

Case Conference Minute

Social Work Department Child Abuse Procedures

1. Area Team Craigielea House, Blackstoun Road, Paisley		2. Area Officer Mr J Paterson Home Tel. No.: 041 954 7456	
3. Date held 19th December 1985		at Craigielea House	
4. Name of child(ren) (including aliases) Nicola Alexander Kelly Alexander	5. D.O.B. 01.12.79 09.07.81	6. Home address c/o Alexander, 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley	
		7. Present address As above.	
8. Parents/Caretakers name Caretakers - Mr & Mrs Alexander (paternal grandparents). Father - Brian Alexander		Address As above. 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley.	
9. (a) Chairperson Mr J Paterson, Area Officer.			
(b) Present (names) Mr J Paterson Mr M Cadman Mrs J McLeod Ms M Fegan Mr Brian Alexander Mr Adam Alexander Mrs Evelyn Alexander Ms Jean Fleming		Designation Area Officer Senior Social Worker Social Work Assistant Child Care Adviser Father Grandfather Grandmother Father's cohabitee	Agency Social Work Dept " " " " " " " " "
(c) Invited but unable to attend Sgt Whittle Mossvale Primary School Springbank Nursery School Mrs McEwan		Community Involvement Nursing Officer	Strathclyde Police Ferguslie Clinic

10. (a) If appropriate, nature and circumstances of injury and from whom

(b) If not injury, nature and circumstances of abuse, neglect or risk and from whom

SEE ATTACHED REPORT.

11. Medically examined by /	Designation	Place	Date
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12. Summary of discussion etc. (To be read in conjunction with Initial/Review Report Form)

Meeting being held at 5.00pm to allow the participation of the family. This unfortunately made it difficult for other agencies to attend. Mrs McLeod had spoken to the other agencies and incorporated their comments in her report.

Mr Paterson opened the Case Conference by outlining the reasons for the meeting. He accepted that it must be distressing for the family and acknowledged that there should have been a Conference at the time of Mr Alexander's release from prison. There were certain matters connected with the safety of the children that had to be discussed, and could only be discussed in a forum such as this. It was therefore entirely proper that this meeting considered the issues and reached decisions as appropriate. Mr Paterson also explained that matters to do with planning for the children's future would be dealt with by a child care review to be convened in January of next year.

Mrs McLeod's report was circulated. Mrs Alexander noted that in September 1982 Nicola had not been admitted to hospital, only examined.

It was agreed that the children have no doubts as to Mr and Mrs Alexander Snr being their grandparents, and Mr Alexander being their father. Mrs McLeod has contacted the various agencies involved with the family and there have been no adverse comments made re the children. Indeed they appear to be healthy children developing well and normally both physically and emotionally.

Mrs Alexander said that sometimes she felt they had had the care of the children for too long.

All parties agreed that the assumption had always been that the children would eventually return to the fulltime care of their father. The one (sometimes two) night a week arrangement has been going at this level for nearly 1½ years now.

Brian Alexander agreed that he and Jean Fleming intend to marry.

Mary Fegan advised that any adults who offer overnight stays to children in our care require to have police and internal departmental checks carried out. This would apply to Jean Fleming.

Sgt Whittle telephoned the information that initial checks on Brian Alexander revealed no new police involvement or convictions since the conviction for assaulting Nicola in 1983.

The general conclusion of the meeting was that the aim was to reunite the children with their father. This would entail considerably more planned and structured intervention than has taken place hitherto. It would also involve some serious discussion with Brian Alexander and Jean Fleming concerning their plans for the future and the nature of their commitment to the children.

It was agreed that there had been no evidence of risk to the children over the past 2½ years, and that it was not appropriate for their names to be placed on the Child Abuse Register.

Mr Paterson closed the meeting by going over the decisions, thanking people for their attendance in the early evening, and by underlining the importance of the forthcoming child care review.

13. Recommendations and Agreed Tasks

Person/Agency responsible

1. Children not to be registered.
2. Child Care Review to be held in January 1986 - Mel Cadman/Jennifer McLeod
3. Brian Alexander and Jean Fleming to discuss with SWD their plans for the future, particularly in regard to the children - Mel Cadman/Jennifer McLeod
4. Police and SWD checks will need to be completed on Jean Fleming. - SWD

14. Legal action taken/legal status of child

Both 441a.

15. Key worker (Person primarily responsible for supervision)

J McLeod.

16. Category of Registration (tick as appropriate)

Name of child	Registration		Physical Injury	Physical Neglect	Failure to Thrive	At Risk
	Yes	No				
Nicola Alexander		X				
Kelly Alexander		X				

17. Who will advise parents of registration?

/

18. If not to be advised, why not?

/

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE ON THIS TEAR-OFF STRIP

(a) Dissent

(b) Other

20. Date of next conference/review and information as to any other agencies or individuals who should be invited

Area Officer/Chairman

Date _____

THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT IS CONFIDENTIAL TO YOU AND MUST NOT BE DISCLOSED TO ANY OTHER PERSON OR AGENCY WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE CASE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN.

IF YOU DISAGREE WITH ANY ASPECT OF THIS REPORT YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE AREA OFFICER IMMEDIATELY IN WRITING. IF YOU AGREE WITH THE CONTENT PLEASE RETURN THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BELOW.

To Area Officer

Signature

Date _____

CHILD ABUSE CASE CONFERENCE

Nicola & Kelly Alexander
c/o Alexander
11 Merksworth Way
Paisley

D.o.B. 1/12/79 & 9/7/81.

Father Brian Alexander, 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley.
G.P. Dr Winton
School Nicola - Mossvale Primary
Kelly - Springbank Nursery

Kelly, the youngest child, now aged 4, is the daughter of Brian Alexander and his estranged wife Sandra. Nicola aged 6, is the child of Sandra Alexander from a relationship prior to the marriage. Nicola was adopted by Brian when she was a year old.

EXAMINED AT Sandra and Brian Alexander were married in 1980 when they were aged 18 and 19 respectively. The marital relationship appears to have been fraught with financial and emotional difficulties, the couple being described at that time as "immature" and basically inadequate as marital partners and parents. In September 1982 Nicola was admitted to hospital following an assault by her father. He was remanded in custody. Nicola was discharged from hospital to her mother's care and both children at this point were placed on the Register.

On 17th January 1983 Brian Alexander appeared in Court and was found guilty of assault against Nicola - "by pulling her from her bed, shaking her and throwing her to the floor" - and further "taking hold of her by the neck and lifting her by the neck" and was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

In February 1983 Mrs Alexander left the children with their grandparents and went away to S. England saying she wanted no more to do with them. At this time Brian Alexander was serving a prison sentence for the assaults.

In April 1983 following Brian's release from prison the children were placed on Home Supervision with a condition of residence with their grandparents. Their names were subsequently removed from the Register. At this point Brian's access was restricted and supervised at all times.

In late 1983 Mr & Mrs Alexander Snr were approved as related foster parents. There has been no contact with their mother since 1983. The children have since remained in the care of their grandparents where it was felt they have been offered an excellent level of physical and emotional care.

By late '83 it was felt that the strictly applied visiting arrangements were "inhibiting" the girls' relationship with their father". These concerns were discussed at a Child Care Review in August 1983 and it was subsequently agreed that the arrangements should become more flexible and that there should be brief periods of unsupervised access.

Supervision Orders were continued in March 1984 and again in February 1985.

Since the summer of '84 Nicola and Kelly have had overnight stays (approx. once a week) with their father and his girlfriend, Jean. The children seem to enjoy this arrangement. Their relationship with their father appears spontaneous and affectionate and they seem to get on well with Jean.

During the past three years the family has been encouraged to move at their own pace regarding rehabilitation, the eventual aim. Progress has been slow, however, due to what was seen as Brian's own unsettled situation and his lack of confidence in his ability to cope with the children on a permanent basis.

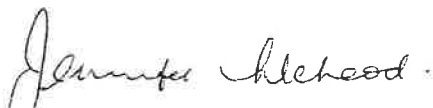
Nicola & Kelly Alexander

I understand that the finalisation of his divorce is imminent - the children's mother has stated that she has no intention of returning to the area. Brian and Jean plan to marry in 1986. At this point they remain somewhat hesitant about committing themselves to full time care of the children but are most anxious that the present level of contact should be allowed to continue.

Throughout the time they have been known to this Department Mr & Mrs Alexander Snr have impressed as mature and reliable adults who would allow nothing to jeopardise their granddaughters' wellbeing. They are satisfied with the existing arrangements for access and wish to see these encouraged.

Reports from other Agencies (school, nursery and G.P.) support the view that Nicola and Kelly are two secure, well adjusted children who appear consistently well-clad and well-nourished. Dr Winton the family's G.P. is of the opinion that the assaults on the children may have been Brian's way of reacting to what is described as a "pretty horrific marital situation". In view of the fact that this situation no longer exists Dr Winton states that he feels the move towards rehabilitation should continue.

The purpose of convening a Case Conference at this point is to take whatever decisions, if any, are indicated in order to protect the two children from potential risk.


Jennifer McLeod,
Social Work Assistant.



JMCL/IR
18.12.85

Name of Child: Nicola and Kelly ALEXANDER

Date of Birth: 01.12.69 09.07.81

Name of Home: c/o Alexander, 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley

Date of admission:

Summary of decisions from last review (if appropriate):

1. Placement of children with Mr and Mrs Alexander to continue meantime.
2. Phased, progressively increased contact between children and parents to occur quickly.
3. Exploration of issues surrounding RIC and adoption to lead to agreed timetable for "telling".

1. Legal Position/Section under which child is in care:

44.1(a).

Any action indicated:

Termination.

2. Current address/es of:

(a) Parents: 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley.

(b) Siblings not in care:

/

(c) Siblings in care:

/

3. Present situation with family since reception into care/last review:

Situation has remained static. For various reasons Jean and Brian have not had increased visits from the children. It would appear that their commitment to this plan was not forthcoming and that despite discussions over the rehabilitation of the children they have decided that it would be in the children's best interests to remain with their grandparents.

Form D continued (4 of 3)

4. Date/s and nature of Social Worker's contact with child since reception into care/last review:

Initially fortnightly contact with children, grandparents and parents. However, this decreased due to the hospitalisation of Mr Alexander Snr.

5. Date/s and nature of Social Worker's contact with family since reception into care/last review:

As above.

6. Areas of Concern:

(a) Family Lack of a long term plan for children's future.

(b) Particular reference to child in care (including progress since reception into care/last review.)

Both Nicola and Kelly continue to progress well - school reports are excellent and there are no areas of concern. Relationship with grandparents is very good.

7. Other agencies involved:

/

8. Needs of the child (estimated length of placement, type of placement, involvement of other agencies, estimated nature of parental contact etc.):

Both Nicola and Kelly require permanence and security. This could possibly be best served by Mr and Mrs Alexander seeking legal custody but there should be regular access to the natural father.

Continued ►

Form D continued (of 3)

9. Plans for child in view of above comment (including short, medium and long objectives):

Nicola and Kelly to remain with grandparents on a permanent basis with regular access to natural father.

Mr and Mrs Alexander to seek legal custody to ensure children's security.

9(a) Is an application for Assumption of Parental Rights appropriate? Yes/No

10. Any further comments:

11. Persons who will attend review (from area team):

Mel Cadman	-	Senior Social Worker
Shelagh McDiarmid	-	Social Worker

Signed:..... (S McDiarmid)

Designation:..... Social Worker

Date:..... 12.08.86

Name of Child: NICOLA AND KELLY ALEXANDER.

Date of Birth: 1.12.69 9.7.81.

Name of Home: 40 ALEXANDER, 11, MERESWORTH WAY, PAISLEY.

Date of admission:

Summary of decisions from last review (if appropriate):

1. PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH MR AND MRS ALEXANDER TO CONTINUE MEANTIME.
2. PHASED, PROGRESSIVELY INCREASED CONTACT BETWEEN CHILDREN AND PARENTS TO OCCUR QUICKLY.
3. EXPLORATION OF ISSUES SURROUNDING RIC AND ADOPTION TO LEAD TO AGREED TIMETABLE FOR "TALKING."

1. Legal Position/Section under which child is in care: 441(a).

Any action indicated:

TERMINATION.

2. Current address/es of:

(a) Parents: 39 MOSSVALE ST. PAISLEY.

(b) Siblings not in care:

(c) Siblings in care:

3. Present situation with family since reception into care/last review:

Situation has remained static. For various reasons Jean and Brian have not had increased visits from the children. It would appear that their commitment to this plan was not forthcoming and that despite discussions and the rehabilitation of the children they have decided that it would be in the children's best interests to remain with their grandparents.

Form D continued (2 of 3)

4. Date/s and nature of Social Worker's contact with child since reception into care/last review:

Initially fortnightly contact with both ^{children} grandparents and parents. However this decreased due to the hospitalisation of Mr Alexander SW. ~~and Brian having broken his arm resulting in him being hospitalised for a period of time.~~

5. Date/s and nature of Social Worker's contact with family since reception into care/last review:

a/a.

6. Areas of Concern:

(a) Family lack of a long term plan for children's future.

(b) Particular reference to child in care (including progress since reception into care/last review.)

Both Nicola and Kelly continue to progress well - school reports are 'excellent' and there are no areas of concern. Relationship with grandparents is very good.

7. Other agencies involved:

8. Needs of the child (estimated length of placement, type of placement, involvement of other agencies, estimated nature of parental contact etc.):

Both Nicola and Kelly require permanence and security. This could possibly be best served by Mr and Mrs Alexander seeking legal custody but there should be regular access to the natural father.

Continued ►

Form D continued (of 3)

9. Plans for child in view of above comment (including short, medium and long objectives):

Nicola and Kelly to remain with grandparents on a permanent basis with regular access to natural father.
Mr and Mrs Alexander to seek legal custody to ensure children's security.

9(a) Is an application for Assumption of Parental Rights appropriate? Yes/No

10. Any further comments:

11. Persons who will attend review (from area team):

Mr Cadman SSW.
Shelagh McDiarmid. SW.

Signed: Shelagh McDiarmid.
Designation: Social Worker.
Date: 11.8.86.

Regional Council

CHILD CARE

MINUTE OF REVIEW

REVIEW PROCEDURES

(1) DETAILS OF CHILD AND REVIEW DATES

Name of Child: Nicola Alexander D.O.B.: 1.12.69 Age: 6
 Current Address: c/o Alexander, 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley.
 Area Team: Craigielea House, Blackstoun Road, Paisley.
 Date of Review: 25/2/86 Date of Previous Review/RIC:

(2) LOCATION OF REVIEW

SWD OFFICE	RES UNIT	FOSTER HOME	NURSERY	OTHER: Please Specify
		✓		

FOR DETAILED ACCOUNT OF REVIEW, SEE ATTACHED SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

(3) COMPOSITION OF REVIEW

DESIGNATION	PRESENT	APOLOGIES	INVITED BUT DID NOT ATTEND PLEASE GIVE REASONS FOR NON-ATTENDANCE *	REPORTS	(Where Appropriate NAME & AGENCY ADDRESS
CHAIR (SSW)	✓				
CHILD					
CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE					
NAT. FATHER	✓				
NAT. MOTHER					
PARENTS' REPRESENTATIVE					
MALE CARER	✓				
FEMALE CARER	✓				
RES. KEYWORKER					
SNR. RES. WORKER					
TEACHER					
FOSTER PARENTS' S.W.					
SOCIAL WORKER	✓			✓	
SENIOR SW/AO					
ED. PSYCHOLOGIST					
OTHER (Natural Father's Fiancee)	✓				

* Please specify reasons for non-attendance below, if known

(4) PREVIOUS REVIEWS (Where appropriate)

PLEASE

"✓"

DECISIONS TAKEN / ACTION NEEDED	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	COMPLETED	IF NOT COMPLETED REASON WHY
N/A			

(5) SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The discussion covered 7 main areas, as follows:

1. Nicola's Progress in Care.

Unfortunately the foster parents had seen little purpose in completing the review forms; subsequently some time was devoted to simply describing Nicola's profile. The main points in this were that she was a placid, good natured girl who related well to other adults and children and who was making acceptable progress at school. She was described as having a natural, easy relationship with her father. She is particularly close to her cousin, Adam. She, like her sister, maintains good, frequent contact with her aunts, uncles and cousins and also sees her maternal grandfather on a regular weekly basis. Everybody was of the opinion that Nicola had a relatively accurate understanding of identities in her family and some idea of the circumstances which led to her living with her grandparents. However, the question of her adopted status had not been discussed with her.

2. School.

No difficulties had been noted in this area, Nicola having made the transition from nursery to primary school without major difficulty.

3. Health.

Nicola's health is quite normal.

4. Contact Between Children & Natural Family.

No contact had been made with the children's mother since she left Paisley in 1983. Since her father's discharge from prison, the children had maintained regular contact with their father through overnight stays at weekends and at other times through the week. Brian Alexander described his relationship with Nicola as close and affectionate, attributing this to the fact that she was not his child. Mr & Mrs Alexander confirmed the close relationship based on their observations of Nicola's reaction to contact with Brian and on her keen anticipation of visits. Both Brian and Mr & Mrs Alexander were of the view that Nicola understood and enthusiastically awaited the plan for her to return to her father's full time care.

(5) SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

4. (cont). Brian found some difficulty in accepting the principle that it would be valuable and helpful for Nicola to be told soon of the circumstances of which led to her being received into care, or of the full circumstances of her mother, or of the fact of her adopted status. Mr & Mrs Alexander were equally uncertain about the question of what should or could be told to Nicola or when this should happen.

Mel Cadman and Shelagh McDiarmid argued that Nicola's clearer understanding of this ~~would be~~ valuable and that the telling should be sooner rather than later.

5. Contact with Jean.

Jean Fleming explained that she had known both girls for approximately 2 years and had had experiences of looking after them on her own as well as with Brian. She described the relationship as good, although she had experienced some difficulty in handling Kelly at points in time. Her family also had contact with both girls and viewed them, for the most part, as part of the extended family.

A discussion ensued around the question of how the girls referred to and had been introduced to Jean and about the anxieties which she and Brian harboured about how the relationship would develop if they were to assume full responsibility. It was generally acknowledged that there were a number of important issues here to consider.

6. Legal Status.

The legal circumstances of the case were fully discussed. Nicola and Kelly were not made subject of a custody arrangement at the recently finalised divorce hearing and are therefore "in limbo" except for the existing Children's Hearing requirement to reside with the grandparents. It was agreed that the Social Work Department should satisfy itself as to the implications of this, if any. Brian indicated that he would consider making application for custody to the Court of Session whenever he was in a position to resume care.

7. Future Plans.

Brian and Jean expressed the view that they would like to assume full time parenting of the children "towards the end of the year". They were uncertain and anxious about the related questions of explaining to the children what has happened in the past but agreed to discuss this with Shelagh McDiarmid. The point was made by Mel Cadman that an earlier date for assuming care would be preferable and that, to this end, a progressive, phased programme or increased and more substantial contact should commence at an early stage. This was generally accepted as reasonable. Jean also agreed to co-operate with the procedural requirement to make certain checks on her suitability due to the children's current status. Mel Cadman also explained the Department's philosophy of permanence, outlining the need to provide a permanent home for the children, either with parents or with carers on a sounder footing than that provided by fostering. He intimated that "custody" (under the terms of the Children's Act 1975) would be the next preferred option, should rehabilitation prove to be unsuccessful.

(6) DECISIONS OF THIS REVIEW

DECISIONS TAKEN	ACTION NEEDED	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	TIME SCALE
1. Placement of children with Mr & Mrs Alexander to continue meantime.	Urgent discussion amongst SWD, Brian & Jean and Mr & Mrs Alexander.	Shelagh McDiarmid	A.S.A.P.
2. Phased, progressively, increased contact between children and parents to occur quickly.		Everybody involved in placement	A.S.A.P.
3. Exploration of issues surrounding RIC and adoption to read to agreed timetable for telling.			

(7) UNRESOLVED DISAGREEMENTS

DISAGREEMENTS	PLANS FOR RESOLUTION (If any)

(8) REFERRAL TO OTHER AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTAL SECTIONS

AGENCY/DEPARTMENTAL SECTION	AGENCY CONTACT	REFERRER & METHOD

(9) PARENTAL ACCESS

P.A.I.

COMPLETED	☒
NOT COMPLETED	☐

Access Frequency: Overnight weekends and increasing.
 Sec. 29 Help Provided: N/A

(10) LEGAL STATUS

DECISION	Please "✓"	DETAILS/PERSON TO INSTIGATE
STATUS QUO	✓	
APPLY SEC. 16		
REFER CHILDRENS' HEARING		
SEEK REVIEW OF SUP. REQ.		
ADOPTION		
FREE FOR ADOPTION		
RESCIND/WITHDRAW SEC. 16		
"HOME ON TRIAL" SEC. 16		
"HOME ON TRIAL" SEC. 44(1)		
DISCHARGE FROM CARE		
OBJECTION/APPEAL LODGED		

(11) PLACEMENT OBJECTIVE(S)

REHABILITATION TO NATURAL FAMILY	✓	PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE FAMILY	
ASSESSMENT		PREPARATION FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING	
RESPIRE		LONG-TERM RES. CARE	
TEMP. CONTRACT FOSTER CARE		OTHER (Please specify below)	
TEMP. CONTRACT RES. CARE			
'SECURE' ACCOMMODATION			
CONTROL/TREATMENT RES. CARE			

(12) AGREED SUPPORT BY S.W.D.

TO CHILD

FREQUENCY OF CONTACT	PURPOSE/NATURE	WHO
To be determined.	Possible involvement in helping family members explain past.	Shelagh McDiarmid

10) NATURAL PARENTS

FREQUENCY OF CONTACT	NATURE/PURPOSE	WHO
Fortnightly	To explore issues around rehabilitation and to monitor increased contact and to work out means of "telling" children.	Shelagh McDiarmid

11) FOSTER PARENTS

FREQUENCY OF CONTACT	NATURE/PURPOSE	WHO
Fortnightly	To explore and define issues around rehabilitation and "telling".	Shelagh McDiarmid

12) OTHERS - Please specify

FREQUENCY OF CONTACT	NATURE/PURPOSE	WHO

13) RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

WHAT	Please Tick	DETAILS (Inc. time scale)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
SECTION 12			
SECTION 15			
SECTION 24			
SECTION 26			
ADOPTION ALLOWANCE			
ENHANCED ALLOWANCE			
OTHER (Please specify below)			

14) GAPS IN RESOURCES - Please specify below

15) NEXT REVIEW

DATE: June 1986

TIME:

VENUE:

Signed: 
Chairperson of Review -

Designation: Senior Social Worker

Date: 6/3/86

Memorandum



From Mel

Tel

Ext

To Shelagh

Our ref MC/IR

Your ref

Date 12th February 1986

Subject CHILD CARE REVIEW

CHILD:

D.O.B.:

ADDRESS:

Nicola & Kelly Alexander

1/12/79
9/7/81

c/o Alexander, 11 Merksworth Way,
Paisley.

Please note that the above-named child's case will be reviewed on:-
Please use the new review form.

Date: Tuesday 25 th February 1986.

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley.

Senior Social Worker.

Enc. Invitation List.

CHILD CARE REVIEW

People invited to attend:-

NAME	AGENCY : DESIGNATION : ADDRESS
Mel Cadman .	Senior Social Worker, Craigielea House, Paisley.
Shelagh McDiarmid	Social Worker, Craigielea House, Paisley.
Mr & Mrs Alexander	Grandparents, 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley.
Brian Alexander)	Father, 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley.
Jean Fleming)	

Memorandum



From Mel

Tel Ext

To Shelagh

Our ref

Your ref

Date 11th August 1986

Subject CHILD CARE REVIEW

<u>CHILD:</u>	<u>D.O.B.:</u>	<u>ADDRESS:</u>
Kelly & Nicola Alexander	9.7.81 & 1.12.79	11 Merksworth Way, Paisley.

Please note that the above named child's case will be reviewed on:-

Date: Thursday 14th August 1986

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: 11 Merksworth Way

Senior Social Worker.

Enc. Invitation List.

CHILD CARE REVIEW

People invited to attend:-

NAME	DESIGNATION : AGENCY : ADDRESS
Mr & Mrs Alexander	11 Merksworth Way, Paisley.
Mr & Mrs Brian Alexander	39 Mossvale Street.
Mary Fegan	Divisional Adviser, Child Care, Cotton Street.
Mel Cadman	Senior Social Worker, Craigielea House.
Shelagh McDiarmid	Social Worker, Craigielea House.

Minutes of Review Meeting

Date of Review: 26.8.86

Address of Placement: c/o Alexander 11 Merksworth Way Paisley

Name of Child: Nicola Alexander Field Case Paper No:

Date of Admission:

Date of Birth: 1.12.79

Areas of concern as indicated in foster-parents review form:

1 Need to establish rather more security over placement.

Areas of concern as indicated in Social Worker's review form:

As above.

Summary of Discussion:

The following were the main areas covered in discussion.

GENERAL PROGRESS IN CARE Mr and Mrs Alexander said that Nicola had continued to progress as satisfactorily as before. Apart from a short episode of illness caused by inflammation of the adenoids, her health was quite normal. Her education has proved to be a continually successful aspect of her life and her behaviour at home was perfectly normal. There had been no particular issues in relation to her continuing access with her father and step-mother, which access had continued at a similar frequency and duration as before.

Brian Alexander reported that there had been no changes or problems in his continuing access to Nicola.

CIRCUMSTANCES IN NATURAL FAMILY

Since the last review, Brian indicated that there had been no change in the access arrangements between himself and his parents, such that he visited the children at weekends only. When asked why he had not increased those visits, as he had appeared to agree at the last review, Brian Alexander said that he and the children's step-mother had concluded that it would not be in the best interests of the children if they were to return to their care. Brian Alexander said that he had decided this because he knew of the importance which the children attached to the relationship with their grand-parents and that this relationship was a more important one to them now than that with him or his new wife. In response to the question asked by the Chair, whether they had made this decision also because of their own desire not to resume (or assume newly) parenting responsibilities for the children, Brian Alexander admitted that this was so. (Contd)

Continued overleaf ►

Minutes of Review Meeting continued

Decisions taken (specifying action to be taken and by whom):

- 1 Nicola and Kelly to remain with their paternal grand-parents on a fostering basis, subject to the decision that they make application for custody as soon as approval has been given in principle by the Social Work Department.
- 2 Shelagh McDiarmid to make contact with the children's mother to formally request her consent to the principle of custody.
- 3 Shelagh McDiarmid to prepare a report in the prescribed manner for the Adoption/Fostering Panel, to seek their approval for supporting custody and paying an appropriate allowance.

Continued on separate sheet ...

Date of next review:

February 1987 (if appropriate)

Names and Designations of review panel:

Brian Alexander	Father
Mr Alexander	Foster-parent
Mrs Alexander	Foster-parent
Shelagh McDiarmid	Social Worker
Mel Cadman	Senior Social Worker

Chairman of

Review Meeting: Mel Cadman

Designation: Senior Social Worker

Date: 18 September 1986

Nicola Alexander DOB 1.12.79

CIRCUMSTANCES IN NATURAL FAMILY

Continued

He had some difficulty in answering the question whether this decision had been made primarily by Jean (his wife) and whether he would have decided this, had she not been involved in the situation. Ultimately, however, he indicated that he would have made this decision regardless of her involvement. Brian indicated that he wished to continue the present level of access to the children and his parents indicated that they were quite happy with this arrangement.

FUTURE PLANS

Mel Cadman summarised the main issues arising from the earlier discussion as being:

- 1) Brian Alexander and his new wife have not increased their contact with the 2 girls;
- 2) Brian Alexander and his new wife have decided that they do not wish to resume the care of the children because they do not think it is in their best interests so to do;
- 3) They believe that it is in their own best interests not to resume responsibility of parenthood at this stage in their married life;
- 4) Mr and Mrs Alexander, current foster parents, said that they believed that it was in the best interests of the children that they should remain in their care, if they were not to return to their father;
- 5) Both Nicola and Kelly appeared to be happy with the status quo.

Mel Cadman asked whether there were any contradictory views to his which was that the children should remain living with their paternal grand-parents, given the failure of rehabilitation, but that steps should be taken quickly to secure further their security in this placement. All present at the review accepted this viewpoint as their own.

He proposed, therefore, that the new option of custody, within the terms and conditions laid out in the Children's Act 1975 would be the best means available of meeting the needs as identified above. He clarified to everybody what the legal implications were and also spelt out in detail what criteria would be used in the Social Work Department for identifying suitable candidates, and for processing this principled decision into effective legal action.

The question of explaining to the children what was involved in the process of their grand-parent's seeking custody was agreed to be one linked inextricably to that of explaining the circumstances of their being looked after by their grand-parents. It was also agreed that the question of Nicola's adoption was one which required some explicit explanation.

Mr and Mrs Alexander appeared to understand that it would be necessary to explain to the children in detail the circumstances which had led to their presently living with them.

Continued ...

Nicola Alexander DOB 1.12.79

FUTURE PLANS

Continued

Mrs Alexander, in particular, thought that the proposal that this should be done in a written form would be an effective means of achieving this. Brian Alexander, on the other hand, was distinctly uneasy at the question of anybody other than himself telling the children about their background and, indeed, made it clear that it was his duty to do so. He appeared to be ambivalent about whether it was his decision, alone, whether he should tell the children these facts but had it clarified by Mel Cadman that the Social Work Department would have to do this job if he were not able to do so. Whilst the offer of help was made to Brian Alexander, based on the premise that he would find it hard to tell the children about the facts of their reception into care, he made it abundantly clear that he did not wish our assistance in doing so at all.

It was agreed, therefore, that the offer of assistance would remain open to him from Shelagh McDiarmid and that it might be better for him to rehearse the matter with her and perhaps his parents. It was also proposed and agreed that a time-scale of the end of September should be the agreed final point at which Brian Alexander should begin the process of explanation.

Mel Cadman made it clear that the process of telling them would be one which everybody might find difficult and which would clearly have implications for the children's attitude towards their grand-parents and their father. He reminded everybody present of the need to work in close collaboration to ensure that questions and anxieties were properly and appropriately addressed by the children's carers.

It was also agreed that Shelagh McDiarmid would have to make contact with the children's mother at her last known address, as she would be required to give her formal consent to custody, although it was clear that grounds for dispensing with this consent would exist, should there be any problem in so doing.

DECISIONS TAKEN

Continued

- 4/ Brian Alexander to begin the process of explaining to both children the circumstances of their being received into care and subsequently remaining with their grandparents.
- 5/ Brian Alexander to explain to Nicola the circumstances of her adoption.
- 6/ Shelagh McDiarmid to offer practical support to Brian Alexander with the process of explaining these matters to his children.
- 7/ All the above tasks should be completed by the middle of October, to ensure that the application for custody can be processed as quickly as possible.

PART 1 THE CHILDREN

1. NICOLA ALEXANDER 1.12.79
11 MERKSWORTH WAY,
PAISLEY.

KELLIE ALEXANDER 9.7.81
11 MERKSWORTH WAY,
PAISLEY.

Nicola is the illegitimate child of Sandra Rae/Alexander subsequently adopted by Sandra and Brian Alexander following their marriage. Kellie is the legitimate child of Sandra and Brian Alexander.

The family are protestant.

2. NICOLA

Nicola is an attractive, rather shy 7 year old. She relates well to both peers and adults and presents no behavioural problems. Her school reports are good and despite having a rather serious nature, enjoys normal play. She plays well with her younger sister Kellie and there is no untoward friction between them. Nicola wears glasses as a result of a squint and other than surgery to remove her tonsils and adenoids earlier this year, she enjoys good health.

Both children recognise that Mr. and Mrs. Alexander are their grandparents and that Brian Alexander is their natural father.

3. Both children are subject to a Supervision requirement under Section 44 1(a) of the Social Work Scotland Act 1968 with a condition of residence with their grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Adam Alexander, 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley.
4. The children's natural father, Brian Alexander has regular access to both children and has them for overnight stays each weekend. Sandra Alexander, the natural mother, now divorced from her husband moved to the South of England some 3 years ago and she has made no contact with the children since that time. Nicola and Kellie see their maternal grandfather each Sunday and have a good relationship with him. There are no court orders in force relating to custody or access and the identity of Nicola's natural father is unknown.
5. Nicola and Kellie have been in the care of the Local Authority since 18.4.83. placed with their paternal grandparents. The standards of care during this period have been of the highest standard both materially and emotionally. Both children have very close bonds with their grandparents but recognise that Brian Alexander is their natural father. The applicants for custody, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Alexander, therefore have had the care of both children for a period of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years.
6. Brian and Sandra Alexander were married in 1980 when they were aged 18 and 19. The marital relationship appears to have been fraught with financial and emotional difficulties, the couple being described at that time as "immature" and basically inadequate as marital partners and parents.

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In September 1982 Nicola was admitted to hospital following an assault by her father. Brian Alexander was remanded in custody and Nicola was returned to the care of her mother. Both children were at this stage placed on the Child Abuse register. On 17.1.83 Brian Alexander appeared in court and was sentenced to three months imprisonment on the charge of assault against Nicola. In February 1983 Sandra Alexander left Nicola and Kellie with their paternal grandparents and went to live in the South of England saying that she wanted no more to do with them. On 17.3.83 Brian Alexander was released from prison and the children were made subject to a Home Supervision Requirement with a condition of residence with Mr. and Mrs. Adam Alexander where they have remained to this date. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander were approved by the Local Authority as related foster parents.

7. The family have now been known to myself for a period of a year and during this time extensive discussions have taken place on the subject of custody. Although Nicola and Kellie are young they do appear to have some understanding of the basic concept of custody, particularly Nicola. She understands and is happy to stay with her grandparents at least until she is a "big girl". She would want to have regular access to her natural father and states that she might go and stay with him when she is older. Kellie although even more limited in her understanding than Nicola, understands that custody would introduce a stronger element of permanence and the very close bond between her and her grandmother makes this appealing to her. She quite strongly states that she would not want to go and stay with her father.
8. Brian Alexander, the natural and adoptive father, remarried in March 1986 to Jean Alexander. The children have a good relationship with their step-mother but despite initial plans for rehabilitation, it became quite clear at an early stage that Brian and Jean lacked the commitment to this plan and stated that they did not wish to have the children return to them.
9. There is no doubt that the granting of a custody order would safeguard and promote the welfare of both children. Custody would provide permanence and security whilst still enabling the children to maintain their identity with their natural father and regular access to him and other members of the extended family.

PART 11 THE NATURAL PARENTS

1. BRIAN ALEXANDER D.O.B.
39 Mossvale Street,
Paisley.

SANDRA ALEXANDER D.O.B.
Address Unknown.

Brian and Sandra Alexander were married in 1980 and divorced in 1986. To my knowledge Sandra Alexander has not remarried but Brian Alexander married Jean in March 1986. There is no contact whatsoever between Brian Alexander and his ex-wife. As stated previously Nicola is the illegitimate child of Sandra Alexander subsequently adopted by Brian and Sandra Alexander. Kellie is the legitimate child of the marriage.

2. BRIAN ALEXANDER

During the year I have known Brian Alexander extensive discussion has taken place over the future plans for Nicola and Kellie. Every opportunity has been afforded him to extend his access to the children towards eventual rehabilitation. Initially he did state that he wanted his children back with him but made no positive steps to this end. At a Child Care Review held in August of this year he clearly stated that both he and his wife Jean had made the decision that the children would be better staying with their grandparents.

/...

The reasons for this are twofold. Firstly, neither he nor Jean are prepared to make a full time commitment to the children and secondly they feel that the children have been so long with their grandparents that to move them at this stage would be overly disruptive. In addition they acknowledge that Kellie in particular is very close to her grandmother and would not easily countenance a move back to her father. Brian Alexander fully understands the implications of a custody order being made and feels that this would best safeguard the interests of the children. He would however wish to have regular access to them.

SANDRA ALEXANDER

I have been unable to contact Sandra Alexander, letters sent recorded delivery to her last known address have been returned. The last contact with her was through the Probation Service in February 1985 when she stated that she wished the children to be adopted by Mr and Mrs Adam Alexander.

PART 111 THE APPLICANTS

1. ADAM ALEXANDER D.O.B. 3.1.29.
11 Merksworth Way,
Paisley. Paternal Grandfather.

EVELYN ALEXANDER D.O.B. 23.1.28.
11 Merksworth Way,
Paisley. Paternal Grandmother.
2. Mr and Mrs Alexander have been married for 34 years and have a particularly stable relationship. They have 4 children all of whom are now married and outwith the family home although all frequent the house regularly and maintain close contact.
3. Home is a local authority terraced house in Gockston, Paisley which is furnished and maintained to a high standard. There do not appear to be any financial problems. Mr. Alexander is employed in a general capacity by Strathclyde Regional Council in Cotton Street, Paisley. Mrs. Alexander remains at home to care for the children.
4. At present a fostering allowance is paid to Mr and Mrs Alexander in respect of both children. I would recommend that, should a custody order be granted, the local authority make payments under Section 50 of The Children's 1975 Act.
5. During the period of three years of caring full time for Nicola and Kellie, Mr and Mrs Alexander have offered a high standard of physical and emotional care. They have fully understood the difficulties with the situation and have made every effort possible to sustain access to Brian Alexander (natural father). They are clearly very emotionally attached to both children and have in effect assumed full parental responsibilities. Materially the children are well provided for and there is no doubt that they enjoy the warmth and security of the relationship. Mr and Mrs Alexander are fully aware of the difficulties which may be encountered as the children grow older i.e. coming to terms with their past and understanding the reasons for living with their grandparents and have cooperated fully with this department and Brian Alexander in "telling" the children their life history.
6. There is no doubt that Mr and Mrs Alexander are entirely suitable to continue to bring up Nicola and Kellie throughout their childhood. However the fact of their age 58 and 59 respectively must pose questions as to their ability to cope with the children when they become older.

/....

Fortunately both applicants enjoy good health. There were no problems found when they received a medical examination on 19.11.86. Neither smoke or drink to excess. It is my opinion that their age does not constitute a major drawback regarding their ability to continue to care for the children and would not render them unsuitable to have custody.

7. Mr and Mrs Alexander actively encourage access to the natural father and also to the maternal grandfather who has weekly access to the children. They see this as an important part of the children's life and would make every effort to ensure that this continues.
8. There are no previous convictions recorded by criminal records for either applicant.

PART IV GENERAL ISSUES

1. The maternal grandfather, Robert Rae has been interviewed with regard to the application for custody. He is fully in favour of the application and feels that Mr and Mrs Alexander are more than capable of meeting the children's needs throughout their childhood. He also expressed the view that his daughter, Sandra (mother) would not object to the application, although he has not seen her for some time.
2. Should a custody order be granted the local authority would propose to recommend to the Children's Panel that the Supervision Requirement under Section 44 (1)(a) of the Social Work Scotland Act 1968 should be terminated.

PART V CONCLUSION

1. There is no doubt that the applicants will continue to offer the highest standard of care to Nicola and Kellie should the court grant a custody order. Every effort has been made to encourage and assist the natural father to resume care of the children but this has been met by passive resistance from both him and his new wife. It has not been possible to contact the natural mother. However her lack of concern has been illustrated by her not maintaining any contact with the children during the past 3 years. Moreover she has indicated to both her own father and the children's current carers that she would be happy to commit them to their permanent care.
2. Although Brian Alexander has clearly stated his intentions regarding the children, he undoubtedly still harbours a great deal of love for them but feels that within his new marriage and his personal circumstances he is unable to care for them on a full time basis. He fully understands the implications of a custody order and given that it is presumed that he will be granted access, his relationship with the children will remain relatively unchanged.
3. Nicola and Kellie are already fully integrated into the home of Mr and Mrs Alexander. However the granting of a custody order would ensure long term security and would give Mr and Mrs Alexander more opportunity to make long term plans. It would most certainly be in the children's best interests to have this security and know that their permanent home is with their grandparents. There are no special emotional, behavioural or educational needs which require to be met and Mr and Mrs Alexander are more than capable of coping with any difficulties which could arise as the children grow up. They are committed to ensuring that the children see their natural father, his wife and their maternal grandfather on a regular basis.
4. It is therefore my opinion that a custody order under the Children's Act 1975 should be granted to Mr and Mrs Alexander. The principle of continuing access to Brian Alexander (natural father) and the maternal grandfather should also be included.

Shelagh McDiarmid.
Shelagh McDiarmid, (Mrs.)
Social Worker

8th December, 1986.

PETITION OF MR AND MRS A. ALEXANDER
11 MERKSWORTH WAY,
PAISLEY

CHILDREN'S ACT 1975 (47-55)

CUSTODY OF

NICOLA ALEXANDER
1.12.79.

KELLIE ALEXANDER
9.7.81.

REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR
OF SOCIAL WORK.

SHELAGH McDIARMID
SOCIAL WORKER

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Shelagh McDiarmid
 Shelagh McDiarmid, (Mrs.)
Social Worker

8th January, 1988.

PETITION OF MR AND MRS. A. ALEXANDER
11 MERKSWORTH WAY,
PAISLEY

CHILDREN'S ACT 1975 (47-55)

CUSTODY OF

NICOLA ALEXANDER
1.12.79.

SHELAGH McDIARMID
SOCIAL WORKER

ALEXANDER - CUSTODY REPORT

PART 1 THE CHILDREN

1. NICOLA ALEXANDER 1.12.79
 11 MERKSWORTH WAY,
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4. The children's father, Brian Alexander has regular access to both children and has them for overnight stays each weekend. Sandra Alexander, the natural mother, now divorced from her husband moved to the South of England some 3 years ago and she has made no contact with the children since that time. Nicola and Kellie see their maternal grandfather each Sunday and have a good relationship with him. There are no court orders in force relating to custody or access and the identity of Nicola's natural father is unknown.
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6. Brian and Sandra Alexander were married in 1980 when they were aged 18 and 19. The marital relationship appears to have been fraught with financial and emotional difficulties, the couple being described at that time as "immature" and basically inadequate as marital partners and parents.

In September 1982 Nicola was admitted to hospital following an assault by her father. Brian Alexander was remanded in custody and Nicola was returned to the care of her mother. Both children were at this stage placed on the Child Abuse register. On 17.1.83 Brian Alexander appeared in court and was sentenced to three months imprisonment on the charge of assault against Nicola. In February 1983 Sandra Alexander left Nicola and Kellie with their paternal grandparents and went to live in the South of England saying that she wanted no more to do with them. On 17.3.83 Brian Alexander was released from prison and the children were made subject to a Home Supervision Requirement with a condition of residence with Mr. and Mrs. Adam Alexander where they have remained to this date. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander were approved by the Local Authority as related foster parents.

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7. The family have now been known to myself for a period of a year and during this time extensive discussions have taken place on the subject of custody. Although Nicola and Kellie are young they do appear to have some understanding of the basic concept of custody, particularly Nicola. She understands and is happy to stay with her grandparents at least until she is a "big girl". She would want to have regular access to her adoptive father and states that she might go and stay with him when she is older. Kellie although even more limited in her understanding than Nicola understands that custody would introduce a stronger element of permanence and the very close bond between her and her grandmother makes this appealing to her. She quite strongly states that she would not want to go and stay with her father.
8. Brian Alexander, the natural father of Kellie and adoptive father of Nicola, remarried in March 1986 to Jean Alexander. The children have a good relationship with their step-mother but despite initial plans for rehabilitation, it became quite clear at an early stage that Brian and Jean lacked the commitment to this plan and stated that they did not wish to have the children return to them.
9. There is no doubt that the granting of a custody order would safeguard and promote the welfare of both children. Custody would provide permanence and security whilst still enabling the children to maintain their identity with their father and regular access to him and other members of the extended family.

PART 11 THE NATURAL PARENTS

1. BRIAN ALEXANDER D.O.B. 4.3.61.
39 Mossvale Street,
Paisley.

SANDRA ALEXANDER D.O.B. Unknown
Address Unknown.

Brian and Sandra Alexander were married in 1980 and divorced in 1986. To my knowledge Sandra Alexander has not remarried but Brian Alexander married Jean Gray in March 1986. There is no contact whatsoever between Brian Alexander and his ex-wife. As stated previously Nicola is the illegitimate child of Sandra Alexander subsequently adopted by Brian and Sandra Alexander on 19.3.82 in Paisley. Kellie is the legitimate child of the marriage.

2. BRIAN ALEXANDER

During the year I have known Brian Alexander, extensive discussion has taken place over the future plans for Nicola and Kellie. Every opportunity has been afforded him to extend his access to the children towards eventual rehabilitation. Initially he did state that he wanted his children back with him but made no positive steps to this end. At a Child Care Review held in August of last year he clearly stated that both he and his wife Jean had made the decision that the children would be better staying with their grandparents.

The reasons for this are twofold. Firstly neither he nor Jean are prepared to make a full time commitment to the children and secondly they feel that the children have been so long with their grandparents that to move them at this stage would be overly disruptive. In addition they acknowledge that Kellie in particular is very close to her grandmother. Brian Alexander fully understands the implications of a custody order being made and feels that this would best safeguard the interests of the children. He would however wish to have regular access to them. Although Brian Alexander makes no regular maintenance contributions, he does buy clothes for both girls at frequent intervals. He is employed as a painter.

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SANDRA ALEXANDER

I have been unable to contact Sandra Alexander, letters sent recorded delivery to her last known address have been returned. The last contact with her was through the Probation Service in February 1985 when she stated that she wished the children to be adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Adam Alexander.

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Paisley. Paternal Grandmother.

2. Mr and Mrs. Alexander have been married for 34 years and have a particularly stable relationship. They have 4 children all of whom are now married and outwith the family home although all frequent the house regularly and maintain close contact.
3. Home is a local authority terraced house in Gockston, Paisley which is furnished and maintained to a high standard. There do not appear to be any financial problems. Mr. Alexander is employed in a general capacity by Strathclyde Regional Council in Cotton Street, Paisley. Mrs. Alexander remains at home to care for the children.
4. At present a fostering allowance is paid to Mr and Mrs. Alexander in respect of both children. I would recommend that, should a custody order be granted the local authority make payments under Section 50 of the Children's 1975 Act.
5. During the period of three years of caring full time for Nicola and Kellie, Mr and Mrs. Alexander have offered a high standard of physical and emotional care. They have fully understood the difficulties with the situation and have made every effort possible to sustain access to Brian Alexander (father). They are clearly very emotionally attached to both children and have in effect assumed full parental responsibilities. Materially the children are well provided for and there is no doubt that they enjoy the warmth and security of the relationship. Mr. & Mrs. Alexander are fully aware of the difficulties which may be encountered as the children grow older i.e. coming to terms with their past and understanding the reasons for living with their grandparents, and have cooperated fully with this department and Brian Alexander in "telling" the children their life history.
6. There is no doubt that Mr and Mrs. Alexander are entirely suitable to continue to bring up Nicola and Kellie throughout their childhood. However the fact of their age 58 and 59 respectively must pose questions as to their ability to cope with the children when they become older.

Fortunately both applicants enjoy good health. There were no problems found when they received a medical examination on 19.11.86. Neither smoke or drink to excess. It is my opinion that their age does not constitute a major drawback regarding their ability to continue to care for the children and would not render them unsuitable to have custody.

..../

.../

7. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander actively encourage access to the children's father and also to the maternal grandfather who has weekly access to the children. They see this as an important part of the children's life and would make every effort to ensure that this continues.
8. There are no previous convictions recorded by criminal records for either applicant.

PART IV GENERAL ISSUES

1. The maternal grandfather, Robert Rae has been interviewed with regard to the application for custody. He is fully in favour of the application and feels that Mr and Mrs. Alexander are more than capable of meeting the children's needs throughout their childhood. He also expressed the view that his daughter, Sandra (mother) would not object to the application, although he has not seen her for some time.
2. Should a custody order be granted the local authority would propose to recommend to the Children's Panel that the Supervision Requirement under Section 44 (1)(a) of the Social Work Scotland Act 1968 should be terminated.

PART V CONCLUSION

1. There is no doubt that the applicants will continue to offer the highest standard of care to Nicola and Kellie should the court grant a custody order. Every effort has been made to encourage and assist the father to resume care of the children but this has been met by passive resistance from both him and his new wife. It has not been possible to contact the natural mother. However her lack of concern has been illustrated by her not maintaining any contact with the children during the past 3 years. Moreover she has indicated to both her own father and the children's current carers that she would be happy to commit them to their permanent care.
2. Although Brian Alexander has clearly stated his intentions regarding the children, he undoubtedly still harbours a great deal of love for them but feels that within his new marriage and his personal circumstances he is unable to care for them on a full time basis. He fully understands the implications of a custody order and given that it is presumed that he will be granted access, his relationship with the children will remain relatively unchanged.
3. Nicola and Kellie are already fully integrated into the home of Mr and Mrs Alexander. However the granting of a custody order would ensure long term security and would give Mr and Mrs Alexander more opportunity to make long term plans. It would most certainly be in the children's best interests to have this security and know that their permanent home is with their grandparents. There are no special emotional, behavioural or educational needs which require to be met and Mr and Mrs Alexander are more than capable of coping with any difficulties which could arise as the children grow up. They are committed to ensuring that the children see their father, his wife and their maternal grandfather on a regular basis.
4. It is therefore my opinion that a custody order under the Children's Act 1975 should be granted to Mr and Mrs. Alexander. The principle of continuing access to Brian Alexander (father) and the maternal grandfather should also be included.

Shelagh McDiarmid (Mrs.)
Social Worker

Shelagh McDiarmid

16th February, 1987.

NAME OF AGENCY SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT,
 ADDRESS CRAIGIELEA HOUSE,
 BLACKSTOUN RD. PAISLEY.
 'Link person' (if any) N/A
 Telephone

Social Worker MISS P. ATKINSON
 Senior MR. H. BROOKS.
 Address
 Telephone

DETAILS OF FAMILY

(prospective adopters or foster parents)

1. Factual information

Surname ALEXANDER Forenames: male ADAM
 Wife's maiden name MURPHY female EVELYN
 Address 11 MERKSWORTH WAY,
 PAISLEY Telephone 840 2508

	Male	Female
Date of birth.....	3.1.29	23.1.28
Place of birth.....	PAISLEY	LONDON
Nationality.....	BRITISH	BRITISH
Race.....	CAUCASIAN	CAUCASIAN
Religion.....	CHURCH OF SCOTLAND	CHURCH OF ENGLAND.
Present marital status.....	MARRIED	MARRIED.
Occupation.....	PART-TIME SCHOOLS' CLEANER.	UNEMPLOYED.
Income (p.a.).....		

2. Pen picture: 'thumbnail' description of family. (Please attach recent photographs of family, if available)

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander have 4 grown up sons who all live outwith the family home. They presently care for their youngest son's 2 little girls following the breakdown of his marriage. The father of the children visits daily but is prevented from having the care of them by a supervision order requiring them to reside with the paternal grandparents, following an incident of child abuse last year.

3. Type of resource: (details on pages 10 to 12)

~~Adoption~~/foster home/~~other~~ (delete)

Can they take more than one? Yes/~~No~~. If yes, how many? 2

Suitable for: (age-range of child, sex, race etc). Specify Specifically their 2 grand-daughters Nicola 3 yrs. and Kelly 2 yrs.

Special features, if any (e.g. skills, experience, facilities available, interest or proven capacity in working with natural parents)

They are the natural grandparents of these 2 children and have experience of successfully raising 4 sons.

INFORMATION FROM DOCUMENTS, REPORTS AND REFERENCES

4. Marriage

Date/place of marriage 5.12.52 London Date certificate seen

Has either had a previous marriage? ~~Yes~~/No. If yes, give details, how terminated and, if children involved, custody arrangements made. Specify documents seen

5. Health ***

Name, address and telephone (if known) of family doctor(s) Dr. Winton, 34 Love Street, Paisley.

Tel: 889 3355

Date of medical examination
and any significant comments
by doctor(s)Date report seen by agency
medical adviser and any
significant comments

Male applicant 15.7.83

Female applicant 15.7.83

Children and other members of the household: any significant comments made by the doctor on their health or adjustment.

6. Personal references: How many taken up? 2 How many interviewed? None
Any particularly significant comment by a referee No, both very favourable.7. Local authority inquiries (incl. police checks): as required under Adoption Agencies Regulations and Boarding Out Regulations
Dates reports received 23.6.83
Any significant factor in reports Not known to police.8. Legal information: to which court would adopters apply? N/A
Are any special difficulties likely to arise at this court? N/A9. Date application presented to agency's committee/panel
Decision

INDIVIDUAL PROFILE – MALE APPLICANT (see also Item 24)**10. Pen picture brief physical description including height, build, colouring and overall impression of temperament**

Mr. Alexander is a tall athletic looking man in his mid fifties. He is 6'3" tall and weighs approximately 15 stones. He has a fair complexion, with blue eyes and dark brown hair. He impresses as a sociable and pleasant mannered individual.

11. Family background brief description of his family of origin and his experiences in growing up. Include brief details of family members' training and occupation

His family originates from Edinburgh but he and his 4 siblings were raised mainly in Paisley. His only surviving sibling is a sister in Workington who visits about once a year. Mr. Alexander feels he had a happy childhood and experience of family life himself and he has tried to emulate this in raising his own 4 sons.

12. Education type of school, further education, formal qualifications (if any) and his attitude to his experience

Mossvale Primary.

13. Occupation present and previous. Degree of satisfaction with work. Future plans and likelihood of job changes requiring family moves. Attitude to wife's working or stopping work

1. Machine Operator Presthold Refrigeration, Hillington, 1952-79, enjoyed this job but had to leave when firm closed.
2. Machine Operator Johnny Walker Renfrew 1980-82, left after having extended time off due to problems with son Brian's marriage and his assault of the 2 children.
3. Machine Operator in Glasgow, temporary job only, February to April 1983.

Unemployed since 1.4.83.

14. Interests, hobbies, talents including whether shared with other family members. How much leisure time does he have?

Stamp collecting, enjoys listening to records, singing and country walks.

15. Personality and philosophy of life/religion. Give your impression of his personality and approach to life. If he is religious, what does this involve for him? Does he expect his wife and children to share his beliefs/practice?

Mr. Alexander impresses as a relaxed and easygoing personality. He is very approachable with a pleasant manner and good sense of humour. However, he does tend to avoid conflict and major responsibilities and relies on his wife to take main decisions or to motivate him into taking action. Copes less well with tension and worry than his wife, had to have time off work during difficulties with son for example.

He has no strong religious beliefs but adheres to basically Christian principles and moral code.

INDIVIDUAL PROFILE - FEMALE APPLICANT (see also Item 25)

16. Pen picture brief physical description including height, build, colouring and overall impression of temperament.
Mrs. Alexander is quite tall, 5'5", of medium build with fair/auburn hair and blue eyes. She was born with a cleft palate and hair lip and has an associated hearing problem, although these physical problems are in no way debilitating.
17. Family background brief description of her family of origin and her experiences in growing up. Include brief details of family members' training and occupation.
Mrs. Alexander had 4 brothers and sisters and was born and raised in London. She had a happy childhood despite the war, and like her husband hoped to repeat her own good experiences of family life with her own family. She met her husband when they were both serving in the Armed Forces in the early 1950s and after they were demobbed in 1952 they married and moved to Scotland. Mrs. Alexander still keeps in contact with her brothers and sisters by letter and occasional visits.
18. Education type of school, further education, formal qualifications (if any) and her attitude to her experience.
Primary and secondary school in London, left at 14 years without any formal education. Mrs. Alexander missed a lot of schooling due to operations on her hair lip.
19. Occupation present and previous. Degree of satisfaction with work. Future plans and likelihood of job changes requiring family moves. Attitude to working or stopping work.
Presser in tailoring firm from 14 - 17½ years.
Land Army 6 months.
RAF 18 - 24 years.
Didn't work after the birth of her first child until her fourth son was 12½ years old and believes someone should be at home full time whilst children are young.
Has worked as part time cleaner at Merksworth for about 8 years.
20. Interests, hobbies, talents including whether shared with other family members. How much leisure time does she have?
Knitting, watching T.V. country walks,
21. Personality and philosophy of life/religion. Give your impression of her personality and approach to life. If she is religious, what does this involve for her? Does she expect her husband and children to share her beliefs/practice?
Mrs. Alexander impresses as a warm, strong and fairly extrovert personality. She has a very sensible and down to earth approach to life and believes in teaching the children by her own example. Like her husband she has no strong religious views but believes in Christian principles and way of life.

22. MARITAL HISTORY AND PRESENT RELATIONSHIP -- BOTH APPLICANTS

(and/or adjustment to living singly or as a one-parent family, where applicable)

Include brief details of courtship and marriage. What indications do you see that the present marriage is stable and satisfying to both partners? What are the possible areas of strain? How have they coped with problems? How much communication between them? How do they deal with disagreements/anger? Evidence of mutual support and understanding? How do they show feelings/tenderness? Which is the dominant partner? How do they distribute roles in the marriage?

Mr & Mrs Alexander met in London when they were both serving in the armed forces in the early 1950's. They were demobbed in 1952 and then married and moved up to Paisley. Both Mr & Mrs Alexander feel they have a happy marriage and they have had no major difficulties in their own relationship. They present as a very relaxed and caring couple who are very compatible and able to discuss and compromise when it is necessary to make decisions. Even though their relationship is outwardly equalitarian Mrs Alexander admits to being the more dominant personality although this suits both partners and they show a good deal of mutual respect for each others views and share all household roles and major decisions. Both Mr & Mrs Alexander state that arguments are rare and when they do have them they do not last long and are soon forgotten.

The main areas of strain appear to be financial at present due to Mr Alexander being out of work and they are struggling to make ends meet now that they have the compulsory care of their 2 granddaughters. When under pressure Mrs Alexander tends to be the more positive partner whereas Mr A appears to cope less well and is less assertive, although he offers his whole hearted support to his wife.

23. CHILDLESSNESS/INABILITY TO HAVE MORE CHILDREN -- BOTH APPLICANTS

Are the reasons for this known? If so, please give them. Give brief, but specific details of when they first learned of this, how they have coped with the problem and the degree to which they have come to terms with it at present. Are they aware that they may never come to terms with it fully and that their feelings about it will probably be revived at various times in their lives e.g. when discussing an adopted child's origins?

Not applicable.

24. PARENTING CAPACITY —MALE APPLICANT (whether he already has children or not)

Summarize your impression of the applicant as a parent or potential parent. How has his own childhood experience influenced his attitudes and capacity for parenting? What would he like to repeat with his own children; what would he try to do differently? Give your assessment of his relationship with his own children. What difficulties has he experienced with them and how has he coped? What evidence is there of his knowledge of child development and experience with other people's children?

Mr Alexander has already raised 4 sons quite successfully. He enjoyed playing a full active part in the parenting of his own children and now especially since he is out of work he is the main caretaker of his 2 young granddaughters, although he shares this role with the children's father during the day and with his wife at night. Mr Alexander impresses as a quite capable and caring parent towards the 2 girls although possibly a little over indulgent. There had been no particular difficulties with his own children in the past until his son Brian's marital breakdown and assault of the children. Although Mr Alexander found this very worrying and upsetting and at the time he has remained very loyal to his son and supportive throughout this crisis period.

25. PARENTING CAPACITY — FEMALE APPLICANT (whether she already has children or not) (As Item 24 above).

Like her husband Mrs Alexander is also very fond of and enjoys children and family life. She firmly believes at least one parent should remain at home full time during the child's early years. She did not work from her first pregnancy until her youngest son Brian was about 13 years old. She also impresses as a very capable warm and strong mother figure who instinctively deals calmly and well with any difficulties which arise. Both little girls tend to go to Mrs Alexander for comfort and reassurance when tired or hurt whereas they go to their father and papa more for play and games.

26. Children in the household

Name	Sex	Date of birth	Type of school	Relationship (e.g. adopted etc.)
Nicola	F	1.12.79	Springbank Nursery	Adopted by Brian Alexander Autumn 1981
Kelly	F	9.7.81		Natural daughter

Are any of these children mentally or physically handicapped? If yes, which? No
Nicola wears spectacles

27. Pen picture of each child in the household

Brief description of each child including height, build, colouring and general impression of personality and level of intelligence. Indicate any special needs, talents or interests and any special temperament or personality factors which would be relevant for placement of another child. What expectation does he/she have of child to be placed? Describe any special relationship between a particular child and parent (e.g. Daddy's girl, mother's big boy, baby of the family) or between pairs of children. If any of the children are adopted or fostered, give brief details of child's background as described by the applicants, approximate date placed and by whom, approximate date of adoption order or details of current fostering situation and any plan of continuing contact with natural relatives (or previous caretakers and friends).

Nicola is about 3" tall and of medium build. She has blue eyes and long medium brown hair which she tends to wear in a pony tail. She wears glasses following an eye operation in Sept 1982 to correct a squint resulting from measles. Nicola seems to be of about average intelligence and has reached her expected developmental milestones at about the right age. She has a serious looking face but smiles readily during play and has an infectious giggle. She is a happy go lucky child according to her grandparents and is something of a character and a "granny" according to Mr A. Nicola is the natural child of Mrs Sandra Alexander from a relationship before she married Brian Alexander. She was about 7 months old when Brian Alexander started courting Sandra and he legally adopted Nicola the following year, 1980. Nicola is felt to be a full member of the Alexander family by all concerned and Brian Alexander feels that she is just like his own child. Nevertheless it was Nicola that he assaulted in 1981 and 1982 by shaking and rough handling, and for which he recently served a term of imprisonment.

Kelly is the natural daughter of Brian and Sandra Alexander. She is approximately 2'6" tall of medium build with blue eyes and blonde curly hair. She is walking and understands speech but so far is not talking apart from odd words. She enjoys rough and tumble play with her daddy and papa and is generally a very active and happy toddler.

Both children have had frequent regular contact with their grandparents since birth, often staying with them for weekends and so on.

Natural mother Sandra had a psychiatric history and after about 12 months the marriage began to have severe difficulties, which meant that children spent increasing amounts of time with their grandparents. On 11th Feb 1983, whilst Brian Alexander was in prison, Sandra placed the children with Mr & Mrs Alexander saying she could no longer continue to care for them. She went to Bournemouth with another man on 4th March 1983 and there has been no contact since apart from 1 phone call in June. Nicola has apparently never mentioned her mother since she left but she has some basic understanding that Mr & Mrs Alexander are her grandparents and Brian Alexander is her father.

Following their father's release from prison on 17.3.83 the children have been made the subject of home supervision orders requiring them to stay with Mr & Mrs Alexander.

28. OTHER ADULT MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD (including grown-up children living at home)

Name	Sex	Age	Relationship	Interviewed (Yes/No)
None but Brian Alexander the childrens father visits daily for long periods.				

Do any of the above have a medical, physical or emotional handicap or require special attention? (e.g. semi-invalid, senile, asthmatic, bad heart etc). Yes/No. If yes, give brief details, including significance of this for the children of the household

What is the attitude of these members of the household to the proposed placement? Have they any particular attributes which could be of significant advantage to a child placed in this home?

Brian Alexander is hoping that the children will be returned to him at a future review hearing.

29. OTHER CHILDREN (living away from home or deceased)

Name	Sex	Age (or age at death)	Relationship	Whereabouts (or date and cause of death)
David	Married	M 29	Son	Worcester, England
Adam	Married	M 26	Son	Paisley
Gordon	Married	M 24	Son	Elderslie
Brian	Diverce	M 22	Son	Paisley

How much current contact do any of the above have with the family and what is their attitude to the proposed placement?

The eldset son loves in England and has only intermittent contact. The 2 middle sons have regular contact and have been very supportive to Mr & Mrs Alexander and Brian.

30. 'EXTENDED' FAMILY (including also friends, neighbours, god-parents)

Indicate the most significant relationships in the wider family and neighbourhood, frequency and form of contact and their attitudes toward the proposed placement. If hostile, how do the applicants plan to cope? Have you interviewed any of these people? Have they any particular attributes which could be of significant advantage to a child placed in this home?

Apart from their married sons Mr & Mrs Alexander's closest friends are their next door neighbour and also a nephew of Mr A's who lives in Renfrew. There is only occasional contact from Mrs A's relatives in London.

The childrens maternal grandfather lives and works in Paisley and has a good relationship with the Alexanders. He visits the children and stays for lunch every Sunday and he is apparently very supportive and in full agreement with the placement.

31. FAMILY LIFE STYLE

This indicates the sort of family life a child placed in this home will experience and is especially important in the placement of older children where the child's previous life-style(s) need to be considered in choosing a family for him. Some things to include are: whether they are open or controlled in expressing feelings; are they 'cuddlers' or 'touch-me-nots'; do they do things as a family group or have separate activities; are they very much involved with neighbours, friends, church, clubs informally or in organised activities? What are their attitudes to money and food? What are the attitudes to health and ill-health? How important is school achievement and homework? How strict are the rules in the household? What sort of punishments and who decides them? How are birthdays and special occasions celebrated? What special roles exist in this family? Are sexual roles important e.g. stress on femininity of girls, toughness of boys? What are the expectations of where and how another child will fit into the family patterns?

The Alexanders present as a close knit and fairly nuclear family group, Mr and Mrs A and Brian tending to do things together with the 2 daughters. Their other adult sons and respective grandchildren visit about once a week and the 2 girls are said to mix well with their young cousins, although they do not see much of each other outside this. Kelly and Nicola do play with other young children in the neighbourhood however, and occasional outings or parties may be available through Mr Alexander's membership of his local church and the Liberal Club. Although the Alexanders do not have a car they enjoy going out to local events as a family group when possible. The family are quite an extrovert, open family in their relationships and there is a lot of physical play with the children. The girls are not particularly stereotyped or encouraged to be overly feminine in their play.

Education is fairly important to Mr and Mrs A and Brian, who was apparently quite clever at school. However, although they would encourage the children to do well they all feel the main thing is that the girls are happy and settled at school and achievement is secondary.

Adult roles are not particularly defined in this family - there is a lot of overlap and sharing and each adult takes some responsibility for setting limits and controls. There are no punishments as such, possibly a slight smack from Mr or Mrs Alexander, but this is very rare and the children do not present any discipline problem on the whole. They are usually just put to bed for a while if they are playing up and then brought down again to join in the family life.

32. MOTIVATION AND PRESENT UNDERSTANDING OF ADOPTION/FOSTERING TASKSNo. of times applicants seen jointly 4 separately 1 group meetings

Comment on their expressed motivation to adopt/foster and indicate any factors you think significant (e.g. applicant's own experiences of separation, deprivation, bereavement). Do they know other adopters/foster parents? Do they basically want to provide a permanent substitute family for the child (with or without some contact with natural relatives) or a shorter term service which does not aim to absorb him into the family? (see also Item 33). How have they used the preparation offered by your agency? What is your assessment of their present understanding of the tasks involved? If adopting, could they cope with a contested case; tolerate a long period of fostering prior to adoption; travel for the purpose of introductions, perhaps over an extended period?

Mr and Mrs Alexander were upset by their son's marriage breakdown and determined that their grandchildren would not be cared for by outsiders. They impress as having a lot of love for Kelly and Nicola and are concerned therefore to offer them a good home for as long as is needed. They would like to see them returning to their father, Brian Alexander, eventually and try hard to encourage the relationship between Brian and the girls but very much within the conditions set by the Children's Hearing.

33. TOLERANCE OF CONTACT WITH NATURAL FAMILY/PEOPLE FROM CHILD'S PAST

What are their expectations of contact with natural relatives and their attitude towards this? If adopting or offering a permanent family, how far are they prepared to maintain a child's links with natural relatives or other people from his past? If offering a shorter term home, what is your assessment of their capacity to (a) have a caring relationship with natural parents (b) work with the parents and agency towards rehabilitation or other placement (c) be able to withstand the child's distress after visits (d) be willing to offer visiting parents meals or overnight accommodation regularly/occasionally (e) cope with difficult parental behaviour? Is there any parental behaviour you think they would find particularly difficult?

Mr and Mrs Alexander are quite bitter I feel, about Brian's wife Sandra, partly because of how she treated him and her accusations of child abuse but especially Mrs Alexander says because of how she failed to care properly for the children and her lack of interest or contact since. Brian Alexander seems to have more sympathy and understanding for his wife but is actively pursuing a divorce now and is anxious to set up a home for himself and the children in future. Despite their own feelings about the children's mother, the Alexanders do seem to appreciate that she will always have a special place in the girls' minds and they feel they would not stress the negatives to them. Mr and Mrs Alexander have insisted that the girls refer to them as nana and papa and try to develop the understanding in them that they have a separate mummy and daddy. The maternal grandfather visits every Sunday for several hours and his visits are encouraged and enjoyed by all the family.

34. EXPECTATIONS OF THE CHILD'S BACKGROUND

What are the applicants' feelings about heredity? Comment also on their attitude to background factors such as: social class, illegitimacy, deviant behaviour, law breaking, family violence, alcoholism, use of drugs, mental illness, retardation. If considering a child of a different race, what evidence is there of their knowledge and acceptance of his background? What specific plans have they to help the child identify with his racial heritage? For adopters of infants only: can they accept a child (a) of a legal marriage or steady relationship (b) where little is known about the father (c) who was abandoned (d) of an incestuous relationship? If not, give details

Both Mr & Mrs Alexander feel that environment is the main factor determining the children's personalities and behaviour. They feel the effect of their mother's mental illness is minimal and not likely to have any influence on the children now she is away. Despite Nicola being adopted and therefore not a natural grandchild Mr & Mrs Alexander think of her equally with Kelly as their full granddaughter and if anything they feel they have given her more love and attention to demonstrate this.

35. EXPECTATIONS OF THE CHILD TO BE PLACED

What do the applicants expect of the child (e.g. appearance, educational achievement, behaviour)? What is their understanding of possible areas of disturbance e.g. delayed or excessive affection, testing, acting out, withdrawal, attention seeking, rivalry, bedwetting, stealing etc. Is any behaviour intolerable to them? What is their attitude to medical problems, physical and mental handicap? Do they have any special skills, experience or local facility to offer a special needs child? Can they accept a child: (a) with a medical problem or physical handicap (b) who needs special education: ESN(M) or ESN(S) or other e.g. blind, deaf etc.?

Mr & Mrs Alexander have little understanding of disturbed behaviour as such but have a very practical and common sense approach to raising their 2 granddaughters based on their experiences of bringing up 4 sons already. They feel the children are very content and settled well with them and that they adjusted quite easily to the loss of their mother since the Alexanders had been caring for the girls on a regular basis anyway since they were born. Kelly is still pre-speech but Nicola apparently never mentions her mother at all, but Mrs Alexander feels she will be able to answer all the child's questions when she is ready to talk more about her past. Both children play normally with each other and enjoy mixing with other children also.

36. ACCOMMODATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD (plus transport)

Type of accommodation (including whether rented or mortgaged), state of upkeep and attitudes to housework e.g. casual, organised, chaotic, house-proud. Include number of living rooms, bedrooms, proposed sleeping arrangement for child, amount of playspace outdoors. Number and kinds of pets kept by the family. Brief description of neighbourhood (include racial mix) and special amenities e.g. schools, medical resources, recreation and sports facilities. If family plan to move, give details. Indicate public transport facilities. Do the applicants have a car? (Who drives?)

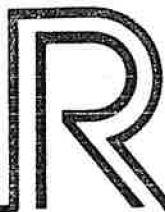
Mr & Mrs Alexander moved in their present 4 apartment terraced council house approximately 13 years ago having lived in central Paisley and Foxbar before that. Most of their neighbours moved in about the same time when the terrace was newly built, and are about the same age and social class. Mr & Mrs Alexander are currently buying their home from Renfrew District Council. The house is comfortably furnished and well maintained throughout but also has a very lived in feel. Nicola and Kelly share a bedroom upstairs, Mr & Mrs Alexander have another and the 3rd bedroom is a spare room at present in case anyone stops overnight. Most of the domestic chores are done by Mr Alexander at present whilst he is unemployed. Downstairs there is a large lounge, dining room, kitchen at the rear and a front and private back garden for the children to play in. The family have a very friendly, docile pet dog. The neighbourhood generally is a fairly quiet and well maintained area, slightly separated from a local housing scheme but within easy walking distance of nursery, primary and secondary schools. The family do not have a car. The children's father has his own home at 39 Mossvale Street about 5 minutes walk away.

37. SOCIAL WORKER'S ASSESSMENT (see also Item 3 on page 1)

Please summarize briefly your assessment of the sorts of children this family could cope with and the sort they would probably do best with. If there is an element of disagreement on this point between you and the applicants, it is important to record this so that they may be considered for the widest possible range of individual children. Are there any special features of the resource they are offering?

Mr & Mrs Alexander provide a good home for the 2 girls and are able to ensure that they have daily contact with their father Brian Alexander. It is clearly the most appropriate placement for these children and is in their best interests that they remain there until such times as they return to their father. However, although Mr & Mrs Alexander are determined to continue caring for their granddaughters for as long as necessary they do require a regular financial input if they are to provide a reasonable standard of care. The children had very little clothing or material possessions from home and the family are dependent on Mrs Alexander's part time wage and Child Benefit from their son to support the children so they are struggling to make ends meet and buy all the necessary extras for the children. I would recommend, therefore, that Mr & Mrs Alexander are approved as soon as possible as related Foster Parents to the 2 children.

Date this form completed:.....
P. Atherton



ROBERTSON & ROSS

FIRST CLASS
OUR REF: P/ PGH/LM/B
YOUR REF:

Solicitors and Notaries,
7 Gilmour Street,
Paisley PA1 1DD.

Mr and Mrs A Alexander
11 Marksworth Way
PAISLEY

Telephone: 041-889 1121
R.E. Box No. PA 27
Fax No. (G.P. 2 & 3) 041-887 5561

29th February, 1988

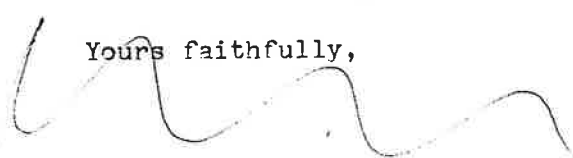
Dear Mr and Mrs Alexander,

CUSTODY

We write to advise that we obtained a Court Judgement in your favour, when this case called in Court on the 25th February, 1988.

We shall contact you again as soon as the Extract Decree comes to hand.

Yours faithfully,





Strathclyde Regional Council
Social Work Department
Craigielea House
Blackstoun Road
Paisley

Name of Social Worker Shelagh McDiarmid
Tel. No. 881 5195

Date 13/14/87

To :—

The Head Teacher

Mossvale Primary
Fullerton Street
Paisley



Dear Sir/Madam

Child's Name Nicola Alexander (1/12/79)

The above named child is in ~~*residential care~~/care of foster parents. I should be obliged if you would arrange for ~~*caring staff~~/foster parents to receive the child's annual school report in the normal way when these are being issued to all parents.

Additionally, it would be appreciated if the report form overleaf could be completed and returned to me in the stamped addressed envelope provided. The child's social worker could arrange to see you if you would like to discuss any matters arising from the report.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. A., Paisley
Custody application in respect of their grandchildren
Nicola (1.12.79) and Kellie (9.7.81) Alexander

CA/RD/87/1

PANEL: Councillor A. Ferguson (Chairman), Councillor G. Grant, Miss N. Gethin,
Mrs. H. Edwards, Dr. C. Mathers, Mrs. J. West

PRESENTING SOCIAL WORKER: Mrs. S. McDiarmid

Mr. M. Cadman, senior social worker, was also present.

- - - -

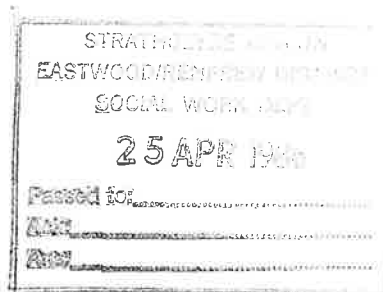
Miss Gethin asked if the girls' father, Brian, would ever wish to resume care of his children. Mrs. McDiarmid said he had stated that in the event of his parents becoming incapacitated and unable to care for the children he and his new wife would seek their custody. Brian has regular access to his children and Mrs. McDiarmid anticipated that access would continue after the granting of Custody Orders. He understands the implications of Custody Orders being made and feels such Orders would safeguard the interests of his children. Mrs. McDiarmid believed there was no confusion in the children's minds about their relationship to Mr. and Mrs. A. They are well aware that the As are their grandparents and that Brian is their father. They also know their maternal grandfather and have regular access to him. The maternal grandfather is also in agreement that Mr. and Mrs. A should have custody of the children.

RECOMMENDATION:

Having studied Mrs. McDiarmid's reports and discussed the content of these, the Panel members agreed to recommend that Custody Orders in favour of Mr. and Mrs. A would be in the best interests of Nicola and Kellie. They further agreed to recommend that custody allowances should be paid to Mr. and Mrs. A until the children reached the age of 16 years and that any legal expenses incurred in presentation of the petitions to Paisley Sheriff Court should be paid by Strathclyde Regional Council.



To: Strathclyde Regional Council,
Social Work Department



Strathclyde Regional Council
Social Work Department
Craigielea House
Blackstoun Road
Paisley

..... District
..... Address

For attention of JENNIFER MCLEOD Child's Social Worker
..... 887 519 5 (Tel. No.)

Name of Child NICOLA ALEXANDER
Present Address 11 MERKSWORTH WAY
PAISLEY

Certificate to be Completed by Doctor

I completed the *Pre-Admission/Comprehensive/Developmental/Annual/Discharge/Transfer medical on the above named child on NICOLA ALEXANDER 21/4/86 (date). The completed R.I.C. 3 has been returned to the adult who accompanied the child.

- (a) Form C/D is enclosed.
(b) The results of the examination were satisfactory. ✓
(c) I wish to draw your attention to the following:

(d) I should like the child's Social Worker to contact me.

Date 21/4/86

Signed Dr. [Signature]
Address Dr. D. B. WINTON
36 LOVE STREET
PAISLEY
889 - 3355

(*Delete as appropriate).

Fee for Medical Services (If appropriate)

To: Strathclyde Regional Council,
Social Work Department

..... District
..... Address

Name of Child
*Fee for Pre-Admission/Comprehensive/Developmental/Annual/Discharge/Transfer Medical Examination on (Date) £.....

Date Signed Dr.
Address

(*Delete as appropriate).



**Strathclyde
Social Work
Department**

Strathclyde Regional Council
Social Work Department
Craigielea House
Blackstoun Road
Paisley

Name of Social Worker S. MCDIARMID

Date 14 APRIL 1986

Tel. No. 887 5195

To :—

The Head Teacher

MOSSVALE PRIMARY
FULLERTON ST
PAISLEY

Dear Sir/Madam

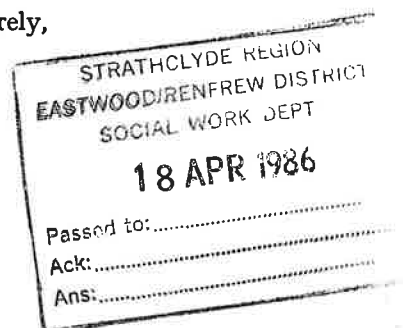
Child's Name NICOLA ALEXANDER (1.12.79)

The above named child is in ~~*residential care/~~care of foster parents. I should be obliged if you would arrange for ~~*caring staff/~~foster parents to receive the child's annual school report in the normal way when these are being issued to all parents.

Additionally, it would be appreciated if the report form overleaf could be completed and returned to me in the stamped addressed envelope provided. The child's social worker could arrange to see you if you would like to discuss any matters arising from the report.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



* Delete inappropriate

**Strathclyde
Social Work
Department**

Strathclyde Regional Council
Social Work Department
Craigielea House
Blackstoun Road
Paisley

Name of Social Worker PAULINE ATKINSON

Date 1 MARCH 1985

Tel. No. 887 5195

To :—

The Head Teacher

MOSSVALE PRIMARY
FULLERTON STREET
PAISLEY

Dear Sir/Madam

Child's Name NICOLA ALEXANDER (1.12.79)

The above named child is in *residential care/care of foster parents. I should be obliged if you would arrange for *caring staff/foster parents to receive the child's annual school report in the normal way when these are being issued to all parents.

Additionally, it would be appreciated if the report form overleaf could be completed and returned to me in the stamped addressed envelope provided. The child's social worker could arrange to see you if you would like to discuss any matters arising from the report.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

3

MINUTES OF RELATED FOSTERING ASSESSMENT
held on 17th November 1983
in Craigielea House.

Nicola (11.2.79) & Kelly (8.7.81) ALEXANDER
c/o Alexander (grandparents)
11 Merksworth Way,
PAISLEY.

PRESENT: J.J. Rafferty, Area Officer, Craigielea House. Chairman.
H. Brooks, Sen. Social Worker, " "
P. Atkinson, Social Worker, " "
F. Hamilton, Fostering/Adoption Adviser, Regional Buildings.

BACKGROUND:

The children have been living with their grandparents since 11th February 1983 after mother left with another man. At that time father, Brian Alexander, was in prison on an assault charge against Nicola. Mr. Alexander was released on 17th March this year and the children were placed on Home Supervision Orders on 18th April 1983. Since February 1983 two Section 12 grants have been given to the family totalling £150.

Mr. Adam Alexander (54) was made redundant in April this year and as they are presently buying their Council house, finances have been rather strained recently. Brian Alexander is not working at present, is in receipt of Supplementary Benefit and receives Family Allowance for the two girls which he gives to his parents.

Nicola and Kelly's names were on the N.A.I. Register but were removed on 29th April '83 when it was felt that they were secure living with their grandparents. Regarding the assault charges on Nicola, from Miss Atkinson's contact with Brian she now feels that a lot of the tension may have been caused by the marital relationship, there being frequent arguments between the couple. On the occasion when Mr. Alexander was sent to prison, Nicola had only very superficial bruising. There were no broken limbs or serious injury.

PRESENT SITUATION:

The children are developing well with their grandparents. They have regular contact with father and at the last Child Care Review it was agreed that he be allowed to take Nicola and Kelly on outings for a couple of hours and/or babysit for his parents if the need arose. It was stressed that at the present time there would be no overnight stays, although it is hoped in the future that the children could be reunited with their father.

Miss Atkinson stated that the grandparents are very open with her, and also in front of their ^{son} when discussing previous incidents. They considered that they had been supportive to their daughter-in-law in the past but since she had gone off, they now felt unable to have any further contact with her and did not wish her to see the children. After some discussion the group agreed that if mother did return to the area and wished to see her children, arrangements could perhaps be made outwith the grandparents home.

It was stated that maternal grandfather visits the children most Sundays and there apparently is a good relationship between him and the applicants. They are happy for this arrangement to continue.

Recently/

Cont'd/...

Continuation/...

Recently Brian Alexander initiated divorce proceedings.

Nicola is not Brian's child although he states that he formally adopted her about a year after his marriage. Miss Atkinson will investigate this.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT:

Police checks on the couple were negative and Brian Alexander had no convictions prior to the assault charge. No adverse reports on the medicals and these will be passed to Dr. Ireland for her comments. A positive report was received from the health visitor and from the referees.

CONCLUSION:

Mrs. Hamilton felt there was no reason not to approve this couple but asked that the medicals be passed to Dr. Ireland for her comments. Finance Department will be instructed to deduct the appropriate family allowance from the fostering allowance and this to be discussed with Brian and his parents.

It was agreed that Mr. & Mrs. Alexander should consult this Department in advance of the children being left in the sole care of Brian, and Miss Atkinson felt they would accept this.

Foster Parent Handbook to be delivered to Mr. & Mrs. Alexander. Also R.I.C. 3 to be completed.

APPLICATION APPROVED


MEB

18.11.83

Social Worker's Review Form Initial Review/Subsequent Review

Name of Child: Nicola & Kelly Alexander

Date of Birth: 1/12/79 9/7/81

Name of Home: c/o Mr & Mrs Alexander (Grandparents) 11 Merksworth Way

Date of admission: 11/2/83 (informal placement) 29/3/83 (formal placement by Children's Hearing).

Summary of decisions from last review (if appropriate):

N/A

1. Legal Position/Section under which child is in care:

44 1 (a) with condition of residence.

Any action indicated:

Review Hearing as appropriate.

2. Current address/es of:

(a) Parents: Mr Brian Alexander (father), 39 Mossvale Street
Mrs Sandra Alexander (mother), thought to be in Bournemouth area, England.

(b) Siblings not in care: N/A

(c) Siblings in care: N/A

3. Present situation with family since reception into care/last review:

Nicola and Kelly were informally placed with their grandparents (paternal) in February, by their mother because she could not cope. The children's father was in Prison at this time serving a 3 month sentence for twice assaulting Nicola in 1981 and 1982. Mrs Sandra Alexander went to England with another man before her husband's release and a Children's Hearing later decided the children should not return to his care after his release in March 1983 but that they should remain with the paternal grandparents. Since then the children have been very settled with Mr & Mrs Alexander and their father visits daily for long periods. Mr & Mrs Alexander are quite strict in ensuring he does not spend time alone with the children however. Mrs Sandra Alexander has phoned the home only once since she left Scotland and she has not spoken to the children, sent birthday cards etc. She has told her husband she does not want the responsibility of caring for the children and he is now pursuing a divorce and custody application.

Continued ►

Form D continued (2 of 3)

4. Date/s and nature of Social Worker's contact with child since reception into care/last review:

Approximately monthly visits. Fostering Application commenced June 1983 and has just been completed.

5. Date/s and nature of Social Worker's contact with family since reception into care/last review:

As above.

6. Areas of Concern:

- (a) Family Are dependent on Mrs Alexander's part time wage to support the children at present, hopefully the Fostering Assessment will be considered in the near future, and possible Section 12 payment in the interim. In addition of particular concern is the present inflexible access arrangements for the childrens' father. He has

(b) Particular reference to child in care (including progress since reception into care/last review.)

Nicola has not yet been able to talk about her mother and this should, I feel, be gradually encouraged over the next couple of years.

felt unduly penalised since coming home in that the Panel suggested he does not even take the children out for a walk, to the circus etc without an escort.

7. Other agencies involved:

Reporter's Department.
Dykebar Hospital until May 1983.

8. Needs of the child (estimated length of placement, type of placement, involvement of other agencies, estimated nature of parental contact etc.):

To remain with paternal grandparents in the immediate future. Long term plans to be reassessed nearer the Review Hearing early next year.

Form D continued (3 of 3)

9. Plans for child in view of above comment (including short, medium and long objectives):

To develop their security and happiness at home and maintain and strengthen links with their father with a view to eventual rehabilitation.

9(a) Is an application for Assumption of Parental Rights appropriate? Yes/No

10. Any further comments:

11. Persons who will attend review (from area team):

Pauline Atkinson
H. Brooks

Social Worker
Senior Social Worker.

Signed:.....*P. Atkinson*

Designation:.....Social Worker

Date:.....23rd August 1983.

Minutes of Review Meeting continued

Decisions taken (specifying action to be taken and by whom):

- 1. To allow Brian to be alone with the children for short periods.
- 2. Hearing to consider allowing Brian to stay overnight at his parents' home.
- 3. Financial support to be given to grandparents.
- 4. Social worker to work with family about how to explain to the children about their situation.

Date of next review:

Names and Designations of review panel:

Mr and Mrs Alexander	-	Grandparents
Mr Brian Alexander	-	Father
Pauline Atkinson	-	Social Worker
H Brooks	-	Senior Social Worker

Chairman of
Review Meeting:..... (H Brooks)

Designation:..... Senior Social Worker

Date:..... 29th August 1983

NICOLA AND KELLY ALEXANDER

discussion on whether fostering or S12 payments would be most appropriate - this is yet to be decided. It was, however, thought appropriate for a grant to be applied for to cover clothing expenses, etc., for the children.

Mrs Alexander mentioned that she had received a telephone call from the children's mother who had asked to speak to Nicola. Mrs Alexander had refused this and asked at this meeting how she should handle any further approaches from the mother. It was suggested that Mrs Alexander should not allow the mother to speak to the children but that she should be advised to contact the social worker to discuss it with her. The mother's whereabouts are still unknown. There was further discussion about the children's, especially Nicola's, understanding about their mother's departure. It was decided that Pauline would have ongoing discussions with the family about approaching this.

Brian Alexander indicated that it is his eventual hope to have the children returned to him but he appears to accept the present situation and to recognise the importance of maintaining his relationship with the children.

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT
EASTWOOD/RENFREW DISTRICT.

Minutes of N.A.I. Case Conference held in the Conference Room,
Social Work Department, 7 Love Street, Paisley, at 2.00 p.m on
Tuesday, 28. 09. 82..

SUBJECTS: Nicola Alexander (d.o.b. 01.12.79.)
Kelly Alexander (d.o.b. 09.07.81.)
39a Mossvale Street, Paisley.

PRESENT: Mr. R. O'Kane, Principal Social Worker (Health)
Mr. R. McCrossan, 'K' Div, Strathclyde Police.
Mr. I. Cunningham, " " " "
Mrs. E. Wilson, Health Visitor, Foxbar Clinic.
Mrs. L. McEwan, Nursing Officer.
Mr. I. Smith, Snr. Social Worker, Craigielea.
Mr. W.J. Spalding, Social Worker, Dykebar.
Mrs. J. Grigor, Social Work Asst., Dykebar.

APOLOGIES: Dr. E. Byrne, Consultant Paediatrician.
Mrs. Adams, Nursing Officer.
Mr. J. Rafferty, Area Officer, Craigielea.

Mr. O'Kane read out previous Minutes from 28th May, 1982, and brought everyone up-to-date with the case.

Mrs. Grigor visited the family on 24th September and found that the older child, Nicola, had been admitted to Hawkhead Hospital. Mr. Alexander appeared at Court today, and is remanded for 7/8 days. He may be granted Bail and will, therefore, come out on Friday, 01.10.82..

Dr. Byrne's report on the injuries was read out. Mr. Alexander had attempted to choke the child by putting his hands around her throat. There were no broken bones and no bruising on her throat, although there were some small marks under her armpits caused by pressure. It was then suggested that Mr. Alexander may have swung the child by her arms. The child is in good health.

It was stated that the Police had not contacted Standby. Concern was voiced at this omission and it was agreed to note this point in the Minute.

There was a 15 year old girl present when the incident took place and she states that Brian, the father, had his hands around Nicola's throat and was shaking her. Sandra, the mother, contacted the Police and Brian left to go to his mother's house. Sandra appears to manipulate Brian and he may have been provoked into this situation; although Brian claimed he was unaware of assaulting Nicola.

.../2

It was mentioned that when visited, there were never any signs of the children being struck. Since their move from Argyle Street, there have been no financial difficulties. Brian has been able to keep a steady job.

Sandra was first admitted into hospital as a result of Brian going for the children [REDACTED] She still attends the hospital as an out-patient but she does not make regular visits.

[REDACTED]

Both incidents will be included in the report to the Procurator Fiscal, which will then be referred to the Reporter.

Discussion followed on whether children are to be placed on the 'At Risk' Register and whether a Place of Safety Order is to be taken out as it is likely that Brian will be released on Bail.

CONCLUSIONS:

Both children's names have to be placed on the 'At Risk' Register. Restriction on the father visiting the house is to be arranged via. mother and lawyer.

If no arrangements have been made on restricting the father's access to children then a Place of Safety Order is to be taken out.

The Key Workers for the case are Mrs. J. Grigor and Mr. W.J. Spalding. Tenancy for the house is to be confirmed in Sandra's name.

-----oOo-----

c.c. for info: Mr. W.J. Parker, District Manager.
Mr. J. Leinster, Child Care Adviser.

RO'K/IS.
07.10.82.

Social Work Dept.,
Dykebar Hospital,
PAISLEY.

SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968

Supervision Requirement

(Place and date)

REPORTER'S DEPT.,
34 NEWTON ST.,
PAISLEY

18.4.83.

A children's hearing for

ST LATHRYN

in exercise of the powers conferred by section 44(1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, being satisfied

that NICOLA ALEXANDER

is in need of compulsory measures of care require him/her [to reside in

WITH MRS. ALEXANDER
11 MARKSWORTH WAY
PAISLEY.

]*†

[to be under the supervision of DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK]* subject to the conditions noted below.

[The operation of this supervision requirement is postponed until

].*

Margaret P. Smclair
Chairman of
the Children's Hearing

Conditions referred to in the foregoing supervision requirement

†1. The child is required to observe the rules of conduct of the residential establishment.

†2. The requirement to reside is subject to the discretion of the managers of the residential establishment to grant leave of absence from time to time.

1. FATHER'S ACCESS TO CHILDROW LIMITED
etc. AND ARRANGED BY SOCIAL WORK DEPT.
2. FATHER NOT TO RESIDE IN SAME
HOUSE AS CHILDROW.

Margaret P. Smclair
Chairman of
the Children's Hearing

*Where a supervision requirement requires a child to reside in a residential establishment, conditions 1 and 2 shall be inserted in the supervision requirement.

*Delete as appropriate

Dr Ireland
Russell Institute
Causeyside Street
PAISLEY

PA/CG

Pauline Atkinson

18th November 1983

Dear Dr Ireland

Re: Mr and Mrs ALEXANDER, 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley

This couple have been caring for their 2 granddaughters, Kelly (dob: 09.07.81) and Nicola (dob: 01.12.79) since February this year. At that time Mr and Mrs Alexander's son Brian, the children's father, was serving a short prison sentence for having assaulted Nicola, and the children's mother had gone away to England with another man. After Brian Alexander's release the children were placed on Home Supervision Orders in April 1983, formally requiring them to remain with Mr and Mrs Alexander. The children's mother has not returned to Scotland and her exact whereabouts remain unknown.

Over the last few months a related fostering assessment has been completed on Mr and Mrs Alexander and their application was formally discussed on 17th November at Craigielea House with the Area Officer and Fostering Adviser, Mrs Hamilton.

There were no negative factors regarding this couple's suitability to continue caring for their grandchildren and it was therefore agreed to approve their fostering application pending your consideration of the attached medical reports.

I would be grateful if you would return the signed forms to this office as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Pauline Atkinson (Miss)
Social Worker

NAME: Nicola & Kelly ALEXANDER

CASE NOTES

Feb. '88

Progress Notes

Case transferred to myself - previously held by Shelagh McDiarmid.

Nicola and Kelly Alexander have been placed with paternal grandparents for a number of years. They are currently on a Section 44 1 (a) with a condition of residence with their grandparents. A custody application is pending.

Initial home visit has been made to meet the girls and their grandparents. The situation appears very stable and it is evident that there are strong bonds between the girls and their grandparents. Mr and Mrs Alexander clearly provide a high level of care for the children and there are no apparent difficulties.

Both girls continue to see their father, Brian Alexander, and his new wife Jean. They also regularly see their maternal grandfather. Their mother lives somewhere in England and has not contacted the girls for some considerable time. Both the girls' parents are happy for Mr and Mrs Alexander to care for the girls.

It is hoped that the outcome of the custody application will be decided soon. Thereafter steps can be taken to terminate the Supervision Orders.

AMcA

Mar. '88

Progress Notes

The custody hearing took place last month and Mr and Mrs Alexander now have legal custody of the girls. The family are very delighted but also relieved. Despite the fact that they are young, the girls appear to know what is going on and, have made it clear that they do not wish to stay anywhere other than with their grandparents.

Mrs Alexander has now received a letter of confirmation from her solicitor that the custody was decided in her favour.

The situation remains very stable and the girls appear to be thriving. The next step will therefore be to try and have the 44 1 (a) dispensed with. Report will be done at the first possible opportunity.

Review notes:

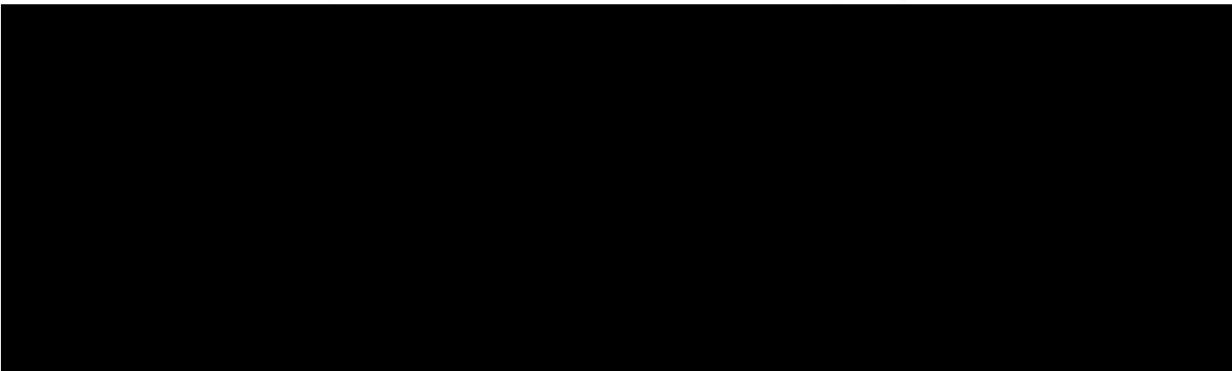
- 1 At least one home visit per month to fulfil conditions of 44 1 (a) meantime.
- 2 Letter from solicitor to be copied for file and original returned to Mr and Mrs Alexander.
- 3 Request for review Hearing and report to be prepared as soon as possible.

AMcA

Apr. '88

Progress Notes

Following request to Mossvale Primary for children's report cards to be sent to their grandparents, received a telephone call from the Head Teacher (Mrs McMath).



Name: Nicola and Kelly ALEXANDER

Cont'd
April '88

They added that this had been with the full co-operation of the Alexanders and stressed that they were in no doubt that the grandparents were the best people to care for these 2 children.

Both Nicola and Kelly are bright, pleasant little girls who have the ability to do fairly well at school. Staff at Mossvale are confident that they will have a successful school career if encouraged.

A further meeting was held at the school on 4 May to which Mrs Alexander was invited. The problems were sorted out and Mrs Alexander left the school feeling much happier.

Following the meeting Mrs Alexander advised that she (a) had paid for Nicola to go on a Brownie holiday and (b) had enrolled both girls for swimming lessons at the Lagoon in Paisley. Mrs Alexander requested that I assist her to make a claim for discretionary fostering allowances to cover the cost of these items. Both of these were initiated prior to custody being granted. Agreed to do so.

Review notes:

- 1 Monthly visits to fulfil conditions of Supervision Order.
- 2 Request to be made to District Manager for discretionary fostering allowances.
- 3 Letter requesting Hearing plus preparation of report to be done as soon as possible.

A McA

May '88

Progress Notes

Request for £31.20 made to District Manager to cover cost of swimming lessons, travelling expenses plus cost of Brownie holiday. Received confirmation from District that Mr and Mrs Alexander will be reimbursed for this.

Also received a phone call from Mrs Alexander to say that the solicitors had sent her the extract decree from the Court confirming that /

Cont'd /

NAME:

Nicola and Kelly ALEXANDER

CASE NOTES

Cont'd
May '88

that she and her husband now have legal custody. Advised Mrs Alexander that a copy of this would have to be sent to our District. Agreed to collect the letter in order to obtain copies for file and District.

Review notes:

- 1 Home visit to collect solicitors copy of decree - further copy to be taken and sent to District.
- 2 Liaison with school to check situation with girls is still settled.
- 3 Request for Hearing and report still to be done.

A McA

June '88

Progress Notes

Telephoned school prior to the girls finishing for their summer holidays. Everything seems fine.

Also did a home visit and this confirmed that the situation there is also stable. Mr and Mrs Alexander were at home with the children and all were clearly happy that it was the weekend and that they would have more time together. Girls are continuing to see their dad on a regular basis and Mr and Mrs Alexander are insistent that this is important to them. The fact that the girls go to their dad's on a Saturday also means that Mr and Mrs Alexander can have a bit of a break too.

Advised family that due to crisis work request has not yet been made for a Panel. Stressed that this would be done as soon as possible.

Review notes:

- 1 Preparation of report for Panel plus request for Hearing to be done as soon as possible.
- 2 Periodic visits to family meantime to fulfil conditions of Supervision Order.

A McA

July '88

Progress Notes

Finally managed to prepare request for Hearing and report to be forwarded to Children's Panel. This has now been duly done.

Social Worker will be on holiday from 22 July to 10 August 1988. Thereafter it will hopefully not take too long to organise a date for the Panel. Recommendation is for Home Supervision Order to be terminated.

Review notes:

- 1 Await Panel date and accompany family there - hopefully sometime in August.
- 2 Home visit prior to Hearing to prepare family.
- 3 Let school know in late August if Order is terminated.

A McA

August 1988

Progress Notes:

Notification was received, on my return from holiday of the Panel date. A telephone call was made to Mrs Alexander to arrange for me to see the family prior to the Hearing. Things appear to have gone well with the girls over the summer and their grandparents are now keen for the Supervision Order to be terminated.

Whilst on the telephone, Mrs Alexander asked if our Department would be willing to obtain copies of the girls' birth certificates for her. The originals were damaged in a fire whilst they were being held at Paisley Sheriff Court. Given that they were technically in the care of this Department at the time, Mrs Alexander feels we should replace them. This matter was discussed at Supervision with S.S.W. Will Brown who agreed to us obtaining these copies for the family.

The Children's Hearing took place on the 24th August, at 2.30pm. Decision of the Panel was to terminate the Home Supervision Order, to which the girls are currently subject.

Review Notes:

1. Copies of birth certificates to be obtained and forwarded to Mrs Alexander.
2. School to be informed of Panel Decision.
3. Transfer summary to be completed before closing case.

September 1988

Progress Notes:

Contacted Mossvale Primary School to advise them of the Panel decision. They were quite happy with this and advised that they have no real concerns about the girls at present.

Obtained copies of birth certificates and, forwarded these with a letter officially closing the case to Mrs Alexander.

Review Notes:

Closing summary to be done as soon as possible.

Closing Summary:

Nicola and Kellie Alexander have lived with their paternal grandparents, Evelyn and Adam Alexander, since 11th February 1983. This arrangement began following the breakdown of their parents' marriage. At the same time, the girls' father, Brian Alexander, was in prison serving a three year sentence for assaulting Nicola, his adopted daughter. Following his release, the girls were placed on a Home Supervision Order requiring them to reside with their grandparents and, restricting their father's access to them.

Since that time the girls have remained on a 44 (1) (A) and under the Supervision of this Department. They see their father, who has now remarried, at weekends, but have no contact with their mother who now resides, at an unknown address in the South of England.

With the support and encouragement of this Department, Mr and Mrs Alexander Snr. were persuaded to seek legal custody of the girls and, on 25th February 1988, this was granted by the Court. It had earlier been decided, at a child-care review that, if custody was granted, a Hearing should be called to request termination of the Home Supervision Order. This was done, at a Hearing, on 24th August 1988.

Cont'd.....

Name: Nicola & Kellie Alexander

CASE NOTES

Closing Summary Cont'd:

Over the past five years or so work has focussed on supporting the Alexanders in the care of their grandchildren and, on helping them achieve the legal security necessary to ensure that the girls can remain with them, in a secure environment for the rest of their childhood years.

The Alexanders have demonstrated beyond all reasonable doubt that they are well able to care for the girls independently of this Department. On the other hand, they are aware that if they require any advice or assistance in the future, they can approach this office at any time.

Recommendation:

That no further Social Work intervention is required in this case at present. Suggest that case be closed.

A McAdam - SW

28.12.89

Case Closed. N. G. S. W.

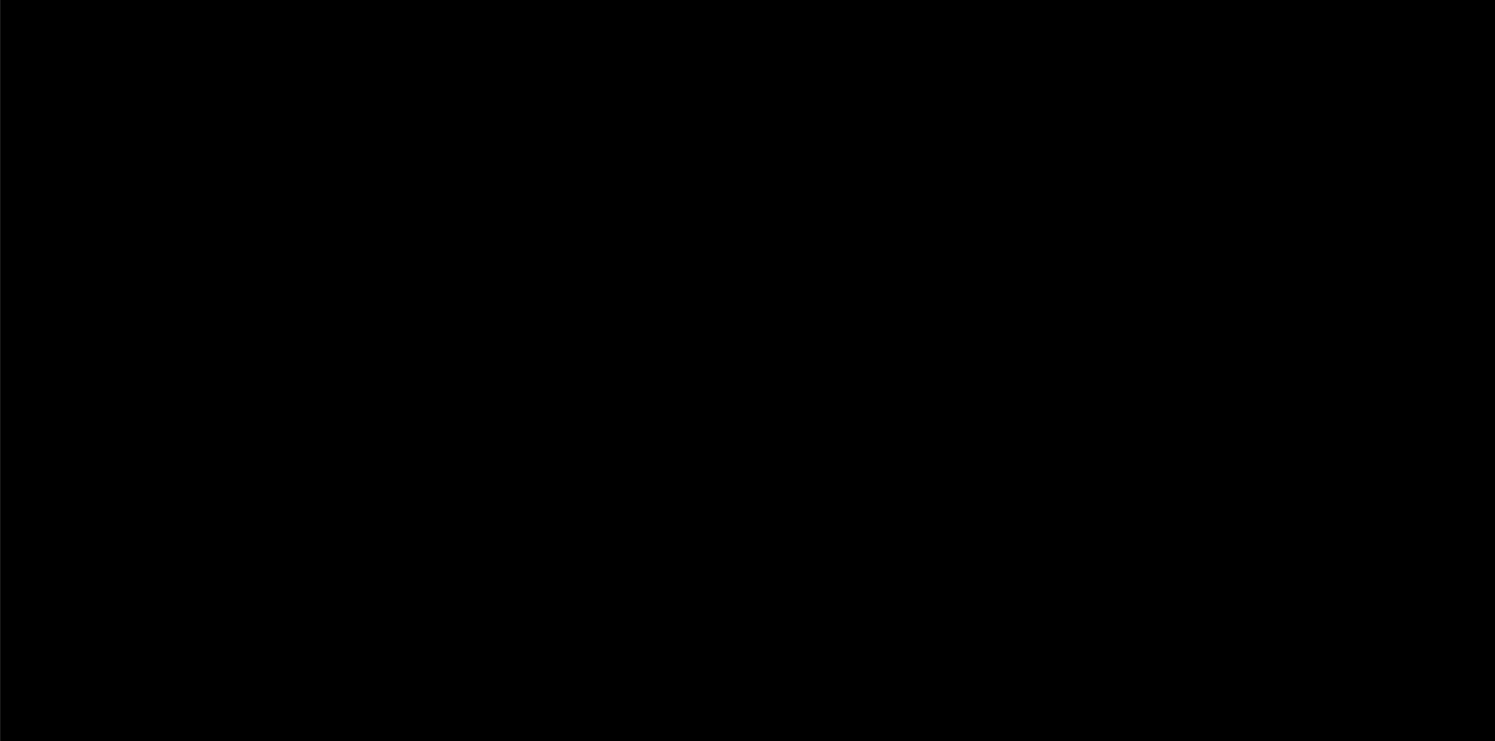
NAME: NICOLA & KELLIE ALEXANDER

CONTACT SHEET

DATE OF
CONTRACT

TYPE OF CONTRACT.

16.2.88.	Letter sent organising initial visit for Wednesday 24th February at 3.45p.m. (Copy in file).
24.2.88.	Initial Home Visit - met Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Nicola & Kellie.
29.2.88.	Telephone call from Mrs. Alexander. She has heard verbally from her solicitor that custody has been granted.
2.3.88.	Home visit - to fulfil conditions of supervision order. Saw both Nicola and Kellie together with their grandmother. Everything fine.
21.3.88.	Letter to family arranging a visit for Wednesday 30th March, at 4p.m. (copy in file). The purpose of this visit was partly to discover whether written confirmation of custody order had been received from solicitor.
30.3.88.	Home visit as arranged. Mrs. Alexander showed me the letter she has received from the solicitor. Took the letter back to the office in order to take a photocopy. Have agreed to return letter to Mrs. Alexander as soon as possible (copy of letter in file).
5.4.88.	Copy of letter of confirmation taken. Original returned to Mrs. Alexander.
13.4.88.	Request for children's report card to be sent to their grandparents sent to Mossvale Primary.



4.5.88.

Request from Mrs. Alexander to be reimbursed for Brownie trip for Nicola and swimming lessons for both girls. Both of these occurred prior to custody being granted therefore Mrs. Alexander is entitled to allowances.

11.5.88.

Appropriate forms and covering letter sent to Geoff Parkinson (District Manager) requesting payment of allowances (copy of letter in file).

13.5.88.

Telephone call from Mrs. Alexander. She has received the copy of the custody decree from her solicitor. Agreed to call on Friday 20th May to collect letter. Photocopy to be taken and sent to District Headquarters.

19.5.88.

Reply from Geoff Parkinson agreeing to payment of £31.20, discretionary fostering allowances.

20.5.88.

Home visit - saw Mrs. Alexander on her own. Advised her that cheque for £31.20 would be arriving shortly from District.

Took copy of decree extract and advised Mrs. Alexander that we could now look to organising a Hearing, to have Home Supervision Order terminated.

27.5.88.

Memo sent to Janice West at District enclosing a copy of custody decree.

4.6.88.

Reply received from Janice West advising that couple have been overpaid since granting of decree. She has agreed to notify finance department.

23.6.88.

Home visit prior to school holidays. Both girls continuing to do well. School have no further concerns. Advised that Panel report will be done as soon as possible.

21.7.88.

Request for review Hearing and accompanying report prepared in respect of Nicola and Kellie.

22.7.88.

Letter and report forwarded to Reporter at Newton Street (Please refer to copies in file).

22.7.88 -

10.8.88.

Social Worker on Annual Leave.

Anne McAdam - SW

17.8.88

Notification of Hearing date received from Reporter's department - this will be on 24.8.88 at 2.30pm.

22.8.88

Telephone call to Alexanders to make arrangements for the Panel. Request from Mrs Alexander that this department should pay to have girls' birth certificates replaced.

23.8.88

Spoke to S.S.W. Will Brown who agreed to us replacing birth certificates. Telephone call to Registrar's office to check details required for obtaining these.

Anne McAdam - SW

Name: Nicola & Kellie ALEXANDER

Contact Sheet

- 24.8.88 Children's Hearing - Panel agreed with recommendation to terminate Supervision Order.
- 26.8.88 Copies of birth certificates obtained from Paisley registrar's office. (Cost £5.50 each)
- 3.9.88 Birth certificates forwarded to Mrs Alexander with letter to officially close the case (copy in file).
- Telephone call made to Mossvale Primary to advise them that the Supervision Order has now been terminated.

A McAdam - SW

NICOLA AND KELLY ALEXANDER

complicated if Nicola and Kelly were present.

2. Brian impresses as an immature, "spoiled" personality, who would like everything his own way. He seemed unable to make any commitment to the children, obviously influenced by Jean and the financial implications and restrictions may have played some part.

SMcD

26.08.86

Review. (See file for minutes).

Main decision was that Mr and Mrs Alexander should now apply for custody under the Children's Act 1975. Also the importance of "telling" the children about their past was of paramount importance.

SMcD

Aug-Nov 86

1. Letter written to Sandra Alexander explaining situation and asking for views on custody.
2. Mr R Gray (maternal grandfather) visited and opinion on custody sought - given.
3. Nicola and Kelly visited and custody explained to them in presence of Mrs Alexander - they understood as much as could be expected for children of that age and seem happy to stay with grandparents. Kelly particularly is adamant that she wants to stay with "Nana and Papa" - Nicola is slightly more ambivalent saying that she'll go back and stay with her "Daddy" when she's a big girl.
4. Brian and Jean visited - had failed to "tell" the children of their past but agreed to do so this weekend (14.11.86) and relate back to Mr and Mrs Alexander.
5. Police/medical checks sent off.

SMcD

Nov '86 -
Jan '88

Custody application was made and was approved at the Renfrew District Fostering Panel meeting on 16 March 1987. Please see file for full report.

Over the last year the family situation has remained stable. Brian and his wife Jean have continued not to oppose the application for custody of Nicola and Kelly. Contact has been maintained with the family but there has been no real need for further Social Work intervention.

A Children's Panel was held in December 1987 at which time the Supervision Order under Section 44 1 (a) Social Work (Scotland) Act was continued as as yet the Custody application has not yet gone to Court.

SMcD

Jan '88

TRANSFER SUMMARY:

This is very much a holding operation until the Court finally grants the Custody application at which time the 44 1 (a) Supervision Requirement should be terminated. There seems to have been some confusion as to when a report from the Social Work Department to the Court is due. However, Frank Miller, ADO (Child Care) is investigating this and should have the information very soon.

S McDiarmid
SW

NAME: Nicola and Kelly ALEXANDER

CASE NOTES.

Feb '85.

Message from Mary Fegan that Mrs. Alexander has been in touch via her probation officer, Mr. Jennings, 20 McLaren Road, Moordain, Bournemouth 0202 578527.

Phoned Mr. Jennings and he informed me that Mrs. Alexander is now very settled in Bournemouth, lodging with an older couple and working regularly. She is on 1 yrs probation since the end of last year for shoplifting. Mrs. Alexander has decided she wants to make her own life for herself in Bournemouth and she has no intention of returning to Paisley in the foreseeable future. She would like Mr. & Mrs. Alexander senior to adopt Kelly and Nicola. I explained to Mr. Jennings that this was not an option being considered although the children will be remaining in their grandparent's care for the next year at least. I explained we would be encouraging the girls to see more of their father in the hope that he can eventually take them back again permanently. Mr. Jennings felt Mrs. Alexander would be unhappy with this but agreed to discuss the situation with her. He phoned back a few weeks later to say that Mrs. Alexander had accepted the plans for rehabilitation, although somewhat reluctantly as she feels the grandparents would be better able to look after the children whilst they are young.

P.A.

20.2.85.

Evening hearing, home supervision orders continued with a condition of residence at grandparents.

Home visits 28.3.85. and 7.6.85, both children seen. Children are happy and boisterous and very settled with Mrs. Alexander. I was disappointed that Brian and his girlfriend have been reluctant to take the opportunity to have the children staying at weekends and Mrs. Alexander hinted that Jean did not want the responsibility of children yet. The children have spent one weekend at Brian's, however, and do see him and Jean every weekend for a full day, which they enjoy. Mrs. Alexander feels that she would prefer to keep the children for the next 4 or 5 years when they will be more manageable for Brian and she will then be about retiring age. I expressed some doubts about the length of this period and would prefer Brian to take over the care of the children sooner if possible so they can get well settled with him whilst they are young.

The family are going on holiday to Mrs. Alexander's son in England in July and I requested £50 discretionary allowance in respect of both children.

P.A.

Case held by J McLeod, SWA, from August to December 1985. In December a Child Abuse Case Conference was held as Nicola and Kelly were regularly having overnight stays with their father who had been convicted of a Schedule 1 offence. Decision made not to register (see file for minutes).

Case transferred to S McDiarmid December 1985.

24.01.86

Children's Hearing - supervision requirement made.

SMcD

25.02.86

Review (see file for minutes). It was agreed that Jean and Brian, having stated that they wished at some point to resume parenting of the children, would step up contact with the children over a period of 4 months with a view to rehabilitation.

SMcD

Feb-Aug 86

During this period, despite decisions made at the review, Jean and Brian (who married in March), failed to increase contact with the children. There seemed to be no good reason for this and eventually Brian admitted that he had decided for whatever reason, that the children were better staying with the grandparents. I think there were several factors involved :-

1. Jean was ambivalent about having fulltime responsibility for the children firstly because she was uncertain as to how she would cope, particularly as she plans to work fulltime. And secondly, because she was unable to make a commitment to the children and would possibly like to have children of her own in the future. This would obviously be complicated/

CASE NOTESDATE

May-Aug:

Home visits - 01.05.84, 04.06.84, 18.07.84 and 08.08.84.

Nicola and Kelly seen on all 4 visits and are very settled and content with their grandparents. Mrs Alexander went into hospital in early July for an ear operation which left her feeling below par for several weeks, but otherwise the home situation continued unchanged and without problems.

There was no contact from the girls' mother at all during this period and the maternal grandfather continued to visit every Sunday afternoon. Brian Alexander remained out of work but seemed to have a steady girlfriend over the summer and he introduced her to the children at his mother's house and she and Brian took the girls out for the odd afternoon. However, although the girls visited their daddy's house they did not stay overnight at all and they remained quite happy to stay with their grandparents. Nicola will begin Mossvale Primary after the summer holidays and Kelly will begin part-time at Springbank Nursery.

PA

Sept - Dec.

Home visits 12.10.84, 13.12.84. Both children and Mrs. Alexander seen on both occasions and Mr. Alexander on the latter. Brian Alexander not seen as he has been working for a local painting and decorating firm in the few weeks prior to Xmas. Because of this he has not visited the children quite as often but still sees them several times a week and at weekends. In fact the girls have now stayed overnight at Brian's house on a couple of occasions and they appear to have enjoyed these visits. Brian and his girlfriend are still very close they have no plans to marry yet at Brian is still awaiting a divorce. Apparently both girls get on well with Brian's girlfriend but as yet Mrs. Alexander feels it is too soon to try and decide a time for them returning to Brian's care.

Nicola is now well settled into her school routine and Kelly, who is much more precocious is attending Springbank Nursery with no problems. There has been no contact from the girl's mother at all but the maternal grandfather still visits every Sunday to spend a few hours with the girls.

A review hearing will be due in the new year and for the next 12 months I feel it would be beneficial for the girls to remain the subject of home Supervision orders.

P.A.

14.1.85.

Home visit, both girls seen, again spoke to Mr. & Mrs. Alexander but unfortunately Brian was unable to keep this appointment as he is working this week. Whilst there are no particular problems in the placement Mr. & Mrs. Alexander still feel that Brian is not quite ready to shoulder the responsibilities of looking after Kelly and Nicola full time and clearly much depends on whether he will have a permanent job and upon whether he and his girlfriend have a long lasting relationship. Arranged to visit Brian and his girlfriend at his house in Shortroods next week.

P.A.

24.1.85.

Visited Brian and Jean at home at 39 Mossvale Square. The house is extremely well furnished and maintained and the girl's bedroom is comfortable and welcoming with a good collection of toys and personal bits and pieces.

Discussed the panel review report with Brian and Jean. They are still not entirely sure of their own plans and not quite ready to commit themselves to marriage plans. However Brian confirmed that he would be hoping to get the girls back permanently maybe the year after next i.e. 1986 if he and Jean are settled and his divorce is through etc., and he stressed that he does not intend that they group up in the care of his parents even though he prefers this arrangement at present. Jean remained fairly quiet throughout this discussion and she is not eager at this stage to attend the review hearing.

P.A.

SUPERVISION NOTESDATE

12.12.83
Cont'd

One piece of good news is that Mr Alexander has at last found a job, with RDC. Although this is not a well paid job, Mrs Alexander was pleased her husband is now the "bread winner" again and he too is apparently very happy to be back at work. There is still no hope of a job for Brian, however, and he continues to spend most of his days just sitting around at his mother's house. Both children were happily unaware of the adults' problems and were seen playing quite contentedly together during this interview. They present as quite normal outgoing girls and they are clearly very attached to Mrs Alexander and benefit from her mothering and very loving relationship.

PA

27.01.84
27.02.84

Home visits - spoke to Brian Alexander and his mother, and both children seen. Much of the discussions of these visits centred on the forthcoming review children's hearing and in jointly preparing a report for the Panel. There has been no further contact from Sandra and both Brian and his mother feel that he is getting over the upset of his marriage breakdown now and he would be strong enough to resist Sandra's influence even if she came back to Paisley in the near future. Brian is still actively seeking a divorce despite legal complications, and he is now looking into the future and his prospects of having the children back should he remarry, although he has no regular girlfriend at present. Assured Brian that his circumstances would be reassessed at that time and would be a possibility that he and a new wife could have the children back. Mrs Alexander felt she would be happy for Brian to have the children back if his circumstances do change in future. Meanwhile, both she and Brian are content for the situation to remain as it is and Brian, although missing the children, feels that his parents are able to offer them a better family life at present than he can. Mrs Alexander has now stopped work to be at home fulltime with the children and is enjoying having 2 little girls now after raising 4 sons of her own. Both Mrs A and Brian feel that it would be good for Brian to have the choice of staying overnight or keeping the children overnight at his house occasionally however, which I feel is a reasonable request to put to the Panel. Brian has taken the girls round to his house occasionally for walks and they understand this is their daddy's house and enjoy visiting it. Although the children don't remember living at the house Nicky recently saw an old family photo including her mother and she remembered her mummy, and was able to discuss her very matter of factly with Brian and his father who were at home. Nicky seems to simply accept her mummy has gone to England without showing any signs of upset or guilt and without wanting any particular explanations yet of how this came about. In fact both girls always impress as normal, carefree and well adjusted youngsters. Mrs Alexander is a sensitive and loving caretaker and despite her own feelings about Sandra, she is anxious not to belittle or deride the children's mother to them as she appreciates this could be very damaging and she is concerned to portray the marital breakdown, etc., in reasonably positive terms to the children if they ask any questions about her mummy.

There have been no practical problems regarding the management of the children and Brian still visits daily to play with the girls which they look forward to. Mrs Alexander mentioned, however, that the full fostering allowance is being paid again despite the original agreement that an amount equivalent to child benefit is stopped every month so that Brian can make this contribution to the girls' maintenance. I agreed to contact the Finance Department about this before the next fostering cheque is due.

PA

15.03.84

Review Hearing - Order continued but the conditions limiting Brian's access now removed, so that he could stay overnight or keep the children for overnights at his house if desired.

PA

12.04.84

Phoned Mrs Alexander - explained I would be unable to visit until after the Easter holidays. No problems at present, other than Brian still not having found a job, which can be depressing for him.

PA

Name: Nicola and Kelly ALEXANDER

15/11/83
(Cont)

Brian himself denied there would be any problem and as when discussing the past child abuse charges against him, he does I feel tend to minimise difficulties in these situations. Brian has been having regular time alone with the children, has taken them to his brothers and to his own house for a few hours to play there but on the whole he seems a fairly transient figure in the childrens' daily routines, more like a visiting uncle than a father. Mr Alexander seems to be the one usually left with the children when Mrs Alexander is at work.

There has been no more contact from the childrens' mother although Mrs Alexander does feel that she may phone around Nicola's birthday in early December or Xmas time. It has already been agreed with the family that they will refer Sandra to the social work department before allowing her to speak to or see the children.

17/11/83

Fostering application approved by Mrs Hamilton and Area Officer barring the signing of the medical forms by Dr Ireland. It was felt that Brian should continue to contribute the Child Benefit to his parents so that he does not feel left out of his childrens' care and the Fostering allowance will be reduced by this amount.

18/11/83

Mrs Alexander rang and I informed her of the details and outcome of yesterday's meeting. Also explained the feelings of the group that Brian should continue to contribute his Child Benefit and the Fostering allowance will be reduced by this amount. Mrs Alexander accepted this idea and mentioned that she and Brian had been talking things over after my last visit. Brian is now beginning to think about the children remaining with his parents beyond the next Hearing as he has admitted to his mum that he would find it difficult to cope. Mrs Alexander said she was relieved that Brian was thinking along these lines now as she feels he is not really mature enough to manage the 2 girls full time at present.

01.12.83

Home visit - saw Brian at home with the 2 girls, both Mr and Mrs Alexander being out. Nicola is 4 today and both girls were playing with her birthday presents. Brian was not joining in the children's play at all and was in fact quite short tempered with them, expecting them to play sensibly and without noise. He raised his voice quickly and loudly to both children if they began to get at all silly or loud in their play and it was possible to envisage him having great difficulty in coping alone with the girls and possibly losing his temper when they made demands on him. Brian himself would not admit to not coping with the girls but he agrees he needs the support of his mother and father to help bring up the girls. He is beginning to think in terms of it being in the children's best interests if they remain with his parents in the immediate future and Brian is content to just be able to take them out when he feels like it.

PA

PA

01.12.83

Memo to Finance Dept requesting that fostering payments begin as soon as possible, backdated to 17th November.

PA

12.12.83

Home visit - spoke to Mrs Alexander and delivered fostering handbook. She has now received the first fostering cheque and has given up her job to be at home fulltime with the girls. She very much enjoys looking after the children and again expressed the opinion that the children would be better cared for by she and her husband than Brian. A Review Hearing will be due in the New Year to determine the girls' future for the next 12 months or so, but at present I am in agreement with Mrs Alexander and feel it remains in the girls' best interests to remain with their grandparents.

SUPERVISION NOTES

DATE

incidents on Sandra and claim she exaggerated the incidents and called the police only to get at Brian. I felt some sympathy for Brian's situation also and I feel he would be very careful to make sure no harm came to the children if he had them out for a walk or to some entertainment. Whether Brian would be able to cope with looking after 2 young children by himself is another matter, although undoubtedly he will have a very watchful eye kept on him by his own mother in future.

Nicola is due to go into hospital for a further eye operation on 1st September, which if successful will mean she no longer needs glasses in future.

PA

23.08.83

Child Care Review. See minutes.

PA

Main decisions were to allow Brian Alexander some flexibility in the access arrangements so that he could at least take the children out for an hour or two by himself, although no overnight care of the children. It was agreed also that Sec. 12 grant be applied for immediately for new clothing for the children. Although Form F is now completed Senior felt it may be more appropriate to pursue Section 12 payments rather than a formal related fostering arrangement. I tend to favour the latter however and this will be further discussed with the Area Officer before making a final decision.

29/8/83

Home visit to complete Sec. 12 form for grant of £100.

7/10/83

Home Visit. Spoke to Mr & Mrs Alexander and Brian. He has not been able to get a job yet and seems settled now for the winter. Both children seen, very content and playful as usual and there have been no particular problems in the family since my last visit. Nicola has had another small eye operation for her squint and spent 1 day in hospital. Her dad, Brian, stayed overnight with her and she was apparently soon recovered. Mrs Alexander commented that Nicola never asked for her mum even when in hospital and there has been no more contact from Sandra since the phone call earlier in the summer. The children are now due their medicals and I agreed to deliver R.I.C. 3 later today. Also the family have now spent the £100 grant but the children still need one or two more winter clothes so I agreed to complete a further Sec 12 this afternoon. Returned to family in the afternoon and delivered R.I.C.3s and completed Section 12 for £50. Fostering assessment to be formally discussed with Area Officer and Mrs Hamilton on 17th November.

14/11/83

Mrs Alexander rang to ask if their fostering application had been approved yet. Explained there was to be a meeting about this later this week and arranged to visit the family tomorrow. The family have now received the last Section 12 grant of £50.00.

PA

15/11/83

Home visit as arranged. Kelly seen but Nicola was at nursery again. Spoke to Mr & Mrs Alexander and Brian. Although there are no problems with the children the family are finding it more and more difficult to make ends meet. Mr & Mrs Alexander are only £4 week better off with her working 25 hours a week and she is seriously considering stopping this employment as she would prefer to be at home with the children full time. Brian is still unemployed and unable to contribute much towards the childrens upkeep although he does give his mother their child benefit book, buys them sweets etc. Brian is still having some difficulties establishing legal grounds for divorce but he is quite determined to fight on and get the divorce and custody completed as soon as possible. He is still hoping to have the children back permanently with him after the next Hearing. This may not be supported by the Department however as I feel Brian is still rather immature and I have some doubts about him being able to deal with the children all the time and to take full responsibility for their care.

SUPERVISION NOTESDATE

4th March 1983 Sandra went to Bournemouth with another man.
17th March 1983 Brian released from prison.

04.08.83

Home visit - saw Brian, his parents and the 2 children. There has been no further contact from Sandra since the phone call in June and the home situation is now very settled. Brian is still seeing his girlfriend regularly and now talking quite seriously of marriage. He has told her of his past now but still hasn't brought her home to meet his parents and the children. Brian is still very hopeful about getting the children returned to him by the next review hearing but I felt that Mr and Mrs Alexander would be quite happy for things to remain as they are at least till both children are at school, once they are receiving some fostering allowance to support the children. Mr and Mrs Alexander, however, do feel a lot of sympathy for their son in that he was, for example, not able to take the children out to the shows and circus recently without one of them accompanying him. They both feel that he can be trusted to at least go into the town with the children now but unless this is formally approved they will not allow Brian to take the children. I suggested we discuss this at a review to be held later this month. Apart from this, however, there are no particular problems regarding the care of management of the children, and we continued to complete the Form F. Medicals and references have now been completed and hopefully the assessment should be completed by the end of August and approved without too much difficulty in Sept. PA

22.08.83

Home visit - saw Brian and his parents. Kelly upstairs asleep and Nicola now back at Springbank nursery school 2 hours per afternoon. Completed the final section of the Form F, which hopefully will be assessed sometime in September. An internal child care review is also to be held tomorrow at the Alexanders.

Brian informed me that he is hoping to start a job in Elgin at the weekend and this may lead to fulltime employment again in his trade of painting and decorating. He enquired about the parental contributions - he is at present on a nil assessment, and I explained that he would be expected to contribute something to the children's upkeep, depending on his wage. At present the family are struggling financially to keep up with the cost of the children and mortgage with Mr Alexander being unemployed and having few prospects of getting another job in the foreseeable future.

Brian also informed me that he is now no longer seeing his former girlfriend and he now sees this as having been a casual relationship. He is still pursuing his divorce and does hope to marry again eventually but has no immediate plans. He has been working hard to get his house redecorated and furnished over the last few months and his main aim is to get the children back. If he does secure this job for himself however, his mother and father will have to still provide a main caretaking role for Kelly and Nicola even if there is no condition of residence after the next Panel Review Hearing. Even so the family all hope there will be a lifting of the present restrictions on Brian having charge of the children by himself as at the moment he cannot even take them out to the local shops without one of his parents accompanying him. I assured Mr and Mrs Alexander that we would discuss this further at tomorrow's review and I would call an early review hearing if necessary to discuss this restriction. Both Mr and Mrs Alexander are feeling this is unnecessarily punitive on Brian now and whilst they appreciate the parents' concern for the children, they feel they can trust Brian to not harm the children in any way. They still blame all the previous incidents on /

SUPERVISION NOTESDATE

He has apparently been told of Mr and Mrs Alexanders' intention to apply to foster and is in full agreement with this. PA

17.06.83

Visited SWD Dykebar and discussed the case - see copies of reports from Dykebar on Sandra. PA

30.06.83

Home visit to begin the Form F. Both grandparents, Brian and the 2 children seen. The 2 girls were playing in the back garden together and having a dollies tea party, with lots of water and sand, etc., helped by their papa. Nicola's nursery has now closed for the summer holidays but Merksworth School is also closed for the summer, so Mrs Alexander is at home all the time too. The family cannot afford a holiday this summer but they have managed to get down to the coast for days during the recent good weather. They have also been out with Mr and Mrs Alexanders' other son's family for a run down the coast. Brian is in fact the youngest of 4 sons, one in the army lives in England with his family but the other 2 are married and in the Paisley area. They have all been particularly supportive of Brian apparently during his marital difficulties and since regarding his separation from the children. As had been suggested by the Dykebar social workers, I got the impression that Brian had been the "baby" of his family and never really had to accept full responsibility for his behaviour as all his family were only too ready to make excuses for him. Certainly Sandra appears to have been quite a disturbed girl before she met Brian but together they were quite an immature couple, with a lot of pressure on him consequently to be the grown-up when Sandra could not cope with the role of wife and mother. However, I still felt that Brian and his parents were tending to deny the seriousness of his behaviour towards the children when he was under pressure and they could not accept that the same could possibly happen in future if Brian was under similar pressure. On each of the occasions involving his hurting the children, Brian had been drinking quite a lot, although he is not a regular heavy drinker according to his parents.

Brian was eager to brush over a lot of the events from the past but eventually he was able to calm himself enough to give a fairly clear chronological resume of the last couple of years - his marriage and difficulties regarding the children: -

June 1980	Met his wife to be - Nicola was 7 months old.
Nov 1980	Brian married Sandra - living in Argyle Street in bought house.
July 1981	Kelly born - Sandra depressed ?
Aug 1981	First charges of Brian assaulting Nicola - financial difficulties with bills and mortgage.
Sept 1981	Sandra admitted to Dykebar hospital [REDACTED]
Nov 1981	Sandra returned home from hospital [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Readmitted to Dykebar. Brian and children moved in with parents and shortly afterwards joined by Sandra [REDACTED]
Feb 1982	Sandra, Brian and kids moved back to their own house in Argyle St until they managed to sell it in July 1982.
July 1982	Sandra, Brian and kids rehoused by Council at Mossvale Street.
Sept 1982	Brian appeared at Sheriff Court on a total of 5 charges of assaulting Nicola. Convicted of 2 and eventually sentenced to term of imprisonment at Barlinnie and Low Moss. Children remained with mother but she placed them with paternal grandparents on 11th February 1983.

on 7th Feb
3 months
sentence
14 months
revised
from Sept

SUPERVISION NOTESDATEMay 1983
19.05.83

Case transferred from Dykebar Social Work Department to Craigielea House. Home visit to introduce myself to the family. Met Mr Alexander the grandfather and Brian Alexander the father of Nicola and Kelly. In fact Nicola, $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, is not the natural child of Brian Alexander, but was legally adopted by him when she was about a year old. She is the natural child of his estranged wife Sandra Alexander from a relationship before she married Brian. Kelly, 1 year, is the natural daughter of Brian and Sandra Alexander. Mrs Sandra Alexander is thought to be living with another man in the Bournemouth area, England, and there has been no contact with her since the 4th March 1983 when she left Paisley. The marital home at 39 Mossvale Street is still occupied by Brian Alexander but the 2 children are on Home Supervision Orders stating that they reside with the paternal grandparents at 11 Merksworth Way following offences of physical abuse by Brian Alexander to Nicola, over the preceding 18 months. (See grounds of referral). Brian Alexander served 6 months approximately in prison for these offences and was released in March this year.

Nicola has long dark hair and is an attractive little girl, who wears glasses to correct a squint. She seems to be about average intelligence and has a serious looking face but smiles readily during play and has an infectious giggle. She likes to boss her young sister and is something of a character and a "granny" according to her papa, Mr Adam Alexander. Nicola attends Springbank Nursery School part-time.

Kelly is a very pretty toddler with large blue eyes and short curly blonde hair. She is not speaking yet apart from odd words but she understands speech well and impresses as being a bright and happy toddler. She also enjoys a game of rough and tumble play with her sister Nicola and her dad Brian, but tends to go to Mrs Alexander, her granny, for comfort and cuddles when tired or sleepy.

Although the children stay with their grandparents their father visits every day, for the full day and more or less only goes home to sleep. He takes an active interest and involvement in helping his own father, who is unemployed, look after Kelly and Nicola whilst Mrs Alexander is out at work - she works part-time at Merksworth school. Both Mr and Mrs Alexander are careful, however, to keep to the letter of the law regarding Brian's access to the children and they ensure that he never takes the children out alone or is alone in the house with them. Regarding Brian's offences of assaulting the children, they feel he acted out of frustration whilst under strain with marital difficulties and Brian and his parents were at some pains to minimise the actual events, saying he had only handled Nicola roughly not deliberately harmed.

Mr and Mrs Alexander seemed very trusting of their sons explanation and I was a little concerned that all 3 adults denied the extent of the assaults or the significance of Nicola being on the receiving end of her father's temper. Mr Alexander added that Brian is not violent by nature, just quick tempered like himself.

As far as the future is concerned, both Mr and Mrs Alexander and Brian hope that the children can go back home to their father after the next Review Hearing next year. Brian is presently decorating the house and getting furniture together - Sandra apparently sold everything. He also is seeing a regular girlfriend now and he is thinking in terms of engagement, although she knows nothing of his past as yet. Brian has no plans for a reconciliation with his wife and is actively seeking a divorce and custody of the children, although this is being held up due to lack of evidence apparently.

Both Brian /

SUPERVISION NOTESDATE

Both Brian and his parents accepted that the Panel would need to make the ultimate decision regarding the return of the children and that at the front of everyone's mind would be the prime consideration of their physical safety with their father because of what had happened before. Brian and his parents assured me they wanted to co-operate fully with the Dept and the Children's Hearing.

So far Mr and Mrs Alexander have been supporting the children from their own income of Mrs A's wage and Mr A's benefit plus child benefit and a little financial help from Brian. Brian has been unwilling to accept the idea of fostering as he feels this would be an even greater loss of his parental rights. I assured him this was not so and would allow us to contribute to the maintenance of the children as his parents are not finding it easy to manage or give the children the standard of living they prefer. Mr and Mrs Alexander agreed to talk this over with Brian in the next couple of weeks and I agreed to call back in about a month to see the children. In the meantime I agreed to phone the DHSS to make sure that Mr Alexander is getting the full possible allowance for the children. PA

24.05.83

Phoned DHSS, who confirmed that Mr and Mrs Alexander are receiving the correct benefit for themselves and their 2 grandchildren. PA

10.06.83

Contacted Mr Spalding at Dykebar Hospital and arranged to visit to discuss the Alexander case next week. PA

13.06.83

Mr Adam Alexander called at office to discuss the financial situation but I was away on holiday. PA

14.06.83

Returned from leave and phoned Mr Alexander. Apparently Brian has been discussing fostering again with his parents and he has now agreed that it would be in the children's best interests if his parents applied to be related foster parents. Arranged to visit as planned this afternoon and discuss further the proposed fostering assessment.

Home visit and saw Mr and Mrs Alexander, Brian and Kelly. Nicola was out at nursery this afternoon. We discussed the legal position of the children vis a vis the Panel Order and the implications of fostering in some detail. Brian now felt much happier with the proposal to consider his parents as related foster parents to the children and I agreed to start the application on my next visit.

The family informed me that they had had something of an upset just last week when Brian's wife Sandra had phoned and asked to speak to Nicola. Fortunately Mrs Alexander had answered the phone and she had been quite polite but firm with Sandra and refused to let her speak to Nicola making the excuse that the child was at nursery. I confirmed that I felt it would be disturbing at present for Nicola to speak to her mother and that Sandra should not be encouraged to phone. There has been no further contact since and I advised Mr and Mrs Alexander to refer Sandra to the Reporter's Dept and myself should she phone again. As for Nicola, she never mentions her mother according to the Alexanders, although Mrs Alexander has made it clear to the child that she is actually her nana and Brian is her daddy. There is regular contact, however, from her other granddad, Sandra's father, who is a taxi driver in Paisley. He apparently gets on very well with the Alexanders and dotes on his 2 granddaughters and he usually has Sunday lunch with them and stays at the Alexanders' house for most of Sunday afternoon and evening. He has /

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

F. J. KENNEDY, LL.B.

MEMORANDUM

From: Reporter's Department To: Social Work Dept.,
 Craigielea

Subject: Reporters' Duties and Transmission of Information, etc (Scotland) Rules 1971—Rule 6 (1) (2) (3)

In accordance with instruction contained in Rule 6 of the above Statutory Instrument the decision(s) made by a Children's Hearing is/are* undernoted.

Annexed herewith copy requirement where appropriate.

Date of Hearing:

Name:

Decision:

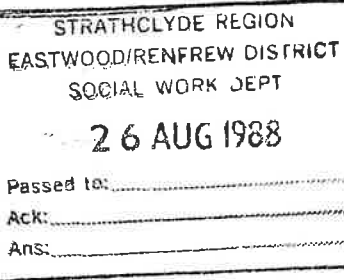
24th August, 1988

50/83
51/83"
"

Kellie Alexander,
 Nicola Alexander,
 11 Merksworth Way,
 Paisley

Both: 44(1)(a) sup. req.
 (with grandparents) terminated.

Arred
 ✓



Date 25th August, 1988

*Delete as appropriate

[Signature]
 for Reporter

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL
SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968
THE CHILDREN'S HEARINGS (SCOTLAND) RULES 1986

At¹

*The Children's Hearing Room
24 Norton Street
Ponsonby 24 August, 1988*

A children's hearing for Strathclyde Region hereby terminate the supervision requirement
attached and docquetted with reference hereto as from² *24 August, 1988*

*Nicola Alexander
11 Marksmouth Way
Ponsonby*

Stanley Green
Chairman of the children's hearing

1 Place and date

2 Date which termination is to take effect

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

F. J. KENNEDY, LL.B.

SUBJECT: REPORTER'S DUTIES, ETC. (SCOTLAND) RULES 1971—RULE 5

NOTIFICATION OF HEARING

Herewith notification of a Hearing to be held on..... Wednesday 24th August, 1988
 at..... 2.00 pm..... within..... 34 Newton St.,
 Paisley.....

A full list of those cited is undernoted, along with timing of each case.

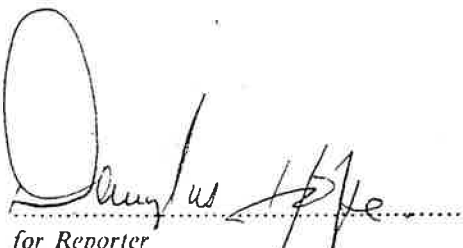
NameTime of CaseReason for Appearance

50/83 Kellie Alexander, 2.30 pm Review 48(2)
 51/83 Nicola Alexander
 11 Merksworth Way,
 Paisley

cc SWD: Craigielea

EASTWOOD/REIN/
SOCIAL WORK
17 AUG 1988
Passed to:
Ack:
Ans:

Date 16th August, 1988


 for Reporter

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

RENFREW DIVISION

Outcome

REVIEW REPORT FOR CHILDREN'S HEARING

Name Nicola and Kellie ALEXANDER Date of Birth 01.12.79 and 09.07.81
 Address (and home address if different) School Mossvale Primary
 c/o Alexander (grandparents) Religion Protestant
 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley Section of Legislation:

Reason for Review and by whom called:

Review has been called by the Local Authority and to request that the Supervision Order (44.1(a)) now be terminated.

New Grounds of Referral (if appropriate):

None.

Significant Changes since Previous Report:

Mr and Mrs Alexander (grandparents) now have legal custody of the girls.

Changes in Social Work Department or Worker:

The case was transferred from Shelagh McDiarmid (social worker) to Anne McAdam (social worker) in February of this year.

Contact with other Agencies:

Mossvale Primary School.

Report compiled by: Anne McAdam, Social Worker, Craigielea House, Blackstoun Road, Paisley.

Date Report completed: 22.07.88

Nicola and Kellie ALEXANDER (Continued)Home and Family Circumstances:

Nicola and Kellie Alexander have lived with their paternal grandparents, Evelyn and Adam Alexander, since 11th February 1983. This arrangement began following the breakdown of their parents' marriage. At the same time, the girls' father, Brian Alexander, was in prison serving a three year sentence for assaulting Nicola, who is his adopted daughter. Their mother, Sandra, whose exact whereabouts are currently unknown, left the children with their grandparents and moved away to somewhere in the South of England. Nicola and Kellie have had little contact with their mother since that time and the latter has never given any indication that she either has any interest in them or any intention of returning to her daughters in Scotland.

Following their father's release from prison on 17th March 1983, both girls were placed on a Home Supervision Order, requiring them to reside with their paternal grandparents and restricting their father's access and contact with them. Mr and Mrs Alexander Snr were subsequently approved as related foster parents and have since provided the children with an excellent level of physical and emotional care.

Both girls have formed very close bonds with their grandparents although still recognise and acknowledge that Brian Alexander is their father. The latter has now remarried and both Nicola and Kellie appear to have a good relationship with Jean, their father's new wife. Indeed the girls continue to spend most Saturdays with the couple and often stay overnight.

Over the past five years or so Social Work involvement has concentrated on trying to support Mr and Mrs Alexander (Snr) with the care of the children. Although attempts have also been made at trying to rehabilitate the girls with their father, it appears that Brian and Jean lack the commitment to caring for them on a fulltime basis.

Nicola and Kellie also have access to their maternal grandfather on a regular basis. The latter has infrequent contact with the girls' mother and agrees that she has no interest in returning to them. He appears to support Mr and Mrs Alexander in caring for Nicola and Kellie and feels that this is best place for the girls to be.

With the support and encouragement of this department Mr and Mrs Alexander Snr were encouraged to seek legal custody of the girls. It was felt that this would safeguard and promote the welfare of both children by providing permanence and security. At the same time, Nicola and Kellie would be able to maintain their identity with their father, who has remained a prominent figure in their lives, as well as the other members of their extended family.

On 25th February 1988, Mr and Mrs Alexander were finally granted custody of Nicola and Kellie by the Court. This has enabled the children to become fully integrated into their grandparents' home whilst still having access to their father and other family members.

Personal:

1. **Nicola:** Nicola presents as an attractive, pleasant and rather shy eight year old. She appears to be a contented little girl who presents few behavioural problems. Nicola relates well to both other children and adults alike and appears to have close relationships with both her grandparents and younger sister. Despite having a fairly serious nature, Nicola plays well with Kellie and there seems to be no untoward friction between them.

Generally, Nicola is a healthy little girl who has suffered no serious illnesses or accidents. As the result of a squint, she wears glasses but this is likely to correct itself as she gets older.

In her spare time Nicola is keen member of the Brownies and also enjoys swimming. Mrs Alexander has recently enrolled both girls for swimming lessons.

Continued /

Nicola and Kellie ALEXANDER (Continued)School Situation:

Nicola: Reports from Mossvale Primary on Nicola have always been very encouraging. She is described as a very bright, intelligent little girl about whom the school have never had any cause for concern. Nicola mixes well with the other children and appears to enjoy school very much.

The school have no concerns about the general health and welfare of the girls and agree that living with their grandparents is the best available option for both Nicola and Kellie.

Assessment:

Nicola and Kellie have now been living on a permanent basis with their grandparents for some five and a half years. Despite their age both girls appear to have a reasonable understanding of the reasons why this has been the case and are quite clear that they don't wish to return to live with their father on a permanent basis.

Mr and Mrs Alexander Snr have had a long and stable marriage. They are a pleasant couple who have coped well with the responsibility of having to look after their grandchildren and who have provided a comfortable and caring environment for Nicola and Kellie to live in.

At the present time there is no doubt that Mr and Mrs Alexander are the most suitable people to continue bringing up the girls.

Mr and Mrs Alexander actively encourage the girls to have regular access to their father, Brian and also to their maternal grandfather. The couple view this as an important part of the children's life and would make every effort to ensure that this continues. Although he still has a lot of feelings and love for both girls, Brian Alexander has clearly stated that, due to his new marriage and personal circumstances, he feels unable to care for the girls on a fulltime basis. He fully supported Mr and Mrs Alexander Snr's custody application and his relationship with the girls has remained relatively unchanged since the order was granted.

It is now some four years since the children's mother has made any contact with them. Sandra Alexander still resides somewhere in the South of England and through occasional contact over the years with both her own father and the children's current carers, she has indicated that she a) has no intentions of ever returning to care for her children, and b) is happy for Mr and Mrs Alexander to bring the girls up.

Recommendation:/

Continued /

4.

Nicola and Kellie ALEXANDER (Continued)

Recommendation:

Given the above, it is the feeling of this Department that Mr and Mrs Alexander Snr no longer require Social Work support in looking after their grandchildren. Over the past few years they have demonstrated beyond all reasonable doubt that they are most appropriate and capable people to undertake this task. The couple are aware that if in the future they require any advice or assistance from this Department, they can approach the office at any time.

It is therefore respectfully suggested that consideration be given to terminating the 44.1(a) Home Supervision Order to which the girls are currently subject.

Anne McAdam

Anne McAdam
Social Worker
22nd July 1988

AMcA/CG
Craigielea House
Blackstoun Road
PAISLEY

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL
SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968
THE CHILDREN'S HEARINGS (SCOTLAND) RULES 1986

At¹

Reford's Deli,
34 Newton St.,
Paisley

13.11.87

A children's hearing for Strathclyde Region, considering that the supervision requirement attached and docqueted with reference hereto is due to expire on² 18.12.88,

and being satisfied that it is proper so to do, hereby continue the said requirement in force.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER



Stanley Green
Chairman of the children's hearing

1 Place and date

2 Insert date being one year from the making or last review of the requirement whichever last occurred

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

F. J. KENNEDY, LL.B.

SUBJECT: REPORTER'S DUTIES, ETC. (SCOTLAND) RULES 1971—RULE 5

NOTIFICATION OF HEARING

Herewith notification of a Hearing to be held on.....Friday 13 November 1987.....

at.....10.00 am..... within.....The Hearing Room,.....

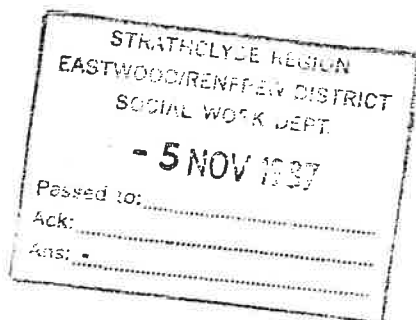
34 Newton Street, Paisley.....

A full list of those cited is undernoted, along with timing of each case.

NameTime of CaseReason for Appearance

51/83	Nicola Alexander (01.12.79)	10.45 am	Annual Review
50/83	Kelly Alexander (08.09.82) c/o 11 Merksworth Way Paisley		

To SWD:- Craigielea



Date 3 November 1987

for Reporter

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

F. J. KENNEDY, LL.B.

MEMORANDUM

From Reporters Department To Social Work Department
Craigielea

SUBJECT: SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1968 SECTION 48(5)

SUPERVISION REQUIREMENT REVIEWS

The undernoted* is/are subject to supervision requirement(s) which it is now necessary to review

Please submit social background report(s) not later than 30 October 1987
(Where applicable, background reports should also be requested from residential establishments)

50/83 Kelly Alexander
(09.07.81)
51/83 Nicola Alexander
(01.12.79)
39 Mossvale Crescent
Paisley

Date 2 October 1987

*Delete as appropriate

Angus
for Reporter

*Instrument continuing supervision requirement.
(Rule 22).*

SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968

At¹

*The Children's Hearing Rooms
34 Newton Street
Paisley, 18 December, 1986*

A children's hearing for the Strathclyde Region considering that [the foregoing supervision requirement] or [the supervision requirement attached and docqueted with reference hereto] is due to expire on² *23 January 1987*

and being satisfied that it is proper so to do, hereby continue the said requirement in force.

*Nicola Alexander
11 Marksworth Way
Paisley*



John S. Hill
Chairman of the children's hearing

1 Place and date

2 Insert date being one year from the making or last review of the requirement whichever last occurred

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

F J Kennedy Ll B

MEMORANDUM

From: Reporters Department
 To: Social Work Department
 Craigielea

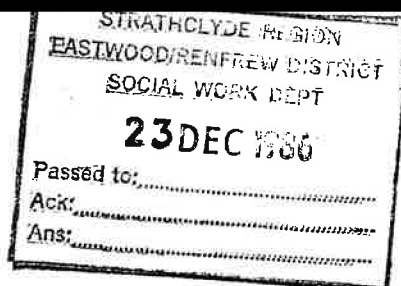
Subject: Reporters' Duties and Transmission of Information, etc (Scotland) Rules 1971—Rule 6 (1) (2) (3)

In accordance with instruction contained in Rule 6 of the above Statutory Instrument the decision(s) made by a Children's Hearing is/are* undernoted.

Annexed herewith copy requirement where appropriate.

Date of Hearing:	Name:	Decision:
50/83	18 December 1986	Kelly Alexander
		(09.07.81)
51/83		Nicola Alexander
		(01.12.79)
		c/o 11 Merksworth Way
		Paisley

SWD



Date 19 December 1986

*Delete as appropriate

John McCall
 for Reporter

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT
RENFREW DIVISION

D. of Review
.....
Outcome
.....

REVIEW REPORT FOR CHILDREN'S HEARING

Name	Nicola ALEXANDER	Date of Birth	01.12.79
	Kellie ALEXANDER		09.07.81
Address (and home address if different)		School	Mossvale Primary
c/o Mr and Mrs Adam Alexander		Religion	
11 Marksworth Way, Paisley		Section of Legislation:	44 1(a)
.....			

Reason for Review and by whom called:
Annual Review.

New Grounds of Referral (if appropriate):
/

Significant Changes since Previous Report:
Brian Alexander married Jean Fleming in March of this year.

Changes in Social Work Department or Worker:
Case transferred to Shelagh McDiarmid December 1985.

Contact with other Agencies:
Mossvale Primary School.

Report compiled by: Shelagh McDiarmid, Social Worker, Craigielea House, Blackstoun Road, Paisley

Date Report completed: 11th December 1986.

Nicola and Kellie ALEXANDER (Continued)

WORK UNDERTAKEN:

1. At a Child Care Review in February of this year Brian Alexander expressed a desire to have his children returned to him. A plan was therefore devised whereby access to him would be stepped up and overnight stays would be gradually increased over a period of 6 months. However, it quickly became apparent that Brian and by then his wife Jean, had no real commitment to this plan and in fact access was not at any stage increased rather the children continued as before staying overnight on a Saturday. At another Child Care Review in August, Brian Alexander stated that he and Jean had decided that the children should remain with their grandparents. The reasons for this seem to be twofold - firstly, Brian and Jean had decided that they could not make the necessary commitment to the children within their marriage or personal circumstances, and secondly, that Brian felt that to move the children when they had been with his parents for a period of 3 years would be overly disruptive. He also recognised the close bond which exists between Mr and Mrs Alexander and Nicola and Kellie. The decision was therefore taken that Mr and Mrs Alexander would apply for custody of the children under the Children's Act 1975 but would continue to afford access to Brian on a regular basis. The application is currently being processed.
2. Brian Alexander also undertook to explain to Nicola and Kellie why they came to live with their grandparents and also to tell Nicola that she was adopted by him. It seems that he has executed this task with sensitivity and there have been no adverse affects of which I am aware.

ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION:

The Social Work Department are in support of Mr and Mrs Alexander's application for custody. It is felt that this would be in the best interests of the children offering them long term security whilst continuing to give them access to their natural father and enabling them to maintain that identity with him. Both children recognise that Mr and Mrs Alexander are their grandparents and that Brian is their natural father. There has been no contact with their natural mother, Sandra Alexander, for some three years. Nicola and Kellie, although limited due to their age in their understanding custody, have grasped the basic concept and Kellie in particular is quite clear that she would not want to return to stay with her father.

Given that the custody application is still being processed, it would seem appropriate for the supervision requirements to be continued in respect of both children.

Shelagh McDiarmid
Social Worker
11th December 1986

SMcD/CG
Craigielea House
Blackstoun Road
PAISLEY

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

~~W J R X M C G R E G O R Y X M L~~

F J Kennedy Ll B

SUBJECT: REPORTER'S DUTIES, ETC. (SCOTLAND) RULES 1971—RULE 5

NOTIFICATION OF HEARING

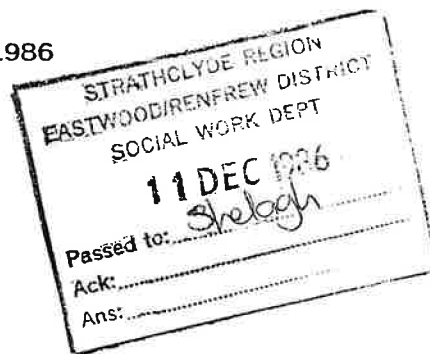
Herewith notification of a Hearing to be held on.....Thursday 18 December 1986
 at.....10.00 am.....within.....The Hearing Room,
 34 Newton Street, Paisley.....

A full list of those cited is undernoted, along with timing of each case.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Time of Case</u>	<u>Reason for Appearance</u>
50/83	*Kelly Alexander (09.07.81)	10.00 am	Annual Review
51/83	*Nicola Alexander (01.12.79) c/o 11 Merksworth Way Paisley		

To SWD Craigielea

* Reports must be in my hands by 12 December 1986



Date10 December 1986.....

.....
 for Reporter

394/85

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT
RENTFEE DIVISION

Date of Review
.....
Outcome
.....

REVIEW REPORT FOR CHILDREN'S HEARING

Name Nicola & Kelly Alexander
Address (and home address if different)
..... c/o Alexander's (Grandparents)
..... 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley
..... Father - Brian Alexander, 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley.

Date of Birth 1/12/79 & 9/7/81
School Mossvale Primary & Springbank
Nursery
Religion
Section of Legislation:

Reason for review and by whom called:

Annual Review.

New Grounds of Referral (if Appropriate):

Significant Changes Since Previous Report:

Since the last review hearing in February 1985 the family situation has remained much the same. The girls continue to see their father and his girlfriend, Jean, on a regular basis and generally stay overnight Saturday/Sunday at Brian's house. Brian is presently awaiting the finalisation of his divorce. He and Jean plan to marry next year. Brian is employed by a local firm of painters and decorators and Jean has a part time job sponsored by M.S.C.

Changes in Social Work Department or Worker:

Due to the transfer of the previous worker to another Area Office the case was re-allocated in August 1985. Since then I have seen Nicola and Kelly at home with their grandparents on three occasions and have visited Brian and Jean at Mossvale Street.

Contact with Other Agencies:

Mossvale Primary - Nicola.
Springbank Nursery - Kelly.

Report Compiled by:

Mrs J. McLeod, Social Work Assistant, Craigielea House, Blackstoun Road, Paisley.

17th December 1985.

Work Undertaken:

The two children have lived with their paternal grandparents since February 1983. At this time their father was in prison having been found guilty of assaulting Nicola, his adopted daughter. The children were left by their mother with the paternal grandparents and have stayed there since. Mrs Alexander moved to the South of England and apparently plans to remain there. She has no contact with the children.

Mr & Mrs Alexander Snr were subsequently approved as related foster parents and have since provided the children with an excellent level of physical and emotional care.

Social Work involvement during the past year has continued to support this arrangement, the aim being to encourage and develop Brian Alexander's relationship with the children with a view to eventual rehabilitation.

Assessment & Recommendation:

As stated, Nicola and Kelly have been cared for by their grandparents for almost three years. Throughout that time, their father has remained a prominent figure in their lives and the father/child relationship appears spontaneous and warm. Progress towards rehabilitation has been slow, however, due to Brian's previous somewhat unsettled situation and his apparent lack of confidence in his ability to cope with the children on a permanent basis.

In order to prevent further drifting of the situation it is felt that at this point there is a need for a more structured form of social work intervention. Future work with the family therefore will include clearly defined goals to encourage and support the process of rehabilitation.

Given that the outcome of this work cannot at this stage be predicted it would seem appropriate that the supervision orders be continued.

Jennifer McLeod (Mrs),
Social Work Assistant.

Nicola & Kelly ALEXANDER

1.12.79 9.7.81

Nicola - Mossvale Primary
Kelly - Springbank Nursery School.

c/o Alexander (grandparents)

11 Merksworth Way,

Paisley.

44 1 (a) Social Work
Paisley.
Father: Brian Alexander (24) 39 Mossvale Street. (Scot) Act. Painter & Decorator

Father: Brian Alexander (24) 39 Mossvale Street

Annual Review

Since the last Annual Review Report was written in March 1984 the situation with Mr. & Mrs. Alexander and their 2 granddaughters has remained much the same. The girls father, Brian Alexander, has continued to visit regularly and about once a week since the summer he has had Nicola and Kelly to stay overnight at his house with himself and his girlfriend of the past few months. The girls appear to enjoy these weekends with their father and they also seem to get on well with his girlfriend. At present Brian is still awaiting his divorce so he and his girlfriend have no clear cut marriage plans as yet.

~~XX~~ Since the autumn Brian has been able to find some sporadic employment with a local firm of painters and decorators, although this job is by no means secure or permanent.

Nicola has been attending Mossvale Primary School since August and Kelly has been attending Springbank Nursery although I have not felt it was necessary or desirable to make formal contact with either agency at this stage.

Miss P. Atkinson, Social Worker, Craigielea House, Blacketoun Road, Paisley.

16.1.85

Continuation/...
Nicola & Kelly ALEXANDER.

Work Undertaken:

The children were placed on supervision initially to provide them with a safe and stable home base with their paternal grandparents. Social work intervention over the past year has continued to support this arrangement in various ways as required. In addition the aim of the work over the last year in particular has been to increasingly encourage and develop Brian's contact and relationship with the children in the hope that they will eventually be rehabilitated with their father. Although all the family, including Brian, feel that rehabilitation is not a practical option at present, things are slowly moving towards this situation. Brian himself still lacks some confidence in his own abilities to cope with the children full time and clearly much will depend on whether he is single or married, working or unemployed.

Because the home circumstances are quite settled now and the family have shown themselves capable of making good progress over the past year, visiting has been only once every 2 - 3 months in accordance with the boarding out regulations. The children have been seen together at their paternal grandparents home either in the care of Mr. & Mrs. Alexander and/or their father. At the time of writing the report I intend also to visit Brian Alexander and his girlfriend at his own home since the children will probably be spending increasing amounts of time there over the next year.

There are no plans at present for the authority to apply for an assumption of parental rights.

This level of work appears to have been about right in terms of allowing there to be a satisfactory level of monitoring and a reasonable level of control and autonomy left to the family to develop their own relationships and ways of dealing with their problems.

Assessment & Recommendation:

As stated above, I feel that the family are slowly moving towards the rehabilitation of the children with their father if the present trends continue. More immediately, it is envisaged that the girls will spend more time, overnight stays and possibly holidays with their father and his girlfriend over the next few months.

However, I feel it is important that the family are generally allowed to move at their own pace regarding rehabilitation. In view of this and the other facts stated above, such as the uncertainty around Brian's own circumstances at present, I feel it would still be appropriate to continue the supervision orders in this case for the next twelve months.

P. Atkinson (Miss)
Social Worker.

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

~~W. R. McCulloch~~

F J Kennedy LLB

MEMORANDUM

From: Reporter's Office

To: Social Work Departments

Clarkston/Johnstone/

Craigielea House

Subject: Reporters' Duties and Transmission of Information, etc (Scotland) Rules 1971—Rule 6 (1) (2) (3)

In accordance with instruction contained in Rule 6 of the above Statutory Instrument the decision(s) made by a Children's Hearing is/are* undernoted.

Annexed herewith copy requirement where appropriate.

Date of Hearing:

Name:

Decision:

24. 1.86

"

"

50/83

51/83

"

"

SMKD

KELLY ALEXANDER (8.9.82)

NICOLA ALEXANDER (1.12.79)

39 Mossvale Street

Paisley

44(1)(a) Continued c/o

grandparents for both girls

STRATHCLYDE REGION
CASTWOOD/RENFREW DISTRICT
SOCIAL WORK DEPT

30 JAN 1986

Passed to:

Ack:

Ans:

Date 27 January 1986

*Delete as appropriate

David Hope
for Reporter

SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968

Instrument continuing supervision requirement

SMCD

(Place and date)

The Children's Hearing Room
75 North Street
Paisley 24 Renfrewshire

A children's hearing for *Strathclyde Region*

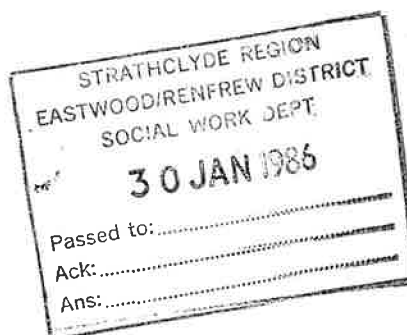
considering that [the foregoing supervision requirement]* [the supervision requirement attached and
docketed with reference hereto]* is due to expire on 19.2.86

, and being satisfied that it is
proper so to do, hereby continue the said requirement in force.

Margaret M. Colvokie
Chairman of
the Children's Hearing

*Delete where appropriate

Wanda Alexander
37, Mossburn Street
Paisley



STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

~~WxxRxxMcGREGORxxE.~~

F J Kennedy LLB

SUBJECT: REPORTER'S DUTIES, ETC. (SCOTLAND) RULES 1971—RULE 5

NOTIFICATION OF HEARING

Herewith notification of a Hearing to be held on.....FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 1986.....
 at.....10.00 a.m. within.....the Hearing Room.....
34 Newton Street Paisley.....

A full list of those cited is undernoted, along with timing of each case.

NameTime of CaseReason for Appearance

50/83 KELLY ALEXANDER (8.9.82)
 51/83 NICOLA ALEXANDER (1.12.79)
 39 Mossvale Street
 Paisley

11.15 a.m.

"

Annual Review

"

JMK

STRATHCLYDE REGION
EASTWOOD CHILDREN'S PANEL DISTRICT
SOCIAL WORKER MEET
15 JAN 1986
Passed to:
Ask:
Ans:

TO: S.W.D. CLARKSTON
 " JOHNSTONE
 " CRAIGIELEA HOUSE

Date14 January 1986.....

Douglas H. H. H.
 for Reporter

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT
DUNFREMPTON DIVISION

Date of Review
.....
Outcome
.....

REVIEW REPORT FOR CHILDREN'S HEARING

Name Nicola & Kelly Alexander
Date of Birth 1/12/79 & 9/7/81
Address (and home address if different)
School Mossvale Primary & Springbank
..... c/o Alexander's (Grandparents)
Nursery
..... 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley
Religion
..... Father - Brian Alexander, 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley
Section of Legislation:

Reason for Review and by whom called:
Annual Review.

New Grounds of Referral (if Appropriate):

Significant Changes Since Previous Report:

Since the last review hearing in February 1985 the family situation has remained much the same. The girls continue to see their father and his girlfriend, Jean, on a regular basis and generally stay overnight Saturday/Sunday at Brian's house. Brian is presently awaiting the finalisation of his divorce. He and Jean plan to marry next year. Brian is employed by a local firm of painters and decorators and Jean has a part time job sponsored by M.S.C.

Changes in Social Work Department or Worker:

Due to the transfer of the previous worker to another Area Office the case was re-allocated in August 1985. Since then I have seen Nicola and Kelly at home with their grandparents on three occasions and have visited Brian and Jean at Mossvale Street.

Contact with Other Agencies:

Mossvale Primary - Nicola.
Springbank Nursery - Kelly.

Report Compiled by:

Mrs J. McLeod, Social Work Assistant, Craigielea House, Blackstoun Road, Paisley.

Date Report Completed: 17th December 1985.

Work Undertaken:

The two children have lived with their paternal grandparents since February 1983. At this time their father was in prison having been found guilty of assaulting Nicola, his adopted daughter. The children were left by their mother with the paternal grandparents and have stayed there since. Mrs Alexander moved to the South of England and apparently plans to remain there. She has no contact with the children.

Mr & Mrs Alexander Snr were subsequently approved as related foster parents and have since provided the children with an excellent level of physical and emotional care.

Social Work involvement during the past year has continued to support this arrangement, the aim being to encourage and develop Brian Alexander's relationship with the children with a view to eventual rehabilitation.

Assessment & Recommendation:

As stated, Nicola and Kelly have been cared for by their grandparents for almost three years. Throughout that time, their father has remained a prominent figure in their lives and the father/child relationship appears spontaneous and warm. Progress towards rehabilitation has been slow, however, due to Brian's previous somewhat unsettled situation and his apparent lack of confidence in his ability to cope with the children on a permanent basis.

In order to prevent further drifting of the situation it is felt that at this point there is a need for a more structured form of social work intervention. Future work with the family therefore will include clearly defined goals to encourage and support the process of rehabilitation.

Given that the outcome of this work cannot at this stage be predicted it would seem appropriate that the supervision orders be continued.

Jennifer McLeod (Mrs),
Social Work Assistant.

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

~~W. R. McGregor, Ed.~~

F J Kennedy Ll B

MEMORANDUM

From: Reporters Department

To: Social Work Department

Copy to:- Barrhead/Craigielea

Johnstone

Subject: Reporters' Duties and Transmission of Information, etc (Scotland) Rules 1971—Rule 6 (1) (2) (3)

In accordance with instruction contained in Rule 6 of the above Statutory Instrument the decision(s) made by a Children's Hearing is/are* undernoted.

Annexed herewith copy requirement where appropriate.

Date of Hearing:

Name:

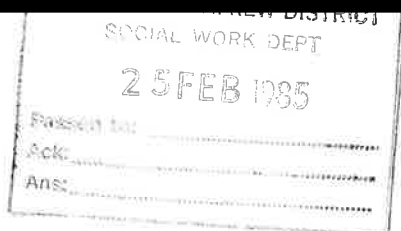
Decision:

20 February 1985

50/83
51/83"
"

Kelly Alexander
Nicola Alexander
39 Mossvale Street
Paisley

Supervision requirement
44(1) (a) continued with
grandparents



Date 21 February 1985

*Delete as appropriate

Dan Jones
for Reporter

SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968

Instrument continuing supervision requirement

(Place and date)

Robert's Inst.
34 HANTRY ST.,
PAISLEY

20.2.85

A children's hearing for STRATHCAYLE

considering that [the foregoing supervision requirement]* [the supervision requirement attached and
docqueted with reference hereto]* is due to expire on 15-3-85, and being satisfied that it is
proper so to do, hereby continue the said requirement in force.

[Signature]
Chairman of
the Children's Hearing

*Delete where appropriate

M. COLA Alexander

STRATHCAYLE REGION CALDWICK GREEN DISTRICT SOCIAL WORK UNIT 22 FEB 1985 Passed to: _____ Ackd: _____ Anst: _____
--

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

~~W. R. McGROVER, D.D.~~

F J Kennedy LLB

SUBJECT: REPORTER'S DUTIES, ETC. (SCOTLAND) RULES 1971—RULE 5

NOTIFICATION OF HEARING

Herewith notification of a Hearing to be held on... WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 1985.....

at... 6.00 p.m. within... the Hearing Room

..... 34 Newton Street Paisley

A full list of those cited is undernoted, along with timing of each case.

NameTime of CaseReason for Appearance

50/83 KELLY ALEXANDER (8.9.82)
 51/83 NICOLA ALEXANDER (1.12.79)
 39 Mossvale Street
 Paisley

6.30 p.m.

"

Annual Review

"

PA

TO: S.W.D. BARRHEAD
 " CRAIGIELEA HOUSE
 " JOHNSTONE

STRATHCLYDE REGION
 EASTWOOD/RENFREW DISTRICT
 SOCIAL WORK DEPT

13 FEB 1985

Passed to:

Ack:

Ans:

Date 11 February 1985

Douglas H. Spe
 for Reporter

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

~~W. B. McGregor~~

MEMORANDUM

From.....Reporter's Department..... To.....Social Work Department.....
.....34 Newton Street..... Craigielea House.....
.....

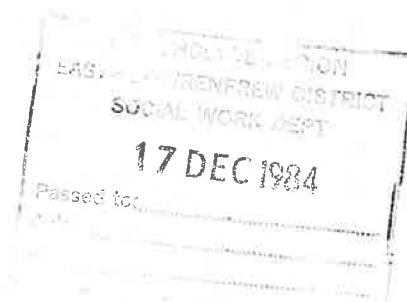
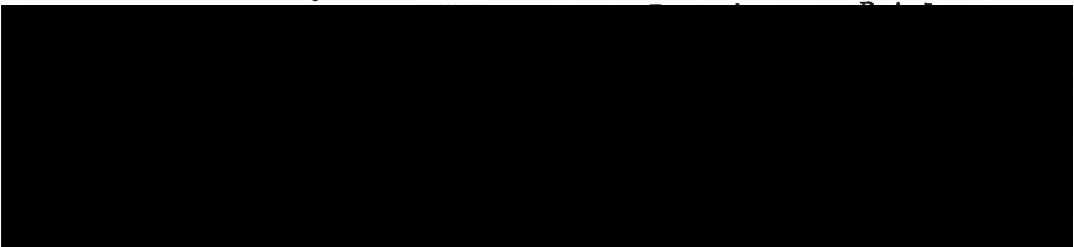
SUBJECT: SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1968 SECTION 48(5)

SUPERVISION REQUIREMENT REVIEWS

The undernoted* ~~s~~/are subject to supervision requirement(s) which it is now necessary to review

Please submit social background report(s) not later than.....19.1.85.....
(Where applicable, background reports should also be requested from residential establishments)

✓ PA Alexander Kelly 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley
Nicola Kelly 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley



Date14.12.84.....

*Delete as appropriate

Adam McAll
.....
for Reporter

SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968

At¹ *The children's Hearing Room*
34 Newton Street
Paisley, 15th March, 1988

A children's hearing for the Strathclyde Region by way of variation of [and in substitution for] the supervision requirement dated² *17th April, 1988*

to which³ *Nicola Alexander & Alexander, 11 Hawthornthwaite Way, Paisley*

is subject, hereby require her [to reside in⁴ *The Director of Social Work*
Strathclyde Region

[to be under the supervision of⁵ *The Director of Social Work*
Strathclyde Region

subject to the conditions noted below and the said requirement dated
 is hereby revoked.

P. J. Buck
 Chairman of the children's hearing

**CONDITIONS REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING
 SUPERVISION REQUIREMENT**

- ~~1. The child is required to observe the rules of conduct of the residential establishment.~~
~~2. The requirement to reside is subject to the discretion of the managers of the residential establishment to grant leave of absence from time to time.~~
~~3.~~
~~etc.~~



.....
 Chairman of the children's hearing

1 Place and date

2 Date of previous supervision requirement

3 Name of child

† Where a supervision requirement requires a child to reside in a residential establishment, conditions 1 and 2 shall be inserted in the supervision requirement.

4 Name of residential establishment

5 Name of local authority or other supervisor

DUNDEE TRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

~~W R M Cregor TD xx~~

F J Kennedy Ll B

MEMORANDUM

From: Reporters Department

To: Social Work Department

Craigielea / Glen Street

Johnstone

Subject: Reporters' Duties and Transmission of Information, etc (Scotland) Rules 1971—Rule 6 (1) (2) (3)

In accordance with instruction contained in Rule 6 of the above Statutory Instrument the decision(s) made by a Children's Hearing is/are* undernoted.

Annexed herewith copy requirement where appropriate.

Date of Hearing:

Name:

Decision:

15 March 1984

50/83
51/83"
"

Kelly Alexander
Nicola Alexander
c/o 11 Merksworth Way
Paisley

Supervision requirement
varied to one in terms of
44(1).(a) with condition
they reside with grandparents

Date 19 March 1984

*Delete as appropriate

Adon Moll
for Reporter

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:

~~Mr R D McGeachy CB~~

F J Kennedy LL B

SUBJECT: REPORTER'S DUTIES, ETC. (SCOTLAND) RULES 1971—RULE 5

NOTIFICATION OF HEARING

Herewith notification of a Hearing to be held on Thursday 15 March 1984
 at 9.30am within 34 Newton Street, Paisley

A full list of those cited is undernoted, along with timing of each case.

NameTime of CaseReason for Appearance

[REDACTED]

Kelly Alexander 10.15am
 Nicola Alexander 10.15am
 c/o 11 Merkswoth Way
 Paisley

Annual Review
 Annual Review

Copy to:-

raigielea
 len St

7 MAR 1984

Passed to: _____
 Ack: _____
 Ans: _____

Date 5 March 1984

Adam Moll
 for Reporter

X

Strathclyde Regional Council
Eastwood/Renfrew District

W.J. PARKER
District Manager

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

NICOLA AND KELLY

SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT ON ALEXANDER OF 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley

Court:- Children's Hearing at Paisley Age and Date of Birth:- Nicola - 3 yrs.
01.12.79.

Date of Court:- 18th April, 1983.

Religion:- Prot.

Kelly - 1 yr.
09.07.81. ✓

Offence:- Ref. under Sec. 32(2)(d) and
Ref. under Sec. 32(2)(d)
and (dd) of the Social Work(Scotland) Act 1968.

Occupation:-

Previous Offences:-

Nicola and Kelly Alexander reside with their grandparents Adam Alexander (54 years) and Evelyn Alexander (55 years) at the above address.

Their father Brian Alexander (21 years) who was imprisoned for three months on the above charges has lived in his own home at 39a Mossvale Street, Paisley, since his release from prison on 17th March, 1983.

Sandra Alexander, aged 20, the children's mother, left the children with the paternal grandparents and went out of town with another man a week before her husband's discharge from prison. Her whereabouts are unknown.

The Children's Hearings have been held on behalf of the children on 10.03.83. and 30.03.83., and a Place of Safety Order was issued. The place chosen was with their grandparents where they remain to the present. The children appear happy and are loved and well cared for.

The Alexanders first came to the attention of the Social Work Dept. in September 1981 when the children's mother was an in-patient at Dykebar Hospital.

[REDACTED]

A meeting, held at Dykebar on 11.01.82. and attended by all concerned with their case, decided it was unnecessary to place the children's names on the NAI Register at this time; nor was the question of doing so raised at another case conference on 28.05.82. despite further allegations of ill-treatment, marital disharmony and, at one point, separation. Throughout this period frequent visits were continued by Mrs. Grigor, Social Work Assistant; Mr. Thomson, Community Nurse; and myself. Rehousing was also arranged during this period via the special cases committee. On 24.06.82. Nicola was assaulted by her father - he was arrested. The following NAI Case Conference held on 28.09.82. recommended the children be placed on the NAI Register. This was promptly done. Mr. Alexander appeared in Court. He was released on Bail which he promptly broke by calling on his wife. He was ultimately imprisoned for three months and released on 17.03.83..

...../-

Throughout all this family's tribulations the paternal grandparents have been supportive and responsible. They show their disappointment and disapproval of their son and his actions but do not reject him. Most important of all, they care for the children, providing them with the stability and love they so greatly need.

CONCLUSION:

I do not hesitate to suggest the children remain with their grandparents, but feel they should be placed on supervision with a strong recommendation that their father's access be restricted and supervised at all times.



WJ SPALDING.
SOCIAL WORKER.

WJS/IS.
13.04.83.

Social Work Dept.,
Dykebar Hospital,
Grahamston Road,
PAISLEY.

SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968

1 NICHOLA ALEXANDER (born 1.12. 79), 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley.

is being referred to a children's hearing for Strathclyde Region on the grounds of the following conditions:

That she is a child in respect of whom an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1975, has been committed, being grounds for referral in terms of Section 32(2)(d) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act, 1968.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In support of the above condition it is stated: -

That Nicola Alexander was born, so far as has been ascertained, on 1st. December, 1979, and normally resides in family at 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley, together with her father, Brian Alexander, her mother Sandra Gray or Alexander and her sister Kelly who was born on 8th. September, 1932:

That on 17th. January, 1983, the child's father, the said Brian Alexander, was found guilty in Paisley Sheriff Court of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1975, namely that he did

'Between 1st. and 31st. August, 1981, in the house at 4 Argyle Street, Paisley, assault Nicola Alexander, by pulling her from her bed, shaking her and throwing her to the floor; and further,

On 23rd. September, 1982, in the house at 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley, assault the said Nicola Alexander, taking hold of her by the neck, lifting her by the neck, shaking her violently and dropping her onto the floor'

such assault being grounds for referral in terms of Section 32(2)(d) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act, 1968.

1st. March 19 83

Catharine A McBurnie
for Reporter

NOTES

At the children's hearing the child or his parents may or may not accept the grounds for bringing the child before the hearing. If the grounds are accepted by the child, and his parents, if present, the children's hearing will discuss and consider with the child and his parents what is best for the child. If any of the grounds are not accepted, the hearing may either discharge the referral or direct the reporter to refer to the sheriff for a decision as to whether or not any of the grounds exist. If this happens the child will have to appear before the sheriff at a later date. If the sheriff decides that any of the grounds do exist, the children's hearing will then discuss and consider what is best for the child, as if these grounds had been accepted. If the sheriff decides that no grounds exist the referral will be discharged.

1 Name and address of child

Address of reporter
34 Newton Street
Paisley.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON:-

The Alexander Family,
39 Mossvale Street, Paisley.
Children: Nicola (dob 01.12.79) (DRSN 326)
Kelly (dob 08.07.81) (DRSN 237)

Please see attached Court Report on Brian Alexander.

The wife of the above-named, Sandra Livingstone Gray or Alexander (dob 27.11.61.) aged 21 years, is the youngest of three children born to Robert Gray, a sixty year old taxi driver and his wife Jessie Carswell or Gray, who died aged thirty-eight in 1970 when her youngest daughter was nine years old. Her older brother, Robert, aged thirty-two left home and has not been heard of by the family for eight years. Her sister, Anne Adams, aged twenty-eight is divorced from her husband and lives with her seven month old son and boyfriend locally. The family is not a close one and seldom is in contact.

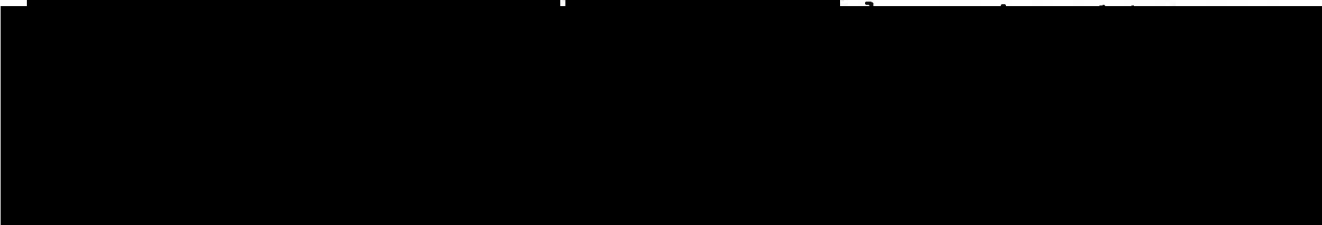
THE HOME: The Alexanders live in a three-apartment modern terraced house situated in a fairly attractive part of Paisley. The home is well furnished and decorated, and is maintained to a high standard. Mrs. Alexander's homekeeping is good and her care of the children is such that they are well fed, warm, and suitably dressed for the time of year. She has, however, since her husband's imprisonment been entertaining numerous friends of both sexes until late at night, causing complaints from the neighbours. At present she and her children spend a good deal of their time with a young couple at 41 Caledonia Street, Paisley. This, she claims, is for the company.

PERSONAL HISTORY: Sandra Alexander was born in Paisley and has lived here all her life. She attended Amochrie Primary School and her secondary education took place at Camphill. She left to attend Reid Kerr College at the age of fifteen but truanted most of the time. She states she was not successful at school and left without gaining any formal educational qualifications.

Mrs. Alexander became pregnant in 1979 and Nicola was born on 01.12.79. She married Brian Alexander on 07.11.80. having known him four months. He is not the father of Nicola but subsequently adopted her. Kelly was born almost a year later, 09.07.81., and the couple went to live with his parents. They later purchased an old tenement house in Argyle Street, Paisley, and ran into a series of financial and marital difficulties. Rehousing in Mossvale Street helped to solve the financial problems.

...../2

PERSONAL HISTORY, cont'd: Apart from childhood ailments, Mrs. Alexander claims she has never had a serious illness. She did, however, have a fall in 1979 and fractured her skull.



A Case Conference was convened on 11.01.82. and the outcomes were:-

1. Investigate possibility of Nicola attending a Day Nursery.
2. Mrs. Grigor and Mr. Spalding continue to offer support to Mrs. Alexander.
3. Maintain contact with Health Visitor.
4. Dr. Whyte to approach Community Nurse re. visiting.

It was also agreed at this point that there was no need to place the children's names on the N.A.I. Register.

A second Case Conference on 28.05.82. discussed Mr. Alexander's violence towards his wife and children, the couple's immaturity and basic inadequacies as marriage partners and parents. At this time Mrs. Alexander and the children were residing in the hostel and there was some question of whether-or-not they intended to separate. Again, as there was no obvious evidence of violence, bruising etc., the question was not raised of placing the children on the N.A.I. Register or of approaching the reporter concerning the possibility of Statutory Supervision.

The couple were reunited and for a time all seemed well.

On 24.09.82. Nicola was admitted to hospital following an assault by her father and he was remanded in custody. Nicola was discharged from hospital to the care of her mother, and the children were placed on the Divisional NAIC Register. The reporter was consulted at this point and advised re. a Children's Hearing.

When Mr. Alexander appeared in Court he was released under the Bail Act. He promptly broke his Bail by calling on his wife and was returned to Prison where he remains. He appeared again in Court on 07.02.83. and was sentenced to three months imprisonment. He hopes to be freed in four weeks' time.

...../3

...../3

PRESENT SITUATION: Sandra Alexander states she wishes to give up all right to her children and leave them with the parental grandparents at 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley. They are willing to take the children but require assurances she will not turn up in the future demanding their return.

The house at 39 Mossvale Street is to be given up or transferred to her husband. Mrs. Alexander was not clear about her future plans but states she intends to leave the Paisley area.

CONCLUSION: It is suggested the children are placed on a Supervision Order and a condition made restricting their father's access to them.



W.J. SPALDING.
SOCIAL WORKER.

WJS/IS.
11.02.83.

Social Work Dept.,
Dykebar Hospital,
Grahamston Rd.,
PAISLEY.

CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIANS

Dr. Norman A. Coutts
Dr. R. Cameron Shepherd
Dr. K. Evelyn Byrne

Hawkhead Hospital

Hawkhead Road
Paisley PA2 7BL
Tel: 041 - 889 8151

24/9/82.

Nicola Alexander 1/12/79.

This girl was transferred to Ward 2 Hawkhead Hospital from the Casualty Dept. of the RAH on 23/9/82.

Her "father" was said to have put both hands tightly round her & she choked, when admitted she had fully recovered.

I examined her on 24/9/82. She is a well nourished healthy looking child. There were no marks on her neck and no petechial spots on her face to suggest asphyxiation. She had a normal amount of toddler bruising on both shins. The only significant mark on her body was an area of

petechiae bruising anteriorly on the
anterior fold of the left axilla.

This was a new looking injury.

There was one small bruise on her right
buttock.

The area of petechiae as described is
the only clinical evidence of NAI.

A skeletal survey was normal.

K Evelyn Byrne.

Consultant Paediatrician.

X

MINUTES OF CASE CONFERENCE

on

Nicola Alexander (dob 01.12.79.)

&

Kelly Alexander (dob 09.07.81.)

held at Dykebar Hospital on 11th January, 1982 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. R. O'Kane, Principal Social Worker (Health),
Dykebar Hospital (Chairman).
Mr. W.J. Spalding, Social Worker,
Dykebar Hospital.
Mrs. J. Grigor, Social Work Assistant,
Dykebar Hospital.
Mr. J.J. Rafferty, Area Officer,
Craigielea House.
Mrs. Adams, Nursing Officer.
Miss Wilson, Health Visitor.

APOLOGIES: Mr. J. Leinster, Assessment & Child Care Adviser.
Dr. S.F. Whyte, Consultant Psychiatrist,
Dykebar Hospital.
Dr. G. Hamilton, General Practitioner.

Children: Nicola Alexander (dob 01.12.79.)
Kelly Alexander (dob 09.07.81.)

Mother: Sandra Alexander (maiden name - Gray)

Father: Brian Alexander

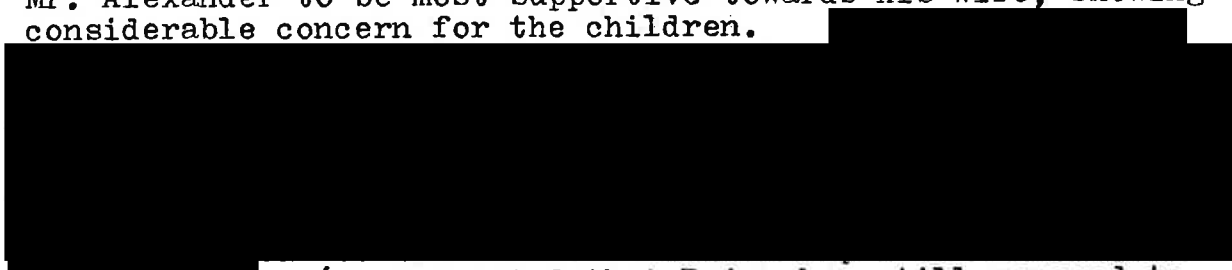
This meeting had been convened to discuss Mr. & Mrs. Brian Alexander and their two children Nicola (2 years) and Kelly (3 months), there being some concern about the support within this family and whether their names should be placed on the N.A.I. register.

Firstly, Chairman read from Dr. Whyte's report which indicated that Mrs. Alexander had been an in-patient at Dykebar because of reactive depression. Sandra was seen as rather immature, as was her husband (mother is 19 and father 21 years), but their relationship seemed to have improved and they are now living in their own home - although they would continue to need a lot of support and close supervision over the next few months. Dr. Whyte will continue to see Mrs. Alexander at the Clinic.

Social Work staff at Dykebar felt that while the family were living with Mr. Alexander's parents they coped reasonably well, but since moving to their own home difficulties had arisen. Mrs. Grigor explained that since Sandra was discharged from Dykebar there had been some friction with parents as Mr. Alexander, junior, got drunk at New Year and his wife went out to several parties. The couple were asked to leave Mr. Alexander's parents' house, and have been living at Argyle Street for the past two weeks. It was noted that Mr. Alexander had wakened the children to smack them (information from children's mother).

The group discussed the aforementioned points, looking mainly at the situation while the family were living with their in-laws. Mrs. Alexander, snr. works part-time as a cleaner but, apart from this, she undertook a lot of the children's care, and in fact had the baby sleep with her overnight to allow Sandra to rest. It was stated that Mr. & Mrs. Alexander, snr. had been most upset over the above incident and, in fact, there had been a disagreement between Mr. Alexeander and his father over this.

Regarding the above; the Health Visitor was most surprised about this particular incident as she has always found Mr. Alexander to be most supportive towards his wife, showing considerable concern for the children.



(It was noted that Brian has still managed to hold down his job). The Health Visitor was not aware of father hitting either child and she was quite satisfied with the progress baby had made, and thought Sandra was receiving considerable support from her mother-in-law. The question of Sandra's relationship with her own father was raised, but it appears she had a disagreement with him some time previously and has very little contact with him now - although he had shown affection for Nicola in the past.

Discussion moved on to the couple's housing. Mrs. Grigor informed the meeting that they had placed their name on the Council waiting list, and although the Homeless Unit were not prepared to help, their case has now been referred to the Medical Cases' Committee in the hope they would be allocated a house near Mr. & Mrs. Alexander, snr., which would mean an added support for the family. This opened discussion on what sort of supports could be offered to Sandra and Brian as it was agreed some input was needed to monitor the care of the children and the home situation. It was greed that Dykebar would make investigations regarding nursery placement for the elder child, where perhaps the baby could be placed to allow Sandra to continue attending the out-patient clinic at Dykebar. Also, the case would be referred, through Dr. Whyte, for a Community Nurse to visit with continued visits by the Health Visitor. Mr. Rafferty felt that as this case had not come to the notice of the Social Work Department in relation to the elder child, extra support from this Department was not needed at the present time - unless the situation deteriorated.

...../3

These being the main topics of discussion, the Chairman asked for agreement on the undernoted decisions. This was given.

1. Investigate possibility of Nicola attending Day Nursery.
2. Mrs. Grigor & Mr. Spalding to continue offering support to Sandra.
3. Contact maintained by Health Visitor.
4. Dr. Whyte to approach Community Nursery re. visiting.

It was also agreed that, at this point, there was no need for the children's names to be placed on the N.A.I. register.

These being the decisions of the meeting, Mr. Rafferty agreed that if the situation deteriorated further then he would look at placing a Family Aide within the support system.

Mr. O'Kane thanked members for their contributions and attending this meeting.

-----oOo-----

Circulation:

All present.
Mr. J. Leinster, Assessment & Child Care Adviser.
Dr. S.F. Whyte, Consultant Psychiatrist.
Dr. G. Hamilton, General Practitioner.

for info:

Mr. W.J. Parker, District Manager.

RO'K/IS.
18.01.82.

Social Work Dept.,
Dykebar Hospital,
Paisley.

Social Work Department
Director: F E Edwards RD BA DipASS FSW FBIM

Area Office
Craigielea House
Blackstoun Road
PAISLEY



Tel 041-887 5195

Mr and Mrs Alexander
11 Merksworth Way
PAISLEY

Our ref **AMCA/CG**

Your ref

If phoning or
calling ask for

Anne McAdam

Date

Sept.
3rd October 1988

Dear Mr and Mrs Alexander

As promised, I have obtained copies of the girls' birth certificates from Paisley Registrar's Office. Sorry about the delay in passing these on to you; life has been fairly hectic recently.

This will probably be the last contact I will have with yourselves, Kellie and Nicola, so I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the future.

If at any time in the future you require any help or assistance with any aspect of the girls' welfare, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

All the best !

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne McAdam".

Anne McAdam
Social Worker

Social Work Department
Director: F E Edwards BA DipASS FISW FBIM

Area Office
Craigielea House
Blackstoun Road
PAISLEY



Douglas Hope
Reporter to the Children's Panel
34 Newton Street
PAISLEY

Tel 041-887 5195

Our ref AMcA/CG

Your ref

If phoning or
calling ask for Anne McAdam

Date 22nd July 1988

Dear Douglas

Re: Nicola (01.12.79) and Kellie (09.07.81) Alexander
c/o Alexander (paternal grandparents)
11 Merksworth Way, Paisley

The above named children have, over the past five years or so, been subject to Home Supervision Orders, with conditions of residence that they live with their grandparents at the above address.

Towards the end of last year, and with the support of this Department, Mr and Mrs Alexander applied for custody of the girls. This was granted at the Sheriff Court on 25th February 1988.

It is felt that Mr and Mrs Alexander have long demonstrated their ability to cope with bringing up Nicola and Kellie and that Social Work intervention in this case is now no longer necessary.

In view of the above, it is requested that the case be reviewed at a Hearing in the near future, with a view to terminating the 44.1(a) Home Supervision Order, to which the girls are currently subject.

Yours sincerely

Anne McAdam

Anne McAdam
Social Worker

Will Brown
Senior Social Worker

Memorandum



From Janice West, 7 Love Street, Paisley

Tel 887 9321 Ext 47

To Anne McAdam, Social Worker, Craigmyle

Our ref JW/CKM

Your ref

Date 6th June, 1988

Subject Custody Allowances
Nicola (1.12.7) and Kellie (9.7.81) Alexander

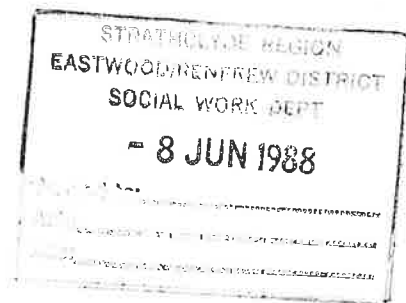
Thank you for your recent memo regarding these children. I note that the Hearing was on **25th February 1988**. We will require to notify the Finance Department that this was the date of granting of the Orders, which will mean that Mr. and Mrs. Alexander have been overpaid by £14.50 per week since that date.

Can you please advise Mr. and Mrs. Alexander to make a claim for Child Benefit from that date? Should there be any problem about having their claim back-dated, you could refer them to me.

Custody allowances are paid at fostering rates less Child Benefit, hence the overpayment.

Janice West

Janice West
Assistant District Officer (Child Care)



Memorandum



From Noreen Gethin, 7 Love Street, Paisley

Tel 887 9321 Ext 48

To John Paterson, Area Manager, Craigielea

Our ref NG/CKM

Your ref

Date 19th May, 1988

Subject REQUEST FOR DISCRETIONARY ALLOWANCE
Nicola (1.12.79) and Kellie (9.7.81) Alexander
c/o Mrs. E. Alexander, 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley

Your request for a discretionary payment of £31.20 in respect of the above named has been approved by Mr. G.D. Parkinson, District Manager.

The cheque for the required amount will be forwarded direct to the foster parents from the Finance Department.

Noreen Gethin

Noreen Gethin
District Officer (Child Care)



Memorandum



From Anne McAdam,
Social Worker,
Craigielea House.

Tel Ext

To Mr. Geoff Parkinson,
District Manager,
Love Street,
Paisley.

Our ref AMcA/RK

Your ref

Date 11th May, 1988.

Subject Mrs. Evelyn Alexander, 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley.
Request for Discretionary Allowances and Travelling Expenses
in respect of Nicola (1.12.79) and Kellie (9.7.81) Alexander.

The above named lady and her husband have acted as foster parents to their grandchildren, Nicola and Kellie Alexander for some four years. Last month they obtained legal custody of the children.

Prior to custody being granted, Mrs. Alexander had enrolled the girls for swimming lessons and, has been taking them along on a regular weekly basis. During one of the monthly, District fostering meetings Mrs. Alexander was made aware of the fact that she could seek reimbursement for the cost of the lessons, bus fares to the baths, as well as the cost of a Brownie holiday weekend for Nicola.

I have enclosed the completed forms and would be grateful if you would consider approving payment of the aforementioned items, which amount to £31.20.

Thank you.

Anne McAdam.

Anne McAdam,
Social Worker



ROBERTSON & ROSS

OUR REF: IR/AP/B
YOUR REF:
IF CALLING PLEASE ASK FOR: Mr. Robertson.

Mr. & Mrs. A. Alexander,
11 Merksworth Way,
PAISLEY.

Solicitors and Notaries,
7 Gilmour Street,
Paisley PA1 1DD.

Telephone: 041-889 1121
R.E. Box No. PA 27
Fax No. (G.P. 2 & 3): 041-887 3794

12th May, 1988

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Alexander,

CUSTODY

We have pleasure in enclosing the extract Decree. We hope we have been of assistance to you in this matter and should you require further advice and assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



PARTNERS: I. ROBERTSON J.D. ROSS A.F. DEWAR, C.A. R.J. KERR N.R.Y. LINDSAY M.G. TOLLAND ASSOCIATE: D. TOD
GLASGOW OFFICE: 12 ANNFIELD PLACE, DUKE STREET, GLASGOW Tel: 041-556 7501 PROPERTY OFFICE: 7 CAUSEY SIDE STREET, PAISLEY Tel: 041-887 7971

SHERIFF COURT, PAISLEY

AT PAISLEY, the Twenty fifth day of February
Nineteen Hundred and Eighty ~~SEVEN~~ ⁹⁷ Eight

in an action in the Sheriff Court of North Strathclyde at

Paisley at the instance of ADAM ALEXANDER and MRS EVELYN ALEXANDER, Spouses, residing at 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley PURSUERS against MR BRIAN ALEXANDER, residing at 39A Mossvale Street, Paisley FIRST NAMED DEFENDER and SANDRA ALEXANDER, formerly residing at c/o Western Hall, Drury Gardens, Westcliffe, Bournemouth and present whereabouts currently unknown SECOND NAMED DEFENDER: the Sheriff Principal IN ABSENCE quoad the Second Defender, Found the Pursuers entitled to the custody of Nicola Ann Alexander, born 1 December 1979 and Kellie Evelyn Alexander, born 9 July 1981.

And the Sheriff Principal Grants Warrant for all lawful Execution hereon.

Extracted at Paisley, this Third day of May
Nineteen Hundred and Eighty ~~SEVEN~~ ⁹⁷ Eight.


Sheriff Clerk Depute
Paisley



Strathclyde Regional Council
 Social Work Department
 Craigielea House
 Blackstoun Road
 Paisley

Name of Social Worker ANN MCADAM
 Tel. No. 887 5195

Date 13 APRIL 1988

To :—

The Head Teacher

MOSSVALE PRIMARY
FULLERTON STREET
PAISLEY

Dear Sir/Madam

Child's Name NICOLA ALEXANDER (1/2/79)

The above named child is in ~~*residential care/~~care of foster parents. I should be obliged if you would arrange for ~~*caring staff/~~foster parents to receive the child's annual school report in the normal way when these are being issued to all parents.

Additionally, it would be appreciated if the report form overleaf could be completed and returned to me in the stamped addressed envelope provided. The child's social worker could arrange to see you if you would like to discuss any matters arising from the report.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mémorandum



From ROSEMARY MURRAY (ACTING) ASST. DISTRICT OFFICER
(CHILD CARE)

Tel 887.9321 Ext 45

To Sheila McDiarmid Social Worker Our ref RM/MW

Your ref

Date 15/3/88

Subject

CHILDREN IN LONG TERM FOSTER CARE

As part of the evaluation exercise being carried out from the District Child Care Team on the care and support offered to children in Long Term Foster Care, I am proposing to send out the enclosed questionnaire to all Long Term Foster Parents in the District.

The date scheduled for this is 23/3/88

Could you please let me know if you have any objections to this or of any comments or suggestions, so these can be included before it is sent.

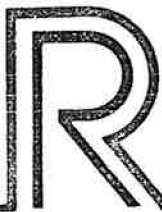
I will be in touch with you at a later date once the questionnaires are back. We will then be able to begin to plan out a programme of training/support for the following year depending on the information received.

Many thanks for your help.

Rosemary Murray.

ROSEMARY MURRAY
(ACTING) ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER
(CHILD CARE)

1. Mrs Alexander - Nicola & Kelly Alexander.



ROBERTSON & ROSS

FIRST CLASS
OUR REF: P/ PGH/LM/B
YOUR REF:

Solicitors and Notaries,
7 Gilmour Street,
Paisley PA1 1DD.

Mr and Mrs A Alexander
11 Marksworth Way
PAISLEY

Telephone: 041-889 1121
R.E. Box No. PA 27
Fax No. (G.P. 2 & 3) 041-887 5561

29th February, 1988

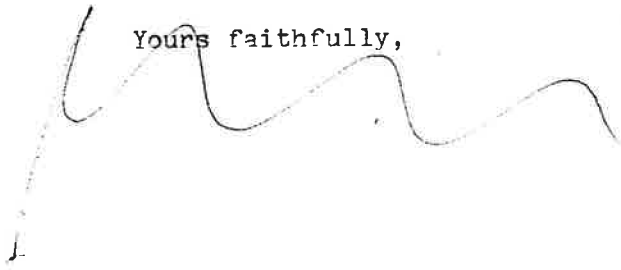
Dear Mr and Mrs Alexander,

CUSTODY

We write to advise that we obtained a Court Judgement in your favour,
when this case called in Court on the 25th February, 1988.

We shall contact you again as soon as the Extract Decree comes to hand.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Sandra Alexander or Livingstone
20 MacLaren Road
Moordon
BOURNEMOUTH

SMCD/CG

Shelagh McDiarmid

11th November 1986

Dear Mrs Alexander

Nicola and Kelly are still living with their grandparents, Mr and Mrs Alexander, and they are now planning to apply to the Court for legal custody of the children. Their father, Brian Alexander, has no objections of this, although he will continue to have regular access to them.

This Department is required to provide the Court with a report regarding the proposed arrangements for the children. It is also necessary to represent your views upon whether or not you consent to Mr and Mrs Alexander having custody of Nicola and Kelly, and upon the matter of access if relevant.

Custody differs from adoption in that although Mr and Mrs Alexander will have day to day care and physical custody of the children, the natural parents, yourself and Brian, still retain some parental rights and can in fact apply to the Court at any time until the children are 16, to have the custody order revoked. In any case a custody order only remains in force until a child is 16.

It would be advisable for you to consult a solicitor or the Probation Office where you had contact, in order to discuss this in more detail.

I should therefore be grateful if you could reply to me at the above address, giving me your views on this matter, as soon as possible. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Shelagh McDiarmid
Social Worker

Enc:

Pauline Atkinson
Social Worker
Craigielea House.

PA/RK

Mr. B. Anderson,
District Manager,
Love St.

7th June, 1984.

Nicola (1.12.79.) & Kelly (9.7.81) Alexander
c/o Alexander 11 Merkaforth Way, Paisley.

These 2 young children have been in the care of their paternal grandparents since February 1983. Following the breakdown of their parent's marriage. In November 1983, Mr. & Mrs. Alexander senior were approved as related foster parents for the girls and this situation is likely to continue in the foreseeable future.

Since the beginning of this year Mr. Alexander has worked as part of the maintenance staff at the Regional buildings in Paisley, but for a year before that he had been unemployed. Mrs. Alexander had been working part time as a school cleaner but since this involved working a split shift she gave up her job after the children came to stay with her. Whilst the children's father has contributed child benefit towards the maintenance of the children, he too has been unemployed and Mr. & Mrs. Alexander have therefore had to use much of their savings during 1983 to support the children, particularly up till the start of fostering payments. In addition Mr. & Mrs. Alexander have a mortgage and other long term financial commitments such as life insurance which even now places them under financial strain at times.

The family has not had a holiday since before the 2 girls came to stay with Mr. & Mrs. Alexander. This year however, they hope to travel down to Aldershot in August to be near their oldest married son who is on the army base there. Although the children will travel free on the train journeys Mr. & Mrs. Alexander will be renting a cottage for 2 weeks, costing £120. and they also hope to hire a car. In addition the girls will need some new holiday clothing, and Mrs. Alexander has already had to spend over £50. on Nicola's first school uniform as she will start school after the summer.

I would ask therefore that the discretionary fostering allowance of £50. per child is now made available to help towards the cost of the holiday and clothing.

Pauline Atkinson,
Social Worker

MISS P. ATKINSON, Social Worker,
Craigielea House

887-5195/6

MS. S. ORR, Fostering Allowances
Finance Dept.,
Regional Buildings.

PA/MEB

23.2.84

Nicola & Kelly Alexander, c/o Alexander, 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley.

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander were approved as related foster parents to their two grandchildren in November 1983 and fostering allowances commenced in December. At that time it was agreed that these fostering allowances would be reduced by the amount of the Child Benefit (i.e. £13 weekly) which the children's father still receives and contributes to their maintenance.

However, I understand from Mrs. Alexander that this deduction was only made in respect of the first fostering payment and I would remind you therefore that the monthly Child Benefit of £52 should be deducted every month.

Regarding the recent payments where there have been no deductions for the Child Benefit, the foster parents have now spent this excess allowance on the children and to recover this amount from them would cause the family unnecessary hardship. I would ask therefore that the overpayments are disregarded and that deductions in lieu of Child Benefit begin again from the next fostering allowance.

P. Atkinson (Miss)
Social Worker.

200

DATE: ...25.1.83.....

FROM: Mrs M Finlay, Administrative Officer

TO: Mr. J. Rafferty / Area Officer / ~~Principal Hospital Social Worker~~*PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION ASSESSMENT FORM/S* (R.I.C.4.)

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION ASSESSMENT FORM/S* IN RESPECT OF THE UNDERNOTED COULD BE SENT TO DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT DELAY.

CHILD'S NAME	DATE OF ADMISSION	SOCIAL WORKER	REMARKS
[REDACTED]			
NICOLA & KELLY ALEXANDER	18-4-83	P. ATKINSON	WHLA WITH CONDITION OF RESIDENCE
[REDACTED]			

* DELETE AS APPROPRIATE

John Paterson,
Area Officer,
Craigielea House.

887 5195

JP/RK

Bryce Anderson,
District Manager,
Love Street.

1st July, 1985.

Nicola and Kelly Alexander
c/o Alexander, 11 Merksworth Way, Gockston
Fostering Ref. No. 990224 and 990223

The above named foster children reside with their paternal grandparents. Mr & Mrs. Alexander and the 2 children are planning to have a 2 week holiday in the London area with their married son in July and have requested the discretionary allowance of £50 per child towards the cost of rail fares and living costs, which are particularly expensive in the London area. Mrs. Alexander gave up her job to look after the children full time in 1984 and Mr. Alexander was unemployed for some years before securing a fairly low paid job on the maintenance staff at the municipal buildings 18 months ago. In addition Mr. and Mrs. Alexander have a mortgage to pay and they feel they could not afford this holiday without the extra financial help of the discretionary allowance.

I would be grateful therefore if this £100 could be made available as soon as possible.



John Paterson,
Area Officer

Mr Brian Alexander
33 Mossvale Street
PAISLEY

SMCD/CG

Shelagh McDiarmid

31st October 1986

Dear Brian

I understand from your mother that you do not seem to have approached the subject of your children's past with them or if you have, you have not informed her that this has taken place. You may remember that it was agreed at the Review Meeting that this was of paramount importance and that you felt that it was your duty to explain to them all the circumstances which led to them being cared for by their grandparents.

It is therefore this Department's responsibility to tell the children details of their past prior to an application for custody being made. I should like to discuss this with you and therefore plan to visit you on Wednesday 12th November at 3.30pm. If this is inconvenient, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Shelagh McDiarmid
Social Worker

Andrew McColl Esq
Reporter to the Children's Panel
34 Newton Street
PAISLEY

SMCD/CG

Shelagh McDiarmid

5th November 1987

Dear Mr McColl

Re: Nicola and Kelly ALEXANDER, 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley
Dates of Birth: 01.12.79 09.07.81

With regard to your request for background report on the above, I would request that the case be continued pending a court hearing on 16.11.87 regarding a custody application on behalf of Mr and Mrs Alexander, paternal grandparents. As this represents a substantial change in circumstances, it would seem inappropriate to submit a background report at this stage. The custody application is fully supported by the Social Work Department.

Yours sincerely

Shelagh McDiarmid
Social Worker