Requirement Order continued with early review in three weeks.

The Child

Lewis is a healthy young person who shows appropriate physical development for his chronological age. He enjoys all types of outdoor activities including fishing, swimming, camping etc.

Lewis' interaction with his peers and adults improved since being looked after by the Local Authority. Lewis built a good relationship with his keyworker and gradually became more willing to explore his feelings. He can at times experience problems with peers within Kibble School, when his immature behaviour causes conflict.

However, Lewis settled well at Kibble School and benefited from both the educational and residential setting originally. He was able to maintain his school attendance following the decision to reside permanently with Mr Cameron but this broke down for a period. However, during this four week period Lewis has applied himself and has shown he can sustain his attendance.

The School

Lewis attended several primary schools in response to location changes while living in the North of Scotland and Ayrshire.

Lewis initially attended Marr College, Troon, when a referral to the Reporter to the Children's Hearing was made in response to problematic incidents within the school. This was in combination with truancy issues and the school's knowledge of problems being experienced by Mrs Duncan with Lewis within the family home. This action resulted in Lewis being made subject to voluntary supervision.

Lewis' immaturity coupled with difficulties experienced at Marr College suggested he could be vulnerable when moving to Irvine Royal Academy. Records show that this transpired, with instances of truancy and feigned illness. At that time Mrs Duncan, in conjunction with the staff at the school, had great difficulty in keeping track of Lewis' movements, which was complicated by him returning to Troon to visit Mr Cameron.

In September 1997 when Lewis went into Newfield, he attended school within the resource centre. He coped well with small classes and the restricted academic curriculum. Following the assessment process a plan was formulated to reintegrate Lewis into Irvine Royal Academy over a short period of time.

Unfortunately, this plan was unsuccessful with truancy again emerging very quickly. Further part time timetables were negotiated, but none were successful over a protracted period. In June 1998 a Looked After Review decision was to seek a residential school placement for Lewis. This recommendation was accepted at a Childrens Hearing in July 1998, when a placement was identified within Kibble Educational Centre, Paisley.

Lewis settled well at Kibble and did benefit from both the educational and residential setting. Lewis has been a day pupil since 16.02.99 but regressed to his previous truanting pattern following the summer. Educational staff and Mr Cameron very quickly responded to this issue by working together to resolve the difficulties. At a school review on 27.10.99 Lewis agreed to improve his attendance and be more committed to the programme of work. However, Lewis found this promise difficult to keep.

At two Planning Meetings at Kibble Educational Centre on 01.12.99, and also at Bridgegate on 13th December 1999, educational staff explained that Lewis makes promises that he will attend school but then has difficulty following through. They felt that he becomes disillusioned and angry with himself and that this causes a spiral of behaviour. Mr Cameron and Lewis were unable to attend these meetings due to unforeseen circumstances.

Since the Hearing on 18th January 2000 a tailor made package of support has been introduced for Lewis by Kibble.

This involves morning activities based on academic work followed by afternoon sessions with the Youth Art Project. Lewis' reports have been excellent and he has committed fully to the programme produced for him.

Education staff requested Psychological Services carry out an assessment as they were concerned Lewis may have learning difficulties. The opinion has been formed that Lewis' difficulties stem more from his sporadic overall attendance and the subsequent work he has missed. This issue is ongoing within Education.

Whilst it is recognised Lewis' progress is at an early stage, this is the most positive Kibble feel Lewis has been.

Attitude to Grounds of Referral

N/A

Plan of Work

1. Lewis to continue on day pupil status at Kibble Educational Centre, with the tailor made programme in place.
2. Monitoring of his attendance will be achieved by regular contact between Social Services, Kibble and Mr Cameron.
3. Monthly contact with Lewis and Mr Cameron by Social Services, variable as required by circumstances.

Matters of Particular Concern

None

Assessment and Possible Options

Lewis has been known to Social Services for several years and due to various factors, his life has been somewhat changeable and unstable.

Over the past year, Lewis has presented few difficulties either at home or in school. However, recently he has not attended school regularly and this caused tension between Mr Cameron and Lewis. Mr Cameron continues to actively address these issues with the assistance of staff from Kibble and Lewis appears to have pledged his commitment to changing his behaviour.

The home situation continues to be settled, with the relationship between Lewis and Mr Cameron proving positive for Lewis, in conjunction with regular contact with his mother and brother.

During this period Lewis has proved he can sustain his attendance at school, given a programme which he can buy in to. He is aware this is essentially the final offer Kibble can make to maintain him in their establishment. Lewis is also aware he is the only person who can make this work and prevent further difficulties for himself.

Hence, given Lewis has been successful in achieving this to date, Social Services respectfully request the Panel consider continuing Lewis' order with a condition of attendance at Kibble Educational Centre. Additionally, a review following the Easter school break may impress upon Lewis he must continue his current progress and maintain his commitment to the package provided.



ANN JOHNSTON
SOCIAL WORKER

10.12.99/CF