

**Mr R J Bunting – Schedule of Appendices to Witness Statement**

<b>No:</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	Written Submission of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board to the Committee of Inquiry into Childrens' Homes and Hostels
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<p>B Memorandum from Robert Bunting to Senior Staff – Children's Home re Proposed Changes in Residential Facilities for Children – dated 15<sup>th</sup> August 1972</p> <p>Memorandum from Robert Bunting to DWOs, SSWs, SCCOs Re Residential Facilities for Children – dated 21<sup>st</sup> August 1972</p> <p>Letter from R Bunting to Ministry of Home Affairs enclosing copy of report by R Bunting on Residential Facilities for Children in Belfast</p> <p>Report on Residential Facilities in Belfast dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 1972</p> <p>Letter from [REDACTED] <b>BR 2</b> regarding social Workers visiting boys dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 1980.</p> <p>Various correspondence re concerns regarding [REDACTED] <b>BR 2</b> letter of 25<sup>th</sup> July 1980</p>
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Belfast Welfare Authority, Children in Residential Care – 3 monthly review form
<b>Appendix 4</b>	<p>Report from Belfast Welfare Committee - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 1973</p> <p>Report from Belfast Welfare Committee – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 1972</p> <p>Correspondence regarding Welfare Authority receiving privately placed boys into care and some referencing standards, particularly the Childrens' Officer</p>

memo to City Welfare Officer dated  
29<sup>th</sup> December 1971,

- Appendix 5** Departmental Evidence Paper for Committee of Inquiry
- Appendix 6** Extract of Document entitled Statutory/Voluntary Relationship in Provision of Residential Child Care
- Appendix 7** Letter from R Bunting to E Malone re Bed Bureau  
Dated 9<sup>th</sup> march 1977
- Report from R Bunting re Children's Homes –  
Bed Bureau February 1977
- Appendix 8** Minutes of meeting of senior residential and day care  
and fieldwork management staff on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1979  
with accompanying correspondence
- Appendix 9** Letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 1977 re Review of  
Children in Care
- Letter from ASSS re Bristol Social –Adjustment  
Guide The Child in Residential Care  
dated 15<sup>th</sup> July 1977
- Letter to District Social Services Offices  
dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 1977 confirming that the  
Procedures and Progress Report have been  
accepted by District Staff
- Letter re Review of Children in Residential Care  
dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1977
- Document setting out procedures to be applied in  
EHBSS In Relation to Children in Care
- Appendix 10** Letter from EHSSB to Reverend J C O'Connor  
re Contribution Of Voluntary Children's Homes  
dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 1988
- Appendix 11** Letter to R Bunting re De La Salle Boys Home,  
Kircubbin dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 1985

Table showing Maintenance Charges for the 5 years  
From 1980/81 to 1985/86

**Appendix 12** EHSBB memo re Voluntary Home Charges  
De La Salle Boys Home, Kircubbin

**Appendix 13** Letter from EHSSB to DHSS enclosing report  
by Miss Walker dated 24<sup>th</sup> November 1980

Report by Miss Walker dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 1980

**Appendix 14** Letter from [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] re inspection of home

Letter re Maintenance Charge dated 2nd June 1976

Memo from DSSO to DSS re De La Salle dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 1978

Letter re Per Capita Cost dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 1979

Letter re per Capita Maintenance Charge dated  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 1979 (x2)

Letter to Father McCann dated 16<sup>th</sup> June 1980

Letter to DSS from [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] re Per Capita  
Charge dated 13<sup>th</sup> August 1980

Letter to [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 1980

Letter to DSS re per capita charge dated 4<sup>th</sup> September 1980

Letter to [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] dated 11<sup>th</sup> September 1980

Response from [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 1980

Letter to DSS from De La Salle dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 1980

Letter to DSS from De La Salle dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 1981

Letter to De La Salle dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 1981

Letter to DSS dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 1981 enclosing

extracts of Social Work Advisory Group's report on De La Salle

Request for increase in per capita maintenance  
dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 1983

Letter to DHSS dated 13<sup>th</sup> October 1981

Letter to **BR 6** re Per Capita Revision  
dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 1984

Request for increase in per capita by De La Salle  
dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 1984

Letter enclosing audited accounts for De La Salle  
for period ending 1984

#### Appendix 15

Letter from J A Wilde re De La Salle Boys Home,  
Ruban House, Kircubbin dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 1980

Letter from J A Wilde to Mr Gilliland dated  
26<sup>th</sup> January 1981

Report re De La Salle, Rubane, Kircubbin by  
A Morris dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 1982

Letter from EHSSB to Mr P Armstrong  
re De La Salle Boys Home dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1982

Letter from Mr P Armstrong to EHSSB  
dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 1982

Letter to DSS from Management Committee  
De La Salle re Nos of referrals dated 16<sup>th</sup> December 1980

Response from DSS dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1981

Letter from Department to DSS dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 1982  
Re report by A Morris

Memo from A Morris to DSS dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 1982

#### Appendix 16

Letter from Director of Social Services dated  
12<sup>th</sup> March 1980 attaching document  
"Procedures regarding allegations Made against staff"



Document entitled "Procedures regarding  
allegations made against staff"

- Appendix 17** Minutes of meeting with Rubane House management  
Committee dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 1982
- Appendix 18** Documentation relating to Embargo on admissions to  
De la Salle Boys' Home
- Appendix 19** EHSBB Family and Child Care Services – initiatives  
Re early years dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 1981
- Appendix 20** EHSBB Memorandum re Children and young persons  
in our care who go missing dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 1978

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 1**

HGA

59 MAY 1964

WRITTEN SUBMISSION OF THE EASTERN  
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
TO THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO  
CHILDRENS HOMES AND HOSTELS.

CI/EB.88

517

**PART 1. BELFAST WELFARE AUTHORITY**  
**1960 to 30th September, 1973.**

**PART 2. EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**  
**1st October, 1973 to April, 1984.**

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**PART 1. BELFAST WELFARE AUTHORITY**  
**1960 to 30th September, 1973.**

BELFAST WELFARE AUTHORITY 1960 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 19731. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- 1.1 County and County Borough Councils were required under the Public Health & Local Government (Amendment Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1946 to establish Welfare Authorities which operated through statutory Welfare Committees of these Councils. These Councils and Committees were made up of elected representatives.
- 1.2 This structure was necessary to administer new legislation which for the first time in Northern Ireland provided a comprehensive legal framework for services and outlined mandatory duties to be carried out and permissive powers to be exercised by the Councils.
- 1.3 The most important legislation for the Welfare Authorities was contained in the Welfare Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1949 and the Children & Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1950. The latter embodied recommendations made in the 1946 Government White Paper "The Protection and Welfare of the Young and the Treatment of the Young Offender".
- Northern Ireland did not follow the structure in England in that separate Children's Departments were not established. Instead, Children's Services were provided by the generic Welfare Authorities under the guidance and oversight of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 1.4 Section 89 of the Children & Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1950 stated that a Welfare Authority had a duty to further the best interests of children in its care and afford them opportunity for the proper development of their character and abilities. In addition, it had a duty to ensure that no child in its care was deprived of the benefits available under the enactments relating to health, education and employment.
- 1.5 Section 90 of the Act stated that residential care was only to be provided for children where "it is not practicable or desirable for the time being to make arrangements for boarding out". It is implied in Section 90 that residential care is not the most desirable form of care and should, ideally, be short term.

This attitude embodied in legislation was not unique to Northern Ireland

- and very much reflected the views of the 1946 Curtis Committee in England.
- 1.6 Section 92 of the Act placed a duty on Welfare Authorities to provide homes for children in its care.
- 1.7 In the Statutory Rules and Orders No.130 1952 Children & Young Persons Welfare Authorities Homes, Section 13 required a Welfare Authority to obtain the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs to the development of residential homes and the appointment of residential staff.
- 1.8 As part of the 1950 Act, a Children's Officer had to be appointed by each Welfare Authority to carry out the functions of the Act and the appointment had to be approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 1.9 The 1968 Children & Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) which replaced the 1950 Act introduced new preventive powers similar to those contained in the English 1963 Act but did not change the legislation in regard to residential care for children and young persons.

## 2. SCALE AND STANDARD OF PROVISION

2.1 The period from 1960 to 1973 was characterised by the professionalisation of social work and the development of comprehensive welfare services including services for families and children. However, staffing difficulties in both fieldwork and residential care had an adverse affect on the standard of provision. These difficulties related to the ability, qualification, experience and continuity of staff.

2.2 Around 1960 the shortage of qualified Social Workers throughout the United Kingdom was becoming critical. The Younghusband Committee was set up to consider this problem and recommended that a crash programme of training courses be established as a temporary measure to alleviate the problem. The two year Certificate in Social Work Course was set up at Colleges of Further Education in various centres throughout the United Kingdom including Belfast.

This added to the existing qualifications already available at Universities, i.e. the Diploma in Social Studies, which was recognised as a basic qualification and the Diploma in Applied Social Studies, which was a post graduate qualification usually with a specialisation in child care or psychiatric social work.

2.3 Improved training was a key element in raising the standard of services provided. However, this improved training was confined to field Social Workers who were recruited usually as Trainee Social Workers and seconded for professional training by the Welfare Authorities.

Residential child care staff were not given the same priority in regard to training. A few residential child care staff were seconded each year for training at the Rupert Stanley College of Further Education which ran the Certificate in Residential Child Care Course. This was a fourteen month course and, although accepted as a basic qualification in residential child care, was not recognised as a professional qualification in social work. This qualification was consequently accorded lower status than the professional qualifications in social work.



2.4

Problems in residential staffing were particularly acute during the sixties and were directly related to unsatisfactory working conditions and low status which these staff were accorded. Residential child care staff were paid low salaries, were expected to be resident often living in cramped accommodation and had to work unsocial hours and considerable amounts of overtime without pay. Staffing levels were also inadequate and this often meant that one member of staff was left in charge of up to twelve children. Staffing deficiencies were masked by the availability of resident staff in their off duty time. However these deficiencies and constraints made staff vulnerable in that they were sometimes working single-handed with a group of children. Such a situation persisted over a prolonged period at the boys' hostel where there was an establishment for only two care staff and it proved impossible to fill a vacancy.

As a result of these factors, the majority of residential child care staff were young single women lacking in life experience. Also, not surprisingly, there was a high turnover of staff. During a two year period surveyed from 1968 - 1970 fifty residential child care staff left the Service which amounted to a 50% turnover of staff each year.

The Children's Officer was acutely aware of these difficulties and by the late sixties and early seventies had taken steps to try to substantially improve the standard of provision by focusing on three aspects, namely, improvements in staff salaries, staffing levels and living accommodation for both children and staff. Unfortunately, the financial implications of these proposals proved initially to be a stumbling block to implementing them fully.

However, his successor was able in 1972 with the support of the City Welfare Officer and the Ministry of Home Affairs to carry out a reorganisation of residential child care provision (See paper "Residential Facilities for Children in Belfast" under index reference number CI/EB 64).

Although staffing difficulties were substantial there remained in residential child care during this period a core of dedicated knowledgeable and reliable senior residential child care staff who put the needs of the children first and who maintained the service at an acceptable level.

2.5

Despite the problems outlined in Para. 2.4 there was a substantial expansion of residential child care provision during the sixties and early seventies. This expansion was in response to an urgent need for accommodation for an increasing number of children coming into the care of Belfast Welfare Authority. The number of children in care had increased from 465 in 1967 to 586 in 1971 with an increase of 117 children in one year from 31st March, 1968 to 31st March, 1969 - (See letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs 28th May, 1971 under index reference number CI/EB 64). The need for increased residential provision was accentuated by the difficulties of finding suitable foster homes in the City of Belfast. During the late fifties and sixties, 13 children's homes and hostels were developed by Belfast Welfare Authority with places for 159 children. These homes and hostels are listed below -

Brefne Residential Nursery

Bawnmore Boys' Home

Williamson House Children's Home - 446 Antrim Road

Williamson House Children's Home - 448 Antrim Road

Ettaville Hostel for girls over compulsory school age

Kincora Hostel for boys over compulsory school age

Seven Family Group Homes.

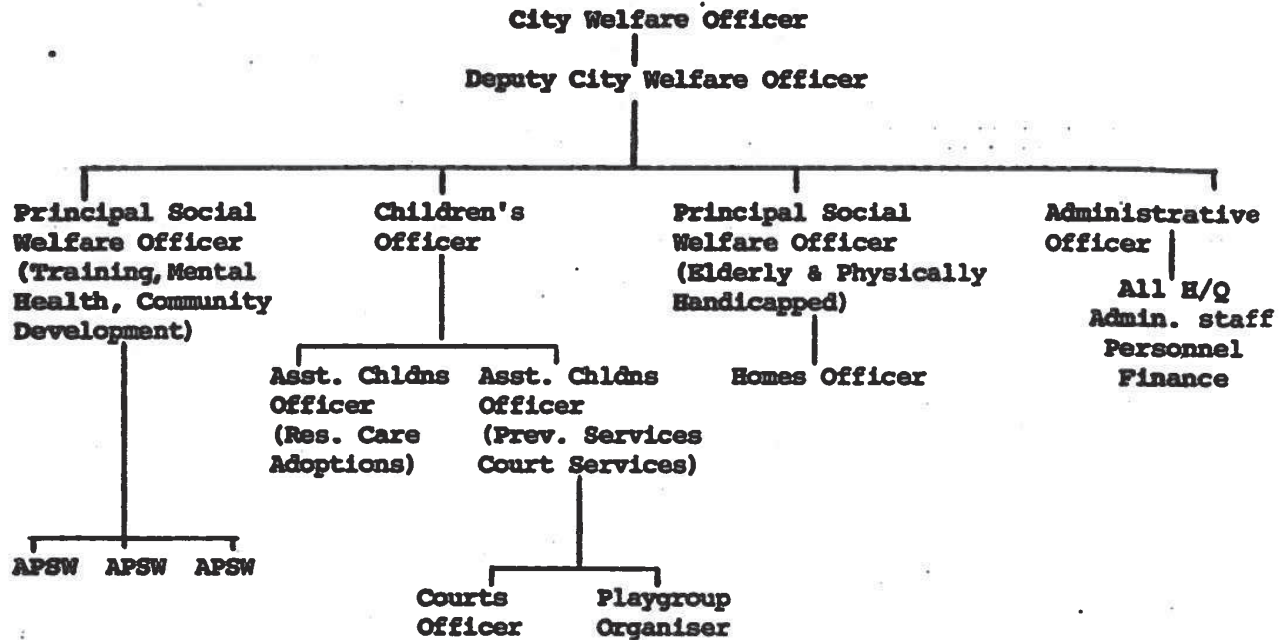
In addition, during 1971 and 1972, Palmerston Residential Assessment Centre, North Road Short Stay Admission Unit, Bawnmore Road Children's Home and Shore House Children's Home were developed and came into operation shortly after the reorganisation of Local Government. These facilities were inherited by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board.

2.6

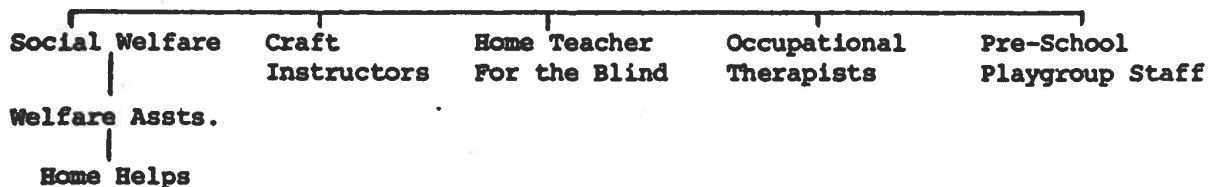
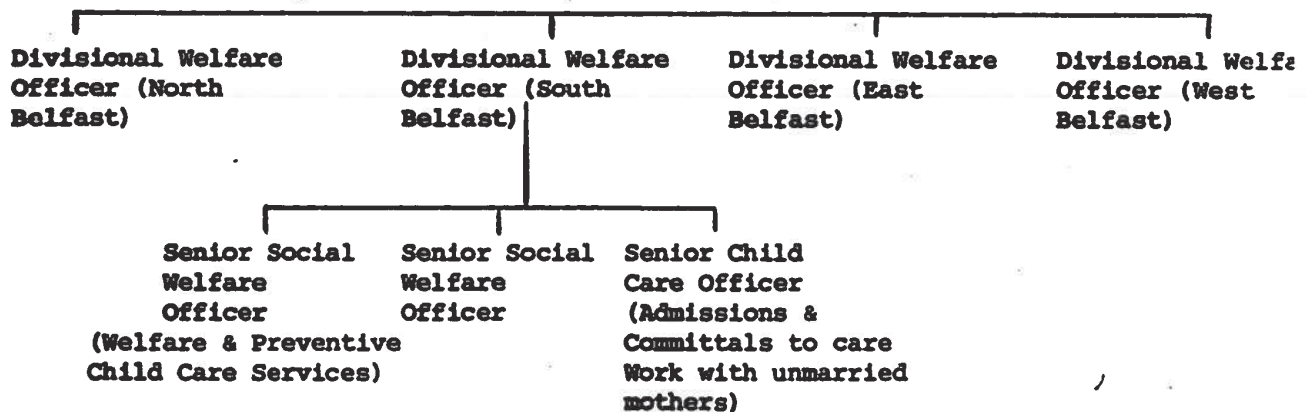
During this period substantial use was made by Belfast Welfare Authority of 10 Voluntary Children's Homes, 7 of which were located inside the City boundary. Most of these homes had a long history of providing residential care for children and some dated back to the late nineteenth century. However, these homes faced similar problems to Belfast Welfare Authority in regard to staffing and, in addition, some were very large establishments with places for over 60 children which made it more difficult to create a warm homely atmosphere.

### 3. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE, STAFFING AND ROLES

3.1 The following diagram shows the organisational structure of Belfast Welfare Department.



**DIVISIONAL STAFF** (In direct line management to Children's Officer and Principal Officers at H/Q)



**RESIDENTIAL HOMES STAFF** (In direct line management to Children's Officer & Principal Officers at H/Q)

Children's Homes & Hostels, Old People's Homes, Hostels for the Mentally Ill

Officer in Charge  
Deputy Houseparents

Asst. Houseparents  
Ancillary Staff.

3.2

During the 1960's there was a move towards a generic role for Social Welfare Officers and they had contact with all client groups requiring services, though their time was spent mainly on family and child care services. For example, Social Welfare Officers were responsible for assessing the need to receive children into care or whether court action was required with a view to applying to Juvenile Court to have children committed to care but decisions in these matters were taken by the Senior staff responsible for supervising the Social Welfare Officers.

In 1967, Belfast Welfare Authority introduced a policy whereby Social Welfare Officers had to keep in regular contact with children following admission to residential care by visiting the child at least monthly. Although this was not required by legislation it was considered to be good child care practice. The role essentially was to be the link between the child in residential care and his parents in the community. It was also to promote rehabilitation of the child with his parents if this was thought to be in his best interests. In addition, it provided the opportunity for fieldwork and residential staff to discuss the child and family and to keep each other up-to-date with developments. The child also had the opportunity to express his views about his care to the Social Welfare Officer.

The implementation of this policy was not without its difficulties in that there was a certain amount of tension between fieldwork and residential child care staff which centred around the planning and decision making in respect of the child. For example, it was usual for the fieldworker to take the view that he had responsibility for deciding when the child should go home on visits etc.

To formalise this policy a three monthly review form was introduced which recorded dates of visits by the Social Welfare Officer to the child and parents (See file under index reference number CI/EB 64). This was not a comprehensive form and the reports tended to become stereotyped.

However, it did represent a considerable initiative at a time when Social Welfare Officers were hard pressed in regard to increases in workloads



due to the development of preventive work with families and services to other client groups.

- 3.3 Although there was no legislative remit for preventive child care work in the 1950 Act, this had become an essential part of the work undertaken by Social Welfare Officers by the mid-sixties in an effort to keep families intact and children out of care. Many Social Welfare Officers, having trained in England, were aware of the 1963 Act and anticipated that similar legislation would follow in Northern Ireland. This duly happened and the Children & Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968 gave legal recognition in Sections 163 & 164 to the importance of preventive work.

This new legislation generated considerable demands on staff from its introduction in March 1969, particularly in regard to formalising liaison arrangements with other departments and introducing procedures for financial and material aid to families. In addition, new preventive services such as Pre-School Playgroups and Family Day Centres were developed.

- 3.4 Although the practitioner staff had moved to a generic role, the most senior management posts for example, Children's Officer, remained specialist and these senior managers were responsible for all the services to a specific client group.

- 3.5 In 1968 the post of Assistant Children's Officer was established to take responsibility for residential child care services and adoption work and to assist the Children's Officer.

- 3.6 The Statutory Rules and Orders No.130 Children & Young Persons Welfare Authorities Homes imposed a requirement, inter alia, for visits to be undertaken by the Children's Officer at least monthly to each Children's Home and for a report to be submitted on these visits to the Welfare Committee. Up until 1968 these visits were undertaken by the Children's Officer but following the appointment of the Assistant Children's Officer, the visits were undertaken by this member of staff, who reported back to the Children's Officer and prepared a report for submission to the Welfare Committee.

3.7 A similar requirement extended to the Welfare Committee members.

Each home had to be visited by a Committee Member on at least a monthly basis and a report made to the Welfare Committee.

3.8 Samples of Belfast Welfare Committee minutes and reports on Children's

Homes are available in the file index reference number CI/EB 69.

**4. POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**4.(a)** Policy and procedures for the provision of residential care.

**4.(a)1** These were based on requirements in legislation i.e. the Children & Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1950 and Statutory Rules & Orders No.130 Children & Young Persons Welfare Authorities Homes. Reference has already been made to these requirements and it will be noted that all provision required the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**4.(a)2** Policy and Procedures were also based on information and knowledge gleaned from various sources such as child care practice and research; special committee reports such as Castle Priory and the Child Welfare Council reports. As a result, policy and procedures tended to be under regular review and subject to change. For example, during the sixties there was a policy of developing small family group homes. However, although these were excellent in theory, they were subsequently found to have considerable operational difficulties and were not the panacea that had initially been expected.

**4.(a)3** However, certain fundamental elements in residential child care have remained constant and are outlined in many reports and in the Paper - "Residential Facilities for Children in Belfast" - See file index reference number CI/EB 64.

To summarise, these are as follows:-

Residential care should -

- (i) be organised to meet the needs of the child and child care goals, not administrative goals;
- (ii) approximate as far as possible to family life in the community;
- (iii) facilitate rehabilitation of the child with parents and should promote relationships between the child and his parents, relatives, friends, etc.

4.(b) Policy and Procedures for the recruitment and selection of staff.

4.(b)1 Recruitment of residential child care staff was by way of public advertisement. There was a standard application form which had to be completed and returned by all applicants for posts. References were taken up from two referees.

4.(b)2 Up until the late sixties prospective employees were interviewed by the Welfare Committee and City Welfare Officer. However, this was changed and senior management staff became responsible for staff selection. The City Welfare Officer recommended the staff selected to the Committee for the final approval of their appointment.

4.(b)3 With this change, the Children's Officer or in his absence, the Assistant Children's Officer, undertook the selection of residential child care staff. In the seventies, the Officer in Charge of the home was also involved in the selection of other care and ancillary staff for the home.

4.(b)4 Successful applicants had to undergo a medical examination before appointment was confirmed.

4.(b)5 Under Section 13 of the Children & Young Persons Welfare Authorities Homes regulations, the Ministry of Home Affairs had to approve the appointment of residential child care staff and under Section 89 of the 1950 Act the appointment of the Children's Officer.

4(c) Policy and Procedures for the monitoring and supervision of children's homes and hostels.

4.(c)1 The Children's Officer was responsible to the City Welfare Officer for the professional supervision of children's homes and hostels and dealt with any disciplinary matters in regard to residential child care staff or concerns about the care of children in the homes and hostels.

4.(c)2 Responsibility for supervising children's homes and hostels in regard to day-to-day management problems and the standard of care being provided was delegated to the Assistant Children's Officer. The Assistant Children's Officer usually visited the homes and hostels on a weekly basis and reported back to the Children's Officer. A file was maintained on each home and hostels.



and a record kept on this file of each visit and any matters which required attention.

- 4.(c)3      Section 5 of the Children & Young Persons Welfare Authorities Homes regulations required homes and hostels to be visited at least once a month by the Children's Officer and a report submitted to the Welfare Committee. This report had to be entered in the minutes of the Welfare Committee.
- 4.(c)4      Section 5 also required homes and hostels to be visited at least once a month by a member of the Welfare Committee who had the responsibility to satisfy himself that the home was "conducted in the interests and well being of the children" and report to the Welfare Committee. These reports were to be entered in the Committee minutes.
- 4.(c)5      Section 8 of the Children & Young Persons Welfare Authorities Homes regulations required the appointment of a Medical Officer for each home to supervise the health of the children and the hygienic condition of the premises. He had to visit the home regularly, usually once a week and examine the children regularly. A medical record had to be maintained for each child at the home.
- 4.(c)6      Social Welfare Officers visited all children in residential care at least once every month. A three monthly report of these visits was completed for every child and submitted to the Children's Officer.
- 4.(c)7      A quarterly return on children in residential care was submitted at the end of each quarter to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 4.(c)8      The Ministry of Home Affairs had Children's Inspectors who exercised the powers conferred in Section 136 of the 1950 Act and inspected children's homes and hostels.

5. CIVIL DISTURBANCE IN BELFAST

5.1 Civil disturbance in Belfast reached serious proportions in August 1969. Following riots, thousands of families were either burned out or were intimidated and had to leave their homes.

5.2 Belfast Welfare Authority staff had to organise and run rest centres for these displaced families; write reports for rehabilitation and compensation grants and for re-housing. These tasks had to be undertaken in addition to the "normal" provision of services and involved staff working overtime and unsocial hours over a long period.

To put this into perspective the population movement which took place in Belfast at this time was the largest in a European country since the Second World War.

5.3 Disturbances continued on an episodic basis during 1970 and 1971.

The most notable of these were as follows -

- (i) Evacuation of a Protestant housing estate in West Belfast during Easter 1970.
- (ii) Serious riots in East Belfast in June, 1970 which resulted in Catholic families leaving their homes.
- (iii) Internment in August 1971 which resulted in serious disturbances in West Belfast and families leaving their homes.

On all these occasions, Belfast Welfare Authority staff had to organise relief services, which considerably affected their capacity to carry out their duties in regard to the provision of welfare and family and child care services.

6. LIST OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS FOR RESIDENTIAL HOMES AND HOSTELS 1960 - 1973

6.1 City Welfare Officer :

Mr. H. Mason 1960 - 1973 - Retired

Deputy City Welfare Officer :

Mr. J. Jackson 1968 - 1973 (Sept.)

Mr. J. Wilson 1964 - 1966 - Resigned

Children's Officers :

Miss E. Brown 1960 - 1967 - Retired

Mr. R. Moore 1967 (Dec.) - 1971 (May) - Resigned to take up appointment  
as Deputy County Welfare Officer  
with Down County Welfare  
Authority

Mr. R. Bunting 1971 (Oct.) - 1973 (Sept.)

Assistant Children's Officer :

Mrs. M. Wilson 1968 - 1973 (Sept.)

6.2 A record of the elected representatives who served on Belfast Welfare  
Committee from 1960 - 1973 may be available at Belfast City Hall.

**PART 2. EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**

**1st October, 1973 to April, 1984.**

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EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD 1ST OCTOBER 1973 TO APRIL 1984**1. STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

1.1 A radical reorganisation of Local Government occurred in 1973 and resulted in the transfer of responsibility for the provision of welfare services including family and child care services, to newly created Health and Social Services Boards. These Boards were established by the then Ministry of Health and Social Services under the Health and Personal Social Services Order 1972 and became operational on 1st October, 1973.

1.2 These Boards, which were established to provide an administrative structure which would integrate health and personal social services, are the agents of the Department of Health and Social Services and receive all their finance from the Department.

1.3 Directions were issued by the Department of Health and Social Services covering the exercise by Health and Social Services Boards of functions regarding the provision of services on behalf of the Department.

1.4 In regard to family and child care services, the relevant direction entitled 'The Functions of Health and Social Services Boards (No.2) Direction (Northern Ireland)' was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs under Article 17(1)(c) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 on 24th September, 1973 with an operative date of 1st October, 1973.

In effect this direction empowered Boards to undertake similar duties and responsibilities for the provision of family and child care services as had been undertaken by the former Welfare Authorities.

1.5 The Children & Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968 remained on the statute book. However, the terminology in the Act was updated with references to Welfare Authorities being removed and replaced by the Department of Health and Social Services.

1.6 The Statutory Rules and Orders No.130 Children and Young Persons Welfare Authorities Homes 1952 regulations were not revised at this time but were subsequently revised by the Department of Health and Social Services

with effect from 1st December, 1975. The wording in the regulations was updated to take account of the new administrative structure and the different legal relationship which now existed between the Department and the Boards compared to that previously existing between the Welfare Authorities and the Ministries of Health and Social Services and Home Affairs.

A significant change was that Committee Members were now required to visit once a quarter instead of once in every month.

## 2. SCALE AND STANDARD OF PROVISION

2.1 On the 1st October, 1973 the Eastern Health and Social Services Board inherited the children's homes and hostels of three former Welfare Authorities, namely, Belfast, Co. Down and Co. Antrim.

In the Co. Antrim part of the Board there was no statutory residential accommodation for children and no plan for any new provision. In Co. Down there were 3 children's homes and 1 hostel for boys and, in Belfast, 9 children's homes and 2 hostels, one for boys and the other for girls. Two of the former Belfast Welfare Authority homes were now in the administrative area of the Northern Health and Social Services Board.

In Belfast there was a Residential Assessment Centre almost ready to become operational. There were also three other homes in the process of having adaptations completed.

In Co. Down there were plans to rebuild Marmion Children's Home and for a new home at Downpatrick.

2.2 The Board also inherited many of the problems inherent at that time in the staffing of children's homes and hostels and already outlined under the submission regarding Belfast Welfare Authority. The first priority at reorganisation was to ensure that the homes continued to operate as smoothly as possible and that children were not adversely affected. Following this, there was a need to agree a strategy for the rationalisation and development of residential child care services.

2.3 The policy and strategy for the provision of residential child care developed in Belfast (See Paper - "Residential Facilities for Children in Belfast" under index reference number CI/EB 64) was discussed with District staff and accepted as the basis for future development.

In addition, policy and procedures were agreed for the use of Palmerston Assessment Centre which, although under the management of East Belfast and Castlereagh District, operated as a Board facility for the assessment of children coming into care on a long stay basis or committed to care.



Also, in regard to the use of the existing children's homes and hostels, was accepted at reorganisation that places would have to be shared between Districts, though attempts would be made to accommodate children as close to the family home as possible, unless there were good reasons why this would not be advisable.

- 2.4 Soon after reorganisation, it became clear that there was an urgent need for additional residential accommodation because of the increasing number of children coming into the care of the Board. It was a regular occurrence to have to put up extra beds in existing homes to accommodate children who had to come into care. Palmerston Assessment Centre became blocked with children as did the short stay Admission Unit. Besides this, children had often to be placed in voluntary children's homes in other Board's areas, considerable distances from their family homes and, on occasions, children of the same family had to be split up between homes. Papers reference number PSSC 15/75 and EB 37/76 in the file index reference number CI/EB 64 outline in some detail the increased need and the policies and strategies agreed to improve and increase residential facilities for children.

Over the 2½ year period surveyed from 1st October, 1973 to 31st March, 1976, there was an overall increase of 95 children in the care of the Board.

This upward trend of children in care continued until the end of 1982 when for the first time there was a drop in the overall numbers by 13 to 1,207 children. At the end of 1983, there was a further decrease to 1,186 children. However, in March, 1974 there were 817 children in the care of the Board and when this is compared with the 1983 figure, there has been an increase of 45% in the number of children in care over a nine year period.

- 2.5 Not only was it evident from the increase in the number of children coming into care but also from the Department's own target norms for the provision of residential accommodation for children, that there was an underprovision in the area of the Board.

As a result, the Department accepted the Board's strategy for the development of additional residential accommodation and identified finance



to enable the Board to proceed to expand provision. In addition, finance made available under the Belfast Areas of Need programme for new residential facilities.

2.6

Personal Social Services staff at Headquarters and District gave priority to the development of new homes and, in addition to the Belfast homes which were in the pipeline, 7 new children's homes and 2 bedsit units have been added to the Board's provision during the period 1974/1983. One of these 7 homes is a short stay admission unit. This expansion has made available an additional 98 places.

During this time a rationalisation of residential child care services was also being carried out. This resulted in the closure of 4 Family Group Homes, 2 Hostels for boys and the Board's only Residential Nursery.

Also during this time, Marmion Children's Home was rebuilt and Terrace Hill Children's Home, which was a Voluntary Home, was acquired by the Board and adapted to better meet the needs of children.

2.7

The Board continued the policy of the former Welfare Authorities of working in close co-operation with Voluntary Children's Homes in regard to residential accommodation and relies very heavily on these homes, with approximately half the children in the Board's care, and in residential accommodation, being cared for in Voluntary Children's Homes. At reorganisation, the Department of Health and Social Services retained the legal responsibility for registering Voluntary Children's Homes and for grant aiding any improvements which involved capital expenditure.

However, the running costs of Voluntary Children's Homes are met by Boards through the payment of an inclusive per capita weekly maintenance charge for the children they placed in the home. This charge is revised annually by the Board in which the home is located. This maintenance charge covers the total cost of running the home less any contribution which the Voluntary Home makes from voluntary funds. Practically all the children cared for in Voluntary Children's Homes are in the care of Boards.

The Department of Health and Social Services and the Board have co-operated with three Voluntary Children's Homes in a reorganisation of these homes to develop a group living system and substantially improve standards. Board staff have also been involved in assisting Voluntary Homes to improve review procedures and the organisation of care and have helped in the selection of staff.

Nevertheless, there remains a problem in the fact that although Boards are the main users of these homes, the Department is responsible as the registering authority for the standard of care they provide. There are also problems for the staff of some Voluntary Homes in regard to professional support and supervision and career and personal development.

2.8

Vacancies began to occur in both Voluntary and Board homes in 1983 and the drop in demand for places over a prolonged period, combined with radical changes in residential care, has resulted in the closure of two Voluntary Homes. The drop in demand for residential care is attributable to a number of factors:

- (i) There has been an improvement in preventive work in the community.
- (ii) There has been a substantial investment in fostering by the Board, particularly over the past six years, which has resulted in an increase in the percentage of children boarded-out from 34% to 42%. There are now very few young children in residential care unless they are part of a family group of siblings.
- (iii) There has been an increase and improvement in rehabilitative work and there are consequently many more children "home on trial" with parents. The percentage has increased from 15% to 25%.

For these reasons long term residential care is now mainly for young people, many of whom are particularly difficult to cope with. Residential care has consequently changed radically since the inception of the Board in 1973.

2.9

Physical standards in homes and hostels have improved considerably to take account of the child's needs for privacy and social and recreational activities. There is also much greater involvement in community activities outside the home. However, the most important determinant in ensuring high quality care is still the staff.

Problems still persist in attracting and retaining staff of high ability despite the fact that salaries and conditions for staff have improved considerably. Boards took the opportunity in 1979, when residential staff salaries were being regraded, to ensure that posts were given the highest grades possible. In addition, annual leave has been increased; the working week has been reduced to 39 hours; there are payments for overtime and staff are no longer required to be resident.

Care staff levels have been improved in that Castle Priory recommended levels have been implemented since reorganisation. However, it is recognised that these recommendations are now dated given the improvement in working conditions and the need for a considerable investment in training for staff in post.

There is no doubt that these improvements have made it easier to attract staff and there are encouraging signs in the last few years that people with a professional qualification in social work are being attracted to residential child care work.

2.10

There has been a considerable investment in the training of residential child care staff in recent years but the percentage of qualified staff is still low at around 27%.

The Certificate of Qualification in Social Work became the accepted professional qualification in social work throughout the United Kingdom in 1971 and, during the seventies, this qualification was available with a residential option. A few residential child care staff have obtained this qualification.

The Certificate in the Residential Care of Children and Young People was phased out in 1979 and replaced by the Certificate in Social Service which is now the approved form of training for residential and day care staff. However, this is not recognised as a professional qualification in social work. This is a 2½ year course and 10 residential child care staff are taking this course at present.

In order to ensure the proper development of this form of training for residential staff the Board appointed six Study Supervisors for the Certificate in Social Service course.

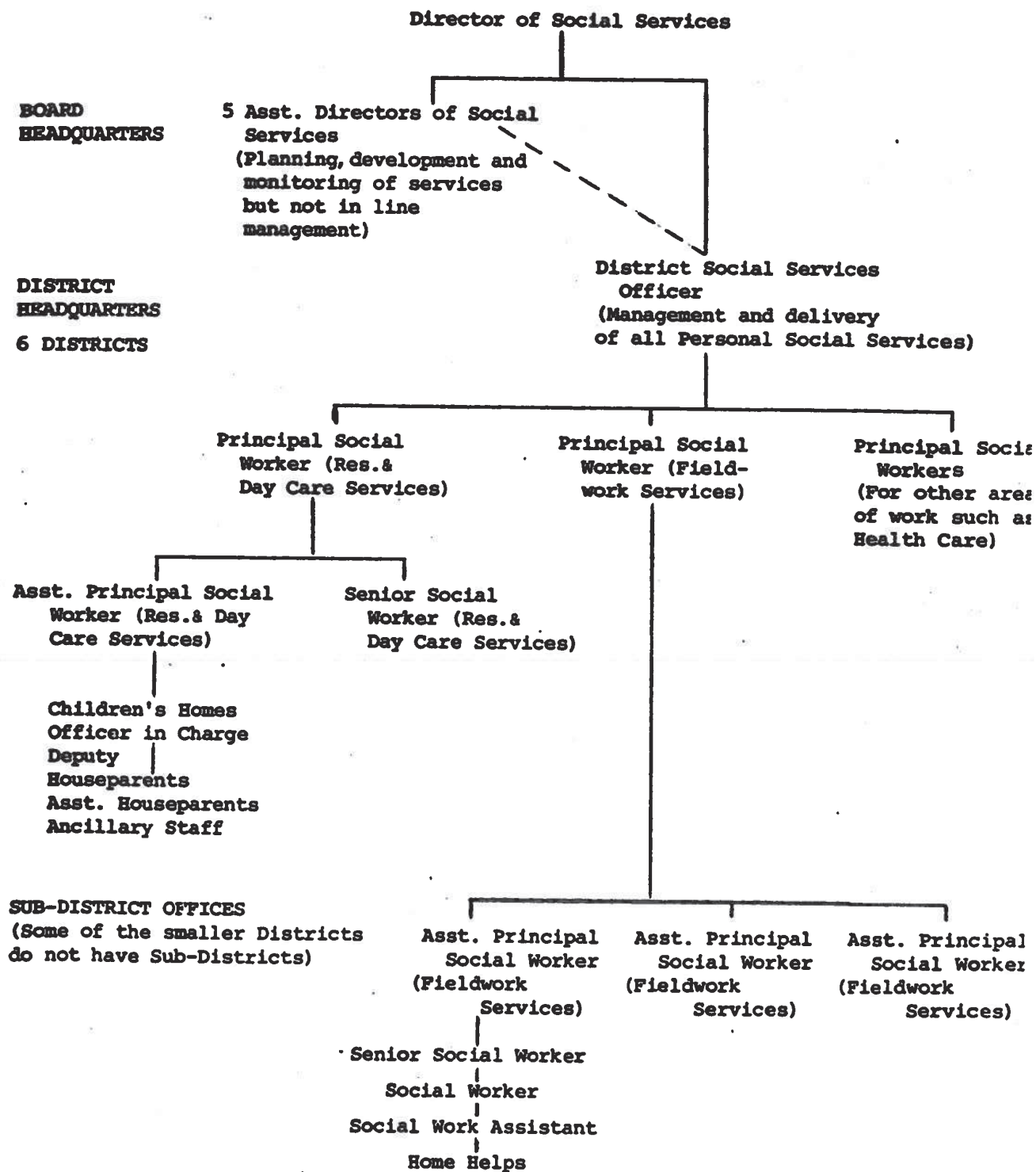
2.11 The Board has a Central Training Unit for Personal Social Services. The staff at this Unit have given priority to arranging in-service training for residential child care staff over the past three years. Much of this in-service training is now done on an "in-house" basis for all the residential child care staff at a particular home.

2.12 The Board has invested considerable resources in planning and developing residential child care services since its inception in 1973. Not only has there been planning on the professional line but a multi-disciplinary Programme Planning Team for the Care of Children & Young Persons was set up in October, 1975 and carried out a comprehensive planning exercise which included consideration of residential child care provision. For the reports from this Team, see file index reference number CI/EB 83.

2.13 A list of the Board's existing residential accommodation for children is available under index reference number CI/EB 84.

### 3. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE, STAFFING AND ROLES

3.1 The following diagram shows the organisational structure of the Personal Social Services Department of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board.





3.2 The integration of hospitals, community health, special care and welfare services in Health and Social Services Boards in 1973 produced an administrative structure which is unique in the United Kingdom.

The period following reorganisation in 1973 was a learning and testing one, particularly for senior staff and was characterised by uncertainty in regard to roles and responsibilities. This was particularly true in the implementation of the concept of corporate management.

Not only were there substantial changes in roles and responsibilities within the Personal Social Services Department but corporate responsibilities had to be clarified.

These matters took years to resolve. Nevertheless, they did not prevent a substantial expansion of all services during the seventies.

3.3 The Eastern Health and Social Services Board is almost equivalent in size to the other three Boards and, in terms of family and child care workloads and services, has about the same as the other three Boards combined.

3.4 The management structure for Personal Social Services was produced by the Department of Health and Social Services for all the Boards. It introduced five levels of management and, by so doing, substantially increased the number of management staff in Personal Social Services compared with the former Welfare Authorities. This had the immediate effect of depleting the number of experienced practitioner staff as the new Senior Social Workers were recruited from this grade of staff. It also exacerbated an already existing problem of insufficient qualified field Social Workers to carry out the day-to-day delivery of services.

3.5 To rectify this deficiency and to try to reach Department recommended target figures for field social work staff, the Board invested considerable finance in recruiting Trainee Social Workers and seconding them for professional training.

Unfortunately, there continued, for many years, to be around one third wastage of field Social Workers each year and it is only in the last few years that the Board has been able to achieve reasonable continuity at this level and attain Department target figures.

This high turnover of staff, due to wastage and training, meant that children who remained in residential care long term had a different Social Worker in contact each year and, in some cases, more frequent changes than that.

3.6 The new management model created by the Department of Health and

Social Services did away with the specialist senior management structure, which had been a feature of the former Welfare Authorities, with a senior manager having responsibility for all the services to a client group.

3.7 Responsibility for the management and delivery of all Personal Social Services is delegated to District Social Services Officers within agreed policy and procedures. The District Social Services Officers have a number of senior and middle managers to assist them in the management and delivery of services.

3.8 In the District, the most senior manager for residential and day care services is either a Principal Social Worker or an Assistant Principal Social Worker.

In the larger Districts, the Principal Social Worker (Residential and Day Care Services) has Assistant Principal Social Workers to assist in the day-to-day management of homes and centres.

Responsibility for supervising and monitoring the children's homes and hostels is undertaken either by a Principal Social Worker or Assistant Principal Social Worker. This member of staff carries out the requirement of the Children's Homes Regulations to visit the home at least monthly.

3.9 Social Workers visit the children in residential care on at least a monthly basis. In the period immediately following reorganisation, staffing shortages in some Districts meant that it was not always possible for this policy to be fully implemented.

Also, since reorganisation, two new pieces of legislation have been introduced which have placed considerable additional demands on field Social Workers. These are the Matrimonial Causes Order and the Domestic Proceedings Order.

Under the former, Personal Social Services staff have to submit a report to the High Court on the welfare of the children of divorcing couples. This is a mandatory duty.

Besides this new legislation, there has been a very substantial increase in identified child abuse cases from 157 in 1977 to 868 at the end of 1983.

Despite these increased demands, Social Workers are expected to prioritise their work to ensure that children in residential care are visited regularly and at least monthly.

3.10 The Board has four Committees, the relevant one for family and child care services being the Personal Social Services Committee. The Committee Members, under the Children's Homes Regulations have a monitoring role in regard to children's homes and hostels and are required to visit at least once every quarter and to report to the Committee.



4. POLICY AND PROCEDURES

4.(a) Policy and Procedures for the provision of residential care

4.(a)1 Basic procedures for child care services were drafted by a Working Group of senior Personal Social Services staff in the months prior to reorganisation (See file index reference number CI/EB 64). These procedures cover, inter alia, admission and committals of children to care and have been implemented in all Districts since reorganisation. A copy of these procedures was made available to the Department of Health and Social Services.

4.(a)2 At reorganisation, the Children & Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968 and Statutory Rules and Orders No.130 Children and Young Persons Welfare Authorities Regulations 1952 were still the legal basis on which policy and procedures for the provision of residential child care were based.

The Statutory Rules and Orders No.130 have since been updated but do not change the legal basis for the provision of homes and hostels.

4.(a)3 The policy and strategy for the provision of residential child care is outlined in various Board Papers. These have already been referred to and are - "Residential Facilities for Children in Belfast" and Papers reference number PSSC/15/75 and EB 37/76. These Papers are available on file index reference number CI/EB 64.

4.(a)4 The Children & Young Persons Review Group set up by Government to report on legislation and services for Children & Young Persons in Northern Ireland, sought comments from the Board on the provision of residential child care services and other child care matters and reported in December, 1979. The Board's written evidence and response to the recommendations of the Review Group is contained in Papers PSSC/11/78 and in a report submitted to the Department of Health and Social Services on 2nd December, 1981 on the resource implications of the recommendations.

These Papers are available on the file index reference number CI/EB 85. In addition, Board representatives gave oral evidence to the Committee to supplement the written submission.

Since 1979, there have been ongoing discussions between Boards and the Department of Health and Social Services on the implementation of the Review Group's recommendations, including residential provision.

- 4.(a)5 The Programme Planning Team for Children & Young Persons considered the need for residential child care provision and made recommendations in its reports to the Area Executive Team. These are available on the file, index reference number CI/EB 83..
- 4.(a)6 A Children's Home Procedural Guide has been available in all Districts since January, 1982. This guide is available in file index reference number CI/EB 64.
- 4.(a)7 The policy and procedures for the provision of residential child care services are kept under regular review to take account of changing needs and trends. The changes which have been taking place in residential child care have already been described and are also outlined in the minutes of a Working Group of Personal Social Services staff set up to identify issues which need to be considered in any reappraisal of staffing levels in residential child care. A copy of these minutes is available on the file, index reference number CI/EB 64.
- 4.(b) Policy and Procedures for the recruitment and selection of staff
- 4.(b)1 The Board implements the policy and procedures outlined in the document "Selection and Appointment Procedures for staff in the Health and Social Services" which were developed and issued by the Northern Ireland Staffs Council for Health and Social Services as part of its functions. A copy of these procedures is available on file, index reference number CI/EB 65. These policy and procedures were issued under cover of a letter from the Department of Health and Social Services on 23rd January, 1974.
- 4.(a)2 Recruitment of staff is by way of public advertisement and circulation within the four Boards and is organised centrally by the Board's Personnel Department.

4.(a)3 Selection of residential child care staff is undertaken at District level by a panel of Personal Social Services staff. The Assistant Director of Social Services (Family & Child Care Services) is a panel member for the appointment of all Officers in Charge of children's homes and hostels, but not for the appointment of staff below this level.

4.(a)4 The panel is usually made up of senior and middle management staff for residential services and for posts below Officer in Charge would usually include the Officer in Charge of the home.

4.(a)5 Ancillary staff for the home are selected by the appropriate functional manager and the Officer in Charge of the home would usually be a panel member.

4.(a)6 The Working Party of senior Personal Social Services staff set up by the Board on 14th December, 1981 to examine the arrangements for the monitoring of residential services to all client groups, submitted a number of suggestions to the Director of Social Services on 27th January, 1982 aimed at improving recruitment and selection procedures as an urgent interim measure. These suggestions are contained in the Report of the Working Party which is available on file, index reference number CI/EB 73.

This submission was taken up with the Department of Health and Social Services during 1982.

4.(b)7 On 21st October, 1983 the Department issued a circular outlining interim modifications of the Selection and Appointment Procedures and arrangements for establishing a Pre-Employment Consultancy Service.

4.(b)8 The Board has agreed procedures for the implementation of these modified selection and appointment procedures for residential child care staff. The Circular and the Board's procedures are available on file, index reference number CI/EB 65.

- 4.(c) Policy and Procedures for the monitoring and supervision of children's homes and hostels.
- 4.(c)1 The monitoring and supervision of children's homes and hostels is the responsibility of the District Social Services Officer for the District in which the home is located. Authority to undertake the supervision of children's homes and hostels is delegated to a senior manager for residential services and this senior manager is responsible to the District Social Services Officer for the exercise of this authority. This officer is either at Principal Social Worker or Assistant Principal Social Worker level. In the larger Districts supervision is usually delegated to an Assistant Principal Social Worker who reports to the Principal Social Worker.
- 4.(c)2 The Personal Social Services manager visits the homes and hostels on a regular basis, usually weekly, and deals with any matters arising from the operation of the home in regard to staff performance or the care of the children. This manager is responsible for meeting the requirement of Section 3(3) of the Conduct of Children's Homes Direction (Northern Ireland) 1975 to visit the home at least once in every month and for submitting a report in writing, through the District Social Services Officer, to the Director of Social Services - A copy of this Direction is available on file, index reference number CI/EB 64.
- 4.(c)3 The Director of Social Services has to bring any matters of concern or interest arising from these reports to the attention of the Personal Social Services Committee. Copies of these reports for homes and hostels identified by the Committee of Inquiry are available on file, index reference number CI/EB 86.
- 4.(c)4 The Officer in Charge of the home supervises the residential child care staff in regard to the performance of their duties in the running of the home and the care of the children.
- 4.(c)5 Under Section 3(2) of the Conduct of Children's Homes Direction 1975 a member of the Personal Social Services Committee is required to visit children's homes at least once in every quarter and to satisfy himself that the home is conducted in the interests of the well being of the children.

In this Board, the Member forwards a written report to the Director of Social Services and this is submitted to the Personal Social Services Committee.

Prior to 1975, homes and hostels were visited by Committee Members on a monthly basis.

A copy of the reports of Committee Members visits to the homes and hostels identified by the Committee of Inquiry is available on file, index reference number CI/EB 69.

4.(c)6 Under Section 5 of the Conduct of Children's Homes Direction 1975 the Board appoints a Medical Officer for each children's home and hostel. This Medical Officer is on a contract to the Board. The duties of this Officer are outlined in Section 5.

4.(c)7 Section 11 of the Conduct of Children's Homes Direction 1975 permits the use of corporal punishment in children's homes. However, this was abolished in the Board's homes with effect from 28th April, 1978. A record of this decision can be found on file, index reference number CI/EB 64.

4.(c)8 The Board took the initiative with the agreement of the Department of Health and Social Services to revise the procedures for the review of progress of children in care. These procedures were revised in April, 1977 and came into operation on 1st August, 1977. A copy of these revised procedures is available on file, index reference number CI/EB 64.

4.(c)9 The Social Worker for the child in residential care visits the child at least once in every month. The Social Worker is expected to act as the link between the child and his parents, relatives and friends. He is also expected to discuss the child's progress with residential staff and to have a say in any individual plans which may be arranged to meet the needs of child in the home. His role is also to relate directly to the child and to be someone outside the home with whom the child can discuss problems and feelings.



4.(c)10 There is a comprehensive review of every child in residential care on at least a six monthly basis. A progress report form is completed for each child.

4.(c)11 Section 168 of the Children & Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968 was amended and empowers the Department of Health and Social Services to inspect children's homes and hostels. In recent years the Social Work Advisory Group of the Department of Health and Social Services has carried out inspections of all the Board's children's homes and hostels with the exception of one recently developed unit of bedsits.

A copy of these reports for the homes and hostels identified by the Committee of Inquiry is available on file, index reference number CI/EB 72.

4.(c)12 The Board implements the "Code of Employment Procedure and Associated Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures" issued by the Department of Health and Social Services on 23rd January, 1974.

A copy of these procedures is available on file, index reference number CI/EB 68.

4.(c)13 The Board implements the "Complaints Procedure", initially issued by the Department of Health and Social Services on 26th March, 1974 and subsequently revised on a number of occasions.

A copy of these procedures is available on file, index reference number CI/EB 87.

4.(c)14 On 12th March, 1980, the Director of Social Services issued for the information of all appropriate staff an agreed procedure to be followed when an allegation of professional misconduct is made against any member of staff in whatever setting. A copy of these procedures is available on file, index reference number CI/EB 64.

4.(c)15 A programme of visits is organised each year for Board Members to Board facilities and children's homes and hostels are included in these visits. A record of visits to children's homes and hostels is available on file index reference number CI/EB 70.

4. (c) 16 District Committee Members undertake visits to facilities and children homes and hostels are included in these visits. A record of visits to children's homes and hostels is available on file, index reference number CI/EB 71.

4. (c) 17 The Royal Ulster Constabulary has carried out investigations at a number of homes and hostels in regard to allegations made against male members of staff employed at these homes and hostels. Board staff have co-operated fully with the Royal Ulster Constabulary in these investigations, but the Board does not have the Police reports on these investigations.

4. (c) 18 Following the convictions of male members of residential staff for homosexual offences against boys in care, a number of initiatives have been taken by the Department of Health and Social Services and the Board in an attempt to improve residential child care services for children and young persons and to try to ensure that children in care are not abused in any way.

These are as follows -

- (i) Department of Health and Social Security (London) Report on "Homes and Hostels for Children & Young People" issued November 1982.
- (ii) Circular on "Monitoring of Residential Child Care Services" - issued 21st October, 1983.
- (iii) Circular on "Interim Modification of the Selection and Appointment Procedures and Arrangements for Establishing a Pre-Employment Consultancy Service" issued on 21st October, 1983.
- (iv) Consultative Paper on "A Complaints Procedure for children in Residential Care and their Parents" issued on 25th October, 1983.

These Reports and the Board's responses to them are available on files, index reference numbers CI/EB 62 & CI/EB 65.

- (v) The Board's Working Party Report on "The Monitoring Arrangements for Residential Homes" issued February, 1983.

This Report and the action already taken and ongoing is available on file, index reference number CI/EB 73.

5. LIST OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS FOR RESIDENTIAL HOMES AND HOSTELS 1973 -  
TO DATE

5.1 Director of Social Services :

Mr. E.S. Gilliland

Assistant Director of Social Services :

Mr. R.J. Bunting

5.2 The list of responsible officials at District level for the homes and Districts identified by the Committee of Inquiry are available on files, index reference numbers CI/EB79 and CI/EB 80.

5.3 The list of members of the Personal Social Services Committee of the Board are available on file, index reference number CI/EB 89.



**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 2**

MEMORANDUM

CITY AND COUNTY BOROUGH OF BELFAST  
WELFARE DEPT.



LONDONDERRY HOUSE  
21-27 CHICHESTER STREET.

From Children's Officer

Ref. CO/HR

To Senior Staff - Children's Homes

Date 15th August 1972

re Proposed changes in Residential  
Facilities for children

Please find enclosed a copy of a report which I submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the above. Mr. Mason and myself then met Ministry representatives and discussed these proposals which they accepted. However we stressed, that I would have to have a meeting with Senior Homes Staff to get their views before any final decisions could be made regarding proposed changes. It was possible however to go ahead with regrading the Children's Homes from Group 3 to Group 2 Homes and this enabled us to also regrade the salaries of Senior Homes Staff. This regrading has been approved by the Committee and the Ministry though there was a slight pruning of my original proposals for salaries for Senior Staff. However in most cases it has meant considerable increases and I am hopeful that we might be able to improve these further. It was unfortunately not possible to alter the salaries of the Housefathers/Housemothers as we had to base the recommendations on the most recent circular No. 236 issued by the National Joint Council which relates to salary scales and grades. This circular does not provide for increases for Houseparents though it was possible to change the Grade from Grade 2 to Grade 1.

In Brafne there is an anomaly in that the Matron and Senior Assistant Matron are on Whitley Scales consequently proposals for Brafne staff salaries will have to be dealt with separately.

I would like at this stage however to have a meeting about the proposed changes in the system of caring for children. I would be grateful if you would discuss the proposals with your staff and would like the member of staff in charge of each Home and Deputy to attend a meeting in the Conference Room at Londonderry House on 30th August at 10.00 a.m. to put forward your views. Would you please let me know if you will be able to attend.

*Robert Bunting*  
Children's Officer

RB/JCR



**MEMORANDUM****CITY AND COUNTY BOROUGH OF BELFAST****WELFARE DEPT.****LONDONDERRY HOUSE****21-27 CHICHESTER STREET.**From Children's Officer

Ref \_\_\_\_\_

To D.V.O s, S.S.W s, S.C.C.O sDate 21st August, 1972.re Residential Facilities for Children

Please find enclosed for your information copies of a report which I submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs recommending changes and improvements in our residential provision for children. Mr. Mason and myself then met Mr. Sterling, Mr. Irvine and Miss Forrest, Ministry of Home Affairs to discuss these proposals and they agreed to the implementation of these recommendations.

Since that time it has been possible to change the grouping of the Homes from Group 3 to Group 2 and this enabled us to regrade Senior Home Staff's salaries. These regradings have gone through though they were pruned a little from my original recommendations.

I have arranged a meeting on 31st August at 10.00 a.m. in the Conference Room at Londonderry House to discuss with Senior Homes Staff the implementation of the new system and problems associated with it. Changes will of course have to take place gradually over a period of months. Any Senior Staff from the Divisions who would like to attend this meeting are welcome to do so.

The Establishment of a Community Homes System should mean considerable improvements in our residential facilities for children. I would of course be grateful for any constructive suggestions you would like to make regarding these proposed changes.

Children's Officer.

RB/JH.



Our Ref: CO/RD

4th May 1972

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed copies of a report by Mr. Bunting, Children's Officer, on the residential facilities for children in Belfast at present and recommendations for improvements. I would be grateful if this report could be used as a basis for discussion with Miss Forrest, Miss Hill and Mr. Sterling as soon as possible.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding a convenient time for this discussion.

Yours faithfully,

City Welfare Officer.

RB

The Secretary,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
Dundonald House,  
Upper Newtownards Road,  
BELFAST BT4 3SP

RD/HK

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN IN BELFAST

It is perhaps stating the obvious to say that residential care of children must be based on the needs of the child. However it is only in recent years through the research of Nowlby, Ainsworth etc. that we have become aware of the emotional dangers to children who are accommodated in Homes which are not organised to meet the needs of the child. These dangers are still very much with us because of the deficiencies in some of our residential provision.

Needs are usually categorised into emotional, physical social recreational and educational though there is an obvious inter-relationship. Within these broad areas through relationships with other individuals both children and adults the child develops his personality. In the residential setting the child must therefore be respected as an individual. He must have scope to develop his own interests and initiative and a sense of personal identity. He must have the opportunity for personal privacy and be able to maintain links with his family, friends and the wider Community organisations. King and Tizard in their book "Patterns of Residential Care" have emphasised the main problems of residential care as being depersonalisation, undue conformity and dependence and alienation from family and local community. Obviously this does not apply to all residential facilities though it would be difficult for anyone who has had experience in the residential setting to deny that dangers such as these exist in residential care. Also to put residential facilities in their proper perspective there are rewards which most people have seen such as welcome relief from a very stressful and perhaps damaging family situation and the creation in the child of the capacity to deal with problems on their own. It is not the object of this report to condemn Homes or individuals but rather to stress present thinking on residential care and to try to apply it to a reorganisation of our present facilities and the development of new ones.

From what has been said about children's needs and the deficiencies of some residential settings one of the cardinal principles is that facilities and staff must be geared to meeting child care goals and not administrative goals. There is no justification in the light of our present knowledge to have a home geared to the latter. It may look good to the superficial observer in that everything is well organised and in place but by its very nature it is conformist and depersonalising and as such is positively damaging to the child.

Improvements in residential facilities will be beneficial not only to the child but to residential staff and field staff as well and may well improve relationships between residential staff and field staff. For too long residential staff have been the poor relations in social work. The invaluable job which they are doing needs to be recognised. Selection training and qualifications need to be improved considerably. There should be an adequate salary for the job. The physical condition of the Homes in which they work also needs to be improved to not only meet the needs of the child but to recognise that staff have needs as well which should be catered for by adequate living in conditions and sufficient time off.

These are the root causes of present difficulties and deficiencies as I see them. Radical changes cannot be made overnight but a start will have to be made now.

\* Peter Righton perhaps one of the most capable residential workers in the U.K. feels that many Social Workers regard residential care as a last resort. He emphasises that residential care should be seen as a continuum within Social Work. Admission to Care should be made because the needs of the child will best be met by such care and not by any other intervention. The boundaries in the residential care setting should be

\* 

RJB 12/8/14

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- 2 -

permeable to allow relationships between child/parent/teacher/friend<sup>2</sup>/relatives etc and there should be the planned and simultaneous intervention necessary in other aspects of the child's life with a view to rehabilitation. I am sure that most people both in residential care and field work would endorse these views. They may perhaps be seen as idealistic but it is important to keep the ideal before us and we have in recent years been trying to work along these lines though somewhat inadequately given poor facilities turnover of staff etc.

In Belfast to put these principles into practice we have to begin with the children in our care at present. We have 586 children in care. Two thirds of these are in care long term. I feel it is important to deal with the long term and short term children separately though recognising that child care principles apply equally to both. Six months in Care is taken as the convenient dividing line between short term and long term. However as we all know considerable damage can be done to a child in six months if needs are unmet. Long term and short term children should be kept separate. It is upsetting to children in care long term seeing other children come and go continually while they have to remain. Also with long term and short term children together relationships tend to be fleeting and superficial.

The Admission Unit which we hope to have established by early 1975 will help considerably with the problem of short term admissions. It will be possible to keep family groups of children together which will counteract the harmful effects of separation. There will be a reasonable staff ratio and both male and female staff. The Admission Unit being in Belfast will also facilitate contact with the child's own home, relatives and friends. As we also have the use of the Short Term Admission Unit at Thorndale House we should not be forced into the situation of having to use Children's Homes in outlying counties.

I feel that the Short Term Admission Unit should be categorised as a Group 2 - Home with an Officer in Charge, Salary Grade 5. This type of care is very demanding on residential Staff as children are usually upset on admission and need a lot of attention and reassurance. It would also help considerably if this provision could be brought forward.

The provision of Temporary Foster Homes is also expanding and in many cases these can be used for Short Term Admissions.

We have almost 400 children in our care long term. 196 of these have been committed to our care by Juvenile Court. The reason for committal is it is non attendance at school, stealing etc is usually only one symptom of general problems with the child and family.

178 of the children in our care long term are in Foster Homes in Belfast and the Counties. It has proved difficult to recruit Foster Parents in the Belfast area. It is usually more difficult to recruit Foster Parents in an urban area because of the increased job opportunity for women. With the recent civil unrest which has tended to concentrate on Belfast this has been even more difficult. We have however been trying to increase this form of care for children by advertising for homes for specific children at Divisional level after a comprehensive assessment of the child's needs. The response has been encouraging though most of the replies have been from Antrim and Down. We have been able to board out 16 children over the past six months. We try to board the children out as close to Belfast as possible to facilitate contact with parents relatives and friends. I feel however that we should meet the cost of at least weekly visits by parents to their children where they are boarded-out outside Belfast.

/...

- 3 -

The remaining 222 children in our care long term are accommodated in Statutory and Voluntary Children Homes in Belfast and the Counties. We have seven children in County Homes. It would seem advisable to accommodate these children in Belfast, if we could provided that we are not breaking good relationships and some useful purpose such as better contact with parents can be served by the move.

178 of our children are in Voluntary Homes. The Cottage Home System, Rubane, Kircubbin is an improvement on past facilities though one would like to see it used as a mixed home. The other Catholic Voluntary Homes such as St. Joseph's, Nazareth Lodge and Nazareth House give considerable cause for concern as far as Child Care practice goes.

The 1969 Children and Young Persons Act in England brought about changes in the ways children were selected for residential facilities and in the form these facilities should take. Residential facilities are now incorporated in a Community Homes System. There will of course be a great variety in the size and type of Community Home to meet the differing needs of children in relation to their background and casual factors. I feel that we should be developing along these lines.

Our Reception and Assessment Centre should open early in 1973. It would be part of such a system in that one cannot decide on the best form of care and treatment without effective assessment of need. It will be possible to accommodate 15 children in the Centre - Assessment should usually be completed within six weeks. Psychiatric and Psychological facilities will be available in the assessment process and a Social Worker will be attached to the Centre. Although there will not be educational provision on the premises it might be possible to have special classes if necessary. In any case the Reception Centre should be regarded as a Group I Home. The Superintendent should be on the Salary Scale, Grade 7 last five points on the Scale. It will be difficult staffing the centre and this salary may attract Staff of sufficient calibre.

Brefne Nursery - There are at present 27 children accommodated in the Nursery long term with places for 44. One child is Special Care, five are of low I.Q and will require special schooling, three are handicapped. There must obviously be adequate safeguards from the health point of view particularly with babies and young children. However the size of the Nursery is such that it has an institutional appearance. Following the abundant research on residential nurseries we are of course very much aware of the dangers of institutionalisation. Certain safeguards are employed to counteract this - The children are organized in groups with the same Nursery Nurse and Assistant looking after them each day. However there is a lack of staff continuity particularly at Nursery Assistant level and this is confusing for the children. Also there are no male Staff involved in the caring process so the children do not have a chance to identify with a father substitute.

It should be possible to cater for children aged two years and over in the small Community Home. This would drastically reduce the Nursery in size.

Another alternative would be to divide the Nursery in two with the possibility of employing Housefather Assistants. However it would probably be almost impossible to attract Housefathers to this sort of setting so the former solution might be best.

In any event a Nursery should provide for assessment and detailed observation of young children. Many of the long term children have been neglected or rejected by their parents or mother. They include children who are physically and/or mentally handicapped. They also include children whose mothers have decided that it is in the children's best interests to have them adopted.

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- 4 -

The grading of the Nursery should recognise these functions and it should be included in Group 2 (I). Depending on the size of the Nursery the Salary Scale of the person would be Grade 7, 6 or 5. The Senior Assistant Matron would be correspondingly Grade 5, 4 or 3. Bawnmore Boys' Home - Caters at present for 28 boys 77 of whom are there long term. Fourteen of these have been committed to our care by Juvenile Court. Three of the boys are E.S.N. one is special care. four present behaviour problems one is severely disturbed and one has to have special schooling at Cedar Lodge.

Facilities at Bawnmore have been most inadequate and the staff have been working under considerable difficulty for years. Plans are being drawn up at present for a completely new Home which will incorporate most of the recommendations laid down in the Community Home Design Guide. The new Home will be made up of three separate wings or houses which will be connected to each other. There will be a communal indoor games area. There will be male and female staff in the houses which will cater for twelve children each. The standards of living accommodation for both staff and children will be excellent. The Home will be adaptable and can be used as a mixed sex home. Personally I would prefer to see both boys and girls accommodated together in a Home.

This new Home will not be available until 1975. In the meantime we are trying to improve facilities at Bawnmore. This new Home should be brought forward as much as possible as an urgent measure.

It will probably always be necessary to accommodate children who are not severely disturbed but are presenting some behaviour problems in the Community Homes, provided that the number of difficult children does not become too large in any one Home. Bawnmore has for years dealt with difficult boys committed to our care by Juvenile Court. There has usually been at least half a dozen difficult boys and sometimes it has run into double figures. Dr. McAuley Child Psychiatrist is in regular attendance. The new Home will have its quota of difficult children as well. Bawnmore at present should be regarded as a Group 2 (III) Home. This grading should - also apply to the new Home. The Salary Scale of the Superintendent should be Grade 6, 4th - 8th point on the Scale. Assistant Superintendent would be Grade 4.

#### Williamson House 446 and 448 -

Both these Homes cater for 15 children each. Both are mixed Homes and have their share of children with Special needs particularly education wise. Staff accommodation is not good and one would have to reduce the number of children to 12 in each Home and the number of staff resident to effect an improvement. This would involve finding places for six children in another Home. One of the big drawbacks is that there is no male staff in either 446 or 448. If possible male staff should be recruited to these Homes. Another deficiency in the present system is that 446 and 448 are seen as transitional stages in the care of a child between Brafne and Bawnmore - Kincora in the case of boys and Brafne - Ettaville in the case of girls. A child can go from Brafne - to Williamson House to Bawnmore to Kincora Hotel which is to be deplored. There is something radically wrong with a system which allows this to happen. A Community Home should cater for the child from early years up to adulthood if necessary. It should provide a permanent home for a child and continuity of relationships if possible. One would of course always be working with rehabilitation to the family in mind.

Both 446 and 448 should be reorganised along these lines catering for both boys and girls. The Homes should be regarded as a Group 2 Home. The Senior Housemothers should be regraded Officer in Charge. Salary Scale Grade 5.

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- 5 -

Kinsora and Ettaville

Both these Hostels have had to deal with difficult adolescents. The Community Homes should care for adolescents in that there would be a wide age range from young child to adolescent. There will still be a need for a Hostel. It could be a mixed Hostel for adolescents who wish to assert their independence or are difficult to cope with. The maximum number should be about 12. The staff would have to be very well qualified and experienced. A husband/wife team would be best otherwise male and female staff would be necessary. There would have to be adequate safeguards for staff such as proper time off etc. either Hostel might be adapted for this purpose. The other Hostel could be used as a Community Home for 12 children. The mixed Hostel would be regarded as a group 2 Home. Salary Scale for the Officer in Charge would be Grade 5 last five points on the Scale - Deputy should be Grade 3 last five points. At the present time until such an arrangement could be put into practice the two Hostels should be regarded as Group 2 Homes. Salary Scale 5.

Family Group Homes -

The Family Group Homes though excellent in theory from the Child Care point of view have not really worked out in practice. It has usually not been possible to get a suitable husband and wife team. In many cases we have been left with a single woman in charge and there has been no male influence in the Home. Also when the Houseparents or Housemothers have left it has meant a complete disruption in the continuity of care which has been very upsetting for the children.

It would seem best therefore to assimilate the children in the Family Group Homes into the Community Homes. This will have to be achieved with the Benview Homes in the immediate future because of the environmental problems in Benview at present combined with staff resignations and an inability to secure replacements.

Monagh Parade has closed as the Houseparents have given up the job and the children from Morglen Parade had to be moved to a new home in Rathcoole at 49 Mournebeg Drive. Ballysillan and Tyndale Park, are still functioning and could be allowed to phase themselves out gradually.

Allowing for the adaptation of our present Homes to a Community Homes system and the implementation of the recommendations. I have suggested we would need to establish three new Community Homes catering for 12 children each. The number of children in care has been increasing each year even allowing for the increased prevention and rehabilitative work we have been doing. We are now coping with over 1100 families throughout Belfast, and will be expanding preventative provisions such as Area Housemothers and Pre-School Playgroups. One would therefore have to keep facilities under constant review. However with a small Community Homes System it would be easier to increase provisions.

I would also suggest that in any reorganization the Salaries and conditions of Housemothers/Housefathers and Assistants should be looked at with a view to an increase in salaries from a responsibility point of view particularly as most Homes would have a quota of children with special problems and difficulties. Also a reasonable staff/child ratio would have to be maintained. Apart from finance one of the major difficulties would be to recruit staff for the Homes. At present it is practically impossible to recruit suitable staff. Better salaries and conditions might help.

/...



- 6 -

We would also need in Belfast a small long term Treatment Unit for the more severely disturbed children who could not be maintained in the Community Home. Dr. Nelson's Unit at Lissue House is a step forward but it is mainly for diagnostic purposes and short term treatment. A long Term Unit would need very good staff. It should be regarded as a Group I Home with staff salary on the Grade 7 Scale last five points. These would also have to be a high Staff/Child ratio with male and female staff and possibly education on the premises. There would have to be very good psychiatric back up for such a Unit.

These are suggestions and recommendations which are obviously only for discussion purposes. There would have to be discussions with both residential and field staff before any hard conclusions could be reached. I think that most people will agree that the present system is far from adequate and changes will have to be made as soon as possible. A rough estimate for the reorganisation and regrading of our present Homes and the development of new Homes would be £100,000. This is not allowing for the new Home at Bawnmore which would cost £120,000 or the long Term Unit for disturbed children.

R. J. B. Bunting  
Children's Officer.

4TH MAY 1972

Aileen P. B. B. B.

19.6.72

40

D. L. Sill: Boys' Home,  
Kilvubbin,  
Newtownards, BT22 1AJ  
Co. Down.  
25.7.1980

Docr [REDACTED]

Recently it has been brought to my notice by the School and Residential staff here in Rubane that the present arrangements for Social Workers visiting boys are unsatisfactory and leading to a certain amount of confusion and misunderstanding. The problems seem to arise as a result of some Social Workers making arrangements to see boys in their cars or in the school without any reference to the Manager or the person in charge of the home at that particular time. To avoid any further misunderstandings, I would like the following procedures to be adopted:

1. All communications with the Home should be addressed to the Manager or his Deputy.
2. Appointments to see boys should be made with the Central Office and Social Workers should report there in the first instance. Interviews should normally be conducted in the Administration building, in the room provided.
3. The Manager should be kept informed of any arrangements being made for an individual boy's future and with anything that concerns his welfare generally.
4. The normal time for conducting interviews with boys will be after school 3.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Thanking you for your help and co-operation in this matter and trusting that these arrangements will prove satisfactory for all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

BR 2

ADDS DISTRICT	
E.R. SOCIAL SERVICE	
ASS.	G.A.O.
Mr. D. [redacted]	Sen. [redacted]
ADDS.	Secy
- 3 SEP 1980	
Mr. [redacted]	Act.
Mr. [redacted]	Mr. [redacted]

**District Social Services Officer**



EASTERN HEALTH &amp; SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD, NORTH DOWN &amp; ARDS DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

From L. Stewart, P.S.W.

To Mr. J. Fulton, D.S.S.O.

Ref. LS/J8

Ref. 12th August, 1980.

Social Worker Visiting De La Salle Boys' Home

This item was discussed briefly at the Team Leaders meeting. As might be expected the recommendations put forwarded by [REDACTED] are seen as unhelpful. The following problems have arisen:-

BR 2

- (1) even when a prior appointment has been made with the manager of the home social workers have sometimes had difficulty in locating him or there is a delay before the boy appears.
- (2) interviews in the room in the administration building are likely to be stilted and formal. Preference would be to see the boy in his usual environment which is less formal, i.e., chalet.
- (3) it is essential that social workers should communicate directly with house-parents as well as the manager of the home in order to share day to day details about the management of the boy and his home circumstances. Obviously there needs to be good communication between the social worker, the manager of the home and the houseparents and each with each other.

*L. A. Stewart*  
L. A. Stewart (Miss)  
Principal Social Worker



**EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**

**NORTH AND WEST BELFAST DISTRICT**

# MEMORANDUM

From **Mr. H. Blair, P.S.N.**

To **Mr. R. Bunting, A.D.S.S.**  
65 University Street, Belfast 7.

Ref. RE/1010.

Ret.

**14th August, 1980.**

re: Children in Care -  
De la Salle Boys' Home

I wish to draw your attention to the attached letter forwarded by [REDACTED] BR 2 to the social work staff in this District. We would certainly agree it should be common courtesy to ensure that any member of staff who visits the Home would make their presence known to the central office. However, in terms of qualitative child care I would be concerned about a couple of the points that [REDACTED] BR 2 makes in his letter.

The apparent insistence that contact between Social Worker and child should take place in a formal setting in an administrative building seems to me to be unacceptable from the concept of developing a relationship with a child. Social Workers should not be restricted in any way from interviewing the boy in more conducive settings, and especially in a meaningful relationship to be able to share with the boy in his own chalet or a meal, etc. would appear to me to be very important. To adopt the suggested policy would be a retrograde step against the practice we have attempted to develop in the past few years.

The other point that concerns me is that all communications should be addressed to the Manager or his Deputy. I would hope that if the boy or the Social Worker choose to write to each other this should not be interfered with by management staff.

Some of the staff in the District are concerned about the inferences in the letter and I would be grateful to know your feelings on this at your earliest convenience.

R. Blair  
Principal Social Worker

FBI SOCIAL SERVICES

J.B. [Signature]

Mira  
Jernell

18 AUG 1980

Act  
File

FBI  
Social Services

Copy to each D.S.S.O.

BR 2

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Rubane House,  
Kircubbin,  
NEWTOWNARDS,  
Co. Down.

RJB/KL

11th September, 1980.

Dear

BR 2

I have tried unsuccessfully to contact you by telephone and have been informed that you are on leave until the end of the month. Your letter of 25th July, 1980 which you sent to District staff regarding visiting arrangements by Social Workers and communication between Social Workers and boys has been brought to my attention.

While wishing to co-operate as fully as possible with De La Salle Boys' Home staff there are some recommendations in the letter which would cause me concern and I would be grateful if you could contact me as soon as possible to discuss these.

Yours sincerely,

TJB

Assistant Director of Social Services

COPY TO EACH D.S.S.O.

BR 2

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Rubano House,  
Kircubbin,  
NEWTOWNARDS,  
Co. Down.

RJB/KL

18th September, 1980.

Dear

BR 2

Further to our discussion on 18th September, 1980 I am writing to confirm that you accept, as we do, the need for informality and spontaneity in developing and maintaining a relationship with the boys. You consequently have no objection to a Social Worker seeing a boy in his chalet or going for a walk in the grounds or taking a boy out for a drive. The room in the Administration Building can be used to interview boys who are accommodated in the main building if privacy is essential. It is also accepted that a Social Worker may, when appropriate, write personally to a boy.

We agree completely with your objective of ensuring that you are kept informed by Social Workers of visits they will be making and any issues which affect the well being of the boys. We would certainly wish to ensure that there is good communication between Social Workers and residential staff. There is also a need for Social Workers to confirm with you that the boy will be there at the time they intend to visit and that during school term it is not appropriate for Social Workers to visit before the end of the school day at 3.30 p.m. unless there are exceptional circumstances.

There is a need to improve standards in the care of children of which contact by Social Workers is a vital part and we look forward to working with you to this end.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. R. J. Bunting,  
Assistant Director of Social Services



**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 3**

## CHILDREN - IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

## 3 - MONTHLY REVIEW

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Care Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ School attended / Employment: \* \_\_\_\_\_

Date of admission to care: \_\_\_\_\_ Section under which admitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for admission (be specific): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How accommodated during period in care:

Place	Period

Report

Dates of visits to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of interviews with parents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Divisional Welfare Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Welfare Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Delete whichever is inapplicable

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 4**



BELFAST

Welfare Committee, Monday, 14th May, 1973.

535

Maintenance Charges - Voluntary Homes:

The City Welfare Officer reported that the Northern Ireland Association of County and County Borough Welfare Committees had recommended the undernoted increase in charges:-

Marianville - Mothers - from £6.50 to £7.50 per week w.e.f. 1.1.73

Mother & Baby - from £7.50 to £9.00 per week w.e.f. 1.1.73

St. Joseph's Babies Home - from £8.25 to £11.50 per week w.e.f. 1.1.73  
Termonbhacca

De la Salle Boys' Home - from £14.00 to £17.00 per week w.e.f. 1.9.72  
Kilnabilla

Hopedale Hostel - from £7.00 to £14.00 per week w.e.f. 1.1.73

Roseville Hostel - from £4.00 to £5.00 per week w.e.f. 1.6.72  
- from £5.00 to £6.00 per week w.e.f. 1.1.73

Good Shepherd Convent - from £7.50 to £11.50 per week w.e.f. 1.1.73  
(Adolescent Centre)  
Oranau Road (inclusive of clothing)

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Funeral Expenses:

The Committee authorised the payment of a grant of £27 towards expenses incurred in respect of the late [REDACTED]

Mini-buses:

The City Welfare Officer requested authority to invite tenders by public advertisement for the supply of five mini-buses (one with lift), three of which were to replace existing vehicles which were no longer fit for full time service and the other two required because of the expansion of services to the elderly and handicapped. He recommended that the three buses which were to be replaced be retained as standby vehicles for use when those in regular use were temporarily out of commission. He stated that the existing standby bus was no longer fit for even limited use and recommended that it be disposed of either as a part exchange in the purchase of new vehicles or as a separate sale. It was anticipated that the total expenditure involved would be approximately £8,500.

The Committee granted the authority requested, and adopted the recommendations subject to the Finance Committee's reporting on the proposal from a financial aspect.

Handicapped Persons:

The City Welfare Officer reported that [REDACTED] a registered blind person of [REDACTED] had completed his training in the Workshops for the Blind and approval had been given by the Ministry of Health and Social Services for him to be employed as an approved worker from 25th April, 1973.

Noted.

The City Welfare Officer recommended payment of the undernoted grants:

1. £792 towards the total expenditure of £677.75 in connection with the outings organised on behalf of those attending Day Centres and Classes in East Division.
2. £100 towards the total cost of £202 in respect of the outings organised on behalf of the registered handicapped persons attending the Joss Cardwell Centre.
3. £310.95 towards the total expenditure of £665.90 in respect of two outings in West Division on 22nd and 25th May for 240 aged and handicapped persons.



B2-101

Welfare Committee, Tuesday, 26th September, 1972.

463

He reported that school clothing, costing £18.04, had been purchased by Antrim County Welfare Authority for [REDACTED] boarded out with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] this amount. He recommended that that Authority be reimbursed.

The recommendation was adopted.

The Deputy City Welfare Officer reported that [REDACTED] boarded out with [REDACTED] last with them in Dagenham and had also attended a Scout Camp in Lincolnshire in July last. Grants of £11.55 towards the holiday and £16 towards the camp had been made by Antrim County Welfare Authority and it was recommended that they be reimbursed these amounts.

The recommendation was adopted.

The Deputy City Welfare Officer referred to minutes of 31st August last and requested authority to pay the sum of £15 in respect of a Correspondence Course for [REDACTED] committed to the care of this Committee under Section 95 of the Children and Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1968 and placed in Good Shepherd Convent, Newry, and also to pay her school fees for night classes in Newry Technical College.

The authority sought was granted.

#### De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin:

The Committee were informed that the Association of Welfare Committees at their meeting on 28th February, 1972 had decided, in regard to the question of boys who were accommodated in De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin and in respect of whom no contributions were being paid, that the matter of the maintenance of the boys be considered by the Welfare Committee in whose area the boys would appear to have ordinary residence qualifications. The Deputy City Welfare Officer submitted an application from the Home to this Committee to accept the following boys into care with effect from 1st June, 1972 and recommended that the Committee accede to the request. He explained that these boys had originally been accepted by De La Salle Boys' Home on a voluntary basis.

[REDACTED]	De La Salle Boys' Home
[REDACTED]	" " " "
KIN 245	" " " "
[REDACTED]	" " " "
[REDACTED]	In lodgings -
[REDACTED]	" " -
NL 6	" " -
[REDACTED]	" " -
[REDACTED]	" " -
HIA 36	" " -

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Children and Young Persons Act  
(N.I.) 1968 Section 11:

The Deputy City Welfare Officer recommended that the premises situated at -

- (a) 20 Glenburn Park,
- (b) 4 St. Peter's Path,
- (c) Islandbawn Street, Falls Road,
- (d) 39 Cragagh Road (Cragagh Methodist Church)
- (e) 4/6 Clonard Gardens, Falls Road,
- (f) Harrogate Street,
- (g) Raphael Street,
- (h) 230 Grosvenor Road
- (i) Highfield Community Centre

## DOWN &amp; CONNOR CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY

Tel: 46031/2.

Mr. R. Bunting,  
Children's Officer,  
Londonderry House,  
21-27 Chichester Street,  
Belfast BT1 4RH.

WELFARE DEPT.	
CWO.....	DCWO.....
PSWO.....	<u>CO</u> <u>RS</u>
PCSO.....	AG.....
DWO(N).....	DWO(S).....
20 AUG 1973	
DWO(E).....	DWO(W).....
Su. & A/cn.....	LT.....
A. & R.....	Types.....
Copies to.....	

First Floor,  
43 Falls Road,  
Belfast BT12 4

17th August, 1973

Dear Mr. Bunting,

Thank you for your letter of 30th July.

DL 298 duties will be basically those outlined in your letter to DL 298 of 17th January. As you may know the Club in Vic Street has been closed for some time now due to the troubles. However, I am hopeful of opening another club, probably in this area. I will let you know when this happens.

DL 298 has principally been involved in getting jobs for boys, and seeing about their clothing situation. Some of the older boys to change their 'digs' and this seems to have an unsettling effect on some. When necessary, DL 298 tries to get them different digs but this has been with someone who has previously kept boys or already has a few of them.

In recent times some of the boys have been 'lifted' by the police and usually Father Wallace, Chaplain to Nazareth Lodge, looks after this. He acts as Spiritual Director to the boys and has, on occasion, gone to court with them as DL 298 did. These, of course, would be older boys who were in Kircubbin some years ago.

Should you want any further clarification please do not hesitate to phone me.

Yours sincerely,

*A. E. Corrigan*

A. E. Corrigan.  
Principal Social Worker.



CH/BB

Mr. Bunting.

30th July, 1973.

Dear Miss Corrigan,

My apologies for not replying sooner to your letter of 27th June, regarding the after care of Kircubbin boys.

As you probably know we received into care at the request of **BR 2** all the Kircubbin boys who originated from Belfast. This meant that we also took on the after care as they will still be in our care when they leave Kircubbin.

I had a discussion with **DL 298** about this to prevent any duplication. It was decided at our meeting that the Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committee would still organise the clubs activities in Belfast and that **DL 298** would help to find jobs as he had quite a few contacts with local firms. The rest was left to us.

I assume that **DL 299** will be involved in the activities organised by the Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committee and that this will be the extent of her involvement with the Kircubbin boys. If it is intended to change the previous agreement, I think we would need to have a discussion about it. Perhaps you could let me know a little more about **DL 299** proposed job.

I have enclosed a copy of the letter sent to following our meeting.

**DL 298**

Yours sincerely,

Children's Officer.

Miss A.E. Corrigan,  
Down and Comer Catholic Family Welfare Society,  
First Floor,  
43, Falls Road,  
BELFAST

BT12 4PD

RE/DD



## DOWN &amp; CONNOR CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY

Tel: 46031/2.

First Floor,  
43 Falls Road,  
Belfast, BT12 4F

27th June, 1973.

Mr. Robert Bunting,  
Children's Officer,  
Londonderry House,  
21-27 Chichester Street,  
Belfast BT1 4RH.

Dear Mr. Bunting,

DL 299 has recently joined our staff to help with the after care of the Kircubbin boys.

I wonder if you could arrange for Mr. Glass, Miss Frost and any of the other social workers directly involved with the boys, to contact me to arrange a time when they could come to the office here to meet DL 299 as this might be helpful to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

.....*Aime Corrigan*.....  
A. E. Corrigan.  
Principal Social Worker.

WELFARE DEPT.	
CWO.....	PCSW.....
PSWO.....	PCSO.....
PCSO.....	DWO(N).....
29 JUN 1973	
DWO(S).....	Sub. & A/c.....
Sub. & A/c.....	A. & R.....
A. & R.....	Typist.....
Caption.....	

CO/RB

24th November 197

Dear BR 2

Thank you for your letter of 20th November which clears up a few outstanding points. Our Committee at their meeting on 21st November agreed to accept financial responsibility for [REDACTED] with effect from 1st June 1972 and we will be making payments direct to you from this date. I note from your letter that [REDACTED] spent a holiday with friends from 30.6.72 until 22.8.72, so presumably we can delete this period from our payments.

Co. Down Welfare Department will continue to supervise [REDACTED] although we are accepting financial responsibility.

I will write to you again as soon as the other boys you referred are accepted into care by our Committee.

Yours sincerely,

RB

Children's Officer

BR 2

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
CO. DOWN

RB/HK

CO/RB

17th January 19

Dear BR 2

Further to our telephone conversation I am writing to confirm that our Committee agreed to receive into care DL 234 and DL 157 with effect from 1st November 1972 and with effect from 1st June 1972.

According to my records we have now received into care all the boys you referred to us who originated from Belfast and would be our financial responsibility. If there is anything requiring clarification with regard to these boys would you please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

RB

Children's Officer

BR 2

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kilreubbin,  
CO. DOW

RB/HK

OO/BB

17th January 197.

Dear DL 298

I think that we have now resolved most of the difficulties with regard to the reception into care and supplementation by Belfast Welfare Department of boys in De La Salle at present and those recently discharged to approved lodgings.

You will be receiving reimbursement as requested for the boys who were dealt with by Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committee. I have enclosed a list of the boys in lodgings now being supervised by this Department and the Divisions have been informed that you will only be involved with regard to the club activities and in helping to find jobs.

As far as the latter is concerned the Social Workers have been told to make personal contact with you as not to send the boys to you without first contacting you as arranging an interview.

[redacted] went to live with [redacted] on 18th December 1972 and we have asked Co. Antrim to supervise and supplement on our behalf.

Best wishes for the New Year.

RB

Children's Officer

DL 298

Down & Connor Catholic Family Welfare Society,  
First Floor,  
43 Falls Road,  
BELFAST BT12 4PD

RB/HK



CO/BB  
AT/HH

24th November 1

Dear Mr. Gilliland,

De La Salle Boys' Home

Thank you for your letter of 20th October 1972 regarding the above-named boy. Our Committee at their meeting on 21st November 1972 agreed to accept financial responsibility for this boy with effect from 1st June 1972. I don't think there is anything to be gained in this case by transferring the care of this boy to our Committee as it would be best for the Social Worker from your Department who is in contact with the family to visit [redacted] as well and there is the prospect of rehabilitation in the near future.

We will pay De La Salle direct as you have suggested and accept your assessment on the mother of £1.6 per week. I would be grateful if you could pay the money contributed by the mother to our Assessments and Recovery Section on a three-monthly basis.

BR 2 [redacted] has notified us that [redacted] spent a holiday with friends from 30.6.72 until 22.8.72. I would suggest that you disregard assessment on the mother for this period as we will not be paying De La Salle while [redacted] was on holiday.

Thank you for your help with this case.

Yours sincerely,

City Welfare Officer

Mr. E.S. Gilliland,  
County Welfare Officer,  
Down County Welfare Department,  
65 University Street,  
BELFAST BT7 1HN

RB/HK

-2-

This change would also affect the role of the Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committee who have up to now been responsible for the care of boys who were previously accommodated in De la Salle. When the boys become school leaving age they are usually accommodated in lodgings in Belfast and supervised by the Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committee. This organisation approached us for a grant in 1967 towards the cost of accommodating these boys in lodgings. This may have motivated [REDACTED] BR 2 to do the same. The matter at this time was referred to the Association of Welfare Committees who agreed to a grant. Each Authority's share was calculated according to the total population of its administrative area. Grants in 1968, 1969, and 1970 were £500, £700 and £390 respectively. I cannot find any record of a grant for this year.

If we take over the care of the boys at the De la Salle stage or even earlier than the functions of Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committee would no longer include the care of these boys.

Although this would mean extra work for our Department's staff I would not be adverse to taking on the responsibility. My reason for this is that I am most dissatisfied with the standard of child care practice of the Catholic Voluntary Societies. Limited attempts have been made to give advice and support to try to get them to improve their standards but these have not had any success. One had hoped that [REDACTED] DL 298 would have been able to effect an improvement but his resources in terms of Social Workers have been very limited and his concentration on relief work due to the riots has left him too little time to do this. Perhaps with more support and encouragement from us it might be possible to bring about a change for the better and this would certainly be beneficial for social work in Northern Ireland in the long run. In the meantime I am certain that it would be more beneficial to the boys to be in our care at present and their welfare should be our chief concern.

However I do not think that a hasty decision should be made and certainly not before the issues I have raised have been clarified.

R3  
Children's Officer.

RB/MT

Children's Officer,

City Welfare Officer,

29.12.71.

De la Salle Boy's Home, Rubane, Kircubbin.

I am surprised that De la Salle are now in retrospect asking for payment for boys they admitted to care on a voluntary basis. I would suspect that this query has arisen since [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] took charge of the Home recently. It may well be that [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] is reviewing the procedures and the boys in his care; intends to try to make some changes, and is consequently asking us to accept financial responsibility for all the boys from our area. This is speculation and it would be essential to know why this has arisen. It would also be necessary to clarify whether [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] is asking for a grant towards the maintenance of the boys or is asking us to accept full financial responsibility.

Theoretically if [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] insists that he will not keep the boys unless we accept financial responsibility it will not leave us with much alternative. If we are only being asked to give a grant then he could still retain his authority to admit children on a voluntary basis. If we are being asked to accept full financial responsibility then it would have to be made absolutely clear to him that all future admissions would have to come through us and we would have to undertake the social work in relation to the boys and families.

There is a further complication in that younger boys and babies can be accepted by St. Josephs or Nazareth Lodge on a voluntary basis and then transferred to De la Salle when they reach the age of eleven. Policy and procedure would therefore have to be clarified with St. Josephs and Nazareth as well, otherwise the voluntary admission may well be a fait accompli before the boy reaches De la Salle and this would put [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] in a difficult position.

If we undertake responsibility then we would have to be given the files on the boys. This would enable us to ascertain the reason for admission and what work has been done with the parents or mother to rehabilitate the boys. I would suspect in many cases that this may be non-existent and there may well have been no contact between boys and parents for some time. This being the case we would be left with the long term care of the boy.

/...



- 2 -

A basic form has been completed by the Co.Dawn Social Worker attached to De La Salle. I do not know what ~~MMW~~/her role is but it would probably be best for our Social Workers to establish contact with the boy through this Social Worker and ~~BR 2~~ I would then expect the Co.Dawn Social worker to opt out of the case.

In the case of older boys who will be sixteen (E.S.W) and will be leaving De La Salle fairly soon liaison will have to be established with ~~DL 298~~. I propose to have a meeting with him fairly soon to decide what form this liaison should take. He is in agreement with the principle that we should undertake the care of the boys however he can offer considerable help in relation to jobs, Youth Clubs, lodgings, etc. I would like the D.W.O's to be involved in this meeting and it would be helpful if they were able to put forward the views of the Social Workers and Seniors.

I would be grateful if the admission to care of these boys could be treated as priority as ~~BR 2~~ has indicated to me that the financial situation is pretty bad. Would you date the admissions 1st June, 1972.

R3

---

Children's Officer.

RB/JH.



MEMORANDUM

CITY AND COUNTY BOROUGH OF BELFAST

WELFARE DEPT.

LONDONDERRY HOUSE

21-27 CHICHESTER S  
/RBFrom Children's Officer

Ref. \_\_\_\_\_

To D.W.O's, North, South, East & WestDate 9th June, 19

Boys from De La Salle Boys' Home Kircubbin  
~~who are not the financial responsibility of~~  
any Welfare Authority.

BR 2

because of financial difficulties requested that each Welfare Authority should receive into care boys from their area who had previously been admitted on a voluntary basis to De La Salle by the Brothers. The suggestion was that each Welfare Authority would then be responsible both from the financial and child care aspects for these boys.

This proposal was submitted to the Association of Chief Welfare Officers and although it was recognised that it would present problems initially from the child care point of view it was agreed that they would comply with **BR 2** request. It was hoped that from the boys' point of view their needs would be best met by this arrangement.

As already indicated there will be some problems initially. In practically all the cases the reasons for acceptance into care is unknown and there appears to have been little or no follow up with the mother or parents as the case may be. Also the boys have been found families to visit and doubtless these families have not been approved by the Welfare Authority.

One encouraging fact is that most of the boys have only been in care for a few years.

Would you please complete admission to care forms for the boys from your area and where possible an assessment form. Contact with mother or parents will have to be established diplomatically even in case where it is indicated that the mother does not wish to have any of them. The same principles and practice will apply to these boys as to all other children in our care and I need not enunciate these.

/...



## DOWN COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

W4 (a)

DIVISION 2

Telephone  
Newtownards 2461 2462, 2463 2464



XXXX MDDY J. E. Fulton  
Divisional Welfare Officer

Please Quote RS/BC/Mrs. Sherrard

JAMES STREET  
NEWTOWNARDS

our Ref. ....

WELFARE DEPT.	
CWO	DOUG
PSWC	CS
POSS	NO
DWELL	DWELL
18th July, 1972.	
18 JUL 1972	
DWELL	DWELL
Su. & A/m	Est
A & R	Est
Copies	

Mr. Bunting,  
Belfast County Borough Welfare Committee,  
Londonderry House,  
21-27 Chichester Street,  
BELFAST, BT1 4RH.

Dear Mr. Bunting,

(to 2000)  
(to 2000)  
(to 2000)

Further to your recent letter to BR 2 regarding some boys in Rubane for whom your Committee will be financially responsible, I attach, hereto, copies of home visits made to families in respect of the above-named boys. The purpose of my limited contact was to act as liaison between these families and Rubane as in most cases the boys had started spending holidays with these families when they were in Nazareth and, as often as not, the Rubane staff had not met the families to enquire if there were any immediate problems and to encourage visiting and contact with Rubane.

has had contact with two sisters - and family.  
and and family, off  
It has been over a year since he has had contact with the family.  
I met both families.

Yours sincerely,

R. Sherrard  
Social Worker ucl

WELFARE DEPT.	
CWO.....	DCWO.....
PSWO.....	CO. 192
PCSO.....	AO.....
DWO(N).....	DWO(S).....
27 JUL 1972	
DWO(E).....	DWO(W).....
Su.&A/ca.....	Est.....
A. & R.....	Types.....
Copies to.....	

De La Salle Boys' Home,

Kincubbin,

Co. Down.

24th July 1972.

Dear Mr. Bunting,

As promised by BR 4 I am enclosing the names of the boys we submitted to be taken into Care some time ago. How many boys are being taken over by your Department I do not know, as I believe there is some confusion about the place of origin of some of them.

Nine of the boys have left the Home since the original list was sent in and I have put them in a separate bundle. Their present addresses are known to DL 298 The remaining eight boys are still with us. To date we have received notification regarding four of the boys who have been taken into Care officially.

They are NL 6 ( left )

I am sorry if there has been any misunderstanding about holiday arrangements, week end visits etc. in the past. I appreciate the concern of the various Social Workers and recognise the inconvenience it can cause to everyone involved. I hope that adequate notification can be arranged satisfactorily in the future.

Thank you for your help in the past and if there is any way in which we can be of assistance to your Department please do not hesitate to let us know.

Yours sincerely,

BR 2



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- 2 -

We made a grant of £104 to the Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committ who were supervising boys from De La Salle in lodgings in 1970 but they have ceased to function effectively since the troubles.

The additional expenditure could be met out of current Revenue Estimates.

It would be desirable to have this matter cleared up and I pr with your concurrence, to bring it before the Welfare Committee at meeting on the 26th September.

City Welfare Officer.



MEMORANDUM

CITY AND COUNTY BOROUGH OF BELFAST

WELFARE DEPT.

LONDONDERRY HOUSE

21-27 CHICHESTER STREET.

From The City Welfare OfficerRef. HH/DWV.To The Town ClerkDate 8th September, 1972.re Children in Residential Care at  
De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin

For some years there have been boys in De La Salle for whom no Welfare Authority has responsibility. When the practice of accepting financial responsibility for children in Voluntary Homes was adopted the non-Welfare boys were preponderant. Over the years the balance shifted as more and more children were nominated by us or accepted by us before admission. As well as this the cost of maintaining children rose and the Home became more dependent upon Statutory support.

A few years ago Co. Down Welfare Committee seconded a Social Worker to the Home and one of the problems he brought up was the question of grant in respect of non-Welfare boys. The matter was referred to the Association who referred it to the Chief Welfare Officers in November 1971. The outcome of this was that the Association whilst approving of the recommendation of the Chief Welfare Officers (to accept financial responsibility) left the matter to each Welfare Committee as to the individual cases and the date of acceptance. The Ministry of Home Affairs were kept informed of the discussions and gave their support to the decision. In fact they indicated that come 1st April, 1973 they would feel it incumbent upon them to accept the financial responsibility for children in voluntary homes and of course they would not be concerned with the ordinary place of residence.

We followed this matter up in individual cases and I append a list of boys who are in De La Salle or were in De La Salle for whom augmentation is asked.

It is proposed that we accept financial responsibility from 1st June, 1972 - the date on which we initiated enquiries about the boys.

Three of the lads are still in De La Salle Home. The net cost based on £14 per week per boy would be £900 and for the five boys in lodgings at say £3 per week supplementation, the net cost would be £325 (taking into account 50% Government grant).

- 2 -

rote to Co. Antrim about him and asked them to receive him into Care and we would put it to our Committee to accept financial responsibility. I received no reply but when I contacted Co. Antrim recently I was informed that he had gone back to De La Salle Boys' Home. I now see from your most recent letter that he is in lodgings at 136 Balla Road. I would be grateful if you could let me know how long [redacted] stayed in lodgings with [redacted] in Andersonstown and if there will be a charge for this period. I will put it to our Committee to accept financial responsibility with effect from 1st June, 1972.

DL 157 ( [redacted]

DL 234 [redacted]

These two cases which you referred in October are being investigated and admission to care forms will be completed. They will be put to our Committee for acceptance with effect from 1st November, 1972 and I will let you know the outcome.

[redacted] - According to the information you sent [redacted] mother's address is [redacted]. It would consequently be up to Co. Antrim Welfare Committee to decide whether or not to receive [redacted] into care and you should contact Co. Antrim about this.

I hope that this is a correct statement of the present position. However, if you disagree with any part of it or if circumstances have changed in relation to any of the boys would you please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Children's Officer

BR 2

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
NEWTOWNARDS,  
Co. Down

RB/RG.



/c.o.

14th November, 1972

Dear [REDACTED] BR 2

Our Committee has accepted financial responsibility for the following boys with effect from 1st June, 1972.

[REDACTED] De la Salle Boys Home  
[REDACTED] De la Salle Boys Home  
KIN 245 [REDACTED] De la Salle Boys Home  
[REDACTED] In lodgings.

DL 77 [REDACTED] In lodgings. [REDACTED] moved

[REDACTED] In lodgings. [REDACTED]

NL 6 [REDACTED] In lodgings. [REDACTED]

HIA 36 [REDACTED] In lodgings. [REDACTED]

DL 95 (b. [REDACTED]) is living at [REDACTED] with his mother and there does not appear to be any need to receive him into care. [REDACTED] De la Salle Boys Home - [REDACTED] mother is living in Co. Down. We asked Co. Down to assess the case for us. They have received [REDACTED] into care with effect from 1st June, 1972 and have asked us to accept financial responsibility as [REDACTED] mother has only been living in [REDACTED] for the past nine months. I will be putting this request to our Committee on 21st November, 1972 and if it is accepted we will make the payments direct to you for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Although we completed an admission to care form for [REDACTED] we did not put it to our Committee as we had heard that this boy was living in lodgings in [REDACTED]

/...

WELFARE DEPT.	
CWO.....	DEPT.....
PSWO.....	CO.....
PCSO.....	AO.....
DWO(N).....	DWO(S).....
21 NOV 1972	
DWO(E).....	DWO(W).....
Sn. & A/c.....	Est.....
A. & R.....	Type.....
Copies to.....	

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Co. Down.  
20th Nov. 1972.

Dear Mr. Bunting,

Thank you for your comprehensive letter, dated 14th November. As far as I am aware, your information on each boy is correct and I would just like to make brief comments on the following boys.

[REDACTED] The position of this boy is slightly confusing. While he was in the Home, he occasionally went on short holidays and weekends to [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. The last time he visited [REDACTED] was on the 6/10/72 and spent a weekend with the family. The previous occasion was for a couple of days in early June. When he left us, DL 298 found him accommodation with DL 283 on the Falls Rd., but on a recent visit to the Home here, [REDACTED] informed me that he was shortly going to stay with [REDACTED] as he himself always intended. Whether this is true or not, I'm not quite sure.

[REDACTED] I will contact Co. Antrim Welfare as you suggested.

[REDACTED] This boy spent the summer holidays ( 30/6/72 to 22/8/72 ) with friends of his mother - [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Visited the home and made a satisfactory report on it. He goes to his mother regular at weekends.

The boys mentioned below left the Home on the following dates.

HIA 36	discharged	9/5/72	DL 77	discharged	14/6/72
[REDACTED]	"	4/6/72	[REDACTED]	"	30/6/72
NL 6	"	4/6/72	[REDACTED]	"	28/10/72

Yours sincerely,

BR 2



From: City Welfare Officer

To: Childrens. Officer.

Date: 12/11/71

Re: De la Salle.

This matter was raised at the meeting of Child Welfare Officers. Apparently the visiting officer from Co. Down was approached by the brothers regarding help in the Home for whom no payment is being made. I am not happy about retrospective decisions and I am sure do they at De la Salle fully understand that any child accepted by them without reference to the Welfare Dept concerned indicates that they are exercising their prerogative with the natural consequences. I have your comments.

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 5**

Departmental Evidence Paper for Committee of Inquiry

- Para 2.23 ) Does the Department of Health and Social Services accept that  
 Para 3.6 ) residential care is projected in legislation as not the most  
 Para 3.9 ) desirable form of care? Has this view enshrined in legislation  
 had an adverse effect on the development of residential child  
 care services?
- Fig. 1. Assistant Director of Social Services (Child Care) does not have  
 a direct line to Children's Homes. Contact would be through  
 the District/Unit of Management personal social services management  
 staff.
- Fig. 2 Assistant Director of Social Services (Child Care) has no formal  
 link with Voluntary Children's Homes. Liaises with these homes  
 when necessary and involves appropriate District/Unit of Management  
 staff.
- Para 3.1 In 1974 amendments were made to the wording of the Children & Young  
 Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968. Welfare Authority was  
 replaced by Department of Health and Social Services. Does this  
 mean that all children are in the care of the Department of  
 Health and Social Services?
- Para 3.31 Registration of Voluntary Children's Homes. What criteria have  
 to be satisfied to meet the requirements for legislation? Why has the  
 Department of Health and Social Services retained the responsibility  
 for registering Voluntary Children's Homes, particularly when Boards  
 are the main users of these homes?
- Para 3.45 Could the Department of Health and Social Services define the issues  
 regarding the statutory/voluntary relationship that require discussion  
 What does the Department of Health and Social Services hope to achieve  
 from this discussion?
- Para 3.48 How many Voluntary Children's Homes have professional support for  
 'their homes' staff?  
 Do the Department of Health and Social Services regard the lack of  
 professional support as a serious deficiency?  
 How can this deficiency be overcome?

Para 3.50

The Assistant Director of Social Services (Child Care) has a responsibility to monitor programmes of care for children which were to be developed on a multi-disciplinary basis. He has no executive authority to monitor Children's Homes and Hostels.

The Assistant Director of Social Services (Child Care) is not mentioned in the Conduct of Children's Homes Direction.

The Department of Health and Social Services do not mention the District Social Services Officer. He is responsible for the management and supervision of Children's Homes and Hostels and is mentioned in the Conduct of Children's Homes Direction.

Para 3.51

What monitoring role do District Committees have in respect of Children's Homes and Hostels?

What exactly does this entail?

Para 3.58

Were Welfare Authorities notified of inspections by the Ministry of Home Affairs?

Did Welfare Authorities receive reports of these inspections?

How many inspections were carried out of Kincora Hostel and Williamson House Children's Home?

Para 3.59

How many inspections were carried out of Kincora Hostel and Williamson House Children's Home between 1st October, 1973 and 1st January, 1980?

Were the Board notified of these inspections and their outcome?

Para 3.62

Do inspections cover the performance of residential child care staff?

If not, why not?

Para 3.66

What authority does the Department of Health and Social Services have to ensure that recommendations will be implemented?

What role can the Department of Health and Social Services play if the recommendations require additional finance to be found by the Board?



- Para 3.70 Can the Department of Health and Social Services confirm that under the Welfare Authorities Children's Homes Regulations 1952 all residential child care staff appointed to Children's Homes and Hostels required the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Para 3.76 Can the Department of Health and Social Services confirm that the Board at the beginning of 1982 through its Personnel Department asked the Department of Health and Social Services to consider an improvement in the recruitment and selection procedures as an urgent interim measure and submitted a number of suggestions for improvements.
- Para 3.77 What is the view of the Department of Health and Social Services in regard to the employment of homosexual or bi-sexual people in the direct care of children in Children's Homes and Hostels.
- Para 3.82 Incorrect. In April 1974 the Department of Health and Social Services produced staffing guidelines for certain social services staff which included staff for Children's Homes and Hostels.
- These are as follows:-
- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Residential nurseries  | 1 staff member to 1.5 children |
| Hostels                | 1 " " to 3.5 "                 |
| Other Children's Homes | 1 " " to 3 "                   |
- These staffing levels are not as good as the Castle Priory recommended staffing levels which the Board decided on its own initiative to use when staffing Children's Homes and Hostels.
- Para 4.6 Incorrect. The Board was not aware of any Police investigation into alleged homosexual activities between staff and boys at Kincora Hostel.
- Para 4.8 (c) May be incorrect. The Kincora Hostel staff were suspended from duty as soon as the R.U.C. confirmed with the Board that they intended to undertake a full investigation of alleged homosexual activities between staff and boys.
- Para 4.13 May be incorrect. Do not think that Mr. Bone was charged with any offences against boys at Bawnmore Boys' Home - This would need to be checked.
- It would need to be made clear that Mr. Elder was not a student housefather at Bawnmore but a student from the Rupert Stanley Residential Child Care Course on placement at Bawnmore.

Para 4.18 Why were charges not pressed in **BR 1** case?

Para 4.21 The Chief Social Work Adviser or in his absence, his Deputy was immediately informed by telephone of any staff suspensions following allegations by children and Police investigations.

Para 4.22 The dates in the last part of this paragraph are incorrect. This should be 7th June, 1983 and 25th October, 1983.

I have brought the inaccuracies and omissions in Section 4 paras 4.6, 4.8(c), 4-13, 4.21 and 4.22 to the attention of Mrs. D. Browne, Principal Officer, Child Care Branch, Department of Health and Social Services on 19th June, 1984 to give the Department the opportunity to correct them as I don't think there is anything to be gained by airing these inaccuracies in public.

*R. J. Buntin*

ADSS

19. 6. 84

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 6**



## STAT/VOL RELATIONSHIP DHSS

compounded by the fact that Boards may be inadequately informed about the standards of care in some voluntary homes.

42.0 Boards have a duty, once a child is placed in a home, whether statutory or voluntary, to ensure that the best possible care is being provided for that child but it falls to the Department, as registering authority of voluntary homes, to satisfy itself that the fabric of a home and the overall quality of care provided are acceptable. This information is obtained through the inspections and visits carried out by the Department's Social Work Advisory Group and through meetings with members of the staff and Management Committees of voluntary homes.

Statutory  
& Voluntary  
Homes  
Jan 1981

43.0 Although Boards are the main users of voluntary homes, an agreement entered into by the Department with the Management Committees of voluntary homes in 1980 means that the reports of SWAG's inspections can be made available to the Boards only with the agreement of the Management Committee. If standards in a voluntary home were totally unacceptable, the Department would withdraw registration. However, voluntary homes can show defects in policy, practice and fabric of the building which can result in a reduced standard of care but which are not serious enough to warrant deregistration. In such circumstances, efforts are made to have the situation rectified through the Management Committee (in the same way as steps are taken to have defects in statutory homes rectified by Boards) but this process can take some time to complete.

44.0 While it could be held that the responsible Board's own oversight of each child placed in a voluntary home should have revealed the defects in the quality of care provided within the home, it can also be argued that Boards should rightly expect direct access to the information assembled by the Departmental inspectors. If a home was functioning badly it would be in the interests of Boards and the children in their care for the Department to inform Boards of their findings; if a home was found to be functioning well it would be in the interests of the voluntary organisation to have this information more widely known. The Department would welcome the views of voluntary bodies and Boards on the form of arrangements for sharing the information contained in the inspection reports.

#### Registration and Monitoring of Voluntary Children's Homes

0 The Department of Health and Social Services is the registering authority for voluntary children's homes under Section 127 of the Children and Young Persons Act (NI) 1968. Voluntary children's homes are the only homes for which the Department acts as registration authority; other voluntary or private homes for persons in need are registered by the Boards. From time to time Boards have drawn attention to this anomaly and have indicated their preference for the registration function in respect of voluntary children's homes to be delegated to Boards. They consider that this would improve liaison and would strengthen partnership between the voluntary and statutory child care sectors. Voluntary organisations are less confident. They are concerned about the manner in which the Boards might discharge the registration function and point to poor



**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 7**

Mr. R. Bunting,  
Assistant Director of Social Services.

RE/MK

Mr. J. Malone,  
D.S.S.O.,  
North and West Belfast District.

9th March, 1977.

RED BUREAU

Please find enclosed a summary of the daily returns you let me have and my comments. This has been circulated to all the D.S.S.O.'s. It would be useful if a similar summary could be prepared at the end of each month by your staff operating the Red Bureau and circulated to all Districts. I expect you had this in mind and I have jumped the gun.

Assistant Director of Social Services



Mr. R. Bunting,  
Assistant Director of Social Services.

The Director of Social Services.

RB/MK

7th March, 1977.

CHILDREN'S HOMES - BED BUREAU FEBRUARY 1977.

The summary table for February 1977 compiled from North and West's daily records confirms the findings of the survey which was presented to the Board some months ago:-

1. There are no vacancies for older Protestant children in our Board's area. Older, in the context of this summary, can be taken to be children aged 2 years and over. In this situation it would be impossible to even keep families of younger children together.
2. There continues to be vacancies for R.C. children and consequently the R.C. Voluntary Organisations should not be encouraged to expand traditional residential child care facilities. In fact there may be some leeway to reduce numbers and reorganise.
3. Of the 16 enquiries for places for 16 children, only 3 (possibly 5) suitable vacancies were identified. This is really an intolerable situation for Social Workers let alone the children. It would be interesting to know what happened to the remaining 15 children and perhaps we could ask Districts to let us have some information regarding this.
4. There are changes in the vacancy situation, particularly in the Voluntary Children's Homes which cannot be accounted for in terms of the requests received. Some staff may be by-passing the bed bureau or it may be explained by admissions outside normal office hours or from other Boards. However, as this is the first month the Bed Bureau has been in operation, it is hardly significant.
5. Quite a number of the changes in vacancies occur at the weekends and I wonder if the suggestion that Bed Bureau information should be available at weekends and evenings to staff on stand-by duty has been implemented.
6. The vacancy position has changed very little in our own Homes during this month. This reinforces the point that it is a waste of time to 'phone round these Homes on a daily basis.

Assistant Director of Social Services



VACANCIES.

	1.2.77.	2.2.77.	3.2.77.	4.2.77.	7.2.77.	8.2.77.	9.2.77.	10.2.77.	11.2.77.
Brefne	1	1	1	1	0	2	4(babies	4(babies) 3	1 baby 2 toddler
Palmerston	1	2 c.b.	2 c.b.	0	0	0	0	0	0
60 North Road	0	0	0	0	1 cot	1 cot	1 cot	1 cot	1 cot
Glendhu	8 (0-3yrs)	8	8	8	0	0	0	0	0
Hopedene	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Adolescent Centre (Good Shepherd)	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
Nazareth House	4	4	4	4	4	6	6	6	6
Nazareth Lodge	8	8	8	8	10	10	10	10	10
St. Josephs	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4
De la Salle	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Kincora	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

REQUESTS FOR PLACES.

None	None	None	N. & W.B. 1 three year old boy Palmerston	None	None	None	N.D. & A. 1 eleven year old Prot.boy. Nothing suitable	Idsburn 1 fourteen year old Prot. boy. Nothing suitable.
							N. & W.B. 1 twelve year old Prot.boy. Nothing suitable.	



14.2.77.	15.2.77.	16.2.77.	17.2.77.	18.2.77.	21.2.77.	22.2.77.	23.2.77.	24.2.77.	25.2.77.	28.2.77.
2 babies 2 toddlers	2 B 2 T	4 B 1 T	4 B 1 T	4 B 1 T	4 B 1 T	4 B 1 T	4 B 1 T	4 B 1 T	4 B	4 B
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0 ?
1 cot	1 cot	1 cot	1 cot	1 cot	1 cot	1 cot	1 cot	1 cot	1 cot	1 cot
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
6	6	6	6	6	12	12	12	12	12	9
12	12	12	12	12	9	9	9	9	9	8
2	4	2	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	4
3	3	2	3	3	4	2	0 ?	0 ?	0 ?	0 ?
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 Temp 3-4 days	1 Temp.

<u>S.B.D.</u>	<u>N.D. &amp; A.</u>		<u>N. &amp; W. B.</u>	<u>Lisburn.</u>	<u>S.B.D.</u>	<u>E.B. &amp; C.</u>	<u>N.D. &amp; A.</u>	<u>N. &amp; W.B.</u>	<u>N. &amp; W.B.</u>	
1 eight yr. old Prot.boy. 1 thirteen yr. old Prot.girl. Nothing suitable.	1 eleven yr. old Prot.boy. De la Salle. Nothing suitable.	None Prot.	None	1 nine yr. old R.C. boy. Nazareth Lodge.	1 fifteen yr. old Prot.boy. Nothing suitable.	2 fifteen yr. old boys? Prot. De la Salle. ? taken. Lisburn. 1 eleven yr. old Prot.boy. Nothing suitable.	1 fifteen yr. old girl. Nothing suitable. N. & W.B. 1 sixteen yr. old R.C. boy. De la Salle not suitable over sixteen. E.B. & C. 1 twelve yr. old Prot.boy. Nothing suitable.	1 eleven yr. old Prot.boy. Nothing suitable.	1 ten yr. old Prot.boy. Nothing suitable.	1 thirteen yr. old R.C. girl. Choice of Nazareth Lodge or Adolescent Centre.

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 8**

R. Bunting, A.D.S.S.

BB/XL

New Residential Facilities for Children

To: Mr. R. Prytherch, D.S.S.O. )  
 Mr. A. Chard, P.S.W. ) Down District  
 Mr. A. Richardson A.P.S.W. )  
 Miss E. Nicholl P.S.W. } South Belfast  
 Mr. J. Young }  
 Miss M. Kyle, P.S.W. ) E. B. & C.  
 Miss L. McGrath, P.S.W. )  
 Mr. C. Wallington, A.P.S.W. N. D. & A.  
 Mr. C. McKey, P.S.W. ) Lisburn District  
 Miss P. Lockie, A.P.S.W. )  
 Mr. B. Bingham, P.S.W. } N. W. R. District.  
 Mrs. P. McNamee, S.S.W. }

... Please find enclosed a copy of the minutes of our meeting on 16th May, 1979. If there are any changes you would like to make please let me know.

R. Bunting,  
Assistant Director of Social Services

11th June, 1979



MEETING OF SENIOR RESIDENTIAL AND DAY CARE AND FIELD WORK MANAGEMENT STAFF ON 16TH MAY, 1979 TO DISCUSS GENERAL POLICY WITH REGARD TO ADMISSIONS TO THE NEW RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE FACILITIES BEING DEVELOPED.

The main purpose of the meeting was to try to reach agreement on the children who should get priority in the admissions to these new Children's Homes.

At the outset of the meeting the position regarding the new facilities was updated and the following is a summary of this.

#### North and West Belfast District

1. Children's Home for 10 children (Long Stay) - 505, Antrim Road. This house has been purchased and adaptations are being planned. It should be available by the end of 1979 and is for a family group of 10 who are in care and split up between various Children's Homes.
2. Children's Home for 12 children (Long Stay) - Indiana Avenue off Cavehill Road. This property has been bought. Adaptations may not be feasible and if this is the case a new home will be built on the site. A new home would not be available until 1981 at the earliest. The site is large enough to include a unit of six flatlets for adolescents adjoining the home and this is being considered.
3. Bedsits for adolescents (Long Stay) - 444, Antrim Road. Negotiations are taking place to buy this property. It would be developed as 6 bedsits for young men aged 16 - 21 years. If this property was purchased it would replace the Somerton Road property which has been investigated but is in poor structural order.

#### South Belfast District

1. Short Stay Unit (14 places and 2 emergency beds) - This Unit has been in operation since the autumn of 1978. It is used as a short stay unit and as a holding unit for Palmerston. Seven places were allocated to Palmerston for this purpose.
2. Children's Home for 12 children (Long Stay). The convent at Willowfield Drive is again on the market and the District Valuer has been asked to negotiate its purchase.  
An alternative being considered is a site at St. Jude's Avenue, Ormeau Road, on which a purpose built Children's Home could be erected.

#### East Belfast and Castlereagh District

1. Children's Home for 11 children (Long Stay) - 100 King's Road. This home should be ready for occupation by July 1979.
2. Children's Home for 12 children (Long Stay) - 24, Inverary Avenue. This is a purpose built home and should be ready for occupation by the end of 1979.
3. The change of use in Mount Oriol to 7 bedsits for young women aged 16 - 21 years has been implemented.



4. Negotiations are underway to purchase a site on Rosetta Road on which to build 6 hostels for young men aged 16 - 21 years.

#### North Down and Ards District

1. The new home at Marnion should be completed by July/August 1979. This will not increase the number of places but will provide purpose built accommodation for three self contained groups of 9 children.
2. Stanley House adjoining Marnion and at present being used to accommodate children from Marnion should be converted into 6 bedsits for 16 - 21 year olds.

#### Lisburn District

1. Children's Home for 12 children (Long Stay). The revised date for the opening of this home is July/August 1979.
2. Renovations have been agreed for Terrace Hill Children's Home which will enable all the children to be accommodated on the ground and first floors and in two groups of 10 and 12 children. This work should be completed by the end of 1979 or early 1980. It will not mean any extra places.

#### Down District

Children's Home for 12 children - Drompatrick. This home should be ready to open in September, 1979.

#### Additional developments

1. There has been considerable pressure for places particularly for adolescents and it has been agreed that the Mental Health Hostel at Old Caveshill Road, Belfast, can be used for emergency admissions for a short period of 3 - 6 months. The staff appointed for Glenmore will run this unit until Glenmore opens. At that stage the Hostel will revert to its original use. This will provide 8 emergency places for a short period.
2. A change of use in Breeve Nursery is being considered. The possibilities are that it will change to a short stay unit or to a long stay home with an age range from 2 - 18 years.

#### Changes in Voluntary Children's Homes

Discussions have been going on between the Department, Board and some Voluntary Homes regarding changes.

1. St. Joseph's Children's Home - Is being reorganised on a family group basis within the home and will cater for children aged 2 - 18 years. Each group will have their own separate living accommodation and staff.

Part of the building will be adapted for use as a self contained short stay admission unit for approximately 12 - 14 children. Again the age range will be 2 - 18 years. They will also be prepared to take babies.

2.

/Contd ...



2. Johnston Memorial Children's Home - Is now taking children who are in the care of the Board and will take young boys as well as girls. From all accounts this seems to be working reasonably well within the age limitations. New staff have been appointed.

3. Glendhu Children's Home - This home is in the process of having adaptations carried out which will enable it to cater for 24 children in two self contained groups of 12.

One group of 12 will occupy the first floor and one group of 12 the ground floor. Each group will have their own caring staff. There will be common recreational facilities.

They will take children in the age range 2 - 18 years on a long stay basis.

Work is about to start and the children will be accommodated in temporary buildings while renovations are carried out. The work should be completed by October, 1979.

Discussions have taken place with Victoria Homes Committee and Trustees about the future of the home and the need for changes. No final decisions have yet been taken.

5. Belfast Education and Library Board would like us to develop a few short stay hostels for adolescents who have educational problems amongst others and require a period of residential care. They would prefer us to undertake the caring role and they would attach teachers to the hostels and provide the classroom accommodation. We have responded positively to the suggestion of a joint approach.

6. Barnardos are developing a new home in the Ballyclare area as a replacement for Macedon. They also hope to open a new home in Bangor for mentally handicapped children before the end of 1979. Apart from these developments they are not anxious to develop residential facilities but would be interested in the joint project with the Education Board referred to under 5 and perhaps a specialist facility for adolescents.

7. We are still pursuing the possibility of developing a hostel for young women who are having difficulties in their relationships with parents, teachers and peers. Such a hostel would concentrate on changing behaviour over a limited time scale of 3 - 6 months.

8. The Psychiatric Hostel for adolescents has finally been found a site within the grounds of Purdysburn Hospital. It will cater for approximately 16 adolescents.

---

Discussion then took place on priorities for the admission of children to the new homes.

It was agreed that our first objective should be to reunite family groups of children and that the new homes could be used to make a start on this.



Apart from Down District all the other Districts had family groups of children whom they would like to reunite in one home. The reuniting of these family groups would create vacancies in other Board's Homes and Voluntary Homes but very few in our own homes.

It was agreed that Districts should proceed to plan admission to the new homes on this basis and let other Districts know where the vacancies were created as a result of transferring children.

Attempts could then be made to use the vacancies created in other Homes for children who had been assessed at Palmerston and required residential placement and for children in the community who were very much at risk and required admission to care.

East Belfast and Castlereagh District staff had to leave the meeting early and it was felt that the senior staff in the two other Belfast Districts should liaise with them to see if there was a possibility of reuniting family groups from the Belfast area in either Kings Road or Inverary Avenue, which would still mean that they would be reasonably close to their parents and family home.

With regard to the new home in Downpatrick there was a problem at present if it was to be used for long stay care. Down District did not have any children at present requiring long stay residential care and it was felt that it was not desirable to use the home for Belfast or Lisburn children as it was so far from the parents home. However it might be necessary to use the home for such children if there were no vacancies anywhere else.

It was agreed that the use of the home for short stay care would not present problems to the same extent and that it would be best to start the home operating as a short stay unit.

The possible need for more residential assessment places was raised. On the evidence available at present and if there was a through put at Palmerston on a regular basis we appeared to have enough residential assessment places. Some thought needed to be given to combining assessment and treatment for some children and this would require extra resources at Palmerston to be undertaken properly.

It was felt that perhaps staff were not referring children to the Palmerston Waiting List at present as they knew that there was little possibility of a vacancy in the near future. It was agreed that they should refer to Palmerston despite this and if as a consequence the picture regarding demand changed the need for additional residential assessment places would be given further consideration.

It was agreed that Districts would notify Board Headquarters and other Districts when new facilities were coming into operation. The following information would be helpful.

Name of Home -  
Address -

(If possible diagram showing  
location.)

Telephone No.  
Officer-in-Charge  
Type of facility - Children's Home/Hostel/Flatlets/Bedsits  
No. of places  
Age range  
Short stay/Long stay.



**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 9**

The Director of Social Services.

District Social Services Of

RB/K

15th April, 1977.

REVIEW OF CHILDREN IN CARE

Please find enclosed a copy of the procedures regarding the review of children in care. There have been some slight amendments in relation to your comments. Additional information has also been included in the Progress Report. Would you check these against the initial recommendations and confirm that they are acceptable to you.

I have enclosed a copy of the Bristol Social Adjustment Guide which could be adapted and used as the written input from residential staff to the review. If you think this is feasible, please let me know and Mr. Bunting could liaise with the Principal Social Workers (R. & D.C.) regarding this.

Director of Social Services



Publishing Officer,  
University of London Press Ltd.,  
St. Paul's House,  
Warwick Lane,  
LONDON EC4P 1AB.

SE/M

15th July, 1977.

Dear Sir,

Bristol Social-Adjustment Guides - No. 3

The Child in Residential Care

Our Department has been considering the use of the above Guide either as it stands or in amended form to assist staff in reviewing the progress of children in residential care.

I would be grateful to know the present cost of the form as currently drafted and if we wished to amend it, what restrictions there would be with regard to this. Also if we amended the form would there continue to be a charge for our amended version.

The Guide was produced by D.H. Stott and Miss E.O. Sykes of the Institute of Education, University of Bristol, in 1956, reference ISBN 0 340 06120 4 Copyright

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Director of Social Services

no reply - telephoned

Not possible to amend the Guide. Can only be used for guidance when staff are compiling a progress report.

RS.



The Director of Social Services.

District Social Services Office  
(all Districts)

RE/MH

15th July, 1977.

REVIEW OF CHILDREN IN CARE

Further to my memo of 15th April 1977, I am writing to let you know that the amended procedures and Progress Report have been accepted by District staff and should now be regarded as part of policy and procedures with effect from 1st August 1977. Within these guidelines, discretion can be used regarding the delegation of responsibility for particular management tasks to senior staff.

Mr. Bunting will be in contact with the appropriate senior staff in the near future regarding adaptations to the Bristol Social Adjustment Guide for use by Residential Child Care staff.

Director of Social Services

The Director of Social Services

District Social Services Officer

PB/TK

22nd November, 1977.

REVIEW OF CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

As you are aware, at our request the Department agreed to do away with the quarterly return on children in residential care. We suggested a more comprehensive six monthly review procedure which was agreed with the other Directors of Social Services and S.W.A.G. At the meeting which the Directors had with Mr. Wilde on this subject, it was agreed that a Social Work Advisor would visit each District in the Eastern and Southern Boards to have a general discussion with the D.S.S.O.'s as to how the new procedures were working. This was accepted on the basis that it would be a one off exercise related to a change in the procedures.

I am consequently writing to let you know that Mr. O'Kane will be in touch with you in the near future to arrange a visit to discuss these procedures.

Director of Social Services



REVIEW OF CHILDREN IN CARE

The following procedures should be applied as minimum standards in relation to the review of all children in the care of our Board, whether in Foster or Residential Homes.

**A. RESPONSIBILITY FOR REVIEWS:**

1. The P.S.W. (F.S.) should have overall responsibility to the D.S.S.O. for the review of all children in care. With regard to children in Children's Homes this would involve close liaison with the appropriate senior member for R. & D.C. services for the District in which the Home is located. This should also apply in the case of Voluntary Children's Homes though there would also be direct liaison with senior staff of the Voluntary Organisation running the Home.

**B. TIME SCALE AND CONTENT OF REVIEWS - STAFF AND OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED:**

The review of children in care should be a continuous process and contact will vary in relation to the particular child. However, the following minimum procedures should be carried out.

1. The S.W. should visit each child in care at least once a month. He should see the child, talk to him on his own if possible, and discuss the child with Residential staff or Foster Parents as appropriate. He should maintain contact with parents or anyone who has an interest in the child. All visits and discussions should be adequately recorded on the child's file kept by the S.W.
2. Not later than one month following the child's admission and thereafter at not less than six monthly intervals there should be a formal review meeting for each child. At this meeting the progress report completed by the S.W. should be available.

In cases of short stay care, the P.S.W. (F.S.) will decide whether a formal review meeting is necessary.

3. The progress report completed by Residential staff should also be available to personnel at the review meeting. Residential staff should ensure that a file is kept for each child at the Children's Home and that any important matters or decisions in relation to the child are recorded on this file.
4. Foster parents should be kept as fully informed as possible and be meaningfully involved in the review.



.....Contd.

5. The review meetings should be convened and chaired by the P.S.W. (F.S.) or the person to whom he has delegated this responsibility. It is felt that in most Districts responsibility for review meetings will be shared between senior staff for Fieldwork Services though the P.S.W. (F.S.) will ensure that he maintains an oversight of all children.
6. The senior member of staff should decide whom to invite to the review meeting. Consideration should be given to Foster Parents, Parents, Child, Teacher and Health Visitor attending as well as Residential and S.W. staff. It is recognised that it will not always be possible or desirable to include the child and parents or other people listed. When they are not included their views should be sought prior to the meeting and be available for consideration.

The S.W. and a member of the caring staff from the appropriate Children's Home should always attend review meetings.

7. The purpose of the review meetings are to prevent confusion, share information and consequently facilitate communication; improve working relationships and provide a reasonable basis for planning for the child's future. The particular areas that the reviews should cover are outlined in the progress report. The meetings should be properly recorded particularly in relation to decisions made regarding any future plans for the child and the staff responsible for implementing these plans.

C. PHASING OF REVIEWS:

Reviews should be phased throughout the six months and might be organised, for example, on the basis of reviewing all the children in a specific Children's Home on set dates.

April, 1977

CII  
AP 2EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARDPROGRESS REPORT ON CHILD IN CARE

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ d.o.b. \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Section admitted/  
committed to care: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parental Rights Order

Yes/No: Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous placements in care:

Order	Placement	date	Reason for leaving				date
			Planned move	Break- down	Dis- charge	Other	
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

Present Placement: \*Children's Home/Foster Home/Home on Trial. (\*Delete as appropriate)

Address:  
(Include Name of \_\_\_\_\_

Foster Parents) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Placed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of visits since last report. Identify to whom the visit was made, e.g. child, parents, and underline those on which the child was seen.




**CHILD:**

**Emotional and Social Development :** (include relationships with Residential staff, S.W., Foster Parents, any other significant adults & peers).

**Physical development and health :** (Include any recent visits to family doctor).

**Progress at School/Work :** (Include vocational plans and any S.W. contact with School/Employer).

**Interests and Special events :** (include any religious observance and recreational activities).

**Evaluate the following:-**

**Family situation :** (include frequency and quality of contact between the child and his parents).

**Current placement and plans for the child :** (In the case of Foster Parents, include their relationship with the child, his family and social worker and physical conditions in the foster home).

**Social Work Input :**



Identify changes in relation to the child's family, Residential staff, Social Worker, Foster Parents, other important people in the child's life and the effect of change on the child.

Present legal position and any proposed change:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Social Worker: \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks of senior staff: -

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of 6 Monthly Review: \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 10**



HIA-5390

## Northern Health and Social Services Board



12/22 Linenhall Street,  
Belfast BT2 8BS,  
Telephone: (0232) 321313

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
R. Moore

The Reverend J.C. O'Connor,  
Chairman,  
Child Care (NI)  
511 Ormeau Road,  
BELFAST,  
BT7 3GS.

our ref RJB/XE  
your ref

19th January, 1988

Dear Father O'Connor,

Contribution of Voluntary Children's Homes  
towards the maintenance of the children

Further to our previous correspondence I am writing to let you know the outcome of the Board's consideration of this matter.

Paper No. PSSC 42/87, a copy of which is attached, was submitted to the Joint Health and Personal Social Services Committee on 12th November, 1987 to assist members in their consideration of the principle and financial arrangements we had sought agreement to with the Voluntary Children's Homes' representatives.

The Committee felt that the arrangements which had been agreed ensured the financial viability of Voluntary Children's Homes and that it would wish the Homes to agree the principle that they should assist financially with the maintenance of the children by contributing towards the running costs of the Home.

The decision of the Committee was subsequently accepted by the Board at its meeting on 26th November, 1987.

It would appear therefore that unless the Voluntary Homes are willing to agree the principle we have outlined, we will have to register this as an issue on which we were unable to reach agreement when we report to the Department.

I would be grateful if you could let me have your response on this matter.

However, I would not wish it to delay the completion of our discussion on the issues we have been considering with regard to the statutory/voluntary relationships. I would therefore suggest that we try to arrange a meeting in the near future to finalise our report for submission to the Department of Health and Social Services.

Yours sincerely,

  
Director of Social Services



HIA-5391

CONFIDENTIAL  
or Official Use Only)

Paper No. PSSC 42/87

EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARDFINANCING VOLUNTARY CHILDREN'S HOMESHistorical Background

A. the reorganisation of local government in 1973 the Board inherited the responsibility for maintaining those children in Voluntary Children's Homes who had been placed there by the former Welfare Authorities. By then the situation in residential child care had reached the stage where the majority of the children resident in Voluntary Children's Homes were in the care of Welfare Authorities, quite the opposite of that which appertained when those Authorities came into being in 1949. However, it was still the case that a substantial number, up to 25% of the total number of children in Voluntary Children's Homes, were in the care of the Management Committees of the Homes and were maintained financially by those Committees.

The system of payment for children in the care of Welfare Authorities who were resident in Voluntary Children's Homes was based on a weekly per capita maintenance rate, but this rate did not cover all the expenditure involved in caring for children; additional grants were paid as the need arose to meet the cost of, for example, holidays. These arrangements were further complicated by the fact that the Voluntary Children's Homes, in addition to maintaining the children who were in their care, contributed towards the general running costs of the Home and, consequently, indirectly subscribed to the upkeep of children who were in the care of Welfare Authorities.

At reorganisation the Department of Health and Social Services retained the responsibility for the registration and inspection of Voluntary Children's Homes. In addition, they continued to be responsible for capital grants, while arrangements for revenue funding was vested in Health and Social Services Boards. It was agreed that the Board, within whose administrative area the Voluntary Home was located, would be responsible for determining the appropriate per capita maintenance rate, and that the other Boards using the Home would accept this rate.

The system of financing the Voluntary Homes prior to reorganisation continued up until the mid seventies when this Board took the initiative to rationalise the situation and make the weekly per capita maintenance rates inclusive of all the revenue expenditure required to care for the children. At this time there was agreement that the Voluntary Children's Homes would continue to contribute towards the maintenance of the children generally, given that there were only a few children being maintained independently by them. The expectation of the Board was that the Homes would contribute up to 5% of the total revenue expenditure, having regard to their income from donations, gifts, legacies and investments.

Recent Developments

Since 1980, with the imposition of Government cash limits which have not usually kept pace with inflation, and salary increases, Voluntary Homes have been in an increasingly difficult financial position - they have not been able to find sufficient additional finance by efficiency measures. This difficulty has been exacerbated by a



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decrease in the occupancy levels of the Homes. In recognition of this difficulty the Board has provided additional finance over the past five years to increase the per capita maintenance rates beyond the percentages set by the Government cash limits and, in addition, has made one-off grants each year towards the deficits which have arisen.

Despite these measures, the amount of additional finance made available has not been sufficient to raise per capita maintenance rates to a level which will meet the full operational costs of the Homes. It is, however, hoped that this position can be achieved during the financial year 1988/89, by using some of the funds made available by the Department of Health and Social Services to implement the 'Hughes Committee' recommendations.

To complicate the situation, standards vary, Dr. Barnardo's and Craigmore (Childhaven) reaching those which the Board has agreed as part of its residential child care strategy, while the others have some way to go. The present per capita rates for these Homes are consequently misleading in that they tend to reflect standards of provision rather than comparable operational costs; however projections for 1987/88 indicate that there will be little difference in costs between the care provided in a Voluntary Home and that in the Board's Children's Homes.

In order to ensure the financial viability of Voluntary Children's Homes new financing arrangements have been agreed which entail the Board paying for the number of places agreed for the Homes regardless of occupancy level. This agreement is one of the outcomes of the discussions which have been ongoing for the past few years with the representatives of Voluntary Children's Homes on the 'Statutory/Voluntary Relationship in the Provision of Residential Child Care' and which were initiated following the issue of a Departmental circular on this subject.

#### Present Position

During negotiations about financial arrangements, the Voluntary Homes' representatives raised objections to the Board's expectation that they should contribute towards the maintenance of the children from voluntary funds, and attempts to reconcile the differing perspectives of the Board and Voluntary Children's Homes on this matter have been unsuccessful.

In discussion they pointed out that funding from the Department for capital works does not exceed 75% and therefore most of the finance which they raise needs to be set aside to meet their 25% contribution. In addition, the cost of maintaining children in residential care had increased considerably and most Homes would not be able to meet 5% of the revenue costs.

The Board, however, has not insisted on a 5% contribution but rather that the principle, that a Voluntary Homes should assist financially with the maintenance of the children by contributing towards the running costs of the Home, should be retained. The amount to be contributed would be related to whatever income was available, taking into account capital finance requirements.

Following discussions with the Voluntary Homes' representatives, when it appeared that this principle was accepted, the Director of Social Services wrote to the Voluntary Children's Homes' representatives seeking their acceptance of the following proposed policy.



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'Voluntary Children's Homes agree the principle that they should assist financially with the maintenance of children by contributing towards the running costs of the Home. Under present funding arrangements, the Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for capital grants and the Board for revenue. The maximum rate of grant available from the Department is 76% and, given the high costs of capital works, it is accepted that it may not always be possible for Homes to contribute towards running costs. Whether this is possible and, if so, the amount, will be agreed between the Voluntary Homes and the Board when the annual revision of the per capita maintenance charge is being considered'.

Father O'Connor replied on behalf of the Voluntary Children's Homes stating that they were unable to accept the principle and suggesting the following:-

'The Eastern Health and Social Services Board agrees the principle that it will normally meet the whole cost of services provided by a Voluntary Children's Home under a contractual arrangement.'

The Voluntary Homes are willing to consider making a financial contribution to the recurring costs of such services when such funds are available and such funds are not required for capital works (where 25% of the costs of such works have to be borne by the Home under present EHSSB funding arrangements). Each Home will assess with the EHSSB its capacity in this regard at the time of the annual per capita revision.

The Voluntary Homes undertake to continue to provide a cost-effective service assisting the EHSSB in a time of financial constraint by good housekeeping and financial management.'

Having reached an impasse, the Director of Social Services wrote to Father O'Connor informing him that the matter would be brought to the attention of the Health and Personal Social Services Committee.

In considering this matter the Board representatives identified three particularly relevant legislative and Departmental provisions and shared these with the Voluntary Children's Homes' representatives. These are the definition of a Voluntary Children's Home, the agreements which can be reached between the Board and those Homes and the contractual arrangements.

The first two are defined in the Children & Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1968 and the third in a Departmental Circular HSS 15 (OS) 1/74 issued in 1974.

The definitions are as follows:-

1. 'Voluntary Home means any home or other institution used in whole or in part for the boarding, protection, care and maintenance of poor children or children otherwise in need of help, being a home or other institution supported wholly or partly by voluntary contributions or endowments.'
2. 'The terms whether as to payment by the authority or other matters upon which the child is so maintained shall be such as may with the approval of the Department of Health and Social Services be agreed upon between the authority and the persons providing the home or hostel.'



HIA-5394

3. 'Contractual Arrangements. Boards will normally meet the whole costs of any services provided under such arrangements. A prime example is the provision of places in Voluntary Homes on a contractual basis.'

In the past both legal advice and the views of the Department have been sought on these definitions and these have not been helpful in reaching a decision one way or the other.

In effect what has been said is that, under these provisions if the Board wishes it can ask for a contribution towards the upkeep of the children. Alternatively, if the Voluntary Home wishes it can argue that by contributing towards the upkeep of the building it is indirectly contributing towards the maintenance of the children. However, it is the view of Board officers that this matter raises a fundamental question about the *raison d'être* of a Voluntary Children's Home and, in addition, the possibility of double standards being applied by the Department in relation to capital and revenue funding.

The Board has given a commitment to the Voluntary Children's Homes that it will plan jointly with them the provision of the residential child care services which it requires and will seek to ensure their financial viability. At present all of the Homes are contributing towards running costs, with the exception of St. Joseph's Children's Home, which has currently financial commitments towards the cost of renovations; in effect, they are operating in accordance with the policy the Board wishes to apply.

However, if the principle that Voluntary Children's Homes should assist financially with the maintenance of children, by contributing towards the running costs of the Homes, is conceded then a precedent will be created for the future that a Voluntary Children's Home can expect to receive 100% funding of its running costs and the decision whether or not to make any contribution towards these costs will rest with the Homes.

RJB/30.10.87

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 11**

Mr R. BuntingDe La Salle Boys Home Kiarubini

I have had a look at the rates approved for this home over the last 5 years and I set out on the attached schedule details of the actual expenditure for each year (with the exception of 1985 which is their estimate), the occupancy, the actual cost based on those figures and compared this with the rates which we approved to arrive at the shortfall. From this shortfall I have deducted the 5% Voluntary contribution which we normally expect to arrive at a net shortfall position.

James Scott (Director of Finance)  
21/3/85

EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD	
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES	
FORWARD TO .....	
SEEN BY .....	
HOLD <input type="checkbox"/>	22 MAR 1985 FILE <input type="checkbox"/>
COPY TO .....	
FOR: ACTION/COMMENT/INFORMATION	



DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME KIRCUBBINMAINTENANCE CHARGES FOR THE 5 YEARS FROM 1980/81 TO 1985/86

<u>Year Ended</u>	<u>Actual Expenditure</u>	<u>No. of Residents</u>	<u>Actual Cost per Res. Week</u>	<u>Per Capita Rate Granted</u>	<u>% Increase</u>	<u>Shortfall</u>	<u>5% Voluntary Contribution</u>	<u>Net Shortfall</u>
28/2/81	£165,620 13.1% increase	31	£102.74	£102.00	85%	£1,193	£8,285	*£7,092
28/2/82	£187,327 1.4% increase	27.6	£130.52	£112.20	10%	£26,293	£9,372	£16,921
28/2/83	£190,010 29.8% increase	27	£135.33	£122.30	9%	£18,294	£9,505	£8,789
28/2/84	£246,597 5% increase	31	£152.98	£129.87	6%	£37,253	£12,331	£24,922
28/2/85	£258,926 (estimate)	31	£160.62	£136.36*	5%	£39,107	£12,944	£26,163
TOTAL								<u>£68,703</u>

\* Interim increase with a view to trying to meet the deficit in due course.

\* Surplus

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 12**

SOCIAL SERVICES

Committee

To:

8/1/81

15 JAN 1981

AO/PP

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY HOME CHARGES

FILE NO: EB 266/73/6

DETAILS: De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin

An application has been received for an increase in the maintenance charge of the above Home with effect March 1, 1980. The charge was last revised as from September 1, 1978, a period of 18 months.

The proposed new charge at £102 per week is an increase of £47 per week (85%) over the previous charge of £55. The falling occupancy of the Home has had a great bearing on the costs. In August last there were 31 boys in residence - about half of the number in September 1978. It is obvious now that because of the occupancy, the rate fixed at £55 was too low. The actual cost for that year, based on the occupancy, was £87.70. If this revised figure is taken into account, the new rate would show an increase of £14.30, or 16.3%.

Pending the submission of the accounts for the six months to 31/8/80 and to assist with cash flow problems, a provisional increase of £16.50 was agreed.

There are on-going discussions regarding the general standard of care in the Home and, in addition, the Management Committee has expressed concern at the declining occupancy which will also require detailed examination.

The Committee is asked to consider the matter in the light of the above explanation.

P.T.O.

SUBMITTED

DATE:

2/1/81

APPROVED:

DATE:

14/81

Voluntary Home Charges - De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin

Members were informed that an application has been received requesting an increase in the maintenance charge in the above Home with effect from 1 March 1980. The charge was last revised with effect from 1 September 1978.

The proposed new charge of £102 per week is an increase of £47 per week (85%) over the previous charge of £55. There has been a falling occupancy in the Home and it is obvious now that because of the lower rate of occupancy, the maintenance charge fixed at £55 was too low. The actual cost for that year, based on the occupancy, was £87.70. If this revised figure is taken into account, the new rate would show an increase of £14.30, or 16.3%.

Pending the submission of the accounts for the six months to 31/8/80



At the request of the Chairman, Father O'Connor elaborated further and said that one of the problems facing the Home apart from its general inaccessibility is that it is a one sex home with a proviso as to age limit. Discussions with Board and Departmental officials have begun and more information will be available shortly.

1) to recommend acceptance of the new maintenance charge of £102 per week with effect from 1st March, 1980;

2) to await further information at the next meeting of the Committee;  
and

5) to record that the Committee would not wish to subscribe to the view that if maintenance costs still rise because of falling occupancy that the Board should continue to pay the higher charge.

~~Handwritten signature~~  
J DSS

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 13**

**Eastern Health and Social Services Board**IN CONFIDENCE

The Secretary,  
Department of Health and Social Services,  
Child Care Branch,  
Dundonald House,  
Upper Newtownards Road,  
BELFAST,  
BT4 3SF.

65 University Street Belfast BT7 1HN  
Telephone 44611  
Telegrams EHSSB, Belfast

Director of Social Services  
E. S. Gilliland B.Sc. (Econ.)

our ref: RJB/KL

your ref:

24th November, 1980.



Dear Sir,

Re: De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin

Please find enclosed a copy of a report by Miss Walker which I am sure you will agree raises matters of concern regarding the standard of care provided for the boys in De La Salle Boys' Home. I feel that these matters should be taken up as quickly as possible with the Management Committee and **BR 2** who is currently in charge of the Home.

I would be grateful if the relevant staff at the Department could contact Mr. R. Bunting, Assistant Director of Social Services, to discuss this matter further with a view to agreeing what action should be taken.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. S. Gilliland'.

Director of Social Services

Enc.

AP 920



EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
NORTH AND WEST BELFAST DISTRICT

## MEMORANDUM

117 KIN-365

From A. Walker (Miss) S.S.W.

To Mrs. J. McGrea, P.S.W.

Ref. AH/JMCG

Ref. 10th November 1980.

Re: DL 144

Formerly of:- De La Salle Boys' Home, 62, Gransha Road, Kircubbin.

On 29.9.80 I was advised by BR 7 of De La Salle Boys' Home that the above named boy, along with three others, DL 41 (S.W. M. Gribbon) DL 152 (S.W. C. McCavera) and (responsibility of W.H.S.S.B.) had run away from Kircubbin in the early hours of that morning, it was thought that DL 144 and DL 152 had been persuaded to abscond by the other two boys, who I understand were suspected of being involved in breaking into the tuck shop in De La Salle. The burglary had apparently occurred on Saturday 27.9.80 and a quantity of sweets and cigarettes were taken.

The four boys were located in Irvinestown Co. Fermanagh on the 29.9.80 and I was notified of their whereabouts on the 30.9.80 by a Mr. F. Brittain, from Social Services Enniskillen. Accompanied by a Social Worker from this office I returned DL 144 DL 152 and DL 41 to Kircubbin.

I spoke to the boys at some length in Castle Barracks, Enniskillen, and they maintained they had absconded not because of the burglary but because they wanted to make a 'protest' about "conditions" in Kircubbin. DL 144 has particularly insistent about this, and although he has been regarded as a difficult boy to manage in Kircubbin, staff there also found him honest, truthful and reliable. (Quote from June 1980 school report). He has never displayed any anti-social behaviour and I personally feel he is a fairly reliable boy. The boys indicated that they were dissatisfied with the following areas:-

; Clothing

Described as inadequate in quantity and quality. (Please find attached list compiled by DL 144

All clothing is bought in bulk and when a boy requires additional clothing he obtains a "chit" from a Brother and takes it to the store where he is given the item of clothing. The boys complained that they are always dressed in a "uniform" of description as their "choice" of clothing is limited to different colours of the same item.

**ii Footwear**

Footwear is also bought in bulk and boys obtain it in the same way as they obtain clothing. All four boys alleged that boys had to pay an extra £3 cash if they wanted a pair of heavy "oxford" brogue shoes. **DL 41** stated that he and another boy **DL 31** had paid the £3 although the other boys said they had refused to pay anything.

**iii Daily routine is excessively rigid.**

The daily routine does not vary from Mon.-Fri. After school the boys must go to the Games Hall until it is time for their evening meal, after which they must report for "line-up". (One boy said the purpose of this was to check how many boys had run away) and then they must return to the Games Hall until approximately 8.30 pm when they are free to do whatever they want. Lights out is at 10.00 pm during the week and at weekends they are allowed to stay up later to watch T.V. I should say, however, that interspersed with the periods in the Games Hall the boys regularly go swimming in Newtownards and Bangor and a number go to the local boxing club in Kircubbin and to local disco's.

**iv Boys are not allowed to leave the grounds of De La Salle unless escorted by a member of staff.**

I understand that in the past a number of local people complained of rowdy behaviour and some vandalism when groups of boys were allowed out by themselves.

**v Pocket money**

A points system relating to behaviour at school and in the chalets is used. Pocket money is paid on Friday and Sunday and a maximum of 75pence can be earned on each occasion, so that £1.50 per week is the maximum amount of pocket money payable. All the boys complained that no one ever got £1.50 and boys frequently received 30p-50p per week. None of the boys have Bank accounts.

**vi No complaints procedure is available if the boys are dissatisfied with anything.**

I advised the boys to discuss any complaints with their individual Social Workers. None had ever contemplated doing this.

-3-

I arranged to see **BR 7** and **BR 2** at Kircubbin on Thursday 2.10.80 and I outlined the "complaints" related by the boys. I did not feel it was appropriate for me to proceed any further.

In conclusion, while I feel that some of the comments made by the boys could be regarded as trivial and fairly typical grouses from adolescents, I do feel that certain of their statements merit close investigation. For example, numbers I and IV in the list of complaints I feel are justified. I have come across two examples within the past 3 months where boys have been discharged from De La Salle with so little clothing that we had to apply for Initial Clothing Grants for them. In one case, a boy was discharged in October without a winter coat, and he maintained that he had not had a heavy coat for over twelve months. The only jackets he had in his possession were a short denim wrangler jacket and a navy blue nylon cine bomber jacket. I have also come across examples of a 16 year old boy coming up to Belfast for the weekend with only 60p pocket money.

Although **DL 144** is now living in Tara Lodge and the statements contained in this report are no longer relevant to him, I would be grateful for your comments on the situation I have described in this report.

*A. Walker*

A. Walker (Miss)

Senior Social Worker



Clothes		What I own	Where I Got them from
1	Jeans	Boy	
1	Jumper	Boy	
2	2 shirts	Tara lodge	
2	2 shirts	Boys	
1	Jumper	Bought it myself	
1	Jean	"	"
1	Shoes	Brothers	
2	2 old Jackets	from [REDACTED] my Brother	
1	Trousers	Brothers	
1	dressing gon	Brothers	
1	Wrangler Jacket	Boy	
1	Jumper	Boy	
1	lend of a Coat	Boy	
2	2 shirts	Boys	
1	Shocks and underwear	Brothers	
1	school uniform	Brother	
1	Gutties (lead)	Boys	
1	Jeans	Boy	

DL 144

October 1980.

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 14**



Telephone: Kircubbin 261

*The Sales Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards,  
Co. Down.*

Furthermore, the Home has been inspected in recent weeks by the Social Work Advisory Group from the Department and their recommendations may have financial implications which we should like to consider in our deliberations.

With sincere thanks for your help in the past.

Yours faithfully,

**BR 2**

**BR 2**

Enc.: 1 copy of the latest Income And Expenditure Accounts.



Director of Social Services.

RE/MK

District Social Services Officer,  
North Down & Ards District.

2nd June, 1976.

MAINTENANCE CHARGE  
DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME  
KIRCUBBIN

Thank you for your memo of 26th May and financial statement from [REDACTED]  
BR 2 This will be processed in the usual way through our  
Headquarters Finance Department and the Personal Social Services Committee.

I would be grateful if you could let me have a short report on the caring  
standards in the Home and the number of boys there who are the responsibility  
of our Board.

Director of Social Services

# MEMORANDUM

To... Director... of Social Security... 11-9-78

**Ref. RB/MK**

7th July, 1978.

for District Social Services Officer



Telephone: Kircubbin 261

- 1 MAR 1979

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards,  
Co. Down.

26th February, 1979

Mr. R. Gilliland, Director of Social Services,  
Eastern Health Board,  
65 University Street,  
Belfast, 7.

Dear Mr. Gilliland,

Per Capita Cost - De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin.

I enclose herewith a copy of our Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st August, 1978. Our present per capita is £48.00. We now find this to be insufficient to meet our present commitments and would ask for an increase of approximately £7.00 per week to meet increased costs:

Expenditure until 31/8/78	...	...	...	...	...	136968.00
Deficit at 31/8/78	...	...	...	...	...	3841.00
Add estimated 10% for inflation	...	...	...	...	...	14080.00
						<u>£154889.00</u>

divided by 52 weeks and divided by 54 boys equals £55.16 per week.

We would ask that this new per capita figure of £55.00 be backdated to 1st September, 1978.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

BR 1



*Hv Guilford - for information.* 2211  
RB  
hv

The Director of Social Services

ESG/PK.

Mr. J.E. Fulton,  
District Social Services Officer,  
North Down & Ards District.

2nd March, 1979.

De la Salle Boys' Home - per capita maintenance charge.

Please find enclosed a copy of correspondence regarding the above, which is self-explanatory.

Mr. L. Scott will deal with this request from the financial aspect and I would be grateful if you could confirm that you are satisfied with the standard of care provided, and let me know the number of boys who are the responsibility of our Board.

TLB  
fw Director of Social Services.

The Director of Social Services

Mr. L. Scott, Lonsderry House.

EB/PK.

2nd March, 1979.

De la Salle Boys' Home - Per capita maintenance charge.

Please find enclosed a copy of correspondence regarding the above, which is self-explanatory. I would be grateful if you could deal with this in the usual way as quickly as possible. I have asked Mr. Fulton to confirm that he is satisfied with the standard of care provided and to let me know the number of boys who are the responsibility of our Board.

T43

FW Director of Social Services.

16th June, 1980.

Father McCann,  
Management Committee,  
De la Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
NEWTOWNARDS,  
Co. Down.

RJB/KL

Dear Father McCann,

A recent comparability award provided for an increase in the salaries of Residential Child Care staff with effect from 1st January, 1980. I have enclosed a copy of the revised salary scales and can confirm that the Board will be prepared to meet the cost of implementing these new salaries through an increase in the per capita maintenance charge for the children in your Home.

Yours sincerely,

R.J. Bunting,  
Assistant Director of Social Services

Enc.





Telephone: Kircubbin 261

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards,  
Co. Down.

13th August 1980.

20 AUG 1980

Mr. E. Gilliland,  
Director of Social Services,  
Eastern Health and Social Services,  
65, University Street,  
BELFAST BT7 1HN.

Dear Mr. Gilliland,

PER CAPITA CHARGE - DE LA SALLE HOME, KIRCUBBIN

On behalf the Management Committee I am writing to seek an increase in the per capita charge payable to the above Home in respect of Board residents.

A charge of £55 per week was approved with effect from September 1978. In seeking an increased rate with effect from 1 March 1980 (i.e. a period of 16 months since the last increase), I enclose audited accounts for

- (a) the six months ending 29 February 1979 and
- (b) the twelve months ending 29th February 1980

I would ask you to note that in the same period the average number of residents has dropped from 54 to 40.

While the projected expenditures overleaf covers the period from 1/3/80-28/2/81, the combined effect of lower average occupancy and large increases in salary will necessitate a further approach to the Board in September of this year when the audited accounts for six months period 1/3/80 - 30/8/80 will be forwarded with a request for a further revision. Two elements in particular will then have to be taken into account viz the gradual rationalisation of salaries to parity with the Boards from June 1980 and a further possible decrease in numbers of residents from 40 to 34.

You will note that the Home is making a voluntary contribution of £4000 for the present financial year to help offset increases. Some thought is being given also to the temporary closing down of one residential Unit in the light of the present reduction in numbers and in an attempt to effect some savings.

The Management Committee will be glad to meet you to discuss this application at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

BR 2

Copy to Mr L. Scott  
for information

BR 2

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
NEWTOWNARDS,  
Co. Down.

RJB/KL

26th August, 1980.

Dear

BR 2

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13th August, 1980 requesting an increase in the per capita maintenance charge for De La Salle Boys' Home. You state in your letter that another claim is pending and will be submitted in September, 1980. In view of this I would prefer to wait until September and process both claims at the same time.

Would you please let me know whether you agree with this suggestion.

Yours sincerely,

Director of Social Services



Telephone: Kircubbin 261

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards,  
Co. Down.

4th September 1980

Mr. E. Gilliland,  
Director of Social Services,  
Eastern Health and Social Services,  
65, University Street,  
Belfast BT7 1HN.

Mr. Gilliland					
Mr. McGee					
Mr. Mayes					
Mr. Jones					
Mr. Smith					
Mr. Wilson					

Dear Mr. Gilliland,

**PER CAPITA CHARGE - DE LA SALLE HOME, KIRCUBBIN**

Thank you for your letter of 26.8.1980.

While at first sight your preference for leaving consideration of our claim of 13.8.1980 seems reasonable, I would have to point out two major difficulties: a) The Home is already in debt at the bank due to the continuation of the present low per capita rate and an interim pay award has been made (backdated to June) to existing staff.

b) Due to uncertainty about numbers, it is unlikely (as we originally thought) that our next claim could now be submitted before the end of October.

For these reasons, I would prefer that our claim of 13.8.1980 be given sympathetic consideration now.

Yours Sincerely,

**BR 2**



Copy to Mr. L. Scott, Finance Dept.

BR 2

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Ruhama House,  
Kircubbin,  
NEWTOWNARDS,  
Co. Down.

RJB/KL

11th September, 1980.

Dear BR 2

PER CAPITA CHARGE - DE LA SALLE HOME, KIRCUBBIN

Further to your letter of 4th September, 1980 I note that your next claim will not now be submitted before the end of October.

I still feel it would be best to process both claims at the same time and arrive at an increased per capita maintenance charge which could be backdated to 1st March, 1980 as you intend.

In the meanwhile, and to overcome any financial problems which you may be experiencing, I would suggest that we pay you on account an increase of 30% on your existing per capita charge with effect from 1st March, 1980. We could then work out the exact increase to be agreed and backdate it to 1st March, 1980 when we receive your October accounts.

Would you please let me know whether this is acceptable.

Yours sincerely,

Director of Social Services

*Mr Gilliland, for information. I think you have  
the previous correspondence on this.*



Telephone: Kircubbin 261

*De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,*

*Newtownards,*

*Co. Down.*

*19.9.1980*

*h*

Mr. R. Gilliland,  
Director of Social Services,  
Eastern Health and Social Services,  
65, University Street,  
Belfast BT7 1HN.

22SEP1980

Dear Mr. Gilliland,

PER CAPITA CHARGE - DE LA SALLE HOME, KIRCUBBIN

Thank you for your letter of 11th September, 1980. I can appreciate your difficulty in dealing with two separate claims in quick succession, as had been originally proposed by us. However, your generous offer of an increase of 30% on our existing per capita charge with effect from 1st March 1980 would certainly be very welcome as an interim measure, and would help to keep us solvent for the present. I will let you have our next claim as soon as possible after the October accounts are made available to me.

Thanking you for your help and support in this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

BR 2



Telephone: Kircubbin 261  
(024 - 771)

24th October 1980.

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards,  
Co. Down.

Mr. E. Gilliland,  
Director Of Social Services,  
65, University Street,  
BELFAST 7.

24 OCT 1980

Dear Mr. Gilliland,

PER CAPITA CHARGE - DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME, KIRCUBBIN

Further to our recent communications regarding the above, we acknowledge receipt of your letter of 11 September 1980 offering an advance of 30% over the former rate of £55, pending submission of the accounts for the first six months of this financial year.

In forwarding these accounts (as enclosed) we would draw your attention to the following.

- (a) A deficit of £17,000 was produced in the first half of this financial year.
- (b) The average occupancy during this period was 37 boys rather than 40 as anticipated. The present number of boys in the Home is 31.
- (c) Staff salaries are substantially below par. While one chalet has been temporarily closed due to lack of numbers, it has not been possible to make any effective savings in staff numbers. A considerable pay rise is now due which the Management Committee does not wish to put into effect until the Board has agreed to a figure over and above the present amount (£55 plus 30% = £71.50) which will allow this commitment to be carried forward into the next financial year.





Telephone: Kircubbin 261

Dr. The Falls Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards,  
Co. Down.

Accordingly, a new per capita figure of £102 is indicated as follows:-

Actual expenditure for first six months	£ 87,253
Actual deficit - Same period	£ 16,999
Estimated expenditure last six months	£104,252
Extra required for wage increase of at least 20% from 1 September 1980.	£ 3,133
	<u>£211,637</u>
divided by 52 weeks	=
divided by 40 residents	=
	£4069
	£ 102 approximately

This request for updating of the former per capita rate of £55 per week therefore supersedes our request of 13th August 1980 and relates to the whole period from 1st March 1980. We would underline finally that no increase in per capita has been granted since September 1978 - \* a period of 18 months up to 1st March 1980 from when the new rate above is sought.

Yours sincerely,

**BR 2**

\* I have not been able to find  
any submission for **BR 1**

**BR 2**

predecessor, for  
an increase in the per capita rate  
during this period and no audited  
accounts. However, I am relying on  
my administrative files in relation to the  
Home, which has just recently become  
available. The finance files are  
not available at present. The changes  
proposed may be significant.

R. J. Blunt

4/11/14

/ENC.



Telephone: Kircubbin 261

9th April 1981.

Mr. E. Gilliland,  
Director of Social Services,  
65, University St.,  
Belfast 7.

Dear Mr. Gilliland,

Per Capita Charge - De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin.

On behalf of the Board of Management I refer to letters, dated 28th January, 1981 and 2nd February, 1981 from Mr. Scott for the Chief Administration Officer and from Mr. Bunting, respectively.

Mr. Scott's letter conveys the Board's approval for a Maintenance Charge of £102 per week ( 1st March 1980 - 28th February 1981 ). For this , the Management is grateful. Mr. Scott also states,

"The Board is concerned at the drop in the level of occupancy and would point out that they could not subscribe to the view that if maintenance costs still rise because of falling occupancy that the Board should continue to pay the higher charges."

The Management is concerned about the implications of the above statement and would be grateful to have further clarification on this matter.

Mr. Bunting, in his letter, refers to the advisability of submitting as soon as possible our charges for the year commencing 1st April, 1981. With your agreement, it is proposed that our application be postponed to a later date, perhaps to July or August, when we have a clearer indication as to what our charges may be and on what basis they may be calculated.

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards,  
Co. Down.

E. B. SOCIAL SERVICES			
DSJ		SAD	
MR. BLAIR		SEN TYP	
MR. BUNTING	✓	CIFY	
MR. MAGEE		13 APR 1981	
MRS JENNINGS		ACK	
MISS McCLURE		FILE	

BR 2

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Rubane House,  
Kircubbin,  
NEWTOWNARDS,  
Co. Down.

RJB/KL

14th April, 1981.

Dear BR 2,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 9th April, 1981.

It would seem to me that the Committee and Board Members are anxious to ensure that any unit is economic and that the running cost should reflect the service provided.

In a situation where the occupancy level falls and remains at a low level then the service becomes uneconomic unless there is a commensurate reduction in staffing and in other running costs such as heating and lighting.

Provided it can be shown that the home is functioning on an economic basis and generally bears comparison with similar sized homes I do not think that you have any cause for concern. The care aspects are more important and, unfortunately, the complex at Kircubbin does not easily lend itself to reducing the size of the home without the consequence of much of the complex and facilities being under-used and therefore calling in question the whole environment from the boys' point of view.

No doubt your Management Committee will be giving a great deal of thought to these issues and you can be assured that we will assist in any way possible and will not take decisions regarding our financial support for the home without consulting fully with the Management Committee.

I would agree to your request to leave the revision of the per capita maintenance charge until July when your financial situation and the future operation of the home will, hopefully, be clearer.

Yours sincerely,

Director of Social Services





13 NOV 1981

DUNDONALD HOUSE  
UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SF

Mr E S Gilliland  
Director of Social Services  
Eastern Health and Social Services Board  
65 University Street  
BELFAST  
BT7 1HN

11 November 1981

Dear Mr Gilliland

DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME, KIRKCURBIN

I refer to your letter of 13 October 1981 in connection with the application by the Home's Management Committee for an increased per capita maintenance charge.

I am unable to let you have a copy of the Social Work Advisory Group's report on the Home. The contents of the report have not yet been discussed with the Management Committee. However, I attach for your information copies of those sections of the report which, if the recommendations are implemented, will result in increased revenue consequences.

I hope that this information, together with your own overall plans for child care facilities in your area, will enable you to deal with the Management Committee's request.

A meeting to discuss the content of the Report between the Management Committee and the inspection team has been arranged to take place on 19 November 1981.

Yours sincerely

P Coulson

P COULSON

Extracts from the Inspection Report on De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin

- 6.2 ..... Furthermore, current staffing levels which are referred to in detail later (see paragraph 6.7) requires **BR 2** to be directly involved in helping to look after one group of children outside of school hours and during the night. We suggest that he be relieved of his regular duties with the children and that he also be provided with competent secretarial support as soon as is convenient to allow him time to concentrate wholly on his management task.
- 6.7 The ratio of residential social workers to boys in Rubane House is a matter for concern. The four units were each designed to accommodate fourteen boys with a fifth group living in the main house, making a total of seventy boys. The fall in numbers in recent years has resulted in the closure of two of the chalets and there are now only three groups. At the time of the inspection two groups had a complement of three staff each and the third group had two staff, one of whom was employed full time and one part time. Although this size of unit and staffing ratio were acceptable in the 1960s present-day practice favours smaller groups and in particular when caring for adolescents. In addition to the staff mentioned above others are involved in providing activities for the boys and in supervising their leisure time. Some are also on the sleeping-in duty rota. The Department has offered to provide **BR 2** with further advice on current ideas about staffing ratios. He said that he would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter.
- [A copy of a letter to **BR 2** dated 6 July 1961 on the subject of staffing level and devising a time-table for the Home is appended.]
- 8.6 ..... We recommend that the pocket money scale set out in the Model Scheme of Boarding Out Allowances used by the Health and Social Services Boards be adopted at Rubane House. This scheme relates the allowances to the age of the child. Such a change in the pocket money system would mean the adoption of a different incentive scheme for desirable behaviour.
- 8.10 ..... Some consideration should be given to reducing the size of each group from fourteen which is too big for satisfactory group living. Present-day standards for the residential care of adolescents would suggest an optimum figure of nine or ten.

Mr. R.J. Bunting,  
Assistant Director of Social Services

Mr. J.E. Fulton, D.S.S.O.,  
North Down & Ards Unit of Management.

RJE/KL

De La Salle Boys' Home

Please find enclosed a copy of correspondence from **BR 6**  
requesting an increase in the per capita maintenance charge at De La Salle.

I have asked Mr. Scott to process this from the financial aspect  
and would be grateful if you could confirm that you are satisfied with the  
standard of care being provided and also let me know the number of children  
in the home who are the financial responsibility of our Board.

Mr. R.J. Bunting,  
Assistant Director of Social Services

25th April, 1983



copy to Mr. [unclear]  
for information  
P  
info

The Secretary,  
Department of Health and Social Services,  
Child Care Branch,  
Dundonald House,  
Upper Newtownards Road,  
BELFAST,  
BT4 3SF.

RJB/KL

13th October, 1981.

Dear Sir,

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Rubane House, Kircubbin.

I have received a letter from **BR 6** Secretary to the Management Committee of De La Salle Boys' Home, requesting an increase in the per capita maintenance charge, some of which is the result of employing new staff. Reference is made in the letter to consideration of the report of the Department on the home which, it is implied, will have further revenue consequences.

I would be grateful therefore if you could let me have a copy of the report and information on the stage discussions have reached with the Management Committee regarding any recommendations which have revenue consequences.

Yours faithfully,

Director of Social Services

**BR 6**

(Secretary to the Management Committee),  
De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards,  
BT22 1AJ

RB/DMCC

13.6.84

Dear **BR 6**

Per Capita Revision 1984/85  
De La Salle Boys' Home

I apologise for the delay, due to pressure of work, in acknowledging your letter of 21st May, 1984, requesting an increase in the per capita maintenance charge.

As you are probably aware, the Department do not provide additional finance to the Boards to meet the cost of improvements recommended by the Social Work Advisory Group. Also we do not receive a copy of their report and recommendations in regard to Voluntary Children's Homes in our area.

I would be grateful therefore if you could let me have information on the number and grades of the additional staff you refer to in your letter and the additional cost of these staff per annum.

Your request will be dealt with as quickly as possible and if there are further points which need clarified, I will be in contact with you.

Yours sincerely,

Director of Social Services

-2-

Expected occupancy  
Cost per resident week  
Now per capita rate sought

£291,510.

31

£180.83

£180.83.

Yours sincerely,

**BR 6**

(Secretary to the Management Committee)

Enc. Copy of Audited Accounts.



The Director of Social Services

Mr. L. Scott, Administrative Officer  
(Finance and Supplies)

RJE/KL

De La Salle Boys' Home

Please find enclosed a copy of correspondence from BR 6 requesting an increase in the per capita maintenance charge at De La Salle Boys' Home.

I would be grateful if you could process this from the financial aspect and I will ask Mr. Fulton to confirm that he is satisfied with the standard of care being provided and also to let me know the number of children in the home who are the financial responsibility of our Board.

Director of Social Services

14th June, 1984



Telephone: Kircubbin 261

Mr. R. Gilliland,  
Director, Eastern Health &  
Social Services Board,  
65 University Street,  
BELFAST BT7.

De La Salle Boys' Home  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards, BT2

De La Salle Boys' Home			
Financial Statement			
U.S.S.			
NEW PLAN			
NEW EXPENSES			
JANUARY		22	
NEW PLAN			
21st January 1984			

Dear Mr. Gilliland,

Per Capita Revision 1984/1985  
De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin.

I enclose for your inspection a copy of the audited accounts for the year ended 1984, February 29th.

I wish to make the following comments:

The D.H.S.S. Inspectorate in their recommendations of July 1981 stressed the importance of adequate staffing levels. Additional Staff have been appointed and this is reflected in the substantially higher costs accrued in the past financial year.

The average number of boys in residence during that year was 31. Given that our residents are from all parts of Northern Ireland, and that we are concerned that normal week-end contact should be allowed them, it is not surprising that motor expenses and travelling costs are quite high.

Continuing vigilance with regard to lighting, heating and food expense has allowed us to make economies which almost offset the increased costs incurred in repairs and renewals.

We will continue to provide a good and caring environment for a similar number of children in the coming year. Towards that end the Management Committee has asked me to seek a new per capita rate calculated as follows

Expenditure 1983/1984	£251,277.	
Deduct capital levy	<u>4,680</u>	£246,597.
Add 5% for inflation and salary increases		<u>12,329.</u>
		£258,926.
Add deficit 1983/1984 (£37,264 less capital levy)		<u>32,584.</u>
		£291,510.

Over

DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME, RUBANE HOUSE, KIRKUBBIN.INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29th FEBRUARY 1980.

March 1979 - Feb 80

INCOME.

Average of 37 boys

Health & Social Services Board  
(Including £10,800 in respect of 6 months  
to 28.2.79)

147,117

EXPENDITURE.

Rent, Rates & Insurances  
Light & Heat  
Repairs & Renewals  
Office expenses

1,793

14,627

3,868

1,849

22,137

Salaries, Wages & NIC  
Bank Charges

58,594

160

58,754

Provisions & Catering  
Clothing & footwear  
Cleaning & Laundry  
Household requisites

35,096

5,872

372

5,107

46,447

Motor expenses  
Medical & Schoolroom  
Recreation  
Travelling  
Rewards Pocket Money,  
Chapel

4,089

569

2,047

519

3,586

178

10,978

PREMIATION.

Mini Bus  
Mini Bus  
Motor Car  
Mobile Classroom

49

259

201

298

807

an Account - Capital Levy

7,488

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.

146,611

LESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE.

£506

C & F Average £158 per boy per year  
PM Average £97 per boy per year



DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME, HUBANE HOUSE, KIRCUBBININCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY, 1982

MARCH 1980 - Feb 81

Average of 24 boys

CLF Average 374 per boy per annum  
PM " 2134 "Year to  
28.2.82INCOME

Health &amp; Social Services Boards

146,468

168,032

EXPENDITURE

Rent, Rates &amp; Insurance

1,901

2,639

Light &amp; Heat

18,365

19,135

Repairs &amp; Renewals

9,903

8,743

Office Expenses

3,576

33,745

2,469

Salaries Wages &amp; N.I.C.

102,627

70,005

Bank Charges

-

457

102,627

Provisions &amp; Catering

23,140

29,770

Clothing &amp; Footwear

5,786

10,863

Cleaning &amp; Laundry

1,799

1,003

Household Requisites

3,171

6,500

33,896

Motor Expenses

6,857

4,981

Medical &amp; Schoolroom

777

368

Recreation

1,495

2,409

Travelling

1,899

1,519

Rewards Pocket money

4,976

3,885

Chapel

493

318

16,497

Depreciation

Minibus

31

40

Minibus

166

208

Motor Car

277

162

Mobile Classroom

88

146

562

Loan Account - Capital Levy

4,212

5,148

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

191,539

170,768

EXCESS EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME

£ 45,071

£ 2,736

DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME, HURANE HOUSE, KIRCUBBIN  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY, 1983

Month 1981 - 1982

Year To  
28.02.82

INCOME

Health & Social Services Boards

171,058

146,468

EXPENDITURE

Rent, Rates & Insurance

2,325

1,901

Light & Heat

22,247

18,365

Repairs & Renewals

3,910

9,903

Office Expenses

3,859 32,341

3,576

Salaries, Wages & N.I.C.

110,844

102,627

Bank Charges

2,201

-

113,045

Provisions & Catering

21,113

23,140

Clothing & Footwear

6,495

5,786

Cleaning & Laundry

836

1,799

Household Requisites

2,436

3,171

30,880

Motor Expenses

4,122

6,857

Medical & Schoolroom

459

777

Recreation

1,851

1,495

Travelling

1,612

1,899

Pocket Money

4,581

4,976

Chapel

282

493

12,907

Depreciation

Minibus

25

31

Minibus

132

166

Motor Car

610

277

Mobile Classroom

70

88

837

Loan Account - Capital Levy

3,900

4,212

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

193,910

191,539

EXCESS EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME

£ 22,852

£ 45,071

Average 627 boys C & F £210 per boy per annum  
 PM £184 p b p a

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 15**



1540/76 2

4 December 1980

Mr E S Gilliland  
Director of Social Services  
Eastern Health and Social Services Board  
65 University Street  
BELFAST  
BT7 1HN

Dear Mr Gilliland

DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME, RUBANE HOUSE, KIRCUBBIN

I am writing in reply to your letter of 24 November 1980 which was addressed to the Secretary.

Miss A Walker does raise some disturbing aspects of child care practice standards in the Home. However, before discussing what action appears to be necessary there are a number of questions to which I believe the Board needs to respond in order to view the complaints in perspective.

1. Clothing and footwear

I would be interested to know what the Board's expectation is of the provision to be made under this heading through maintenance payments for those boys in its care. Is this a matter which has been previously discussed with the head of the Home and, if so, was there an understanding reached between the Board and Rubane House? Did Miss Walker check what clothing was issued to the boys mentioned in the last paragraph of her report with the officer-in-charge or his deputy? If so, did the information given correspond with that communicated by the boys?

2. Daily routine in the Home

Did Miss Walker discuss the Home's allegedly rigid approach with [REDACTED] BR 2 and [REDACTED] BR 7. If she did, what conclusion did she reach following the discussion?

3. Pocket money

Who stipulates the scale of pocket money allowances - the Board or the Home? What is the scale applied in Rubane House? Was the Board previously aware that payment of pocket money is influenced by a points system through which controls and sanctions appear to be operated?

4. Boys leaving the grounds of Rubane House

Could Miss Walker be more specific and comment on the circumstances under which boys would be leaving the grounds of the Home and are escorted unnecessarily?

3

5. Complaints

Does the Board have a policy or procedure relating to responding to complaints made by resident boys in their care? What is the social worker's role in any policy or procedure?

I should be grateful to have an early reply.

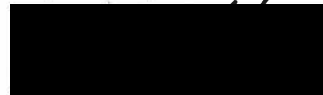
Yours sincerely

J A WILDE  
Chief Social Work Adviser

15 41976

26 January 1981

Mr E S Gilliland BSc (Econ)  
 Director of Social Services  
 Eastern Health and Social Services Board  
 65 University Street  
 BELFAST  
 BT7 1EH



Dear Mr Gilliland

DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME, RUBANE HOUSE, KIRCUBBIN

y I think you should know that we will shortly be meeting representatives of the Management Committee of this Home at their request when issues about the aims, objectives and no doubt child care practice in the Home will arise.

Nevertheless I think I should make it clear that, in my view, the Department's registration and inspectorial functions do not in any way diminish the responsibility of Boards to actively pursue the needs of the individual children in their care who are accommodated in voluntary homes with appropriate senior staff or, if need be, with the Management Committee of the Home concerned.

y It follows that the complaints/criticisms aired by Miss A Walker should, if you think it advisable, be taken up by your senior staff in accordance with your Board's policy.

We would wish to be informed if it does not prove possible to resolve problems through the procedure outlined above.

Yours sincerely

J A MILNE  
 Chief Social Work Adviser

Mr Carlson

copy for information - We intend to carry out an inspection of Rubane during the week 9-13 March

BA  
 28/1/81



DE LA SALLE, RUBANE, KIRCHUBEN

On the 4th February, 1982, [DL 81] and [DL 514] houseparent and assistant houseparent in Chalet 2 at De La Salle Home came to see me and to make certain complaints about the running of this home.

Both members of staff stated their complaints were particularly in relation to Chalet 2 in which they both have been employed since September 1981. They both claimed that they felt the Chalet was run for the benefit of the staff rather than the kids, e.g. if children were not in the dining room by 8.15 a.m. for breakfast, they did not receive same. They claimed the Head of the chalet was the person who determined the policy and that some of the policies within this chalet were unacceptable to them, e.g.; if a boy spoke to the Head of the chalet when he was off duty the boy was fined 20p. If any boy made noise when the Head of the chalet was off duty they were fined 20p. The Head of the chalet and his wife, who is deputy in this Group are resident, and their resident accommodation apparently has certain communal facilities ie; the kitchen the policy is that only one boy with a member of staff is allowed in the kitchen. It appears to be also that the Head of the chalet allows the older boys to control the younger ones, and as part of their control they are encouraged to fine the younger boys for any misdemeanours. The two members of staff also complained that the Head of the chalet showed favouritism to some of the boys over birthdays. Also each day before retiring to bed every boy had to wash his feet in a basin of water which was placed on the floor. It appears that the same basin and the same water is used for all 12 boys in the chalet.

[DL 81] and [DL 514] gave these illustrations and stated that they tended to ignore a number of them because they did not agree with this policy. They complained bitterly that good child care practices were not allowed in this chalet.

They decided a week before Christmas to discuss their problems with [redacted] S.W., Down & Connor, who advised them to discuss the matter with [BR 2] When they saw [BR 2] and his deputy, [redacted] they were informed by the Brothers that they considered these matters as trivial which could be resolved at a staff meeting and that they would arrange for this staff meeting to take place before the Christmas holidays.

The meeting was arranged between [BR 2], [redacted], [redacted] [BR 6] [DL 81], [DL 514] and the Head and the Deputy of the chalet. [DL 81] and [DL 514] presented what they felt were good child care principles and practice and asked for these to be implemented within their chalet. They were informed that the Brothers would consider their request and report back to them after the Christmas holidays. In reporting back the Brothers informed [DL 81] and [DL 514] that they supported the policies as laid down by the Officers in Charge of the chalet. They further claimed that [BR 2] informed them on an individual basis that if they did not like the policies they could leave, and in the case of [DL 514], [redacted] advised that [BR 2] could not give them any problems as they were employed by the Home. [redacted]

while the Officer-in-Charge, and Deputy had 7½ years experience in De La Salle.)

DL 81 and DL 514 stated that since the beginning of January this year they have been implementing the policies of the Officer-in-Charge of the chalet, but this led to problems, two in particular. These problems are a direct result of their change in approach to the boys, apparently on one occasion one boy pulled a knife on DL 81 and threatened him with same, and on another occasion boys have been disobedient, insolent, and using abusive language to both DL 81 and DL 514. Both these members of staff having felt that they got no success in raising their grievance with the Head of the Home approached Fr. O'Connor, and they claimed that he did not want to know anything about it, and suggested they might need to contact Fr. McCann. They contacted Fr. McCann and they allege that it had nothing to do with him but a matter for [REDACTED]

BR 2 They stated that as they felt that they were going round in circles, this was the reason they now approached me.

I explained to them that any complaints I received would have to be passed on to the D.H.S.S. DL 81 and DL 514 recognised the consequences of this. They stated that they were willing to have the whole issue brought out in the open as the child care in De La Salle was practically non-existent.

They further stated that the person in charge of Chalet 1 has a drink problem, and is frequently on duty in an intoxicating state, and that a member of staff who commenced in the Home in September reported this to BR 2 after three weeks. It is alleged that BR 2 told this member of staff that if they did not like what they saw they could leave. It was further alleged that when she went off duty at a later date she was contacted by BR 2 and told not to return as her services were no longer required.

*A. Morris*

A. Morris (Mr)  
Principal Social Worker

5th February, 1982.

# **Eastern Health and Social Services Board**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr. P. Armstrong,  
Deputy Chief Social Work Adviser,  
Department of Health and Social Services,  
Dundonald House,  
Upper Newtownards Road,  
BELFAST,  
BT4 3SP.

**Director**

65 University Street Belfast BT7 1HN  
Telephone 44811  
Telegrams EHSSB, Belfast

Director of Social Services  
E. S. Gilliland B.Sc. (Econ.)

our ref: RJB/KL

your ref:

22nd February, 1982.

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

## DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME

Further to Mr. Bunting's telephone conversation with you and the discussion between Mr. Walker, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Morris, please find enclosed a copy of a report, written by Mr. Morris, outlining the allegations made to him by two members of staff from this home.

District staff have been advised not to use this home until these allegations have been dealt with and Mr. Bunting has informed **BR 2** that we have taken this decision.

Following Mr. Bunting's recent discussion with Mr. Walker, who has investigated these allegations, I would be grateful to have, in writing, the views of the Department as to whether this home should continue to be used for residential accommodation for boys.

If the recommendation is positive I would be grateful to know what changes have been made in child care practice and how these are being monitored.

I am assuming that the other Boards have been informed about these allegations, by the Department.

It would be helpful for our Board, as one of the main users of this home, to have a copy of the Department's report on the inspection of the home which was carried out some months ago and any recommendations which were made to improve the standard of care.

It would also be helpful to know whether all the recommendations made by the Department have been implemented or whether there are still outstanding issues which are a cause for concern.

I feel that it is essential that this information is shared with us and I take the view that the welfare of the boys in the home overrides the issue of confidentiality which the Management Committee might raise.

Yours sincerely,

*E. S. Gilliland*  
Director of Social Services

Enc.

AP 1177



Mr E S Gilliland BSc (Econ)  
Director of Social Services  
Eastern Health and Social Services Board  
65 University Street  
BELFAST  
BT7 1HN

DUNDONALD HOUSE  
UPPER  
NEWTOWNARDS  
ROAD  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SF

6 April 1982

Dear Mr Gilliland

DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME RUBANE HOUSE, KIRCUBBIN

Further to my letter of 8 March I have now received a report from Mr Walker on his investigation of the allegations made to Mr Morris about poor standards of practice at the De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane.

In addition to seeing Mr Morris, Mr Walker and Mr O'Brien spent two days in the Home interviewing **BR 2** and all of the other staff members concerned including the two people who spoke to Mr Morris. Most of the allegations concerned poor standards of child care in one of the three chalet units at the Home.

Mr Walker's opinion is that most of these alleged malpractices may have taken place in this unit at one time or another but, with the exception of the foot-washing ritual, they have not been commonplace or pervasive. Moreover they have never formed part of the child care policy of the unit but have arisen from the difficulty in the past of recruiting staff with the levels of qualification and experience that we would all like to see in the residential child care field.

We have advised the Manager that the practices which had been brought to our attention are unacceptable and he immediately agreed to tell the staff concerned that any remaining in use should be discontinued forthwith. I am satisfied that these practices have now ceased. Mr Walker, however, will continue to make regular visits to Rubane both to advise and support **BR 2** and to monitor the

improvements in the standard of child care that we are trying to encourage in this and all the other children's homes in the Province.

The second area of concern related to the person in charge of Chalet One who also acted as the farm manager. It was alleged that he had a drink problem and that he was frequently on duty in an intoxicated state.

**BR 2** agreed that the member of staff had started to drink following a fire that had been started by two boys and which destroyed the hayshed and its contents. He was emphatic, however, that this man had never been allowed to go on duty while under the influence of alcohol. As soon as the problem became apparent arrangements were made for him to be transferred to another of the De La Salle Order's committees and he has not been employed at Rubane since the beginning of December. In my opinion the Brothers dealt with this matter responsibly and expeditiously in order to avoid any risks to the boys.

I am sure that you would agree that, while there can be room for improvement in the standards of child care in this Home, as in many others both statutory and voluntary, the practices complained of did not represent a serious threat to either the safety or the welfare of the boys. In my opinion there is now no reason for your Board to ..... an ~~em~~<sup>an</sup> go on the admission of boys to Rubane. Social workers who have the responsibility for children whom they consider would benefit from the type of treatment and regime that is offered by the Home should receive referrals.

I have noted your request for a copy of the Social Work Advisory Group's report on its inspection of the Rubane to be sent to your Board and I appreciate your reason for asking for it. Nevertheless, an assurance was given to the managers of all the voluntary homes that our inspection reports would be treated as confidential. It would not be proper therefore for me to accede without the agreement of the Management Committee and I shall ask the Chairman to consider your request.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Rev. Peter McCann, Chairman of the Management Committee, and the Directors of Social Services of the other three Boards.

**Yours Sincerely**

**PJ Armstrong**

**D/Chief Social Work Adviser**





024 771

Telephone: Kircubbin 261

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards,  
Co. Down.

10th December, 1980.

Mr. E.S. Gilliland,  
Director of Social Services,  
Eastern Health Social Services Board,  
65, University St.,  
Belfast BT7 1HN.

Dear Mr. Gilliland,

On behalf of the Board of Governors, the Management Committee, at a recent meeting, expressed concern on the decline of referrals to the Home over the last three years. It was proposed that a meeting be arranged with members of the Eastern Area Board and representatives of the Management Committee to discuss issues arising from this decline. This is seen to be all the more urgent in view of the fact that the fall in numbers affect the number of teachers in the school and the very continuance of the school on the premises.

We would appreciate if this meeting could be held in early January or at the earliest possible convenience.

Should you wish any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely,

**BR 6**Management Committee.

22 DEC1980

BR 6

Management Committee,  
De La Salle Boys's Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards,  
Co. Down.

RJB/EL

2nd January, 1981.

Dear BR 6

Further to your letter of 18th December 1980 Mr. Bunting tried to contact you and in your absence spoke to BR 2

An informal exchange of views has been arranged for 9th January at 3.30 p.m. at De La Salle Boys' Home involving Mr. Bunting, Mr. Sharpe and Mr. Fulton from our Board and representatives of the home and Management Committee.

However, as Mr. Bunting indicated to BR 2 it would be our view that the issues causing concern to your Management Committee should be formally notified to the Department of Health and Social Services who are responsible for the registration of Voluntary Children's Homes so that the Department can decide what appropriate action it would like to take.

Yours sincerely,

Director of Social Services



DUNDONALD HOUSE  
UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SF

IN CONFIDENCE

8 March 1982

Your Ref. RJB/KL

Mr E S Gilliland BSc(Econ)  
Director of Social Services  
Eastern Health and Social Services Board  
65 University Street  
BELFAST  
BT7 1HN

Dear Mr Gilliland

DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME

Thank you for your letter of 22 February enclosing a copy of the report from Mr Morris.

Mr Walker has been investigating the allegations and I shall write to you again when I receive his report.

Yours sincerely

P J ARMSTRONG  
D/Chief Social Work Adviser



EASTERN HEALTH &amp; SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD, NORTH DOWN &amp; ARDS DISTRICT

MEMORANDUMFrom A. Morris, P.S.W.To Director of Social Services,Ref. WAM/OCRef. Attention of Mr. R. Bunting

17th February, 1982

De La Salle, Rubane, Kircubbin

I am enclosing two copies of a report concerning complaints made by two members of staff from above home to me.

Mr. C. Walker and **SND 453** from D.H.S.S. when they visited me requested a copy of this report and I would be grateful if you would forward direct to them.

*han*  
Principal Social Worker

E. D. SOCIAL SERVICES			
MR. S.		SAO	
MR. BLAIR		SEN TYP	
MISS JENNINGS		COPY	
19 FEB 1982			
MR. MACE		ACK	
MISS MCCLURE			

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 16**

The Director of Social Services  
LEG/PA. S.S.D.

The District Social Services Officers

12th March, 1980.

Following the discussion at the 'Team' meeting held on 6.3.80, please ensure that the agreed procedure (see attachment) is brought to the attention of all appropriate members of staff.

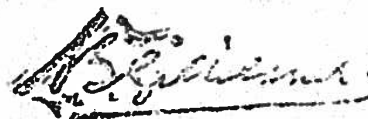
Director of Social Services.



Procedures regarding allegations made against staff.

When an allegation of professional misconduct is made against any member of staff in whatever setting, the member of staff to whom the allegation is made should immediately notify the appropriate Principal Social Worker in his District, who should consult with the District Social Services Officer. If the member of staff against whom the allegation is made is employed in another District, then the District Social Services Officer should notify the District Social Services Officer for that District.

This will enable a full investigation to be made of any such allegation, including, when considered necessary by the District Social Services Officer, reference to myself, either for information, advice, or a decision regarding the action to be taken.



Director of Social Services.

ESG/PK.  
12.3.80.

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 17**

## MINUTES OF MEETING WITH RUBANE HOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN ROOM 414

DUNDONALD HOUSE ON 26 APRIL 1982 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT:	Mr R Wilson	)	Chairman	Mr E Gilliland	)	
	Mr P Armstrong	)		Mr R Bunting	)	LH & SSB
	Mr W Kirkpatrick	)	DHSS	Rev J O'Connor	)	
	Mr C Walker	)		BR 2	)	Rubane
	Mr T McNeill	)	Secretary	BR 6	)	
				Mrs M Nihill	)	

1. After welcoming everyone Mr Wilson outlined by way of background that the Management Committee of Rubane had first asked for a meeting with the Department to discuss the future of the home in November 1980. This was followed by a further request in November 1981 after the SHAG report on the inspection of the home had been discussed. The initial request for a meeting was occasioned by the fall in the number of placements in the late 1970's which led the Management Committee to consider the home's future. The additional problems which came to the fore in late 1980/early 1981, while unrelated to the trend of decreasing numbers, nevertheless exacerbated the situation which in turn increased the financial pressures on the home and called into question the viability of the school.
2. In referring to the recent charges and allegations which resulted in the Eastern Board placing an embargo on the home, Fr O'Connor asked that the Board should clarify their position in this matter. In particular he questioned why the Board, having felt it necessary to place the embargo, did not also feel compelled to remove the existing Eastern Board children from the home. Fr O'Connor emphasised the difficulties which arise in the voluntary sector following the imposition and subsequent lifting of any kind of embargo and quoted as an example the effect experienced by St Joseph's children's home.



This home had been unable to take the full quota of placements while renovation work was being carried out. Despite the fact that the building work had been completed 1½ years ago, Down and Connor Social workers and the staff at the home were still trying to get boards staff to recognise that the home is now fully operational. During the last financial year, this home suffered a loss of £43,000.

3. **BR 2** stated that while the other Health and Social Service Boards had maintained their level of referrals to Rubane, statistics indicated that the referrals from the Eastern Board over the years show a decline, eg 44 boys in 1978 compared to 10 boys in 1981. The embargo obviously affected the numbers and additionally had a considerable effect on the morale of staff and residents. The recent allegations had been made by a boy who resided in the home 10 years ago and they related to other boys in the home at that time and not to staff. The police had indicated that there was no case for further investigation. **BR 2** pointed out that with each allegation made, wide publicity had been given by the media and this naturally affected and caused concern to i. staff, ii. residents and iii. parents of residents. The Management Committee of the home has found itself in the unenviable position of having to deal with media allegations without having exact details of what has been alleged.
4. In reply Mr Gilliland said that firstly he wished to make clear that the Eastern Board was no longer the main user of Rubane and secondly, his Board has a very good record of co-operation with the voluntary sector as has been evidenced from the discussions between the Department, the Board and the Management Committee of homes such as Glendhu, St Joseph's, Victoria Homes, Nazareth Lodge and Nazareth House. On the subject of the embargo placed on Rubane Mr Gilliland stated that the Board, acting on the reports of their social workers considered that in the interest of the children in their care no further placement to Rubane should be made until all the allegations levelled against the home were resolved and changes in child care practices were evident. The Boards view was that to remove those children already in the home would have been going to extremes. The Board had now received written confirmation from the Department that the allegations

by a <sup>?</sup>member of Rubane staff of bad child care practices had been resolved and that the standards in the home were now satisfactory. However in view of the fact that the allegations made by the former resident had been referred to the Chief Constable for investigation, the Board was unwilling to lift the embargo until formally advised by the police that no further action was contemplated. When this stage was reached the Board would advise all their social workers of the outcome of all the allegations made against the home. In Mr Gillilands view the written confirmation from the Department and the Chief Constable was more likely to allay fears about the suitability of the home rather than an interim statement issued by the Board to the effect that according to the information presently available the allegations appear to be unfounded. The Board also intended to consult with staff on how Rubane could be used by them in the future and how to deal with any public comment about the continuing use of the home.

5. With regard to future co-operation with the Management Committee of the home in the event of similar allegations being made which might lead to the placing of an embargo, it was agreed that a senior member of the Board's staff would in future consult with the officer in charge of the home or a member of the Management Committee about any allegations before embargo action is taken by the Board.
6. The proceedings then moved to discussion about the future use of Rubane and it was agreed that consideration should be given to

- i. the short and medium term future
- ii. the long term future

To set the scene for this part of the meeting Fr O'Connor outlined the roles of the various bodies which have an input to Rubane. He explained that the home is owned by the Diocese of Down and Connor and that consequently final decisions rest with the Bishop and Trustees of the home. These people exercise control through a governing body which meets annually. The day to day running of the home was delegated over 30 years ago to the De La Salle Order and 3 years ago a management

committee was formed to assist and advise the officer in charge of the home to meet the requirements of the Children and Young Persons Act. Fr O'Connor asked that in considering the long term future the Department and Board should not feel constrained by the present usage of the home. However, whatever role the home would develop in social services in partnership with the Boards and Department the management would remain in the hands of the voluntary organisation.

7. The Management Committee wished for frank discussions to take place about the home's future and **BR 2** indicated that the De La Salle Order, in considering their future role in the child care field, would have to examine whether they would be making the best use of their manpower by continuing in Rubane. A wide ranging discussion on the role undertaken by Rubane, the changes which had taken place and would be taking place in the child care scene ensued. In relation to the short and medium term future of the home it was agreed that the best way forward would be for the Management Committee of Rubane to meet representatives of all 4 Boards to discuss exactly what use each of the Boards would see themselves making of Rubane. Should these discussions highlight changes which would need to be effected, it would be for the De La Salle Order and the Management Committee to determine how best to proceed. It was agreed that Mr C Walker would attend the meetings with the 4 Boards as a departmental representative. It was also agreed that the Management Committee would arrange a meeting with representatives from the Department of Education to keep them informed of events in the light of that Department's involvement at Rubane.
8. Mr Wilson explained that inevitably the long term future of Rubane is bound up with the current development of child care policy and the Boards plans for the implementation of Black. Most of the Boards had already submitted plans but future discussion between the Department and the individual Boards was necessary. Realistic targets within the plans would have to be agreed in the light of the prevailing and future <sup>FINANCIAL</sup> situation. Fr O'Connor asked what had happened to the voluntary contribution to planning envisaged in Black whereby voluntary and statutory agencies



could advise the Department on all matters relating to child care. Mr Armstrong indicated that the Department has been considering just what forum and representation will be appropriate to take this forward with the voluntary sector.

9. Mr Wilson indicated that at this stage the long term future of Rubane must be speculative. Ideas discussed should not be taken as definite proposals for the future use of Rubane. One area of need in the future would be a residential unit for more difficult children requiring short term therapeutic residential care. This type of unit would need highly qualified staff and because of the high revenue cost of such an establishment it would need to be interdenominational.

Mr Gilliland indicated his Board had not thought beyond the present use of the home and it was too early to discuss future long term uses for the home.

**BR 2** agreed that in the future Rubane could be competing with St Patrick's for the same client group. The intake of day referrals to St Patrick's must already be a factor mitigating against an increase in the numbers in Rubane.

10. After some further discussion it was agreed that further clarification of Board plans post-Black was necessary before any meaningful discussions on the long term future of Rubane could take place. The Department would be examining the Boards plans for all their services for the next 5 years and the facilities at Rubane will be kept in mind when these plans are being discussed.

11. Mr Wilson thanked everyone for the frank and measured manner in which the proceedings had been allowed to progress. The way forward in the short term was for the Management Committee to meet and discuss with all the Boards how Rubane can best meet their needs. The Department of Education should be advised of the short term plans for the Home in the light of these discussions. Finally further discussions can be held when the future of Black is clearer and perhaps on a wider format to consider other social services work besides child care.

c.c. Mr Armstrong } SWS  
 Mr Weller  
 Mr Gilliland }  
 Mr Bunting } EH+SS B

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 18**



EZ APR 1982

DUNDONALD HOUSE  
UPPER NEWTON ROAD  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SF

Mr E S Gilliland BSc(Econ)  
Director of Social Services  
Eastern Health and Social Services Board  
65 University Street  
BELFAST  
BT7 1HN

6 April 1982

Dear Mr Gilliland

DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME, RUBANE HOUSE, KIRCUBBIN

Further to my letter of 8 March I have now received a report from Mr Walker on his investigation of the allegations made to Mr Morris about poor standards of practice at the De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane.

In addition to seeing Mr Morris, Mr Walker and **SND 453** spent two days in the Home interviewing **BR 2** and all of the other staff members concerned including the two people who spoke to Mr Morris. Most of the allegations concerned poor standards of child care in one of the three chalet units at the Home. Mr Walker's opinion is that most of these alleged malpractices may have taken place in this unit at one time or another but, with the exception of the foot-washing ritual, they have not been commonplace or pervasive. Moreover they have never formed part of the child care policy of the unit but have arisen from the difficulty in the past of recruiting staff with the levels of qualification and experience that we would all like to see in the residential child care field.

We have advised the Manager that the practices which had been brought to our attention are unacceptable and he immediately agreed to tell the staff concerned that any remaining in use should be discontinued forthwith. I am satisfied that these practices have now ceased. Mr Walker, however, will continue to make regular visits to Rubane both to advise and support **BR 2** and to monitor the improvements in the standard of child care that we are trying to encourage in this and all the other children's homes in the Province.

The second area of concern related to the person in charge of Chalet One who also acted as the farm manager. It was alleged that he had a drink problem and that he was frequently on duty in an intoxicated state. **BR 2** agreed that the member of staff had started to drink following a fire that had been started by two boys and which destroyed the hayshed and its contents. He was emphatic, however, that this man had never been allowed to go on duty while under the influence of alcohol. As soon as the problem became apparent arrangements were made for him to be transferred to another of the De La Salle Order's communities and he has not been employed at Rubane since the beginning of December. In my opinion the Brothers dealt with this matter responsibly and expeditiously in order to avoid any risks to the boys.

I am sure that you will agree that, while there can be room for improvement in the standards of child care in this Home, as in many others both statutory and voluntary, the practices complained of did not represent a serious threat to either the safety or the welfare of the boys. In my opinion there is now no reason for your Board to maintain an embargo on the admission of boys to Rubane. Social workers who have responsibility for children whom they consider would benefit from the type of treatment and regime that is offered by the Home should recommence referrals.





DUNDONALD HOUSE  
UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SF

I have noted your request for a copy of the Social Work Advisory Group's report on its inspection of Rubane to be sent to your Board and I appreciate your reason for asking for it. Nevertheless, an assurance was given to the managers of all the voluntary homes that our inspection reports would be treated as confidential. It would not be proper therefore for me to accede without the agreement of the Management Committee and I shall ask the Chairman to consider your request.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Rev. Peter McCann, Chairman of the Management Committee, and the Directors of Social Services of the other three Boards.

Yours sincerely

PJ ARMSTRONG  
D/Chief Social Work Adviser

TB/PK.

The Chairman,  
De la Salle Boys' Home Management Committee,  
Gubano House,  
KINCUBBIN,  
Co. Down,  
BT22 1AJ.

28th April, 1982.

Dear Father McCann,

You raised a number of issues in your letter of the 5th of April, 1982, which I have discussed with Mr. Gilliland and, in addition, a meeting was held at the Department of Health and Social Services on 28.4.82. with representatives of the Department, the De la Salle Management Committee, and officers of the Board, which also enabled the issues you raised to be fully ventilated.

Nevertheless, I feel that it would be helpful to explain the actions taken on behalf of the Board.

During February, 1982, two staff from the Home made allegations to a senior member of the Board's Social Services staff regarding practices in the Home which were a cause for considerable concern.

As the Department of Health and Social Services is the authority responsible for the registration of the Home, and had carried out an inspection during 1981, details of the allegations made were brought to the attention of the Deputy Chief Social Work Advisor, who confirmed that staff from the Social Work Advisory Group at the Department would make any necessary investigations. At this stage, [REDACTED] **BR2** was informed that Board staff were being advised not to admit boys to the Home, pending the result of the Department's investigation.

The referral to the Department was confirmed in a letter of 22.2.82. detailing the allegations made, and a reply was received on the 6th of April, 1982, confirming that the investigation had been completed. It confirmed that, generally, the practices complained of had taken place, but that the Officer-in-Charge of the Home had given assurances that any such practices would be discontinued. The Department took the view that, as the practices complained of were no longer a part of the Home's routine, there was no reason for the Board to maintain the embargo on admissions to the Home.

Concurrent with the Department's investigation, a social worker employed by the Board gave details of sexual misconduct which had been brought to her attention by a former resident of the Home concerning a period in the early 1970's. These allegations were reported to the police on the 4th of March, 1982, and were confirmed by letter to the Chief Constable on the same date. The Department of Health and Social Services was also informed of the action taken.

Subsequently, a reply dated the 11th of March, 1982, was received from the Royal Ulster Constabulary confirming that the matter would be investigated.

Following receipt of the Department's letter of the 6th of April, 1982, a further letter was addressed to the appropriate Assistant Chief Constable dealing with the case asking for official confirmation of the outcome of the police investigations, and a reply is still awaited.

There is no specific policy to cover how and when admissions to a Children's Home should be temporarily suspended, as the circumstances could vary considerably and each case must be treated on its merits. However, given the situation at the De la Salle Home as presented to Board staff, I am satisfied that it was prudent to impose a temporary embargo on admissions and that a similar situation arising in any Children's Home brought to the attention of Board staff, would have been dealt with in a similar manner.

I cannot agree, therefore, that the De la Salle Boys' Home has been unfairly treated or discriminated against, and hope that the information contained in this letter and the full and frank discussion which took place at the Department of Health and Social Services will make clear to your Committee that this has not been the case.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman.



PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Assistant Chief Constable J.A. Whiteside, M.B.E.,  
Crime Department,  
Royal Ulster Constabulary,  
Brooklyn,  
Knock Road,  
BELFAST.

RJB/KL

Dear Assistant Chief Constable Whiteside,

9th April, 1982.

DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME

Further to our correspondence regarding allegations made by [HIA 153] to a member of my staff concerning homosexual activities at the above-named Home, I would be grateful if you could let me know the outcome of your investigations as soon as possible.

Prior to the [HIA 153] allegations we had placed an embargo on admissions to this Home following disclosures by some staff at the Home which raised questions regarding the standard of care being provided for the boys.

These unsatisfactory child care practices have now been investigated by the Department of Health and Social Services and, we are informed, have been discontinued.

The Management Committee of the Home and the Department of Health and Social Services are anxious that we lift our embargo as soon as possible. However, I do not feel that I can do so until I know the outcome of your present investigations.

Yours sincerely,

  
Director of Social Services

FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE J A WHITESIDE MBE

Telephone  
BELFAST 650222



CRIME DEPARTMENT

BROOKLYN  
KNOCK ROAD  
BELFAST  
NORTHERN IRELAND BT5 6LE

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

11 March 1982

Your Ref: RJB/KL

Dear Mr Gilliland<sup>o</sup>

The Chief Constable, Sir John Hermon, has referred your letter dated 4 March 1982 to this Department in order that the matter you raise may be fully investigated.

Detective Superintendent Caskey will liaise with you on the progress of the investigation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J A Whiteside'.

Mr E S Gilliland B.Sc. (Econ)  
Director of Social Services  
Eastern Health and Social Services Board  
65 University Street  
BELFAST BT7 1HN

**STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**

Chief Constable Sir John Hernon,  
RUC Headquarters,  
Brooklyn,  
Kneek Road,  
BELFAST.

BJB/KL

4th March, 1982.

Dear Sir John,

I am writing to confirm the telephone conversation which my Assistant Director of Social Services, Mr. Bunting, had with Superintendent Canney on the 4th March, 1982 and to officially bring to your attention allegations of homosexual activities between boys and members of staff at De La Salle Boys' Home during the 1970's.

These allegations were made by [REDACTED] HIA 153 [REDACTED] date of birth [REDACTED] a former resident at the home to a Social Worker, Miss Patricia Moore, who is based at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

If your staff wish to discuss these allegations with Miss Moore, I would be grateful if, in the first instance, they would contact Mr. J. Compton, Assistant Principal Social Worker at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Yours sincerely,

Director of Social Services





Telephone: Kircubbin 261

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newcastle, 6122 NSW  
Aust. Home.

-2-

Irrespective of the validity, or otherwise, of the allegations made, the Management Committee can only conclude that it has been unfairly treated, and subjected to what amounts to a singular form of discrimination.

The Committee feels it should place on record to you its' deep concern.

Yours sincerely,  
For DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME,  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Rev. P. McCann - Chairman.



Telephone: Kircubbin 261

ack 8/4/82

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards, BT22 6W  
Co. Down.

6th April, 1982.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Sir Thomas Browne,  
Chairman, Eastern Health & Social Services,  
65 University Street,  
BELFAST 1.

27 APR 1982

Dear Sir Thomas,

On 5th March, 1982, De La Salle Boys' Home was informed that the Eastern Health Board, in the light of recent allegations, had placed an embargo on referrals to the Home.

As Chairman of the Management Committee, I contacted the Police on 16th March to be informed that, to date, no written details of the above allegations had been received by them.

Meantime, the [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] had telephoned the Director of the Board to clarify the position, and was informed by him that while it was not the policy of the Eastern Health Board to discontinue referrals to a Home against which allegations had been made, nevertheless, said Mr. Gilliland, "within the circumstances of Rubane" it was their decision to place an embargo.

Over/...

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 19**



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. R.J. Bunting,  
Assistant Director of Social Services

The Director of Social Services.

RJB/KL

10th November, 1981.

MAIN CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1973

As discussed, I would be very concerned if [REDACTED] was allowed to denigrate the developments in the family and child care services which have taken place since 1973 in our Board's area. Many of these developments pre-dated Black but all are in line with the Black philosophy of keeping more children and young people in the community and providing the most appropriate care for those children who have to come into care.

Unfortunately, practically all of these developments have had to be undertaken without assistance from the Department.

1. All the existing procedures for the family and child care services in our Board's area -  
Department were given a copy of these and did not offer any comments.
2. First residential assessment centre in the Province run by a Board.
3. Interdisciplinary procedures for dealing with cases of N.A.I. to children - Revised to include all child abuse.  
Training courses organised for Chairmen of Case Conferences and key workers.
4. Intermediate treatment strategies developed in all Districts - This has involved staff working evenings and weekends in addition to their day to day work.
5. First Board to introduce a special fostering scheme. Fees paid on a contract basis.
6. Provided funding for Barnardo's Professional Fostering Scheme for adolescents. (Northern Board now funding a few placements with Barnardo's.)
7. First Board to arrange for staff and experienced foster parents to be trained as leaders in "Parenting Plus" as an introduction to and training for foster parenting.  
(18 leaders trained including 6 foster parents.)
8. Establishment of Fostering Liaison Group for the Board to share resources.
9. First Board to introduce formal 6 monthly review of children in care. Accepted by the Department as a replacement for the quarterly statistical return.
10. Pilot scheme in co-operative care with teachers and Ed. Welfare at Park Parade Secondary School (2 year project).



*raise arrangements with the Board's Social Services Dept.*

11. Participated in Whitefield Centre experiment. *(Juvenile Justice Centre - project selected in the community) It was the 4. Board's responsibility on the*
12. Procedures agreed with High Court for Matrimonial Causes work - Special Unit established to co-ordinate this work and build up expertise - Extensive consultation with N.I. Marriage Guidance and Down & Connor Marriage Advisory Service.
13. Domestic Proceedings procedures agreed with Belfast, Bangor and Newtownards Magistrates Courts - Meetings still to take place in Lisburn and Down.
14. In conjunction with the Department planned substantial improvements to St. Joseph's, Victoria and Glendhu Children's Homes which have been carried through.
15. Providing support to most of the Voluntary Children's Homes in our area though this is not our responsibility.
16. Used the revenue funds allocated to the Board as part of the B.A.N. programme to finance the sessional and day care facilities developed by the Voluntary Organisations following discussions which we organised.
- \* Have the highest percentage of pre-school playgroup places for 3 & 4 year olds anywhere in the United Kingdom.
17. Procedures agreed to improve co-ordination between Voluntary Organisations and ourselves in boarding-out and adoption.
18. *CHILD CARE*  
*CHILD RENT* Appear to be the only Board with a Programme Planning Team for children and young persons. First report submitted to the Area Executive Team in 1978. This exercise pre-dated the Black Committee recommendations yet, as you will recall, included many of the recommendations subsequently suggested by Black to improve services.
19. Nine new Children's Homes developed; Marmion rebuilt; Brefne Nursery phased out and semi-independent living accommodation developed for young people.
20. Family and child care teams developed in North and West Belfast District.

This is not an ~~exclusive~~ *exhaustive* list but gives a reasonable picture of the substantial developments which have been undertaken.

These have taken place in a staffing situation which was far from ideal in that until this year there was about  $\frac{1}{3}$  turnover of fieldwork staff each year. There was, therefore, a lack of continuity and experience at fieldwork level.

There is still a problem regarding experience. Also allowing for the increases in workloads and the new areas of work which staff have had to take on we are not in a position to undertake new work which will arise from Black without additional resources.

At present more than 80% of Social Workers' time is spent on family and child care services.

In the large Districts the Principal Social Workers (P.S.) are working under extreme pressure and have had no additional help since 1973 to take account of increased workloads.

Mr. R.J. Bunting,  
Assistant Director of Social Services

**Witness name: Health and Social Care Board**

**Date: 10 November 2014**

**The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995**

**Statement of Bob Bunting**

**Appendix 20**



EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARDMEMORANDUMFrom: The Director of Social Services.To: District Social Services Officer.Ref. EB/MK

Ref.

11th January, 1978.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS IN OUR CARE WHOGO MISSING

Recently there appears to have been an increase in children absconding from our care though in all cases they have been located fairly quickly. In order to have common procedures throughout the Board's area for dealing with these incidents I would suggest the following:-

1. As soon as a child or young person is thought to be missing, the Foster Parent or Residential staff member as appropriate should contact the child's Social Worker. It is then up to the Social Worker to immediately inform the Senior Social Services Management staff in the District. After normal office hours the Senior Social Worker on duty should be contacted by the Foster Parent or Residential staff.
2. The Senior Social Services Management staff should inform the Police as soon as possible and supply a description of the child and any other relevant information that may help to trace him. It would be usual practice for the Social Worker to have checked with known relatives and friends that the child is not with them before the Police are informed. However, if the child disappears outside normal office hours it may not be possible to undertake such a check.
3. As soon as possible the parents or guardians of the child should be informed.
4. If the child or young person is still missing after 24 hours I would wish to be involved and in the case of a boarded out child, I will notify the Department in accordance with Regulation 17(2) of the Boarding Out Regulations.
5. When I have been informed under 4, I would wish to be notified when the child is located.

There is no need to report such incidents on the administrative network as "untoward events" though your accounts section will obviously need to be informed to adjust payments in some cases.

If you have any comments with regard to these procedures would you please let me know.

Director of Social Services

HIA REF: [ ]

NAME: [ **ROBERT BUNTING** ]DATE: [28<sup>th</sup> June 2016 ]**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995**

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**Supplemental Witness Statement of Robert Bunting**

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I, Robert Bunting, will say as follows: -

1. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 I submitted a statement to the HIA Inquiry by way of providing context and explanation with regard to the use of Kincora Hostel (Kincora) for younger children.
2. At paragraph 12 of that statement, reference is made to the Castle Priory Recommendations. This statement is now filed to detail further information and explanation in relation to this.
3. Duty hours are based on the waking day and the hours that the children are in the home. In the case of a hostel the boys were working and were out from 8am until 5pm, which considerably reduced the duty hours, although at least one member of staff had to be there during the day, if some boys were not working and also to respond to social workers contacting the hostel etc.
4. The peak times for staff were therefore 7am to 9.30am and the evening from 5pm to 11pm and weekends, though at weekends most of the boys were out involved in recreational pursuits. Also, their holidays were around three weeks each year, which was another factor to be taken into account.
5. In relation to Castle Priory recommendations for hostels their duty hours were based on the waking day from 6am until midnight, whereas ours were from 7am until 11pm. Also, for a 12 bed hostel an additional care staff allowance was included to allow for the Officer in Charge managing a team of staff. This was not the case for smaller hostels such as Kincora, established for 9 places, where the Officer in Charge was also involved in providing care, as was the Deputy.

6. This meant that from 1971 until it closed, the hostel had 3 care staff, compared with 4.2 care staff for a 12 bed hostel as recommended by Castle Priors in 1972. (3.15 for 9 beds). However, the management staff, particularly the Deputy, who would have had some involvement in care, depending on their management duties would have increased the number of care staff. The Deputy post was required to ensure that there was always a senior member of staff present in the hostel.
7. The staff: young person ratio for hostels was 1:6 during duty hours. This meant that there were always 2 staff on duty, in a 12 bed hostel, whereas with Kincora it would have been 1.5 when there were 9 residents. It would have been preferable to upgrade this to 2, though in effect there were usually 2 at peak periods i.e.mornings and evenings. In the mornings this would have included either the Officer in Charge or Deputy, who would have been on sleeping in duty and Mr McGrath who did not undertake sleeping in duty.



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

Signed R. Bunting

Dated \_\_\_\_\_