

MINUTES OF CASE CONFERENCE HELD

NEWFIELD RESOURCE CENTRE ON 13th MARCH, 1987

NAME OF CHILD: Sheila McKIRDY

D.O.B. 2.7.71

Present:

[REDACTED] Social Worker, Craigielea House SWD
[REDACTED] Social Worker, " " "
[REDACTED] Social Work Assistant, " " "
[REDACTED] as Inch Clinic
[REDACTED] Shepherd Centre
[REDACTED] tional Psychologist, Child Guidance Centre
[REDACTED] other
Sheila McKirdy - Subject of Report
[REDACTED] Newfield House
[REDACTED] ssment Officer, Newfield House
[REDACTED] son, Acting Assistant Officer-in-Charge,
Newfield House.

At the outset of today's case conference, those present read and noted the contents of the assessment reports and were fully aware of the complexities surrounding Sheila McKirdy and her family.

Summary of Discussion:

[REDACTED] Social Work Assistant, who has been closely involved with Sheila in connection with the I.T. sessions, said that the McKirdy family had been known to the Social Work Department for a number of years.

[REDACTED] further added that since June 1985, Sheila has been happy attending the Good Shepherd Centre as a day pupil and her attendance throughout has been satisfactory. Although she has not been a serious management problem, throughout her period of attendance at the Good Shepherd Centre, her attitude and behaviour has, occasionally, been inappropriate.

[REDACTED] from the Good Shepherd Centre, was able to confirm that although they are prepared to allow Sheila to continue attending the Good Shepherd,

in order to complete her education until she leaves school in the summer of 1987, she did add that from October last year, Sheila's behaviour has been somewhat problematic.

[redacted] further reported that Sheila was admitted to Carsewood Children's Home during the middle of last year, namely because of negative feelings about [redacted] co-habitee, [redacted] Sheila, at the time, had made certain allegations against [redacted] of a sexual nature, but no evidence could be found to substantiate her complaint.

While Sheila was resident at Carsewood Children's Home, she also made allegations against a member of staff.

A case conference was convened and subsequently Sheila was discharged in December, 1986 and placed with her sister, [redacted]. Shortly thereafter, in addition to staying out late at night, Sheila's behaviour was such that [redacted] could no longer cope.

[redacted] Social Worker, commented that the recent Children's Panel were prepared to give Sheila the opportunity to return to her sister, [redacted] but she refused.

The Children's Panel, therefore, decided in view of Sheila's attitude and the complexities of her situation, to impose a residential assessment order and consequently Sheila was admitted to Newfield House on the 26th of February 1987.

Newfield staff, [redacted] reported that since Sheila was admitted to Newfield House, her period of residence has been, in the main, satisfactory.

Educationally, according to [redacted] Sheila's level of attainment is poor and although she has found Sheila to be, in the main, pleasant and co-operative she has also found her to be, at times, sullen and withdrawn.

[redacted] intimated that she has had great difficulty in ascertaining fully [redacted] views and feelings about Sheila and the family due to [redacted] severe hearing impediment.

The case conference members also were faced with the same difficulty. However [redacted] was able to communicate that she preferred to have Sheila back home.

Sheila herself, when asked at the case conference if she would like to return home following her forthcoming Children's Hearing, was undecided until she

learned that residential care in a children's home might be a feasible option. She was then adamant that she would go home and indicated strongly her reluctance to go to a children's home.

[REDACTED] Senior Social Worker, reiterated the fact that when Sheila was at home, she was primarily unhappy and despite her negative feelings about [REDACTED] she had contributed to the problems at home, which caused some of the friction between herself and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] recognised that because [REDACTED] is not Sheila's natural father, she may have been somewhat reluctant to accept his authority within the home. This seems to have been a problem, even with regard to the other siblings in the family.

[REDACTED] felt that if Sheila was to return home, she must first of all make an effort to avoid conflict with [REDACTED] by behaving appropriately and not staying out late at night as she has done in the past. Secondly, the immediate and extended family members must also provide some protection and support. Thirdly, Sheila must be aware of those who are available to give her advice and support, and for her to consult with them when difficulties arise.

Some case conference members had reservations about members of the McKirdy family circle being able to provide the necessary protection and support for Sheila.

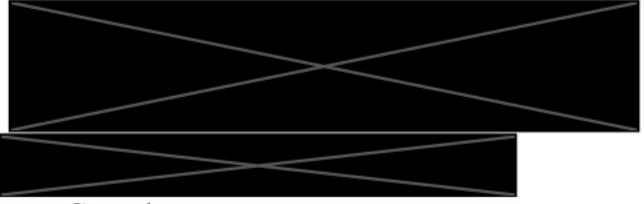
Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations:

After further discussion, the case conference was of the opinion that Sheila should not return home immediately following her pending Children's Hearing. It was decided that Sheila required help towards reintegration back into the family home. It was felt that the following recommendations should be made to the Children's Hearing for their consideration:-

- 1) That Sheila be placed preferably in Chapel House Children's Home on a 44(1)(b) during which time efforts would be made towards returning Sheila back home.
- 2) That in addition to being placed in a children's home, it was considered important that Sheila continue her day education at the Good Shepherd Centre, who are prepared to have Sheila back.

- 3) Her involvement with the I.T. group should continue till it finishes in June, 1987.

Finally, the case conference also recommended that an approach should be made to enlist the co-operation of the West Yonderton Community Support Group, to enable Sheila, if she returns home, to cope better, otherwise, the above supports will also be conducive towards helping Sheila prepare for independent living.



Chairperson,
16th March, 1987

N.B. Due to further information, we should request that Gryffe Children's Home now replace Chapel House.

GOOD SHEPHERD CENTRE

CASE CONFERENCE REPORT: THURSDAY 22nd AUGUST, 1985

NAME: Sheila McKirdy

D.O.A. 28.11.83.

D.O.B. 8.4.70.

ENGLISH:

Sheila is very unwilling to actually get down to work in English. She finds it difficult to take an instruction. Looks upon any instruction as being picked on and as a result no work gets done and it is really very difficult to assess Sheila's ability.

ARITHMETIC:

Number

Addition: Copes with simple addition only.

Subtraction:	}	-	Considerable work and input is necessary in all these areas
Multiplacation:			
Division:			
Time:			

Time

Reactions as Operators:	}	-	Sheila is not competent in any of these areas.
Percentages:			
Money (Social Arithmetic);			
Measure:			
Shape:			

TYPING:

Sheila has not been in my class often enough for me to pass judgement on her typing ability, although my impression at the end of last session was that she was showing little interest in learning the keyboard and would rather fritter away her time chatting - somewhat restless, with little ability to concentrate.

HOME ECONOMICS:

It is difficult to assess Sheila as she has only been my class once.

ART:

Sheila is a very inhibited girl who seems to be on the defensive mose of the time. She is keen to work but is not very confident and loses concentration quickly if she doesn't receive continual assistance. Her relationship with her classmates is poor.

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Sheila is a well co-ordinated and agile worker. She quickly becomes defensive towards peers and often ridicules or insults in an immature manner which makes her rather unpopular. She has gained more control and is slightly more able in controlling her temper and is beginning to realise that peers are not always trying to slight her.

She enjoyed participation in gymnastics, sporting events and netball. Sheila gives her free time to many activities, but still finds difficulty in relating to new peers in a relaxed manner.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

I find it difficult to assess Sheila as I have had so little of her. However, she can be very restless in class and needs a lot of persuasion to get down to work.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAFF AND PEERS:

As yet Sheila has not settled down sufficiently to make any significant relationships with staff and girls. She is still somewhat disruptive, noisy and restless in classroom, probably due to the fact she is aware of her somewhat limited academic potential.

ACADEMIC POTENTIAL:

Sheila has many learning difficulties and has a great deal of work to do to reach a level of competence whereby she could cope with everyday life.



Good Shepherd Centre

Bishopton
Renfrewshire. PA7 5PF
Telephone. 

REPORT FOR THE REPORTER TO THE CHILDREN'S PANEL

SHEILA MCKIRBY (Age 15)
% Carswood House, Howwood.
d.o.b. - 2.7.71

Admitted to Good Shepherd Centre - 10.6.85

Sheila has been on a day placement at Good Shepherd for the last eighteen months. Statutory supervision was terminated at a Children's Hearing on 11th November 1985. Sheila is due to leave school in five months time.

PROGRESS REPORT

Information will no doubt have been supplied by the Social Work Department about developments in Sheila's home situation and particularly the alleged incidents of sexual abuse.

From our point of view Sheila was making very good progress during the early part of 1986. However shortly before and also on her return after the summer holidays there was a very noticeable deterioration in Sheila's behaviour and general demeanour. It was not through until the end of October 1986 that the full story emerged and Sheila felt able to discuss the matter with a member of our staff.

Once Sheila had shared her "secret" with various people a burden seemed to lift from her and in school at least she settled down again and began to revert to her better self. However in the run-up to Christmas Sheila has once

again been unsettled and her behaviour is that of an anxious girl who is under some pressure. Our interpretation, albeit based on limited information, would be that Sheila is feeling increasingly vulnerable in Lonswood House where perhaps peer-group demands are now becoming too much for her. She will also naturally enough be concerned about plans for the future.

EDUCATION

There has been a steady deterioration in Sheila's attitude and behaviour over the last six months. Previously she was a pleasant hard-working pupil but we see this side of her all too seldom now. She can be quite disruptive at times and frequently allows herself to be led into trouble. She will need to show greater effort and commitment in the coming months if she is to pass her exams. The following comments are those of her class teachers.

English - Sheila is very remedial over the four areas of English. However she tries hard and generally works to her potential. Although Sheila can be difficult elsewhere, she seems to like this subject and presents few problems.

Maths - Sheila lacks confidence and needs frequent assistance and reassurance. Her work is legible and neatly presented. Recently Sheila has shown extreme swings of mood from being loud and defiant to her more normal pleasant hard-working self. She is being presented for Maths at Standard Grade but will have to improve on her poor performance of late.

Drama - Sheila can be a very useful member of the class but she believes herself to be a poor reader and this often discourages her. A pity really because she compares well with the other girls in her class.

Art - Sheila seldom looks favourably on anything that she does. She can be impatient, demanding and petulant but is

all too infrequently pleasant and amenable.

Social Studies - Sheila can be an asset in class. She works away quietly at her own pace and participates sensibly in discussions. She can be a great pleasure to work with, particularly on an individual basis, but Sheila has become increasingly moody and there must be some concern about her growing discontent.

Hairdressing - Sheila is a pleasant girl in class. She tries hard and works away quite happily. Lately she has seemed a bit "off colour" and not quite herself although she works well enough.

Home Economics - Last year Sheila tried very hard and was a pleasure to teach. However she now seems to have lost her interest and incentive to do well. The "old" Sheila is very much missed.

ASSESSMENT

Sheila is unquestionably experiencing a very difficult time and would clearly benefit from increased support and supervision. She attended none of the Christmas festivities in the Centre last week and that is fair measure of just how troubled she must be. At the time of writing we understand that Sheila is living with her sister having made a fresh set of "allegations" against a member of staff at Carwood. Similar allegations got her removed from the family home when she was not coping so could this possibly be a repeat performance?

RECOMMENDATION

We are happy to continue working with Sheila in whatever capacity the Panel feel is appropriate.

22 Dec. 1986

THIRD IN CHARGE

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reporter to the Children's Panel

Reporter:



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

NOTIFICATION OF HEARING

Herewith notification of a Hearing to be held on..... Thursday 26 February 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.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Time of Case</u>	<u>Reason for Appearance</u>
262/77	X Sheila McKirdy (02.07.71) c/o Tudhope 6 Killoch Avenue Paisley	10.00 am	X New Referral
429/84	 (28.06.72) 25 Porton Place Bishopton	10.30 am	New Referral
644/83	 (09.03.70) 80 Dalskeith Road Paisley	11.00 am	LA Review
344/79	 (18.11.70) 41c Craigielea Drive Paisley	11.30 am	New Referral and LA Review

To SWD:- Renfrew, Craigielea, Good Shepherd Centre, Springboig St John's

Date 18 February 1987

for Reporter



Social Work Department Child Abuse Procedures

1. Area Team CRAIGIELEA HOUSE	2. Area Officer [redacted] Home Tel. No.: [redacted]
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3. Date held 5th November 1986	at Craigielea House (11.00 a.m.)
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4. Name of child(ren) (including aliases) [redacted] Sheila McKirdy [redacted]	5. D.O.B. 13 years 2.7.71 3 years 1½ years)	6. Home address 164 Candren Road, Paisley.
		7. Present address Sheila - c/o Carsewood Children's Home, Howwood.

8. Parents/Caretakers name [redacted] (mother to [redacted])	Address 164 Candren Road, Paisley.
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9. (a) Chairperson [redacted] Area Manager.

(b) Present (names) [redacted]	Designation Area Manager Sen. Social Worker Social Worker Social Work Asstant Head Teacher Health Visitor Psychologist Nursing Officer officer in Charge Third Officer Inspector Houseparent Head Teacher	Agency Social Work Social Work Social Work Social Work Glen Coates Nurser School Ferguslie Clinic Child Guidance Ferguslie Clinic Carsewood Good Shepherd Cent Strathclyde Police Carsewood Mary Russell Schoo
(c) Invited but unable to attend [redacted]	Child Care Adviser G.P.	Social Work 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

Sexual abuse allegations against mother's cohabitee - [redacted]

11. Medically examined by [redacted]	Designation Police Surgeon	Place	Date 25.10.86
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Review Case Conference Minute CA2

12. Summary of discussion etc. (To be read in conjunction with Initial/Review Report Form)

Initial report circulated (copy attached) outlining details of referral. The case conference was convened to consider Sheila McKirdy's allegation that her mother's cohabitee [REDACTED] had sexual intercourse with her in June 1986.

POLICE REPORT (Referral from Craigielea House)

WPC [REDACTED] obtained statement from Sheila McKirdy regarding allegations of [REDACTED] sexually abusing her on 26th June 1986. Sheila was very specific about the date. Statements were also taken from mother, [REDACTED] and her sisters [REDACTED]. No evidence to substantiate claim.

Detective Constable [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] who emphatically denied allegations. He said he had to reprimand Sheila on occasions regarding possible glue sniffing, staying out late and not returning home to the house at all some nights.

A medical examination was carried out by [REDACTED] who found the girl was not a virgin and she admitted to having sexual relations with a boy.

[REDACTED] will not be being charged. [REDACTED] is known to the Police and has a record of theft and robbery, but no sex related or violence-related charges were noted.

REPORT:

[REDACTED] contact with Sheila was through an I.T. group and she was troubled about different aspects of her behaviour. She tried to get Sheila to talk to her but it was not until the group had finished for the summer that Sheila called at the office and asked to be admitted into care as she was so very frightened of [REDACTED]. Sheila was admitted to Carsewood House in July 1986 on a voluntary basis.

It was to [REDACTED] Officer in Charge at Carsewood on 21st October that she unburdened herself about the alleged offence. [REDACTED] believes Sheila was telling the truth about the incident.

Her behaviour since then has shown a marked change, she seems more relaxed and easy in her mind. Sheila also stated that at times [REDACTED] has slept in the same bed as [REDACTED].

CARSEWOOD REPORT:

[REDACTED] said there has been trouble with Sheila having nightmares and she was a poor sleeper. One of the male workers had entered her room one night when she was obviously having a nightmare and when she woke and saw him, she screamed. This took place before she had reported the alleged incident of [REDACTED] entering her bedroom on several occasions and on one occasion having sexual intercourse with her. The staff had noted a significant change for the better in her general demeanour since she had told what had happened in June.

GOOD SHEPHERD CENTRE REPORT:

[REDACTED] said that Sheila had been a day pupil since June 1985. Unsettled at the beginning, her behaviour then improved and then again changed earlier this year. Her attitude changed again to being very unsettled but since she has spoken about [REDACTED] assault on her it is as if a burden has lifted from her.

PSYCHOLOGIST REPORT (from Good Shepherd Centre:

[REDACTED] said she did not know Sheila very well but kept contact through staff at the centre.

REPORT:

[REDACTED] involvement with the family started with [REDACTED] being put on Probation for one year and originally worked with [REDACTED].

It is a very strange household with [REDACTED] wielding a lot of power there and apparently hated by the whole family. The relationship between him and [REDACTED] is not clearly defined, though he has lived in the house for 6 years. Up until the last few weeks he contributed nothing to the household finances, apart from occasionally giving a loan to [REDACTED] to help out with an account but he was always repaid. The older members of the family all just go their own way, even [REDACTED] who goes out a lot with sisters and daughters. [REDACTED] described the home as having a 'shift' system, with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] rarely in at the same time.

Mrs./

See separate sheet/.....

12 . Summary of discussion (Cont'd)

██████████ who is ██████████ elder daughter is back staying with her mother with her 2 young children which of course makes the house very overcrowded. She will be able to apply for her own tenancy in 2 months time.

██████████ became the focus of ██████████ attention and he sees him at least twice a week, on a Monday he takes the boy out which ██████████ very much. It can be hard work getting information from him but there is no doubt about how frightened he is of ██████████. The situation has got worse for ██████████ since Sheila went into Carsewood House. He is very isolated in the house and misses his sister. A Home Support Worker has recently been going to see ██████████ 3 times a week. ██████████ said the boy's behaviour is deteriorating and he can see him committing some offence eventually. Some action about ██████████ should be taken sooner rather than later.

SENIOR SOCIAL WORKER REPORT:

██████████ who worked with ██████████ in the group said he had difficulties with other children in it, usually ending as being the scapegoat. He was very biddable in a one-to-one situation, but his language was dreadful with every second word relating to sex and so extensive that even his peers found his language hard to take. It was known how intimidated he was by ██████████ and he had admitted to another member of the group that there were fights in the house between his mother and ██████████. ██████████ thought that the Social Work Department's approach should be to encourage the family to reduce ██████████ power in their home and to give support to the younger members.

MARY RUSSELL SCHOOL REPORT:

██████████ said that ██████████ was a likeable rascal but since August his behaviour had deteriorated. He can now be aggressive, shouting, kicking causing total disruption on the bus, in the school and the playground. Girls in school are upset with his sexual talk. The staff are worried as he is getting worse.

HEALTH VISITOR REPORT:

██████████ has known family for 7 years. ██████████ children ██████████ are reasonably well dressed and cared for. ██████████ has a strong personality and she dislikes ██████████ intensely and while she was present no harm would come to her children from ██████████.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

██████████ asked if the family had changed their initial disbelief to Sheila's allegations and ██████████ said that in recent conversations with ██████████ and sisters, there did seem a shift and not the automatic refusal to even consider that Sheila may be telling the truth.

They are now anxious to visit Sheila. ██████████ asked how Sheila felt about the Police not charging ██████████ and ██████████ said that she had explained to Sheila that though there would be no further action this did not mean that she was not believed but there was no proof and no-one to corroborate her statements. ██████████ said there was no question of her being forced to leave Carsewood.

SUMMARY:

██████████ position in the household is such that he appears to wield an inordinate amount of power. He is apparently not liked by anyone and there is no clear reason why ██████████ continues the relationship. Since early summer Sheila has been out of the house ██████████ behaviour has caused concern and has deteriorated markedly.

Relationships within the house are difficult, the adults all seeming to opt out. Sheila and ██████████ (now just ██████████) seem to be the ones who manifest the family's unhappiness.

Whilst all who have seen Sheila are of the opinion that she is telling the truth, there can be no possibility of charges being brought against ██████████. Sheila will be remaining at Carsewood, but compulsory measures of care should be sought if at all possible. Similarly discussion with the Reporter to see if there could be grounds of referral for ██████████ should be investigated.

██████████ and her 2 children will be being rehoused, hopefully early next year.

Considerable/

12 Summary of discussion (Cont'd)

Considerable work needs to be done with Sheila, [REDACTED] and the whole family with the aim of redressing the power balances within the home. Whilst there are no grounds, or any evidence, to suppose that [REDACTED] may have been assaulted, he needs to be made aware of what Sheila has been saying.

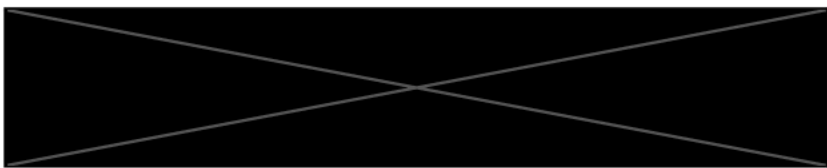
It is not, however, appropriate for Sheila to be registered, given that no charges are arising, and that she is no longer a member of the household. At the present time it is not felt appropriate for any of the other children to be registered. The meeting was unanimous in accepting these decisions.

[REDACTED] concluded by saying that the meeting had indeed served a valuable function in ensuring that all agencies involved with the family had been made aware of Sheila's allegations and information had been fully shared about the other members of the family.

13. Recommendations and Agreed Tasks

Person/Agency responsible

- 1. None of the children to be registered.
- 2. Efforts to establish ground of referral to Reporter in respect of Sheila and David to be pursued.
- 3. Work with whole family to be ongoing



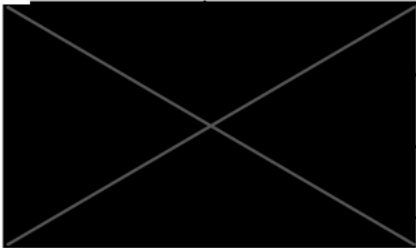
14. Legal action taken/legal status of child

15. Key worker (Person primarily responsible for supervision)



Social Worker.

16. Category of Registration (tick as appropriate)

Name of child	Registration		Physical Injury	Physical Neglect	Failure to Thrive	At Risk
	Yes	No				
Sheila McKIRDY		*				
		*				
		*				
		*				

17. Who will advise parents of registration?

18. If not to be advised, why not?

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE ON THIS TEAR-OFF STRIP

19. Any other details

(a) Dissent

Nil

(b) Other

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

Minute prepared by Signature

Area Office

Date

7th November 1986

CONFIDENTIALITY

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.

NOTE TO ADDRESSEES

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

Craigielea House.

I have received a copy of the report of the Case Conference/Review

held on 5th November regarding Sheila &

and agree with the content and recommendations

Signature

Date

Initial Report Form

Social Work Department Child Abuse Procedures

1. Name of Child/ren Sheila McKIRDY	2. D.O.B. 2.7.71.	3. Present Address c/o Carsewood Children's Home Howwood.
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4. Other members of household [Redacted]	5. Age/D.O.B. 48 36 19 17 13 25 3 12	6. Relationship to Child Mother Cohabitee of [Redacted] Brother Brother Brother Sister Niece (Child of [Redacted]) Niece " "
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9. (a) Referral to Area Team Date 21st October '86. Time 11.30a.m. Process of Referral to Area Team	7. Home address if different from above 164 Candren Road, Paisley.
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(b) Referred by [Redacted] Dep. O.I.C. Carsewood House. to [Redacted] S.W.A. date 21.10.86.	8. Last three known previous addresses:
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(c) Referred by to date	
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10. Full details of Referral
Sheila McKirdy approached Depute Officer in Charge, [Redacted] and alleged that her mother's cohabitee, [Redacted] had sexually abused her some months previously in June of this year. Sheila stated that [Redacted] had entered her bedroom on several occasions and had on one occasion had sexual intercourse with her.

11. Family Doctor's Name [Redacted] Address Kirklea Avenue, Paisley. Tel: [Redacted]	12. Known medical history of child General health good. Although recently complained of stomach pains and is receiving medication to relieve period pain.
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13. Specify Other Agencies in contact with family (i.e. RSSPCC, Health Visitor, etc.) including Schools/Playgroups attended
1. Good Shepherd Centre - School.
 2. Mary Russell School.
 3. G.P. and Health Visitor.
 4. Glencoats Nursery.

14. Previous contact with the Social Work Department
Family known to Department for many years. Specific contact with Sheila commenced August '84.

15. REPORT Should normally include sections on (a) Parents/Caretakers, (b) Marital/Other Relationships, (c) Social Circumstances, (d) Alleged Incident (e) Vulnerability of Child, (f) Vulnerability of Other Children, (g) Resources Available and (h) Action Taken.

[redacted] husband died suddenly seven years ago and this had great impact upon the family. [redacted] has found it difficult to cope with the care of her children and consequently social work department has been involved with family for number of years. [redacted] suffers from a hearing impairment and this has greatly affected herself and family, particularly regarding communication.

For the past six years [redacted] has been cohabiting with [redacted]. The relationship between [redacted] is strained. [redacted] also does not enjoy good relations with any of [redacted] children. He does not fulfill or accept a parental role within the household. He apparently does not like children and takes little interest in care of [redacted] offspring.

Relationships between the adults within the family are fairly volatile.

The present social conditions, particularly the overcrowding undoubtedly greatly influences the family. [redacted] elder daughter of [redacted] is presently homeless and is staying within the household with her two young children. This has evidently caused a fair degree of friction within the family. [redacted] income is derived from state benefit.

Sheila alleged that her mother's cohabitee, [redacted] had entered her bedroom on several occasions and had on one occasion in June of this year had sexual intercourse with her. Sheila recounted these allegations first to [redacted] D.O.I.C. Carsewood Children's Home and later [redacted] Social Work Assistant directly involved in working with Sheila.

Sheila appears to have a real fear of [redacted]. Since her Reception into care to Carsewood on 24th July, 1986 Sheila has maintained that she is frightened if she returns home [redacted] would physically assault her. Apparently he has made such threats towards Sheila in recent past.

Other members of the family living within the household have admitted that [redacted] exercises an undue degree of control within the house. Despite this his role within the home is unclear. Until recently he did not contribute any of his income towards running the home, although he has lived with [redacted] for some six years.

[redacted] has stated that when [redacted] has been drinking he can be verbally and physically abusive towards herself. She has admitted concern that [redacted] may direct this aggression towards the younger children within the family.

Given all of the above and Sheila's recent allegation that [redacted] sexually abused her, there appears good reason to fear for Sheila's safety if she were to return home under present circumstances.

VULNERABILITY OF OTHER CHILDREN:

[redacted] younger son, [redacted] has a particularly poor relationship with [redacted] recent aggressive behaviour at school has given cause for concern. [redacted] appears very unsettled at home and this has necessitated the level of social work input to increase considerably in recent months. [redacted] has been allocated a home support worker to befriend him. [redacted] has also been seeing his social worker approximately twice per week.

[redacted] two children, [redacted] may also be considered quite vulnerable. [redacted] has a very poor relationship with [redacted] and given [redacted] apparent aggressiveness when he has been drinking this could present problems for [redacted] and her two children.

SEE SEPARATE SHEET.

Signature [redacted]

Designation

Social Worker

Date

5/11/86

Signature [redacted]

Senior Social Worker

Date

5/11/86

This form should be dispatched immediately to:

Divisional Organiser (Community & Fieldwork) for the attention of Adviser in Child Care.

Copies to Area Officer
and District Manager.

INITIAL REPORT FORM CA1

Sheila McKirdy.

REPORT continued.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

Social Worker, [REDACTED]
Social Work Assistant, [REDACTED]
Home Support - Allocated.

ACTION TAKEN

- (a) Police contacted regards Sheila's allegations of sexual abuse by [REDACTED]. Police investigated and interviewed Sheila, [REDACTED] and various members of McKirdy family.
 - (b) Sheila interviewed and counselled by [REDACTED] Depute Officer in Charge, and [REDACTED] Social Work Assistant.
 - (c) [REDACTED] and family have met with [REDACTED] Senior Social Worker, [REDACTED] Social Worker, and [REDACTED] Social Work Assistant, to discuss present situation regarding Sheila.
- Family informed about forthcoming Child Abuse Case Conference.



Good Shepherd Centre

Bishopton
Renfrewshire. PA7 5PF
Telephone: 

REPORT FOR THE REPORTER TO THE CHILDREN'S PANEL

SHEILA McKIRDY (Age 14)
164 Candren Rd, Paisley
d.o.b. - 2.7.71

Admitted to Good Shepherd Centre - 10.6.85

Sheila was referred to us in April, 1985 through the Child Guidance Department whose request for an educational placement led to preliminary discussions and eventual admission.

Sheila started coming to the Centre as a day pupil on 10th June 1985 and her attendance record since then has been excellent. She has had very few absences from school and has settled into a steady routine of travelling back and forth to Paisley each day in a taxi provided by the Education Department. The fact that Sheila is choosing to attend school regularly is a big plus in itself and would suggest that her experience here to date has been a positive one.

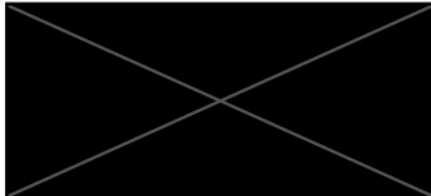
There are however three main points to consider before a complete picture can emerge. Firstly with regard to Sheila's educational ability, she is clearly a very limited girl. She requires a great deal of input and support to cope with even the most remedial of programmes. Sheila is making slow progress with her English work but is barely competent in simple arithmetic. She is slightly more at ease with practical subjects such as Art, Home Economics and particularly Physical Education which she enjoys.; However Sheila is low in self-confidence, lacking in natural dexterity and apparently unused to exercising many of the everyday skills which we often take for granted. The small class groups here have certainly been a help to Sheila but she needs so much attention that even our teaching staff are hard-pressed to meet her individual needs. She will try hard for short periods at a time but is very easily distracted from her work due to basic learning difficulties and poor concentration. We are firmly of the opinion that Sheila would find it impossible to cope in mainstream education either now or in the foreseeable future.

Secondly, and very much related to Sheila's coping ability is the whole question of her behaviour and level of social skills. Sheila operates on a very "short fuse" and is prone to frequent outbursts of temper reminiscent of a much younger child. She can behave quite acceptably up to a point but whenever Sheila is confronted with an obstacle she loses her self-control. An obstacle for Sheila can be correction from a teacher, a piece of work that she does not enjoy or understand, an instruction which is not to her liking, a situation which she finds irritating or a classmate who antagonises her. In spite of the fact that Sheila can be quite a demanding girl to work with there is something very likeable about her. One member of staff was prompted/

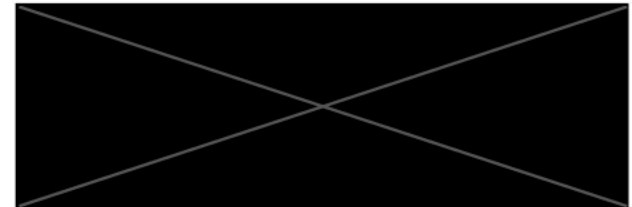
/prompted to describe her quite simply as "a very poor little girl" and that expression, in its broadest sense is all too true. Sheila is so obviously needy that she will require every support and encouragement before significant changes can be seen.

The third point that should be noted is one over which we have less direct control. There is some concern about the pressure Sheila seems to be under within her home environment of Ferguslie Park. Although we have no first hand knowledge of the situation, information has reached us from various sources, including Sheila herself, which raises questions about her vulnerability. Our impression is that she is increasingly being drawn into a circle of friends and activities which could be harmful. Whereas Sheila is aware of the risks involved she needs help to disentangle herself from what she too sees as a growing problem. An additional burden on Sheila is the influence that other Paisley girls within the Centre have on her. She is often used as a "messenger" to fetch and carry information from home in return for their friendship and support.

In conclusion we are happy to continue working with Sheila for despite all the ups and downs she is responding and it is felt that much more can still be achieved, not only in terms of her education but also her overall development.



THIRD IN CHARGE



PRINCIPAL.

8th November, 1985.

Initial Report Form

Social Work Department Child Abuse Procedures

1. Name of Child/ren

Sheila McKIRDY

2. D.O.B.

2.7.71.

3. Present Address

c/o Carsewood Children's Home
Howwood.

4. Other members of household



5. Age/D.O.B.

48
36
19
17
13
25
3
1 1/2

6. Relationship to Child

Mother
Cohabitee of [redacted]
Brother
Brother
Brother
Sister
Niece (Child of [redacted])
Niece "

9. (a) Referral to Area Team

Date 21st October '86. Time 11.30a.m.

Process of Referral to Area Team

(b) Referred by [redacted] ep. O.I.C. Carsewood House.

to [redacted] S.W.A. date 21.10.86.

(c) Referred by

to

date

7. Home address if different from above

164 Candren Road,
Paisley.

8. Last three known previous addresses:

10. Full details of Referral

Sheila McKirdy approached Depute Officer in Charge, [redacted] and alleged that her mother's cohabitee, [redacted] had sexually abused her some months previously in June of this year. Sheila stated that [redacted] had entered her bedroom on several occasions and had on one occasion had sexual intercourse with her.

11. Family Doctor's Name



Address

Kirklea Avenue,
Paisley.

Tel:



12. Known medical history of child

General health good. Although recently complained of stomach pains and is receiving medication to relieve period pain.

13. Specify Other Agencies in contact with family (i.e. RSSPCC, Health Visitor, etc.) including Schools/Playgroups attended

1. Good Shepherd Centre - School.
2. Mary Russell School.
3. G.P. and Health Visitor.
4. Glencoats Nursery.

14. Previous contact with the Social Work Department

Family known to Department for many years. Specific contact with Sheila commenced August '84.

15. REPORT Should normally include sections on (a) Parents/Caretakers, (b) Marital/Other Relationships, (c) Social Circumstances, (d) Alleged Incident (e) Vulnerability of Child, (f) Vulnerability of Other Children, (g) Resources Available and (h) Action Taken.

[redacted] husband died suddenly seven years ago and this had great impact upon the family. [redacted] has found it difficult to cope with the care of her children and consequently social work department has been involved with family for number of years. [redacted] suffers from a hearing impairment and this has greatly affected herself and family, particularly regarding communication.

For the past six years [redacted] has been cohabiting with [redacted]. The relationship between [redacted] is strained. [redacted] also does not enjoy good relations with any of [redacted] children. He does not fulfill or accept a parental role within the household. He apparently does not like children and takes little interest in care of [redacted] offspring.

Relationships between the adults within the family are fairly volatile.

The present social conditions, particularly the overcrowding undoubtedly greatly influences the family. [redacted] elder daughter of [redacted] is presently homeless and is staying within the household with her two young children. This has evidently caused a fair degree of friction within the family. [redacted] income is derived from state benefit.

Sheila alleged that her mother's cohabitee, [redacted] had entered her bedroom on several occasions and had on one occasion in June of this year had sexual intercourse with her. Sheila recounted these allegations first to [redacted] D.O.I.C. Carsewood Children's Home and later, [redacted] Social Work Assistant directly involved in working with Sheila.

Sheila appears to have a real fear of [redacted]. Since her Reception into care to Carsewood on 24th July, 1986 Sheila has maintained that she is frightened if she returns home [redacted] would physically assault her. Apparently he has made such threats towards Sheila in recent past.

Other members of the family living within the household have admitted that [redacted] exercises an undue degree of control within the house. Despite this his role within the home is unclear. Until recently he did not contribute any of his income towards running the home, although he has lived with [redacted] for some six years.

[redacted] has stated that when [redacted] has been drinking he can be verbally and physically abusive towards herself. She has admitted concern that [redacted] may direct this aggression towards the younger children within the family.

Given all of the above and Sheila's recent allegation that [redacted] sexually abused her, there appears good reason to fear for Sheila's safety if she were to return home under present circumstances.

VULNERABILITY OF OTHER CHILDREN:

[redacted] younger son, [redacted] has a particularly poor relationship with [redacted] recent aggressive behaviour at school has given cause for concern. [redacted] appears very unsettled at home and this has necessitated the level of social work input to increase considerably in recent months. [redacted] has been allocated a home support worker to befriend him. [redacted] has also been seeing his social worker approximately twice per week.

[redacted] two children, [redacted] may also be considered quite vulnerable. [redacted] has a very poor relationship with [redacted] and given [redacted] apparent aggressiveness when he has been drinking this could present problems for [redacted] and her two children.

SEE SEPARATE SHEET.

Signature [redacted]

Designation Social Worker

Date 5/11/86

Signature [redacted]

Senior Social Worker

Date 5/11/86

This form should be dispatched immediately to:

Divisional Organiser (Community & Fieldwork) for the attention of Adviser in Child Care.

Copies to Area Officer
and District Manager.

INITIAL REPORT FORM CA1

Sheila McKirdy.

REPORT continued.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

Social Worker, [REDACTED]
Social Work As [REDACTED]
Home Support - Allocated.

ACTION TAKEN

- (a) Police contacted regards Sheila's allegations of sexual abuse by [REDACTED]. Police investigated and interviewed Sheila, [REDACTED] and various members of McKirdy family.
- (b) Sheila interviewed and counselled by [REDACTED] Depute Officer in Charge, and [REDACTED] Social Work Assistant.
- (c) [REDACTED] and family have met with [REDACTED] Senior Social Worker, [REDACTED] Social Worker, and [REDACTED] Social Work Assistant, to discuss present situation regarding Sheila.

Family informed about forthcoming Child Abuse Case Conference.

Decision - "No" to Child Abuse Register

School Report

CONFIDENTIAL

E (2)

Name of Child:

Sheila McKirdy

Date of Birth:

2-7-71

School attended:

Good Shephers Centre

Date of Commencement at School:

Class:

Education Performance:

Very little potential but a great worker. Very good at P.E. and sports. Was second in the school on Sports Day.

Relationships with Peers:

Relates well to others

Relationships with Staff:

Generally co-operative. Of late the Drama Teacher had difficulty with Sheila. This may have been since mother's co-habitee appeared on the scene.

Areas of Difficulty, Concern or Special Treatment:

Continued ►

School Report continued (Confidential)

Any recommendations which would assist staff of the Social Work Department to assist the child while in school:

This little girl needs some form of supervision. She is physically very neglected. We arranged that money for school clothing be made available by the Education Department but it was not spent on clothing which, in the end, the Centre provided. Sheila is fiercely loyal to mum and will not admit that she is in need. Recently she has been malingering - tummy aches etc. When she was seen by the school nurse, the latter found her to be dirty and her underwear in a deplorable state but, although it was put to her that a hot bath might help her "sore tummy", she wouldn't hear of it.

Further comments or information to be considered by the Review Panel:

Sheila is a very pleasant little girl who appears to enjoy coming to school - she is never absent. She is doing very well here, considering her limited ability.

This report is not as full as one would like but, because of holidays, it was impossible to obtain more detailed school reports.

Name of Staff Member who would be interested and able to attend all or part of the Review:

 Team Leader of St. Margaret's House to which Sheila is attached.

Signed:...

Designation:.....

Date:.....

Principal

8th August, 1986

Social Work Department
Director [REDACTED]

Area Office
Craigielea House
Blackstoun Road
PAISLEY



Tel [REDACTED]

Our ref

Your ref

If phoning or
calling ask for [REDACTED]

Date

5/8/86

Dear

This is just to let you know that a review has been arranged, details of which are noted below. Your attendance at the review would be very helpful. If you wish to do something in writing, give it to your social worker or send it to me. We can then have it photocopied and distributed to the people who will be attending.

I look forward to meeting you at the review.

Review date:

Tuesday 12/8/86

time:

11-30

place:

CARSEWOOD Children's Home.

Yours sincerely

AS Senior Social Worker

Enc.

School Report

CONFIDENTIAL

E⁽²⁾

Name of Child: Sheila McKirdy
Date of Birth: 2-7-71
School attended: Good Shepherds Centre
Date of Commencement at School:
Class:

Education Performance:

Very little potential but a great worker. Very good at P.E. and sports. Was second in the school on Sports Day.

Relationships with Peers:

Relates well to others

Relationships with Staff:

Generally co-operative. Of late the Drama Teacher had difficulty with Sheila. This may have been since mother's co-habitee appeared on the scene.

Areas of Difficulty, Concern or Special Treatment:

Continued ►

School Report continued (Confidential)

Any recommendations which would assist staff of the Social Work Department to assist the child while in school:

This little girl needs some form of supervision. She is physically very neglected. We arranged that money for school clothing be made available by the Education Department but it was not spent on clothing which, in the end, the Centre provided. Sheila is fiercely loyal to mum and will not admit that she is in need. Recently she has been malingering - tummy aches etc. When she was seen by the school nurse, the latter found her to be dirty and her underwear in a deplorable state but, although it was put to her that a hot bath might help her "sore tummy", she wouldn't hear of it.

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This report is not as full as one would like but, because of holidays, it was impossible to obtain more detailed school reports.

Name of Staff Member who would be interested and able to attend all or part of the Review:

 Team Leader of St. Margaret's House to which Sheila is attached.

Signed:.....

Designation:.....

Date:.....

Principal

8th August, 1986

GOOD SHEPHERD CENTRE

CASE CONFERENCE REPORT: THURSDAY 22nd AUGUST, 1985

NAME: Sheila McKirdy

D.O.A. 28.11.83.

D.O.B. 8.4.70.

ENGLISH:

Sheila is very unwilling to actually get down to work in English. She finds it difficult to take an instruction. Looks upon any instruction as being picked on and as a result no work gets done and it is really very difficult to assess Sheila's ability.

ARITHMETIC:

Number

Addition: Copes with simple addition only.

Subtraction: }
Multiplacation: } - Considerable work and input is necessary in all these areas.
Division: }
Time: }

Time

Reactions as Operators: }
Percentages: }
Money (Social Arithmetic); } - Sheila is not competent in any of these areas.
Measure: }
Shape: }

TYPING:

Sheila has not been in my class often enough for me to pass judgement on her typing ability, although my impression at the end of last session was that she was showing little interest in learning the keyboard and would rather fritter away her time chatting - somewhat restless, with little ability to concentrate.

HOME ECONOMICS:

It is difficult to assess Sheila as she has only been my class once.

ART:

Sheila is a very inhibited girl who seems to be on the defensive mose of the time. She is keen to work but is not very confident and loses concentration quickly if she doesn't receive continual assistance. Her relationship with her classmates is poor.

/-

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Sheila is a well co-ordinated and agile worker. She quickly becomes defensive towards peers and often ridicules or insults in an immature manner which makes her rather unpopular. She has gained more control and is slightly more able in controlling her temper and is beginning to realise that peers are not always trying to slight her.

She enjoyed participation in gymnastics, sporting events and netball. Sheila gives her free time to many activities, but still finds difficulty in relating to new peers in a relaxed manner.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

I find it difficult to assess Sheila as I have had so little of her. However, she can be very restless in class and needs a lot of persuasion to get down to work.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAFF AND PEERS:

As yet Sheila has not settled down sufficiently to make any significant relationships with staff and girls. She is still somewhat disruptive, noisy and restless in classroom, probably due to the fact she is aware of her somewhat limited academic potential.

ACADEMIC POTENTIAL:

Sheila has many learning difficulties and has a great deal of work to do to reach a level of competence whereby she could cope with everyday life.

Name of Home: CARSEWOOD

Name of Child: SHEILA MCKIROY

Date of Birth: 2-7-71

Date of Review Meeting: 12/8/86

Summary of decisions from last review (if applicable):

N/A

1. Physical development since admission/last review (include details of recent accidents or illness):

SHEILA HAS REMAINED IN GOOD HEALTH.

2. Emotional Development:

SHEILA APPEARS TO BE HAPPY ABOUT BEING AWAY FROM HOME.
ALTHOUGH SHE MAINTAINS REGULAR CONTACT WITH MUM BY PHONE
AND SEES HER AT WEEKENDS. WHEN SHE IS ON LEAVE AT HER FRIENDS

3. Behavioural Problems:

NO PROBLEMS.

Form C continued (2 of 3)

4. Contact with parents and other relatives:

SEES BROTHER [REDACTED] REGULARLY ~~SEE~~ IN FERGUSLIE PARK.

BROTHER [REDACTED] PHONES AND VISITS. [REDACTED] ALSO VISITED ONCE

MUM HAS VISITED CARSEWOOD ON 4 OCCASIONS.

5. Contact with siblings:

A/A

6. Contact with other agencies and comments or reports:

N/A

7. School attended:

GOOD SHEPHERD

School report attached/not available

Educational observations:

8. Leisure pursuits:

(a) Within home:

(b) Outwith home:

} general.

Form C continued (3 of 3)

9. Relationships:

- (a) Within home: gets on well with both staff and children.
- (b) Outwith home: Claims she doesn't get on well with her mother's boyfriend and this affects the relationship with mother.

10. Any special areas of concern requiring action:

11. Short, medium and long term objectives for child:

On R.I.C. it was envisaged that Sheila's stay in Cowsenwood House would be for a period of between 3-6 weeks. We have now almost completed 3 weeks. Sheila's attitudes appear to remain hostile to a return home. She would be happy to remain in care given the chance. It is our consideration however that she should be encouraged to build up contact with mum with a view to a speedy return home.

12. Remarks:

Sheila has commented on the fact that many of her friends dabble with drink and solvents. Although she claims not to participate, counselling on the dangers may be useful.

Persons who will attend review from children's home:



Signed:.....



Designation:.....

O.I.C.

Date:.....

10. 8. 86

Social Worker's Review Form Initial Review/Subsequent Review

FORM

D

Name of Child: Sheila McKirdy

Date of Birth: 2.7.71

Name of Home: Carsewood

Date of admission: 24.7.86

Summary of decisions from last review (if appropriate):

N/A

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

Section 15 Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

Any action indicated:

2. Current address/es of:(a) Parents:  164 Candren Road, Paisley.

(b) Siblings not in care: As above.

(c) Siblings in care: N/A.

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

Situation is same as when Sheila was admitted to Carsewood.  is still in the house and there is no indication that he will be leaving in the near future.

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:

Twice weekly visits to Carsewood and phone contact with Sheila.

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

Visits to [REDACTED] and extended family. Joint visit with [REDACTED]
(family social worker).

6. Areas of Concern:

(a) Family Alcohol abuse by mother and cohabitee. Relationship between them is fairly violent. Overcrowding in house as sister [REDACTED] and her 2 children are also living there.

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

Concern over Sheila's relationship and fear of [REDACTED] (cohabitee). Possibility of Sheila glue sniffing and offending. Sheila has settled well in Carsewood and seems happy enough at present.

7. Other agencies involved:

Good Shepherd Centre, Bishopton (Sheila attends as a day girl).

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

It is difficult to estimate Sheila's needs at the moment as she is unclear herself as to what her future should be. It would appear that the cohabitee will be remaining in the family home and much will depend on Sheila's reactions to this. If Sheila does wish residential placement - it is hoped there would be regular contact with her mother.

Continued

Form D continued (3 of 3)

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

Short

Working with Sheila and regular contact to help her reach a decision about her future.

Long term plans are unclear at the moment until Sheila reaches a decision.

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

10. Any further comments:

As Sheila is 15 at the moment she has another year before she could leave home for some form of independent living. If Sheila does decide to remain in care it may be difficult for her to return to the family and she would need assistance towards independent living.

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



Senior Social Worker
Social Work Assistant

Signed:.....

Designation: Social Work Assistant

Date: 6th August 1986