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PREM 19/3889

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CONFIDENTIAL FILING

Prime Ministers meeting with Baroness Faithfull

(new cover)

PRIME MINISTER

August 1986

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
~~18.10.91~~							
~~21.10.91~~							
~~14.1.92~~							
14.2.92							

PREM 19/3889

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NOTE FOR TOP OF THE FILE

Follow up papers - 'SOCIAL SERVICES TRAINING AND CHILD CARE', are filed on HOME AFFAIRS: Assaults on Young Children. Parts 1 + 2.

Only file papers on this file if they relate directly to meetings with Lady Faithfull.

Published Papers

The following published paper enclosed on this file has been removed and destroyed. Copies may be found elsewhere in The National Archives.

Department of Health and Social Security, Home Office, Lord Chancellor's Department, Department of Education and Science, Welsh Office, Scottish Office

Cm 62 The Law on Child Care and Family Services

Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Social Services by Command of Her Majesty. January 1987

HMSO ISBN 0 10 100622 5

Signed _____ Date 13/3/19

PREM Records Team

file DSS

bc: P.V.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 February 1992

MEETING WITH BARONESS FAITHFULL

Many thanks for your letter of 12 February covering a note setting out the circumstances in which 16 and 17 year olds are eligible for Income Support.

I submitted your letter and attached note to the Prime Minister yesterday evening. He has noted both without comment.

BARRY H POTTER

Paul Boyle, Esq.
Department of Social Security

GM00612.02/2

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY
Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS
Telephone 071-210 3000
From the Secretary of State for Social Security

Barry Potter Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

Prime Minister (2)

Tait follows up your meeting with Baroness Faithfull (see my note attached). 'X' is the key point, which meets Her concerns.

BHP 13/2

12 February 1992.

Dear Barry,

MEETING WITH BARONESS FAITHFULL

As requested in your letter of 14 January, I enclose a note setting out the circumstances in which 16 and 17 year olds are eligible for Income Support.

Baroness Faithfull also wrote to my Secretary of State following her meeting with the Prime Minister, raising much the same points. Lord Henley will be replying on behalf of my Secretary of State in suitably constructive terms.

Yours,
Paul

PAUL BOYLE
Private Secretary

NOTE ON INCOME SUPPORT FOR 16/17 YEAR OLDS

The main thrust of our policy is to give quality training to those not in education or employment whilst recognising that those with difficulties will continue to need support. That is why we offer young people leaving school at age 16 or 17 the positive options of continuing in full-time education, getting a job or taking up the Government's guarantee of the offer and re-offer as necessary of a suitable Youth Training (YT) place. We nevertheless recognise that certain vulnerable groups of young people such as the disabled, lone parents and those at risk of physical or sexual abuse are unable to take advantage of these opportunities and we have enabled them to retain entitlement to Income Support (IS) (list A).

Financial help is available in a number of ways to a young person registering for a YT place. Recent school-leavers living at home with parents may receive an extension of Child Benefit for a set period of up to 16 weeks. Young people who are forced to live independently may claim IS during the same period (list B). In addition, those who are between jobs or YT places may receive a bridging allowance of £15 a week for up to eight weeks in a 52 week period from the Employment Department.

Outside of the groups of young people who qualify for IS at any time all 16 and 17 year old customers who are not entitled under the normal rules are automatically considered under the severe hardship provision. The severe hardship provision applies to homeless young people, those forced to live independently and also to those living at home whose parents have difficulty supporting them eg their parents may themselves be in receipt of a Social Security benefit.

Each case is considered on its individual merits by the Severe Hardship Claims Unit in Glasgow; no single factor determines a person's eligibility for IS but a whole range of circumstances of the particular individual. The list of factors used to determine whether "severe hardship" exists is not exhaustive. Any young person waiting for a YT place who claims IS will be interviewed by a specially trained member of staff who will pass details of the claim to the Glasgow Unit. Normally a direction to award IS is given that day and always within 24 hours.

In the four weeks to 31 December 1991, about 4,100 young people claimed IS under the severe hardship provision, 84% of whom were successful. So help is both available to and reaching many young people in need. Although the number of customers claiming under the severe hardship provision has increased due to placements on YT taking longer during the recession the number still represents a very small percentage of 16 and 17 year olds and needs to be set against the 300,000 who are benefiting from YT, the increased numbers of young people enhancing their future prospects by staying on at school (approximately 724,000) and those in employment (around 784,000).

Measures announced last July will not only improve the severe hardship safety net but will also remove a large amount of uncertainty for other groups of care leavers by giving them entitlement to income support and enabling them to make positive plans for the future.

Legislation is currently under way to implement the two measures relating specifically to those leaving care. The first extends entitlement to income support to those care leavers who are living independently and continuing in full-time non-advanced education. The second makes income support available for up to 8 weeks to care leavers living independently who are registered for work and YT.

LIST A

16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS WHO MAY BE ENTITLED TO INCOME SUPPORT AT ANY TIME

1. Couples, married or unmarried, with a child.

2. Lone parents looking after a child.

3. Single person looking after foster children.

4. Registered blind.

5. Incapable of work or Youth Training (YT) by reason of some disease or bodily or mental disablement (excluding the temporarily sick - see below).

6. Pregnant - but only for the period starting 11 weeks before the expected date of confinement and ending 7 weeks after the confinement.

7. Certain young people (lone parents, severely handicapped, orphaned or estranged from parents) in non-advanced education.

8. In receipt of a Government Training Allowance.

9. Carers.

10. Refugees attending a course, for more than 15 hours per week, for the purpose of learning English (income support is available for a maximum of nine months).

11. Temporarily laid off employment.

12. Where severe hardship would be suffered if the young person was refused benefit, the Secretary of State has a discretionary power to award benefit to a 16 or 17 year old who is registered for a YT place.

16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO INCOME SUPPORT ONLY OUTSIDE THE CHILD BENEFIT EXTENSION PERIOD

13. The temporarily sick. The incapacitated will only be able to claim in their own right at all times if they are so handicapped (physically or mentally) or so ill that they are unlikely to be able to obtain employment or take up YT within 12 months. Temporarily sick people will be able to claim in their own right only after the extension period.

14. A person released from prison/detention and registered for a job/YT who has good reason for living independently from his parents (as defined in list B). Income support is payable for a maximum of 8 weeks.

LIST B

16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS WHO MAY BE ENTITLED TO INCOME SUPPORT DURING THE CHILD BENEFIT EXTENSION PERIOD ONLY, AS LONG AS THEY ARE REGISTERED FOR A JOB/YT (THOSE WITH GOOD REASON FOR BEING AWAY FROM THE FAMILY HOME AND MARRIED COUPLES WITHOUT A CHILD)

1. Living away from the parental or family home and:-

   a) with no living parent or guardian;

   b) was in local authority care or in custody immediately before reaching the age of 16;

   c) placed away from home as part of a programme of rehabilitation or resettlement under the supervision of a Probation Officer or Social Worker;

   d) living away from home because of the threat of physical and/or sexual abuse;

   e) mentally or physically handicapped or mentally ill and needs to live away from home, but not so handicapped or mentally ill as to be incapable of work (see list A.13);

   f) parent(s) is/are:-

      (i) in prison

      (ii) chronically sick or mentally or physically disabled

      (iii) prohibited from entering Great Britain;

   g) those who of necessity have to live away from their families, because they are estranged or in physical or moral danger, or there is a serious risk to physical or mental health (added from 10 July 1989).

2. Married couples without a child.

Pm: Carlos — S. Fernandez Ouro 88 . . .

SUBJECT MASTER

Filed on:

CONFIDENTIAL

file

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 January 1992

Dear Alan,

MEETING WITH BARONESS FAITHFULL

The Prime Minister held a short meeting with Baroness Faithfull, at her request, earlier today.

First, Baroness Faithfull indicated the wide range of social services issues on which she spoke in the House of Lords. She indicated that further support would be appreciated and mentioned a number of names to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister agreed to look at the names further.

Second, Baroness Faithfull said she was concerned about inter-Departmental coordination on matters affecting children. Specifically, she argued that there was overlapping legislation in recent Education, Home Office and Health Service Acts. In some respects the Acts were inconsistent (she did not say where). This both caused problems and cost money. The Prime Minister noted the point without comment.

Third, Baroness Faithfull said she saw a case for re-allowing Income Support to 16-18 year olds in cases where they were, or had recently been in residential accommodation, typically children's homes. The Prime Minister indicated that he was not fully up to date with the rules on eligibility for Income Support for 16-18 year olds. I would therefore be grateful if you could let me have a note on any circumstances in which 16-18 year olds are eligible for Income Support; and specifically on Baroness Faithfull's suggestion that Income Support should be awarded to those recently released from children's homes.

Finally, Baroness Faithfull asked whether the Prime Minister would be willing to meet a group of social workers at some point. The Prime Minister indicated that in principle he would be content to do so - but not until after the Election.

Yours,
Barry

BARRY H. POTTER

Alan Woods, Esq.,
Department of Social Security.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH BARONESS FAITHFULL

You have a meeting with Baroness Faithfull (Lucy) at 1215 tomorrow. (Baroness Faithfull is 81 years old.) The slot is half an hour.

By way of background I should explain that two previous slots with Baroness Faithfull in November and December last year had to be cancelled for diary reasons.

I attach a letter from Baroness Faithfull which sets out her proposed agenda for the meeting. The briefing follows the items on the proposed agenda.

(i) House of Lords: Possible Working Peers/Government Spokesmen

You will want to draw attention to the elevation of Sir Brian Rix. He should be a powerful advocate in the Lords on social issues, particularly for the mentally disabled.

(ii) Overlapping legislation and the Children's Commission

I attach briefing mainly prepared by DSS. It is a standard defensive brief. It may however be more sensible to listen to Baroness Faithfull's own ideas; her criticism of overlapping legislation - and any ideas she has for consolidation and simplification; and any other specific policy proposals.

(iii) Local Government Commission

I attach a briefing note. I doubt whether Baroness Faithfull will say much on this - you can simply refer to the proposed Local Government Commission and its responsibility for taking all views into account. As a county function, social services risk (under any reorganisation) being carried out in future by

smaller scale authorities. (The answer of course is that, if social services is an argument for larger authorities, no doubt that will be given proper weight by the Local Government Commission.)

(iv) Social Security: 16-18 year old homeless

The Children's Act should have addressed some of Baroness Faithfull's concerns. But you are aware of continuing worries that 16-18 year olds are disproportionately represented amongst the homeless. Many see a link with the ending of income support for 16 and 17 year olds.

(v) Social services throughout the country

I attach a background brief.

BHP

(BARRY H. POTTER)

13 January 1992

c:\economic\faithfull (ecl)

E. R.

NOTE FOR THE FILE

The meeting with Baroness Faithfull has now been put off until January.

Discussed with AT, line to take on Baroness Faithfull's suggestions for more working peers in the Lords on social issues: line should be to note list of names and agree that they would be considered in normal way on merits. But to point out that working peers with knowledge of wider social issues have been strengthened, particularly in recent working lists, viz. Brigstock, Eccles, Cumberledge, Flather and Cheshire, plus Sue Ryder.

In confidential brief Brian Rix to be in New Year list.

Temporarily Retained

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

13 December 1991

a:\parly\faithfull.vlb

cc Baty

C/F B/U when B Faithfull
matter is re-arranged.

POH 9/1694/3789 : BARONESS FAITHFULL

1. I refer to the ~~request~~ letter for briefing for the Prime Minister for his meeting with Baroness Faithfull on 20 November.

2. With advice from colleagues in CS1A, CS1C and CS3E I have tried to select from a potentially long agenda those issues that are most likely to arise in a discussion based on Baroness Faithfull's letter.

3. Following recent contact with Baroness Faithfull the Chief Inspector anticipates that she would wish to encourage the Prime Minister to endorse the positive view of social workers expressed in her letter and to recognise that only a very small proportion of the cases they handle goes badly wrong, although it is these situations that receive wide publicity. In this context I have attached a copy of an article from "Community Care" (24 October) which illustrates the stressful nature of the work undertaken by social services staff (Appendix A).

4. Any discussion about social workers and their role might lead to the question of regulation. I attach, therefore, a briefing note from CS1C about "Safeguarding Standards" and a line to take on this issue (Appendix B).

5. Timothy Sands has already provided advice on the point made by Baroness Faithfull about cutbacks in training (Appendix C) and I have appended a Key Facts sheet to complement that (Appendix D).

6. The Baroness headed her letter "Citizens' Charter" and, given her particular interest in child care issues, I have included briefing which illustrates how the main themes of the Children Act 1989, which came into force last month, embody those of the Citizens' Charter (Appendix E).

7. We believe that the references to overlapping of work at Central Government level and gaps in the service may reflect her interest in the proposal for a Minister for Children. I have therefore attached a note of the line to take, together with some background material (Appendix F).

rp91.mas

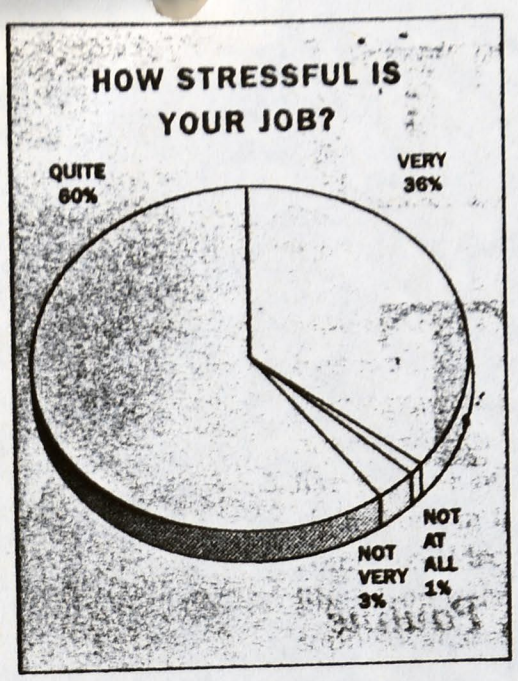
8. A practical example of how Central Government departments co-operate in promoting better collaboration at local level is the recently revised guidance "Working Together" published on 14 October 1991. An explanatory note is included in the briefing pack (Appendix G).

Roy M. Pearson.

Roy M Pearson
SSI
Room 627 Wellington House
Extension 24279/24262

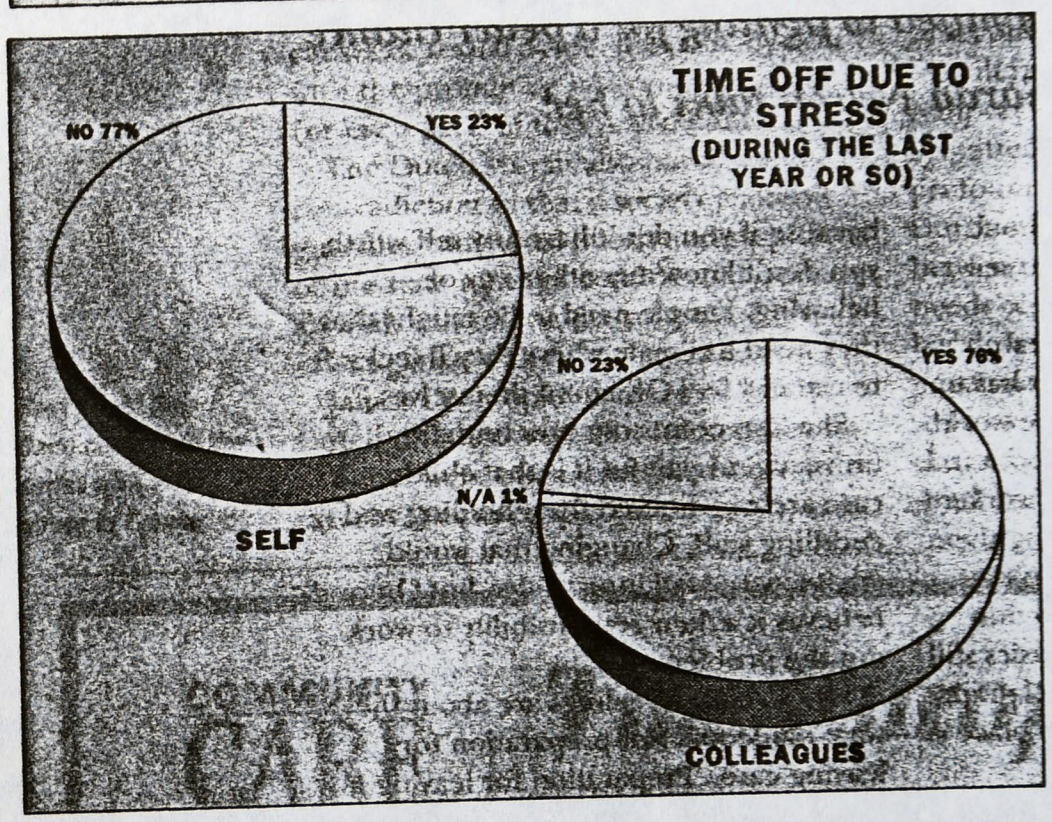
rp91.mas

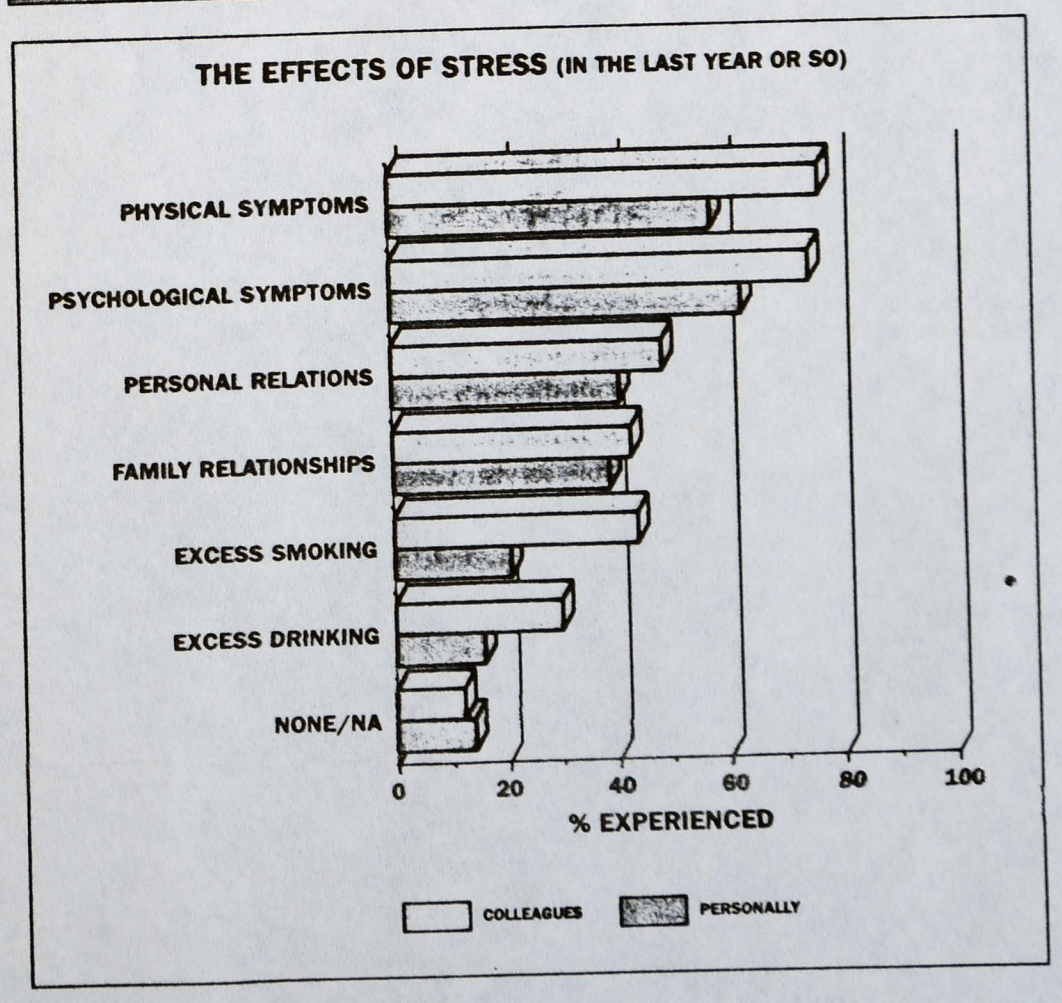
APPENDIX A



Taking the strain

The stresses and demands of current social work practice are taking their to on a beleaguered workforce. Jane King reports on Community Care's latest exclusive research





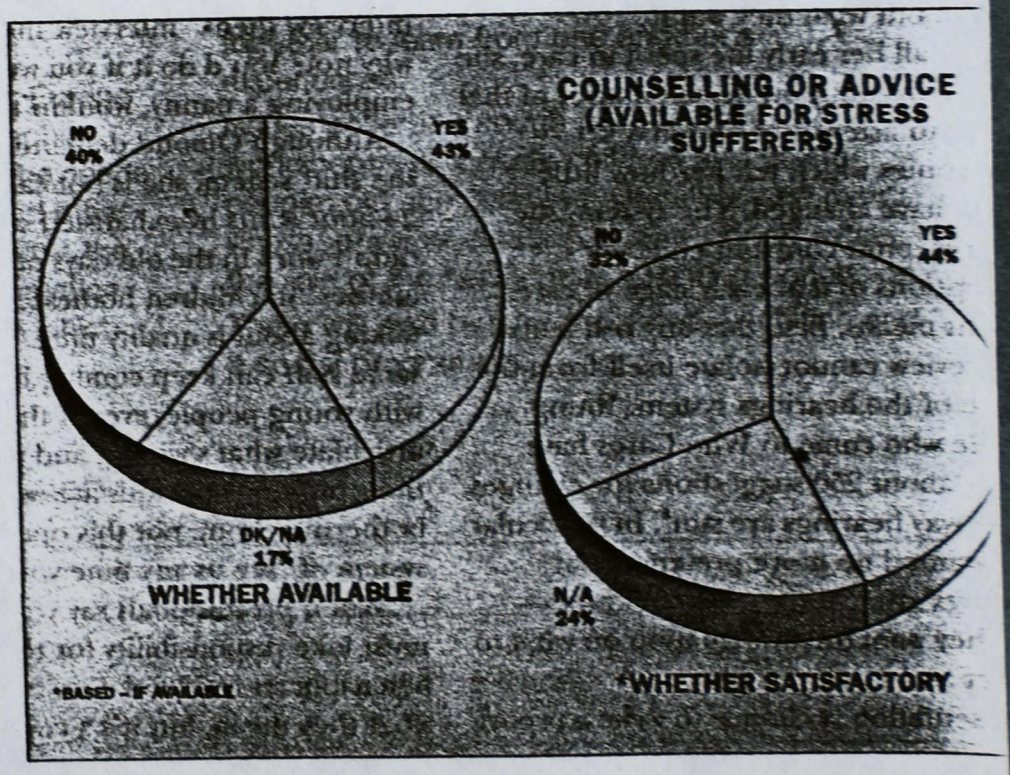
Britain's social workers are an unhealthy lot. Overburdened caseloads, missed lunch breaks, unpaid overtime and worries about management support and resourcing add up to a disturbing picture of a sick profession.

Research conducted for *Community Care* among its readers shows the damage caused by heavy workloads and potentially stressful environments.

Of 524 social workers taking part in our survey and representing a cross-section of the profession, about 96 per cent regard their job as stressful. Overall, more than 80 per cent of sample said they miss lunch bre tea breaks and work unpaid overti Ninety-two per cent of social wor in the north claim they regularl occasionally work hours without and they appear to work more unp overtime than colleagues in the r lands and the south. The rese shows that 61 per cent of the san do not take all their allocated holi

Managers were less likely to admit they suffered psychological symptoms of stress than junior staff and were more likely to forfeit holidays and lunch breaks

Social workers were asked v effects of stress they had experier in the past year and what effects had noticed among their colleag Inevitably, respondents were less ing to admit symptoms of their but more readily described sympt



noted in others. Seventy-seven per cent of the sample said they had noticed or were aware of physical symptoms of stress in colleagues, such as headaches, high blood pressure, insomnia and ulcers, while 58 per cent admitted these symptoms themselves.

Seventy-five per cent claimed colleagues had experienced psychological stress symptoms, such as depression, irritability and lack of concentration, while 63 per cent said they had personally experienced these.

Almost half the sample (49 per cent) admitted that stress had an adverse effect on colleagues' personal relationships and 41 per cent on their own. Family relationships were also adversely affected in about 40 per cent of the sample.

Excessive smoking and drinking was another problem area. Forty-four per cent and 30 per cent respectively complained of too much smoking and drinking by colleagues, but only 21 per cent admitted to smoking too much and only 15 per cent felt they personally drank to excess.

Managers were less likely to admit they suffered psychological symptoms of stress than junior staff, and managers were more likely to forfeit holidays and lunch breaks.

The gap between grass roots workers and management also emerged when readers were asked whether they or their colleagues had had time off during the past year for stress related symptoms (physical or psychological).

Junior workers were more likely to take time off: perhaps managers would consider it a sign of weakness or inability to cope with the job if they used stress as a reason for their absence.

Seventy-six per cent of the sample said colleagues had time off as a result of stress, while only 23 per cent owned up to it for themselves, but overall, the level of sick leave attributed to stress was high.

We asked whether counselling or advice was available to staff suffering from stress. Forty three per cent said it was, but of those 32 per cent said the counselling provided was unsatisfactory. Significantly, 40 per cent did not have access to counselling or advice and another 17 per cent did not know whether it was available.

Finally, social workers gave some surprising feedback when asked what could be done to make their jobs less stressful. People in other occupations might be expected to respond with calls for more pay or fewer hours. In contrast, social workers gave a resounding call for more staff, more time to complete jobs, reduced caseloads, increased management support and better managers. The latter was of particular concern, with the majority demanding better supervision, improved communication, clearer role definition and more stability in their departments and teams.

Other popular requests were for recognition that stress exists, more counselling, administrative support, better working conditions and training, less bureaucracy and paperwork and more teamwork.

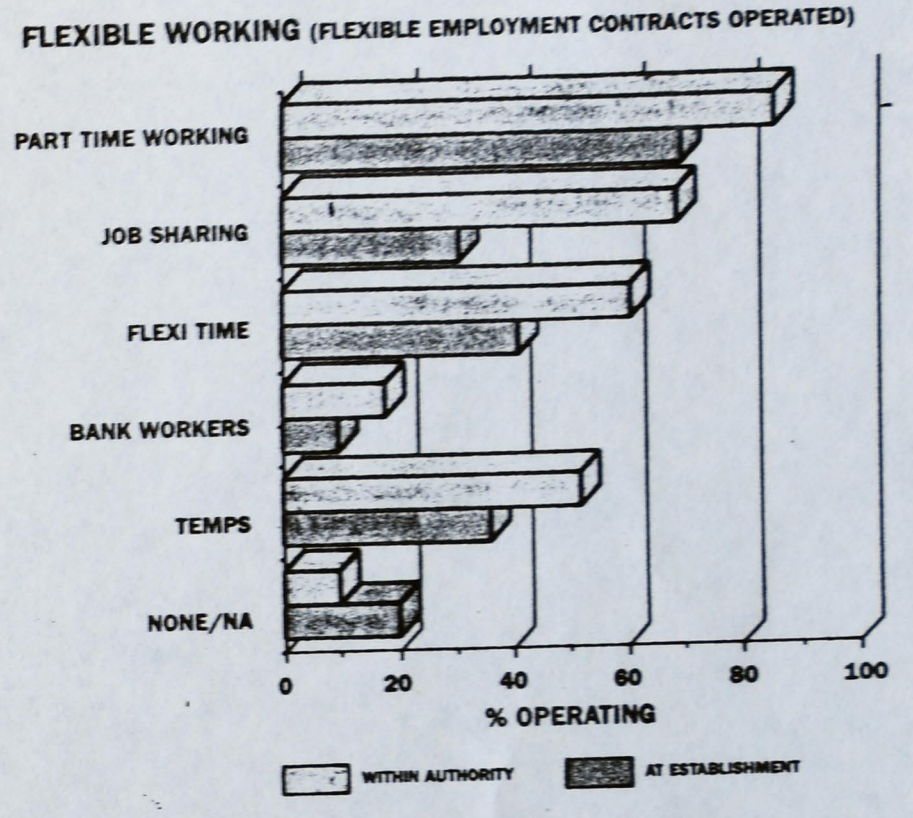
More recognition for the good work which is done would ease some

WHAT COULD BE DONE TO MAKE THE JOB LESS STRESSFUL

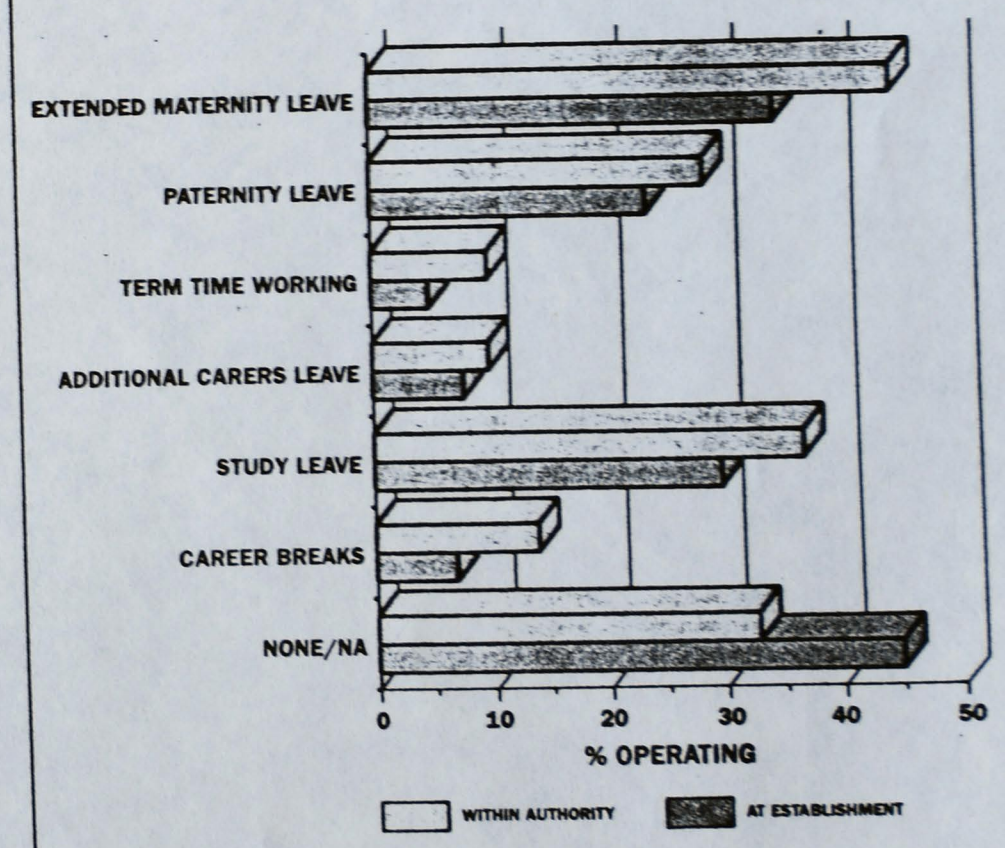
- MORE STAFF
  REDUCED CASELOAD/ WORKLOAD
  MORE TIME
  LESS HOURS
  MORE HOLIDAYS
- MORE FUNDING
  MORE RESOURCES
- INCREASED MANAGEMENT SUPPORT
  BETTER MANAGERS
  BETTER SUPERVISION
  BETTER COMMUNICATION
  CLEARER ROLE DEFINITION
  MORE STABILITY
- RECOGNITION OF STRESS
  COUNSELLING
- ADMIN SUPPORT
  BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS
  BETTER TRAINING
  LESS BUREAUCRACY/PAPERWORK
  MORE TEAMWORK
- MORE RECOGNITION

ANSWERS BY 10+ RESPONDENTS

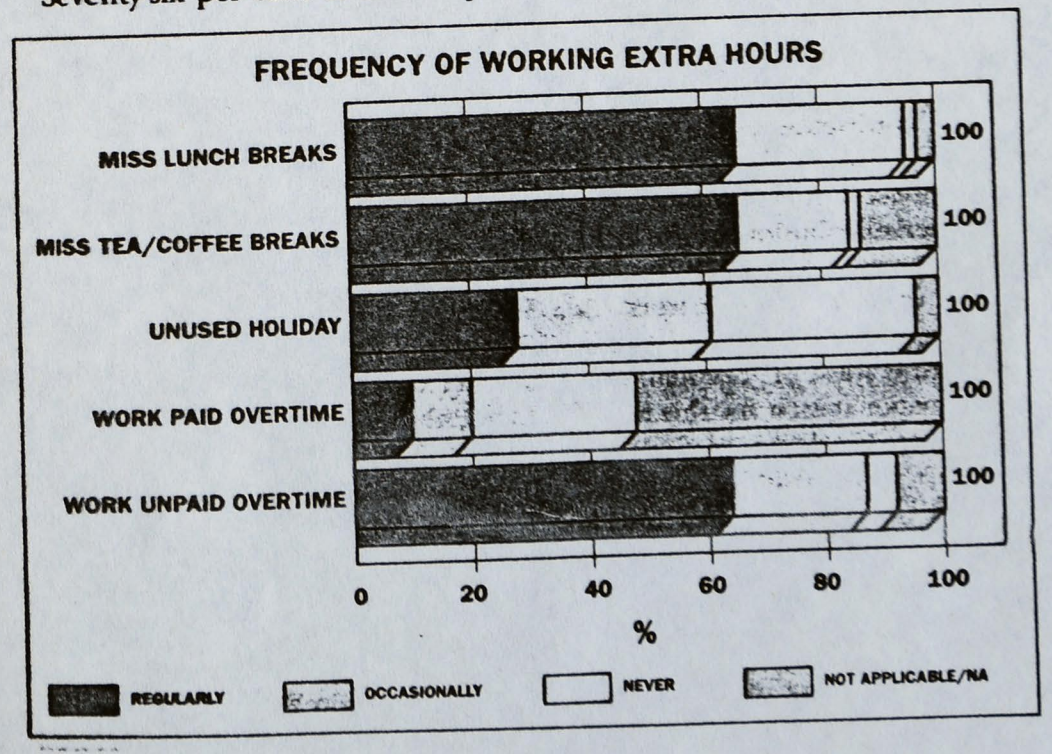
FLEXIBLE WORKING (FLEXIBLE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS OPERATED)



FLEXIBLE WORKING (FLEXIBLE WORKING SCHEMES OPERATED)



FREQUENCY OF WORKING EXTRA HOURS



f the stress, according to many social orkers.

he question 'what would be the ain thing to make your job less tressful' elicited the following:

- more days away to plan and reflect;
- to know how I'll be affected by losure of hospital where I work;
- fill vacant post to spread caseload;
- guarantee decent funding for a roper time period;
- fewer experts;
- stop head office moaning about expenses and release the funds;
- more hours in a day;
- no spiralists (those who keep going round and round in circles);
- more time to improve professional image;
- more certain future on government policy for councils and NHS;
- opportunities in workplace for relaxation and exercise;
- managers who empathise with staff;
- tools to do the job;
- an individual telephone;
- a full staff group; and
- early retirement on grounds of burn-out.

Ninety-six per cent of social workers regard their job as stressful

Why is social work stressful?

Lack of resources in the form of low staffing levels, unmanageable workloads and unsupportive management systems are well documented — and lamented — organisational stress factors. Yet in the UK stress in the caring professions is firmly held to be a personal, individual responsibility (and inadequacy) with scant recognition that social work is inherently stressful.

Working in the helping professions is stressful because of the nature of the task, because of organisational factors, and because of the worker.

Among the causes of occupational stress are: 'working conditions, role ambiguity and conflict, work and role overload, responsibility for others, organisational participation, work relationships, career development, shift work, and change.' (McDerment 1988)

Even a superficial examination of some of these factors explains the high stress levels reported by the participants in the *Community Care* survey.

- Working conditions are often inadequate, with overcrowding, lack of privacy and insufficient administrative support.
- Role ambiguity and role conflicts are particularly prominent stress factors in the present climate of economic constraints and public attention to social work. Heavy workloads and declining resources contribute to agency and inter-agency conflicts, compounding the workers' sense of a crisis of competence. (Cherniss 1980). Such crises often precipitate burn-out, and occupational stress has to be recognised and attended to at an organisational level: counselling alone is not sufficient.
- Responsibility for others or encounter stress, (people overload), denotes the stress derived from the daily interaction with people, for whom one perceives a certain responsibility. The more unpredictable the consumer, the more stress for the worker.
- Organisational participation calls for more flattened hierarchies in statutory and voluntary social service agencies. This would allow for more participative management systems and styles, a factor of particular relevance to women and minority groups, who fare better in less hierarchical work places.
- Work relationships are regularly reported as a major source of stress in social service work. Working as a team is alien to our culture, with its emphasis on individualism and competition. Good team work requires an investment in time and energy which can repay handsomely in terms of stress reduction.
- Change stresses people in the human service field most. Agency reorganisations, legislative changes, new training and qualifications programmes contribute to the present uncertainty and stress.

In addition to these stress factors the gender distribution in the field is an important factor in understanding stress and social work. A predominantly female work force is more vulnerable to occupational stress. A major reason for this is the triple career: the demands made on women to cope with work, home and child care. Women also constitute the bulk of new entrants to the profession, so they are found at the sharp end of the business.

Stress is physiological in nature and managing stress means paying attention to relaxation, exercise and diet, so it is particularly disturbing to learn that a high percentage of those surveyed did not take a lunch break or their holiday entitlement.

'Who cares for the carers', is a somewhat tarnished battle cry in the helping professions. The answer is simply: 'No-one, if not yourself!'

***Li McDerment is co-director of European Development Services, and author of* Stress Care**

Useful books

J Adams (1980) *Understanding and Managing Stress - A Book of Readings*. University Associates.

R Baker (1984) *Stress in Welfare Work*. National Children's Home, Occasional Papers No 5.

C Cherniss (1980) *Staff Burn-out*. Sage Publications.

Health & Safety Briefing, NALGO, June 1988, Research Section, NALGO, 1 Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9AJ.

Maslach, C (1982) *Burn-out — The Cost of Caring*. Prentice-Hall.

McDerment, Li (1988) *Stress Care*. Social Association Education

APPENDIX B

BRIEFING FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH BARONESS FAITHFULL

PROFESSOR PARKER'S REPORT "SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS"

A copy of the Report is attached.

Background

1. The Parker Study was commissioned in Autumn 1987 by a group set up under the auspices of the National Institute for Social Work (NISW) and was funded by the Rowntree Trust. Private and voluntary interests were not represented, but have since been consulted.

2. The Report considers the desirability and feasibility of establishing an independent body to regulate and promote good practice in social work and social care, and concludes that this would be justified. Professor Parker's main conclusions are on page 125.

3. A Steering Group, representative of interests concerned, is studying the Report. The Department is funding NISW to provide support to the Steering Group. There is no indication so far of when the Group expects to report.

Line to take

4. We cannot hold out any hope of Government decisions in the short term. There are major and difficult issues which will need much more consideration before the Government can form a view on whether it should act and, if so, in what way. Moreover, Professor Parker has said in his Report that primary legislation and Government funding would be required for his proposals, and we cannot hold out any prospect of these being available in the short to medium term.

5. Nevertheless the Government is concerned with safeguarding and improving the quality of social services. Much is being done in other ways : eg community care programme and Children Act implementation; developments in inspection and complaints systems; follow-up of Wagner Report on improving quality of residential care; good practice advice from the Department of Health's Social Services Inspectorate. The impetus on shaping services around the needs of users and carers are all means to this end.

SC166050+

APPENDIX C

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS
Telephone 071 210 3000
From the
Minister for Health

POH(9)1694/3613

Andrew Turnbull Esq
Principal Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

- 8 AUG 1991

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 26 July concerning Baroness Faithfull's request to meet the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister's reply will provide a useful opportunity to accept warmly the comments Baroness Faithfull makes about social workers, their difficult task and the positive way in which they generally go about their work.

In relation to the specific issues raised about training, there is no evidence of a cutback in resources devoted to social services training. Indeed, the Department of Health is making a major investment in a training strategy for the personal social services, with an extra £10.4 million being made available in 1991/92, rising to over £17.3 million in 1993/94. The Department is also investing in the introduction of the new Diploma in Social Work, in 250 additional grants for social work students and in an initiative to boost the availability of practice placements. The Training Support Programme, funding for which has increased by £5 million to £24.8 million this year, has resulted in a major increase in training opportunities for staff already within social services departments.

You may also know that Baroness Faithfull has previously written to the Prime Minister advocating the giving of a peerage to someone with a social work background.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely
Tim

TIMOTHY SANDS
Private Secretary

SOCIAL WORK TRAINING: KEY FACTS

APPENDIX D

Qualifying Training

* New two year Dip SW being introduced by CCETSW by 1994/95 will replace existing CQSW and CSS as sole professional qualification.

* Government investing £1.2 million in 1991/92 (rising to over £4 million 1993/94) in Dip SW implementation.

Shortage of Social Workers

* Aware of ADSS/LGMB workforce survey published 22 July. Recognise concern about shortage of qualified workers. But pleased to note vacancy rates for full time social workers remain reasonably stable and employment in SSDs still growing-up 3.1% 1989/90.

* Taking number of initiatives to increase output as part of PSS Training Strategy. Funding an extra 500 grant years. Also initiative to increase practice placement opportunities for students.

* Encouraging employers to look at more effective recruitment and retention measures, including return to workforce of qualified staff.

Quality of Training

* Aware of some shortcomings. Investing in Dip SW to address these - will define competencies more clearly. Believe training should not end with Dip SW qualification. CCETSW approved a new post-qualification framework which should enable staff to gain more professional/management training throughout career.

Women

* Skills and experience of women need to be used to best advantage in SSDs. Women are majority of service users and carers. Employers should look at relationship between terms and conditions of service and recruitment/retention. Want to see more flexible working arrangements.

* 1991 SSI report "Women in Social Services: A Neglected Resource" with foreword from MS(H). Highlighted under representation of women in senior management. Want to see employers taking action.

Training for Existing Workforce

* Training Support Programme provides investment 1991/92 of £24.8 million in support of training for all SSD staff. Resulted in major expansion of training opportunities - can be used to finance NVQ.

Resources for Training

Additional investment totals:

£10.4 million	1991/92
£15.2 million	1992/93
£17.3 million	1993/94

APPENDIX E

30.

Central Messages of the Act and the Citizen's Charter

The Act is closely in tune with and embodies many of the ideas in the Citizen's Charter - the delivery of high quality services, and the shift of power towards the consumer. Specific instances include:

Welfare of the child

In decision making by courts and local authorities the child's welfare must be the first consideration.

Parental Responsibility

Parents are recognised as the best people to bring up their children. They retain parental responsibility even when their children no longer live with them. Local authorities can only obtain parental responsibility by means of a court order.

Services for families

Parents are to be helped to bring up their children themselves through the provision of services. These must be provided in consultation and partnership with parents and families.

Local authorities are to identify children in need in their area and to publicise the services they offer to support the families of these children.

Local authorities are required to set up a representations and complaints procedure with an independent element for those dissatisfied with the services provided.

Decisions affecting Children

Children are to be consulted about what happens to them; their wishes are to be ascertained and they are to be involved in decisions concerning them.

Child Protection

Children are to be protected by intervention if they are at risk. Such intervention will be open to challenge by parents and concerned people. Partnership with parents and children is still to continue in these situations to the extent that it is compatible with safeguarding the welfare of the child.

Children away from Home

Where children cannot live with their parents the local authority must arrange high quality substitute care - wherever possible within the wider family. Local authorities must promote contact between a child and his family unless this would be against the child's beat interests. Situations where children are accommodated away from home are to be subject to scrutiny to ensure adequate standards of care and safety.

Independent Representation for Children in Court

Unless considered unnecessary in the child's interest to do so, courts are required to appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the child's interest in care proceedings.

APPENDIX F

MINISTER FOR CHILDREN

Line to Take

We do not accept that there is a need for a Minister for Children. Departments with responsibilities which affect children already consult amongst themselves and with relevant bodies such as voluntary organisations (including those who have issued the press release) when developing policy and preparing legislation. Existing inter-departmental arrangements are satisfactory - eg. there are formal groups covering juvenile delinquency, under fives and child protection. There are a number of voluntary organisations whose aim is to promote the welfare of children and who play a very active part in such consultation and in frequent ongoing contact with Departments. This robust framework ensures that children right's and interests are adequately considered when policy and legislation is developed.

MINISTER FOR CHILDREN/COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS/OMBUDSMAN

Q. **Won't the Act fail in its intention if there is no Minister for Children?**

A. No. The Act provides a very clear framework for local authorities and the courts to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Minister for Health will be monitoring implementation of the Act very closely. She already plays a key role in matters affecting children leading as she does on child protection, child care, child and maternal health, family support and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child after ratification. (See also background note on inter-departmental liaison)

Q. **What about a children's ombudsman?**

A. We do not accept that there is a need for a children's ombudsman. The Children Act 1989 represents a major step in improving the rights of children and is the most fundamental reform this century of the legislation affecting children. Under the Act, local authorities and the courts will now have to obtain and take into the account the wishes and views of children before making decisions which will affect their futures. The Act also requires local authorities to establish a representations procedure with an independent element to consider representations including complaints made against local authorities about the exercise of their child care functions. In parallel with this, the Government has demonstrated its support of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by signing it last year and are now committed to ratifying it as soon as possible. The Government is also drawing up a plan for action to fulfil the national goals agreed to at the World Summit for Children held last year.

BACKGROUND NOTE

PROPOSALS FOR A MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND A CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COMMISSIONER

Background

There have been recent proposals that there should be a Minister for Children (Labour Party) and that there should be a children's rights commissioner (Gulbenkian Foundation funded report **Taking Children Seriously - A Proposal for a Children's Rights Commissioner** by Peter Newell and the Labour Party).

LINES TO TAKE

- **The Government does not accept the proposal that there is a need for a Minister for children nor commissioner for children's rights. The Children Act 1989 represents a major step in improving the rights of children and is the most fundamental reform this century of the legislation affecting children.** Under the Act, local authorities and the courts will now have to obtain and take into the account the wishes and views of children before making decisions which will affect their futures. The Act also requires local authorities to establish a representations procedure with an independent element to consider representations including complaints made against local authorities about the exercise of their child care functions.

- In parallel with this, **the Government has demonstrated its support of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by signing it last year and are now committed to ratifying it as soon as possible.** Consultation with Whitehall Departments about UK mainland interests has been completed. Consultation with Dependent Territories and UK Islands is underway. Once the Government ratifies the Convention, the Department of Health will be responsible for reporting back to the UN at regular intervals on the implementation of the Convention. **The Government is also drawing up a plan for action to fulfil the national goals agreed to at the World Summit for Children held last year.**

- **Departments with responsibilities which affect children already consult amongst themselves and with relevant bodies such as voluntary organisations when developing policy.** Existing inter-departmental arrangements are satisfactory - eg. there are formal groups covering juvenile delinquency, under fives and child protection. As you will know, there are a number of voluntary organisations whose aim is to promote the welfare of children and who play a very active part in such consultation and in frequent ongoing contact with Departments. **The Government does not accept that children right's and interests are not adequately considered when policy and legislation is developed.**

- The Minister for Health already plays a key role in matters affecting children leading as she does on child protection, child care, child and maternal health, family support and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child after ratification.

APPENDIX 9

WORKING TOGETHER

SUMMARY

1. The Home Office, Department of Health, Department of Education and Welsh Office will publish a revised edition of "Working Together", the Guide to arrangements for inter-agency co-operation for the protection of children from abuse to co-incide with the implementation of the Children Act 1989. The Guide incorporates lessons learned from individual cases which have caused public and professional concern in recent years. The Guide requires action to be taken by all agencies involved in child protection including Area Child Protection Committees. It clarifies existing guidance issued under cover of LAC(88)10, but does not amend the basic requirements of the original "Working Together" except in so far as they are ammended by the Children Act 1989.

BACKGROUND

2. The Guide is concerned with inter-professional and inter-agency co-operation.It is not intended to be a practice guide for any particular agency or worker. It provides:

advice on the role of the Area Child Protection Committee;

a brief account of some of the legal and ethical considerations which underpin work in child protection;

an overview of the roles and organisation and arrangements of the major agencies engaged in child protection work;

advice on working together in individual cases;

advice on the function and operation of child protection conferences and registers;

advice on training in child protection work;

advice on reviewing cases.

3. The child protection provisions of the Children Act 1989 are designed to promote decisive action when necessary to protect children from abuse or neglect, combined with reasonable opportunities for parents, the children themselves and others to present their points of view. The need to work in partnership with families is stressed in the Guide, which makes it explicit that it is expected that children (when old enough) and parents will be

involved from the beginning in all stages of child protection work.

4. The Guide is clear that the timing of removal from home (what the press will call "Dawn raids") must be carefully considered in the light of the child's interests.

5. It also stresses the need for competent staff in investigative interviewing, and the need for staff to approach each interview with an open mind.

6. Much of the policy is basicaly unchanged from the previous edition, but has in places been clarified. The essential structure of inter-ageny working has been in force since the early 1970s. The major changes since the previous edition of Working Together are

   the inclusion of sections on abuse in residential and foster care settings,

   a section on Organised abuse, which is clear that the same considerations need to apply in such cases as any other, but that there will need to be inter-agency strategy discussions and careful attention paid to the provision of resources, including the availablity of staff and facilities

   an emphasis on the need for a named key worker if a child is registered, and a requirement to review the inter-agency child protection plan at least every 6 months

   a change in the terminology with the substitution of "Child protection conference" for "case conference" and the elimination of the category of abuse "grave concern" which means in future the concern will have to be articulated, which should mean that the child protection plan is more focused.

7. The revised Guide, which has been produced following wide and useful consultation explains the roles of all professionals, and should mean that they will be able to continue to work to protect children.

CS3A
9 October 1991

Both the White Paper "Caring for People" and the Children Act 1989 had refocussed local authorities' attentions on the need of the individual and their wishes. The specific points made in the Charter and the response to them are as follows:

More reliable information on available services and individual care plans reflecting the individual's wishes as far as possible. Local authorities are required to prepare and publish community care plans for the first time on 1 April 1992. These plans must show the services which are available and the authority's strategy for their use. Policy guidance issued following the White Paper has emphasised the need to respect individual clients wishes as far as possible, the need to prepare an individual care plan and give details of the person responsible for implementing it and as set out the kind of information which authorities should make available to the wider public and to service users. The Department of Health is funding a project designed to demonstrate the best way of getting the information across.

Nationally promulgated quality standards are available as benchmarks or where suitable are legally enforceable. Detailed guidance has been issued on standards of care in residential homes. The Childrens Act makes some standards legally enforceable.

Independent inspection of services. Nearly all social services authorities have now established "arms length" independent inspection units for residential homes as required by the NHS and Community Care Act 1990. These units will ensure that the same

standards are applied to a local authority's own homes and those in the independent sector.

Independent representation or advocacy where necessary and a new avenue for complaints. Nearly all authorities have now established formal complaints procedures as required by the NHS and Community Care Act. These must be publicised. Independent representation and advocacy is most relevant when individual care assessments and plans are being made. Detailed guidance sets out how authorities should involve users and carers in assessments and preparation of care plans. This approach has been warmly welcomed by the field.

The Charter also noted that the role of the Social Services Inspectorate was to be reviewed to see how it could be further strengthened by introducing an independent lay element into its work. A consultation paper is being prepared.

Dec'91 → file

Dominic Morris Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS
Telephone 071 210 3000

From the Secretary of
State for Health

Dear Dominic

I attach, as requested, supplementary briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with Baroness Faithfull on monday. I understand that briefing has already been provided on item 2 about 'Overlapping Legislation and the Children's Commissioner'.

Your letter did not specify whether briefing had been provided on the other topics to be discussed. I have, therefore, obtained briefing on the remaining issues as they relate to my Department.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Yours ever

Chris.

CHRIS PADWICK
Assistant Private Secretary

Temporarily Retained

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

HOMELESS

AFTERCARE - BRIEFING POINTS

The Law

Generally accepted that former legal framework covering local authority aftercare responsibilities is unsatisfactory. The law lacks clarity and is limited in scope and application.

Government took steps in the Children Act 1989 to put in place a comprehensive legal framework designed to ensure that every child leaving care after reaching the age of 16 can look to the local authority for continued advice and support until he reaches the age of 21.

The Children Act, which came into effect on 14 October 1991:

- **requires** local authorities to prepare all children they are looking after for leaving care. This means:

  - enabling them to build and maintain relationships with other (both general and sexual)

  - enabling them to develop theiur self-esteem

  - teaching them practical and financial skills and knowledge

- **requires** local authorities to advise and befriend children who left care after reaching the age of 16 , who seek their help, and to continue to this until they reach 21.

- **enables** local authorities to advise anbd befriend children who leave other forms of care (e.g private children's homes or private fostering arrangements) who seek their help.

- **enables** local authorities to assist <u>all such children</u> either in kind or, exceptionally, financially.

- **enables** local authorities to contribute to accommodation expenses incurred by children they have looked after where this is connected with their employment or further education; to make (non-repayable) grants to such children to help with further education or training expenses and to continue to do so until the course finishes even thouth the young person is over 21.

<u>GUIDANCE</u>

The Department consulted very widely in preparing the guidance to be issued to local authorities on these legal provisions. In addition to the local authority and professional associations, we took into account the views of a wide range of voluntary organisations working in the aftercare field and the views of young people themselves.

The detailed guidance was issued to local authorities as Chapter 9 of Volume 3 of the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations - Family Placments on 15 April 1991.

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN LEAVING CARE

Line to take

Regard the development of aftercare services, within the comprehensive legal framework we have put into the Act, as of crucial importance.

For our part, in addition to the detailed preparation and aftercare guidance we have produced in Volumes 3 and 4, which I am pleased has been generally well received , we have made a grant of some £350,000 spread over 3 years to First Key to help authorities develop their aftercare services; we are funding a major piece of research at Leeds University to evaluate the relative merits of different approaches to delivering aftercare services; we are currently negotiating a contract for the development of aftercare training materials, and we have recently announced the list of projects which are to be funded under our £3million Single Homeless Young People Initiative.

AFTERCARE - GENERAL LINE TO TAKE

Children in care need to be prepared properly for the time when they leave care, and they may need look to those who have been caring for them for continued support, advice and assistance for some time afterwards. This is particularly the case for those who, for a variety of reasons, have to live independently.

Unfortunately, this has not always happened in the past. While there are some local authorities and voluntary organisations with well developed aftercare arrangements, this is not the case everywhere.

In part, this is primarily because the existing statutory responsibilities of local authorities lack clarity and are limited in scope and application

That is why we took steps in the Children Act 1989 to simplify and extend the aftercare powers and duties of local authorities. When the Act is implemented on 14 October 1991 local authorities will have an important new duty to ensure that all children they are looking after are prepared for the time they leave their care. Every child who ceases to be accommodated by local authorities after reaching the age of 16 can look to the local authority for advice and befriending until they reach the age of 21. Local authorities will also have power to assist such youngsters, either in kind or exceptionally in cash, throughout the whole of this period.

Of course, not every child leaving care is the same. Some will have greater needs than others. But what we have done in the Children Act is provide and clear and comprehensive framework to ensure that no child who genuinely needs help falls outside the net.

AFTERCARE: Q AND A

Q. WHY NO STATUTORY DUTY TO GIVE GRANTS?

A. Every child leaving care is an individual, with different needs and problems. Some will have been looked after by local authorities for only a brief period, others will return to a stable home environment. It is only a minority who leave care each year who, for a variety of circumstances, have to live independently. It just would not have been appropriate for us to have imposed a blanket duty on local authorities to give grants to every child leaving its care, irrespective of the child's individual circumstances. Similarly, if you are going to impose a duty on local authorities to give grants - it would not mean anything unless we were also going to dictate what the level, or minimum level, of those grants should be.

What we <u>have</u> done is to provide local authorities with a clear, comprehensive, framework within which local authorities can tailor the financial assistance they can give to those who have left care appropriate to the individual child's needs.

Q. WHAT IS MEANT BY BEFRIENDING?

A. The duty (or power) which local authorities have to advise and "befriend", means that the authority should act as a source of comfort, support, encouragement and friendship. On one level it may simply mean providing a sympathetic ear when children need someone to turn to to discuss a particular problem. On another it could mean a providing a source of advice and assistance in sorting out emotional, accommodation or educational difficiulties.

In its purest form, it is providing the sort of encouragement and support that a child may expect to get from him own parents.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION: DH PERSPECTIVE

Line to take

1. We will obviously have a very close interest in the work of the Local Government Commission. Our particular concern at this stage is to ensure that the Commission will be fully briefed on the importance of authorities' social services functions and the factors which make effective social services Departments. The draft guidance issued by DOE for consultation on 25 November makes a start on this.

Background

1. The Local Government Bill which has just completed its (Lord's) Committee stage creates a new Local Government Commission for England with responsibility for reviewing local government in particular areas and recommending what electoral, structural or boundary changes might be appropriate for the benefit of the local community and in the interests of "effective and convenient" local government. The Secretary of State for the Environment is then empowered to make orders implementing such changes. In particular county and district councils in an area may be replaced by a single (unitary) authority and London boroughs may be amalgamated or disbanded and their duties distributed amongst other boroughs. Other changes are also possible.

2. The Government has said that the first new authorities will be established in April 1994.

3. DOE is drawing up guidance for the Local Government Commission which will set out the policy considerations which should underlie the Commission's work. A draft of the guidance was issued on 25 November 1991. The personal social services is dealt with briefly in an Annex to the guidelines (covering each of the major local government functions). DH have been arguing that social services are of such significance - not least because of the Children Act and community care reforms - that they merit separate guidance. We do not yet know whether DOE will agree to this.

KEY DATA

Existing Policy

Personal Social Services provide advice, care and support for people otherwise unable to lead a normal life. The aim is to avoid long-term dependency by emphasis on community care. Financial policy is to encourage cost effective services; seeking increases in LA PSS spending with appropriate allowances for demography, new policies and other pressures; whilst remaining consistent with Government Economic Policy. But LAs determine their own priorities. Unhypothecated RSG distributed through Standard Spending Assessments. Charge capping will constrain increases in expenditure and reduce excessive expenditure.

Net current expenditure:

	Cash		Real Terms at 1991/92 prices		
		Growth on previous year		Growth on previous year	Growth on 1978/79
Year	£m	%	£m	%	%
1978/79 outturn	1062		2880		
1989/90 outturn	3713	13	4310	6	50
1990/91 rev.est.	4173	12	4465	4	55
1991/92 LA bud.	4582	10	4582	3	59

PSS Specific Grants

Top sliced and targeted, give evidence of Government's commitment to the service concerned.

Specific Grants	90/91 £m	91/92 £m	92/93 £m
AIDS/HIV	9.8	10.2	15.3
Social Services Training	19.4	24.8	29.0
Mental Illness	-	21.0	31.4
Drug & Alcohol Misuse	-	1.4	2.1
Guardians ad Litem	-	-	5.7
Commonwealth Immigrants (s11)	4.7	5.0	8.5
Urban Programme	22.2	22.8	23.4
Total	56.1	85.2	115.4

Government's Record

Average annual real increase in current expenditure since 78/79 is 3.6%; sufficient to cover demographic and other pressures. Budgets for 91/92 are 3% higher in real terms than estimated for 90/91.

Projected capital outturn for 91/92 of £159m compares to outturn of £50m in 78/79 a real terms increase of 18%.

Previous Government's Record

Between 74/75 and 78/79 PSS current expenditure only increased by a real annual average of 2.8%. PSS capital expenditure decreased by 58% in real terms over the same period.

LA Settlement for 1992/93

TSS for 92/93 is £41.8bn (up 7.2% in cash or 2.6% real terms). AEF is £33.1 bn (up 7.2% in cash, 2.6% real terms). Ensures only around 15% of local authority spending paid by community charge payers.

PSS TSS is £4850m, including £115.4m for specific grants, up 7.7% (3.1% in real terms) on equivalent figure for 91/92, and around 6% above 91/92 budgets. PSS better than average for all services.

Local Government Review

Structure, finance and management to be covered. Structural changes not expected before 1994, management change subject to consultation.

Local Government Finance Bill introduced - proposed Council Tax provides for one bill per household, based on property bands and two adults per household. Personal discounts of 25% available to single adults. Students and project 2000 student nurses, living in all-student accommodation exempt. Discounts available to other students and trainees. 8 property bands range from £40,000 and under to over £320,000 with highest bill (£800 at standard spend) three times lowest (£266). No allowance made for regional property value differences, but average household payments in line with new lower community charge.

Charge Capping

Provisional criteria for 92/93 now proposed. Stricter than for 91/92:-

- any increase allowed up to SSA
- 6.5% increase allowed up to SSA+5%
- 4.5% increase allowed up to SSA+10%
- 2.5% increase allowed up to SSA+12.5%

No de minimus proviso, as before, but criteria will be modified to take account of small District authorities (budget under £15m) now being brought under capping scrutiny.

All PSS authorities, except Greenwich, will be allowed to increase their community charge demand by at least 4.5%. However, about 20 PSS authorities will not be able to increase their expenditure that much as they will have run out of reserves.

Announcing criteria ahead of budget setting, with tighter criteria, will continue process of convergence of budgets and SSAs. Additional resources for community care transferred from DSS for 93/94 will need to be shown clearly as new money, and criteria for 93/94 on will need to take account of the transfer.

Community Care

92/93 settlement allows for phase 2 of community care, in particular development work and increased specific grants.

Bull Points

- PSS Standard Spending figure for 92/93 £4850m; up 7.7% in cash terms over equivalent 91/92 figure and around 6% higher than 91/92 budgets. Better on both accounts than the average for all services.

- Allows for full year costs of implementing the Children Act, phase 2 of community care, increased and new specific grants, inflation and demography.

- Over the two years 1990/91 to 1992/93 PSS standard spending will have increased by nearly 33% (19% in real terms) - more than adequate to allow for demography and renewed pressures on local authorities.

- For first full year of Children Act expenditure on children's services up 27% over that in 90/91 (13.7% real terms increase over the two year period). Shows Government has provided adequate resources to implement this major legislation .

- LA PSS current spending up over 59% in real terms between 78/79 and 91/92.

- Increased specific grants for Training, Mental Illness, Drug and Alcohol misuse and Aids. New specific grant for Guardians ad Litem

- PSS Capital expenditure up by 17% in real terms between 78/79 and 91/92.

David Matthews
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Room 712 FRH
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5 December 1991

8352B/8647x/YM/7-9/CP-RH

CHILD CARE AND FAMILY SERVICES

HSS SUMMARY FACT SHEET NO F6

Existing Policy

1. The Government affirmed in "The Law on Child Care and Family Services" White Paper (CM 62, Jan 87) its intention to reform public child care law as soon as Parliamentary time was available.

2. The Government has also made its intention to review proposals in the light of the Cleveland Report published on 6 July 1988.

3. The Children Act received Royal Assent on 16 November 1989 and will be implemented in October 1991.

Key Facts

4. Children in Care (England and Wales)

1980	1987	1988	1989	1990*	(Total Thousands)
100.2	69.2	67.8	65.4	63.7	
37.0	36.9	36.9	36.1	36.4	Boarded Out
30.3	13.7	12.9	11.6	11.1	In Community Homes
3.8	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.9	Voluntary Homes and Hostels
18.5	9.7	9.3	9.3	8.2	At Home on Trial
10.6	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.1	Others

* 1990 data is provisional

Government's Record

5. The Government have produced the Children Act following the Select Committee's Report in 1984 and growing concern about parental rights in care cases and the protection of children at risk.

Previous Government's Record

6. Responsible for Childrens Act 1975 which was not implemented in full until 1985.

Current Issues and Responses

Child Care Law

7. The Children Act clarifies and simplifies existing child care law and improves parental rights to challenge care and emergency proceedings and gain access to Children in Care, received Royal Assent 16 November 1989.

8. European Court cases on access to children. One of the reasons for legislating was to respond to judgement from the European Court that old law provisions on access did not satisfy the European Convention.

Practice Guidance

9. 'Working Together' on interagency co-operation for the protection of children from abuse, "Child Protection: Guidance for Senior Nurses, health visitors and Midwives" prepared by the Standing Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Committee and "Diagnosis of Child Sexual Abuse: Guidance for Doctors" prepared by the Standing Medical Advisory Committee have all been issued. The Home Office published guidance for the Police on the investigation of child sexual abuse and the DES produced guidance for the education service on the protection of children from abuse. "Protecting Children": a guide for social workers undertaking a comprehensive assessment of child abuse cases was published on 24 November 1988. "An introduction to the Children Act" was published on 23 November 1989, and "The Care of Children: Principles and Practice in Regulations and Guidance" on 18 May 1990. Working together is to be revised to coincide with the implementation of the Children Act.

Training

10. The Department has underway a two pronged centrally funded training initiative. The first prong is directed at child sexual abuse. The second at child abuse generally. In 1991/92 total funding available was nearly £1 million..

11. The Government announced on in 1988 the making of a grant for the training of social services staff involved in child care.

12. On 14 December 1990 MS(H) announced the allocation of £24.8 million specific grant for local authorities under the Training Support Programme in 1991/92, the third year of the programme. £3.0 million of the grant is for staff involved in the implementing of the Children Act. Guidelines have been drawn up by representatives of the Social Services Inspectorate, CCETSW, the NSPCC and the Local Authorities Associations and issued. To qualify for the support grant Local Authorities in-house training will need to conform to these guidelines.

Children on Child Protection Registers

13. In May 1989, the Department published the results of the first national survey of children and young persons on child protection registers in England in the year ending 31 March 1988. The second survey for the year March 1989 revealed that there were approximately 41,200 registered children representing 3.8 children per 1000 population under 18. Final figures for the year ending 31 March 1990 show approximately 43,600 registered children representing 4.0 children per 1000 population under 18.

Research

14. The Department undertakes a substantial programme of childcare research, within expenditure of estimated £22.2 million in 1991/92. Within that programme research on child protection was a priority theme last year. The Department in collaboration with other Government Departments is putting together a full and effective programme of Child Protection research. Government funded research on child abuse including child sexual abuse and ritual abuse has been commissioned and is being undertaken by the Scottish Office, the Department of Health and Social Services (Northern Ireland), the Economic and Social Research Council and the Home Office.

Inter-Departmental Group

15. An inter-Departmental group on child abuse comprising Senior Officials of the Department of Health, Home Office, Department of Education and Science and the Territorial Departments meets regularly to discuss cross-sector policy issues in relation to child protection. A subgroup is meeting to develop collaboration on working with sexual offenders.

16. **BULL POINTS**

THE GOVERNMENT HAS LEGISLATED TO ACHIEVE FOR A FUNDAMENTAL REFORM OF CHILD CARE LAW. THE DEPARTMENT HAS IN HAND A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES TO ASSIST THE PROFESSIONS BOTH WITH TRAINING NEEDS AND IN THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHILD ABUSE INCLUDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

OCTOBER 1991

C LILLY
CS3A
233 Wellington House
Ext 24069

10 DOWNING STREET

Dominic

Original Brief + Baroness F. subsequent letter enclosed – I have faxed to Chris Padwick who is dealing in Paul Atkins's absence.

David 13/12

Dominic

Lady F will have to be cancelled – phone calls to Bush & Kohl on GATT etc.

c|p|ahearn

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 November 1991

Thank you for the (voluminous) briefing provided for the meeting with Baroness Faithfull. That meeting was due to have taken place on 20 November but, because of the pre-Maastricht debate, it has now been rescheduled for 16 December. In the meantime Baroness Faithfull has written in again indicating the subjects she wishes to raise. Some are already covered in the briefing already sent over but I would be grateful if advice and (short) briefing could be provided on the remaining items by 12 December.

DOMINIC MORRIS

Paul Ahearn, Esq.,
Department of Health

c/p/Faithfull

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 November 1991

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 14 November.

As Sandra Phillips will have told you, because of the House of Commons debate on Europe on 20 November, the Prime Minister is very sorry to have to postpone the meeting. I understand it has been rescheduled for 16 December. The Prime Minister looks forward to seeing you then.

DOMINIC MORRIS

The Baroness Faithfull, O.B.E.

The Baroness Faithfull, OBE.

14th November 1991 p15

The Rt. Hon. John Major, MP.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London,
SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

I am grateful to you for offering the time to see me on Wednesday 20th November at 9 am. I attach the points which I would be grateful if we could discuss. This does look a long list but I promise to be brief on each item!

Yours ever,

Lucy.

Baroness Faithfull

The Baroness Faithfull, OBE.

HOUSE OF LORDS

~~20~~ January 12.15

For meeting on ~~20th November 1991~~ at 9am.

Temporarily Retained

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OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

2. Overlapping Legislation. Need for Co-ordinated Structure in the field of Child and Family Affairs.
   ? Children's Commissioner.

3. Local Government Commission

4. Social Security 16-18 year old homeless

5. Social Services throughout the country.

Gateshead
Newcastle
Avon
Cardiff

Baroness Faithfull

The Baroness Faithfull, OBE.

Meeting with Prime Minister on 14th January 1992 - 12 noon

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2. <u>Overlapping Legislation and Need for a Co-ordinating Unit in the Field of Child and Family Care</u>

(a) Quotation from Director of Relate "During the course..... interest."

(b) The Gulbenkian Report "Taking Children Seriously" A Proposal for a Children's Rights' Commissioner.

(c) "Working Together for Children's Welfare". Report of Michael Sieff Foundation Conference attended by members of the Legal Profession, Medical Profession, Social Work Profession, Education Profession. Page 10 "<u>Conflicting Legislation</u>". There is conflict and gaps as between the Department of Health, Social Security, Home Office (particularly services for Under Fives and Child Witnesses in Court) and Department of Environment.

(d) The Labour Party has seen the need for some Machinery and are recommending a Minister for Children which is impractical.

3. Social Security - 16-18 year olds. Homeless.

4. Possible Meeting with representatives of Directors of Social Services and Voluntary Agencies; and possible visit to Social Services.

CONFIRMATION

Under Lords. Grants. Housing Benefit.

Children. Penal Affairs.

The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES PREM 19 PIECE/ITEM 3889 (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: attachment to letter from Faithfull to the Prime Minister dated 14 November 1991	X
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Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references, .
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.
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eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.
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LADY WAGNER, OBE, PhD.

Joined Barnardo Council: 1969

Member of Executive/Finance Committee: 1971/85

Deputy Chairman of Executive/Finance Committee: 1971/73

Chairman of Executive/Finance Committee: 1973/78

Chairman of Council: 1978/84

Chairman - Thomas Coram Foundation 1990
Chairman of Volunteer Centre: 1984/89
Vice President of Volunteer Centre: 1991
President, National Bureau of Handicapped Students: 1980/
Chairman of Governors of Felixstowe College: 1980/89
President, I A P S (Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools): 1985/90
Governor of Thomas Coram Foundation: 1978/
Vice-Chairman of Carnegie (UK) Trust and Leche Trust
Chairman of an independent review of Residential Care in England and Wales, set up by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services based at the National Institute for Social Work: 1985/1988
Chairman, Wagner Development Group 1990

Lady Wagner became the first woman Chairman of the Council in 1978, and is the first woman to be President of I.A.P.S. and first woman to Chair the Thomas Coram Foundation.

A graduate of Geneva University, she joined the council in 1969, after several years as a voluntary fund raiser for Barnardo's. She joined the Executive/Finance Committee on its formation in 1971.

In 1972 Lady Wagner took a Diploma in Social Administration at the London School of Economics.

In 1973 initiated discussions with the National Portrait Gallery which led to the successful exhibit **'The Camera and Dr Barnardo'** which later toured in Canada. Wrote an article on Barnardo for catalogue, entitled 'A Man of Tender Violence'.

In 1974 she returned to the London School of Economics and was awarded a PhD in 1977 for her thesis entitled: 'Dr Barnardo and the Charity Organisation Society'.

Lady Wagner has completed a full length biography of Dr Barnardo, published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson in March 1979, and published in paper back in 1980 by Eyre and Spottiswode.

Children of the Empire published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson in 1982, tells the story of children sent overseas as juvenile emigrants.

The Chocolate Conscience published by Chatto and Windus Limited in August 1987.

Lady Wagner, who lives at Physic Place, London SW3, and at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, is married to Sir Anthony Wagner. They have three grown up children, two grandsons and a grand-daughter.

February 1991

Gillian Wagner O.B.E. PhD.

Barnardo's: Joined Council in 1969.
Chairman of Executive/Finance Committee 1973 - 78.
Chairman of Council 1978 - 84.
1977 awarded PhD. by L.S.E. for her thesis entitled, "Dr. Barnardo and the Charity Organisation Society".
1989 - Honorary Doctorate Bristol University.
1990 - Honorary Doctorate Liverpool University for services to Barnardo's.

Publications: Dr. Barnardo (Biography) 1979
Children of the Empire 1982
The Chocolate Conscience 1987

The Volunteer Centre: Chairman 1984 - 90

Thomas Coram Foundation: Governor 1978 -
Chairman 1990 -

Independent Association of Preparatory Schools: President 1980 -

Felixstowe College: Chairman of Governors 1980 -

National Bureau Handicapped Students: President 1980 -

Carnegie Trust: Trustee

Leche Trust: Trustee

Council for Charitable Support: Member 1987 -

Wagner Report on Residential Care: "A Positive Choice"
Appointed 1985 by Secretary of State to Chair this Independent Review hosted by National Institute for Social Work. This influential report was published in 1989 and Gillian Wagner has continued to work hard on a voluntary basis to endeavour to get its main recommendations implemented.

All Saints: Founder Member and Chairman of this group of Chairs of larger voluntary organisations providing services to people.

HOUSE OF LORDS

GRIFFITHS, Sir (Ernest) Roy, Kt 1985; Deputy Chairman: J. Sainsbury plc, since 1975; National Health Service Policy Board, since 1989; Adviser to the Government on the National Health Service, since 1986; *b* 8 July 1926; *s* of Ernest and Florence Griffiths; *m* 1952, Winifred Mary Rigby; one *s* two *d*. *Educ:* Wolstanton Grammar Sch., N Staffs; Keble Coll., Oxford (Open Scholar; MA, BCL; Hon. Fellow 1987); Columbia Business Sch., New York. Solicitor; FCIS 1959; FIGD 1975 (Pres., 1985–87); CBIM 1980; Hon. CGIA (Technology), 1988. Monsanto Cos, 1956–68: Legal Adviser, 1956; Dir, Monsanto Europe, 1964–68; J. Sainsbury plc, 1968–: Dir, Personnel, 1969; Man. Dir, 1979–88. Chm., Management Enquiry, NHS, 1983 (report publd 1983); Mem., Health Services Supervisory Bd, 1983–89; Dep. Chm., NHS Management Bd, 1986–89. Pres., Age Concern England, 1989–. Provost and Chm. of Governors, London Univ. Sch. of Agric., Wye Coll., Kent, 1989–. Hon. DCL Kent, 1990. Author of Community Care: agenda for action (report to Govt), 1988. *Recreations:* cricket, gardening. *Address:* Little Earlylands, Crockham Hill, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6SN. *T:* Edenbridge (0732) 866362.

GRIFFITHS, Harold Morris: Assistant Secretary, HM T[illegible]

Sir Frank Layfield Q.C

Called to the Bar in May 1954 by Gray's Inn.
Pupil to Sir Arthur Irvine, Q.C. sometime Solicitor General.
Practised on the Western Circuit and at the Local Govenment & Planning Bar and the Parliamentary Bar.
Q.C. 1967. A Bencher Gray's Inn 1976
Founder Chairman, Statute Law Society 1968
Recorder of the Crown Court 1979-85

Government Inquiries

Chairman, Panel of Inquiry Greater London Development Plan 1970-72
Chairman, Committee on Local Government Finance 1974-76
Inspector, Sizewell B Inquiry and Report 1982-1986

Counsel to Oxford University 1971 -
Member, Secretary of State's Housing Finance Policy Review Group 1975-77
Chairman, NEDO Working Party on Constructional Steelwork 1977-82
General Commissioner of Taxes 1977 -
President, Tribunal for Protection of St. Paul's Cathedral 1978 -
Gold Medal, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Mass.USA 1982
President,Association of County Councils 1985 -
Hon.Fellow, Incorporated Society of Valuers & Auctioneers 1977 -
Associate, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors 1979 -
Hon. Fellow, College of Estate Management, Reading University 1982 -
Hon. Fellow, Landscape Institute 1989 -
Trustee, Prince of Wales Youth Business Trust 1986 -
Chairman, Churches Energy Group 1989 -

Joint Author of "Planning Applications Appeals and Inquiries".
Author of "Engineering Contracts" and numerous articles and publications.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 October 1991

The Prime Minister has agreed to see Baroness Faithfull at 9 a.m. on 20 November. A copy of her original letter requesting the meeting is attached. You will see it is dealing mainly with the "most vulnerable citzens and the role of social workers". I should be grateful for briefing to reach me by Wednesday 13 November.

Dominic Morris

Paul Ahearn, Esq.,
Department of Health.

R21·10

1) Dominic White

2) Sandra

p.a. 22/10

House of Lords. Westminster London SW1A 0PW
weekdays.
071 219 5353.

2 Alfreton Close. Parkside. Wimbledon London SW19 5NS
081 947 3641 week nights.

303. Woodstock Road. Oxford OX2 7NY weekends.
Oxford 515389

October 18. 1991

Dear Miss Sandra Phillips,

In confirmation of your phone call to me and my phone call to you, I am grateful for the appointment to see the Prime Minister at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, November 20th 1991. and

I shall be glad to accept.

I am grateful to you.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Faithfull

(Baroness Faithfull)

Dominic R 16/10
Now fixed
for Wednesday
20 November
at 9.00 am.
P.a. S 17/11

House of Lords. Westminster London SW1A 0PW

071 219 5353.
5453

October 15. 1992.

Dear Mrs Phillips.

Thank you for your letter of 14 October offering me an appointment with HE Prime Minister on

Tuesday, 12. November at 11.15 a.m.

I am a Vice President of the Association of County Councils. Their Conference is being held in Rhyl. Clywd - Wales from 11 - 13 November.

PM: Mtgs with Lady Faulkner, A[illegible]

If 12 Downing St is the only time the Prime Minister can see me, I will cancel attending the Conference. However, politically, I think it is wise, I should attend.

I am chairing a Conference all day Tuesday, 16th October but will be in the House of Lords 5.15 p.m onwards and on Thursday 17th October p.m.

You can leave a message for me to phone you on 041 219 ~~5353~~ 5353.

I am so sorry to give you this trouble.

Yours sincerely Lucy Faithfull (Baroness Faithfull)

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 October 1991

Thank you for your letter of 30 September to Dominic Morris.

The Prime Minister looks forward to seeing you, and I wonder whether Tuesday 12 November at 1115 am is a convenient time for you? Perhaps your office could let me know in due course.

SANDRA PHILLIPS

The Baroness Faithfull OBE

(Send to House of Lords as per SPIs instructions) MEM

TW
EA

qF

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

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SANDRA PHILLIPS

The Baroness Faithfull OBE

(Send to House of Lords as per SPIs instructions) MEM

The Baroness Faithfull, OBE.

Kitchen

30th September 1991

Dominic Morris, Esq.,
Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
London,
SW1A 2AA

Dear Mr. Morris,

Thank you for your letter of the 18th September.

I do understand that the Prime Minister is fully booked up at present and, in any case, will be absorbed with the Conservative Party Conference.

My home address is 303 Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 7NY telephone number 0865 515389.

The House of Lords does of course sit again on 14th October after which time I shall be in London. I look forward to hearing from Miss Sandra Phillips.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Faithfull.

? Thursday 12 Nov
at 11.15

FILE VLB

a:/Faithfull

cc SP

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

18 September 1991

I am sorry you have not had a substantive reply before now to your letter of 25 July to the Prime Minister. I am writing now to confirm that he would indeed be very happy to see you. He would, I think, find it more helpful to see you on an individual basis than the other possibility you suggested - i.e., receiving a delegation. The Prime Minister hopes you will understand that given the current constraints on his diary, the imminence of the Party Conference and subsequently the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Harare, it may be a little while before we are able to find a suitable slot for a meeting. Miss Sandra Phillips, the Prime Minister's Diary Secretary, will be in touch with your office shortly to identify a mutually convenient time.

DOMINIC MORRIS

The Baroness Faithfull, O.B.E.

SC166050+

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS
Telephone 071 210 3000

From the
Minister for Health

POH(9)1694/3613

- 8 AUG 1991

Andrew Turnbull Esq
Principal Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 26 July concerning Baroness Faithfull's request to meet the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister's reply will provide a useful opportunity to accept warmly the comments Baroness Faithfull makes about social workers, their difficult task and the positive way in which they generally go about their work.

In relation to the specific issues raised about training, there is no evidence of a cutback in resources devoted to social services training. Indeed, the Department of Health is making a major investment in a training strategy for the personal social services, with an extra £10.4 million being made available in 1991/92, rising to over £17.3 million in 1993/94. The Department is also investing in the introduction of the new Diploma in Social Work, in 250 additional grants for social work students and in an initiative to boost the availability of practice placements. The Training Support Programme, funding for which has increased by £5 million to £24.8 million this year, has resulted in a major increase in training opportunities for staff already within social services departments.

You may also know that Baroness Faithfull has previously written to the Prime Minister

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely
Tim

TIMOTHY SANDS
Private Secretary

FAITHFULL

8/8

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

Ack 26 July 1991

The Prime Minister has received the attached letter from Lady Faithfull. Are there any observations Mrs Bottomley would wish him to include in his reply?

ANDREW TURNBULL

Timothy Sands Esq
Department of Health

The Baroness Faithfull, OBE.

25th July 1991

B26/7

The Rt.Hon. John Major, MP.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London,
SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

Citizens Charter

May I ask to see you concerning the most vulnerable citizens in our Society, both from humanitarian and political points of view?

May I also discuss with you those whose role it is to work alongside the most vulnerable citizens enabling them to become self-supporting and independent as far as is possible and practicable? I refer to the social workers, both in the statutory and voluntary sectors, both field and residential staff.

Quietly, unobstrusively and often unacknowledged, the majority of social workers carry out a complex and difficult task in a constructive and positive way. Regrettably, over the past few years there has been disturbing events - I refer to those which took place in Cleveland, in Rochdale, in Orkney and North Ireland and in Staffordshire where there were incidents of mishandling, of cruelty, abuse and in some cases, death.

I believe that at Central Government level there is overlapping of work and gaps in the service, which is financially wasteful and leads to inefficiency. I have seen Chris Patten on this matter.

At Local Government level cutbacks in training, recruitment and resources have led to greater expenditure in the long run and led to inefficiency in some instances. I could expand on these points.

I sincerely hope that you may have a good holiday and that you would agree to see me and/or receive a delegation in September. I will be out of the country throughout August.

Meanwhile, may I say how much I support the concept of the Citizens Charter.

Yours ever,

Lucy.

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH BARONESS FAITHFULL, 10 JANUARY

As you know, Lady Faithfull has asked to see you to discuss three issues which she thinks your speech to the National Children's Home dinner should cover. Brian Griffiths has of course already spoken to her about these and I am attaching his note which you saw over the weekend. Brian plans to come to tomorrow's meeting.

Work on the speech is now well in hand but Brian advises that the draft is not yet in sufficiently good shape for you to see in tonight's Box. A draft should be available tomorrow night.

CAB

(CAROLINE SLOCOCK)
9 January 1990
a:\home\Faithfull (srw)

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject
cc master

file PM2AAR
bc: BS

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

6 July 1988

Dear Geoffrey

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH BARONESS FAITHFULL

The Prime Minister saw Baroness Faithfull at the Baroness's request to discuss the position and training of social workers as this was likely to be affected by the aftermath of the Cleveland report.

I should be grateful if you would ensure that this letter is seen only by those with an operational need to know and is not copied without the authority of this office.

Baroness Faithfull said that there had been much criticism of social workers recently, some of which reflected the general weak training provision and facilities for the profession. CCETSW had been able to play only a limited role until recently but new appointments offered greater potential. She felt that the report "Care for Tomorrow", published last autumn, had been something of a "curate's egg". She felt it was right to press for longer training periods. Nurses and doctors had three and five years training respectively with specialised training on top. Social workers had only two years of academic training and that was inadequate. She cited the fact that training sessions in law were now limited to two a year in some courses. This was no where near enough. It made social workers too deferential in the face of medical opinion and they were unable always to take a robust view in the best interests of child and family. The report itself was too egalitarian and did not concentrate its demands for additional training on the area of team leaders where the greatest potential for improvement existed.

The Prime Minister commented that she had some sympathy with the proposition that training of team leaders needed strengthening; that was one of the weaknesses highlighted by Cleveland. She was not convinced that spreading extra training thinly was either the best use of resources, or was a guarantee of the improvement in the quality of training which seemed to be one of the lessons from Cleveland.

CONFIDENTIAL

Baroness Faithfull suggested that one possible way forward might be for one or two independent outsiders to have another look at "Care for Tomorrow" to pick out the plums. She mentioned Professor Norman Tutt of Lancaster University and Geoffrey Otton. (After the meeting the Prime Minister commented that Geoffrey Otton or Dame Barbara Shenfield might have a useful contribution to make to the further enquiry, which she has already suggested that your Secretary of State consider, of ways in which training might be improved. She would be very grateful for a progress report from your Secretary of State or Mr. Newton on this before the additional resources promised for training are committed to specific programmes.)

Baroness Faithfull suggested that what was needed was something akin to the police college, providing concentrated specialised training. It would cost £2-3 million for a site for such a national institute for social work training. The Prime Minister noted this without comment.

I am copying this letter to Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office).

Yours sincerely

Dominic Morris

DOMINIC MORRIS

Geoffrey Podger, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security.

PRIME MINISTER

You are seeing Baroness Faithfull for half an hour tomorrow afternoon, at her request. She wants to raise three issues in advance of publication of the Butler-Sloss Report:

- training and position of social workers;
- a Child Care Bill;
- a Family Court.

Training

Baroness Faithfull was a signatory to the "Care for Tomorrow" Report by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work which has prepared a three year training programme of an essentially academic nature, costing up to £40 million a year by 1994/95. She is not, however, wedded to every dot and comma of the Report's proposals. The line you could take with her is that the Government is putting substantially more resources into the whole area of training, and that resources for training in the child abuse field will be looked at particularly closely following the Butler-Sloss Report (a further £7 million will be announced on Wednesday). But the main emphasis should be less on academic work than on field experience with good supervision; the last thing that is wanted is nervous under-graduates playing God with other families.

If she suggests that another major review of training is needed, you should say that the main thing now must be to get on with practical steps to improve the extent and, more important, the quality of social workers' training now.

Child Care Bill

Baroness Faithfull chairs a group which is campaigning for the early implementation of last year's White Paper on Child Care

Law. The position is that the White Paper proposals will be reviewed once the Butler-Sloss report is published and that legislation will be introduced as soon as Parliamentary time is available. You can be fairly bullish about this: the Butler-Sloss Report endorses the White Paper proposals to strengthen parental rights, notably by reducing Place of Safety Orders from twenty-eight to seven days; and it will become known after the next Queen's Speech that a Children and Family Services Bill will be introduced in the next Session.

Family Courts

Baroness Faithfull is strongly in favour of a Family Court; the Lord Chancellor is not, at this stage anyway, not least because of resource implications which had been highlighted in the difficulties in setting up the Crown Prosecution Service. He is seeing her to discuss this on 12 July. Your best line is probably to press her on exactly why she thinks we need a Family Court. What are the practical advantages over the present system?

She may argue that it would produce more informal procedures. But these already exist in many Magistrates' Courts and, in some of the cases that go to the higher courts, the majesty of the law can provide a useful shock for inadequate or negligent parents.

Secondly, she could argue that it will lead to an atmosphere of problem solving rather than allocation of blame. But this does not get round the difficulty that "solutions" to problems (eg taking the child into care) will be perceived as a matter of guilt regardless of how it is dressed up.

Third, that it might lead to a more inquisitorial rather than adversarial system. The point here is that some of the ideas being canvassed in the Butler-Sloss Report - eg the Office of Child Protection - which could tilt the balance against the

parents. They need to be able to challenge the evidence of such an office, especially if its findings begin to get legally authoritative status.

DOMINIC MORRIS
4 July 1988

DS3ABC

ANNEX B

The Baroness Faithfull, OBE

18th May 1988

Dear Prime Minister,

Child and Family Law

May I draw to your attention the Press Conference held yesterday on the urgent need for a Bill consolidating and clarifying the 32 Acts in being on Child and Family Law? The present position is confusing and, when the Report on the Cleveland affair is published, the Law as it stands may prove to be inadequate and in some cases unjust.

As Chairman of the Campaign for the White Paper of 1987 to be implemented, may I press for this reform to take its place in the 1988 Queen's Speech?

Yours ever,

Lucy.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1

JS/41900

The Baroness Faithfull OBE

Thank you for your letter of 18 May about child care and family law.

I am pleased that Action for Child Care Law Reform commended the Government's White Paper "The Law on Child Care and Family Services". As you say, these are important proposals which will improve the legal framework for providing services to children and their families and protection of children at risk. They have gained widespread support amongst practitioners in child care and their professional associations.

The report of the Cleveland inquiry is to be published shortly and we will wish to review our proposals in the light of any recommendations that might be made.

You will appreciate that I am unable to anticipate the contents of the Queen's Speech, but I can assure you that the Government intends to introduce legislation along the lines of the White Paper as soon as Parliamentary time is made available. Edwina Currie reaffirmed our commitment to this in the House in response to an adjournment debate on Children in Care on 27 May (Hansard Col 668).

I hope this is helpful.

ANNEX C

Action!

FOR CHILD CARE LAW REFORM

Campaign Statement

Summer 1988

Action!
FOR CHILD CARE LAW REFORM

INTRODUCTION

All who work in the field of child care recognise the urgent need for child care law reform. As far back as January 1987 the White Paper on The Law on Child and Family Services was published. Since then there has been silence.

The major child care organisations, child care practitioners and consumers who have come together to launch the 1988 campaign – Action For Child Care Law Reform – believe the time has come to act to get the White Paper onto the statute book. We are campaigning to encourage the Government to include the White Paper in the Queen's Speech in Autumn 1988.

The present law is in a muddle, is often unjust to children and fails to protect children at risk or give parents a fair hearing.

The White Paper proposes streamlined care procedures, more rights for parents, better protection for children at risk, and a greater concern for childrens' futures. It will end the present confusion of laws which are increasingly difficult to operate.

During the last few years there has been a growing concern that the law governing services for children and their families in England and Wales is confused and unnecessarily complex.

At present these important matters are covered by a number of different acts of parliament some of which cover the same area and others which are only partially implemented. The result is both confusing and inconsistent in an area where the opposite is required.

The intention of the 1987 White Paper is to achieve greater clarity and consistency. This will help both the parents and children who may be affected by the law and those who have to work within it – lawyers, social workers and others.

The proposed improvement in the law will offer a fairer deal both to children and parents in the legal processes where compulsory state intervention is needed to protect and promote the interests of the child.
The White Paper stresses that the prime responsibility for the upbringing of children rests with parents, but that the state should be ready to help parents in that responsibility, especially where it can lessen the risk of family breakdowns. Such services need to be arranged in a voluntary partnership with the parents.
The White Paper highlights certain areas where the children are cared for away from home. Close contact should be maintained where appropriate and the family reunited as soon as possible.
The transfer of parents' legal powers and responsibilities should only be done by a full court hearing following a due legal process. The court should be satisfied that a care order is the best method of safeguarding his or her interests.
Parents should be properly represented in any court proceedings and play a full part.
Where a child has to be removed from home because of serious immediate risk, it should be for only a short period and subject to an early review if the parent or child wishes to challenge it.
Where children are away from home, legal reponsibilities of both parent and local authority should be clear.

EMERGENCY PROTECTION

As the law presently stands any person may apply to a magistrate for removal of a child to "a place of safety". The "place of safety order" is unsatisfactory for a number of reasons. Firstly it fails to address the reason why the child needs to be removed.
The order can last up to 28 days before any investigation has to be completed or any long-term plan for the child outlined. Such a long period can traumatise children and may cause unnecessary suffering to parents.
The new order will deal with circumstances where there is reasonable cause to believe that damage to a child's health or

well-being is likely, unless he or she can be removed or detained in a place of protection for a period of the order. There will be a specific requirement to notify the parents who will have reasonable access to the child, unless otherwise specified by the magistrate.
The emergency protection order would only last for 8 days during which the local authority would investigate the case and decide whether to initiate care proceedings.
The emergency protection order would also be used in circumstances where the authorities have concerns about the health and well-being of the child but are unable to gain access, though it may well be that removing the child is not appropriate.
The proposed bill also requires that the whereabouts of the child be disclosed.

CARE ORDERS

The decision to take a child into long-term care is difficult, can be complex, can leave parents with a real sense of injustice, exclude other people – such as grandparents – with a real interest in the care of the child and can easily degenerate into a quasi-criminal trial of the parents.
The White Paper proposes to remove specific grounds for making a care order such as the committing of an offence or non-attendance at school. A care order will only be granted if the local authority are able to persuade a magistrates court that each of three tests can be met. These are: (a) Evidence of harm or likely harm to the child; and (b) attributable to the absence of a reasonable standard of parental care or the child being beyond parental control; and (c) that the order proposed is the most effective means available of safeguarding the child's welfare.
This will move the focus of the court's attention.
At all stages the local authority will be obliged to satisfy the court that it has a clear idea of their general plan for the child, even when he or she is being discharged from care.

CHILDREN LIVING AWAY FROM HOME

Many families find it helpful for their children to receive care on a "respite" basis. This is often important to parents of children with marked physical or mental disabilities or emotional problems. Reception into care should not be seen as a mark of failure but rather the continuing partnership between parents and local authorities to provide the best long-term care.

The White Paper proposes a number of modifications to the law which would stress the voluntary nature of the partnership between parents and local authority. In particular local authorities would be under a duty to review a child's position every six months whilst they are in care.

There would be an obligation to advise and assist children and young people for whom they are caring when that period of care ends, especially if they are discharged from care at the age of eighteen. At all stages, even when children are the subject of a court order, local authorities will be required to inform and consult parents on major decisions and to make arrangements for contact between the child and his or her family.

A small number of children are cared for within the hospital environment. The NHS will be under an obligation to notify local authority social services of any such children. Both will be obliged to work together to ensure that there is continued contact between parents and children. Local education authorities will be under a similar obligation.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE FOR CHILDREN LIVING AWAY FROM HOME

The White Paper propose that local authorities should be required to provide a procedure, with an independent element, to resolve disputes and complaints. This should be accessible and well publicised.

RUNAWAY CHILDREN

Organisations helping runaway children will be exempted of criminal liability in certain defined circumstances. The White Paper proposes that the law should be tidied up and clear responsibilities and powers given to those seeking to recover a runaway child.

GRANDPARENTS

Grandparents and others who have an interest in the well-being of a child will be able to take part in court proceedings where they feel they have an interest in being present.

'The Government accept the widespread criticism of current child care law as confusing, unnecessarily complex and in places unjust.
It is hard for those parents and children who may be affected by it to understand its implications for them and how their rights and responsibilities may be affected.
It is difficult also for professionals who must use or act in accordance with the law—social workers, lawyers, police and others.
Changes are needed to rationalise, clarify and where possible simplify the law, above all in the interests of children whose well-being is the primary objective of child care law.
This White Paper outlines the changes the Government propose to that end.'

Conclusion to the January 1987
White Paper on The Law on
Child Care and Family Services.

Action! FOR CHILD CARE LAW REFORM

Chair: Baroness Faithfull, 85 Highbury Park, London N5 1UD. Tel: 01-226 2033

Association of Chief Officers of Probation, Association of Directors of Social Services, British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, Black and In Care, British Association of Social Workers, Catholic Children's Society, Children's Legal Centre, The Children's Society, Dr. Barnardo's, Family Rights Group, Grandparents' Federation, National Association of Young People in Care, National Children's Bureau, National Children's Home, National Council for One Parent Families, Voluntary Organisations Liaison Council for Under Fives.

ANNEX U

Monday 18 April 1988
Lord's Oral

PQ 5727/1987/88
Han ref vol 495
col 1206 - 1208

Child Care and Family Services Legislation

2.48 p.m.

Baroness Faithfull asked Her Majesty's Government:

When they expect to introduce a Bill on child and family law based on the White Paper published in January 1987 (Cmnd. 62).

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Security (Lord Skelmersdale): My Lords, I cannot at present add to the reply given by my noble friend Lord Arran, to my noble friend Lady Elliot of Harwood on 27th January that we shall introduce legislation on child care and family services as soon as the parliamentary timetable allows.

Baroness Faithfull: My Lords, I thank my noble friend the Minister for that Answer. However, is he aware that the courts, the probation service, social workers and the families themselves will be disappointed and distressed, taking into account that in 1984 there was a report from a committee in the House of Commons; in 1985 a consultation paper; and in 1987 the White Paper? If the Minister's reply means that there is insufficient parliamentary time, when will we have some legislation?

Lord Skelmersdale: My Lords, my noble friend will know that I cannot, with the best will in the world, anticipate the contents of the Queen's Speech for next Session, or indeed for any other Session. Having said that, I hope that there will be no undue delay in bringing forward legislation on this important matter.

Lord Ennals: My Lords, bearing in mind the supplementary question asked by the noble Baroness, may I ask this question. Can the Minister say why the Government are giving top priority to bitterly opposed legislation concerning such matters as social security, education, the poll tax and optical and dental charges, rather than to this measure (which is likely to receive support from both sides of the House) as regards which there is a deep sense of urgency that it might do some good for the people of this country?

Lord Skelmersdale: My Lords, I cannot and do not accept that the Government have their priorities wrong. Reasonable time must be allowed in all legislation in order to prepare major overhauls—in this case that of child care law. As regards social security and the other issues, reasonable time for preparation has been given. The fact that we are seeing an upsurge in interest at this time—which is the point of change—is hardly surprising. However, the noble Lord can never say that inadequate time was given to the preparation of social security changes.

Viscount Tonypandy: My Lords, the Minister apparently believes in the infallibility of the Government's judgment on this matter. Therefore will he accept that there is in this country a deep disquiet about young people in danger and about the effect on family life? While I realise that all governments are entitled to choose their priorities, will he convey to his colleagues in the Government and to his right honourable friend the Secretary of State that there is deep disquiet because the matter to which the noble Baroness has drawn our attention is being pushed further away and it should be reconsidered?

Lord Skelmersdale: My Lords, it would clearly be impossible to have legislation in this Session in respect of the White Paper mentioned in the Question. As I have said, I hope that there will be no undue delay in bringing forward legislation on the matter and I stick by that statement.

Lord Elwyn-Jones: My Lords, is it not the case that the competing jurisdictions between the various courts which now handle matters in the field of family law have become a matter of general dissatisfaction and discontent and is this not an urgent matter to which, in the battle for priority, priority should be given?

Lord Skelmersdale: My Lords, to an extent I agree with the noble and learned Lord. The Government are obviously concerned to achieve the best possible arrangements for dealing with family business in the courts, wherever they happen to be and at whatever level in court hierarchy they may be. However, the Government's first priority is to get right the substantive law, especially that concerning the upbringing of children, and then to examine the structure and procedure of the courts.

Lord Mishcon: My Lords, if the Minister agrees that there is a priority importance in abolishing the conflicting jurisdiction of courts, will he not also agree that added to that is the priority to deal with juvenile delinquency? Is he aware that one of the causes of juvenile delinquency is the way in which matrimonial disputes are dealt with and the divorce rate is increasing? Accordingly, will the Minister tell his right honourable friend who is dealing with the matter—and perhaps also the noble and learned Lord sitting on the Woolsack—how much importance is given by the Opposition in this House to the creation of family courts?

Lord Skelmersdale: My Lords, I assure the noble Lord that that message will not go unrecorded or unreported.

R30/6.

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

HOUSE OF LORDS,
LONDON SW1A 0PW

30 June 1988

cf PPS.

Dominic Morris Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Dear Dominic,

In your letter of 16 June to Paul Stockton, you asked for contributions to briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with Baroness Faithfull on 5 July.

I attach a background note and suggested line to take.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Nick Sanderson (Home Office) and Flora Goldhill (Department of Health and Social Security).

Yours ever,

Andrea Smith.

Ms A J Smith

FAMILY COURTS

SUGGESTED LINE TO TAKE

1. The Government is concerned to achieve the best possible arrangements for handling family business in the courts.

2. The introduction in one stage of a unified family court exercising exclusive jurisdiction in all family and domestic matters is not feasible.

3. The Government regards reform of the substantive law as an essential precursor to reform of court structure and procedure. Reform of child law, to which the Government attaches a high priority, is an important first step towards rationalisation of the family jurisdictions.

3. The arrangements for handling care and wardship cases are being examined by the Lord Chancellor's Department with DHSS, the Home Office and the Treasury to ensure that these cases are dealt with by the tier of court which is appropriate to the weight of the case, in order to reduce delays, improve the quality of judicial decision-making in complex cases to provide a more cost-effective system of justice and to give protection to the interests of the child.

FAMILY COURTS

BACKGROUND NOTE

1. Baroness Faithfull is a member of the Family Courts Campaign, a consortium of national organisations and individuals set up to put the case for a family court.

2. The concept of a family court was examined by a committee of officials appointed by Ministers in 1984. The Committee's consultation paper, issued in May 1986, elicited a wide-ranging response in favour of a family court based on the county court. The overwhelming majority (which included most welfare and social work groups) accepted the Committee's provisional conclusion that juvenile criminal proceedings should be excluded from the family court's jurisdiction .

3. Not for disclosure: Ministers were unable in May 1987 (H (87) 16; H (87) 9 th) to agree to make a commitment to the preferred option owing to concern about possible resource implications (amounting to increased public expenditure of £31m) which had been highlighted by the difficulties encountered in setting up the Crown Prosecution Service. Officials were instructed to provide further information about the cost of a family court on which to base a wider range of options.

4. Lord Chancellor Havers indicated (OR 22 July 1987 at col 1417) that he hoped decisions would be reached by the end of 1987 but no specific commitment was given on that occasion or subsequently.

5. The Lord Chancellor considers that it is not feasible in one stage to establish a unified family court with exclusive jurisdiction in family and domestic matters. He believes that reform of the structure and procedures of the courts needs to be linked to the systematic development and reform of the law which they must apply. The Lord Chancellor considers that

   (i) the Government's proposals for reform of public child law (concerning the powers and duties of local authorities over children in their care), outlined in the White Paper Cm 62 (1987);

   (ii) the recommendations of the Cleveland Inquiry (to be published on 6 July); and

   (iii) forthcoming recommendations expected by the end of July from the Law Commission for reform of private child law (concerning custody, guardianship and access exercised by parents and other individuals over children)

provide a unique opportunity to improve arrangements for handling care cases (currently confined to magistrates' courts) and wardship cases (which are imposing an increasing burden on the High Court).

6. The Lord Chancellor wishes:-

(i) to provide the county court with jurisdiction in child care cases; and

(ii) to introduce an allocation system whereby care and wardship cases are allocated to the tier of court which is appropriate to the level of case.

7. To realise this objective, the Lord Chancellor is currently seeking approval to consult publicly on the feasibility of a Child Protection Office (recommended for examination by the Cleveland Report) with allocation and case management responsibilities. The office might also take on a wider role to protect the interests of children. These arrangements would serve to:-

(i) safeguard the interests of children by reducing harmful delays in the courts;

(ii) avoid unnecessary public expenditure on legal representation and the preparation of unnecessary welfare reports; and

(iii) achieve closer supervision and control of guardians <u>ad litem.</u>

8. Subject to feasibility, it might be possible to include appropriate jurisdictional and other amendments to the Children and Family Services Bill scheduled for introduction in the Autumn. Such changes could represent the first step towards a "family court", with remaining stages linked to subsequent reforms of substantive law.

9. Baroness Faithfull may raise the cost of a family court. Estimates of the costs involved depend on the model of court selected. The Lord Chancellor has agreed to meet Baroness Faithfull on 12 July to discuss the results of a costings survey commissioned by the Family Courts Campaign. Cost is only one aspect of changing the existing system; the other is devising a system of accountable management of the family jurisdictions to provide a cost-effective match between level of judge and weight of case, and in order to secure proper relationships between the various services involved to protect the interest of the child.

Lord Chancellor's Department
29 June 1988

Prime Minister's meeting with Baroness Faithfull on 5 July, 1988

Topic: The training and position of social workers

Line to take

The Government recognises the need both to increase training opportunities for PSS staff and to improve current training provision as a way of providing better services to consumers and the better Value for Money from the substantial current investment in resources - both human and financial. A balanced approach is required offering:

- additional and better training for care staff through the Government inspired National Vocational Qualification framework;

- improvements to current social work training rather than major reform, particularly when there is no convincing evidence that more will automatically produce better training;

- further training opportunities for qualified staff to prepare them for new duties arising from legislation or emerging social problems; to update their knowledge and to increase their professional expertise.

Government finance is important in moving forward, but as important are more robust contributions from PSS employers and CCETSW. There is evidence now, following the refusal to fund 3 year social work training, that CCETSW is showing greater realism and a more practical approach to planning.

Background Note

1. The Central Council for Education and Training in Social work (CCETSW), the statutory body responsible for social work training, submitted its proposals for the reform of social work training to DHSS Ministers in October 1987. CCETSW were asked to provide a set of costed options, but in its document "Care for Tomorrow" the Council offered only one option for training reform - a 3 year qualifying training programme leading to the award of the Qualifying Diploma in Social Work (QDSW) for student intakes from 1991. This would

TM1/1

effectively extend qualifying training by a year and unite the 2 existing social work qualifications (CQSW and CSS)* at an annual additional cost building up to £40m in 1994/5. The Government Departments involved were unable to agree this level of additional funding for qualifying training alone and CCETSW has been asked to provide proposals for specific improvements in a number of priority areas.

2. Evidence of Government's concern for adequate training of staff in the personal social services is -

- the introduction this year of a £10 million training support grant (including DHSS funding of £7 million) for local authority staff working with elderly people. Additional powers are being sought through the Health and Medicines Bill to extend the scope of the grant to cover all social services staff groups. Agreement is being sought from colleagues to the early announcement of a new training support grant for staff working with abused children. This would be a key element in the Government's response to the Cleveland Inquiry Report - due to be published on July 6 .

- support for the development of social care training;

- the funding of special projects in child care and mental health fields;

- the provision of £1 million additional funding this year to CCETSW to effect improvements in current training.

3. The Government's approach will secure much needed training improvements in the short term whereas CCETSW's qualifying training proposals would not have produced benefits until 1994.

4. A copy of the DHSS Press Release announcing the Government's response to CCETSW's proposals is attached at Annex A.

5. Baroness Faithfull recently wrote to Mr Newton. A copy of his reply is at Annex B.

* CQSW = Certificate of Qualification in Social Work ('college based' training)
  CSS = Certificate in Social Services ('employment based' training)

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

PO 1694/1317

Ms Janice Richards
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

30 JUNE 1988

Dear Janice

Thank you for the letter of 14 June from Dominic Morris I enclose a draft reply.

Yours sincerely.

P Harrison.

PP.
EDWARD SCARLETT
Private Office

ENC

FAMILY CHILD CARE BILL

LINE TO TAKE

As I told Baroness Faithfull in my reply to her letter of 18 May, the Government accept that there is widespread desire among child care practitioners and other professionals for early implementation of the White Paper proposals.

It will of course be necessary to consider any recommendations on child care law which the Cleveland report, to be published tomorrow, may contain. This will be done very quickly.

As I said in my letter to Baroness Faithfull - and as I know she understands - no Minister is able to anticipate the contents of the Queen's Speech. But I gladly repeat my assurance that we shall provide for these important reforms as soon as Parliamentary time is available.

FAMILY CHILD CARE BILL

Background Note

1. Baroness Faithfull chairs the Action for Child Care Law Reform group which is campaigning for implementation of the 1987 White Paper on child care law (Annex A). The major social services voluntary bodies support the campaign. Copies of her letter of 18 May to the Prime Minister and the draft reply provided are at Annex B.

2. The attached campaign statement is a reasonable summary of the White Paper proposals (Annex C). Much of present child care law is confused and unnecessarily complex. The aim is to provide a clearer and fairer framework for the provision of child care services to families and for the protection of children at risk.

3. We are at present considering the recommendations in Lord Justice Butler-Sloss's report on child abuse in Cleveland, which is to be published on 6 July. She is generally in favour of the White Paper proposals on emergency protection and court procedures, and says in her report that they should be implemented quickly.

4. Ministers have made clear on several occasions that it would be necessary to review quickly the White Paper proposals when the Cleveland report was received; and that Government legislation will then be introduced as soon as Parliamentary time is available. A copy of the reply given to Baroness Faithfull's question in the House of Lords on 18 April is at Annex D.

5. NOT TO BE DISCLOSED Ministers have agreed that a Children and Family Services Bill of some 80 clauses should be introduced next session. It will be possible within the limit on clauses to deal with the principal issues identified in Annex C.

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

GR?

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

30 June 1988

Dear Dominic

You copied to me your letter of 16 June to Paul Stockton, LDC, asking for a contribution to the briefing material for the Prime Minister's meeting with Baroness Faithfull on 5 July.

.... I attach briefing notes on the juvenile court criminal jurisdiction and custody for 14 year old boys. The latter is not included in Lady Faithfull's list of topics but she may raise it during discussion.

I am copying this letter and its enclosure to Andrew Smith (LCD).

Yours ever
Nick

N C SANDERSON

Dominic Morris, Esq.,

E&R.

JUVENILE COURT CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

Line to Take

The Government is considering the idea of increasing the age limit for the juvenile court from 16 to 17 years and the possibility of providing a flexible jurisdiction between the juvenile and adult court for 16-20 year olds, depending upon their maturity. These ideas will be canvassed in the forthcoming Government Green Paper dealing with sentencing in the community.

Background

The proposals recognise that there is little difference in the pattern of offending between 16 and 17 year olds and would provide for the transfer to the adult court at 18, the age of majority.

Lady Faithfull is a leader of those who want a different approach to juvenile offenders and she favours the replacement of juvenile courts with a system of childrens' hearings, as in Scotland. In Scotland, cases are only heard by the sheriff if there is a dispute as to the facts; otherwise decisions on the juvenile's future are taken by a panel of laymen following reference by a Reporter. The hearings have developed from a different system of justice with no lay magistracy.

In England juvenile courts are required to have regard to the offender's welfare when reaching decisions. Juvenile court magistrates receive special training and have developed great experience in dealing with children and young people.

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F.R.

CUSTODY FOR 14 YEAR OLD BOYS

Line to take

Short custodial sentences must remain available for 14 year old boys. They can commit serious offences. In 1986, 563 14 year old boys received detention centre orders. Of these 333 (60 per cent) had committed burglary or offences of violence. Offenders of this age should be dealt with in the community wherever possible. It is possible to do without custody for 14 year old girls who commit many fewer and less serious offences than 14 year old boys. But there are some boys whose offences are so serious that there is no alternative to a short custodial sentence.

Background

Short custodial sentences of up to 4 months (detention centre orders) are available for 14 year old boys, but not 14 year old girls. The Criminal Justice Bill will amalgamate detention centre orders and the youth custody sentence (available for periods over 4 months) in a single sentence of detention in a young offender institution. During the passage of the Bill, Baroness Faithfull and others have highlighted the different treatment of 14 year old boys and girls and moved amendments to remove 14 year old boys from the scope of the new sentence. These have been resisted. It has been suggested that the differential treatment of girls and boys contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights. Legal advice is that this is unlikely. Longer custodial sentences under section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 are, and will remain, available for juveniles aged 14 - 16 of both sexes convicted of the most grave offences.

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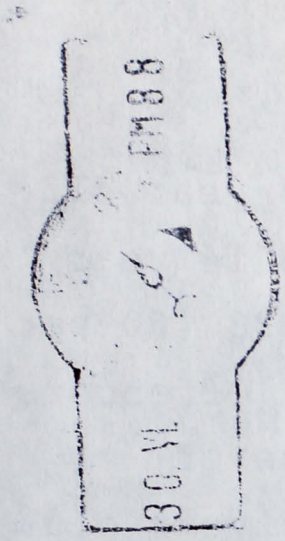

30 VI 1988

B. BARONESS FAITHFULL

1/7

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

16 June, 1988.

I enclose a copy of my letter of 14 June to the DHSS concerning Baroness Faithfull.

DHSS now advise me that contributions will be necessary from both your Department and the Home Office, and I should be glad to receive these direct by Friday, 1 July please.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Nick Sanderson (Home Office).

Dominic Morris

Paul Stockton, Esq.,
Lord Chancellor's Office.

NSPCC

FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN

NEWS & INFORMATION

Embargo: Not for publication before 10,30 am, 15th June 1988

NEW CHILD ABUSE FIGURES

The NSPCC announced new child abuse figures today (Wednesday 15th June) and with the report of the Cleveland inquiry pending publication very soon the statistics show a substantial increase in the numbers of children being put on Child Abuse Registers due to sexual abuse.

NSPCC Director Dr Alan Gilmour in releasing the figures declared: "Cleveland is the dominating issue of the moment - one of extreme professional and public concern.

"But, whatever the Cleveland report says, one fact is clear, the figures reflect it and no-one can shut their eyes to it. Children have been and are continuing to be sexually abused."

Dr Gilmour added: "Whatever the rights and wrongs of the Cleveland situation - and we will all know the details very soon - parents, the public, professionals, government, the media and everyone else will have to come to terms with this sad reality which for too long has remained hidden.

"The Cleveland report will undoubtedly prompt a massive reaction. It is essential that everyone thinks and acts in the best interests of children. It is their safety and happiness in a loving family that matters. Those who attack this are no friends of children!."

/more ....

Director: Dr. Alan Gilmour, CBE, FRCGP
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS Telephone 01-242 1626

The latest child abuse figures, covering 1987, form part of the NSPCC's annually up-dated research into those Child Abuse Registers maintained by the Society on behalf of Area Review Committees throughout the country. This research is the largest continuous survey of child abuse being carried out in this country. The geographical areas covered by the NSPCC-run registers include over 9% of the children living in England and Wales.

(RESEARCH AND FIGURES DETAILS ON ATTACHED SHEET AND BACKGROUND PAPER)

Dr Gilmour said: "This on-going NSPCC research has played a valuable part in the greater understanding of the child abuse picture for over ten years now. But, we've been calling for more comprehensive national child abuse figures for a long time. We welcome the government's initiative following the Cleveland outcry and subsequent discussions with us and the ADSS (Association of Directors of Social Services) to collate national figures.

But Dr Gilmour added, "With the publication of the Cleveland report much else must follow. There must be no more delay - the government needs to get on and issue the long-awaited national guidelines, 'Working Together', on the inter-agency management of child abuse - how all those involved in dealing with child abuse can best co-operate with each other. These guidelines have been put off for too long.

"The government must also crack on as we hear it is now intending to do with introducing child care law reforms in the next session of Parliament. As outlined in its White Paper these reforms will enhance and clarify the whole spectrum of the law for children, parents and professionals dealing with child abuse."

/more ....

Dr Gilmour stressed the continuing need for movement on all the issues outlined in the NSPCC recently published 'Child Abuse Agenda'. In addition to 'Working Together' and child care law, the agenda called for action/reforms on; the child as a witness in court (including the use of video recordings in court), sentencing policy, child pornography, the Education Reform Bill, the setting up of a National Child Abuse Consultative Committee and better training and resources for all those involved with child abuse work.

"The lessons of Cleveland will have to be learned. But, the inquiry report must also enable the whole field of development surrounding child abuse policy and practise to go forward," said Dr Gilmour.

"Above all the Cleveland report needs to be assessed calmly and positively. We have issued these new figures so that the general child abuse picture, which extends beyond Cleveland, can be seen in perspective.

"This picture shows that we must not forget that so many children are being helped and protected effectively by the caring professions every day throughout the country. It also shows child abuse in all its forms is very real and not a myth."

ENDS

For further information: NSPCC Press Office, Tel No. 01 242 1626.

NEW CHILD ABUSE FIGURES (1987)

Main Points:	National Estimates	NSPCC Registers (1987)	
Total number of children whose names were added to child abuse registers in 1987	25,670	2,304	(up 8% from 1986)
including: Physical abuse	8,044	807	(Down 14%)
Sexual abuse	7,119	639	(up 21%)
'At Risk'	7,200	646	(up 40%)
The estimated total number of children whose names were removed from registers at end of 1987	20,700		
The estimated total number of children on registers at end of 1987	43,985		

FOR DETAILED RESEARCH FINDINGS SEE NSPCC RESEARCH BRIEFING PAPER.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FIGURES - WHAT THEY MEAN

As yet there are no national statistics for child abuse and neglect. The NSPCC conducts the largest, continuous survey of child abuse and neglect in the country, but it is very important to understand what these and other available figures from various sources represent.

Child Abuse Registers

Each local government and health authority area in England and Wales has a Child Abuse/Protection Register. All children living in the area who are found to be abused or at risk of abuse will be placed on the local register. The management of child abuse in an area, including the Child Abuse Register, is the responsibility of the Local Area Review Committee. The Committee is comprised of senior representatives of all the agencies concerned with children - the NSPCC, Social Services, Health, Education, Police etc. The day to day management of the system is usually delegated to the local social services department or the NSPCC. There is no national collation of these registers yet. Information on particular ones must be sought individually.

NSPCC Register Research

The NSPCC manages local child abuse registers for Area Review Committees in 12 different areas, covering some 9% of the total child population in England and Wales. Information on every child placed on these registers is included in the NSPCC's register research. This provides the NSPCC with the largest data base of child abuse available in the country. The figures and trends from these registers are up-dated every year. While the NSPCC manages the registers, conducts the research, and issues the figures, the cases involved are those of many agencies, most particularly the local social services. It is important to note that the statistical base from 12 child abuse registers is used to form an estimate of the national child abuse picture (physical and sexual abuse) in England and Wales.

NSPCC Casework Figures

The NSPCC handles thousands of cases every year - in 1986/87 involving over 50,000 children. These cases involve a range of problems affecting children from behaviour problems to abuse or neglect. The figures might also include cases which were, for a variety of reasons, referred on to the local social services or, for similar reasons, referred to the NSPCC by them or other agencies.

NSPCC
RESEARCH BRIEFING

The National Society
for the Prevention of
Cruelty to Children

67 Saffron Hill
London EC1N 8RS
Telephone 01-242 1626
Fax 01-831 9562

Research Briefing No.9

Child Abuse in 1987
Initial Findings from the NSPCC's Register Research

The NSPCC's register research is the largest continuous survey of child abuse being carried out in this country. The research is based on the information on the children placed on NSPCC child abuse registers. These registers are maintained on behalf of local Area Review Committees. The geographical areas covered by them include over 9% of the children living in England and Wales. This paper looks at the 2304 children placed on these registers during 1987. The definitions of abuse and severity used are described in a previous report (1).

The 2304 children represent an 8% increase to the 2137 children registered in 1986. This increase is less than in the past two years though the number of children registered in a year has more than doubled since 1984.

Figure 1 : Rate of Registration and Physical and Sexual Abuse

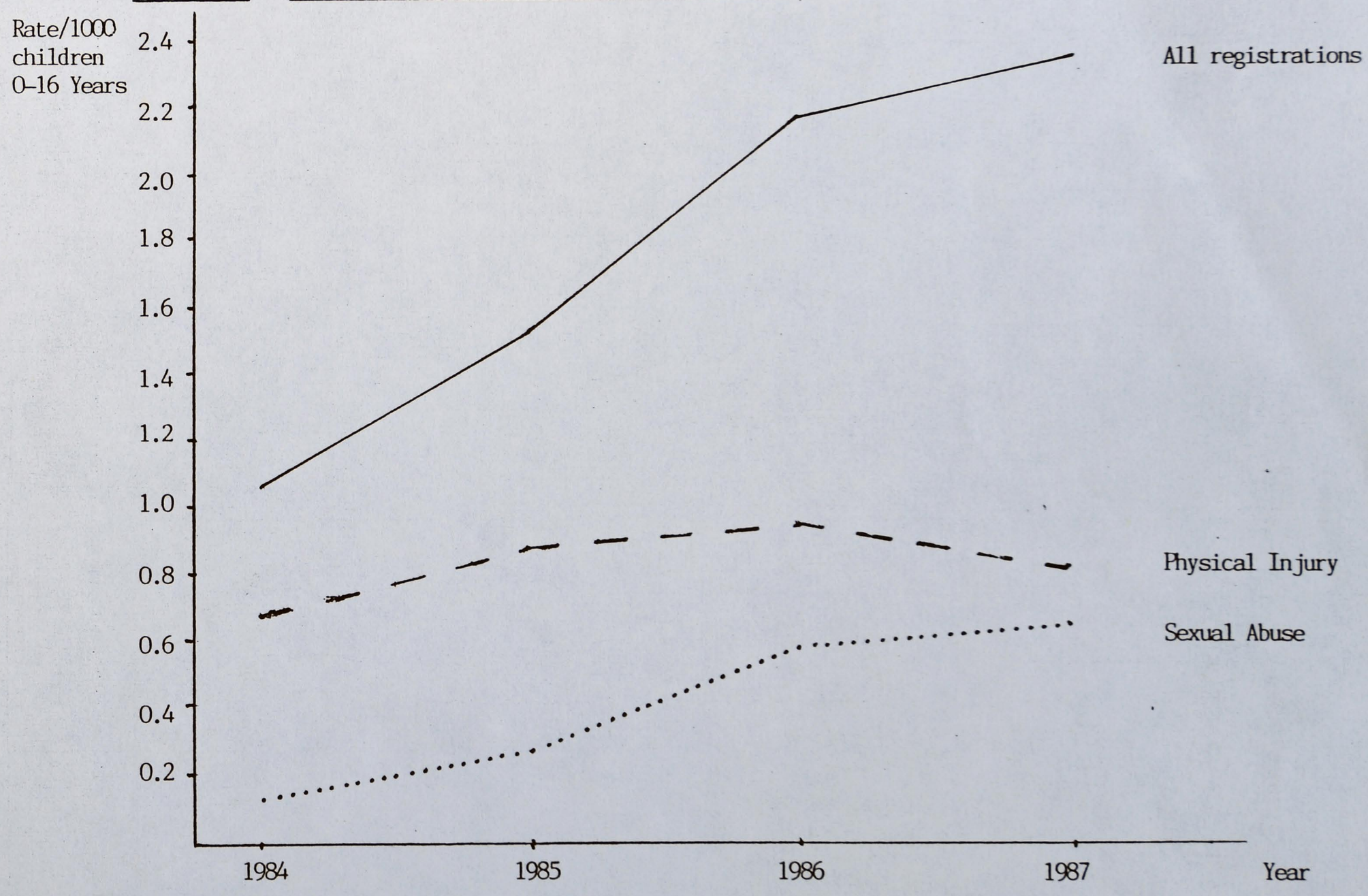


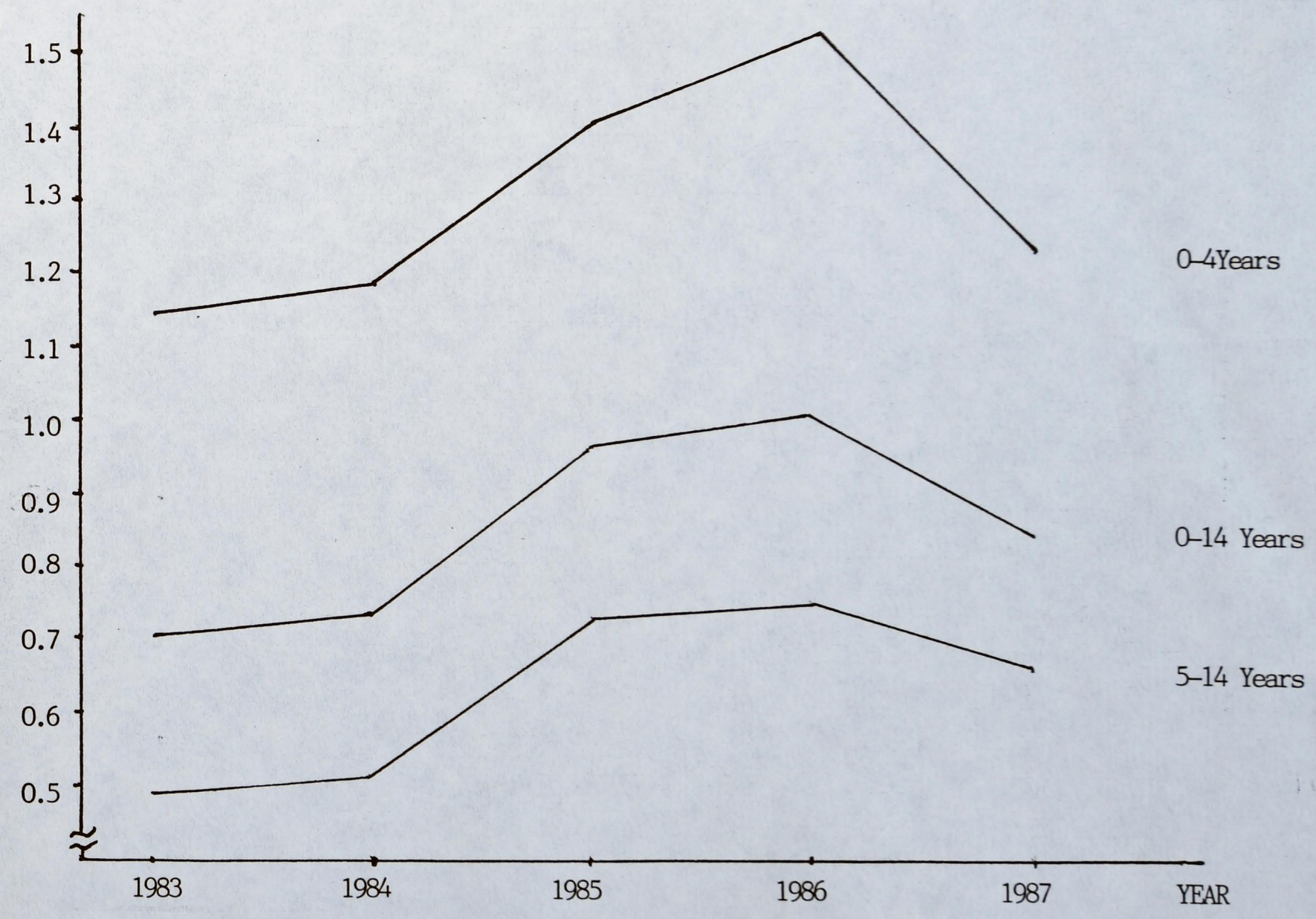
Figure 1 shows the rate per thousand children since 1984 for all registrations contrasted with that of the physically injured and sexually abused children.

Patrons: Her Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.
President: Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret Countess of Snowdon.
Director: Dr Alan Gilmour CBE, FRCGP.
Founded 1884. Incorporated by Royal Charter. Charity Registration No 216401.

The increase in registrations since 1986 has been greatest amongst those children thought to be at risk of abuse and those who were sexually abused. There was a 40% increase from 461 to 646 in children registered because they were thought to be at risk of abuse and a 21% increase from 527 to 639 in registrations for sexual abuse.

The largest group of abused children registered in 1987 continued to be the physically injured (n=807) but 1987 saw a decrease in their numbers from the previous year. Figure 2 shows the reported physical injury rate to children in the past five years broken down by age.

Figure 2 : Rate of Physically Injured Children per Thousand by Year



This rate had been increasing since 1979 when it was 0.43 per thousand children aged 0-14 years with a marked increase between 1984 and 1985. By 1986 it had risen to 1.01 per thousand children. The 1987 rate, 0.85, has fallen to slightly above that in 1984. The youngest age group, the 0-4 year olds have shown the greatest decrease from 1.53 per thousand children in 1986 to 1.23 in 1987. The decrease has been in moderate injuries. There were 8 fatalities registered in 1987 compared to 6 in 1986. The number of serious injuries has increased to 103 the highest number since 1977/8. The fatal and seriously injured children represented 14% of all the injured children.

Table 1

Number of Registered Children by Type and Severity of Abuse

	1986	%	1987	%
Physically Injured	937	(55.9)	807	(48.7)
Fatal	6	(0.4)	8	(0.5)
Serious	81	(4.8)	103	(6.2)
Moderate	850	(50.7)	696	(42.0)
Failure to Thrive	46	(2.7)	50	(3.0)
Fatal	1			
Sexual Abuse	527	(31.5)	639	(38.6)
Neglect	124	(7.4)	126	(7.6)
Emotional Abuse	41	(2.5)	34	(2.0)
TOTAL ABUSED	1675	(100.0)	1656	(100.0)
Physically injured rate* per 1000 under 15's	1.01		0.85	
Sexual abuse rate* per 1000 under 17's	0.57		0.65	
Accidental injuries	1		2	
'At risk' cases	461		646	
TOTAL REGISTERED	2137		2304	
Rate per 1000 under 15's	2.29		2.48	
Estimated number of children aged 0-14 physically abused in England and Wales	9590		8044	
Estimated number of children aged 0-16 sexually abused in England and Wales	6330		7119	

*OPCS Population Estimates 1986 (2)

Table 1 shows the breakdown of the 2304 children registered in 1987 by type and severity of abuse, contrasted with the previous year's registrations. The table also provides national estimates of the number of children likely to be physically or sexually abused in England and Wales based on the 1987 registrations.

The Children

Age and Sex

The mean age of the children registered in 1987 was 6 years 10 months. The sexually abused children were the oldest with a mean age of 9 years 8 months, and the children who failed to thrive were the youngest at 2 years 8 months. The physically injured children had a mean age of 7 years and the neglected and emotionally abused children were similar at 4 years 9 months and 4 years 8 months respectively. The age at which sexual abuse was discovered and reported continued to decrease with a six month drop in mean age since 1986. There was an increase from 18% to 21% in the sexual abuse registrations aged less than five.

The youngest age group (the 0 - 1 year olds) continued to be over-represented amongst the registered children as a whole and in each type of abuse except the sexually abused.

There were more girls than boys registered in 1987 as there had been in the two previous years. Boys continued to be over-represented amongst the physically injured and failure to thrive cases. In contrast to 1986 more boys than girls were registered in 1987 for neglect and emotional abuse. 80% of the sexually abused children were girls.

The Parents

Less than 40% of the registered children were living with both their natural parents at the time of the abuse. Over a quarter (26%) were living with their natural mother and a father substitute and 24% with their natural mother alone. The majority of the children who failed to thrive and those who were emotionally abused were living with both natural parents. Over 30% of the sexually and physically abused children were living with their natural mother and a father substitute and nearly half the neglected children with their natural mother alone. - 4 -

Suspected Perpetrators

The person suspected of abusing the child was recorded for over 90% of the injured, sexually and emotionally abused children. Natural mothers and fathers were almost equally implicated in the injury and emotional abuse cases (36% and 33% respectively for injured and 61% and 55% respectively for emotional abuse). Natural fathers were implicated in 33% of the sexual abuse cases in contrast to 4% of natural mothers. Stepfathers and male cohabitees were implicated in 19% of the injury cases, 3% of the emotional abuse and 24% of the sexual abuse cases. Brothers, other relatives and 'others' (mother's boyfriends, neighbours, etc) were suspected in 5% of the injury and 31% of the sexual abuse cases.

These figures make no allowance for who the child was living with at the time of the abuse and hence had the most access to the child. Many more children were living with their natural mother than with their natural father or a mother or father substitute, so you would expect mothers to be implicated more.

If you control for this, natural fathers were suspected in 64% and father substitutes in 61% of the physical injury cases where the child was living with him. Where the child was living with its natural mother she was implicated in 38% of the injury cases and, when living with a mother substitute, she was implicated in 41%. Among the sexual abuse cases father substitutes were implicated in 61% and natural fathers in 51% of the cases where the child was living with him. Natural fathers were implicated in 89% of the emotional abuse cases where the child was living with him in contrast to 59% for natural mothers. This position is the reverse of previous years where natural mothers were more frequently implicated in the emotional abuse cases.

In 4% of the injury and 19% of the sexual abuse cases, natural fathers not living with the child, were thought to have abused the child. These incidents usually occurred on access visits to the child.

Precipitating Factors

The workers involved with the families are asked to indicate those factors which are creating stress and which may have precipitated the abuse. The factor which was recorded most often for the registered children as a whole was 'marital problems' as it had been in previous years. 'Unemployment' was the second most frequently quoted, 'inability to respond to the maturational needs of the child' the third and 'poor self-esteem' the fourth.

In addition workers were asked to choose up to four of the indicated factors which they considered the most stressful to the family and rank them in the order of their severity. The factor which was ranked first most often for the registered children's families was 'marital problems'. It also featured most often among the four chosen factors.

The pattern of stress factors varied by type of abuse. 'Marital problems' was recorded most often for the injured and sexual abuse cases whereas 'marital violence' was recorded most often for the emotional abuse cases. The stress factor recorded as the most severe was 'marital problems' for the injured cases, 'marital violence' for the emotionally abused and 'previous sexual abuse' for the sexually abused cases. 'Inability to respond to the maturational needs of the child' was recorded most often for the neglect and failure to thrive cases. It was also ranked as the most severe for these cases.

Susan J Creighton
Senior Research Officer
May, 1988

References

(1) Creighton, S.J. Trends in Child Abuse, London : NSPCC, 1984.

(2) Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. Mid 1986 Population estimates for local government and health authority areas of England and Wales. Personal correspondence.

cc [redacted]

15 JUN 1988

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Minister for Health

Copy - Mrs Stewart
- Mr Rowe
- Mr Clegg
K

14 JUN 1988

The Rt Hon Lady Faithfull OBE
House of Lords
London SW1A OPW

Dear Lucy.

Thank you for your letter of 30 March about the CCETSW proposals for the reform of social work training. I am very sorry about the delay in replying.

You will know that I recognise the case for improvements in the training of social workers and see the need to extend training opportunities for other social services staff. There are also the further training requirements of qualified social workers in post which I have to consider, particularly at this time in the field of child abuse.

Taken together, these present Government with a big agenda. I want to make progress on all fronts but in getting the balance right I have to work with due regard to the resources likely to be available and the other calls on those resources.

On the QDSW proposals in particular, I have now met Professor Saul and Mr Hall and enclose a copy of the letter which I have sent giving the Government's view on "Care for Tomorrow". You will see that we have felt unable to meet the request for funding support for three years of social work training leading to the Qualifying Diploma in Social Work. But I have set out where continued improvements are necessary and will be supported for current training, and have recognised the Council's contribution to the training of other care staff through the National Vocational Qualification framework.

Moving over time to a minimum period of two years training for all social work students through changes to postgraduate provision, and gaining improvements in the quantity and quality of practice placements, as I have said in my letter, will be substantial gains. Changes in the arrangements operating between CCETSW and my Department will also improve the basis for better planning and funding in the future, and I expect to see further progress on training matters as a result of that.

Yours ever.
Tony

TONY NEWTON

Enc.

YdeS/D.8

file

2G2CTW

Baroness FAITHFULL

1/7

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 June 1988

Baroness Faithfull is coming in to see the Prime Minister on 5 July. We assume that this will be just before your Secretary of State plans to publish Lord Justice Butler-Sloss's report on Cleveland.

The issues which Baroness Faithfull has indicated she wants to talk over are:

(a) the training and position of social workers;

(b) a Family Child Care Bill;

(c) a family court or a new juvenile court jurisdiction.

I shall be very grateful to have a short briefing note for the Prime Minister for this occasion by Friday 1 July.

Dominic Morris

Mrs. Flora Goldhill,
Department of Health and Social Security.

OK

HOUSE OF LORDS

R10/6

Tessa
New Contacts
Dm

June 9 1988.

Dear Mr Harris,

Thank you for your note. I am grateful to the Prime Minister for giving me an appointment on 5 July 1988 at 16.30 in her room in the House of Commons and I gladly accept.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Faithfull

(Baroness Faithfull)

Baroness FAITHFULL

13/6

Cile

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

8 June 1988

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 25 May. She will be pleased to have a short discussion with you before publication of the report on the Cleveland Inquiry. She would be able to do so at 1630 on 5 July at her room in the House of Commons.

I would be grateful if your secretary could let me know if you could make this time.

DOMINIC MORRIS

The Baroness Faithfull, O.B.E.

Garden Room.
PI put into papers
next drug meeting.
DM

4.30 5 July
HC.
1. Ack
2. ~~NDA~~

The Baroness Faithfull, OBE

HOUSE OF LORDS

23rd May 1988

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1

R2615

Dear Prime Minister,

Would it be possible for me to see you for a short time before publication of the report on the Cleveland Enquiry by Judge Butler-Sloss; this is, I understand, likely to be at the end of June or beginning of July.

There are two concerns which you may think it wise to anticipate before the report is published:-

(a) The Training and Position of Social Workers.

(b) A Family Child Care Bill

(c) A Family Court or a new Juvenile Court jurisdiction.

Of these three points: the training of Social Workers is perhaps, at this juncture, the most important.

Forgive me for troubling you.

Yours ever,

Good wishes as always

Lucy.

303 Woodstock Road. Oxford OX2 7NY (Oxford 515369)

Old Bell Cottage. East Meon. Petersfield. Hampshire. 073 087 209 or
073 087 354.

A

Department of Health
and Social Security

PRESS RELEASE

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London SW 1A 2NS

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88/145

4 May 1988

SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF TRAINING

Tony Newton, Minister for Health, today announced the Government's response to proposals from the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work (CCETSW)

In a written answer to a Parliamentary Question from John Greenway, MP for Rydale, Mr Newton said,

> "I wrote yesterday to Professor Saul setting out the Government's position in response to the proposals of "Care for Tomorrow". The letter indicates that, while the Government do not feel able to commit resources to the extension of qualifying training for social workers to three years, as proposed by CCETSW, we wish to work closely with the Council in developing a balanced package of improvement not only to improve qualifying training, but also to improve the skills of staff already working in the field.
>
> The Training Support Programme announced by the Government last November is an important step already taken in relation to those working in the care of elderly people. The Health and Medicines Bill includes powers which would enable us to make similar provision in the field of child care. We are making up to £1m available to CCETSW to improve planning and cooperation between the colleges and employers and review the standards of teaching of various aspects of social work. We are also providing support for a variety of other initiatives aimed at extending the availability of training for social services staff in a number of specialist areas such as mental health and mental handicap and child abuse.
>
> In developing qualifying training, our view is that the most important immediate objectives are to improve the quality and availability of "practice placements" and to move to a uniform two-year training period for postgraduates. We attach high priority to both of these. We are seeking the help of the Council to develop detailed proposals for phased development over a five year period starting in 1989/90.
>
> These further measures, building on improvements already taking place, should help to ensure a better prepared and therefore more competent staff for the Personal Social Services.

The full text of my letter is as follows:

"CARE FOR TOMORROW : THE CCETSW TRAINING REFORM PROPOSALS

I am grateful to you, Tony Hall and Rachel Pierce for coming to see me on 20 April. We agreed that it would be helpful if I were to let you have a statement of the Government's position before your Council session on 4 May.

I was able to assure you that the Government agrees that there is a need for improvement in training for the social services. The employers of social services staff have an important role to play in this, as does CCETSW. For social work staff this is necessary both at the qualifying and post-qualifying stages, and more training opportunities are vital for the other staff employed in the social services. We have already introduced a training support programme for staff working with elderly people with that in mind.

We welcome the considerable effort the Council has already put into specifying what needs to be attained by student social workers at the point of qualification; improving planning and co-operation between the colleges and the employers and reviewing the standards of teaching of the various aspects of social work. These are all essential elements in getting the most from the existing public investment in the preparation of social workers. We very much want to encourage and support this work, and the developments that flow from it. We also welcome the contribution being made by CCETSW to the development of the National Vocational Qualification framework. I told you that the Government's financial allocation to CCETSW for this financial year is being increased by up to £1 million to enable the programme of improvements to increase in scale. I asked you to let officials have an action plan for this programme of improvements for their agreement.

We had, in our earlier correspondence, asked CCETSW to provide a set of costed options to enable Ministers to form a view of their relative benefits. In the event the Council provided a single package of measures in its Care for Tomorrow proposals. We discussed those, and I made it clear that the Government did not feel able to make financial provision for the proposals it contains for the extension to three years of qualifying training for social workers. I explained that this conclusion was based principally on our assessment of the relative priority of this development for future generations of social workers among the many other competing calls on public resources in the short to medium term, both in the social services and in other fields, including not least those needed to improve the skills of existing social care staff in such fields as residential care of the elderly and child care.

You made it clear that three years training was essential in the view of the Council in order adequately to prepare social workers for the tasks they face, and that its achievement would remain your long-term goal.

Against this background, I am concerned to respond to your request for a firm steer on where and how to concentrate planning effort in getting a practical programme of improvement in social work training under way. Our view, which I think you share, is that the two most important objectives in the short-term are to improve the quality and availability of "practice placements" and to move to a uniform two-year training period for postgraduates, both of which have the advantage of building on developments already taking place.

I acknowledge that both require a measure of direct government encouragement or sponsorship, especially in advance of employment-led NVQ arrangements becoming a reality. You understand that I cannot commit myself to specific sums in advance of public expenditure discussions, which will not be completed until the autumn; but I can tell you that I attach very high priority indeed to finding the resources to make significant progress in these two respects, with a start being made from 1989/90. I hope therefore that the Council will bring forward proposals quickly for a phased programme to secure these improvements over a five-year period.

I recognise that you and your Council would have wished us simply to accept the programme set out in "Care for Tomorrow". But I hope that you and they will recognise in turn that the important steps we are suggesting are consistent with the Council's long-term goal, and indeed can be seen as substantial progress towards it. I hope too that the arrangements we have set in train for an annual programme and performance review will provide a good framework for us to work together in building further on this progress in due course."

TONY NEWTON

File

DA
CeDHSS
DTI
DES

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 February 1988

Dear Lucy.

It was good of you to send me, as you had offered to do last year, the paper enclosed with your letter of 22 October. I read it with interest and have looked into our arrangements for co-ordination, both within Government, and in the delivery of services.

The enclosed factual note describes co-ordination in practice in several of the areas covered by your paper. I hope you will agree that it does show we take co-ordination seriously, and that it is working to good effect in a great many areas.

I believe we have made excellent progress. Our approach to child abuse, for example, has been (and is being) developed inter-departmentally so that policy and practice in the respective areas of responsibility are developed consistently, and with due regard to each other. The completion of the guidance to be issued once the outcome of the Cleveland inquiry is known, will be done so as to achieve consistency of approach between departments and the professions involved, and secure improved inter-agency co-operation.

You will have seen from announcements made early in this Session [Mr. Patten, 19 January, OR col 646] that inter-departmental work on alcohol misuse is producing valuable measures to tackle under-age drinking; and our inter-departmental work on drugs has produced valuable outcomes for the protection of the young.

DA

The White Paper on 'The Law on Child Care and Family Services' was itself a product of joint working. In the care field, we have secured through joint work the development of access to police records to ensure that unsuitable people do not find employment in work with children.

In the juvenile justice area, the successful development of alternatives to custody, for those who do not need it, and in particular of the Intermediate Treatment initiative, is evidence of long-standing arrangements for joint working between departments; and inter-service co-operation is generally well established at local level for dealing with young people in trouble.

In these priority areas as well as in others I am satisfied that Government departments are working together to good effect. All the departments concerned are aware of the need to secure consistency of policy and practice. As always, there will be further developments to be made, and the paper you sent will valuably inform future work.

You will gather that I do not believe we face fundamental obstacles to progress of the sort you desire, nor therefore that we need to search for new mechanisms in order to achieve it, although of course I should be glad to consider any specific proposals you had in mind. Once you have had a chance to consider the attached paper in detail perhaps you could let me have a list of topics you would like to discuss: we can then see when we might arrange a meeting.

Yours ever

Margaret

The Baroness Faithfull, O.B.E.

Kh/2615p

Garden Room

Private Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

P A Bearpark Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

19 February 1988

Dear Andy

Thank you for your letter of 2 February querying two points in the draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Baroness Faithfull.

We have redrafted the paragraphs concerned and these are set out below:

Manufacturing of tobacco for chewing

(Page 3 of original draft) Substitute the following:-

DTI consulted DHSS between March and May 1984, at the time US Tobacco originally contacted the DTI about their plans for a European manufacturing facility. From the outset DHSS made clear that the product gave cause for concern on health grounds and this advice was reiterated in subsequent correspondence. However, DTI noted that the product was not a dangerous as cigarettes, the manufacture of which was allowed, and they did not feel it right to deny the Company the normal regional incentives then available.

In April 1985 a voluntary agreement was concluded between US Tobacco and UK Health Ministers governing the marketing and advertising of Skoal Bandits and similar products.

E.P

Educational representation on the Health Education Authority

(Page 9 of original draft) Replace the first paragraph with the following:

Under the terms of the Order setting up the Health Education Authority, the Secretary of State for Education and Science is required to nominate one member for appointment to the Authority. It is hoped that the Order will strengthen the relationships of the Authority with schools and the Education Service wherever possible. The DES nominee is Mrs Kate Wood who was previously Chairman of the Wirral Education Committee and member of the Schools Curriculum Development Committee. It is expected that the Authority will work in close consultation with the Department of Education and Science and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools in planning and carrying forward its work in the educational field.

I am copying this letter to Jeremy Godfrey (DTI) and to Rob Smith (DES).

Yours sincerely

Rod Clark

ROD CLARK
Private Secretary

PM: mtgs with Baroness Fatuhi Aug 86.

KH/1046p

COLLABORATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Child abuse

The mechanism for coordination is the Inter-Departmental Official Working Group on Child Abuse. As necessary Ministers and officials regularly inform and consult one another. Whilst DHSS is the lead Department other Departments have their own specific policy responsibilities and have established mechanisms of consulting within their own fields. DHSS drew up their draft document in consultation with other Government Departments and then issued their document for outside comment. Wide consultation - local education authorities, the police, social services departments, health authorities, voluntary and other interested agencies - was seen to be appropriate as the DHSS draft document sets out the basic procedures necessary for joint inter-agency co-operation. DES drew up their own complementary guidance for local education authorities and consulted the local authority associations, teachers' unions and other educational interests. The Home Office set up a multi-disciplinary working party to draw up guidance to the police which is almost ready for consultation with the bodies they normally consult. All of these Departments are working together on an agreed strategy and plan to issue this guidance as soon as it has been possible to take account of the Cleveland Report.

DES circular on school attendance and the education welfare service

DES has primary responsibility within Whitehall for school attendance matters and they prepared a draft circular on school attendance and the education welfare service. DHSS was among the bodies consulted and their comments were taken into account. The resulting circular, DES 2/86, was addressed to local education authorities because its purpose was to recommend priorities for the main effort of their education welfare services and to invite LEAs to review those services. It stated the Government's view that the objectives and emphasis of education welfare services should remain firmly rooted in attendance at school.

Provision for the under-fives

In 1979 an Inter-Departmental Consultative Group on Provision for Under Fives was set up, which is usually chaired by a DHSS Minister and has members representing DES, Department of Employment, Home Office, DOE, Ministry of Defence, Welsh and Scottish Offices. It meets representatives from the Local Authority Associations, National Association of Health Authorities, Commission for Racial Equality and the voluntary sector to discuss matters of common interest. It last met on 12 October 1987 and will meet again in the Spring.

There is scope for local authorities to improve arrangements for co-ordinating their own and other existing provision for under fives, in the fields of education, social services and health, without calling on additional resources. The Government is now considering ways by which improved practices might best be effected or encouraged. At the meeting of the Consultative Group in October DHSS tabled a draft consultation paper setting out possible options for improving co-ordination which it is hoped to issue to local authorities, voluntary and other interested bodies shortly.

Childhood accidents

Accidents are responsible for approximately one-sixth of admissions to hospital for children aged 1 to 15. The DHSS fund the Child Accident Prevention Trust to co-ordinate and disseminate information about accidents to children. (They currently receive a grant of over £70,000 a year.) CAPT is a scientific advisory body concerned with establishing the causes and patterns of childhood accidents and methods by which to reduce their severity. They have undertaken important work, often sponsored by other Government Departments, including the safety of children in cars and the "play it safe" campaign. There is close liaison between DHSS and the Consumer Safety Unit at DTI on the issue of circulars and promotional campaigns.

Play facilities for children

The subject of play facilities is indeed complex and the Inter-Departmental Consultative Group provides a forum for discussing play facilities for children aged under five. So far as school age children are concerned, the Government's White Paper **The Law on Child Care and Family Services** - jointly published by DHSS, Home Office, DES, Welsh and Scottish Offices as well as the Lord Chancellor's Department - referred to the recent growth in out-of-school and residential holiday schemes and said that the Government would be consulting interested parties about the appropriate means of ensuring the necessary standards of protection. A consultation paper seeking views on the need for action, whether legislation or codes of practice would be appropriate, whether there should be different arrangements for children of different ages and whether there should be different provision for day care and residential facilities is about to be issued to local authorities and other relevant bodies.

Before the decision to close Play Board was made there were discussions at official level by DOE who are in the lead on this subject with DHSS, DES, Scottish and Welsh Office and there was communication at Ministerial level. Since then all the Departments involved have been kept informed about the Sports Council's working party and its conclusions.

Manufacturing of tobacco for chewing

DTI consulted DHSS between March and May 1984, at the time US Tobacco originally contacted the DTI about their plans for a European manufacturing facility. From the outset DHSS made clear that the product gave cause for concern on health grounds and this advice was reiterated in subsequent correspondence. However, DTI noted that the product was not as dangerous as cigarettes, the manufacture of which was allowed, and they did not feel it right to deny the Company the normal regional incentives then available.

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Manufacturing of chewing tobacco

Relevant Departments were informed by the Department of Trade and Industry about the setting-up of the company referred to. The project was deemed to qualify for the full range of incentives. The Government will continue to keep the situation under review and will take any additional steps which appear necessary in the interests of public health.

Monitoring research into the delivery of services for children

There are links between DHSS Home Office and DES on this subject. The remit of each of DHSS' research liaison groups is very broad and it is considered that little of the business of each meeting would be of sufficient interest to another government department to justify representation. However, co-ordination takes place between officials on a regular informal basis which experience has shown to be productive.

There are a number of current and planned research studies in which there is DES/DHSS collaboration. These include research on autism; research into playgroups being carried out by Thomas Coram Research Unit in which DES are represented on the project advisory group; joint representation and funding of the ESRC Children in Care Initiative including research on the education of children in care (at Oxford University). In 1986 reports were completed on 3 projects concerned with the 1981 Education Act on which DES and DHSS collaborated.

There is also a research project being carried out by Birmingham University into Education of the under-fives on which interdepartmental consultation has taken place, and a jointly-planned seminar on early intervention with families who have handicapped children. DHSS is also currently planning a new study looking at the transition of children from pre-school to school and DES will be asked for their advice and support. The two Departments are also currently having discussions on conductive education on which DES is funding a research project.

Education of children in care

The education of children in care is of deep concern to members of both DHSS and DES and there is continuing, close liaison between their Inspectorates on this issue (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools and the Social Services Inspectorate). The Inspectorates meet regularly and carry out joint

inspection of establishments where children are placed, both homes and schools. SSI's inspection of community homes in 1984 criticised the lack of interest which residential staff took in school work and there is clearly room for improvement here. Similarly, teachers need to give special attention to children in care. Both of these areas receive a high degree of priority from SSI and HMI.

Handicapped children and the Education Act 1981

The main provisions of the 1981 Education Act were brought into force on 1 April 1983. There are always problems to be solved during the first few years following the introduction of new legislation and it takes time to see how things are working. Progress on the implementation of the Act is being monitored by the DES through reports from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools and by means of three research projects jointly funded by DES and DHSS, reports of which were received by DES last December. Both Departments are jointly sponsoring a follow-up project to disseminate the findings of these 3 projects and this will include an assessment of their implications for the practitioners in the areas of education, health and social services. The outcomes of this project will include published training materials for the management of change in the special needs field in all three services, health, education and social services. The objective is to achieve the provision of a better co-ordinated service for children with special educational needs and their families. This should build on the work already undertaken by DHSS and DES to encourage collaboration in the area of special educational need. Both Departments organised a number of regional seminars between 1984 and 1986 to encourage better co-ordination.

The DES with DHSS is currently reviewing the relevant legislation, regulations and guidance in the light of the completed research projects mentioned above, together with the report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts inquiry into special education. The precise arrangements for co-operation and collaboration will need to be worked out at local level and the current joint circular asks both health and local authorities to review their patterns of work and agreed procedures. A positive lead has, therefore, been given on this jointly by DHSS and DES.

The Government considered the setting-up of a National Advisory Body on Special Educational Needs following a recommendation of a working party of the Voluntary Council on Handicapped Children in 1984 and has revised his position from time to time. The case has not been made for special advisory machinery on this subject.

Homelessness and bed and breakfast accommodation

Homelessness is primarily the responsibility of the Department of the Environment. Local authorities have the lead responsibility for helping homeless people and providing services for them. Authorities may not always be able to put homeless people into permanent accommodation straight away but there are certainly better forms of interim accommodation than bed and breakfast - which should be regarded as a last resort; for example, hostels or taking a short lease on empty private sector properties or short term use of empty council dwellings awaiting repair. Accommodating families in bed and breakfast outside their placing authority's area can give rise to difficulties of liaison between the various agencies involved. However, the London authorities have agreed arrangements to notify those concerned of the area of replacement when families are placed outside their original area. The Government agrees that it is undesirable that such extensive use should be made of bed and breakfast accommodation and therefore resources have been allocated specifically to reduce authorities' reliance on this kind of accommodation. Through DOE the Government have launched an initiative which will provide, through housing associations, using a mixture of private and public funding, a higher standard of interim accommodation for homeless families. This should mean an extra investment of £13m this year.

The Government shares the concern which has been expressed about standards in some bed and breakfast accommodation. Local authorities have a wide range of powers to control standards in this type of accommodation. Standing instructions to local social security offices ask them to bring to the attention of the local authority any accommodation which in the course of their normal duties - comes to their notice as giving cause for concern. A management consultant's report for DHSS did not find any direct relationship between price and quality of accommodation. This view has been confirmed by local office staff and several voluntary bodies.

The Government will also be taking a major initiative through the Department of the Environment's Estate Action Programme to help bring empty council dwellings back into use for the benefit of the homeless - schemes totalling over £5m for some 1,200 dwellings were approved last year. The Secretary of State for the Environment has just announced that an extra £44m is to be made available this year specifically to tackle homelessness and other problems. For the longer term the homeless will benefit, of course, from the Government's proposals to revitalise the private rented sector and from other housing policies.

The DHSS Social Services Inspectorate, jointly with the London Boroughs Training Committee and the Thomas Coram Foundation, recently ran a seminar on family homelessness for senior staff and practitioners from health, social services, education and families who are placed in bed and breakfast accommodation and examined how different agencies can develop collaborative planning, policy and service delivery.

Professional Training

It is accepted that there are a number of problems of an inter-disciplinary nature which have training implications confronting professionals dealing with children. Changes are already underway designed to bring a more rational approach to vocational and professional education and training. While none of these are solely directed to training for those working with children, they will provide a better framework for dealing with inter-disciplinary training issues. First, the National Council for Vocational Qualifications has been established with a remit to rationalise the current system of vocational qualifications and to establish links and ladders between them. Second, the Manpower Services Commission is establishing a national training consortium for the care sector, designed to be the forum in which sector-wide, multi-disciplinary responses to MSC and NCVQ initiatives can be reached. Although the NCVQ and hence the consortium are primarily concerned at present with non-professional training and qualifications, it is the intention to consider professional training in the future and NCVQ has already started a dialogue with professional training bodies. Third, there are already examples of multi-disciplinary professional training initiatives which will affect those working with children among others including, for example, the Health PICKUP scheme designed to provide common updating for a number of health care professions.

DHSS is the sponsor Department of CCETSW, the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work which operates on a UK-wide basis. DHSS undertake consultation with other Government Departments and agencies as appropriate. This can best be illustrated by the following examples of the type of arrangements for liaison and collaboration that are set up as the occasion demands:

- **CCETSW's proposals for training in social work and social care** An interdepartmental working group has been set up to progress Government's response to these proposals. Membership includes DHSS Scottish and Welsh Offices, DHSS NI, Home Office and DES. CCETSW itself has undertaken a wide ranging consultative exercise which has included statutory and voluntary sector interests.

- **Joint DHSS/CCETSW financial management and policy review of CCETSW** Liaison arrangements between CCETSW, DHSS and other Government Departments have been addressed as part of the above review. A system of Government Liaison officers meetings has existed for some time to provide formal arrangements for liaison between CCETSW and Government Departments: these arrangements are being improved. Members of the Interdepartmental group referred to above are regularly updated on the progress of the Review.

- **Membership of the CCETSW Council** includes officers from a wide range of bodies with training interests, including local authority social services departments; universities and polytechnics; professional associations and the voluntary sector, (although members are appointed on an individual basis and not as formal representatives of any particular organisation).

- **Social Care** An industry-led body is being set up to progress developments in Social Care Training. Membership is likely to include NHSTA, CCETSW and LGTB. An Inspector from the DHSS Social Services Inspectorate attends meetings with the ISC concerning the developments under the NVQ framework and liaises with the appropriate policy division.

Children and Aids

Under the terms of the Order setting up the Health Education Authority, the Secretary of State for Education and Science is required to nominate one member for appointment to the Authority. It is hoped that the Order will strengthen the relationships of the Authority with schools and the Education Service wherever possible. The DES nominee is Mrs. Kate Wood who was previously Chairman of the Wirral Education Committee and member of the Schools Curriculum Development Committee. It is expected that the Authority will work in close consultation with the Department of Education and Science and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools in planning and carrying forward its work in the educational field.

The paper refers to the growing number of children who are HIV positive or who have AIDS. Since the beginning of 1985 there have been reports of 68 children born in the United Kingdom with antibodies to the HIV. All were born to mothers who were either infected with HIV or at high risk of infection. It is not known in how many of these children the HIV antibodies will persist.

There are close links between the DES and DHSS AIDS Unit in the development of services and educational material, and with the Education and Health departments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There are two groups set up to exchange advice and information on AIDS; one, the Interdepartmental Group on AIDS, covers all aspects of the disease. The other was set up to facilitate the handover of the AIDS public education campaign to the Health Education Authority and to foster continuing collaboration between UK health education agencies and relevant Government Departments.

Drug misusers are a major risk group for infection with HIV in that the virus can be transmitted between drug misusers who share needles and syringes. It was in recognition of the essential need to curb the spread of the virus amongst drug misusers, and from them into the general population that the Government launched in September a new stage of the AIDS campaign to warn young people of the dangers of injecting drug use. At the same time the third stage of the Government's drug education and information campaign was launched, targetted at young people at risk, with the message that becoming involved with drugs could be the start of a process of decline which could lead ultimately to injecting and the risk of AIDS.

As with other anti-drugs publicity material (and all other matters concerning the Government's drugs strategy), the overall shape of the campaign has been discussed and agreed with the interdepartmental Ministerial Group on the Misuse of drugs, which is chaired by the Home Office Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and includes representation from the Health and Education Departments.

The Health and Education Departments also inform each other when information on AIDS and drug misuse is disseminated. The Government's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, which is currently considering the implications of AIDS for drug misuse services, including the needs of pregnant drug users, includes educationalists and observers from both departments.

PRIME MINISTER: Mtg with Baroness Kennett MC.

August

Play facilities for children

The subject of play facilities is indeed complex and the Inter-Departmental Consultative Group provides a forum for discussing play facilities for children aged under five. So far as school age children are concerned, the Government's White Paper **The Law on Child Care and Family Services** - jointly published by DHSS, Home Office, DES, Welsh and Scottish Offices as well as the Lord Chancellor's Department - referred to the recent growth in out-of-school and residential holiday schemes and said that the Government would be consulting interested parties about the appropriate means of ensuring the necessary standards of protection. A consultation paper seeking views on the need for action, whether legislation or codes of practice would be appropriate, whether there should be different arrangements for children of different ages and whether there should be different provision for day care and residential facilities is about to be issued to local authorities and other relevant bodies.

Before the decision to close Play Board was made there were discussions at official level by DOE who are in the lead on this subject with DHSS, DES, Scottish and Welsh Office and there was communication at Ministerial level. Since then all the Departments involved have been kept informed about the Sports Council's working party and its conclusions.

B.B.

Manufacturing of tobacco for chewing

DTI consulted DHSS between March and May 1984, at the time US Tobacco originally contacted the DTI about their plans for a European manufacturing facility. From the outset DHSS made clear that the product gave cause for concern on health grounds and this advice was reiterated in subsequent correspondence. However, DTI noted that the product was not as dangerous as cigarettes, the manufacture of which was allowed, and they did not feel it right to deny the Company the normal regional incentives then available.

In April 1985 a voluntary agreement was concluded between US Tobacco and UK Health Ministers governing the marketing and advertising of Skoal Bandits and similar products.

Children and aids

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FILE
DA

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

2 February 1988

Thank you for your letter of 26 January with which you enclosed a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Baroness Faithfull. The Prime Minister is not entirely happy with this and has queried two particular points. Firstly, she has asked that we check whether it is correct that there is no professional educationist on the Health Education Council. And secondly, she is not satisfied with the reply on the manufacturing of tobacco for chewing. She has asked whether DTI did indeed contact DHSS, and what advice they gave, and whether it was followed.

I shall be grateful for a further note on these points, and a suitable revised draft reply.

(P.A. BEARPARK)

Rod Clark, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security.

Is it correct that there is

No professional education on

the Health Education Council?

The reply on Manufacturing Tobacco is

Cheap is it good enough. Did DTI

not consult DHSS? Could we not

have stopped it?

NLC/1316p

CABG

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

P A Bearpark Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

26 January 1988

Dear Andy, psr 4/2

Thank you for your letter of 26 October to Bruce Calderwood. Further to Bruce's letter of 4 November, I attach a draft reply to Baroness Faithfull. I apologise for the delay in getting this to you.

Yours ever

Rod Clark

ROD CLARK
Private Secretary

DRAFT LETTER TO BARONESS FAITHFULL

It was good of you to send me, as you had offered to do last year, the paper enclosed with your letter of 22 October. I read it with interest and have looked into our arrangements for co-ordination, both within Government, and in the delivery of services.

The enclosed factual note describes co-ordination in practice in several of the areas covered by your paper. I hope you will agree that it does show we take co-ordination seriously, and that it is working to good effect in a great many areas.

I believe we have made excellent progress. Our approach to child abuse, for example, has been (and is being) developed inter-departmentally so that policy and practice in the respective areas of responsibility are developed consistently, and with due regard to each other. The completion of the guidance to be issued once the outcome of the Cleveland inquiry is known, will be done so as to achieve consistency of approach between departments and the professions involved, and secure improved inter-agency co-operation.

You will have seen from announcements made early in this Session /Mr Patten, 19 January, OR col 646/ that inter-departmental work on alcohol misuse is producing valuable measures to tackle under-age drinking; and our inter-departmental work on drugs has produced valuable outcomes for the protection of the young.

The White Paper on 'The Law on Child Care and Family Services' was itself a product of joint working. In the care field, we have secured through joint work the development of access to police records to ensure that unsuitable people do not find employment in work with children.

In the juvenile justice area, the successful development of alternatives to custody, for those who do not need it, and in particular of the Intermediate Treatment initiative, is evidence of long-standing arrangements for joint working between departments; and inter-service co-operation is generally

well established at local level for dealing with young people in trouble.

In these priority areas as well as in others I am satisfied that Government departments are working together to good effect. All the departments concerned are aware of the need to secure consistency of policy and practice. As always, there will be further developments to be made, and the paper you sent will valuably inform future work.

You will gather that I do not believe we face fundamental obstacles to progress of the sort you desire, nor therefore that we need to search for new mechanisms in order to achieve it, although of course I should be glad to consider any specific proposals you had in mind. ~~If you could~~ Or you

~~/ASSUMES THE OFFER OF A FURTHER MEETING WILL BE DECLINED/~~

have had a chance to consider the attached paper in detail perhaps you could let us have a list of topics you would like to discuss: we can then see what we might arrange a meeting.

YdS/D.20

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 January 1988

Bruce Calderwood wrote to me on 4 November saying that it would take a little time to prepare a draft response for the Prime Minister to send to Baroness Faithfull's letter of 22 October. I rather think sufficient time has now passed and should be grateful for a reply which I may put into the Prime Minister's box this weekend.

Bf

P. A. Bearpark

Rod Clark, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security

cc DHSS
DTI
DGW.

SRW

5 January 1988

Thank you for your letter of 17 December. I am sorry it has taken us a little while to reply.

As you know the Prime Minister is at present overseas, but I will see that your letter is placed before her on her return. I know she will be pleased to hear of your support for the Government's efforts to tackle the problems of the inner city, and will be glad to note that you are in touch with John Moore.

(MARK ADDISON)

Miss Winifred Stone, O.B.E.

Chair:
Miss Winifred Stone, OBE, MA

Vice Chair:
Keith White, MA, M Phil

Hon Treasurer:
The Revd Michael Newman, MA

Hon Secretary:
The Rt Revd Mgr Michael Connelly

Clerk to the Council:
Raymond T. Clarke, OBE, JP, MA

Registered Charity No 215411

PO? No trace

National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations
8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE Telephone 01-833 3319

17 December 1987

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1A 2AA.

R19/12 PPS.

Dear Prime Minister,

flap.

We appreciated the terms in which you kindly replied, on 3rd August 1987, to our letter of 15th July 1987 on Child Care and Family Services. We were encouraged by your confirmation that legislation is to be introduced at the earliest practicable opportunity and we are aware of the steps to this end now being taken with the Department of Health and Social Security.

It is in the context of work with children and families that, for some months, this Council and its individual organisations have been giving special consideration to the needs of children in inner urban areas. In this we naturally recognise the necessity of achieving co-operation and cohesion between government departments on policy issues and also in the practices adopted by all statutory and voluntary bodies which provide services. We therefore welcome the creation of the Cabinet Committee on Inner City Policy.

We recognise the long-term importance of economic and environmental changes in improving the quality of life for all who live or work in inner cities. We believe that plans for such changes must start with the needs of people. Too often, in the past, physical re-planning has been completed and only subsequently have the day to day needs of local people been recognised. The inclusion of the Secretary of State for Social Services in the Cabinet Committee will be able to affirm the importance of responding to social needs.

We hope that there will emerge some practical, co-operative ventures which can also serve as models for social change in other areas of the country: and that the resources to encourage development in inner cities will not be to the detriment of service which are needed elsewhere.

In our own discussions we have placed emphasis on the need for increased support for families through social policies which will enable them to fulfill their responsibilities. Practices are needed which will: provide day care for young children; remove the disabling conditions confronting homeless families; encourage good parenting, eg through family centres;

cont'd .../

provide creative play, recreation and adventure for all children; enable parents and other adults to respond firmly and actively to the needs of adolescents, especially those who are unemployed; offer local people involvement in decisions affecting their lives. Many of our member organisations are in a position to contribute to such developments and, indeed, have already pioneered work in these fields, often in close co-operation with their colleagues in local government.

We shall be writing to the Secretary of State on these and other matters, including the Government's plans on "Promoting Better Health". In doing so we shall affirm our desire to contribute to the evolution of a theory of the City that, in practice, enables all to contribute and all to enjoy it.

Yours sincerely,

Winifred Stone.

Winifred Stone
Chair of the Council

SC4332p

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

P A Bearpark
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

4 November 1987

Cf. Interim reply not req^d. B/f 3 weeks PSJ 5/11

Dear Andy

flap

You sent me on 26 October a letter which the Prime Minister received from Lady Faithfull. As you say we had been expecting this earlier. We now need a little time to consider the points made and any action appropriate. I hope to send you a paper within the next three weeks.

Meanwhile I think you might recommend her to write as follows:-

> "Thank you for your letter of 22 October with its enclosure of a paper on interdepartmental co-ordination of services for children and their families. We shall study this carefully and I will be writing to you shortly."

Yours ever
Bruce

BRUCE CALDERWOOD
Private Secretary

DAS

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Ack'd

From the Private Secretary

26 October 1987

BF 11

The enclosed letter from Baroness Faithfull to the Prime Minister is self-explanatory.

My recollection is that, at the meeting in April, the Prime Minister asked that details of problems be provided as quickly as possible so that action could be taken to resolve them, and that a meeting could then take place in six months' time to see what progress had been made. It is, I think, slightly unfortunate that Baroness Faithfull waited so long before sending any details. I should be grateful for advice and a suitable draft reply for the Prime Minister to send.

P A BEARPARK

Bruce Calderwood, Esq.
Department of Health and Social Security

fc 6

The Baroness Faithfull OBE

CCBC

22 October 1987

LPS 123.

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London S.W.1.

Dear Prime Minister

I am enclosing, as promised, a paper from the group of professionals in the field of health education and social services who came to see you in April last. As you may remember, you invited the group to put down in writing some concrete examples of the problems which arise when there is not close liaison as between the relevant Government Departments concerning services and policies for children and their families. You generously suggested that the group might meet you again, and we wait to hear from you concerning a date convenient to you.

As you will see, we have focussed on the problems and have not attempted any analysis of possible solutions in any depth. However, following our next meeting, if you feel that the group could usefully turn its attention in that direction, I am sure that the members would respond.

Yours ever

Lucy.

Good wishes as always.

RD/AH

October 1987

Co-ordination between Central Government Departments on Matters Concerning Children and their Families

Background

A group of practitioners, administrators and policymakers drawn from a wide spectrum of services and other bodies concerned with children was invited to meet the Prime Minister on 24 April, 1987 following some initial expressions of concern about the lack of effective co-ordination and joint planning between central government departments on matters concerning children and their families. The group was convened by Baroness Faithfull, who is Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children and also President of the National Children's Bureau. At that meeting, each member of the group spoke for a few minutes about his/her main focus of concern, the Prime Minister responded and this was followed by some 30 minutes of useful discussion.

The Prime Minister proposed another meeting six months or so hence, to be preceded by a paper prepared by the group, setting out some concrete examples of the kinds of issue or difficulty which were attributed to lack

of co-ordination at central government level. This present paper represents the group's response to that invitation.

The nature of the problem

Responsibility for various aspects of services and of legislation which impinges upon children and young people and their families is spread across many central government departments. The DES and DHSS are most often involved but the Home Office, DoE, DE, Dept. of Transport, Dept. of Trade and Industry and MSC are also in varying degrees implicated.

That the present arrangements for achieving effective co-ordination between (and, occasionally, even within) government departments in this context are not perfect is, we believe, not in serious doubt. However, what appears to be at issue is whether the largely acknowledged difficulties in the present arrangements are occasional and spasmodic and thus might best be dealt with as they arise, or whether there is a more fundamental shortcoming, suggesting a more radical solution. The assessment of the group is that the latter is more likely. We return to this at the end of the paper but first present our examples.

Child abuse

The government clearly accepts what every committee of inquiry highlights, namely, that effective inter-agency, inter-professional collaboration is

essential in any approach to child abuse. However, the recent actions of the relevant government departments suggest the contrary. The DHSS produced draft guidelines in April 1986 under the title 'Working Together'. This document made very little reference to the role of schools and LEAs. Thirteen months later, the DES produced its own draft document, which has had only a limited circulation and that only to educational bodies. (Incidentally, no member of our group was circularised, nor even knew of this DES document until after the date given for responses.)

There seems to us every reason why, on such an issue, draft guidelines covering all the relevant services should have been prepared jointly by DHSS, DES and the Home Office. They could then have been circulated to all the relevant sectors for comment before being finalised. The importance of such a jointly prepared document would have been twofold. First, the guidance ultimately given to the different services would thus have been read by all, enabling everyone to see clearly where they fitted into the total picture and to appreciate the considerable tasks for other services. Secondly, a joint document gives the implicit signal that its message is seen by government as one for collaborative action, thus reinforcing the very considerable strides which have been made at local level in joint planning and liaison.

We understand that it is now planned to circulate the final versions of these two guideline documents together and, whilst we welcome this move, our comments above on the handling of the situation still stand.

DES circular on the education welfare service

A DES draft circular on 'School Attendance and Education Welfare Services' in 1985 was concerned with the problems of truancy and poor school attendance and with the role of the education welfare service in that context. This is an area which has clear relevance to social services not least because of the liaison necessary over truants who may be brought before juvenile courts; it is also pertinent to health services because of the school health implications.

The circular showed no signs of any joint authorship with the DHSS. Indeed, our understanding is that it was sent by DES to DHSS for information after it was written. The circular in draft form was then sent only to educational bodies for comment and finally was circulated in 1986 to LEAs but not to social services departments, nor to health authorities. Thus, another opportunity was lost of developing shared perspectives on issues of considerable importance for children and families.

Provision for the under 5s

LEAs, social services departments and health authorities make provision for the under 5s in accordance with different circulars from their different government departments and with different Acts of Parliament,

the latter going back (in the case of health authorities) nearly 20 years. The situation at local level is further complicated by some local authorities having to relate to as many as seven different district health authorities, and by local and health authorities having different recommendations from central government about staffing levels. Finally, the professionals in the field have different conditions of service (hours of work, holidays, etc.) and little or no common training, which are further barriers to any efforts at sensible co-ordination.

The present situation, then, is problematic for local services, confusing and unsupportive for parents and fails lamentably to make the most effective use of existing resources to meet the needs of pre-school-children and their families. However, the problem will not be solved merely by joint circulars from DES and DHSS enjoining local and health authorities to strive for better co-ordination of services. What is needed is some radical, new thinking and the formulation of a single policy statement (and relevant legislation) on the provision of services for children under 5. In brief, they - and their families - need a range of provision, which is flexible enough to meet different family circumstances, which incorporates the private and the statutory sector and which is complementary and coherent, rather than competitive and fragmentary. The policy should address the intellectual, emotional, social, physical and health needs of children under 5.

This field cries out for such an initiative at this time but one of the inhibiting factors is that the issues involved cross the existing boundaries of government departments, which mirror and reinforce the largely artificial distinction between 'education' and 'care'.

Childhood accidents

This is a major public health problem in childhood. However, a pre-requisite for any co-ordinated policy or approach is lacking: the relevant statistics are gathered by different government departments so that no central monitoring or responsibility exists.

Thus, the Home Accident Surveillance System (Consumer Safety Unit, Department of Trade and Industry) collects information about home accidents resulting in visits to hospital. Leisure accidents are now to be added, including bicycle accidents not involving a motor vehicle. Information on bicycle accidents involving a motor vehicle and other traffic accidents are collected by the police for the Department of Transport. (Research evidence shows that these latter figures seriously underestimate the prevalence of bicycle accidents involving hospital treatment for children.)

The DHSS publishes figures on in-patient stays relating to accidents; other statistics are collected by the Home Office (fires) and OPCS (deaths).

Finally, the recent serious accidents at Thorpe Park and Richmond theme parks indicate the need for better liaison between the Department of Employment (whose Factory Inspectorate is currently responsible for monitoring safety standards in fairgrounds), the Department of the environment and local authorities, who are frequent providers of leisure facilities using a range of fixed equipment for 'adventure' activities.

Play facilities for children

This is another complex issue, where the difficulties are exacerbated by the lack of appropriate co-ordination or joint planning between relevant departments, which include DES, DHSS, DoE, The Home Office, Department of Transport and Department of Trade and Industry.

The complexity derives in large measure from the different dimensions of the question. At one end of a continuum, one is thinking of the play of small children within families and in small groups, in nurseries or in neighbourhoods, which has important significance for their development. At the other end of the continuum one has the world of organised sport.

This is a particularly good example to illustrate the endemic nature and intractibility of the problem of co-ordination between departments, because there is some Ministerial responsibility for this area - within DoE. However, the circumstances surrounding the establishment of Play Board, its subsequent functioning and its recent demise have salutory

lessons. The initial decision to establish Play Board was made by DoE after minimal consultation with the relevant voluntary sector bodies and the other government departments. Partly as a result, one suspects, Play Board, in its relatively short life, was able to make very little progress in interesting or involving other government departments.

Following the decision to close Play Board (and we do not here question that decision per se) there was a great deal of misunderstanding, even confusion, and no visible planning - certainly none between departments - about the future. A small working party of the Sports Council has now completed an examination of the possibilities and has recommended a 4-year interim arrangement centred on the Sports Council. It is not known how this recommendation will be received by the many organisations concerned with children's play but one would have thought that an inter-departmental review of some kind would have been preferable. However, this kind of solution does not seem often to occur, or to commend itself, to lead departments.

Manufacture of chewing tobacco

The Department of Trade and Industry - one presumes, without reference to the DHSS - allocated industrial development funds, so that a company manufacturing 'oral snuff' could set up a factory in the UK. Their product is in the form of a small sachet containing tobacco which is placed in the mouth. This practice is known to be carcinogenic and can

also be attractive to children. Despite the Chief Medical Officer's subsequent warning to doctors and the government's steps to protect children, the initial failure to liaise between departments is highly regrettable. Although the product is mainly intended for export to Europe, it is currently available in Britain, and is in any event contrary to the present EEC Cancer Initiative, which Britain through the DHSS is supporting. A total ban on the import, sale or manufacture of this material in the UK is now called for.

Monitoring/research into the delivery of services for children

The two principal departments concerned here are again DES and DHSS but all the other departments mentioned above are involved in some degree. Basically, there is no machinery for liaising or co-ordinating across departments on policy-relevant research.

Thus, the DHSS has a number of key 'research liaison groups' which relate to policy divisions (e.g. mental handicap, physical handicap, children) but there is little if any input into them from DES. There are no shared research projects, as far as we are aware, despite the fact that the two departments have a number of overlapping problems. For example, the current policy in social services departments to close down their children's homes may - informed sources suggest - be resulting in a significant influx of children with emotional and behaviour difficulties

into residential special schools. There is no current research work in either department - far less any jointly sponsored research - into this suspected national trend, which could have major implications for services catering for children with special needs and their families.

Education of children in care

The House of Commons Social Services Committee in its report (1984) on children in care highlighted the quite deplorable educational standards of children in care. The reasons for this are manifold, of course, but despite this report, there has been no initiative from either department. One of the reasons for this lack of progress, we submit, is that the problem is at the interface between the two departments and therefore gets priority from neither. A meeting was held in September, 1987 on the education of children in care involving members of the Inspectorate from both DES and DHSS and the Social Care Association. However, it was at the instigation of the latter.

Handicapped children and the 1981 Education Act

At local level, the liaison between LEAs, social services departments and health authorities on handicapped children, or those with 'special needs', leaves something to be desired. Some of this poor liaison, we suggest, is because the DES and DHSS have not worked together to anticipate potential difficulties, nor are they seen as having given a more positive (joint) lead to the field.

One of the most 'public' problems in recent months has been that of legal clarity about the duty of the district health authorities to provide speech therapy or physiotherapy, when these have been recommended in the "Statement of Special Educational Needs". A test case brought against the Oxfordshire District Health and Education Authorities was abandoned without a legal judgement being made. In practice the lack of legal clarity has meant confusion and variable patterns of provision at local level.

Another problem is that some LEAs are asserting that statementing procedures under the 1981 Education Act do not apply to children in local authority care. A joint circular on this would seem to be called for, since at local level the negotiations can be protracted in the current absence of guidance from central government.

A third problem on this front is that LEA's plans for integrating handicapped children into mainstream schools not infrequently have implications for the capital programme in so far as funding building modifications for the physically disabled is concerned. The present restriction on the size of the capital programmes to LEAs therefore sometimes makes it difficult for them to carry forward the intentions of the 1981 Education Act in respect of particular children.

There is currently no inter-departmental advisory or development body to facilitate better liaison between health, education, social services and

the voluntary sector, despite strong recommendations from the 1987 House of Commons Select Committee on the 1981 Education Act and concerted support from a range of professional and voluntary bodies following a consultation by the Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children.

Homelessness and bed and breakfast accommodation

The memory of some members of our group goes back to the early 1970s on this issue, when it was already a significant problem. The adverse effects upon children in particular are manifold and include bad diet, poor sleep and inadequate health surveillance, lack of space and heightened risk of burns, scalds and other accidents. The necessity to place some families in bed and breakfast accommodation outside their authorities increases the already difficult problem of surveillance and liaison between agencies, especially with children at risk of abuse. Despite the changes brought about by the 1977 Homeless Persons Act, successive governments have allowed the problem to develop without any joint policy or guidelines being devised by DoE and DHSS to arrest the slide or address the issues. More generally, appropriate and adequate housing for the most vulnerable sections of society is crucial to any effective delivery of the policy of care in the community.

Professional training

Many of the problems which professionals dealing with children confront

daily are of an inter-disciplinary nature. Child abuse is a notable example, already mentioned above, but emotional and behaviour difficulties, all forms of handicap, pastoral care in schools and personal and social education (including preparation for parenthood) are others.

Despite the widespread recognition that this is so, the implications for the initial and in-service training of professionals are still not grasped, nor even seriously considered. Isolated funding is given for particular initiatives but the infrastructure remains untouched. The various training councils do not in general speak to each other and where they do, it takes the form of an often limited bilateral initiative. There are no signs, for example, of any interest being shown by DES in inter-disciplinary training in its INSET priorities.

The current situation is that any training institution which wishes to develop inter-disciplinary training as part of its structured programme faces almost insurmountable obstacles in terms of accreditation and validation.

There are also concerns about the amount of liaison on the specific issue of social work training between DHSS, Home Office, Department of Education and Science and the Scottish and Northern Ireland Offices and CCETSW. Whilst DHSS takes the lead, many of the CCETSW debates in open council illustrate how little overall liaison there is and this is made more acute by the increasing differences in the Scottish education system and the

Children's Panels. Further, whilst we are aware of the current work of the Department of the Environment and Department of Trade and Industry on the future training needs of staff in the personal social services field much more needs to be done to improve liaison.

Children and AIDS

The National Children's Bureau has identified a range of problems in meeting the needs of the growing number of children and families who are HIV positive or who have AIDS. However, the House of Commons Select Committee on AIDS (1987) and other professional sources express considerable concern at the lack of liaison between health and education (with particular reference to health education). We are alarmed that the new Health Education Authority, which will has responsibility for health education and AIDS, has currently no professional educationalist on it. In view of the considerable differences of opinion about the content, quality and availability of health education (which is currently our only preventive strategy), we are convinced that there should be inter-departmental liaison with regard to developing and monitoring health education programmes and in considering new approaches to intravenous drug abuse which is recognised as a major cause of infection in young people. We consider that there are special issues with reference to AIDS and children which must be urgently addressed if the AIDS threat is not to become an epidemic.

Conclusions

The above examples are by no means an exhaustive listing. However, it is not merely the number of instances but the nature and 'natural history' of the difficulties which indicate that the problem we have attempted to highlight is not of a spasmodic nature. It reaches down to something more basic and fundamental which can block constructive co-ordination and joint planning between departments.

There is at one level an apparent paradox, because Cabinet meetings and the more sharply focussed Cabinet committees have co-ordination and collective decision-making as a prime objective. Clearly, too, this system on the whole works for very major issues of national policy and planning.

Could it be that a dimension which distinguishes the examples we have given above from some others is that they are issues of a kind which would not normally reach the agendas of Cabinet meetings or Cabinet committees? This may be part of the answer but another could be that the division of Ministerial and departmental responsibility which characterises our system (and most others) militates against viewing children and their families as 'wholes' who in the real world are affected interactively by the various services and systems which impact on their lives.

A third feature of our system which cannot be ignored is that in some contexts Ministers and their departments are competing with each other (and/or against the Treasury) for resources, and perhaps even for status. To the extent that this factor applies (and it is mirrored at local authority level), collaboration and co-operation can be at a premium.

What appears to be needed is some way of ensuring, as far as is practicable, that the kinds of issues set out above are, wherever possible, anticipated; and, since that will not always be possible, the issues should be flagged as soon as the difficulty is spotted. In the worst scenario, they could be drawn to appropriate attention after the event, if there are lessons to be learned.

This would presumably require some regular scrutiny of impending legislation which is likely to affect children more or less directly; some monitoring of draft circulars, etc., preferably before the event in order to consider the intended readership and the circularisation; and a review of government systems for gathering statistics and for monitoring/researching service delivery in areas which affect the lives of children and families.

file

Stone

CCDHSS.

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 August 1987

I have spotted an MS B(DHSS) Article PM did not meet the Majesty Crown. Only the clerks wanted. She does not meet Majesty Crown. We should have spotted this. MEM 5/8

Dear Miss Stone.

Thank you for your letter of 15 July about the introduction of legislation to reform child care law. I was pleased to meet you on 24 April with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children when we discussed a wide range of matters affecting children and the family.

The welfare and protection of children affects us all deeply and it is important that the law should reflect that concern. The Government have accepted that a major overhaul of child care law is needed and we published our proposals for reform in January in the White Paper "The Law on Child Care and Family Services". A clearer and fairer legal framework will help parents and children who may be affected by the law and social workers and others who have to work professionally within it.

In framing legislation we will take account of any lessons to be learnt from the Cleveland Inquiry and the Kimberley Carlile inquiry currently underway, and we remain committed to introducing legislation at the earliest practicable opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Miss Winifred Stone, O.B.E.

GA

file

GA

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 July 1987

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Miss Winifred Stone OBE, Chairman of the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach me by Friday 31 July.

(P. A. BEARPARK)

Bruce Calderwood, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security.

Ch.
Miss Winifred Stone, OBE, MA

Vice Chair:
Keith White, MA, M Phil

Hon Treasurer:
The Revd Michael Newman, MA

Hon Secretary:
The Rt Revd Mgr Michael Connelly

Clerk to the Council:
Raymond T. Clarke, OBE, JP, MA

Registered Charity No 215411

child care

National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations
8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE Telephone 01-833 3319

15 July 1987

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP.,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

This Council was most grateful to have been able to participate in your meeting at 10 Downing Street, a few weeks ago, with Lady Faithfull and others associated with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Children. We were encouraged by your response to the discussions.

Since then public concern about the care of children has increased and anxieties about child abuse have been expressed throughout the country.

During the past week there happen to have been three regular meetings of this Council, held in different areas and involving national and regional Directors of a high proportion of our sixty member organisations. At each meeting spontaneous concern has been expressed about the need to take immediate advantage of the proposals that have already been made to improve child care law and practice.

Our members have asked that I should convey to you directly their view that the Government should introduce legislation to implement the proposals in the White Paper on The Law on Child Care and Family Services.

cont'd .....

When the White Paper was published at the beginning of this year Mr Norman Fowler MP said, in his Foreword that there was now '...widespread support amongst child care social workers, lawyers and groups acting on behalf of children and parents for early reform'. We agree.

We were also encouraged to note that in 'Work in Progress: May 1987' the House of Commons Social Services Committee had made a firm recommendation that 'legislation be introduced in the first session of the new Parliament to implement the proposals in the White Paper'.

We fully understand the pressure upon public resources and upon the Parliamentary time-table but our day by day experience as caring organisations confirms that legislative reform in this field is a matter of urgent national importance. We believe that, in the interest of children and families, claims upon public resources and Parliamentary time are justifiable. We are convinced that an overhaul of the law, backed by sufficient resources, should take place thus strengthening public authorities as they discharge the great responsibilities that are placed upon them. Law reform would also provide a framework within which all concerned for child care could more effectively play their respective parts.

Yours sincerely,

Winifred Stone.

Winifred Stone

Chair of the Council

A Statement on Work with Children, Young People and Families

National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations
8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE Telephone 01-833 3319

CHILD CARE - the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations - is a grouping of more than fifty organisations which work with children, young people and families in response to social needs.

Between them these organisations offer many forms of service and are involved with tens of thousands of families at any one time. Despite differences in their origins and style of work the organisations have many common concerns. They seek to achieve mutual support among themselves and to be open to the possibilities of partnership with their counterparts in statutory services and in other parts of the voluntary sector.

Their aim in making a Statement is to affirm publicly the beliefs which they share and to identify the principles and practices on which their work is based.

The Statement was approved by the Council at its meeting in November 1985.

Introduction

1 This statement concerns the way in which we believe that voluntary child care organisations should approach their work and exercise their accountability. Its purpose is to explain what the organisations wish to achieve and how they try to do so. They seek to be responsive to the interests of the children, young people and families with whom they work and also to central and local government, the general public and all who provide encouragement and support for this form of personal social service.

We affirm:

a The potential and the diversity of voluntary child care organisations in both the scale and content of their activities.

b The aim to offer a personal service, which may be complementary, or an alternative, to services provided by statutory bodies and thereby offer an element of choice.

c The desire to be responsive to emergent needs and the willingness to innovate.

d The value of that part of the voluntary sector which involves parents directly in the provision and management of services.

2 We wish to encourage our organisations:

a to state the beliefs that they share;

b to identify the practices which derive from these beliefs;

c to define the objectives of their work;

d to demonstrate their standards of achievement;

e to specifiy how they are accountable to those who use or support their services.

3 Members of CHILD CARE believe that it is in families that the needs of children and dependent young people are most likely to be met. Therefore

support for families should be a central concern in child care. Such support should seek to counteract the effects of family poverty or the likelihood of disadvantage, neglect or abuse among children or young people. It may be offered to families in their own homes, in informal groups, neighbourhoods or in the wider community. It may also be achieved by enabling families to form their own support networks. Voluntary organisations are able to contribute to the full range of social services that may be required. A high priority should be given to preventive work.

4 Voluntary organisations should continue to respond by offering services to meet the needs of children and young people who are in care, those who are handicapped and those with special needs. We believe that, as part of those services, there is still a constructive role for residential work of high quality.

Background

5 In the past few years many developments have combined to place changed responsibilities upon both statuory and voluntary organisations which work with children, young people and families.

These developments include the following:

a There has been a range of legislative and organisational developments. For example, The Children Act 1975 is now being implemented; The Criminal Justice Act 1982 and The Health and Social Services and Social Security Act 1983 have had a bearing on child care; The Parliamentary Social Services Committee Inquiry (1983) into Child Care has generated great interest and has led to review of child care legislation and practice; new organisations have contributed to public understanding of children's needs.

b Changes in attitude have taken place regarding the most effective ways of using the available resources, both human, material and financial. These changes have often been a response to parental, professional or political views on how best the needs of children and young people could be met and have had an effect on the nature or quality of services that are now provided.

c Many organisations, both statutory and voluntary, have been faced with severe financial restrictions. These have derived both from the determination by central government to exercise restraints on expenditure

and by local government setting priorities within statutory obligations.

d A number of central government initiatives to offer involvement by voluntary organisations in new or extended forms of service, for example with Under Fives or in the field of Intermediate Treatment.

e A change of attitude towards children and young people and a recognition of the various ways in which they are able or can be encouraged to express their own needs and desires.

6 The membership of CHILD CARE has grown steadily in recent years. The activities of many of the organisations have diversified, both as a response to economic circumstances or variations in demand and because of the conviction that it is important to help children by enabling families to stay together. A positive response to the need for preventive work has become increasingly apparent among member-organisations. We believe that the principles and practices which we here summarise will contribute to the prevention of disadvantage, neglect or abuse of children and young people and to the achievement of their individual progress.

Principles and Practice

Principles

7 We confirm the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

8 We believe that it is the responsibility of adults to assert and protect the rights of children and young people, particularly when they are not able to act for themselves.

9 We will attempt to ensure that children and young people have the experiences which will enable them to develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually so that they can grow into fulfilled, independent adults who are able to contribute to their community. Of first importance is the need to provide food, shelter, health care and education.

10 We believe that children also need:

a The means to develop a personal identity, self-respect, an awareness of their own worth and a sense of responsibility.

b The constancy of love, expressed through significantly personal relationships.

c A secure base for a daily life and the opportunity to belong and be valued as a member of a community which offers an appropriate cultural environment.

d Boundaries within which to grow and to develop self-discipline.

e Encouragement to be creative and to develop skills in order to realise their personal potential.

11 We regard it as an integral part of our work to act in partnership with parents, families and neighbourhoods to enable the growth and development of children and young people.

Practice

12 In order to respond effectively to the needs of children and young people we must translate principles into practice. We therefore pledge that the members of our organisation will:

a Place primary emphasis on the needs, growth and development of children, young people and their families rather than on organisational requirements.

b Ensure that those who have the responsibility for providing services shall as far as possible possess the necessary concerns, skills and time to do so effectively.

c Recruit workers who have commitment and sensitivity and make appropriate provision for their training, support and conditions of employment.

d Provide safeguards, through appropriate training and support, in the professional risk-taking which may confront workers in whatever situation.

e Wherever advisable ensure that boys and girls are cared for together and are nurtured by both men and women.

f Recognise and respond to the particular needs of children and young people of ethnic minority communities; and ensure that there is organisational and individual response to the destructive influence of racism.

g Provide consistent continuity of effective care, both of settings and of people. If a change is unavoidable arrange that it will be handled sensitively and skillfully and with the full understanding and co-operation of the children and others who are concerned.

h Provide for proper planning and review of each child's development, involving the children, parents, workers and other significant adults.

i Make services local to the child, whenever possible, so that the normal process of growing up in a home and a community will not be interrupted unless it is essential or the individual requests it.

j Offer appropriate support for parents to enhance their ability to achieve an improved quality of life for themselves and for their children.

Member organisations are asked to affirm that:

★ As a member organisation of the National Council for Voluntary Child Care Organisations we will attempt to identify the implications, for our own work, of the principles and practices set out in this paper.

★ We agree with the principles, will do our best to carry them out in practice and will aim to monitor our own progress in doing so.

★ We will work together with other members of the organisation to resolve any problems which stand in the way of achieving those ideals.

United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child

The right to affection, love and understanding.

The right to adequate nutrition and medical care.

The right to free education.

The right to full opportunity for play and recreation.

The right to a name and nationality.

The right to special care if handicapped.

The right to be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster.

The right to be brought up in a spirit of peace and universal brotherhood.

The right to learn to be a useful member of society and to the development of individual abilities.

The right to enjoy these rights, regardless of race, colour, sex, religion, national or social rights.

Designed by Gill Sternbach
Typeset by Printronics
Printed by Stellar Press

BARONESS FAITHFULL

Prime Minister 4

HOUSE OF LORDS

29 April 1987

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

My Dear Prime Minister

This is a personal note to thank you for giving so generously of your time on Friday last, 24 April; this meeting gave great encouragement to those who attended and they were greatly appreciative that you felt able to see them for so long. All those who came had, either themselves or through their organisations, talked to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children.

As you know from the list of those who came, the delegates spanned a wide range of interests from the statutory and voluntary sectors of social services and from different parts of the country.

From the professional point of view, I was glad that the members had an opportunity of meeting you; from a personal point of view, I was so delighted that they had the experience of meeting you; they came away feeling assured of your interest. This was doubly reinforced by the fact that you invited them to return in October.

Prime Minister, thank you so very much.

The very best of luck for the future,

Yours ever and with all good wishes

Lucy.

SUBJECT cc MASTER

fie VSCAFM

cc Hartley
Booth

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 April 1987

Dear Jenny

The Prime Minister had a meeting at 10 Downing Street this morning with Baroness Faithfull and representatives of the various social work sectors with an interest in child care. A full list of Baroness Faithfull's delegation is at Annex A. Mr. Newton, Minister for Health, was also present. Shortly before the meeting Neville Watt, Clerk to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children had provided us with a note of issues of concern to the delegates. This is attached at Annex B.

The Prime Minister opened the meeting by inviting Baroness Faithfull and her delegates to explain their concerns with regard to children and the family. Each of the delegates was given a chance to make his or her points, and these are accurately reflected in Annex B. All the speakers were concerned with a lack of coordination. In some cases the problem was between various groups at the local level, in other cases they complained of problems between government departments, and lastly of the relationship between the centre and the fieldworker. Their general view was that some new administrative structure was required to ensure that adequate coordination took place.

In response to these concerns, the Prime Minister explained that various coordinating mechanisms did exist. The ultimate form of this was of course the Cabinet, but there were sub committees which dealt with various issues, and in her view the necessary mechanisms were in place. It was simply that people did not use them properly. While she understood the concerns that the group expressed, her view was that what was required was firmer management, combined with a willingness to make decisions and decide priorities. Coordination was an automatic part of good management, and did not necessarily need separate attention.

The Prime Minister continued that she was, however, concerned that the group had obviously considered this matter carefully, and felt strongly that something more was required. In the first instance she would prefer to tackle the problem by dealing with specific instances of lack of coordination, and she asked that members of the group provided these direct

either to her or to your Minister. She then wished to see what action could be taken to resolve the problems, and suggested that the group meet with her again in six months' time to consider what progress had been made. It would be helpful if your officials could get in touch with Mr. Watt at an early stage to see what method he would prefer for submitting the specific cases of lack of coordination. We can then consider how best to handle these.

I am copying this letter to Richard Stoate (Lord Chancellor's Office), William Fittall (Home Office), Mike Eland (Lord President's Office) and Chris de Grouchy (Department of Education and Science).

Yours ever

Andy

ANDY BEARPARK

Ms Jenny Harper,
Department of Health and Social Security.

ANNEX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING A MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND A DELEGATION LED BY BARONESS FAITHFULL AT 10 DOWNING STREET ON FRIDAY 24 APRIL 1987

Dr. Ronald Davie	Director of the National Children's Bureau
Mr. Raymond Clarke	Secretary to Child Care
Mr. Neville Watt	Clerk to the All Parliamentary Group for Children
Dr. Tim Chambers	Honorary Secretary of the British Paediatric Association (BPA)
Mrs Chris Cann	Chairman of the National Association of Nursery and Family Care
Mr. John FitzGerald	Direct of the "BRIDGE" Child Care Consultancy Service
Professor Phillip Graham	Professor Child Psychiatry and Dean at the London University's Institute of Child Health
Mr. David Jones	General Secretary of the British Association of Social Workers
Mrs Kathleen Lane	President, Social Care Association
Mrs Rosalynde Lowe	Chairman of the Health Visitors Association
Mrs Anne Parker	Honorary Secretary of the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS)
Mr. Peter Riches	Assistant Director of the National Children's Bureau
Mrs Phillipa Russell	Senior Officer of the Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children
Mr. Keith Wood-Allum	Director of Education, Leicestershire

VSCAFO

ANNEX B

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO DELEGATES

CHAMBERS, Dr. T.I.

Need for integration and priorities within the health service.

CRANN, Mrs. Chris

1. Need for multi-disciplinary, multi-agency co-operation at a local level.

2. Training and conditions of service issues in relation to the above.

DAVIE, Dr. Ronald

1. Comparative lack of reference to social services implications in the consultative document on education welfare services prepared by the Department of Education and Science.

2. Department of Health and Social Security guidelines on child abuse make little reference to the role of schools and the education service in the prevention, detection, assessment and treatment of child abuse.

FITZGERALD, Mr. John

1. The need for partnership between the statutory and voluntary sector.

2. The role of the voluntary sector in relation to the development of services to children and families.

GRAHAM, Prof. Philip

1. Services for disturbed adolescents.

2. Children's disorders and the implications of research.

JONES, Mr. David

The legal system for children and families.

LANE, Mrs. Kathleen

1. Lack of co-ordination between Education and Social Services Departments.

2. Need for full range of flexible services for children.

LOWE, Mrs. Rosalynde

1. Need for closer co-operation between health authorities and local government.

2. Challenges presented by HIV infection and Aids in the services caring for children.

PARKER, Mrs.Anne

1. Need for proper training for carers of children.

2. Lack of co-ordination between central and local government departments.

RICHES, Mr. Peter

Lack of co-ordination over legal system for children and families.

RUSSELL, Mrs.Philippa

1. Problems over the implementation of the 1981 Education Act due to lack of co-ordination by Government departments and agencies.

2. Urgent need for inter-departmental co-operation to cope with Aids.

WOOD-ALLUM, Mr. Keith

Need for co-ordinated policies for sex education in schools,

the Under 5s and for the disabled.

21st April 1987.

PRIME MINISTER

Late last year you agreed that Baroness Faithfull could bring a deputation of social workers to see you to express their concerns. The meeting has been postponed once because of your visit to Moscow but is now scheduled for tomorrow at 1100. We have allowed half an hour before this for Tony Newton to brief you on the issues they wish to discuss, and he will also be present for the meeting.

Given this briefing session you will probably want to do no more than glance at the papers tonight. Comprehensive DHSS briefing is attached, but you will especially want to look at the following.

Those attending are listed at Flag A, with pen portraits. There are 17 in total, covering most areas of social work with particular reference to child care.

The main issues they wish to raise are child abuse, family courts, Educational Welfare Service and homelessness. Details are at Flag D.

You may also like to look through the covering brief at the top of the folder.

In view of the numbers I have arranged for the meeting to take place in the large dining room. We will also serve coffee.

PAB

P.A. Bearpark

23 April 1987

MJ2AXY

LIST OF PAPERS

Flag A:	Pen Portraits of the deputation
Flag B:	Letter from the National Campaign for the Family dated 18 February 1987
Flag C:	Reply from Prime Minister's office dated 19 March 1987
Flag D:	Issues likely to be raised
Flag E:	Letter from Baroness Faithfull to Prime Minister (undated)
Flag F:	Letter from Prime Minister to Baroness Faithfull dated 22 September 1986
Flag G:	Letter from Baroness Faithfull to Prime Minister dated 15 December 1986.
Flag H:	Letter from Baroness Faithfull dated 16 April 1987.

LKB/2569b/2

BRIEFING FOR DEPUTATION TO PRIME MINISTER ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Briefing Note

Purpose

To let representatives from the statutory and voluntary sectors, led by Baroness Faithfull, talk about developments in the field and raise concerns about inter-departmental co-ordination. Each will give a brief presentation of two examples of difficulties they believe demonstrates that concern. A brief note on those attending is at Flag A, and on issues that might be raised are at Annex D to which is attached a list of issues supplied by the delegation.

Baroness Faithfull's solution

2. In her letter of 15 December (at Flag G) Baroness Faithfull suggests

   a. regular meetings (say three times a year) between relevant secretaries of state, preferably chaired by the Prime Minister;

   b. these meetings to be serviced by a small secretariat which would receive submissions from outside about family matters and bring these before the meetings.

3. In effect Baroness Faithfull would be establishing a major policy forum for the family which would generate a good deal of pressure if it operated on the basis she suggests.

Existing arrangements

4. A co-ordinated approach to family matters is certainly essential. That is achieved by the existing arrangements which include:

   * two inter-departmental long-established standing groups on juvenile delinquency and the under-fives

   * an inter-departmental group on child abuse, just established

   * an inter-departmental review of the family and domestic jursidiction, established 3 years ago

   * ad hoc groups eg. disclosures of criminal convictions of those with access to children

   * on going liaison between officials and between Ministers.

LKB/2569b/3

Background

Inter-departmental Co-ordination: Children

1. In January 1986 the Prime Minister met Geoffrey Dickens to discuss his proposal that there should be specific ministerial responsibility to co-ordinate matters in this field. Prior to that the Social Services Select Committee: Children in Care (28 March 1984) recommended that the DHSS evolve an internal mechanism to ensure better inter-departmental co-ordination on child care matters. The line taken was as in the handling brief.

2. Government responsibilities for services to children cover a wide range of activities and involve a number of departments ie DES, Home Office, Department of Employment, Department of Environment, LCD, DHSS as well as the Welsh Office and Scottish Office. In addition Treasury, Inland Revenue and DTI have a concern. The Secretary of State for Social Services is the lead Minister in the existing arrangements.

3. Issues affecting children's interests are an integral part of wider responsibilities for policies. For example, policy on income support for children is part of DHSS' overall responsibilities for family support, promotion of the health and welfare of children is within overall policies on the provision of health and social services. The law as it relates to children is often part of more general legislation, ie. matrimonial proceedings and immigration. The interests of the child in each of these areas need to be considered in the context of, and in relation to, other wider interests and cannot be satisfactorily considered in isolation.

Interdepartmental Co-ordination - Families

4. The issue of interdepartmental co-ordination on the family has also been raised several times before, most recently in a letter to the Prime Minister from the National Campaign for the Family (copies of correspondence at Flags B and C). This suggested that ultimate responsibility for family policy development should lie with the Prime Minister. The line taken is as at paragraph 1 above, that it would not be appropriate for the Prime Minister or another Minister to have an overall responsibility for the family.

5. The Government attaches great importance to the family as a social unit providing a special capacity for the mutual care and support of its members. This capacity is particularly important as a means of protecting the young and assisting their social development and for keeping the elderly active and in touch with changing times.

6. For these reasons the Government seeks to promote the self-reliance, economic viability and overall well-being of families, since this is a good way of furthering the interests of the individuals who compose them. However, it would be wrong to seek to promote the interests of the family as an institution in paticular situations where this conflicted with the best interests of its members as individuals.

7. It is not, therefore, seen as practicable to give an overall priority to the family in the development of public policies or programmes. Nor can a "family policy" replace the various social policies which have to be devised with more specific and better focussed objectives in mind. The range of matters affecting the family and their different impact on different types of

family do not, in the Government's view make the concept of family policy a general aid to clarity of thought or to the solution of problems as they arise in practice.

8. The Government does, however, believe that developments in the structure and functioning of the family should be studied and their implications assessed when possible; and that the effects of Government policies and legislation on the family should be carefully considered in so far as these can be reliably identified. The Government has supported financially since 1983 the Family Policy Studies Centre which concerns itself with the association between family trends and public policy, including the analysis of the impact of public decisions on families of different kinds. DHSS has just approved total funding of £108,000 for 1987/8 which follows a decision to take over the grant previously paid by the ESRC. The Centre would otherwise probably have closed, Baroness Faithfull wrote to Baroness Trumpington in support of the Centre and regards their publications as of great value.

Conclusion

9. The Deputation appears to underestimate the importance of routine consultation which takes place across Whitehall both at an official and Ministerial level before policy changes are implemented. In addition, it has to be recognised that the objectives of Government Departments are not identical or parallel and on occasions the views of one Government Department will prevail.

10. A short note on issues that may arise as examples of lack of co-ordination is attached at Flag D.

KIW/1517b/4

ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR CHILDREN

"PEN PORTRAITS" OF MEMBERS

1. OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN

The Baroness (Lucy) Faithfull, OBE, MA, D Litt

- Conservative Life Peer. Well known in the child care field. A varied career in the public sector, and has been a Director of Social Services, Regional Welfare Officer and Children's Officer. **Currently** she is chairman of the committee on "New Approahes to Juvenile Crime", a member of Barnardo's council and executive finance committee, and since December 1985 President of the National Children's Bureau.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Dr Ronald Davie, PhD, FBPs

- Director of the National Children's Bureau since 1982. Involved with the NCB for many years and was as Director of Research and Deputy Director prior to being Professor of Education Psychology at Cardiff.

Mr Raymond Clarke, OBE, JP

- Secretary to Child Care (Formerly the National Council of Voluntary child care organisations) an umbrella group of 60 organisations operating in the child care field who act as a national co-ordinating body and channel of communication with the DHSS. Formerly Secretary of the Children's Committee which disbanded in 1981, and was for a time Chairman of Playboard.

Mr Neville Watt, MA, LLB

- Clerk to the group. He is a barrister specialising in children's matters. He is also Secretary to the Committee on "New Approaches to Juvenile Crime" - part of the family courts campaign.

MC/0728b

2. **DELEGATES FROM SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND EDUCATION IN BOTH THE STATUTORY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR DEALING WITH FAMILIES AND CHILDREN AT RISK.**

CHAMBERS, Dr Tim L, FRCP, FRCP(E)

Honorary Secretary of the British Paediatric Association (BPA) since 1984 and a Consultant Paediatrician at the Children's and Neonatal Department at Southmead Hospital Bristol. BPA Hon Assistant Secretary 1981-84. He is committed to enhancing the image of paediatrics and is married to a doctor who works in the field of paediatric concology at Bristol Childrens Hospital.

CRANN, Mrs Chris

- **Chairman of the National Association of Nursery and Family Care** since its AGM in 1986. State Registered Nurse, and has a Certificate in Residential Care General Nursing. Currently social worker in charge of a children's home and training officer for residential and day care courses with Leicestershire County Council.

DAVIE, Dr Ronald, PhD, FBPs - SEE "PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS" ABOVE.

FITZGERALD, Mr John

- **Director of the "BRIDGE" Child Care Consultancy Service** - an organisation which provides a service to local authorities and voluntary organisations designed to assist in the management and placing of complex cases of children in care. Formerly a director of British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering's Resource Exchange and gained earlier professional experience at the Children's Society. He is considered to be of a high professional standing in the field of family placement whilst still maintaining involvement in direct practice with children.

GRAHAM, Prof. Phillip, MB (Camb), BCh, FRCP, FRC(Psch), DPM

Child murder — "whose responsibility".
— Health DHSS — under DES
MRC.
Effects of Drugs

Professor of Child Psychiatry and Dean at the London University's Institue of Child Health and a consultant Psychiatrist at Great Ormond Street. He has held various senior psychiatric positions and is respected within the field. He took over recently the chairmanship of the National Children's Bureau's Policy and Practice Review Group. He has considerable research experience and is a member of the DHSS Research Liaison Group (Child Care).

JONES, Mr David, BA (Oxford PPE), MA, CQSW

N.S.P.C.C. — Child Abuse. Attendances to Courts
Previous — Phil Copner
"Problems"

- General Secretary of the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) since 1985 and was a social worker and principal research and information officer with the NSPCC. He edited the book "Understanding Child Abuse" (1982) which has become a leading text on recognising and responding to child abuse. One of his special areas of interest in BASW is concern for training of social workers, particularly post graduate training. Socially, he is an exhibitioner at the Royal College of Music.

LANE, Mrs Kathleen Social Care Assn

People who care. cope
Applied Research.
Failure to thrive

President, Social Care Association. Social worker in residential and day care centres for children, the elderly and mentally handicapped. She is a teacher by training and has worked in residential social work establishments run for delinquent children and non-school attendance. Married to David Lane, the Director of Social Services at Wakefield.

Co-opted on as Nchd head

LOWE, Mrs Rosalynde, BA, RGN, RHV, Dip Soc Res

Chairman of the Health Visitors Association (recently elected). Trained as a nurse at Newcastle Polytechnic and is at present a practicing health visitor in Gateshead. She is a member of the DHSS Panel on Child Nutrition. She presented papers on the health visitor's role in accident prevention at the WHO International Symposium in 1983 and on urban poverty at the Congress of Nursing in Child Health in 1985.

PARKER, Mrs Anne, BA, DSA

Qualified Teacher
Careers - Prof. Qualifications.
Removed to Courts
Reviewed Revised

- Honorary Secretary of the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) since 1986. She is currently Director of Social Services in Berkshire - a post she has held since 1980. When elected ADSS Honorary Secretary, she identified key issues as being training, child abuse, the continuing shift towards care in the community, and staffing problems within social services departments. Member of the Health Eduation Council. She is married to Andrew Parker, a research geologist, with whom she shares an interest in sailing, skiing and driving.

RICHES, Mr Peter

Family Courts
Pressure for Reform

- Assistant Director of the National Children's Bureau with responsibility for all development work. He is also the **Co-ordinator of the Family Courts Campaign** and has held the Chairmanship of the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) in the past.

ROWE, Andrew MP, MA (Oxford)

Chairman of the All Party Social Social Services Committee, Westminster. Conservative MP for Mid Kent since 1983. A varied career, but has been a consultant to the Home Office Voluntary Services Unit (1974) and Director of Community Affairs at Conservative Central Office (1975-79). Leisure interests of photography, reading and theatre.

RUSSELL, Mrs Phillipa, MA

Co-ordinates Campaign
All major voluntary Organisations

1981 -
Previously
Not married
Not landed
Pressure for
Landed Gentry

Senior Officer of the Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children (VCHC) - An organisation set up in 1975 under the umbrella of the National Children Bureau. Mrs Russell is held in high esteem and is an expert on matters concerning handicaped children.

Promote good practice
Guidance
Independent Review

How are they with Ministers

STONE, Mrs Winifred

- Chairman of the National Council for For Voluntary Child Care Organisations (now "Child Care"). Retired director of the Church of England Children's Society where she developed policies in the field of adoption, fostering and family centres. She is working on a guide to good practice for child care in the community.

WOOD-ALLUM Mr Keith, BA, MEd, FRSA

Director of Education, Leicestershire. Current major interests: Curriculum Development, Schools/Industry Link.

Sec - education

Dean for Disabled

Under 5.

Own acc / responsibility

Family for pat dyer

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE FAMILY

(incorporating the National Family Trust)

c/o The Salvation Army (Legal Section)

101. Queen Victoria Street

London EC4P 4EP

☎ 01-489-0637

18 February 1987

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, PC, MP,
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

I write to inform you of this Campaign which will be launched in London on May 5th as the first arm of the activities of the National Family Trust, whose first Prospectus I enclose.

We believe that there is no more important policy objective than to create conditions which will support and strengthen family life in Britain. Everyone's future is home-made, yet the home circumstances of many of our citizens, not least our children, are often unsatisfactory for a complex range of reasons, some of which only government can transform.

Without sufficient strong, stable and enduring families we are likely to move slowly towards a collapse of the social ecology; and families are our chief means of individual and social survival as whole persons. The economic costs to the nation, including industry, of family difficulties already run into billions of pounds. More remedial work as the sole strategy is no solution.

We wish that our formation were not necessary, but we have been urged from many quarters to speak up on behalf of ordinary families, and in a normative manner. Our more popular literature will become available from our launch onwards, but we have spent several months compiling the Prospectus, which is not a trivial document.

We urge you and your advisers to study this Prospectus carefully, including the last section on 'family policies and government structures' in which we place the ultimate responsibility for family policy development directly upon the shoulders of the Prime Minister. In your role you are ultimately responsible for the defence of our nation on the international scene. In our view, and of the majority of families who are trying to care for their young, elderly and infirm (and trying hard to stay married), the defence of the basic units of our social fabric must be at least an equal priority.

Honorary Chairman: Professor Richard Whitfield. Home ☎0242-526666
Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Yolanda Williams. Home ☎ 01-946-9332

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, P.C.,M.P., 18 February 1987

Yet it often seems to some of us that it is easier for politicians to speak warmly about families and yet appear negligent of their interests in policy formulation. An effective pro-family concern in politics and in the Civil Service has to be created; and without delay. Family policies will, we hope, become a key election issue, and not only on the economic front. We hope that you personally would welcome being questioned, both in private and in public, on such matters. We hope also that your party Chairman and other senior colleagues will be keen to see some specific family policy proposals in the Conservative manifesto, and I will be writing separately to Mr. Tebbit.

Meanwhile, we hope that you will feel these matters to be sufficiently important for you to meet me and two or three of my colleagues. I look forward to the favour of your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Whitfield

Professor R. C. Whitfield
Honorary Chairman

enc.

C

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 March 1987

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 18 February about the launch of the National Campaign for the Family whose prospectus you enclosed.

Mrs. Thatcher has asked me to explain the pressures on her diary are such that she is unable to meet you at the moment. She has, however, asked me to explain that the Government agrees wholeheartedly with the Campaign that marriage and the family are two of the most important institutions on which society is based. Particularly at this time of rapid social change and accompanying stresses, marriage has never been more important in preserving a stable and responsible society. One of the ways that central government demonstrates its concern for upholding marriage is by providing financial support for the National Marriage Guidance Council, the Institute of Marital Studies, the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, the Family Welfare Association and the Jewish Marriage Council. The Government also assists, advises and encourages the setting up and running of various types of self-help groups and centres to help families under stress. The Government has, however, also to recognise the reality that for many marriage has not worked and that some families are not based on marriage because of the exercise of the free choice which is an inherent part of today's society.

Like the Campaign the Government is concerned to reinforce the position of marriage and the family in society and has recently taken positive action. The Education (No 2) Act 1986 provides for new-style school governing bodies with increased parental representation and accountability to annual meetings of the full parent body, to assume responsibility for determining the form and content of any sex education provided in their school. All those responsible for the provision of sex education must ensure that due regard is given to moral considerations and the value of family life. The Government has no doubt that parents will take these responsibilities very seriously and is confident that they will help reinforce the position of the family in society.

But there is a limit to what the Government in a free society can do and Government action in itself cannot change attitudes towards the family. The influence for change must come from within and be directed at society itself.

The Government also believes that it would be wrong to seek to promote the interests of the family as an institution in particular situations where this conflicted with the best interests of its members as individuals. The Government does not believe a "family policy" can replace the various social policies which have to be devised with more specific and better focussed objectives in mind. The range of matters affecting the family and their different impact in different types of family do not, in the Government's view, make the concept of family policy a general aid to clarity of thought or the solution of problems as they arise in practice. Although prima facie attractive it would not therefore be appropriate for the Prime Minister or another Minister to have an overall responsibility for the family.

Whilst the Prime Minister does not agree with everything in the prospectus she wishes the Campaign well in its aim to strengthen the position of marriage and the family. She is grateful to you for bringing the launch of the Campaign to her attention.

(P. A. BEARPARK)

Professor R. C. Whitfield.

ISSUES LIKELY TO BE RAISED FLAG D

Child abuse

Reports on child abuse have drawn attention to the need for involved agencies to collaborate in handling cases of child abuse. In response to renewed concern, a draft consultation document "Working Together for the Protection of Children" was issued last May which emphasises the importance of inter-agency working in dealing with child abuse. The document has been well received and it is hoped to issue firm guidance shortly. DES, Home Office and Territorial Departments were consulted; DES are presently consulting on the role of schools and the education service and Home Office will be issuing guidance in the near future.

With so much activity underway officials felt that instead of the existing ad hoc arrangements for inter-departmental co-ordination, a more formal forum would be helpful. An inter-departmental group was therefore set up and met for the first time on 24 March.

Family Courts

The main complaint here is that family courts do not exist. An inter-departmental review of the family and domestic jurisdiction (the "Family Courts" Review) was set up three years ago as a working party with representatives from the Lord Chancellor's Department, Home Office, DHSS and Treasury. The working party, published a consultation paper in May 1986, evaluating and costing the options for a Family Court. They have produced a report which will be submitted to Ministers shortly and it is hoped that a decision in principle as to whether to proceed with a Family Court will be taken soon after that.

KIW/1517b/5

Educational Welfare Service

The National Children's Bureau may raise this issue. A circular on "School Attendance and Educational Welfare Services" was published by DES in February 1986. The Secretary of State for Education consulted other Ministers about the need for such a circular in 1984 and a wide range of non-government bodies during 1985. These Ministers were also consulted on a revised draft before publication in 1986.

The circular explained that Education Welfare Services were not an extension of the personal social services, but intended to promote regular school attendance. Education Welfare Officers must maintain close contact with school staff so that their knowledge of a pupil's home background can be used to good effect whilst collaborating with the other agencies involved.

This was seen by the outside world as a rather narrow approach, and they thought there had been little input from other Departments (in particular from DHSS). But this is a reflection of the different interests of the Departments concerned rather than a lack of consultation with lead departments on this.

Homelessness

This is mentioned in Lady Faithfull's letter. DOE are in the lead on this - current measures to tackle the 'bed and breakfast' problem are a new Housing Corporation mixed public/private funded programme, action on empty property and a 'cash incentive' scheme for free subsidised accommodation.

KIW/1517b/6

Other Issues

Other subjects on which members of the delegation have expressed their intentions to speak are on the attached list. There are mechanisms for co-ordination on AIDS and the Under-Fives. On the 1981 Education Act DHSS and DES work closely together, guidance being issued jointly.

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO DELEGATES

CHAMBERS, Dr. T.L.

Need for integration and priorities within the health service.

CRANN, Mrs. Chris

1. Need for multi-disciplinary, multi-agency co-operation at a local level.
2. Training and conditions of service issues in relation to the above.

DAVIE, Dr. Ronald

1. Comparative lack of reference to social services implications in the consultative document on education welfare services prepared by the Department of Education and Science.
2. Department of Health and Social Security guidelines on child abuse make little reference to the role of schools and the education service in the prevention, detection, assessment and treatment of child abuse.

FITZGERALD, Mr. John

1. The need for partnership between the statutory and voluntary sector.
2. The role of the voluntary sector in relation to the development of services to children and families.

GRAHAM, Prof. Philip

1. Services for disturbed adolescents.

2. Children's disorders and the implications of research.

JONES, Mr. David

The lagal system for children and families.

LANE, Mrs. Kathleen

1. Lack of co-ordination between Education and Social Services Departments.

2. Need for full range of flexible services for children.

LOWE, Mrs. Rosalynde

1. Need for closer co-operation between health authorities and local government.

2. Challenges presented by HIV infection and Aids in the services caring for children.

PARKER, Mrs.Anne

1. Need for proper training for carers of children.

2. Lack of co-ordination between central and local government departments.

RICHES, Mr. Peter

Lack of co-ordination over legal system for children and families.

RUSSELL, Mrs.Philippa

1. Problems over the implementation of the 1981 Education Act due to lack of co-ordination by Government departments and agencies.

2. Urgent need for inter-departmental co-operation to cope with Aids.

WOOD-ALLUM, Mr. Keith

Need for co-ordinated policies for sex education in schools,

the Under 5s and for the disabled.

21st April 1987.

E

BARONESS FAITHFULL OBE

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher MP.,
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1.

My dear Prime Minister

I hope that by now your hand is back to normal. Lord Vaux, who sits next to me in the House of Lords had the same operation as you and now enjoys his golf!

I have been wanting to write to you on three subjects:-

1. Would you consider meeting a group of social workers from both the statutory and voluntary sector ? Since you so generously arranged for me to enter the House of Lords, I have worked hard in the field of social work.

It would be greatly appreciated if you were able to talk with social workers as you did in Liverpool many years ago. Your Ministers do, I know see the personnel of the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations but it would do much for the Conservative Party if you made personal contact and discuss with them an agreed agenda.

2.
In view of your personal commitment to the responsibility and the rights of the family may I ask whether on the future agenda of change on the part of Her Majesty's Government, serious consideration could be given to the introduction of Family Courts, a Conciliation Service and a reorganisation of the Juvenile Justice system in England and Wales ?

As Chairman of the well attended All Party Parliamentary Group for Children, a member of the Council of Barnardo's and President of the National Children's Bureau, I can say that these reforms are sought not only by these organisations but by the Association of Directors of Social Services, the British Association of Social Workers and by the Local Authority Associations.

3.
I have been privileged throughout my working life to serve in both a voluntary organisation, in central and local government, and always in the field of social work. I have supported the principles of the Bills brought before the House of Lords by Her Majesty's Government and I have never voted against or moved a wrecking amendment. I have however sought to revise some clauses which in the light of my experience have seemed to me unwise both for our Party and for the country.

I make these points to you as I do wish you to know that I am a firm believer in the Conservative Party principles and policy. I do believe that, for the country, we must win the next Election. It is for this reason that I make the suggestion to you of a meeting with Social Workers.

If you had the time to see me, I should be so grateful to discuss these and other matters.

Yours ever

Lucy.

Baroness Faithfull

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 September 1986

BB7/H.
TH
BB28/III
TH.
TH
BB12/
TH

Dear Lucy.

Thank you for your recent letter about social workers and matters affecting the family. Your important contributions over the years to the personal social services and the voluntary sector are well known and I do appreciate what you have done.

I am always willing to meet groups representative of such professions as social work when there are important aspects of their work to discuss.

Could you please let me have a note of the issues you wish to discuss and further details of the social workers from the statutory and voluntary sector you would like me to meet. I will then ask my secretary to get in touch with you about possible dates.

You probably know that the establishment of a Family Court is currently under consideration by officials. The consultation paper which was recently published by the Lord Chancellor's Department draws together a number of issues which would have to be resolved if a Family Court were to be established. The paper also canvasses a range of options for reform. When the response to that paper is known later this year and the costs of the various options have been ascertained Ministers will be in a position to take decisions. Specifically on the question of the

reorganisation of the juvenile justice system, you will be aware that the transfer of this jurisdiction from juvenile courts to a Family Court is one of the issues raised in the Lord Chancellor's Department's paper.

As far as matrimonial conciliation is concerned, you will know that last year the Lord Chancellor commissioned a team from Newcastle University to monitor and assess the costs and effectiveness of different types of conciliation scheme. That research has now been in progress for a year and has a further two years to run. The researchers are looking at a wide range of conciliation schemes and their conclusions on costs and effectiveness will form the basis for consideration of the establishment of a national conciliation service in England and Wales. Such research does take a considerable time to complete, but it is clearly essential that we should have the best possible information available before we commit further resources in this area.

Many thanks for your good wishes - my hand is now fully recovered.

Yours sincerely

Margaret

Baroness Faithfull, O.B.E.

BARONESS FAITHFULL, OBE

15th December 1986

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

We are indeed grateful to you for agreeing to meet representatives from the statutory and voluntary sectors whose role it is to work with families and children.

As you are aware many people throughout the country support the Government's policy of encouraging and supporting the family. There are a number of suggestions as to how this should be done; I cite three examples; the NSPCC advocate a Minister of the Family; the Family Forum are calling for an Ombudsman on family affairs; there are those who call for a Ministry for Children.

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Children has had many speakers, on a variety of issues, from the fields of education, health and social services. These speakers have been drawn from both the statutory and voluntary sectors and have included both academic researchers and practitioners.A predominant theme of their talks has been the apparent lack of co-ordination between relevant Government Departments which can lead to, at best, a duplication of policy and, at worst, conflicting and contradictory policies and this, of course, represents a chronic waste of money. The speakers have spoken on issues affecting the quality of service which is available to children and their families.

We put forward the suggestion that a useful mechanism to this apparent confusion would be regular meetings, perhaps three a year between the Secretaries of State on whose Departments rest the responsibility of the needs of children and their families. I would respectfully suggest that such ministerial meetings could be given significance if chaired by the Prime Minister.

To be effective such meetings might be serviced by a small secretariat which would, on the one hand, be open to accept submissions from those in the country concerned about the needs of the family which cut across the boundaries of several Ministers, and, on the other hand, bring before the meetings the submissions made.

Not only would this mechanism channel needs to the Prime Minister but alert the Secretaries of State before problems assume serious proportions, as is so often the case.

.../

I attach a list of those invited to meet you. It is with diffidence that I ask if it would be possible for each of them to speak for two minutes only. As there are thirteen I am conscious that this will take twenty-six minutes of your time without general discussion.

Those coming are anxious, from their different standpoints, to indicate that no one service can be effective; a co-ordinated approach is called for at both central and local government level and in the voluntary sector.

Yours ever,

Lucy.

Baroness Faithfull

All Party Parliamentary Group For

children

Chairman: Baroness Faithfull OBE

Clerk: Neville Watt MA., LL B
c/o 8 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7QE

Telephone: 01-278 9441

14 December 1986

Officers of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children:

Chairman: Baroness Faithfull

Professional Advisors: Dr Ronald Davie, PhD, FBPs,
Director of National Children's Bureau

Mr Raymond Clarke, OBE, JP,
Secretary to the National Council of Voluntary
Child Care Organisations (60 Organisations)

Mr Neville Watt, MA, LL B.

Delegates from Social Services, Health and Education in both the statutory and voluntary sectors dealing with families and children at risk.

CANN, Mrs Chris — Chairman: Nursery and Family Care Association (Under 5's)
State Registered Nurse. Certificate in Residential Care. General Nursing, Social Worker in charge of Children's Home, now.
Training Officer for residential and day care course.

DAVIE, Dr Ronald, PhD, FBPSS. — Director of National Children's Bureau.

FORFAR, Prof John, MC, BSc, MD, FRCP(Engl), FRSE, DEH, FACN.
President of the British Paediatric Association.

GOODWIN, Miss Shirley, BSc, RGN, NDN, Cert RHV
General Secretary, Health Visitors Association.

GRAHAM, Prof Philip, MB (Camb), BCh, FRCP, FRC (Psych), DPM.
Psychiatrist, Gt. Ormond Street Hospital, with special interest in abused children.

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Registered Office 8 Wakley Street London EC1V 7QE
Director: Ronald Davie Ph D FBPsS

All Party Parliamentary Group For

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c/o 8 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7QE

Telephone: 01-278 9441

JONES, Mr David. General Secretary, British Association of Social Workers.
BA (Oxford PPE)
MA, Nottingham University
CQSW,
Has worked as social and later, principal research worker for NSPCC Special Unit Registered Working Party.
Exhibitioner, Royal College of Music.

LANE, Mrs Kathleen. President, Social Care Association.
(Social worker in residential and day centres for children, the elderly and mentally handicapped.)
Homerton Teacher Training College, Cambridge.
Has been teacher and worked in residential social work establishments run for delinquent children and non-school attendance.

PARKER, Mrs Anne. BA, DSA, Secretary of the Association of Directors and Director of Social Services, Berkshire County Council Social Services. Worked in administration section of the Health Service, transferring to Social Services in 1966.

ROWE, Mr Andrew, MP. Chairman of the All Party Social Services Panel, Westminster.

RUSSELL, Mrs Phillipa, MA. Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children.

du SAUTOY, Mr Tony, LL B. Co-ordinator Family Courts Campaign and Under Secretary for Social Services, Association of County Councils.

STONE, Mrs Winifred. Chairm of the National Council for Voluntary Child Care Organisations.
Retired Director of Church of England Children's Society where she developed policies in the field of adoption, fostering, and Family Centres.

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London EC1V 7QE

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WOOD-ALLAN Mr Keith, BA, MEd, FRSA.
Director of Education, Leicestershire.
Current major interests: Curriculum Development,
Schools Industry Link.

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Registered Office 8 Wakley Street London EC1V 7QE
Director: Ronald Davie Ph D FBPsS

BARONESS FAITHFULL, OBE

16th April 1987

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
LONDON
S. W. 1.

Dear Prime Minister,

RE: DELEGATION ON CHILDREN'S CONCERNS

I am most grateful to you for seeing this Group on Friday, 24th April 1987 at 11.00 a.m. at 10 Downing Street.

Because of the change of date, there are some changes in the list of those attending and I enclose the up-to-date list.

I shall also arrange for you to be forwarded a brief outline of the comments which delegates seek to make and I hasten to add that every member has been enjoined not to speak for more than two minutes!

In my letter of 15th December 1986, a copy of which I enclose, I put forward the suggestion of a simple co-ordinating mechanism, which would permit joint planning in respect of children and families, whereby their needs might be considered in the formulation of Government social policies throughout all departments. We suggest that a co-ordinated policy would be more effective and indeed cost effective.

May I give you just one example where a co-ordinated policy could have saved money and proved effective?

As Director of Social Services, I made representations to the government of the day concerning the ever increasing practice of accommodating the homeless, mainly families, in 'bed and breakfast' accommodation. This practice is harmful to family life, is non-productive and costly: the London Borough of Tower Hamlets spends £25 million on bed and breakfast accommodation and £21 million on the Social Services budget. This is, as one East Ender said to me, 'money down the drain which could be put to better use.'

continued..... / 2

BARONESS FAITHFULL, OBE

If representations had been made to the Cabinet, perhaps the Department of Health and Social Security and the Department of Environment could have prevented the practice growing to its present appalling and wasteful proportions. I should say that John Patten's appreciation of the problem is welcomed. Had it been dealt with ten years ago it would not have grown to its present proportions. I could cite other examples such as truancy and child crime.

Those coming to see you know that you support the structure of the family and also a policy of law and order, good child health and education.

Further evidence of this could be shown if a co-ordinating mechanism existed which received representations from statutory and voluntary services, which looked at legislation affecting children and families and which kept the Cabinet informed of its findings.

Again, thank you for receiving this deputation.

Yours ever,

Lucy Faithfull

p.p. Neville Watt

ebcs:

FLE
DA

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 April 1987

I enclose a further letter from Baroness Faithfull giving details of the revised delegation who will be seeing the Prime Minister on Friday. Could you please ensure that this is taken account of in the briefing that your Department is preparing.

(P.A. BEARPARK)

Miss Jane McKessack,
Department of Health and Social Security.

NOT GR CF?
R22/4

All Party Parliamentary Group For

children

Chairman: Baroness Faithfull OBE

Clerk: Neville Watt MA., LL B
c/o 8 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7QE

Telephone: 01-278 9441

NWSW/GRN

21st April 1987

CF.
This has been faxed to Tony Newton's office. Briefs should arrive this am. Pse chase if necessary
Andy

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
LONDON
S. W. 1.

Dear Prime Minister,

RE: DELEGATION ON CHILDREN'S CONCERNS

Further to my letter of 16th April, I am enclosing a note of the points that will be raised by the delegates of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children when they meet you on 24th April.

I am still awaiting comments from a few of the delegates but I hope that the enclosed list will give you some information regarding the points that will be raised.

Yours faithfully,

Neville Watt

N. W. S. Watt, M.A., LL.B.
Clerk to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children

encs:

National Children's Bureau A company limited by guarantee Registered in London No 952717
Registered Office 8 Wakley Street London EC1V 7QE
Director: Ronald Davie Ph D FBPsS

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO DELEGATES

CHAMBERS, Dr. T.L.

Need for integration and priorities within the health service.

CRANN, Mrs. Chris

1. Need for multi-disciplinary, multi-agency co-operation at a local level.

2. Training and conditions of service issues in relation to the above.

DAVIE, Dr. Ronald

1. Comparative lack of reference to social services implications in the consultative document on education welfare services prepared by the Department of Education and Science.

2. Department of Health and Social Security guidelines on child abuse make little reference to the role of schools and the education service in the prevention, detection, assessment and treatment of child abuse.

FITZGERALD, Mr. John

1. The need for partnership between the statutory and voluntary sector.

2. The role of the voluntary sector in relation to the development of services to children and families.

GRAHAM, Prof. Philip

1. Services for disturbed adolescents.

2. Children's disorders and the implications of research.

JONES, Mr. David

The legal system for children and families.

LANE, Mrs. Kathleen

1. Lack of co-ordination between Education and Social Services Departments.

2. Need for full range of flexible services for children.

LOWE, Mrs. Rosalynde

1. Need for closer co-operation between health authorities and local government.

2. Challenges presented by HIV infection and Aids in the services caring for children.

PARKER, Mrs.Anne

1. Need for proper training for carers of children.

2. Lack of co-ordination between central and local government departments.

RICHES, Mr. Peter

Lack of co-ordination over legal system for children and families.

RUSSELL, Mrs.Philippa

1. Problems over the implementation of the 1981 Education Act due to lack of co-ordination by Government departments and agencies.

2. Urgent need for inter-departmental co-operation to cope with Aids.

WOOD-ALLUM, Mr. Keith

Need for co-ordinated policies for sex education in schools,

the Under 5s and for the disabled.

21st April 1987.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 April 1987

Dear Lady Faithfull

Thank you for your letter of 16 April to the Prime Minister about the group you are bringing to see her on Friday. I will ensure that she sees this before the meeting.

Yours ever

Andrew Bearpark

(P.A. BEARPARK)

The Baroness Faithfull, O.B.E.

BARONESS FAITHFULL, OBE

CF. PPS/PSs

MS 21/4

16th April 1987

R17

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
LONDON
S. W. 1.

Dear Prime Minister,

RE: DELEGATION ON CHILDREN'S CONCERNS

I am most grateful to you for seeing this Group on Friday, 24th April 1987 at 11.00 a.m. at 10 Downing Street.

Because of the change of date, there are some changes in the list of those attending and I enclose the up-to-date list.

I shall also arrange for you to be forwarded a brief outline of the comments which delegates seek to make and I hasten to add that every member has been enjoined not to speak for more than two minutes!

In my letter of 15th December 1986, a copy of which I enclose, I put forward the suggestion of a simple co-ordinating mechanism, which would permit joint planning in respect of children and families, whereby their needs might be considered in the formulation of Government social policies throughout all departments. We suggest that a co-ordinated policy would be more effective and indeed cost effective.

May I give you just one example where a co-ordinated policy could have saved money and proved effective?

As Director of Social Services, I made representations to the government of the day concerning the ever increasing practice of accommodating the homeless, mainly families, in 'bed and breakfast' accommodation. This practice is harmful to family life, is non-productive and costly: the London Borough of Tower Hamlets spends £25 million on bed and breakfast accommodation and £21 million on the Social Services budget. This is, as one East Ender said to me, 'money down the drain which could be put to better use.'

continued..... / 2

BARONESS FAITHFULL, OBE

If representations had been made to the Cabinet, perhaps the Department of Health and Social Security and the Department of Environment could have prevented the practice growing to its present appalling and wasteful proportions. I should say that John Patten's appreciation of the problem is welcomed. Had it been dealt with ten years ago it would not have grown to its present proportions. I could cite other examples such as truancy and child crime.

Those coming to see you know that you support the structure of the family and also a policy of law and order, good child health and education.

Further evidence of this could be shown if a co-ordinating mechanism existed which received representations from statutory and voluntary services, which looked at legislation affecting children and families and which kept the Cabinet informed of its findings.

Again, thank you for receiving this deputation.

Yours ever,

Lucy Faithfull

p.p. Neville Watt

ebcs:

All Party Parliamentary Group For

children

Chairman: Baroness Faithfull OBE

Clerk: Neville Watt MA., LL B
c/o 8 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7QE

Telephone: 01-278 9441

16th April 1987

OFFICERS OF THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR CHILDREN:

CHAIRMAN: Baroness Faithfull

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS: Dr. Ronald Davie, PhD, FBPsS.
Director of National Children's Bureau.

Mr. Raymond Clarke, OBE, JP, MA.
Secretary to the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations (60 Organisations).

Mr. Neville Watt, MA., LL.B. - Barrister
Clerk to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children.

D E L E G A T E S — from Social Services, Health, Education in both the statutory and voluntary sectors dealing with families and children at risk:

CHAMBERS, Dr. T. L. — FRCP, FRCP (E).
Consultant Paediatrician, Hon. Secretary British Paediatric Association.

CRANN, Mrs. Chris — Chairman: National Association of Nursery and Family Care. State Registered Nurse.
Certificate in Residential Care of Children and Young Persons. Formerly engaged in general nursing and as social worker in charge of a children's home. Is now a training officer for residential and day care in Leicestershire Social Services Department.

National Children's Bureau A company limited by guarantee Registered in London No 952717
Registered Office 8 Wakley Street London EC1V 7QE
Director: Ronald Davie Ph D FBPsS

All Party Parliamentary Group For

children

Chairman: Baroness Faithfull OBE

Clerk: Neville Watt MA., LL B
c/o 8 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7QE

16th April 1987

Telephone: 01-278 9441

DAVIE, Dr. Ronald — PhD, FBPsS.
Director of National Children's Bureau.

FITZGERALD, Mr. John — Director of "BRIDGE", Child Care Consultancy Service.
Former Director of British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering.

GRAHAM, Prof. Philip — MA, FRCP, FRCPsych.
Dean of the Institute of Child Health, University of London and
Psychiatrist, Gt. Ormond Street Hospital, with special interest in abused children.

JONES, Mr. David — General Secretary, British Association of Social Workers.
BA (Oxford PPE)
MA, Nottingham University
CQSW.
Has worked as social and, later, principal research worker for NSPCC Special Unit Registered Working Party.

LANE, Mrs. Kathleen — President, Social Care Association.
(Social worker in residential and day centres for children, the elderly and mentally handicapped.)
Homerton Teacher Training College, Cambridge.
Has been teacher and worked in residential social work establishments run for delinquent children and non-school attendance.

LOWE, Mrs. Rosalynde — BA, RGN, RHV, Dip. Soc. Res.
Chairman of Health Visitors' Association.

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Telephone: 01-278 9441

PARKER, Mrs. Anne — BA, DSA.
Secretary of the Association of Directors of Social Services and Director of Social Services, Berkshire County Council.
Worked in administration section of the Health Service, transferring to Social Services in 1966.

RICHES, Mr. Peter — BSc, B.Phil, CQSW.
Co-ordinator Family Courts Campaign and Assistant Director, National Children's Bureau.

RUSSELL, Mrs. Philippa — MA.
Principal Officer, Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children.

WOOD-ALLUM, Mr. Keith — BA, MEd, FRSA.
Director of Education, Leicestershire.
Current major interests: Curriculum Development, Schools Industry Link.

****

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London EC1V 7QE

Telephone: 01-278 9441

NWSW/GRN

16th April 1987

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
LONDON
S. W. 1.

Dear Prime Minister,

I am just writing to advise you that Baroness Faithfull apologises for not being able to sign her letter of today's date to you personally but she looks forward to seeing you on 24th April and is very grateful to you for agreeing to see the delegation.

Yours faithfully,

Neville Watt

N. W. S. Watt, M.A., LL.B.
Clerk to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children

National Children's Bureau A company limited by guarantee Registered in London No 952717
Registered Office 8 Wakley Street London EC1V 7QE
Director: Ronald Davie Ph D FBPsS

BARONESS FAITHFULL, OBE

15th December 1986

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

We are indeed grateful to you for agreeing to meet representatives from the statutory and voluntary sectors whose role it is to work with families and children.

As you are aware many people throughout the country support the Government's policy of encouraging and supporting the family. There are a number of suggestions as to how this should be done; I cite three examples; the NSPCC advocate a Minister of the Family; the Family Forum are calling for an Ombudsman on family affairs; there are those who call for a Ministry for Children.

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Children has had many speakers, on a variety of issues, from the fields of education, health and social services. These speakers have been drawn from both the statutory and voluntary sectors and have included both academic researchers and practitioners.A predominant theme of their talks has been the apparent lack of co-ordination between relevant Government Departments which can lead to, at best, a duplication of policy and, at worst, conflicting and contradictory policies and this, of course, represents a chronic waste of money. The speakers have spoken on issues affecting the quality of service which is available to children and their families.

We put forward the suggestion that a useful mechanism to this apparent confusion would be regular meetings, perhaps three a year between the Secretaries of State on whose Departments rest the responsibility of the needs of children and their families. I would respectfully suggest that such ministerial meetings could be given significance if chaired by the Prime Minister.

To be effective such meetings might be serviced by a small secretariat which would, on the one hand, be open to accept submissions from those in the country concerned about the needs of the family which cut across the boundaries of several Ministers, and, on the other hand, bring before the meetings the submissions made.

Not only would this mechanism channel needs to the Prime Minister but alert the Secretaries of State before problems assume serious proportions, as is so often the case.

.../

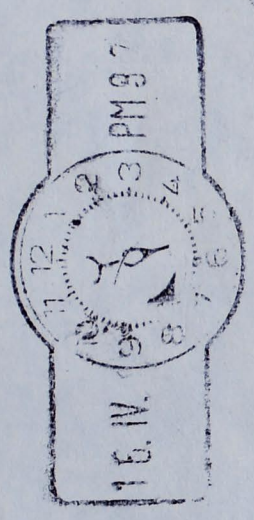
I attach a list of those invited to meet you. It is with diffidence that I ask if it would be possible for each of them to speak for two minutes only. As there are thirteen I am conscious that this will take twenty-six minutes of your time without general discussion.

Those coming are anxious, from their different standpoints, to indicate that no one service can be effective; a co-ordinated approach is called for at both central and local government level and in the voluntary sector.

Yours ever,

Baroness Faithfull

PM: Mtgs w/ Lady Fairfax
Aug 86



The Baroness Faithfull

CF

HOUSE OF LORDS

9th February 1987

P.A. Bearpark, Esq,
Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1A 2AA.

PSM 10/2

Arthur

Dear Mr. Bearpark,

Thank you for your letter of 6th February. The meeting with the Prime Minister on Monday, 23rd March at 1530 hours at 10 Downing Street is of course convenient for me. I will immediately contact the other members of the delegation and write again to you.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Faithfull

P.S I have broken my right wrist!

PM: ntg with B. Fairhall Aug 86.

d/f file

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

6 February 1987

I am very sorry that it has taken so long to send you a substantive reply to your letter of 15 December. I am afraid that Mrs. Thatcher's diary is extremely full at the moment, but she has suggested that she meet you and your delegation at 1530 hours on Monday 23 March at No. 10. Could you please let me know if this is convenient.

P. A. Bearpark

The Baroness Faithfull, O.B.E.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

P A Bearpark Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1

20 January 1987

Dear Andy

You wrote on 16 January about Lady Faithfull's request for the Prime Minister to receive a deputation from the All Party Group for Children and various organisations from the statutory and voluntary sectors who work with families and children. The range of interests covered is wider than on the original request, extending to health and education as well as social work, and the focus has moved towards inter-Ministerial cooperation. But the basic purpose of the meeting seems to be the same. The list of those to attend includes a fair selection of those who are influential in the statutory and voluntary organisations working with children. We have no particular comments on the individuals concerned.

My Secretary of State will, of course, be ready to meet before the deputation and to be present at the meeting.

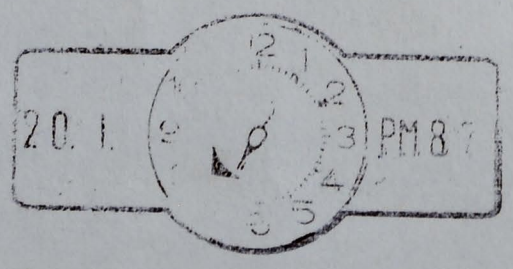
Yours sincerely

Jane McKessack

JANE McKESSACK
Private Secretary

YdS/D.24

PRIME MINISTER: Meeting with
Baroness Faithfull



Kill

DH.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

6 January 1987

You may recall that last year the Prime Minister agreed a request from Baroness Faithfull to meet representatives from the social work field. I now enclose a letter from Baroness Faithfull giving details of the people she would like to bring along. Before we try to arrange a time for this I should be grateful for your advice on the letter, and in particular if you have any comments on the individuals involved.

I know that the Prime Minister would want to meet with your Secretary of State before the meeting, and would if possible like him to be there.

I am copying this letter to Denise Cook (Lord Chancellor's Office).

(P. A. BEARPARK)

Miss Jane McKessack,
Department of Health and Social Security.

dg

Ackd 30/12

Political Office 2

PPS/Sec

GR -

A/T

BARONESS FAITHFULL, OBE

15th December 1986

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

We are indeed grateful to you for agreeing to meet representatives from the statutory and voluntary sectors whose role it is to work with families and children.

As you are aware many people throughout the country support the Government's policy of encouraging and supporting the family. There are a number of suggestions as to how this should be done; I cite three examples; the NSPCC advocate a Minister of the Family; the Family Forum are calling for an Ombudsman on family affairs; there are those who call for a Ministry for Children.

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We put forward the suggestion that a useful mechanism to this apparent confusion would be regular meetings, perhaps three a year between the Secretaries of State on whose Departments rest the responsibility of the needs of children and their families. I would respectfully suggest that such ministerial meetings could be given significance if chaired by the Prime Minister.

To be effective such meetings might be serviced by a small secretariat which would, on the one hand, be open to accept submissions from those in the country concerned about the needs of the family which cut across the boundaries of several Ministers, and, on the other hand, bring before the meetings the submissions made.

Not only would this mechanism channel needs to the Prime Minister but alert the Secretaries of State before problems assume serious proportions, as is so often the case.

.../

I attach a list of those invited to meet you. It is with diffidence that I ask if it would be possible for each of them to speak for two minutes only. As there are thirteen I am conscious that this will take twenty-six minutes of your time without general discussion.

Those coming are anxious, from their different standpoints, to indicate that no one service can be effective; a co-ordinated approach is called for at both central and local government level and in the voluntary sector.

Yours ever,

Lucy.

Baroness Faithfull

All Party Parliamentary Group For

children

Chairman: Baroness Faithfull OBE

Clerk: Neville Watt MA., LL B
c/o 8 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7QE

Telephone: 01-278 9441

14 December 1986

Officers of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children:

Chairman: Baroness Faithfull

Professional Advisors: Dr Ronald Davie, PhD, FBPs,
Director of National Children's Bureau

Mr Raymond Clarke, OBE, JP,
Secretary to the National Council of Voluntary
Child Care Organisations (60 Organisations)

Mr Neville Watt, MA, LL B.

Delegates from Social Services, Health and Education in both the statutory and voluntary sectors dealing with families and children at risk.

CANN, Mrs Chris — Chairman: Nursery and Family Care Association (Under 5's)
State Registered Nurse. Certificate in Residential Care.
General Nursing, Social Worker in charge of Children's Home, now.
Training Officer for residential and day care course.

DAVIE, Dr Ronald, PhD, FBPSS. — Director of National Children's Bureau.

FORFAR, Prof John, MC,BSc, MD, FRCP(Engl), FRSE, DEH, FACN.
President of the British Paediatric Association.

GOODWIN, Miss Shirley, BSc, RGN, NDN, Cert RHV
General Secretary, Health Visitors Association.

GRAHAM, Prof Philip, MB (Camb), BCh, FRCP, FRC (Psych), DPM.
Psychiatrist, Gt. Ormond Street Hospital, with special interest in abused children.

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Director: Ronald Davie Ph D FBPsS

All Party Parliamentary Group For

children

Chairman: Baroness Faithfull OBE

Clerk: Neville Watt MA., LL B
c/o 8 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7QE

Telephone: 01-278 9441

JONES, Mr David. General Secretary, British Association of Social Workers.
BA (Oxford PPE)
MA, Nottingham University
CQSW,
Has worked as social and later, principal research worker for NSPCC Special Unit Registered Working Party.
Exhibitioner, Royal College of Music.

LANE, Mrs Kathleen. President, Social Care Association.
(Social worker in residential and day centres for children, the elderly and mentally handicapped.)
Homerton Teacher Training College, Cambridge.
Has been teacher and worked in residential social work establishments run for delinquent children and non-school attendance.

PARKER, Mrs Anne. BA, DSA, Secretary of the Association of Directors and Director of Social Services, Berkshire County Council Social Services. Worked in administration section of the Health Service, transferring to Social Services in 1966.

ROWE, Mr Andrew, MP. Chairman of the All Party Social Services Panel, Westminster.

RUSSELL, Mrs Phillipa, MA. Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children.

du SAUTOY, Mr Tony, LL B. Co-ordinator Family Courts Campaign and Under Secretary for Social Services, Association of County Councils.

STONE, Mrs Winifred. Chairm of the National Council for Voluntary Child Care Organisations.
Retired Director of Church of England Children's Society where she developed policies in the field of adoption, fostering, and Family Centres.

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All Party Parliamentary Group For

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c/o 8 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7QE

Telephone: 01-278 9441

WOOD-ALLAN Mr Keith, BA, MEd, FRSA.
Director of Education, Leicestershire.
Current major interests: Curriculum Development,
Schools Industry Link.

National Children's Bureau A company limited by guarantee Registered in London No 952717
Registered Office 8 Wakley Street London EC1V 7QE
Director: Ronald Davie Ph D FBPsS

PM's Mtg with Baroness Faithfull:

PRIME MINISTER

Aug '86.

FILE 7A

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 October 1986

Thank you for your letter of 13 October to Mark Addison. If at all possible it would be very helpful to keep the numbers down to slightly less than 14 but the Prime Minister will fully understand if that many people are needed to cover the topics you wish to discuss.

(P.A. BEARPARK)

The Baroness Faithfull, O.B.E.

CF

PRIME MINISTER

You have agreed that Baroness Faithfull may bring a group of social workers to see you at some convenient time. She has now written asking to bring about 14 people, but not specifying the subjects to be discussed.

Content for me to suggest

- first that she give details of the subjects to be discussed. Yes
- keep numbers down to six if possible Not possible
- see them in the House rather than here. She will prefer it here

P. A. BEARPARK

17 October 1986

HOUSE OF LORDS

October 13. 1966.

Dear Mr. Addison,

You wrote to me on the 29 August; your letter was followed by one from the Prime Minister on 22 September 1966 He generously said that she would be willing to meet a group of Social workers.

Could you let me know how many she would be prepared to see: I had thought about 14 from both the statutory and voluntary sector.

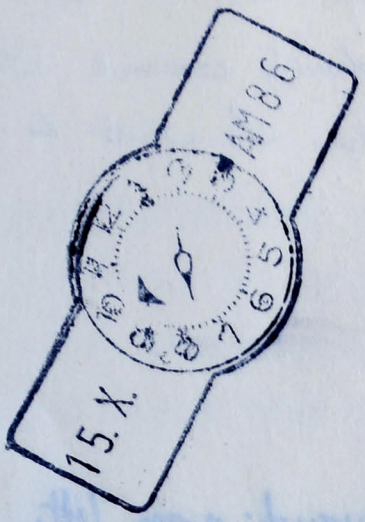
I would be glad to know the number.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Faithfull

BARONESS FAITHFULL

PRIME MINISTER: Mtg. Baroness Faithfull: Aug. 1986



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

22 September 1986

I enclose a copy of the reply which the Prime Minister sent to Baroness Faithfull's recent letter - copy also enclosed.

You will see from this that the Prime Minister does intend to meet Baroness Faithfull. We now await a response to our letter, but you should know that the Prime Minister has said that when this arrives she wishes to meet with your Secretary of State, before she sees Baroness Faithfull.

I am copying this letter to Richard Stoate (Lord Chancellor's Office).

P. A. BEARPARK

Giles Denham, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security

File

SLH

cc: DHSS
LCD

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 September 1986

Dear Lucy.

Thank you for your recent letter about social workers and matters affecting the family. Your important contributions over the years to the personal social services and the voluntary sector are well known and I do appreciate what you have done.

I am always willing to meet groups representative of such professions as social work when there are important aspects of their work to discuss.

Could you please let me have a note of the issues you wish to discuss and further details of the social workers from the statutory and voluntary sector you would like me to meet. I will then ask my secretary to get in touch with you about possible dates.

You probably know that the establishment of a Family Court is currently under consideration by officials. The consultation paper which was recently published by the Lord Chancellor's Department draws together a number of issues which would have to be resolved if a Family Court were to be established. The paper also canvasses a range of options for reform. When the response to that paper is known later this year and the costs of the various options have been ascertained Ministers will be in a position to take decisions. Specifically on the question of the

DSS

reorganisation of the juvenile justice system, you will be aware that the transfer of this jurisdiction from juvenile courts to a Family Court is one of the issues raised in the Lord Chancellor's Department's paper.

As far as matrimonial conciliation is concerned, you will know that last year the Lord Chancellor commissioned a team from Newcastle University to monitor and assess the costs and effectiveness of different types of conciliation scheme. That research has now been in progress for a year and has a further two years to run. The researchers are looking at a wide range of conciliation schemes and their conclusions on costs and effectiveness will form the basis for consideration of the establishment of a national conciliation service in England and Wales. Such research does take a considerable time to complete, but it is clearly essential that we should have the best possible information available before we commit further resources in this area.

Many thanks for your good wishes - my hand is now fully recovered.

Yours sincerely

Baroness Faithfull, O.B.E.

Papers back to APB pse

PRIME MINISTER

I understand that you do wish to meet Lady Faithfull, and have drafted accordingly. You may however prefer her to see Mr. Fowler first in which case I will amend the draft.

No - I must see Mr. Fowler first - and perhaps he will be with me when the delegation arrives pse

APB

P. A. BEARPARK

19 September 1986

→ HS 1879.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

PO/8503/72

18th September 1986.

Ms Janice Richards
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Dear Janice,

Thank you for the letter of 29 August from Mark Addison I enclose a draft reply.

Yours Sincerely

E Scarlett.

EDWARD SCARLETT
Private Office

ENC

slhacb

CONTRIBUTION TO DRAFT REPLY TO LADY FAITHFULL

Thank you for your recent letter about social workers and matters affecting the family. I am of course aware of your important contributions over the years to the personal social services and the voluntary sector, and appreciate what you have done.

I am always willing to meet groups representative of such professions as social work when there are important aspects of their work to discuss.

Either

[If a meeting is a possibility, continue as below]

If you will let me have a note of the issues you wish to discuss and further details of the social workers from the statutory and voluntary sector you would like me to meet, I will ask my secretary to get in touch with you about possible dates.

Or

[If a meeting is not thought appropriate, then continue:-]

However in this instance I wonder whether it would not be more helpful for you to approach Norman Fowler. He would be able to consider the issues you wish to raise in the context of health and personal social services and in the light of his recent searching social security reviews.

Mr Scarlett

I am content for you to send this contribution to No 10. Please point out that the LCD will also be contributing to the reply. G. Dale 12/9

1. Mrs Demmery
2. Mr Denham
   Private Office

12/9/86

PO 8503/72 LETTER FROM LADY FAITHFULL TO THE PRIME MINISTER

1. I attach a draft contribution to the reply to this letter. The Lord Chancellor's Department has been sent a copy of the letter and will reply direct to the Prime Minister's office on Family Courts, Conciliation services and, after consultation with the Home Office the juvenile justice system. The Lord Chancellor wishes to approve their contribution after his return from overseas on Monday but we understand he is unlikely to recommend a meeting about the matters within his responsibility.

2. Lady Faithfull, who is now 75, had a social work training, specialising in child care and family casework. She was an inspector in the Home Office Children's Department from 1948-1958 and left that to become Children's Officer for Oxford City from 1958 to 1970. Following the creation of social services departments in 1970, she became Director of Social Services for Oxford and retired from that post in 1974. She was made a life peer in 1975 and since her retirement has maintained an interest in organisations concerned with children through membership of committees of for example, Dr Barnado's and the Adoption Resource Exchange. She is regarded in the Lords as the expert on social services matters and the national spokesman for professional social work bodies like ADSS and BASW. Her expertise is however more in child care than in the wider range of activities now encompassed by social services departments and their management.

3. Lady Faithfull met Lady Trumpington on 28 January 1986 and Mr Whitney on 20 February 1986 to discuss the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work (CCETSW) and social work training. She expressed dissatisfaction with the senior staff of CCETSW and support for CCETSW's proposal that social work qualifying training should be extended from two to three years. (A new Chairman and a new Director for CCETSW take up office this autumn). Lady Faithfull also expressed disagreement with the recent circular from DES concerning the Education Welfare Service.

4. A meeting with a group of social workers could give some boost to members of this profession which has been taking a lot of knocks recently. We feel however that if the PM favours such a meeting she should ask Lady Faithfull to say whom she wants to include in the group and what topics are to be discussed.

5. The decision on whether to meet Lady Faithfull herself is largely a political one. In our view the main reason for a meeting would be to recognize the long service of a Tory member of the Lords rather than to make an important contribution to the future of social work.

The draft contribution therefore covers a decision "for" as well as "against" to meet the PM's own wishes as well as match what the LCD may have to suggest.

C Byrne

pp M A B HARLOW
CS1C/D
B1612 AFH
Ext 6048
12 September 1986

ml

GR

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

HOUSE OF LORDS,
LONDON SW1A 0PW

L12/78/01/(42)3

15th September 1986

Dear Mark,

The Private Office of the Department of Health and Social Security have asked us to send directly to you a draft reply of the matters raised in Baroness Faithfull's letter to the Prime Minister which are the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Baroness Faithfull raises three such matters - Family Courts, the reorganisation of the system of Juvenile Justice and Conciliation Services. The draft explains that the Lord Chancellor is still awaiting responses to the consultation paper on Family Courts, thus it would be inappropriate to comment until these responses can be analysed. Since the consultation paper seeks opinions as to whether Juvenile matters should lie wholly or partly within the jurisdiction of a Family Court any proposals as to reorganisation will also have to await the analysis of responses. The draft also explains that a Conciliation Project Unit at Newcastle University is undertaking research into conciliation but is not expected to report before 1988, thus comment would again be inappropriate.

I enclose the draft reply for your use.

Yours sincerely.

Denise Cook

Denise Cook

Mark Addison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

DRAFT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO BARONESS FAITHFULL (FAMILY COURTS AND CONCILIATION)

probably knows
~~You will be aware~~ that the establishment of a Family Court is currently under consideration by officials. The consultation paper which was recently published by the Lord Chancellor's Department draws together a number of issues which would have to be resolved if a Family Court were to be established. The paper also canvasses a range of options for reform. When the response to that paper is known later this year and the costs of the various options have been ascertained Ministers will be in a position to take decisions. Specifically on the question of the reorganisation of the juvenile justice system, you will be aware that the transfer of this jurisdiction from juvenile courts to a Family Court is one of the issues raised in the Lord Chancellor's Department's paper.

B.

As far as matrimonial conciliation is concerned, you will know that last year the Lord Chancellor commissioned a team from Newcastle University to monitor and assess the costs and effectiveness of different types of conciliation scheme. That research has now been in progress for a year and has a further two years to run. The researchers are looking at a wide range of conciliation schemes and their conclusions on costs and effectiveness will form the basis for consideration of the establishment of a national conciliation service in England and Wales. I regret that it is in the nature of such research ~~that~~ does it takes a considerable time to complete, but it is clearly essential that we should have the best possible information available before we commit further resources in this area.

Many thanks for your good wishes - my hand is now fully recovered.

BACKGROUND NOTE

Family Courts

1. Family matters are dealt with in Magistrates' Courts, County Courts and the High Court, whose jurisdictions frequently overlap. In recent years, proposals for a Family Court have been made by various bodies but hitherto they have foundered for the following main reasons:

(i) proponents have not been able to agree among themselves as to the composition and jurisdiction of a Family Court;

(ii) the resource implications - without exception proposals for a Family Court would require additional expenditure;

(iii) the likelihood that a Family Court would deprive magistrates of their domestic business.

2. The establishment of a Family Court is now under consideration by officials in the Departments concerned. They have been given the task of advising Ministers on the main options for reform and on their resource implications. On 13 May 1986, a consultation paper was issued to which responses are sought by 31 October. The paper did not commit the Government to the establishment of a Family Court.

3. Advice on the main options for a Family Court and their costs will be available to Ministers by the end of 1986 and it is intended to enable Ministers to announce a decision in principle as soon as possible thereafter.

Conciliation in matrimonial disputes

4. In recent years there has been considerable interest in the use of conciliation in matrimonial disputes and a number of conciliation schemes have been established. It has been suggested that the Government should fund conciliation schemes and for this reason the Lord Chancellor has commissioned research into the costs and effectiveness of different types of scheme. The findings of that research will be known in 1988.

BM66

1/16/9

To note.

The Lord President talks to the PM and agrees to see Lady Faithfull – though there is no hurry at all. We shall need to get a brief from him for the meeting.

Await advice from Dept.

MGT 1/9

Lady FAITHFULL
12/9.

file

DSS

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

Ack/ 29 August 1986

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Lady Faithfull.

I should be grateful if you would let me have advice, and a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach this office by Friday 12 September.

I am copying this letter to Isobel Ogilvie (Department of the Environment) and Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office).

Mark Addison

Giles Denham, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security.

VC

BARONESS FAITHFULL OBE

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher MP.,
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1.

My dear Prime Minister

I hope that by now your hand is back to normal. Lord Vaux, who sits next to me in the House of Lords had the same operation as you and now enjoys his golf!

I have been wanting to write to you on three subjects:-

1. Would you consider meeting a group of social workers from both the statutory and voluntary sector ? Since you so generously arranged for me to enter the House of Lords, I have worked hard in the field of social work.

It would be greatly appreciated if you were able to talk with social workers as you did in Liverpool many years ago. Your Ministers do, I know see the personnel of the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations but it would do much for the Conservative Party if you made personal contact and discuss with them an agreed agenda.

2.
In view of your personal commitment to the responsibility and the rights of the family may I ask whether on the future agenda of change on the part of Her Majesty's Government, serious consideration could be given to the introduction of Family Courts, a Conciliation Service and a reorganisation of the Juvenile Justice system in England and Wales ?

As Chairman of the well attended All Party Parliamentary Group for Children, a member of the Council of Barnardo's and President of the National Children's Bureau, I can say that these reforms are sought not only by these organisations but by the Association of Directors of Social Services, the British Association of Social Workers and by the Local Authority Associations.

3.
I have been privileged throughout my working life to serve in both a voluntary organisation, in central and local government, and always in the field of social work. I have supported the principles of the Bills brought before the House of Lords by Her Majesty's Government and I have never voted against or moved a wrecking amendment. I have however sought to revise some clauses which in the light of my experience have seemed to me unwise both for our Party and for the country.

I make these points to you as I do wish you to know that I am a firm believer in the Conservative Party principles and policy. I do believe that, for the country, we must win the next Election. It is for this reason that I make the suggestion to you of a meeting with Social Workers.

If you had the time to see me, I should be so grateful to discuss these and other matters.

Yours ever

Lucy.

Baroness Faithfull