

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry – Child Migrant Case Study.

### Report relating to records held at Stirling Council Archives and Records Centre 1900 – 1970

#### 1. Policies and procedures

- a) What policies and/or procedures did the organisation and its establishment(s) have in place in relation to child migration?

There are no specific statements of policies or procedures relating to the issue of child migration held at the Council Archives or Records Centre for any of the local authorities that were responsible for the care of children where the records of those organisations are held at the Council Archives or Records Centre. A list of the records searched in response to this Section 21 Notice is given at appendix 3 to this report to give the Inquiry a guide to what organisations were included in the search that was made through the records in our care.

These include: -

- The records of parish councils for the Stirling Council area.
- The records of Stirling Burgh Council.
- The records of Stirling County Council.
- The records of Perthshire County Western District Council.
- The records of the Snowdon Industrial School for Girls.
- Admission registers for schools in the Stirling Council area.
- The Children Act 1948 Registers

Occasional reference was found in the minutes of local authorities to schemes that were operated by external agencies to facilitate the emigration of adults and children but these do not constitute statements of policies and procedures and are usually only noted in the minutes. Examples of three of these minutes from Stirling and Strathblane Parish Councils in 1925 and Stirling County Council in 1947 have been copied and are included among the documents submitted in response to the Section 21 Notice.

Stirling Council responded to a separate Section 21 Notice from the Inquiry in relation to Whinwell Home which included details of children migrated out from this home. This response was sent to the Inquiry on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

- b) Was there a particular policy and/or procedural aim/intention?

There is no evidence held at the Archives or Records Centre to indicate any policy and/or procedural aim or intention with regard to child migration on the part of any authority the records of which are held here.

- c) Where were such policies and/or procedures recorded?

As has been outlined above, there are no records in the collections held at the Council Archives or Records Centre that contain policies and procedures with regard to child migration.

- d) What did the policies and/or procedures set out in terms of the following: -

- i) Identification and checking the suitability of the places where children were sent
- ii) Selection of children to migrate including age, gender and background
- iii) Provision of information to the child and/or his/her parents before migration
- iv) Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once the child had been migrated
- v) Obtaining consent of child
- vi) Obtaining consent of parents of child
- vii) Obtaining of consent of others e.g. Secretary of State

- viii) Responding to requests for information from former child migrants
- ix) Other issues

There are no records held at the Council Archives or Records Centre that enable an assessment to be made as to what criteria were used to select children for migration, what information was given to the child or children and their parents or what procedure was followed with regard to consent from either the child or children or their parents. There is nothing in the records that indicates any contact was maintained with migrants once they had left Scotland

- e) Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?  
See answers a) to d) above.
  - f) When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?  
See above.
  - g) Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?  
See above.
  - h) If so, what was the reason for review?  
See above.
  - i) What substantive changes, if any, were made to the policies and/or procedures over time?  
It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.
  - j) Why were changes made?  
See above.
  - k) Were changes documented?  
See above.
  - l) Was there an audit trail?  
See above.
2. A report addressing the following in relation to Organisation's practice in respect of the migration of children whose care originated in Scotland for the period 1 January 1900 to 17 December 2014.
- a) Did the organisation and its establishments(s) adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in terms of child migrants relating to the following: -
    - i) Identification and checking the suitability of the places where children were sent.  
It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.
    - ii) Selection of children to migrate including age, gender, background.  
See above.
    - iii) Provision of information to the child and/or his/her parents before migration.  
See above.
    - iv) Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once the child had been migrated.  
See above.

v) Obtaining consent of child

See above.

vi) Obtaining consent of parents of child.

See above.

vii) Obtaining of consent of others e.g. Secretary of State

There is one minute that refers to the issue of gaining consent from the Secretary of State. This relates to Case 32 referred to in the Stirling Burgh Council Children's Committee minute of 26<sup>th</sup> December 1961.

viii) Responding to requests for information from former child migrants.

It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.

ix) Other issues

It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.

b) How was adherence demonstrated

It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.

c) How can such adherence be demonstrated to the Inquiry?

See answer to b) above.

d) Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?

It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.

e) Have such records been retained?

It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.

f) If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?

It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.

g) How many children were sent as child migrants from the organisation's establishments, and where were they sent?

Please see the list of children provided at appendix 1 to this report.

h) What was their age and gender?

Please see the list of children provided at appendix 1 to this report.

i) Over what time period were children migrated from the Organisation's establishments?

There are no references given to child migrants in the records after 1969.

j) Who funded the child migration?

It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.

k) Who received the funding?

It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.

l) In general terms. How much was this funding?

It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.

m) How did the Organisation/establishment respond to requests for information from former child migrants?

It is not possible to answer this question owing to lack of information in the records held.

3. All relevant documents held by Stirling Council Archives and Records Centre relating to the migration abroad of children whose care originated in Scotland appearing in the records of the organisations listed above have been scanned and will be supplied to the Inquiry Team along with this report.
4. There are no documents held by Stirling Council Archives or Records Centre relating to child migration dating from the period 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 to date.
5. A spreadsheet giving the details of all documents supplied in response to paragraph 3 above is given at Appendix 2 to this report.
6. We are not aware of any records relating to the organisations listed above being held elsewhere.
7. All relevant records are supplied as digital images.
8. A list of all the children whose care originated in the Stirling Council area and who were migrated abroad during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 1900 to 21<sup>st</sup> December 1970 is given at Appendix 1 to this report.

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