

Welfare Committee

Tuesday, 24th June, 1969.

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Aldermen Cardwell (Chairman) and Lawther;
Councillors Elliott, Horan, Hughes, Mrs. Laird,
McCullough, Orr and S.N. Shannon.

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Councillors Kelly and Smith.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th June, 1969 which had been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct.

Tenders

It was reported that following the invitation of tenders by public advertisement for the redecoration of Carrick House, four envelopes endorsed therefor had been received. The envelopes were opened and the tenders contained therein initialled and referred to the City Architect for report.

Children

Reports:

The City Welfare Officer submitted the following reports for the two weeks ended 10th June, 1969.

1. Children admitted to and discharged from the care of the Committee.
2. Transfer of children between Homes.
3. Minor occurrences in respect of children.

The reports were approved and signed by the Chairman.

A report of the Children's Officer on his visits to the various Children's Homes was also submitted. The following is a copy of the report -

1. BREFNE Visited - 6th and 22nd May.

There are 39 children in residence and two still in the Northern Ireland Fever Hospital who are recovering from dysentery. Except for a few minor illnesses the children are all well and conditions in the Nursery satisfactory.

2. BAWNMORE Visited - 6th and 30th May.

There are 31 boys in residence. All are well. BM 4 has taken up duty as Assistant Superintendent. Apart from the upheaval caused by the electrical re-wiring, conditions in the Home have improved generally.

3. WILLIAMSON HOUSE (446) Visited - 13th and 23rd May.
" " (448) " 13th " 23rd "

There are 15 children in residence in 446 and 16 in 448. The children are in good health and well cared for. Conditions in both units are satisfactory.

Welfare Committee, Tuesday, 14th October, 1969.

"1. BREFNE Visited 4th and 23rd September.

There are 43 children in residence. All are in good health and well cared for. The Assistant Matron is currently on sick leave but it is hoped that she will resume duty within a week or two.

2. BAWNMORE Visited 12th September.

There are 33 boys in residence and there seems little prospect that numbers can be substantially reduced in the near future. Although fully staffed in accordance with established posts it is probable that the staff/children ratio is too low.

3. WILLIAMSON HOUSE Visited (446) 3rd, 15th, 22nd and 30th September.
" (448) 3rd, 15th and 30th September.

Both homes have 16 children in residence. Conditions are satisfactory and the children are all well.

4. ETTAVILLE Visited 11th and 15th September.

There are now only 7 girls resident all of whom are in employment except for one who is attending a Commercial Course at the Rupert Stanley College. After a certain amount of upset caused by two refractory girls, things have now settled down and conditions have returned to normal.

5. KINCORA Visited 22nd September.

The 7 boys resident are a settled group. All are doing well and appear to be benefitting from the individual attention given to them, now that an Assistant Warden has been appointed.

6. FAMILY GROUP HOMES

Visited 16th September.

" 9th and 30th September.

" 9th September.

" 16th and 24th September.

As usual conditions in these Homes are satisfactory. The children are all well and appear to have returned to school without difficulty.

84 Benview Avenue Visited 11th, 15th, 16th and 24th September.

The Housemother in charge resigned and ceased work on 15th September. Since then the Relief Housemother and a Housemother's Assistant have been caring for the children very satisfactory. It is hoped to appoint a new Housemother in the near future.

37 Ballysillan Park

This Home has been vacant since the end of August but it is hoped that the appointment of a Housemother will be made soon."

Brefne:

It was reported that Nursery Assistants, Miss Margaret McFadden and Miss Hilary McClune, who had been seconded to the Residential Child Care Course had successfully completed the examinations relating thereto. The City Welfare Officer recommended that they be transferred to the salary list and appointed Nursery Nurses in Brefne at a salary of £431 per annum plus emoluments and £376 per annum plus emoluments, respectively, with effect from 1st November, 1969.

The Committee discussed the matter and a vote by ballot having been taken on the recommendation it was found that seven members had voted for and none against it. It was accordingly

Resolved - That the Council, through the General Purposes Committee, be advised to adopt the recommendation, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Family Group Homes:

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Aldermen Cardwell (Chairman) and Shannon;
Councillors Hughes, Mrs. Laird, Senator
McCullough and Smith.

An apology for absence was reported from Councillor Orr.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th November which had been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed as correct.

Tenders

It was reported that following the invitation of tenders by public advertisement for the undernoted, envelopes endorsed therefor to the numbers indicated had been received -

Alterations to Welfare Offices, 14 Lower Crescent	11
New Centre for Handicapped Persons, Holywood Road/Circular Road -	
(a) Piling to Substructure	2
(b) Electrical Installation	4
(c) Mechanical Services Installation	6

The envelopes were opened and forms of tender contained therein initialled and referred to the City Welfare Officer for report.

Children

Reports:

The City Welfare Officer submitted the following reports for the two weeks ended 11th November, 1969.

1. Children admitted to and discharged from the care of the Committee.
2. Transfer of children between the Homes.
3. Minor occurrences in respect of children.

The reports were approved and signed by the Chairman.

A report of the Children's Officer on his visits to the various Children's Homes was also submitted. The following is a copy of the report -

- "1. BREFNE Visited 7th, 10th and 31st October

There are 47 children in residence. Apart from the expected winter colds the children are all well. The Nursery is however rather crowded and this has added to the stresses on the Matron and her staff particularly in view of the fact that the Senior Assistant Matron is off ill.

2. BAWNMORE Visited 14th and 31st October

There are 29 boys in residence and every effort is being made to retain this level of occupancy though it means refusing to admit children to care. The electrical work is not yet completed but it is already evident that the re-newing of the wiring will detract further from the appearance of the Home.

It has not yet been possible to fill the vacant post of Housemother's Assistant and the remaining staff are finding it extremely difficult to afford each boy the individual attention which he requires. On the whole, however, the boys are fairly adequately cared for and in good health.

Welfare Committee

Tuesday, 11th May, 1971.

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Mrs. Laird (Chairman);
Aldermen Lawther and Shannon;
Councillors Hughes, Napier, Orr
and Smith.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 27th April, which had been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct.

Children

Report:

The City Welfare Officer submitted the following reports for the period ended 27th April, 1971.

1. Children admitted to and discharged from the care of the Committee.
2. Transfer of children between Homes.
3. Minor occurrences in respect of children.

The City Welfare Officer recommended and it was agreed that [REDACTED] at present in Bawnmore, be permitted to go horse riding for one hour per week at Templepatrick Riding School, Cloughanduff. The Committee approved payment of the cost involved of 60p per hour.

A report prepared by the Children's Officer on his visits to the various Children's Homes was submitted as follows:

1. BREFNE Visited 8th, 16th and 27th April.

There are 43 children in residence. Several children are suffering from head colds but otherwise they are in good health and well cared for. Work on the installation of central heating had started and this is causing a certain amount of upheaval throughout the Nursery; otherwise conditions are satisfactory.

2. BAWNMORE Visited 20th and 29th April.

There are 32 boys in residence. All the boys, bar one who has a cold, appear to be in good health. Some of the boys have been unsettled recently and there have been several abscondings. One of the Housemother's Assistants has resigned and a successor has not yet been appointed. Material conditions in the Home leave a lot to be desired and efforts are being made to effect an improvement.

3. WILLIAMSON HOUSE (448) Visited 7th and 27th April

There are 15 children in residence, all of whom are in good health and well cared for. Conditions in the Home are satisfactory.

4. WILLIAMSON

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Mrs. Laird (in the Chair);
Alderman Lawther;
Councillors Elliott, Hughes, McCullough,
Orr, S.N. Shannon and Smith.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 24th June, which had been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct.

It was reported that the minutes of the Welfare Committee of 10th June and 24th June relative to the provision of furniture, furnishings, equipment etc. for the Children's Reception Centre, 6 Palmerston Road, and purchase and adaptation of premises at 100 Hollywood Road for use as a Psychiatric Hostel, had been adopted by the Council on 1st July and that a resolution had been passed making application to the Ministry of Home Affairs for sanction to the raising of a loan of £2,300, to meet the Corporation's share of the cost of the furniture, etc.

ChildrenReports:

The Deputy City Welfare Officer submitted the following reports for the two weeks ended 26th July, 1969.

1. Children admitted to and discharged from the care of the Committee.
2. Transfer of children between the Homes.
3. Minor occurrences in respect of children.

The reports were approved and signed by the Chairman.

A report of the Children's Officer on his visits to the various Children's Homes was also submitted. The following is a copy of the report -

- "1. BREFNE Visited 16th and 28th July.

There are 44 children in residence. All of the children are well and in good health and for the first time in several months the Nursery is free from infection. There are no children in hospital at present.

2. BAWNMORE Visited 9th June and 9th and 28th July.

Of the 30 boys normally resident, 5 have been allowed home for holiday periods of varying durations. One of the boys at home with his grandmother fell and broke his arm. He is still in hospital but his condition is satisfactory.

Otherwise the boys are all well.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the facilities at Bawnmore are not adequate for the number of boys cared for there and it would seem that consideration must also be given to increasing the staff in order to allow for more individual attention to be given.

1. BREFNE Visited 4th and 23rd September.

There are 43 children in residence. All are in good health and well cared for. The Assistant Matron is currently on sick leave but it is hoped that she will resume duty within a week or two.

2. BAWNMORE Visited 12th September.

There are 33 boys in residence and there seems little prospect that numbers can be substantially reduced in the near future. Although fully staffed in accordance with established posts it is probable that the staff/children ratio is too low.

3. WILLIAMSON HOUSE Visited (446) 3rd, 15th, 22nd and 30th September.
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Both homes have 16 children in residence. Conditions are satisfactory and the children are all well.

4. ETTAVILLE Visited 11th and 15th September.

There are now only 7 girls resident all of whom are in employment except for one who is attending a Commercial Course at the Rupert Stanley College. After a certain amount of upset caused by two refractory girls, things have now settled down and conditions have returned to normal.

5. KINCORA Visited 22nd September.

The 7 boys resident are a settled group. All are doing well and appear to be benefitting from the individual attention given to them, now that an Assistant Warden has been appointed.

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The Committee discussed the matter and a vote by ballot having been taken on the recommendation it was found that seven members had voted for and none against it. It was accordingly

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Family Group Homes:

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Councillors Hughes, Mrs. Laird, Senator
McCullough and Smith.

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2. BAWNMORE Visited 14th and 31st October

There are 29 boys in residence and every effort is being made to retain this level of occupancy though it means refusing to admit children to care. The electrical work is not yet completed but it is already evident that the re-newing of the wiring will detract further from the appearance of the Home.

It has not yet been possible to fill the vacant post of Housemother's Assistant and the remaining staff are finding it extremely difficult to afford each boy the individual attention which he requires. On the whole, however, the boys are fairly adequately cared for and in good health.

Wednesday, 18th March, 1970.

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Aldermen Cardwell (Chairman),
Lawther and Shannon;
Councillors Elliott, Hughes,
Mrs. Laird, Orr and Senator McCullough.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd March, which had been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct.

ChildrenReports:

The City Welfare Officer submitted the following reports for the two weeks ended 3rd March, 1970.

1. Children admitted to and discharged from the care of the Committee.
2. Transfer of children between the Homes.
3. Minor occurrences in respect of children.

The reports were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Bawnmore:Concert:

The City Welfare Officer reported that the 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment had requested permission to organise a band concert in conjunction with Lisnagarvey Operatic Society on 29th April, 1970 in the King George VI Memorial Hall, and had intimated their intention to donate the proceeds to Bawnmore.

The Committee granted the permission sought.

Extension:

Further to the minute of 23rd November, 1969 when the Committee had authorised the City Architect to carry out a feasibility study on the question of providing an extension to the above Home, the City Welfare Officer reported that two schemes had been put forward, one to convert the present building, and the other to build a new Home at the present site.

After discussion and having heard the City Welfare Officer on the matter the Committee decided that a new Home to accommodate 36 boys be erected at the present site, and that the City Architect be authorised to prepare plans and estimates etc. for their consideration.

Kincora:

The City Welfare Officer reported that the washing machine in Kincora was nine years old and was now proving most troublesome and damaging clothes. He recommended that a Bendix Model FS2 be purchased from J. Howson and Co. Ltd. at a cost of £178. 15. Od. As this home was without an extractor, he further recommended that a single phase extractor be purchased from the same firm at a cost of £72. 10. Od. This would save considerable expense in heating and drying time. This firm was the sole supplier in Northern Ireland of these types of machine and no useful purpose would be served in inviting quotations.

Tuesday, 25th May, 1971.

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Mrs. Laird (Chairman);
Aldermen Cardwell, Lawther and Shannon;
Councillors Donaghy, Gildea, Hughes,
Orr, O'Hara and Smith.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th May, which had been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed as correct.

ChildrenReports:

The City Welfare Officer submitted the following reports for the period ended 27th April, 1971.

1. Children admitted to and discharged from the care of the Committee.
2. Transfer of children between Homes.
3. Minor occurrences in respect of children.

The reports were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The City Welfare Officer reported that the primary school attended by the undernourished children from Nazareth House had organised a two-day visit to Stranraer on 31st May and 1st June inclusive and on his recommendation the Committee approved of their attendance thereat and authorised payment of the cost involved i.e. £5 each:

[REDACTED] NHB 9
[REDACTED] NHB 92 and [REDACTED]

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

The City Welfare Officer requested and received authority for [REDACTED] of the Family Group Home at [REDACTED] to attend the Boys' Brigade Camp at Saltcoates, Ayrshire, Scotland, from 10th - 17th July, 1971 at a cost of £5.75 and for [REDACTED] of the same home to attend the Girl Guide Camp at Isle of Man from 21st - 28th August, 1971 at a cost of £8.

It was also reported that HIA 532 and [REDACTED] of Bawnmore had been invited to attend a camp organised by the Scripture Union at Carrickfin Island, Buncbeg, Co. Donegal, from 9th - 19th August, 1971 and on the recommendation of the City Welfare Officer the Committee approved of their attendance thereat and authorised payment of the costs involved viz. £7.25 each.

Bawnmore Children's Home:

Further to minute of 18th March, 1970 when the Committee had authorised the City Architect to prepare plans and estimates in connection with the extension to the above Home, the City Welfare Officer reported that the design stage for the project had been reached. The City Architect had indicated that because of the work load in his Department the staff would not be able to deal with the preparation of the necessary documents, plans etc. and he had recommended that the commission of Mr. W.D. Clarke, private Architect appointed for the original staff block scheme, be amended to include the proposed extensions.

Ref. T.407BELFAST WELFARE COMMITTEEProposed Family Group Homes at Bawnmore

At their request the Minister discussed this project this morning in the City Hall with Councillors Dixon and Lawther, who were accompanied by the Town Clerk and Mr. Magee, the Welfare Officer.

The Corporation representatives said that the need for further child accommodation in Belfast was very real and urgent. It was pointed out to them that this was not in dispute; that it was the method proposed to be adopted and the enormous cost which was worrying the Ministry. The Ministry would prefer to see these Homes established in ordinary dwelling-houses scattered throughout the residential areas of the City rather than grouped together as proposed and really part of an existing institution. We would like to see the children participating in the ordinary life of the community in the same way as children living with their own parents. The Corporation representatives, while agreeing that this idea of Family Homes was a very excellent one, thought that it was scarcely attainable in practice. Many dwelling-houses which they might consider buying for the purpose would have clauses in their leases prohibiting the use of the property for anything other than an ordinary dwelling-house, and to get round a restriction of this kind the Corporation would have to resort to their lengthy and cumbersome Vesting Order procedure. Neighbouring residents would object and the children would never be accepted by them as ordinary members of the community. Indeed to get round difficulties of this kind (real or imagined) the Corporation told us that it was their practice in seeking houses to take property with large grounds. The Minister pointed out that if all this was true then they were admitting defeat on the whole idea of Family Unit Homes.

Inf 2/10/57
Miss Forrest
Miss Wright

to see.

8/7/57

After further discussion the Town Clerk suggested that the Corporation should be allowed to look further into their plans and specifications for the Bawnmore Family Unit Homes to see whether costs could be reduced to the original figure of £18,000 or something very close to this and they were informed by the Minister that if such reduction in cost could be achieved the Ministry, while it would prefer to see the Family Unit Home idea developed on different lines, would withdraw its objection to the Bawnmore project, having regard to the distance which the Corporation had already taken the project and the fact that the Ministry had originally approved of it at a figure of £18,000.

It emerged during the course of the discussion that the Welfare Hostel in the old Workhouse was being held against possible sudden needs arising and that the Hospitals Authority were pressing the Welfare Authority finally to release these premises.

The matter was left that the next step would be taken by the Corporation, when they would inform us of the results of their efforts to cut costs.

Ans. by 28/7/57 W.
To see. M. bring
to Mr. Jackson's notice
on his return.

D.P.J.
to see please.
RSL
26/7/57

6th July, 1957.

8/7/57

T.407

14th November, 1957.

Dear Town Clerk,

Proposed Family Group Homes at Bawnmore

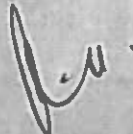
There has been a great deal of correspondence and many discussions between the Corporation and the Ministry about this project. From the data which accompanied your letter of the 11th October last it seems that the expenditure now contemplated is £18,687 and even this does not, as far as we can see, include provision for the cost of quantity surveyors' fees, necessary supervision, etc.

At the discussion on the 3rd October at Stormont Duff agreed to put this matter as fairly and as favourably as possible before the Minister personally for his decision. This has been done and I have to tell you that the Minister regrets he is unable to approve. He feels that he could not at the present time stand over expenditure of this order involving as it does something like £1,000 per child place. He considers that the project should be dropped, and he would like to see the Children's Committee, if their need for additional child places remains, meet this need by the acquisition and adaptation of existing property in one or more of the residential areas of the City. By such means he feels that any need could most probably be met with reasonable expenditure and in a manner more in keeping with the generally accepted ideas of family-group homes.

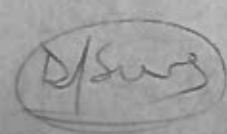
In coming to this decision the Minister has not overlooked the fact that earlier in the year, when he saw Corporation representatives in the City Hall, he undertook that approval would be forthcoming if costs could be reduced to the original figure of £18,000. Despite all the cuts and reductions which we have made over the past month or two we have not been able to bring the cost down to £18,000. When quantity surveyors' fees, etc., are added the new figure will be at least £19,000. In any case a comparison of this with the original figure of £18,000 is hardly a fair one. Omitting the cost of the approach road (which apparently should never have been included in this scheme) the expenditure originally contemplated was £14,500 for three houses (including a service road as distinct from the approach road) and £2,200 for furniture and equipment, making a total of £16,700. The actual cost of this same thing is turning out at something in the region of £19,000 - a true excess for comparison purposes of some £2,000-£2,500, and something which, in the Minister's view, makes this project altogether too costly.

It is very much to be regretted that so much time and effort have been given to this matter without tangible result, but we are hopeful that all of it has not been in vain and that family-group homes, if needed, will in due course emerge in the various City residential areas.

Yours sincerely,



John Dunlop, Esq., C.B.E.,
Town Clerk,
City Hall,
BELFAST.



NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
LARNE, CARRICKFERGUS AND NEWTOWNABBEY
UNIT OF MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF BAWNMORE BOYS HOME

The Northern Health and Social Services Board officially came into being on 1st October, 1973. Bawnmore Boys Home, which up to that date had been the responsibility of Belfast Corporation Welfare Department, transferred to the Northern Board to be managed within the Newtownabbey District of that Board. The unit and its staff became the management responsibility of the District Social Services Officer, Mr. R. G. Black, and was directly supervised by a senior member of his staff, Mr. E. Culbert, Assistant Principal Social Worker. It was a twenty-eight place, single sex children's home providing accommodation for boys of mainly secondary school age. A number of major deficiencies existed at that time:-

1. Records were incomplete.
2. Some 75% of the staff, including the Superintendent and Deputy, had either left, or transferred to the Eastern Board.
3. The home was in a poor physical condition. A high level of vandalism and an almost self destructive behaviour existed among the boys, with the furniture and decor and the fabric of the building bearing the brunt of this behaviour. During October, 1973, for example, the property damage was:-

8 windows	-	broken
6 doors, frames, locks	-	"
9 electric storage heaters	-	"
2 T.V. sets	-	"
1 record player	-	"
1 billiard table	-	destroyed.

In addition, repairs were required to much of the furniture, the floor coverings, roof and gutterings. What remaining furniture and furnishings that existed were antiquated.

Priorities for action:

The priorities I set at that time were as follows:-

- (a) An assessment of the boys in the unit at the time.
- (b) Immediate steps to be taken to maintain and operate the unit.
- (c) The production of short term plans for improvement - morale, staff, physical conditions, standards of care, etc.
- (d) The development of plans for the replacement of the unit.

I undertook task (a) prior to the re-organisation date and in September produced a list of the boys giving names, ages, dates of birth, reasons for admission, section and a general assessment. A number of files were missing at the time and attempts were made to trace and locate these, or any other sources of information. This was followed in early October by a fuller assessment of the circumstances of six boys who were involved in serious incidents of stone throwing at cars travelling along the M2 motorway and in a bomb scare incident at the nearby Old People's Home.

October, 1974 with seventeen windows being broken in the laundry by the boys. This followed a weekend trip to Tullymore Forest Park where unruly behaviour and vandalism were unacceptably high. Almost 50% of the boys were absconding at this point in time. As a consequence special meetings were held with all the staff - on two separate occasions to cover shifts - and a strategy developed to deal with the problem. This centred around three major areas.

1. A decision to move away from 'block' care and to develop group living - to individualise the care and to begin facing the boys with their behaviour.
2. A rejection of the suggestion of removal to Training School of the 'hard cases' - put forward by certain members of staff.
3. The need to physically demonstrate our preparedness to trust the boys and to demonstrate interest.

It also became clear that at least four members of staff - the longer serving members - **BM 23**, **BM 2** and **BM 1** - and the new Superintendent, had very rigid and inflexible approaches to care. I also became aware that at least two members were using the 'block' system to hide from direct work with children, preferring more menial domestic like tasks.

As a consequence I took urgent steps to tackle the problems identified and arranged to speed up the decoration and painting of the building and the replacement of furniture. This included all beds, wardrobes, lockers, chests of drawers, carpets, chairs, etc. and resulted in a virtual total refurbishing of the unit.

Difficulties of theft and break-ins to the office continued for a short period, however the efforts to regain stability began to show success. Staff development activities continued. For example, a major discussion with staff was held in January, 1975 to discuss the **BM 1** case and implications of child abuse.

By February, 1975 our plans for group living and the introduction of girls was complete and on 10th February I forwarded to the Director a detailed memo and report outlining these proposals and seeking the necessary approvals and resources to implement the changes.

Costings were produced and submitted to the Board in May, 1975. An allocation of money was made in the autumn and the necessary alterations to bathrooms, toilets, etc. started by December, 1975. The introduction of a group living system began at the same time. By February, 1976 the work in bathrooms was almost complete and the group system had settled down and was beginning to produce benefits in standards of child care.

Staffing:

The strategy that had been developed during 1974 of focusing more clearly on individual needs as demonstrated through review had major effects on staffing during 1975. Mr. Burns, Superintendent, resigned in June and was replaced by **BM 12** who had been Deputy. **BM 2** also resigned in June, followed in November by **BM 1**. **BM 26** was appointed Deputy Superintendent in September, 1975.

This changeover in staff was inevitably unsettling for the unit, however, due to their efforts, this was minimised and did not result in a return to the more chaotic earlier days. However, it did cause the postponement of the introduction

- 3 -

**NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
NEWTOWNABBEY DISTRICT**

In June 1976 I wrote to the tenants seeking a meeting with them. This was duly held and they were very appreciative of the problem, hoping to take a number of steps (see copy correspondence).

In July as you will be aware we had a meeting with representatives of the Department as it was felt that lack of play space for local children was a major cause of the problem. The Department of Health & Social Services promised to do what they could about the situation but to date the problem still exists.

The Secretary of the Tenants Association who was instrumental in their positive approach however left the Association and their proposals have never been implemented.

CONCLUSIONS:

The result of all of this is that we have a climate of relationship with an element of the local population of youths that is very ugly and has the signs of a vendetta against Bawnmore Home and our boys. The staff of the unit who have coped manfully with these incidents some of which were quite terrifying are now at their limit of tolerance. Some of the female staff are very frightened and I believe this may be being transmitted to our boys and to the local boys who 'scent' their fear. Our child care practice has been affected in that frequently a very tight rein has to be kept on our boys in the unit resulting occasionally in outbursts of temper in the unit. Staff are obviously reluctant to encourage our boys to go out and are themselves reluctant to take them out. Many of the boys have problems with their own aggression and are in a position where they are subject to aggression. (One boy last year whilst in our care was charged with dangerous assault - he injured a local boy with a metal bar originally thrown at him, which he threw back.)

- Consequently I believe the unit is in a very unstable position. Much more stress and staff will begin leaving - some have already made this quite clear. Recent incidents give rise to great anxiety about a petrol bomb attack - a policeman at the time actually said to staff something to this effect. Either event - the collapse of the unit because staff leave or a serious riot or attack will force us to take steps to find an alternative.

The question may of course be asked what of Ben Madigan, is it at risk? Whilst Ben Madigan has been subject to disturbance and vandalism it has not been engendered the same degree of reaction and the fact that it contains elderly people changes the nature of the problem there, and there is much greater sympathy for their plight. It would also be my intention to fairly rapidly make use of the Bawnmore building.

One type of activity that could be easily mounted would be some day care provision for local mothers and their children. This in itself would go a long way I believe to reduce the hostility and ensuring the property is not vandalised. I would also be proposing some night cover by perhaps using the upstairs accommodation for homeless families with a warden resident in the staff bungalow.

I therefore believe the Board should now consider the question of finding alternative accommodation for the Children's Home before such an event takes place.

- 6 -

- April, 1976 - Mr. McMurtry, Deputy Chairman Northern Board, made an official visit. A full report was made to the Committee.
- June, 1976 - Alderman Gladys Ritchie revisited and in her report commented on the improvement since her last visit in May, 1974.

I accompanied the personnel involved on all of their formal visits.

Reports:

A system of weekly reports produced by the Head of Unit for District Headquarters had existed from pre re-organisation. This was formalised and improved to record daily events during 1974 with the appointment of the first new Superintendent, Mr. Burns. It recorded medical aspects and general comment including events, visits, etc. Weekly records of admissions and discharges were also completed and forwarded to District Headquarters.

In December, 1975 this was further refined by the introduction of a formal monthly report which was submitted to me by the senior officer responsible. It was essentially a summation of the weekly reports and gave details of admissions and discharges, medical issues, significant events and general comment concerning standards of care. These records have continued to this date with later minor improvements to cover details of reviews and management visits.

Conclusions:

The Board and D.H.S.S. accepted the need for a transfer to alternative property. The buildings identified in Ballyclare were regarded as suitable and a decision to proceed with purchase was made in October, 1976. Revenue costs were produced and given to the Director for a Board meeting on the 10th November. The D.H.S.S. consequently proceeded urgently with the purchase of the property. A project group was set up to plan the necessary alterations. I supplied a short term operational brief to the Director of Social Services on 6th December, 1976. This outlined briefly how we would intend using the building, becoming the initial brief for the architect.

All the necessary planning and work of renovation was carried out with great speed during January, February and March, 1977 and resulted in the Director being able to report to the Personal Social Services Committee on the 23rd February that the new home would be ready for occupation at the beginning of April.

This target date was met and Bawnmore Children's Home officially closed on the 30th March, 1977 and all children, staff, etc. transferred to Coulter's Hill, Ballyclare.

However it was accepted by the Board that this was an interim measure, given that -

- (a) the proper replacement site had been purchased at Rathfern and planning for the new unit was at an advanced stage;
- (b) Coulter's Hill was accepted as potentially suitable for the first adolescent unit to be operated by the Board after the opening of the home at Rathfern.

13th April, 1984.

Mif. Hill:

Shortage of staff. High numbers, delay in providing adequate heating & decoration suggest that this home isn't getting enough priority in Belfast. Should the Children's officer (or homes officer) be exerting more pressure.

Staff shortage in particular seems to need positive action. Have they thought of building another bungalow to attract resident staff? And making a house available elsewhere pending completion of the bungalow?

UAF

9/12/65

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE-PERSONAL

BWN-5754

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Extract from Minutes of Proceedings of Belfast Co. B. Welfare Committee~~Children's Sub-Committee~~at a meeting held on 5th April, 1955Minutes adopted —File No. T. 287

Submitted also letter dated 18th ultimo from the Ministry of Home Affairs, enclosing extracts from the report by the Ministry's Children's Inspector following her inspection of Bawnmore on 24th February last, copies of the letter having previously been circulated to the members of the Committee.

The Ministry's Inspector had commented favourably on the general atmosphere of the Home and on the bright and happy appearance of the children. She also drew attention to the staffing difficulties which had been experienced in the Home.

Arising out of the Children's Officer's report and the Inspector's comments re Bawnmore the Welfare Officer explained the difficulties experienced in obtaining suitable staff for the Home and assured the Committee that everything possible was being done to alleviate the position of the Acting Matron.

Report of Councillors Duff & Fair on visit during March 1955"BAWNMORE:

We found everything working satisfactorily. There is just one matter to which the Committee's attention should be drawn, that is the Electric Plug controlling the Panel Fire in the front downstairs Play Room. This should be changed to a safety type.

Report of Child Officer during March 1955BAWNMORE:

There have been no admissions to or discharges from Bawnmore for some time, and the children there are now thoroughly settled into the community. They are happy and friendly, and their behaviour rarely gives cause for concern, although for one reason or another it is difficult to board them out. The main problem in this Home at the moment seems to me to lie, not with the children, but in the staffing. I do not think BM 29 could continue in her present position, even until the end of June without an Assistant. She has been doing an admirable job since BM 18 left, but has had almost no time off and is obviously showing signs of strain and I am sometimes afraid that her health may not be equal to the effort. It would be a pity if we were to lose her services, for she has the children's interests genuinely at heart. Matrons carry a very heavy burden at the best of times and it is only right that they should be helped as far as possible.

NI.DL.1397.

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE-PERSONAL

See Mr 29/3/67

Dr. 3/4/67.
CL. Parnix if recommendations not implemented within a reasonable time.
D/PC 4/4/67.
Note for reminder on 21/4/67.
HSE

Reference..... T.C.287

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast, 4.

Bawnmore Children's Home

I inspected this Home on 13th March, 1967, when, in the absence of the Superintendent, **BM 3** I was shown around by **BM 4** The installation of an effective system of central heating has made a major contribution to the comfort of the house. I was told that Fire Service Officers had made a complete inspection of the premises since the installation and had recommended that disused open fireplaces should be sealed off and that a foam extinguisher, appropriate for fighting fires originating from electrical causes, should be obtained. These recommendations have yet to be implemented.

The standard of cleanliness throughout the house was satisfactory and certain rooms are due for redecoration this year.

BM 4 spoke of the inadequacy of the living-room accommodation for the boys at Bawnmore - a defect which made itself particularly felt during the long winter evenings. To try to alleviate the situation somewhat they are in the process of trying to make a room in the outbuildings to serve as a small sitting-room for senior boys - an adjacent room is quite well equipped as a workshop.

There is a vacancy for a male member of staff. **BM 25** resigned - not, I was told, because he was unhappy in his work or unsuited to it but because as a family man he found he could not afford to continue in it. So far, no permanent replacement has been found. **BM 25**, a young man of 18, was helping in a temporary capacity at the time of my visit but otherwise the staff is as shown in the last report. By modern standards the accommodation for the staff living in "Bawnmore" leaves much to be desired.

There were 26 boys in residence in the age range 10-15 years. All looked lively and healthy. **BM 4** told me that Dr. Girvan had conducted a routine medical examination of the Home on 6th March and in general was pleased with the standard of health.

Fire drill is held regularly.

Co-operation between the Home and the schools attended by the boys appears to be good. I was also interested to learn of the close working relationship between the Home's staff and the Social Welfare Officers supervising the boys. **BM 4** and **BM 3** whom I later saw, obviously had a good knowledge of the boys' home background and in some instances had visited the homes.

Three boys from Special Schools are expected to return to "Bawnmore" for Easter.

Discussed with Miss Laid. Cuckoo mainly refers to anti-guests bedroom. W.R. quite well aware of position.

Miss Macartney 2/4/67
Miss Scattergood 10/4/67
Miss Dobson 10/4/67
To see, please
4/4/67

He. J. Phil.
28th. March, 1967.

Reference.....T.C.267.....

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.
BT4 3SU

Miss Forest, see letter 23/4/68

You may be interested to see this
report re our meeting with Belfast
on 29th

D/P.C.

A.P.H.
23/4/68Bawnmore Children's Home

We inspected this Home on 10th April, 1968, when we were received by Mr. Smyth, Superintendent. There has been an unfortunate lack of continuity in the care given by the male members of staff in the past year; at present **BM 3** is assisted by two Housefathers, one of whom is to be seconded for training in the Autumn, while the other is a temporary replacement; the three Housemothers have remained in post but the staff establishment is one male member under strength.

There were 29 boys in the age-range 9-15 years in residence, the majority of whom had been committed to the care of the Welfare Authority by the Courts; a few were short-term placements and **BM 3** did mention that this group constituted a problem for him as in some instances these boys remained month after month.

Most of the boys have an unsatisfactory home background and, as a consequence, present problems of a psychiatric nature. We are glad to say that Dr. McAuley, Consultant Psychiatrist, takes a keen interest in Bawnmore and frequently in psychiatric reports to the Courts recommends placement in this Home. He recently brought 6 members of his team to see the Home and meet the staff. Nine boys are at present receiving psychiatric care from Dr. McAuley and his team.

Boys of the type admitted to Bawnmore pose constant problems and while the staff is depleted and the Home over-full, as it is at present, **BM 3** task is indeed onerous; he spoke appreciatively, however, of the great support he received from the Social Welfare Officers, who "follow-up" the boys in residence.

Physically, the boys appeared to be very fit. Medical arrangements are unchanged; Dr. Girvan and his partner, Dr. Green, visit frequently and have recently done a quarterly medical inspection.

The premises were showing signs of hard wear and tear; furniture in the quiet room would need to be renewed and a considerable amount of re-decoration would require to be done. **BM 3** told us that there was a scheme afoot to build a new block which would provide more adequate and suitable accommodation for residential staff.

We examined medical and social case histories which are maintained for the boys in residence.

Fire drill is held regularly and we were told that fire precautions in conformity with the recommendations of N.I.F.A. following the installation of electric storage heaters had been completed to the Authority's satisfaction. Incidentally, this form of central heating has proved effective and satisfactory.

Miss Macartney

Mr. Mc. Hogan 24/4/68.

Miss Doherty 23/4/68.

To see, please

A.B.

23/4/68

A. J. Dine. 17th April, 1968.

STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY

I would respectfully inform the Committee that I had no involvement whatsoever in the incident cited by Sergeant Braithwaite and **B 5** in the latter's statement of the 23rd May 1980.

The nature of the alleged incident is of such gravity that I feel it would not be possible for me to have forgotten it.

I would further respectfully inform the Committee that I was never employed in any residential establishment including Bawnmore at the same time as **S 1** was employed.

I would wish to inform the Committee that my dates of employment by the Belfast Corporation Welfare Dept at Bawnmore Boy's Home were as follows:-

First appointment as Asst Superintendent commenced 14.2.66 terminating on 31st Aug 67. During this period **B 5** was admitted to Bawnmore on the 3.7.67.

My second appointment as Asst Superintendent commenced on the 1.6.69 and terminated on the 7.12.71.

I would respectfully inform the Committee that these dates have been verified through three sources - namely Dr Barnardo's, DHSS (Superannuation) and HM Inspector of Taxes (Ballymena) in writing.

I would also wish to inform the Committee that **S 1** dates of employment by the Belfast Corporation Welfare Dept at Bawnmore Boys Home were as follows -

1st Appointment 13.1.63 resigned 31.5.65

2nd Appointment 25.2.68 resigned 7.2.69

Confirmation of these dates have been taken from **S 1** Personal File Belfast Corporation Welfare Committee.

The matters referred to in **B 5** statement were never discussed with me and I had no knowledge of them until I received your correspondence at 2 pm on Friday 22nd Feb 1985.

SIGNED: **BM 4**

DATED: 28th Feb 1985

Good. Thank you!

VAB

21/12.

Reference.....

T.287.

Bawnmore.

I have discussed the situation at Bawnmore with Mr. Moore, to whom supervision of this Home seems to have been entrusted.

The suggestion of building another bungalow had reached Mr. Mason via Miss Forrest, and Mr. Moore understood that the W.D. was that day, 14/12/65, putting it to the Committee. The professional staff warmly support the idea, and are keen to make alternative accommodation available in the meantime. It is also hoped to advertise more attractive salary scales.

Mr. Moore was at a loss to explain the delay in providing adequate Central

CODE 18-76

October, 1974 with seventeen windows being broken in the laundry by the boys. This followed a weekend trip to Tullymore Forest Park where unruly behaviour and vandalism were unacceptably high. Almost 50% of the boys were absconding at this point in time. As a consequence special meetings were held with all the staff - on two separate occasions to cover shifts - and a strategy developed to deal with the problem. This centred around three major areas.

1. A decision to move away from 'block' care and to develop group living - to individualise the care and to begin facing the boys with their behaviour.
2. A rejection of the suggestion of removal to Training School of the 'hard cases' - put forward by certain members of staff.
3. The need to physically demonstrate our preparedness to trust the boys and to demonstrate interest.

It also became clear that at least four members of staff - the longer serving members - **BM 23**, **BM 2** and **BM 1** - and the new Superintendent, had very rigid and inflexible approaches to care. I also became aware that at least two members were using the 'block' system to hide from direct work with children, preferring more menial domestic like tasks.

As a consequence I took urgent steps to tackle the problems identified and arranged to speed up the decoration and painting of the building and the replacement of furniture. This included all beds, wardrobes, lockers, chests of drawers, carpets, chairs, etc. and resulted in a virtual total refurbishing of the unit.

Difficulties of theft and break-ins to the office continued for a short period, however the efforts to regain stability began to show success. Staff development activities continued. For example, a major discussion with staff was held in January, 1975 to discuss the **BM 1** case and implications of child abuse.

By February, 1975 our plans for group living and the introduction of girls was complete and on 10th February I forwarded to the Director a detailed memo and report outlining these proposals and seeking the necessary approvals and resources to implement the changes.

Costings were produced and submitted to the Board in May, 1975. An allocation of money was made in the autumn and the necessary alterations to bathrooms, toilets, etc. started by December, 1975. The introduction of a group living system began at the same time. By February, 1976 the work in bathrooms was almost complete and the group system had settled down and was beginning to produce benefits in standards of child care.

Staffing:

The strategy that had been developed during 1974 of focusing more clearly on individual needs as demonstrated through review had major effects on staffing during 1975. Mr. Burns, Superintendent, resigned in June and was replaced by **BM 12** who had been Deputy. **BM 2** also resigned in June, followed in November by **BM 1**. **BM 26** was appointed Deputy Superintendent in September, 1975.

This changeover in staff was inevitably unsettling for the unit, however, due to their efforts, this was minimised and did not result in a return to the more chaotic earlier days. However, it did cause the postponement of the introduction

of girls as it was felt the maintenance and consolidation of improved standards of care were more important.

Consideration was also given at that time to the development of a staff training secondment policy as many of the staff had basic qualifications and experienced a desire to further their training. It is significant that the changes brought about a considerable period of major staff stability, whereby many of the staff appointed then are still with the Board and have had continuous employment apart from periods of secondment.

Community/security dimension:

As referred to earlier, the difficulties with the local community, and particularly as a result of the general security situation, was leading to increasing tension and reports of incidents for the unit. Large crowds of people gathered in the grounds during daylight hours. The grounds were used by the local estate initially as a public park and inevitably there were clashes, mainly of a sectarian nature, between locals and our children/staff. Seventeen serious incidents were recorded during 1975 and some twenty-four recorded during 1976. Staff and children were molested and the buildings frequently attacked and damaged. Meetings were held with local community representatives, clergy, teachers, police, etc. but to no avail as the problem worsened. The consequence of all this was having a major deleterious effect on the child care objectives being implemented in the unit and eventually led me to the conclusion that the only satisfactory answer was to seek alternative premises. The seriousness of the incidents greatly increased during 1976 and I prepared various reports for the Director during the early part of 1976 outlining the details. He shared my concern and when satisfied that all reasonable action had been taken, sought a meeting with the D.H.S.S. to explore the issues and options. He also made a report to the Personal Social Services Committee outlining some of the difficulties.

By October it was apparent that moving was the only option and we had identified possible alternative premises in Ballyclare. On 8th October I wrote, on behalf of the Director, to the Deputy Chief Social Work Adviser outlining the situation and also prepared a detailed report for the Director outlining the issues and the history of the problems over the previous three years. This was presented by the Director to the Personal Social Services Committee meeting, at which I was present, on the 20th October, 1976.

Board and other official visits:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| May, 1974 | - | First visit by the Board to the facility - at that time members expressed concern about the very poor physical conditions that the Board had inherited. |
| May, 1975 | - | District Committee paid its first visit and expressed satisfaction at the redecoration and new furniture. |
| January, 1976 | - | Chairman of the Personal Social Services Committee visited and later wrote commenting particularly about the changed atmosphere and conditions in the home. |
| February, 1976 | - | District Administrative Medical Officer visited the unit from a hygiene point of view and made comments. |
| March, 1976 | - | Home was visited by Sir Harold Black, D.H.S.S. Advisers and the Director of Social Services. |
| April, 1976 | - | Mr. Alan Elliot, Senior Assistant Secretary, D.H.S.S. paid a visit. |

Reference.....

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.

Miss Macartney 2/8/65.
CW
D/PC 30/7/65.

Bawnmore

I inspected this Home on 14th July, 1965. There were 26 boys in residence though recently there had been 28, the two over numbers sleeping in the boys' quiet sitting-room. Staff remains as before, though **S1** may be leaving because, it is said, of poor salary and prospects. I have discussed with the Dep. W.O. the possibilities of secondment and he will look into it. Miss Whittaker is currently acting as holiday relief; she is normally employed at Jordanstown School and is to do the advanced child-care course in September. **BM 3** finds her excellent.

Boys were on holiday and playing indoors and out. The current craze is for den-building, by way of digging large holes and roofing them over. Bawnmore grounds lend themselves to this kind of healthy, imaginative play. The new football field is not yet in use for that purpose. The Parks Department has advised giving the turf time to settle down. Cricket is possible but not very popular. Swimming continues at Grove Baths and boys who have left are welcome to join the rest there on Saturday morning, a useful point of contact. Other activities continue as before with opportunity, too, for joining outside organisations. Voluntary helpers come in as before. (Copy of magazine attached.)

It has been decided to install electric storage heaters, so it has been possible to proceed with the floor covering in the playroom, a great improvement. A great deal of redecoration still remains to be done after recent alterations - division of the large dormitory and provision of an extra staff-room. It is intended to have papered walls rather than to use paint and this should give a more furnished appearance to some rooms which are at the moment rather drab looking. New wardrobes are also to be provided.

The bungalow for **BM 3** and family is in course of erection and should be finished in November. This will be a great help as at present there are no other trained staff to cope with a group of quite difficult boys, many of them committed by the Court. The Home appears to have had considerable success in stabilizing many to the point of being able to return home, but there is considerable pressure to admit new boys for whom there is no room and no other suitable Home.

Although staffing is not apparently running smoothly at present the atmosphere among the boys appears cheerful, lively and natural.

Records were seen and were mostly up to date though the current fire-drill book was temporarily missing. I was assured fire drills were held regularly. Menus appeared good. Medical records showed careful attention to the boys' needs.

Miss Macartney 1st 2/8.

Mr. Martin On leave.

Miss Doherty 22.3/8/65

To see, please

bb.
2/8/65

K. B. Fones
28th July, 1965.

*Copy placed
on
Te 144
Bawnmore*

T.287

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.

D/PCBawnmore Children's Home

I visited this Home on 4th and again on 8th December, 1964. On the first occasion Mr. Fraser, Assistant Superintendent, was in charge, and on the second I was received by **BM 3**, Superintendent.

Other members of staff with the children are:-

Housemother - **BM 2**

Assistant Housefather - **S 1**

Housemother's Assistants - Miss Black (on sick leave, but a replacement has been found).
- Miss McMorran.

Miss Barry, a student from the Northern Ireland Child Care Course, is doing part of her residential training in Bawnmore and, I was told, was being helpful.

There were 26 boys in residence and I saw the majority on their return from school. I was glad to hear that at his usual quarterly medical inspection, held a few days before my visit, Dr. Girvan had been pleased with their standard of general health. **BM 3** seems to tackle behaviour problems among the boys sensibly and with understanding.

The Superintendent has displayed his talent for recruiting suitable people to help in a voluntary capacity with the result that the boys have a choice of activities, e.g., Scouts, physical recreation, cookery, woodwork, drama and music, which they can pursue under skilled guidance. The boys appear to have a number of social contacts outside the Home, and friends are welcomed at Bawnmore. The production of a magazine is a recent innovation, and pets are kept.

The premises were in good order throughout, and a considerable amount of redecoration has been tastefully effected. Apparently, the question of the most suitable form of central heating is still under discussion; in the meantime, open coal fires, suitably guarded, burn in the play-room and quiet room, while electric convactor heaters are used in the bedrooms before the boys retire. It is proposed to provide the play-room with a new rubber-tile floor, but this plan has been shelved pending the installation of central heating.

BM 3 enthusiasm for his work seems to be unflagging, and under his direction it seemed to me that the Home was running well and making a praiseworthy attempt to cater for the individual needs of the boys.

Mr. J. Hill.

10th December, 1964.

*Miss Lonest/Seen thanks
13/11/65*

PC

D/PC 3/12/65

Reference.....T.287.....

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast, 4.

Bawnmore Children's Home

I visited this Home on 25th November, 1965, when the Superintendent, Mr. **BM 3** was in charge. The problem of recruiting adequate and suitable staff remains. Apart from the Superintendent, there is no male member of staff, and in this home, where many boys are committed by the Courts, a strong masculine influence would appear to be very desirable.

At present the Superintendent is assisted by a Housemother, **BM 2** and 3 Housemother's Assistants, one of whom works on a daily basis. I understand that an advertisement for additional male staff has, so far, failed to attract suitable applicants.

BM 3 showed me over the premises, where several alterations have been made. The division of the large ground-floor dormitory into 2 reasonably-sized bedrooms has been a great improvement. New wardrobes and bedspreads are awaited. No redecoration has, as yet, been effected, and it is to be hoped it will not be long deferred, as parts of the house, though clean, present a somewhat bedraggled appearance, and would require some effort to brighten them and make them more homely.

The numbers in Bawnmore have been consistently high, and, rather than refuse admissions, **BM 3** has converted the quiet-room on the first floor into a bedroom (4 beds). The problem of providing accommodation for quiet activity has been solved by the introduction of study periods at stated times in the dining-room. Several comfortable chairs have been purchased for one part of the play-room in an endeavour to compensate for the lack of a sitting-room, and the T.V. set has been transferred to this room.

Another winter has set in without any apparent progress in providing an efficient system of heating for this large, rambling house. Electric convector heaters are used during the evenings to heat the bedrooms and are removed at bedtime. An open coal fire burns in the play-room, and to me did not appear adequate for a fairly large room with a considerable heat loss. However, **BM 3** told me that the boys found it comfortable.

The bungalow in the grounds for the Superintendent and his family is at present in the hands of painters and decorators, and should be ready for occupation within the next few weeks.

There were 28 boys in residence, whose ages ranged from 9 to 15 years. Mr. Smyth told me the health of the Home had been very good, and certainly all the boys looked fit and well.

Apparently there has been a considerable turnover in the boys in residence - I was pleased to learn that many had returned successfully to their own families - and this fact, coupled with the unsatisfactory staffing situation, has meant that some of the Home's recreational activities are not functioning as well as normally, e.g., the magazine has lapsed temporarily. Nevertheless, the boys seem to have plenty of interests.

Fire drills, I was told, are held regularly, and Fire Officers pay regular visits of inspection.

I concluded that **BM 3** was doing good work under adverse conditions. Removal to his new living quarters should make life easier for him, and it is to be hoped that male staff will become available.

Re. J. O'Neil.

30th November, 1965.

1 didn't care, as you were still getting out of Bawnmore.
2 You said the odd time you would run away but you weren't
3 sure where you were, and you can't even remember if you
4 were in the home over Christmas. As I say, we are not
5 sure how long you actually stayed there.

6 "When we returned from school each day, we changed
7 out of uniform. Common room downstairs where we played.
8 Completed homework, if you had any, and ready for bed at
9 8.00 pm. The staff would leave us alone when we were
10 playing in the common room and would only come in if
11 there was a fight. The older boys would take over the
12 games when you played."

13 You remember being bullied effectively by one of the
14 older boys when you were there. He took a pair of jeans
15 that your mother got for you off you and you felt you
16 couldn't say anything. You say:

17 "The staff turned a blind eye unless there was a
18 particularly serious fight and in that instance they
19 would intervene. There was a bit of bullying going on
20 and it wasn't a homely environment."

21 I was just -- when we were speaking earlier, you
22 would say the older boys would have beat up the younger
23 boys, but you didn't see it as anything serious.

24 **A. No. It was more like --**

25 **Q.** It was just the kind of boisterous behaviour that went

1 on among boys. Is that right?

2 **A. The alpha male. "I'm the alpha male." You're -- you**
3 **know, you're like the pups, you know, they're looking**
4 **after. That's all it was, but it was nothing really**
5 **serious, you know.**

6 Q. Paragraph 7 then you go on to describe abuse you
7 suffered at the hands of a man whose designation there
8 is BM1. You say he was a housefather. You can remember
9 the bathroom. It was painted yellow. He used to come
10 into the room while you were in the bathroom.

11 "He used to start rubbing me in the bath as if he
12 was washing me. He would touch me down below and he
13 just kept rubbing me. He was masturbating me. When
14 I got out of the bath, he would dry me. He then put my
15 pyjamas on me. He then brought me down to his room, put
16 his penis between my legs and pulled me backward and
17 forward. The smell of his body odour has remained with
18 me to this day. He said that no-one would believe me.
19 He told me was a dirty wee boy. He told me that he
20 owned me. This happened more than once. This happened
21 on a weekly basis in the evening."

22 I am going to pause there to say that this man was
23 a houseparent in Bawnmore from December of 1965. When
24 police carry out an investigation in 1980 -- are you all
25 right, HIA112?

Some of the other staff would take larger groups on outings, for example to the swimming pool .

16. In relation to my memory of the Applicant HIA 83, he was one of the children identified as in the vulnerable group. He was small for his age, had quite a 'bookish' appearance with heavy spectacles, and as I recall had some kind of speech mannerism (I originally remembered him as having an English accent?) which other children latched on to. He also had an unfortunate habit of getting into verbal exchanges with some of the more aggressive children, and then running and sometimes literally hiding behind staff for protection.
17. In relation to the allegation in his statement that ' I told BM 13 I was getting sick of the bullying and I felt I had to tell someone but he did nothing' I would say that I have no recall of any specific incident where this happened, but as indicated earlier this was one of the children staff would have identified as vulnerable and prone to being bullied.
18. As a general statement if this individual was to claim that he experienced bullying during his stay at Bawnmore I would have no difficulty in accepting that to be true, however it is also the case that this was an endemic problem within that environment affecting many children and is something that as a staff group we were fully aware of and did our best to manage

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

BM 13

Signed_____

6th June 2016

Dated_____

6. The staff of the Northern Health & Social Services Board were unable to locate the records, however a number of Welfare Department files were found during a search of a basement store at Whiteabbey Hospital. These files related to 135 boys who had been in the home, dating back to approximately 1963. This represented only a small proportion of the total number of residents over that period.

EVIDENCE

7. A large number of former residents of the home have been interviewed and allegations, including buggery and gross indecency, have been made. Complaints have been made against five persons, including Peter Michael Bone. It is proposed to deal with the evidence against each person separately.

PETER MICHAEL BONE

8. It should be stated that Bone was not a member of staff at Bawnmore Boys' Home. In 1967/1968 he went there as part of a course to study the community service provided by certain organisations and institutions. After finishing the course he continued to visit Bawnmore in a voluntary capacity to assist staff. He is a Cub/Scout Commissioner for North Belfast and is employed as an Architect by the North Eastern Education and Library Board. He is a married man and has two grown up children who are married and reside in England.
9. On 28 March 1980, **HIA 532** was interviewed and he stated that Bone became friendly with him when he, **HIA 532** was a resident in the home. A relationship developed between **HIA 532** and Bone and it commenced by Bone taking **HIA 532** with him in his car when he was visiting hospitals in Northern Ireland. **HIA 532** alleges that on several occasions Bone would drive the car into a layby and mutual acts of masturbation and oral sex would occur. During this period Bone took **HIA 532** to his home and took photographs of him in the nude. This would occur in the bathroom or bedroom and again masturbation and oral sex would take place between them. **HIA 532** states that he was about 12 years old when this activity commenced.

PART II
PAGES 1 - 5



Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Royal Courts of Justice Belfast BT1 3NX
Belfast 235111

RUC Ref: C64/15/80

DPP Ref: 3196/85

Subject: ALLEGATIONS OF HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AT FIRMOUNT CHILDRENS HOME AND
BAWNMORE HOME - 1967 - 1980

Chief Constable

Direction - Part I

Following telephone conversations between D/Inspector Farr, D/C/Supt Drew, Mr Mellor, ACC Crime, and Mr Junkin this file has been raised as a matter of urgency to consider the alleged criminal activities of James Henry Clarke. I now consider these as follows:-

1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] alleges a number of incidents against Clarke which would amount to gross indecency. Clarke's admissions are in similar view although to a lesser number of incidents. No allegations of buggery are made. At the time of the earliest incident [REDACTED] was aged 17 years 4 months approximately. The last incident occurred in or about the latter part of 1974. By virtue of Article 10(2) of the Homosexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 1982 (which came into effect on 9th December 1982) proceedings contrary to Section 11 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 cannot be commenced after the expiration of 12 months from the date on which the offence was committed. As a procedural matter this has a retrospective effect to bar proceedings commenced now, notwithstanding the fact that the circumstances admitted would have amounted to an offence under the law in force at that time.

Therefore no prosecution of Clarke for offences with [REDACTED] is possible. There is no overt evidence of assault on [REDACTED] and thus proceedings under Section 62 of the Offences Against the Person Act (which are not subject to statutory time limits:) cannot be founded.

2. **HIA 532**

Similar considerations arise in respect of **HIA 532** by reason of Article 10(2) referred to above. Furthermore the offence under Section 22 of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968 was not in force at the time of the alleged incident. In effect the only offence prosecutable against Clarke is an offence of indecent assault on **HIA 532** contrary to Section 62 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 by reason of **HIA 532** age. That offence occurred some 17 years ago. Even giving due weight to Clarke's other reported and admitted activities it is considered that the passage of time has rendered proceedings stale and inappropriate.

3. Other offences by Clarke

Clarke admits other offences eg with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. None of these persons have been traced at the time of writing. Again the effect of Article 10(2) supra renders proceedings impossible.

Other offences outside Northern Ireland are not prosecutable here.

I direct no prosecution of James Henry Clarke.

THIS PRINTOUT CONTAINS SENSITIVE PERSONAL DATA AS DEFINED BY SECTION 2 OF THE DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998 MUST BE APPLIED.

Criminal Record

Convictions of:	BONE, PETER MICHAEL	PSNI Ref No:	1465	Causeway URN:	1465100
Date of Birth:	26/04/1924	Gender:	Male	Nationality:	
Offender Levy	No current levy	Current Date:	24/03/2016 10:59:57		
Expiry Date:					

Convictions

Offence Summary	Convictions
BUGGERY / GROSS INDECENCY / BESTIALITY	8
INDECENT ASSAULT	8
Totals:	16

Offence in Detail**Belfast Crown Court 16/12/1981**

INDECENT ASSAULT ON MALE CHILD Supplementary text - see 1 below.
IMPRISONMENT FOR 2 YEARS
8f737958-e05a-4e98-9065-2ff2a148bf85

INDECENT ASSAULT ON MALE CHILD Supplementary text - see 1 below.
IMPRISONMENT FOR 2 YEARS (CONCURRENT)
8f737958-e05a-4e98-9065-2ff2a148bf85

INDECENT ASSAULT ON MALE CHILD Supplementary text - see 1 below.
IMPRISONMENT FOR 2 YEARS (CONCURRENT)
8f737958-e05a-4e98-9065-2ff2a148bf85

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INDECENT ASSAULT ON MALE CHILD Supplementary text - see 1 below.
IMPRISONMENT FOR 2 YEARS (CONCURRENT)
8f737958-e05a-4e98-9065-2ff2a148bf85

GROSS INDECENCY WITH CHILD Supplementary text - see 1 below.
IMPRISONMENT FOR 2 YEARS (CONCURRENT)
8f737958-e05a-4e98-9065-2ff2a148bf85

GROSS INDECENCY WITH CHILD Supplementary text - see 1 below.
IMPRISONMENT FOR 2 YEARS (CONCURRENT)
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IMPRISONMENT FOR 2 YEARS (CONCURRENT)
8f737958-e05a-4e98-9065-2ff2a148bf85

PRIVATE

the only times they ever visited me and it was only because they were going to see [REDACTED]. I did not want to go home and I did not tell them anything about what was going on with the abuse at Bawnmore. I was embarrassed to even think of it and just could not face actually telling anyone. The first my family found out about this was when [REDACTED] told my dad. This was after it came out in the Sunday World. I told Chris Moore of the Sunday World what happened to me but I did not receive any payment for what I told them. My Dad was raging, he went mad about it and wanted them all shot. I got a lot of abuse after I told the Sunday World, that is the way that people react to you.

22. I told [REDACTED] BM 1 about the abuse by Peter Bone after [REDACTED] BM 1 had left Bawnmore and gone to Palmerston. [REDACTED] BM 3 took over Palmerston. I used to call in for past members of staff as I had grown up with them and had been happy in Bawnmore apart from the abuse. I had friends there and got to play football all the time. I got money at Christmas in Bawnmore – I got nothing at home. Bawnmore was home to me. I happened to be talking to [REDACTED] BM 1 one night at Palmerston and told him about what had gone on with Peter Bone. He told me that he had a vague recollection that he suspected something was going on because Bone was persistently buying me things. I do not know if [REDACTED] BM 1 did anything about what I told him.

23. I was also sexually abused on two occasions by Henry Clarke who was the Assistant Head in Bawnmore. On the first occasion it was when I was in my first year in secondary school and I had cut my right hand. I had to go to the doctor's during school hours to get the stitches removed. This was according to my medical records on 17th February 1968. I still have the scar on my hand. I was feeling unwell after having the stitches removed and so I did not go to school. Robert Elder instead took me back home to Bawnmore and I was sent up to my bedroom by Henry Clarke who was in charge that day. Robert Elder came up to my room with me but then he left. I was lying down on top of my bed when Henry Clarke came into my room and lay down beside me. He started to rub his hands all over me but I turned away from him to the wall. He rubbed my penis through my trousers. However someone came up the stairs, I think it was Robert Elder, and disturbed him so he stopped, got up off the bed and left the room. After a

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27. **BM 3** told me not to tell anyone and said that he would deal with it. He said it was unfortunate that I had not kept any of the photographs and that if Elder came to me again with more photographs I should try to get one so he could use it as evidence. He said there was little he could do about it without proof.
28. **BM 3** never came back or spoke to me again about what I told him and I never heard anything further about what I had reported. A short time after I reported it to **BM 3** Robert Elder left Bawnmore and I think he subsequently got a job as a binman. I don't know anything about the circumstances of Robert Elder's departure from Bawnmore.
29. I was abused by Henry Clarke on a second occasion. I think it was just before he got married or emigrated as he was packing to leave. I cannot recall how long this was after Robert Elder left Bawnmore. Henry Clarke invited me to his parent's house in Monkstown where I met his parents and he asked me to help him to pack. I think I stayed for one night. I was already in the double bed and he got in beside me naked. I was wearing pyjamas and pretended to be sleeping, lying on my side. He started to touch me again and was trying to masturbate me. I froze. He took my hand and made me masturbate him by holding my hand.
30. I did not really know at that time that this was abuse. It wasn't until I was older, probably around third year in school that I became aware that Henry Clarke's behaviour was wrong. There was no one really that I could confide in and the only thing I talked to other boys about was football.
31. The boys used to try to get you to join their gangs but I wouldn't join. I was shot in the face by one of the older boys, **BM 17**, with an arrow. I fought five of them off one day.
32. I was never abused by **S 1**. He was a housefather and coached the football. He was kind to me, he took me to Tyrella beach and away camping and trained me in running and football. He knew how much I loved football and trained me a lot. Football was my thing – I signed for **[REDACTED]**. He said he wanted to adopt me and I wanted that too. I told my dad this but he refused.

PRIVATE

the only times they ever visited me and it was only because they were going to see [REDACTED]. I did not want to go home and I did not tell them anything about what was going on with the abuse at Bawnmore. I was embarrassed to even think of it and just could not face actually telling anyone. The first my family found out about this was when [REDACTED] told my dad. This was after it came out in the Sunday World. I told Chris Moore of the Sunday World what happened to me but I did not receive any payment for what I told them. My Dad was raging, he went mad about it and wanted them all shot. I got a lot of abuse after I told the Sunday World, that is the way that people react to you.

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PRIVATE

while Robert Elder returned. I suspect now that Elder and Clarke were in cahoots but I cannot be sure.

24. After Robert Elder returned to my room he showed me graphic pornographic photographs. They depicted children, young girls and young boys, with bottles inserted inside them, which at my age seemed like horror scenes. This incident occurred after Robert Elder had started the regular abuse of me in his room.
25. Robert Elder told me to keep the photographs and then give them back to him later and not to let anyone see them. However he came back a few minutes later to get them off me and he counted them to make sure I had given them all back to him. I think there were around nine photos in total. He told me not to tell anyone what had happened and told me that this was going to happen to me. He threatened me that he was going to get me involved in scenes like that, to pose for photographs with things sticking out of me, which terrified me.
26. The same day that I was shown the pornographic photos by Robert Elder, I saw one of the senior boys **BM 16** who was two or three years older than me and I told him about the photographs. **BM 16** brought me to see the Head, **BM 3** in his bungalow that evening. I cannot recall whether **BM 16** was still with me when I had the conversation with **BM 3** but I think he had gone. **BM 3** wife **BM 3** and his children **BM 3** and **BM 3** were there in the kitchen too and he told them to leave. Whilst in **BM 3** kitchen I told him first about the photographs. The photographs were the reason I went to Mr **BM 3** as Robert Elder had expressed an intention to get me to take part in similar activities. It was my fear about that that made me refer to what Robert Elder was doing to me. At that time I did not know that what Robert Elder was doing was wrong. I cannot remember now specifically what I said but I told him about the photos and he would have known from what I said that I was being abused by Elder. I did not tell **BM 3** about Henry Clarke abusing me in my room, nor about Peter Bone. I think this was because I was young and I did not really know that what they were doing was abuse and was wrong. I just thought it was part of growing up.

STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: **HIA 532** CONTINUATION PAGE NO: 4

He would then take my pyjamas off and strip naked himself. He would masturbate and suck me and try to get me to do it to him. I think I only masturbated him. It never went as far as buggery. Again this would happen on a large number of occasions especially when he was on nights and it was always the same carry on. I went to see **BM 3** who was [REDACTED] and told him about it. I remember **BM 16** was there at the time and I remember telling him about what the [REDACTED] haired fellow had done to me. I told **BM 3** the Head about what this man was doing to me. He asked me to try and get one of the photographs as proof as there was little he could do without something to go on. A short time after I told **BM 3** this man left Bawnmore and I think he got a job as a binman. At that time he was aged about [REDACTED] and was tall and thin, I think he [REDACTED]. I am not sure. When I was sixteen I left Bawnmore and went to live at home but a short time later Welfare put me into Kincora Boys' Hostel. The staff in Kincora were Joe Mains who was in charge, Raymond Semple second-in charge and a part-time man called Mr McGrath. The only person who interfered with me there was Mr McGrath. I shared a room with **KIN 217**. I remember **KIN 217** started work early and I did not start until half ten. I used to sleep on. I remember Mr McGrath practically every morning when I was in bed asleep I would wake to find McGrath with his hand under the blankets on my penis. He used to start rubbing my penis but I told him to stop it. He did not persist but walked away laughing. I also remember one time when I was in the bathroom, I had a towel round me and was naked apart from that. McGrath came into the bathroom and locked the door behind him. He dropped the towel from around me and I remember trying to stop him. He persisted and took hold of my penis and started to masturbate me. I was trying to get away and eventually managed to get the door open and get out. He did not bother any further and after he left I went back and had a bath. I was in Kincora on three separate occasions and each occasion when I was there McGrath would persist with the carry on of putting his hand on my penis under the blankets while I was asleep. That is all I can remember and

SIGNATURE of STATEMENT MAKER: **HIA 532**

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF:

BM 3

AGE OF WITNESS [if over 21 enter "over 21"][: 'OVER 21'

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CENTRE

ADDRESS: BELFAST.

TO BE COMPLETED
WHEN THE
STATEMENT HAS
BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of 1 page, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 24th day of June 1980

(Sgd) M W Braithwaite, D/Sgt.

SIGNATURE of MEMBER by whom
statement was recorded or received.

(Sgd)

BM 3

SIGNATURE of WITNESS

I was the Superintendent of Bawnmore Boys' Home, Mill Road, Whitehouse, from approximately 1960 until 1973. I had overall responsibility for the day to day welfare of the boys in the home. I have heard the allegations made by various boys against members of staff. I can only remember one being reported to me. I remember HIA 532 complaining to me about a student from Rupert Stanley College, Robert Elder, showing him dirty photographs. I spoke to Elder and he admitted having these photographs and I told him not to have them in the home as they were not proper things for young boys to see. I cannot remember any other complaints of sexual behaviour by any boys. I would get complaints from boys about staff hitting them but these were of a trivial nature and I dealt with them accordingly. These were not frequent complaints.

SIGNATURE of WITNESS:

(Sgd.)

BM 3

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WRITTEN STATEMENT 'AFTER CAUTION

STATEMENT OF ROBERT DEWAR ELDERADDRESS: [REDACTED]OCCUPATION FIRE SAFETY OFFICERAGE: 45 YEARSTAKEN BY: D/INSPECTOR McCLUREAT: GLENGORMLEY RUC STATIONON: 10 JUNE 1980 IN PRESENCE OF: W/D/CONSTABLE MONTGOMERY.

I, ROBERT DEWAR ELDER : Wish to make a statement.
I want someone to write down what I say. I have been told that I need
not say anything unless I wish to do so and that whatever I say may be
given in evidence.

(Sgd.) R ELDER

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER

During 1967/1968 I was a student at the Rupert Stanley College in
residential child care. During this period I do not remember the
exact dates I was sent to Bawnmore Boys' Home, Mill Road, Newtownabbey.
This was for a period of about five or six weeks and it was for
practical experience. I remember HIA 532 he was an inmate of
the Home. I had a typewriter in my bedroom and I used to type reports.
I used to let HIA 532 use the typewriter. On two or three occasions when
HIA 532 was in the bedroom with me I got involved with him. I cannot
remember the exact circumstances, but it amounted to him masturbating
me and me masturbating him. There was oral sex as well. I remember
this happening in the middle of the night. I must have gone into his
bedroom and brought him to my room. As far as HIA 532 was concerned there
was no buggery. I remember HIA 532 told Mr BM 3 the Head of the
Home about what had happened. BM 3 approached me about this and I
denied it. BM 3 obviously believed me and all he told me was not

STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: ROBERT DEWAR ELDERCONTINUATION PAGE NO: 2

to become too friendly with any of the kids. About a week after that I left the Home and returned to the Rupert Stanley College. I finished the course in September 1968 and did not go into child care. I have never been involved ^{RE} since the incidents with HIA 532 ^{RE} again in any homosexual activity since the time with HIA 532. I can't explain now why I did it but it was a one off thing at the time.

(Sgd.) R ELDER.

I have read the above statement and I have told that I can correct, alter or add anything I wish. This statement is true I have made it of my own free will.

(Sgd.) R ELDER.

Statement commenced: 10.10 am.

Statement terminated: 10.25 am.

Witness:- P J Montgomery, W/D/Con. (Sgd.)

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER: (Sgd.) R ELDER.

the Head of the home, about what had happened. **BM 3** approached me about this and I denied it. **BM 3** obviously believed me and all he told me was not to become too friendly with any of the kids. About a week after that I left the home and returned to the Rupert Stanley College". Mr **BM 3** emphatically refuted the inference that B1 complained about Mr Elder's homosexual advances as well as the photographs. Mr Elder's statement was not, of course, tested in cross-examination and we took due account of that in weighing its value.

6.38 Again we were confronted with a direct conflict of evidence between B1 and Mr Elder's police statement on the one hand and **BM 3** on the other. We found it difficult to understand why B1 would, in complaining about the photographs, have elaborated on Mr Elder's homosexual activities yet omitted to mention Mr Bone and S2, particularly as the alleged indecent assault by S2 took place on the very day of the alleged complaint. He said that he did not realise that their activities were wrong and at the time they began he was only eleven years of age, but we are inclined to the view that he concealed the nature of his relationship with Mr Bone specifically because of the material and social benefits which it provided. On balance, however, we believe that the evidence is that a complaint about Mr Elder's homosexual activities was made and that **BM 3** was deceived by a denial and a story about the photographs which he should at least have sought to check by insisting on their production. We are satisfied that B1's complaint should have prompted **BM 3** to report in writing to the Children's Officer with a view to his considering referral to the police. The short term nature of the placement meant, of course, that any possible danger to the Bawnmore residents was almost immediately removed.

6.39 B1's case also raised several other issues, in particular the circumstances in which Mr Bone was able to take him out of the home on a regular and frequent basis. Mr Bone's introduction to the home arose in the context of his Scouting activities, in the course of which he approached **BM 3** with a view to doing voluntary work in the home. He took a photography class in the home and befriended several of the boys including B1. **BM 3** gave evidence that he welcomed Mr Bone as a member of the community who was willing to be of assistance to the home. Bawnmore had a Scout troop of its own and its leader spoke highly of Mr Bone's Scouting activities and **BM 3** also knew him as a professional

man, married with a family. Since there was no formal vetting procedure or guidelines, this information was gathered on **BM 3** initiative. He said that he was aware that Mr Bone took a particular interest in B1 but not of the frequency with which he took him out of the home and that he never developed any suspicions about their relationship. B1 was visited regularly by Social Welfare Officers between late 1968 and late 1970, during which time the relationship with Mr Bone was continuing. Surprisingly, given the relative regularity of visits, B1 gave evidence that he could not recall the names of his Social Welfare Officers. There was only one anonymous reference to Mr Bone in the file notes, suggesting that the Social Welfare Officers were not aware of the extent of contact between him and B1. There was no evidence of regular visiting before late 1968, reflecting the fact that the monthly visiting policy was not introduced until that time. On the face of it, a breakdown in communication must have occurred between the residential staff and Social Welfare Officers to allow B1's lengthy relationship with Mr Bone to have gone virtually unremarked in the Social Welfare Officers' notes. The result was that this aspect of his supervision at the home was less than satisfactory.

6.40 We have noted that the frequency and regularity of visiting to B1 is not open to criticism. We were satisfied that B1 had sufficient opportunity to register a complaint with staff outside the home had he wished to pursue that course.

6.41 In his evidence, B1 referred to being very fond of the member of staff S1 but indicated that he probably would not have complained to him and that it would have required someone to approach him and enquire whether anything was wrong in order to elicit a complaint. In any case, S1 left Bawnmore in February 1969 so that he was not there for the full period of Mr Bone's relationship with B1.

6.42 In the event, B1 made no complaint against either Mr Bone or S2. B1's youth, the comparatively limited extent of S2's alleged activities, and the social and material benefits which were provided by Mr Bone combine to explain the absence of such a complaint. It is to be regretted that the complaint against Mr Elder did not reach the police, since a skilled and sensitive interview at that stage might well have uncovered Mr Bone's activities almost two years before they ceased.

wound. He told us that S2 was interrupted by Mr Elder on this occasion. Both men left B1's room but Mr Elder returned later and showed him pornographic photographs. B1 alleged that S2 committed another indecent assault when he stayed overnight in S2's home some weeks later. S2 left his employment at Bawnmore in March 1968. B1 linked the beginning of his relationship with Mr Bone with a sporting success, following which Mr Bone took a photograph of him with the trophy. He stated that he was about eleven or twelve at the time, which would have been in 1967 or 1968.

Mr Bone used to take B1 out in his car and to his home, where masturbation and oral sex occurred. Mr Bone also took nude photographs of B1. B1 gave evidence that this relationship continued for two or three years, after which time he became aware of the meaning of the term "queer" through his schoolfriends. He then started to break off his association with Mr Bone. B1's March 1980 police statement referred to his asking Mr Bone for money and to being given a watch as a birthday present, in addition to being taken out for car trips.

6.33 B1's personal file recorded the sporting success in May 1967 and an occasion when he required stitches for an injury in February 1968. Taking B1's evidence that Mr Bone's activities began shortly after the former and that the alleged assault by S2 took place on a day when he had stitches removed, the inference is that the relationship with Mr Bone predated the assaults by Mr Elder and S2. This is notwithstanding the fact that Mr Bone's convictions relate to the period from January 1968. Mr Elder, it should be remembered, was on a 5-6 week student placement during the September 1967-June 1968 academic year and Bawnmore was his second placement during that period. In addition, B1's 1980 police statement, in referring to the alleged assault by S2, said that "this would have happened during the time that I was involved with Peter Bone". In spite of B1's evidence to us that the first offences were committed by Mr Elder, we regard the documentary and circumstantial evidence as strongly indicative that the relationship with Mr Bone began in the summer of 1967, before Mr Elder's placement in Bawnmore and well before the occasion in February 1968 when B1 required stitches.

6.34 B1 gave evidence that he made a complaint to **BM 3**. This was during the evening of the day on which he was subjected to the alleged indecent assault by S2 and shown the pornographic photographs by Mr Elder. He said that he spoke to one of the older residents who took him over to

BM 3 bungalow. This resident did not make a statement to the police and was not available to us. B1 stated that he told **BM 3** about the photographs and about Mr Elder taking him from his bed in the middle of the night. He said that **BM 3** told him not to say anything to anybody but to keep any photographs in the future so that they could be used as evidence. B1 heard nothing more about the matter and Mr Elder left the home shortly thereafter, presumably on completion of his placement.

6.35 B1 did not complain about S2's alleged assault on this occasion and gave evidence that this was because the things that were happening to him were novel and seemed natural to him and he thought that they were part of growing up. He said that his main purpose in going to **BM 3** was to complain about the photographs; that Mr Elder's other activities just came out in the conversation; and that he did not mention Mr Bone or S2 because he did not understand that what they were doing was wrong.

6.36 **BM 3** gave evidence that B1 came to him and complained that Mr Elder had shown him "dirty" photographs but that B1 made no allegation of sexual interference. The conversation took place in the main hallway of the home and not in his bungalow. He spoke to Mr Elder at the first available opportunity and was told that the photographs were of famine-stricken countries showing native people partially dressed. Mr Elder also told him that the photographs were at his home and **BM 3** did not see them.

BM 3 explained that he accepted Mr Elder's explanation because he was a student on placement who had worked well in the home and because he was a married man. He gave evidence that he reported the incident verbally to Mr Elder's College tutor but was unable to recall the tutor's name. Miss Schleimer (see paragraph 6.7) was the tutor in question. She made a statement to us to the effect that she had no recollection of the matter but surmised that this might be because she may have accepted that Mr Elder had been trying to interest the boys in world affairs. The extant papers relating to Mr Elder's course made no mention of this incident and the only comment relevant to the Bawnmore placement was that he "seems to have established a good relationship with most of the boys and seems able to maintain discipline without resorting to punishment".

6.37 We were unable to trace Mr Elder and were left, therefore, with his June 1980 police statement. This contained an admission that masturbation and oral sex with B1 had taken place and stated that "B1 told Mr **BM 3**

PRIVATE

the only times they ever visited me and it was only because they were going to see [REDACTED]. I did not want to go home and I did not tell them anything about what was going on with the abuse at Bawnmore. I was embarrassed to even think of it and just could not face actually telling anyone. The first my family found out about this was when [REDACTED] told my dad. This was after it came out in the Sunday World. I told Chris Moore of the Sunday World what happened to me but I did not receive any payment for what I told them. My Dad was raging, he went mad about it and wanted them all shot. I got a lot of abuse after I told the Sunday World, that is the way that people react to you.

22. I told **BM 1** about the abuse by Peter Bone after **BM 1** had left Bawnmore and gone to Palmerston. **BM 3** took over Palmerston. I used to call in for past members of staff as I had grown up with them and had been happy in Bawnmore apart from the abuse. I had friends there and got to play football all the time. I got money at Christmas in Bawnmore – I got nothing at home. Bawnmore was home to me. I happened to be talking to [REDACTED] **BM 1** one night at Palmerston and told him about what had gone on with Peter Bone. He told me that he had a vague recollection that he suspected something was going on because Bone was persistently buying me things. I do not know if **BM 1** did anything about what I told him.

23. I was also sexually abused on two occasions by Henry Clarke who was the Assistant Head in Bawnmore. On the first occasion it was when I was in my first year in secondary school and I had cut my right hand. I had to go to the doctor's during school hours to get the stitches removed. This was according to my medical records on 17th February 1968. I still have the scar on my hand. I was feeling unwell after having the stitches removed and so I did not go to school. Robert Elder instead took me back home to Bawnmore and I was sent up to my bedroom by Henry Clarke who was in charge that day. Robert Elder came up to my room with me but then he left. I was lying down on top of my bed when Henry Clarke came into my room and lay down beside me. He started to rub his hands all over me but I turned away from him to the wall. He rubbed my penis through my trousers. However someone came up the stairs, I think it was Robert Elder, and disturbed him so he stopped, got up off the bed and left the room. After a

during 1967 and 1968 there were three month periods when no statutory visits were minuted. Bawnmore was also included in the global entry of May 1970 to which we referred in paragraph 3.33. A significant further decline in visiting began in 1971 and only three statutory visits were minuted from January 1972 to September 1973. We have already suggested that some caution must be exercised in interpreting these minutes. As no record book was available for Bawnmore, the record of visitors' signatures could not be checked.

- 6.20 We consider that visits by members of the Belfast Welfare Authority had less chance than the Children's Officer's inspections of detecting homosexual abuse in the home, much less outside it. To criticise the brevity and contents of their reports would be to ignore the practical constraints imposed on members of the Belfast Welfare Committee by their role and function. The Welfare Committee's record on statutory visits from late 1967, however, is open to criticism. Even if the members would have been unlikely to detect any offences it is unsatisfactory that the Welfare Committee should have in part neglected its statutory duty. We would emphasise, however, that there is no evidence that this had any bearing on the incidence of offences or on the likelihood of detection.

Inspections by the Ministry of Home Affairs

- 6.21 Our scrutiny of the Ministry of Home Affairs' extant records revealed that thirteen reports on inspections of Bawnmore were made between 1962 and 1970, one or two reports being made each year. The inspections were carried out either by Miss Kay Forrest or Miss Mabel Hill (the Child Welfare Inspector, and Assistant Child Welfare Inspector respectively). The reports were sent to the Child Welfare Branch of the Ministry. These were usually one typed page in length and normally followed the same format, commenting on the physical conditions and amenities in the home; on the staffing position; on the number of boys in residence; and leisure activities. There were usually also comments on the health of the boys (and indications that the Inspectors had actually seen the children), on the medical records and on visits by the home's doctor. The reports also usually noted that the statutory records had been inspected and were properly maintained. The assessments were generally favourable although concern was expressed in the mid 1960's about shortages of staff, the high numbers of children in the home and delay in providing adequate heating

and redecoration. These points were followed up by the Ministry and it was noted in the next inspection report that there had been an improvement on each count.

- 6.22 As there was no record book available for Bawnmore, it was not possible to check if the Ministry's Inspectors visited Bawnmore on occasions other than those which resulted in the reports.
- 6.23 The Ministry of Home Affairs' general policy in relation to the frequency of inspections and the scope and content of inspection reports during the period to 1973 has already been dealt with in chapter 3. Specifically in regard to Bawnmore, we consider that the record of the Ministry of Home Affairs' inspectors during the relevant period was more than adequate in terms of frequency. Our view that the scale and nature of the inspections was not entirely satisfactory is qualified by the commendable frequency and regularity of them. The opportunity which the Ministry of Home Affairs' inspectors would have had for detecting the homosexual offences involving Bawnmore residents, however, was minimal.

Alleged complaints against S1

- 6.24 A former resident of Bawnmore, referred to in evidence as B3, gave evidence that he made complaints against a member of staff, referred to in evidence as S1. The DPP directed in 1981 that no prosecution should be brought against S1. A further referral in 1982 also resulted in a direction that no prosecution be brought. Our consideration of alleged complaints against him is directed to how, if made, they were handled by the Welfare Authority. We refer to these as alleged complaints because no contemporary record of complaints against S1 came to our attention.
- 6.25 B3 was admitted to Bawnmore in January 1963 when he was fourteen years of age and discharged from there in July 1963. During this time it seems that he spent a period or periods "home on trial" with his father.
- 6.26 There is evidence that B3 had some sexual experience while at a voluntary residential home prior to his admission to Bawnmore. A memorandum of 17 August 1962 on B3's personal file recorded a member of the home's management committee as reporting "serious sexual malpractice.... involving B3 and [REDACTED] to the Down County Welfare Authority. Down County reported the matter to the Ministry of Home Affairs and a meeting