

**Independent Review of Historical Abuse of Children in Care of the  
Lord and Lady Polwarth Children's Home, Edinburgh**

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## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Executive Summary .....  | 4  |
| Chapter 1 – Introduction .....   | 9  |
| 1 Background.....  | 9  |
| 2 Remit .....  | 9  |
| 3 Methodology .....  | 11 |
| 3.1.1 Documentary analysis .....   | 11 |
| Chapter 2 – Findings.....  | 14 |
| 1 National Policies and Procedures in the 1970s and 1980s.....                                 | 14 |
| 2 Church of Scotland Policies and Procedures in the 1970s and 1980s.....                       | 22 |
| 2.1 Training and Staff Development .....   | 23 |
| 2.2 Recruitment and Selection .....  | 24 |
| 1. 3 Children’s Homes Regulations.....   | 26 |
| 3 Lord and Lady Polwarth House, Edinburgh .....  | 27 |
| i) <i>The Role of Superintendent and Matron/Houseparents-in-Charge</i> .....                   | 28 |
| ii) <i>The Local Committee</i> .....   | 29 |
| iii) <i>Children’s Homes Supervisor and Social Worker</i> .....                                | 29 |
| 4 Ian Samson .....   | 30 |
| iv) <i>Employment of [REDACTED] Ian Samson</i> .....   | 30 |
| 5 The Abuse of Children by Ian Samson and the Response to the Abuse.....                       | 32 |
| 6 Monitoring and Review of Children in Lord and Lady Polwarth Home between 1975 and 1981<br>36 |    |
| Chapter 3 –Current CrossReach Policy and Guidance.....   | 38 |
| 3.1 Developments in National Legislation and Policy .....                                      | 38 |
| 3.2 CrossReach Policy and Guidance.....  | 42 |
| 3.2.1 Recruitment and Selection.....   | 42 |
| 3.2.2 Staff Support and Training .....   | 42 |
| 3.2.3 Child Protection and Adult Protection .....  | 43 |
| 4 The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service.....   | 43 |
| 4 Historical Abuse.....  | 44 |
| 5 Whistleblowing.....  | 45 |
| 6 Equal Opportunities Policy .....   | 45 |
| 7 The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Listener Service .....                                   | 46 |
| 8 Complaints.....  | 46 |
| Practice Issues .....  | 47 |
| 9 Personal Care/Support Plan .....   | 47 |

|    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 10 | Managing Stressed and Distressed Behaviour .....                             | 47 |
| 11 | The Use of Control and Restraint .....                                       | 48 |
|    | Listening to Children and Vulnerable Adults.....                             | 48 |
| 12 | Advocacy .....   | 48 |
| 13 | Service Users Records Policy .....   | 49 |
| 14 | Confidentiality and Information Sharing.....                                 | 49 |
|    | Chapter 4 – Recommendations.....   | 50 |
|    | <b>Training and Development on Protection, Risk and Historic Abuse</b> ..... | 52 |
|    | <b>Apology and Support</b> .....   | 53 |
|    | Chapter 5 – Conclusion .....   | 54 |

# Executive Summary

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 On 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013, Ian Samson, a former employee of the Church of Scotland, was convicted of 22 serious sexual offences against children. Twelve instances involved eight children placed in the Lord and Lady Polwarth Children's Home, Edinburgh when Samson was Superintendent/Houseparent-in-Charge between 1975 and 1981. The names of the survivors of abuse who were resident in the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home for Children were not made public.
- 1.2 The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service wrote to the survivors through Police Scotland (Appendix 1), expressing 'deep regret' for the harm experienced at the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home. The letter gave information on the Church of Scotland's Safeguarding Service and Safeguarding Listener Service and an offer of support. It also made a commitment to carry out an independent review and that if the survivors wished to receive copies of the main findings of the review, this would be arranged.
- 1.3 The remit of this review was to examine the policies and safeguarding practices which were in operation in the 1970s and 1980s, and to consider current policies in order to make recommendations about any issues or areas of concern which may have implications for current policy and practice
- 1.4 Andrew Kendrick, Professor of Residential Child Care at the University of Strathclyde was appointed to undertake the review, with the assistance of Vivienne Dickson (Director of Children and Family Services, CrossReach) and Richard Crosse (Head of Safeguarding, Church of Scotland).
- 1.5 The Review involved a range of different methods of collecting information: analysis of a range of available documents; a review of national legislation and policy; interviews with staff and former staff of the Church of Scotland.

## 2 Findings

- 2.1 While the main legislation in place in the period under review was the Social Work (Scotland) Act, the regulations governing children's homes continued to be the Administration of Children's Homes (Scotland) Regulations 1959. These regulations required that the administering authority to make sure the home was run in ways that secured the well-being of the children in its care. The regulations covered: regular visits by an 'authorised visitor'; discipline and the recording of punishments, including corporal punishment; sleeping arrangements and access to toilets and washing facilities; fire precautions; medical and dental care; and record-keeping both in terms of the home in general and a personal record for each child.
- 2.2 There were a limited number of formal, written policies available from the 1970s and early 1980s. Policies and procedures were, for the most part, addressed in the minutes of meetings of the different committees and working groups of the Church of Scotland Committee of Social Services/Board of Social Responsibility.
- 2.3 Although there does not appear to have been a formal training section in the 1970s, there is clear evidence of training input from a range of individuals, the

use of films and discussion in training, as well residential events and conferences.

- 2.4 At the time of the appointment of Ian Samson, recruitment procedures were relatively informal. While references would be required, these would focus on faith and character. Requirements in relation to qualifications and experience were limited. More formal recruitment and selection procedures were developed through the 1970s and approved in 1978.
- 2.5 While there is limited evidence of formal policies in relation to the operation of children's homes, a part of a document was identified which located "The Administration of Children's Homes (Scotland) Regulations 1959" in the context of Committee on Social Service/Board of Social Responsibility Children's Homes.
- 2.6 The Lord and Lady Polwarth Home was opened on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1945, initially as a home for babies and younger children up until the age of five. It changed its function in the 1960s and provided care for children from infancy to school leaving age who were in care because of 'broken homes'. The Lord and Lady Polwarth Home closed in on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1982.
- 2.7 The role of the Houseparents-in-charge was to be responsible for the general supervision of the material, social and spiritual welfare of the children. The Matron will be responsible for domestic arrangements, supervision of staff, and food and meals, while the Superintendent is responsible for the accounts.
- 2.8 A Local Committee of lay people was responsible for ensuring that the children are well cared for and for the conditions of staff. The Local Committee made monthly visits which focused on the physical conditions of the home and domestic arrangements. A Children's Homes Supervisor had overall professional responsibility for the children's homes, and a social worker had responsibility to liaise with local authority social work staff in regard to assessment, planning and review of children.
- 2.9 Although Personnel Records for Ian Samson's employment were not available, some relevant information was found in other records. Ian Samson gained his first employment with the Church of Scotland as Superintendent of the Muirhouse Hostel for Young Men and took up this post on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1973. The Samsons moved to their posts as the Superintendent and Matron of Polwarth Home on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1975. The Samsons resigned from their posts in March 1981 and their employment for the Church of Scotland ended on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 1981.
- 2.10 As noted above, Ian Samson, a former employee of the Church of Scotland, was convicted of offences involving sexual abuse and rape, including offences against eight children in the Lord and Lady Polwarth Children's Home. A former member of staff at the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home reported that Ian Samson ruled the home 'with a rod of iron' in a bullying and aggressive manner, both with the children in the home and with the staff, particularly the younger, inexperienced staff members.
- 2.11 This member of staff also reported that Samson had an inappropriate relationship with Child A, and that they 'frequently sat together stretched horizontal' in the Samson's adjoining flat, although she stated she never saw any more than 'cuddling her with her arms wrapped around her'. She reported this to the Board of Social Responsibility Children's Homes Supervisor when she left for a new post. This

reporting of Samson's behaviour may have resulted in a warning which is referenced in correspondence from 1980.

- 2.12 The Court statement of Lady Scott identifies four issues which she considered suggested a failure in the protection of the child victims:
1. the fact that Samson remained in a position of trust despite an incident involving obscene photographs of a child within the home;
  2. the fact that you remained in the home notwithstanding your being convicted of 10 charges for indecent exposure during your time there;
  3. the fact that when you left the home, you took the first victim with you, without any apparent concern being raised;
  4. the fact that the first complainer reported her abuse in 1991 and was not believed.
- 2.13 Point 1) With regard to the first issue, there is detailed information about this in the files. Two 'nude and suggestive photographs' of Child A were found by a member of domestic staff in June 1980 who suggested that Ian Samson was implicated. Child A was interviewed by both members of staff of the Board of Social Responsibility and the Local Authority responsible. Child A stated that another child had taken the photos but would not say who. Subsequently, the incident was reported to the police by staff of the Board of Social Responsibility and the police carried out an investigation, interviewing Child A and the Samsons but concluded that there was no evidence to proceed with any charges. Correspondence from the Church of Scotland Director of Social Work indicates that Samson was issued with a written warning concerning his relationship with Child A. The Director of Social Work, Church of Scotland also requested that Child A and her siblings should be removed from the home immediately but this was resisted by the responsible Local Authority. The Samsons left the employment of the Church of Scotland within a matter of months of this incident.
- 2.14 Point 2) Lady Scott's statement refers to Ian Samson's conviction of 10 charges for indecent exposure during his time at Lord and Lady Polwarth Home but we have not been able to identify any information about these charges from the Church of Scotland records.
- 2.15 Point 3) With regard to the fact that Child A was allowed to go and live with Ian Samson when she left the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home, we have seen that the Director of Social Work, Church of Scotland, did attempt to separate the children from Ian Samson following the incident with the photographs. However, Child A remained in the care of the Board of Social Responsibility until April 1981 under Section 15 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act. When she reached the age of 16, she could discharge herself from care. Child A left Polwarth Home to the Samsons. As Child A was not in care under a supervision requirement, she was no longer considered a child in relation to child protection legislation.
- 2.16 Point 4) A message note dated 9 February 1999 referring to a telephone call from a member of the CID (Family Protection Unit) investigating allegations of offences at Lord and Lady Polwarth Home (1972 – 75) and seeking access to records of a number of children. There is no information, however, on the response to this request and it would be of concern if no action was taken.
- 2.17 Examination of case files identified a range of assessment and monitoring meetings which took place on regular basis. These involved: assessment meetings, child care case reviews, case conferences, planning meetings, and individual meetings with

children. Medical examinations were carried out on annual basis, for the most part. While files were not well-ordered, there is evidence of regular assessment and review, involving staff from the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home, Board of Social Responsibility Social Work and Children's Homes Supervisor, and other professional staff such as local authority social worker staff, Medical Officer, teachers and psychologists, and social uncle and aunt.

### **3 Current CrossReach Policy and Guidance**

- 3.1 There have been a range of national developments in relation to legislation, policy and practice which have focused on the protection and safeguarding of people who use services, and a particular focus on children in residential care. These developments have focused on: the recruitment, selection, support and training of staff; the inspection, monitoring and standards of services; and, listening to children and children's participation. These developments make it a very different national context from the period under review.
- 3.2 CrossReach have put in place a range of policy and guidance in line with national developments and which aims to safeguard and protect service users and carers, and support best practice. CrossReach policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated during 2014 and 2015. Those most relevant to this review include:
- Recruitment and Selection
  - Staff Support and Training
  - Child Protection and Adult Protection
  - The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service
  - Historical Abuse
  - Whistleblowing
  - Equal Opportunities Policy
  - The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Listener Service
  - Complaints and compliments
  - Personal Care/Support Plan
  - Managing Stressed and Distressed Behaviour
  - The Use of Control and Restraint
  - Advocacy
  - Service Users Records Policy
  - Confidentiality and Information Sharing

### **4 Recommendations**

#### **4.1 Recommendation 1**

An audit of the use of current safeguarding and protection policies and procedures should take place. This should aim to find out about staff members' knowledge of policies and procedures, and how these are used in practice.

#### 4.2 **Recommendation 2.**

CrossReach should continue to review and up-date its recruitment and selection policies and procedures to ensure that they are in line with the most up-to-date thinking and best practice in relation to safer recruitment and selection.

#### 4.3 **Recommendation 3**

CrossReach should continue to review and update its policy and practice in relation to listening to people who use services, ensuring that mechanisms for user feedback, complaints and compliments are clear and transparent, and that advocacy is effective and supportive. The whistleblowing policy should also continue to be reviewed. Training should continue to be updated and implemented for all staff, volunteers and students, based on these reviews.

#### 4.4 **Recommendation 4**

CrossReach should continue to review and update its training and professional development in relation to protection, risk and historic abuse to ensure that they are in line with the most up-to-date thinking and best practice. This should also involve the need for complete and effective collaboration and multi-agency working..

#### 4.5 **Recommendation 5**

CrossReach should continue to review and update its record-keeping, records management and archiving policy and practice, taking into account the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011, and best practice based on this, for example, the model records management plan. Information and support should be put in place to assist adults who stayed in Church of Scotland residential care as children, to access their records and information, again in line with best practice.

#### 4.6 **Recommendation 6**

CrossReach should take the opportunity of this Review to emphasise their deep regret for the harm experienced by the victims, and consider further support and recompense to the survivors of abuse at the Lord and Lady Polwarth Children's Home.



## Chapter 1 – Introduction

### 1 Background

On 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013, Ian Samson, a former employee of the Church of Scotland, was convicted of 22 serious sexual offences against children. Twelve instances involved eight children placed in the Lord and Lady Polwarth Children's Home, Edinburgh when Samson was Superintendent/Houseparent-in-Charge between 1975 and 1981.

The Church of Scotland and CrossReach were not involved in the trial of Ian Samson. The names of the survivors of abuse who were resident in the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home for Children were not made public. Following the trial, a letter from the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service was sent to the survivors through Police Scotland (Appendix 1). The letter expressed 'deep regret' for the harm experienced at the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home, and acknowledged 'the wrong that was done by Mr Samson and are sorry for the way in which this has affected you.' The letter gave information on the Church of Scotland's Safeguarding Service and Safeguarding Listener Service and an offer of support.

The letter also made a commitment that an independent review would be carried and this review was commissioned by the *Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service*. The letter also stated that if the survivors wished to receive copies of the main findings of the review, this would be arranged.

### 2 Remit

The remit of this review was to examine the policies and safeguarding practices which were in operation in the 1970s and 1980s, and to consider current policies in order to make recommendations about any issues or areas of concern which may have implications for current policy and practice.

For clarity, it is important to note changes in the management of Church of Scotland children's services over the period of the review. At the start of the review period, children's services were managed by the Church of Scotland Committee of Social Service. In 1976, there was an organisational change and the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility had responsibility for children's service. In 2005, the current name of CrossReach was adopted.

In detail, the remit of the review was set out as:

- Identify the safeguarding context, in the then Committee of Social Service/Board of Social Responsibility (now CrossReach), for service delivery in the mid-1970s and early 1980s (i.e. policy, procedure and practice relating to keeping children safe and the recruitment of staff, etc.);
- Review recruitment procedures and ascertain how Samson came to be recruited, and subsequently retained, in his post;
- Review what was known, or suspected, about the harmful activities of Samson;
- Identify who knew what, and when, at various points in time during his employment;
- Review the actions that were considered, or taken, by the then Committee of Social Service/ Board of Social Responsibility at each of the above junctures;
- Identify which other agencies (local authorities and the police) were involved, what information did they have, or share, and what actions did they take;
- Identify the circumstances of his leaving the post and subsequently what information was shared with other parties, and other actions, if any, were taken;
- Additionally, what learning can be identified for improving safeguarding in today's CrossReach children's and adult services? i.e. in relation to safe recruitment and people management, and responding to potential concerns, or suspicions, about the reported harmful conduct of paid staff (or volunteers).

Andrew Kendrick, Professor of Residential Child Care at the University of Strathclyde was appointed to undertake the review, with the assistance of Vivienne Dickson (Director of Children and Family Services, CrossReach) and Richard Crosse (Head of Safeguarding, Church of Scotland).

### 3 Methodology

The Review collected information in a number of different ways, focused on sources linked to the Church of Scotland. It did not involve other agencies due to changes in the organisations concerned (the agencies involved no longer exist because of reorganisations: Lothian Region Social Work Department, Strathclyde Region Social Work Department and Lothian and Borders Police). However, relevant documents from these organisations were identified in case files and considered in the Review.

#### 3.1.1 Documentary analysis

The Review Panel considered a range of documents which were available from the period under consideration. An exercise was undertaken to collate all available documentation and to extract documentation regarding Lord and Lady Polwarth Home and the employment of Ian Samson. While this identified a number of significant and relevant records, it also identified that a number of documents no longer existed and had either been lost or destroyed over the years. In particular, there were no Personnel or Human Resources (HR) documents found in relation Ian Samson.

In addition to this collation of information directly mentioning the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home or Samson, the independent review examined a range of relevant files, minute books and reports in order to provide a broader context of policy and practice in the Church of Scotland children's homes at the time.

Documentation examined included:

- 1) File – Children’s Homes M – W: Lord and Lady Polwarth Home for Children Under Five. (This file includes extracts of committee minutes which have been cut and pasted, and annotated in handwriting. These cover the period 21<sup>st</sup> April 1943 – 12<sup>th</sup> December 1973. Extracts are arranged under: Negotiations; Arrangements for Opening; Alterations and Repairs; Banking; Equipment; Gifts; Local Committee; Miscellaneous; Policy; Staffing).
- 2) Local Committee Minute Book, 1962 – 1971. (Handwritten minutes of the monthly meetings of the Local Committee for the Lord and Lady Polwarth Children’s Home).
- 3) Children’s Homes Admission List, 1964 – 1982 (home closed). (Handwritten list of children placed in the Lord and Lady Polwarth Children’s Home. Information listed was: name; sex; date of birth; admitted; demitted; Local Authority)
- 4) Social Responsibility Department Committee Minutes, 1976 – 1982. (Annual bound volumes of committee minutes for the following: Committee of Social Responsibility, Executive Committee, Sectional Committee on Age, Sectional Committee on Community, Sectional Committee on Family; Sub-Committees and Working Groups – After-Care, Alcohol, Alcohol and Crime, Counselling, Finance, Fire Precautions, Legislation, Moral Education, Obscenity, Personal Relationships, Publicity, Staff Training, Staffing, Women’s Council Executive) NB. Some committee names changed over the period and Working Groups were for shorter periods of time.
- 5) Children’s files. Although CrossReach did not have the names of the children involved in the trial of Ian Samson, a number of children’s files from that time were available. (Cardboard folders containing a range of reports, reviews, letters, handwritten notes and miscellaneous items). These files were searched for information relevant to the abuse perpetrated by Ian Samson, and for information regarding the assessment and review of the children over this period. In the case of one child, relevant information was found which

directly linked to the trial of Ian Samson [later in this report, this child is referred to as Child A].

- 6) Current CrossReach and Policies and Guidance. (Policies and guidance documents reviewed: Recruitment and Selection, Staff Support and Training, Child Protection and Adult Protection, Historical Abuse, Complaint and Compliment, Intimate Personal Care, Personal Care/Support Plan, Advocacy, Service Users Records Policy, Confidentiality and Information Sharing, Whistleblowing, the Use of Control and Restraint, Managing Stressed and Distressed Behaviours, Equal Opportunities Policy).
  
- 7) Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service Information and Policies

#### *Review of National Legislation and Policy*

- 1) National legislation, Regulations and Guidance relevant to the period under review.

#### *Interviews with Staff and Former Staff of the Church of Scotland*

- 1) Interviews were carried out with four former members of staff of the Church of Scotland employed during the late 1970s and/or early 1980s. This included a former care assistant at Polwarth Home, a former Board of Social Responsibility social worker with responsibility for children's homes, including Polwarth, and a former Depute Director of the Board of Social Responsibility. In addition, a former child care manager was interviewed for general background of policy and practice at the time.
  
- 2) It was noted above that the survivors of abuse at Lord and Lady Polwarth Children's Home were written to by the Head of the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service and informed of the independent review. Careful consideration was given to whether the survivors should be approached to take part in the review. It was decided that as none of the survivors had responded to the initial letter and the focus of the review was the context of safeguarding in the Committee of Social Service/Board of Social

Responsibility, we would not approach them. However, as was noted in the letter the findings of the review will be made available to the survivors.

## Chapter 2 – Findings

### 1 National Policies and Procedures in the 1970s and 1980s

This chapter of the review sets out the safeguarding context for the Committee of Social Services/Board of Social Responsibility) in the form of legislation, regulations and policy in the mid-1970s and early 1980s.

Legislation and procedures in relation to children and young people in residential child care developed incrementally in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the provisions of different legislation and regulations overlapped in a complex fashion.

In the 1930s and 1940s, children and young people were placed in foster care, residential care and institutions through a complex range of legislative provision. The Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937 consolidated child protection law from earlier in the century:

This Act laid the foundation for the modern law on child protection, and substantially increased the legal responsibilities of public authorities, such as local councils. (Shaw, 2007, p. 39)

It also consolidated legislation in relation to young offenders and extended powers already available to place children and young people in approved schools - open residential schools for young offenders and those beyond parental control (Shaw, 2007).

The Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act 1937 Act defined voluntary homes as:

“any home or other institution for the boarding, care, and maintenance of poor children or young persons, being a home or other institution supported wholly or partly by voluntary contributions”

The 1937 Act set out that voluntary homes should be inspected and gave the Secretary of State an important monitoring function (Shaw, 2007). Certain provisions of the Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act 1937 stayed in force during the 1950s and 1960s until the Social Work Scotland Act 1968. As Shaw states, the exception to this concerns the inspection and monitoring function and we will discuss this further below.

The provisions in the 1937 Act were detailed in The Children (Boarding-Out Etc.) (Scotland) Rules and Regulations 1947 and although these did not cover all residential establishments, they did cover local authority and voluntary homes. Shaw states that local authorities could ensure that establishments suited children’s needs. They were also provided with reasonable facilities for visiting establishments in order to satisfy themselves about arrangements for the child’s welfare. Local authorities should arrange a visit from an authorised person to every child within a month of the local authority placing a child, and further visits were required at least once every three months. Every year, they also had to report on:

- the child’s health, well-being and behaviour;
- Educational progress
- Any other relevant issues about the child’s welfare

These 1947 regulations were an important step in providing for homes, but offered very little detail on homes’ day-to-day operation. (Shaw, 2007, p. )

The Children Act 1948, which followed from the Curtis and Clyde reports, was enacted to address the complexity of the legislative process which existed up to that point and to replace Poor Law legislation which was still in force. Shaw identifies the importance of the Act in its “emphasis on the child’s best interests, making a child’s welfare central” (Shaw, 2007, p. 19).

The Children Act 1948 made it a duty for local authorities to provide homes to accommodate children in their care, and if the local authority was not in a position to provide accommodation itself, it could make alternative arrangements which included place the child in a voluntary home.

As we noted above, the Children Act strengthened the inspection of voluntary homes such as the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home. It provided more extensive powers that covered:

- The accommodation and equipment that voluntary homes provided;
- medical arrangements for protecting children's health; and
- People applying to take charge of a home

Perhaps most importantly, however, the 1948 Act required that voluntary homes had to be registered with the Secretary of State. If a home wasn't registered – or if a home was to be removed from the register – the child had to go into the local authority's care. This requirement went hand in hand with section 16 of the 1948 Act, which gave the local authority the right (and indeed duty if required by the Secretary of State or the managers of the home) to remove children from a voluntary home.

Although, for the most part, the Children Act 1948 applied to Scotland as well as England and Wales, Shaw states that:

... it didn't lead to the same level of children's service developments in Scotland in the 1950s. The approach to children's service was part-time and piecemeal. Even where children's officers were appointed, the structure was poorly developed. (Shaw, 2007, p. 19)

The accompanying regulations were not introduced until 1959 - the Administration of Children's Homes (Scotland) Regulations 1959, and these replaced the 1947 regulations for local authority and voluntary children's homes.



As these regulations remained in place through the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s, until replaced by the Social Work (Residential Establishments – Child Care) (Scotland) Regulations 1987, we will first outline the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 legislation, and then return to 1959 regulations as these were in force at the time of the abuse at the Lord and Lady Polwarth Children’s Home.

In the 1960s, three reports led to major changes in social work and child care legislation: the McBoyle Committee report on the Prevention of Neglect of Children; the Kilbrandon Report, and the *Social Work and the Community* report (Shaw, 2007). This led to the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 which involved major changes to the decision making for children in care and the child welfare more generally. It established Scotland’s unique Children’s Hearings system which brought together the processes for children in need of care and protection and those who were offending or beyond parental control.

In particular for this review, Part IV of the Act dealt with residential and other establishments and “was most significant in effectively consolidating the rules and regulations covering various residential institutions for children and young people” (Shaw, 2007, p. 69). ‘Residential establishments’ were defined as: “an establishment managed by a local authority, voluntary organisation or any other person, which provides residential accommodation for the purposes of this Act” (Shaw, 2007, 69).

Part IV of the Social Work Scotland Act 1968 – Residential and Other Establishments – placed a duty on local authorities to provide and maintain such residential and other establishments as may be required for their functions under the Act, or arrange for the provision of such establishments and this include the provision of establishments by voluntary organisations.

While the Act outlines that the Secretary of State may make regulations as to the conduct of residential establishments, the 1959 regulations remained in force throughout the 1970s and 1980s until the 1987 regulations.

The Social Work Scotland Act 1968 stated that such regulations may provide:

- For the construction of, and the accommodation provided in, those establishments and their equipment, maintenance and management;
- For the classification, treatment and control of persons resident therein
- For the inspection and visiting of those establishments
- For notification of any change of the person in charge.
- Religious upbringing

The Act also set out the need for the registration of residential establishments with the local authority or the Secretary of State in order to gain a certificate of registration. This requires that the person in charge of the management of the establishment is a 'fit person', the establishment is 'fit to be used' in terms of its situation, construction, state of repair, accommodation, staffing or equipment, and needed to provide appropriate services and facilities. The certificate of registration set out the number of children accommodated at any one time and the categories of children who could be accommodated. The Act laid out that it was an offence to run an establishment without such registration and the registration of an establishment could be cancelled if these requirements were breached.

The Act sets out that any authorised officer of the local authority may inspect an establishment in relation to its management, condition, records and treatment of the children. It will also be the duty of the local authority to visit establishments in the interests of the well-being of children and an authorised visitor can visit the children in the establishment. It would be an offence to obstruct this.

The Administration of Children's Homes (Scotland) Regulations 1959 covered a range of areas including the condition of the establishment, discipline, fire precautions, records and the medical and dental care of the children. The general standards in the regulations required the administering authority to make sure the home was run in ways that secured the well-being of the children in its care. This involved the requirement that the home had to be visited at least once every month by an "authorised visitor" who had to satisfy themselves that that

the home was being run in line with the regulations and had to enter their details in the home's log book.

The local authority had to report to the Secretary of State any information required about the home's accommodation and staffing arrangements. In voluntary homes, the person in charge was to be responsible to the administering authority for the home's conduct, and the authority had to notify the Secretary of State if the person in charge changed.

The 1959 regulations covered discipline in voluntary homes. The general discipline of the children was to be maintained "by the personal influence of the person in charge of the home". The person in charge had to report any case of a child being punished with abnormal frequency to the administering authority (the local authority or whoever ran the home), who then had to arrange an investigation of the 'child's mentality'.

Any punishment administered to a child had to be recorded in the log book. In general, any punishment for misconduct could only take the form of a temporary loss of recreation or privileges – with one exception, corporal punishment. The regulations stated that:

- administering corporal punishment was permitted only in "exceptional" circumstances;
- it had to be administered by someone who'd been given the power to do so by the home's administering authority; and,
- it had to be in line with whatever rules the administering authority had laid down for the form the punishment would take, and any limits to the punishment.

If any child was known to have a physical or mental disability, then the home's medical officer had to agree to corporal punishment being administered.

The 1959 regulations provided for basic sleeping arrangements:

- each child should have a separate bed in a room with enough ventilation and lighting, and;
- easy access to suitable and sufficient toilets and washing facilities.

The home's administering authority had a duty to consult the local fire authority about fire precautions for the home. Regular fire drills and practices were required to ensure staff and children were well versed in the proper evacuation procedure.

The 1959 regulations required the home's administering authority to arrange for children's dental care, and to appoint a medical officer for the home. The medical officer had a general supervisory role to ensure the health of the children and staff, and hygiene in a home. They also had to supervise the compilation of a medical record for each child which detailed the child's:

- medical history before being admitted to the home;
- physical and mental condition when admitted to the home;
- medical history in the home; and,
- Condition before leaving the home.

The medical officer was also responsible for giving advice to the person in charge of the home on anything that affected the health of the children or staff, or hygiene in the home, and had to provide any medical attention that children needed. Shaw (2007) states:

It's possible to argue that the most important duty of the medical officer was to attend the home at regular intervals, and "with sufficient frequency" to ensure that he was "closely acquainted with the health of the children". Although the regulations didn't define "regular intervals", the importance of this duty was strengthened by a requirement that each child had to be examined when admitted to the home, and, after that, at intervals of no less than 12 months...  
 ... It seems clear that medical officers' duties therefore played a prominent and crucial role in monitoring not only the health but – by implication – the safety of children in local authority and voluntary homes. (Shaw, 2007, p.57)

In addition, to the visits by the home's medical officer, the administering authority had to arrange monthly visits by what the regulations termed an "authorised visitor" to ensure homes were being run in a way that ensured the children's welfare. Parents and guardians could also visit, and the 1959 regulations stated that the Secretary of State had to be given any information required about facilities for parents and guardians to visit and communicate with children accommodated in voluntary homes.

The 1959 regulations also covered record keeping in both local authority and voluntary homes, and stated that the following records should be kept:

- A register with the date when every child was admitted to, and discharged from, the home;
- A log book recording every important event at the home, including visits and inspections;
- punishments administered to each child;
- every fire drill or practice;
- the fire precautions recommended to the administering authority and how these recommendations had been implemented.
- Enough detail about food provided for children for anybody inspecting the records to judge whether the diet was satisfactory.

A personal history of each child in the home, including:

- medical history;
- the circumstances in which the child was admitted to the home...;
- details of the child's progress in the home, including visits by parents, relatives or friends, and any emotional or other difficulties experienced by the child); and,
- the child's destination when discharged from the home.

The person in charge of the home was responsible for compiling the records. These were to be open to inspection by anyone visiting the home under

powers granted to the Secretary of State or by legal requirements that the home's administering authority had to meet. Similarly, the person in charge of the home was responsible for the medical record of every child in the home. They had to make the records available at all times to the medical officer and to anyone authorised by the Secretary of State or the home's administering authority to inspect them.

The Voluntary Homes (Return of Particulars) (Scotland) Regulations 1952 also stipulated that certain details of voluntary homes had to be sent to the Secretary of State. These included:

- the home's name and address;
- the name of the person in charge;
- the number of children in the home according to age;
- the number of children receiving education, training or employment in the home and outside the home;

Overall, the evidence shows that legal procedures at least existed to ensure that events were properly recorded in both local authority and voluntary homes. It also suggests that these went some way towards making these homes more accountable: homes had to keep records and make them open to inspection at any time.

These, then, were the legislative and regulatory procedures in place at the time that the abuse of children in Lord and Lady Polwarth Home took place in the 1970s and early 1980s.

## 2 Church of Scotland Policies and Procedures in the 1970s and 1980s

A document search carried out by CrossReach found that there were a limited number of formal, written policies available from the 1970s. A document from the mid-1970s highlighted the importance of the 1959 regulations and provided annotations to make them directly applicable to the Church of Scotland. This

document also set out other policies relevant to children's homes but unfortunately, only two pages of this document were found; further details are given below.

Available policies and procedures were, for the most part, addressed in the minutes of meetings of the different committees and working groups of the Church of Scotland Committee of Social Services/Board of Social Responsibility.

In addition to quarterly meetings of the Board of Social Responsibility, there were regular meetings of the Executive Committee, Sectional Committees on Age, Community and Family (the names and scope of these committees evolved over time), and sub-committees and working groups on: After Care, Alcohol, Alcohol and Crime, Counselling, Finance, Fire Precautions, Legislation, Moral Education, Obscenity, Personal Relationships, Publicity, Staff Training, Staffing, and the Women's Council Executive.

These various committees and working groups addressed issues of policy, and developed guidance notes and procedures over time. Of particular relevance, is information on recruitment and selection, staff training, and children's homes' regulations.

## 2.1 Training and Staff Development

Although there does not appear to have been a formal training section in the 1970s, there is clear evidence of training input from a range of individuals including, for example, tutors at Langside College, Glasgow or Moray House in Edinburgh. There is evidence for the use of films and discussion in training, as well as residential conferences. In April 1972, for example, a weekend conference for Residential and Field Staff, Children's Homes and Hostels included in the programme:

- Film – followed by discussion on the theme “Growth towards Independence”;

- Some Current Trends in Child Health;
- Children's Hearings and the Role of the Residential Establishment;
- Discussion of Matters relating to Children's Homes and Girl's Hostels;
- The Social Work Department and the Voluntary Organisation.

A series of bi-monthly meetings for Senior Assistants in Children's Homes during 1972 – 73 included the following topics:

- Film – 'John' – depicting a child who spends 9 days in a residential nursery;
- Film – 'From Sociable 6 to Noisy 9' – study of the behaviour of 3 children;
- Session on 'Behaviour Problems';
- Session on 'Adolescence'.
- 

Meetings for Matrons of the Children's Homes were also held regularly and included training sessions.

A former care assistant working in Polwarth Children's Home in the late 1970s, however, indicates that she had no involvement in training, staff development or supervision.

## 2.2 Recruitment and Selection

In 1974, a discussion document entitled "Appointment of Head Staff: Selection Procedure" was produced to improve and develop recruitment and selection procedures. The stated aim was "to choose suitable applicants and to keep out unsuitable applicants" The document addressed:

- Pre-interview procedure (job definition, application forms, references, homework (prior examination of application));
- Interview (place of interview, time of interview, size of interview, kind of interview)



- Post Interview (reporting)

It took a number of years, however, for this to be progressed, and the Report of the Working Party of Staff Appointment Procedures was submitted in June 1978 and addressed three issues:

- That consideration be given to the "qualification" of those to be appointed to work within the Social Responsibility Department;
- That consideration be given to the appointment of Roman Catholics;
- That consideration be given to the general method and procedures for the appointment of staff.

The Working Party recommended that

- With regard to those appointed to Senior Staff positions [which included Head Staff of Homes and Establishments] within the work of the Committee on Social Responsibility that they should have –
  - o A live connection with a church and a sense of Christian commitment, and
  - o Possess whatever qualifications and/or experience is deemed most appropriate for the position being filled.
- That if a Roman Catholic be regarded by the Staff Appointments Panel as the most suitable applicant, it will be necessary to have the endorsement of Executive Committee before proceeding to such an appointment.
- Procedure for appointment of staff
  - o Pre-interview procedure
    - Job definition – to determine the particular tasks involved and the general aptitudes and attitudes which are required
    - Application forms - revision of application forms, which should include questions designed to assess the motivation of the applicant,
    - Short list

- Pre-interviews should only be for information and not assessment
- Interview – covering place and duration of interview and composition of interview panel
- Post interview procedure – reporting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Committee on Social Responsibility on 28 June 1978 noted that “The Report was considered in detail and the recommendations contained therein were accepted”.

At the time, then, of the appointment of Ian Samson, recruitment procedures were much less formalised. Former employees stated that while references would be required, these would focus on faith and character. There were no requirements for qualifications at this time, although in a 1971 document concerning the appointment of a superintendent and matron to the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home expresses the hope to appoint individuals with either training in Residential Child Care or knowledge of this field of work. Further details are given below.

### 1. 3 Children’s Homes Regulations.

While there is limited evidence of formal policies in relation to the operation of children’s homes, a part of a document - *Information for Houseparents-in-charge of Children’s Homes* – was found. It draws attention to “*The Administration of Children’s Homes (Scotland) Regulations 1959*”, and states:

These must be carefully read.

... You will see that the statutory regulations are dated 1959 and these are in process of being revised. Until the new legislation comes into being, however, the 1959 regulations are still in force. These are laid down by Act of Parliament and must be adhered to by Local Authority and Voluntary Agencies operating Children’s Homes. Houseparents-in-Charge must

acquaint themselves with the regulations and are also responsible for seeing that other members of their Child Care Staff are familiar with them.

In this document, the regulations are annotated to make them directly applicable to the Church of Scotland. For example, the term administering authority is explained:

The administering authority is, of course, the Church of Scotland, Committee on Social Service. After 1<sup>st</sup> January, it will be the Church of Scotland Committee on Social Responsibility

This document, then, goes through *The Administration of Children's Homes (Scotland) Regulations 1959* and locates them in the operation of the Committee on Social Service/Board of Social Responsibility. Unfortunately, only the front page of the document and page 5 dealing with Records could be found.

At the foot of this final page is the statement:

The above completes the notes on the Statutory Regulations. The information which follows outlines the policy of the Committee with regard to other aspects in the Children's Homes.

However, a copy of this policy could not be found and the range and detail of the policy is not known.

### 3 Lord and Lady Polwarth House, Edinburgh

The Lord and Lady Polwarth Home was opened on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1945. It was one of a number of children's homes and hostels run by the Church of Scotland which opened from the 1920s through to the 1970s. The Church of Scotland, however, had a much longer history of running residential institutions with the Whiteinch Orphanage in Glasgow opening in 1826. Many of the children's homes closed between 1978 and 1984, including Lord and Lady Polwarth Home which closed on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1982.

Initially, Polwarth Home was for babies and younger children up until the age of five and had places for 25 children. It changed its function in the 1960s.

A 1971 document – “Conditions of Appointment of Superintendent and Matron”, give some details of the Polwarth Home at this time.

The Polwarth Home has accommodation for 16 children. It is intended for children from infancy to school leaving age. The children cared for have lost a parent or parents, are victims of broken homes or are illegitimate.

The document outlines the staff at the time as consisting of the Superintendent and Matron, four assistants, a cook and daily domestic staff.

The last child left the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1982 and, as we saw above, the home closed in on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1982.

i) *The Role of Superintendent and Matron/Houseparents-in-Charge*

The Superintendent and Matron roles were linked and:

... the couple appointed will require to have an understanding of the needs of deprived children. The Committee hope that it will be possible to appoint a Superintendent and Matron who have either had training in Residential Child Care or who have knowledge of this field of work.

The document goes on to state:

“The Superintendent will be responsible for the keeping of accurate accounts relating to the home. Along with the Matron he will be responsible for the general supervision of the material, social and spiritual welfare of the children. The Matron will be responsible for the direction of the domestic arrangement

with the Home, the supervision of staff, the preparation of menus and the direction of the cooking and serving of meals, etc.”

*ii) The Local Committee*

Regarding the Local Committee, the 1971 document “Conditions of Appointment of Superintendent and Matron” states that:

The Local Committee has jurisdiction in all matters relating to the efficient and happy working of the internal arrangements of the Home. The Local Committee is responsible for ensuring that the children are well cared for and that the working conditions of the staff are satisfactory. They also carry responsibility for the appointment of domestic staff.

The Local Committee was made up of a number of lay volunteers. The Committee met monthly and a group from the Committee visited the Home monthly. The minutes of the meetings address the monthly visits and it is apparent that these focus on the physical state of the Home, equipment, cleanliness, décor, and furnishings. The Matron of the Home gave a report to each meeting and briefly addressed new admissions, staffing, the health of the children in general terms, and activities. The Committee also dealt with fund-raising for the Home.

Evidence from a member of staff working in the Polwarth Children’s Home indicates that monthly visits by the members of the Local Committee took place during the day when the children were in School, and the visitors were looked after by Mrs Samson and did not speak with the other staff members.

*iii) Children’s Homes Supervisor and Social Worker*

Within the Structure of the Committee on Social Service/Board of Social Responsibility, the role of Children’s Homes Supervisor had overall responsibility for professional aspects of the children’s homes. A social worker was allocated a number of children’s homes and had responsibility for liaising with local

authorities in relation to assessment, planning and review of the children in the care of the homes.

## 4 Ian Samson

### iv) *Employment of [REDACTED] and Ian Samson*

The document analysis undertaken by CrossReach was unable to find any Personnel Records relating to the Samson's employment, nor references which may have been taken up at the time of their employment or provided on their leaving the Church of Scotland for employment in Central Regional Council. Information on the Samson's time at Lord and Lady Polwarth Home is gleaned from a number of miscellaneous documents which have survived, as well as the interviews with members of staff who worked for the Church at the time.

Ian Samson gained his first employment with the Church of Scotland as Superintendent of the Muirhouse Hostel for Young Men.

In 1972, the Church of Scotland had proposed opening a Hostel for Boys and entered negotiations with Edinburgh Corporation for suitable property. In 1973, the Committee was given tenancy of four Corporation flats at 10 Muirhouse Grove, Edinburgh. A minute of 14<sup>th</sup> March 1973 of the Committee on Social Service notes that two couples were interviewed for the post of Superintendent and Matron of the Hostel for Young Men, Edinburgh.

After careful consideration **it was resolved** to appoint Mr and Mrs Samson to the post of Superintendent and Matron of the Hostel for Young Men, Edinburgh, at the salary appropriate to the appointment and on the usual terms and conditions of service.

A staff list shows that Ian and [REDACTED] Samson were recruited in April 1973 and took up their post at Muirhouse Hostel for Young Men on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1973. Other documents from this time refer to Ian Samson in his role of Superintendent of the Hostel. For example, an extract from a 1973 minute detailed the financial

provisions for the Hostel for Young Men and states: The Petty Cash Account would be operated by the Superintendent of the Hostel, Mr Ian B. Samson.

Ian and [REDACTED] Samson moved from their posts at Muirhouse Hostel for Young Men to their jobs as Houseparents-in-Charge of the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home for Children in 1975.

A minute of the 11<sup>th</sup> December 1974 of the Committee on Social Service noted that following the resignation of the previous Houseparents-in-Charge on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1974:

The Committee agreed to interview Mr. and Mrs. Ian B. Samson, presently Superintendent and Matron of Muirhouse Hostel for Young Men, Edinburgh. After careful consideration, it was resolved to offer them the joint post of Houseparents-in-Charge of the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home for Children, at the salary appropriate to the appointment and the usual terms and conditions of service.

The staff list shows that the Samsons moved to their posts as the Superintendent and Matron of Polwarth Home on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1975.

In the 1970s, there was no requirement for qualifications for employment in residential child care. Indeed, this did not become a requirement until the 2000s when residential child care became one of the first groups of staff which was required to be registered by the Scottish Social Services Council and registration involved having, or working towards, a relevant qualification. We saw in the previous section, that a more detailed policy on the recruitment and selection of staff was adopted by the Board of Social Responsibility in 1978.

A copy of the Local Committee minutes of March 1981 note the resignation of Ian and [REDACTED] Samson.

It came as a shock to the Committee to be told that Mr & Mrs Samson were leaving Polwarth and from this date were working a month's notice. They are

going to Central Region to Redding House, a Home similar to Polwarth, but where they will be non-residential, except for one or two duty nights.

The minutes of April 1981 note the leaving date of the couple.

Mr & Mrs Samson leave tonight (Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April).

Although this minute refers to both the Samsons moving to employment in Central Region, a former social worker understood that it was Mrs Samson who had taken up the post, and not Ian Samson. This is of significance given the issue of references, although no information is available about this because of the absence of personnel records.

## 5 The Abuse of Children by Ian Samson and the Response to the Abuse

On 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013, Ian Samson, a former employee of the Church of Scotland, was convicted of “22 offences involving the sexual abuse and rape of 12 children over a period of many years” (Scott, 2013). Samson was already in prison for other sexual offending unrelated to the Church of Scotland, and he received a further 14 year sentence for these offences.

Some of these offences took place in the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home in the 1970s and early 1980s. Police Scotland identified eight survivors from the home who were represented in court, although their names were not made public.

A former member of staff at the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home reported that Ian Samson ruled the home ‘with a rod of iron’ in a bullying and aggressive manner, both with the children in the home and with the staff, particularly the younger, inexperienced staff members. He had a ‘nasty temper and was often seen by staff and children red in the face and clearly angry.’ Samson treated the children differently and picked on some in particular. This member of staff stated that she later found out that Samson was physically violent to some of the children, from



a young person who had left the home. This member of staff stated that she herself had been threatened by Samson when she questioned some of the practices in the home. She also reported that Samson had an inappropriate relationship with Child A and that they 'frequently sat together stretched horizontal' in the Samson's adjoining flat, although she stated she never saw any more than 'cuddling her with her arms wrapped around her'. Other members of staff were instructed not to be involved in Child A's care. This member of staff left Lord and Lady Polwarth Home in September 1979 and, at that point, spoke to the Board of Social Responsibility Children's Homes Supervisor about this inappropriate behaviour. While there is no direct evidence of the action taken on this report, there is mention in a letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 1980 "to an earlier instruction given by our Social Worker regarding the close relationship which had been observed between the husband and [Child A]" (see below).

The Court statement of Lady Scott identifies four issues which she states "that there were circumstances led in evidence in this trial which appeared to suggest a failure in the protection of the child victims who gave evidence in this case".

These were:

1. the fact that whilst resident in the Lord and Lady Polwarth Children's Home you remained in a position of trust over children despite an incident where it was suspected – correctly - that you had taken obscene photographs of a child within the home;
2. the fact that you remained in the home notwithstanding your being convicted of 10 charges for indecent exposure during your time there;
3. the fact that when you left the home, you took the first victim with you, without any apparent concern being raised;
4. the fact that the first complainer reported her abuse in 1991 and as she described in evidence she was not believed.

These will be addressed below.

Point 1)

With regard to the first issue, there is detailed information about this in the file of one of the children involved. These documents involved correspondence

between the Director of Social Work, Church of Scotland and the Directors of Social Work in Lothian Regional Council and Strathclyde Regional Council. The minute a child case review of 8<sup>th</sup> October 1980 also sets out the detail of the incident and the response to it.

Two 'nude and suggestive photographs' of Child A were found by a member of domestic staff on 6 June 1980 who suggested that Ian Samson was implicated. Child A was interviewed by both members of staff of the Board of Social Responsibility and the Local Authority responsible. Child A stated that another child had taken the photos but would not say who. Subsequently, the incident was reported to the police by staff of the Board of Social Responsibility and the police carried out an investigation, interviewing Child A and the Samsons but concluded that there was no evidence to proceed with any charges.

In correspondence from the Church of Scotland Director of Social Work, the response to Ian Samson is indicated:

Although we realise that no further investigation is possible, because of our dissatisfaction with the circumstances, we have indicated to the husband of the couple in charge of the Home our concern regarding his injudicious association with the girl and have sent to him a letter which includes the sentence: "It is not being suggested that this association was in any way immoral, but our concern is caused by your apparent lack of awareness or appreciation of the consequences of such action, and by your non-acceptance of the advice and instructions given to you." This refers to an earlier instruction given by our Social Worker regarding the close relationship which had been observed between the husband and [Child A]. We conclude our letter to him – which in effect is a written warning regarding his future employment – "In all the circumstances, we feel it is necessary to warn you that if there is cause for future complaint about any of these matters, your position as part-time Housefather-in-Charge will be in jeopardy."

It can be seen in this extract, that there is reference to an earlier instruction to Ian Samson regarding his relationship with Child A. A former member of staff reported that when she was employed there, she had witnessed inappropriate behaviour between Child A and Samson. She had reported her concerns when she left her employment to the Children's Homes Supervisor of the Board of Social Responsibility. Although there is no direct evidence, it may be this that led to the instruction to Samson regarding his relationship with Child A.

In the days following the discovery of the photos, the Director of Social Work, Church of Scotland requested that Child A and her siblings should be removed from the home immediately but this was resisted by the responsible Local Authority which stressed "the complete lack of evidence against Mr Samson and that [Child A and her siblings] regarded Polwarth as their home, having lived there for eleven years." A letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 1980 to the Director of Social Work of the local authority involved, repeated the request to remove Child A and her siblings from Polwarth Home.

The Samsons left the employment of the Church of Scotland within a matter of months of this incident, after Mrs Samson gained employment in Central Regional Council.

Point 2)

Lady Scott's statement refers to Ian Samson's conviction of 10 charges for indecent exposure during his time at Lord and Lady Polwarth Home but we have not been able to identify any information about these charges from the Church of Scotland records.

Point 3)

With regard to the fact that Child A was allowed to go and live with Ian Samson when she left the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home, without any apparent concern being raised. We have seen that, following the incident with the photographs, the Church of Scotland Director of Social Work did request that the responsible local

authority Social Work Department “remove the girl and the two other members of the family from our care in this particular Home as soon as possible since this seems to be the appropriate professional action to take in this case” [letter dated 4th July 1980]. However, Child A remained in the care of the Board of Social Responsibility until April 1981. A review meeting minute in February 1981 set out the legal situation regarding Child A and stated that as she remains in care under Section 15 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act and has reached the age of 16, she could discharge herself from care. Child A left Polwarth Home to the Samsons. It should be noted that in the Social Work (Scotland) Act a child is defined as someone “who has not attained the age of sixteen years” unless a supervision requirement of the children’s hearing is in force, in which case it is someone “who has not attained the age of eighteen years.” As Child A was not in care under a supervision requirement, she was no longer considered a child in relation to child protection legislation.

#### Point 4)

Finally, Lady Scott referred to the reporting of abuse in 1991 by one of the survivors and the fact that she was not believed. We could not find reference to a report of abuse in 1991 which should not be taken to mean that it did not happen., there was a message note dated 9 February 1999 referring to a telephone call from a member of the CID (Family Protection Unit) investigating allegations of offences at Lord and Lady Polwarth Home (1972 – 75) and seeking access to records of a number of children. There is no information, however, on the response to this request and it would be of concern if no action was taken.

## 6 Monitoring and Review of Children in Lord and Lady Polwarth Home between 1975 and 1981

In order to identify the processes for monitoring and review of children at this time, children’s case files were examined for evidence of case reviews, medical

inspections and other regular meetings concerning individual children. The pattern of meetings for one child are detailed as an example.

There is a note of annual medical examinations and these were carried out between with 1974 and 1980, although in this case file, there is a gap in 1975.

Other assessment and review meetings which took place between 1975 and 1981 included:

Assessment meetings (June 1974, February 1977, March 1978)

- Assessment meetings involved social worker(s) and other staff of the responsible Local Authority, the Samsons, Board of Social Responsibility Social Worker, Board of Social Responsibility Children's Home Supervisor.

Child Care Case Reviews (November 1979; October 1980, February 1981)

- Review meetings involved social worker(s) and other staff of the responsible Local Authority, the Samsons, Board of Social Responsibility Social Worker, Board of Social Responsibility Children's Home Supervisor.
- Progress reports for Case Reviews written by Church of Scotland Social Worker (November 1979, May 1980)

Case Conference (April 1975)

- Case Conference involved social worker of the responsible Local Authority, the Samsons, Board of Social Responsibility Children's Home Supervisor.

Planning meeting (Sept 1980)

- Planning meeting involved social worker of the responsible Local Authority, Board of Social Responsibility Children's Home Supervisor

The files included a number of other notes of meetings with the child involved the Board of Social Responsibility Social Worker and Children's Home Supervisor and about the Social Aunt and Uncle who took the child out on a fortnightly basis

for a number of years. There were also school reports and notes of meetings with other professionals. The files also included hand written notes made with varying regularity, sometimes daily, sometimes less often, and these detailed the child's activities and emotional states.

The staff member who had worked in the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home stated that the more junior staff were not involved in discussions about children, however, and were not invited to take part in child care reviews or make a contribution on the health or development of the children.

While the file itself is not well-ordered with documents out of chronological order, and duplicates of documents, there is evidence of regular assessment and review of the child. This involved staff from the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home, Board of Social Responsibility Social Work and Children's Homes Supervisor, and other professional staff such as Medical Officer, teachers and psychologists, and social uncles and aunts.

## Chapter 3 –Current CrossReach Policy and Guidance

### 3.1 Developments in National Legislation and Policy

There have been significant developments in safeguarding and protecting children in care in the period since Ian Samson carried out his abuse of children at the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home. These can be categorised into three areas: recruitment, selection, support and training of staff and carers; inspection, monitoring and standards; and, listening to children and children's participation.

#### 3.1.1 Recruitment, selection, support and training of staff

Following a national review of recruitment and selection of staff in residential care in the 1990s (Warner, 1992), a range of initiatives were put in place. In Scotland,

this led to the publication of guidance by the Scottish Government in 2007 - *Safer Recruitment through Better Recruitment: Guidance in Relation to Staff Working in Social Care and Social Work Settings*. This covered a range of good practice from the start of the recruitment and selection process, applications, the process and content of interviews, and other assessment processes.

The importance of the vetting of staff has been highlighted in many inquiries and inspections, and concerns have been raised about references, police checks and other vetting procedures. New legislative safeguards to prevent unsuitable people from working with children have been taken forward. The Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 established the Disqualified from Working with Children List, and this was superseded by the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007. This legislation gives powers to bar certain individuals from working with children or certain adults and to keep lists of those individuals. It established a new membership scheme for people undertaking regulated work with children or protected adults, and the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme came into force in February 2011.

The training and development of residential staff members and foster carers has been a focus of attention over many years but it is only since 2002 that residential care staff members in Scotland have required a particular level of qualification. Linked to broader developments for the registration of social work and social care staff, the qualifications criteria were set at HNC and an SVQ Level 3 for residential child care staff, and higher qualifications for those who have a supervisory responsibilities, and managers. The level of qualification is currently being revisited and there is a commitment to introduce a new standard for the training of residential child care staff and managers and to progress an SCQF Level 9 qualification.

The Scottish Social Services Council was created by legislation in 2001 with a range of functions to regulate the social services workforce. This includes a code of practice for social services workers, including residential child care staff, which underlines the requirement to protect the rights and promote the interests of service users and carers. It has established a Register of Social Services

Workers and residential child care staff were one of the first groups to be registered. The SSSC investigates concerns about good character, conduct and competence of a person on the register or applying for registration, and can take action where necessary, including removing a person from the register so they are no longer able to practice.

The need for external support for residential care staff has been highlighted in a number of inquiries, and centres of excellence have been set up in Scotland to provide support through consultancy, research and training. Of particular relevance is the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC) which was established in 2000 and, in 2011, became incorporated into the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS). In 2009, the Multi-Agency Resource Service (Mars) was set up as a national resource for professionals working in the field of child protection, and this later merged with the Scottish Child Care and Protection Network (SCCPN) to form WithScotland.

### 3.1.2 Inspection, Monitoring and Standards of Services

Alongside increasing regulation of the workforce, there has also been an increasing focus on care services. The Care Commission was established by legislation in 2002, and, in 2011, the Care Inspectorate (Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland) took over the functions of the Care Commission, the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) and the child protection Unit of Her Majesty's Inspection of Education (HMIE).

Care homes for children and young people (along with a range of other children's services) must be registered with the Care Inspectorate in order to operate in Scotland, and they must meet the requirements of relevant legislation, care standards and regulations. Since the period under review, there have been a number of changes in the relevant regulations for children's homes. Following the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, the *Arrangement to Look After Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996* and the *Residential Establishments – Child Care (Scotland) Regulations 1996* were introduced. The former were update in 2009 with the *Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009*. In addition, National Care



Standards were written to cover a wide range of social care services and there are now 23 sets of standards. They are based on the principles of dignity, privacy, choice, safety, realising potential, and equality and diversity. The standards for *Care Homes for Children and Young People* have 17 standards in four sections: Beginning you stay; Leading your life; Moving on; and, Expressing your views.

In 2013, the *National Guidance for the External Management of Residential Child Care Establishments*, highlighting the importance of the role of external managers in ensuring acceptable standards, monitoring the experience of children and ensuring their views inform the work of the organisation, and ensuring the proper support of staff.

The Care Inspectorate inspects services using a framework of quality themes and statements, and against the relevant care standards. It has powers of enforcement and can serve improvement notices which, if not carried out, can lead to cancellation of registration.

### 3.1.3 Listening to Children and Children's Participation

A most crucial lesson for the protection and safeguarding of children in residential care is the need to listen to children and young people and to respond effectively to their concerns. There are variety of ways that organisations can encourage a culture which welcomes the contributions and feedback of children and develop ways that are transparent and easy to access. Children and young people need to be provided with clear information and support to use complaints systems and other mechanisms (for example, telephone helplines and online resources) for their voices to be heard. Children's rights services and advocacy services provide a framework for the promotion of children's rights and good practice in care settings. Advocacy services also provide a useful way of enabling children and young people's concerns about care to be made, and these services are currently provided from two main sources: local authority children's right officers and Who Cares? Scotland. The *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014* has also extended the powers of the Children and Young People's Commissioner

Scotland to carry out investigations in relation to individual children and young people.

## 3.2 CrossReach Policy and Guidance

### 3.2.1 Recruitment and Selection

CrossReach recruitment and selection processes are based on *Safer Recruitment Through Better Recruitment: Guidance in Relation to Staff Working in Social Care and Social Work Settings* (Scottish Executive, 2007). They have been updated during 2014 and 2015. The stages in the recruitment process involve: assessing the vacancy, defining the role, attracting applications, managing the application and selection process, making the appointment, and inducting the new recruit. The processes include a range of safeguards and checklists addressing: personal documentation, references, overseas vetting, PVG/Disclosure, pre-employment health vetting, vacancy details, UK eligibility identification checks, interview documentation requirements, shortlisting, and interview process.

In July 2015, the Care Inspectorate inspected equivalent recruitment practices for adults' and older people's services in CrossReach. It concluded that: "the recruitment practices showed that the service provider had robust procedures and practices which were very well managed systems."

### 3.2.2 Staff Support and Training

CrossReach has a range of policies and procedures in place for staff support and training, personal quality and development planning, supervision, absence management, capability, disciplinary and grievance, bullying and harassment, flexible working policy, and family friendly policies. Staff are involved in the creation of an annual individual training plan and access to relevant training and

support, particularly training and development which is mandatory and/or required for registration.

### 3.2.3 Child Protection and Adult Protection

CrossReach has two substantial documents dealing with Child Protection and Adult Protection: *CrossReach Child Protection Handbook: What You Need to Know and Do to Protect Children from Harm and Abuse* (2014) and *CrossReach Adult Protection Handbook: Policy, Procedure, Guidance* (2015). These documents address the context of protection and safeguarding in CrossReach and detail the 4 Rs of protection: Recognising, Reporting, Recording and Referral.

- Recognising – signs and types of abuse and harm, disclosure, responding to abuse or disclosure
- Reporting - reporting harm or abuse when it is suspected
- Recording – what to write down when harm is witnessed, suspected or reported
- Referral – sharing information with the police or social work services.

These documents also address a range of other issues, link to related policy and procedures, and offer guidance, tips and a step-by-step approach to addressing the safeguarding and protection of adults

Both documents also address historical abuse.

## 4 The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service

The Church of Scotland has had a Safeguarding Service since 1997. The service is part of a wider safeguarding structure that includes 3,000 trained safeguarding volunteers. The Safeguarding Service aims to ensure: best practice in preventing harm or abuse to children and adults at risk, and a timely and appropriate response when harm or abuse is witnessed, suspected or reported.

In order to prevent harm and abuse, the Safeguarding Service provides:

- support and advice with every-day safeguarding matters where there is not an incident of suspected or reported harm or abuse.
- support and advice for the safe recruitment and selection of all paid staff and volunteers.
- a Safeguarding Advisory Group to risk assess volunteers and paid staff, who have convictions on their PVG Scheme Record, being considered for work with children or protected adults.
- a comprehensive range of safeguarding training programmes

In order to respond to disclosures of harm or abuse, or risk of abuse, the Safeguarding Service:

- provides verbal and written advice in situations where harm or abuse is witnessed by, suspected or reported to CrossReach services and, members of church congregations,
- advises and works alongside Safeguarding Panels working with convicted sex offenders to ensure their safe inclusion in worship., often involving joint working with criminal justice social work services and/or the police.

#### 4 Historical Abuse

In 2014, the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service published *Responding to Historical Abuse in the Church of Scotland: Policy and Procedure 2014* as a supplement to its *Safeguarding Handbook*. The Policy set out the Church's commitment to respond to reports of any type of historical abuse, to treat all disclosures seriously and confidentially, offering survivors the opportunity to be heard and listened to, and ensuring that where there are allegations of criminal activity, that this information will be shared with the police or other public bodies. The Procedures provide a framework for responding to reported historical abuse and covers:

- Disclosure
- Safeguarding procedure

- Initial risk assessment
- Reported crime and/or current risk of harm
- Being heard
- Responding to survivors' needs

## 5 Whistleblowing

The CrossReach Whistleblowing policy was reviewed in 2014. It states the commitment to encourage, support and enable staff to voice concerns over serious wrongdoing or malpractice in its services. The procedures covered in the policy apply to all employees irrespective of their contracts, and others who perform work or undertake placements. They are designed to ensure that genuine and legitimate concerns can be raised without detriment, provide an opportunity for concerns to be investigated and for appropriate action to be taken. They are designed to deter serious malpractice and promote accountability. The procedures set out the range of individual or corporate behaviour which fall within the policy, the process for reporting concerns, investigation and notification of outcomes. The policy addresses issues of confidentiality, false reporting, and safeguards.

## 6 Equal Opportunities Policy

The CrossReach Equal Opportunities Policy is dated August 2014 and confirms the commitment that individuals are treated equally regardless of race, colour, nationality or national origin, religion or belief, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, disability or gender realignment, unless there is an occupational requirement under relevant legislation. Services are underpinned by anti-discriminatory principles and all staff are required to operate without discrimination or prejudice. The policy will apply to recruitment and employment unless an occupational requirement is justified, and anti-discriminatory practices will be adopted in relation to all other aspects of employment. Employees should help promote equality and should bring incidents where they believe discrimination has taken place to the attention of management.

## 7 The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Listener Service

The Church of Scotland independent Safeguarding Listener Service was established to provide an opportunity for survivors of historical abuse to be heard and acknowledged. The service is for survivors who have been harmed by a paid member of staff, a volunteer, or by other children or young people. The Safeguarding Listeners are skilled at supporting people affected by childhood abuse and they are usually self-employed counsellors. The service provides survivors the opportunity to speak about their experiences in a way that will lead to improvements in their well-being. It may help the survivor to say what their needs are as a result of the childhood abuse and the Church will then seek, where practicable, to meet those needs.

## 8 Complaints

The importance of complaints procedures have been highlighted in many reports and inquiries addressing the abuse of children in care and other vulnerable individuals. The CrossReach Complaints and Compliments Policy and Procedure covers all service areas and is dated August 2014.

CrossReach recognises that the Complaints and Compliments Policy gives Service Users, family members, customers, representatives, volunteers or members of the public a process in which to give feedback on the quality of the service provided and in turn it gives CrossReach the opportunity to learn and grow.

The Complaints and Compliments Policy and Procedure covers:

- The purpose of the policy
- The scope of the policy
- What a complaint is
- Who can make a complaint
- How a complaint will be handled
- Time limits to make a complaint
- How a complaint can be made

- The complaints process
- The complaints appeal process
- The recording and reporting process
- Compliments

## Practice Issues

### 9 Personal Care/Support Plan

The CrossReach Policy on Personal Care/Support Plan was approved in February 2015 and was effective from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015. The policy underlines the CrossReach commitment to a unique and person-centred approach to meeting each individual's needs and outcomes. In accordance with national legislation and standards, each person who uses a services will have a Personal Care/Support Plan and this will be completed in consultation with each individual and their advocate. This policy will apply to those services registered with the Care Inspectorate, and it will ensure that every person has a person plan which identifies the care, support needs and preferences, and any personal outcomes. All people who use the service will be supported to be actively involved in the development of the plan, and this will be monitored and formally reviewed at least every 6 months. The keyworker will be responsible for developing, monitoring and reviewing the plan, and the plan will be signed and dated by the keyworker, person who uses the service and/or advocate. The plan will only be shared with other professionals with the consent and knowledge of the person who uses the services.

### 10 Managing Stressed and Distressed Behaviour

CrossReach Policy on Managing and Distressed Behaviour came into effect in March 2015. It aims to ensure that employees, volunteers and students will manage stressed and distressed behaviours in a safe and professional manner to both the service user and employee. The policy covers any behaviour which is outwith the identified baseline behaviour of an individual with an increased risk of

harm to self or others, which includes physical or verbal aggression. The policy states that all service users will be treated with respect and dignity at all times. Safety and security will be the most important element in managing behaviours, and will be dealt with on an individual basis. All employees will receive appropriate training and local protocols will be in place to cover an outline process detailed in the policy.

## 11 The Use of Control and Restraint

CrossReach Use of Control and Restraint Procedures and Guidelines are dated March 2015. They require that services undertake risk assessments for all aspects of restraint and that these are revised regularly. The level of restraint used must be proportionate, and incidents of restraint must be fully recorded. Each individual service area will have an identified individual management tool, and local guidance and protocols will be in place. Employees should have an understanding of restraint, its legal and ethical frameworks, and how to minimise the risks if restraint is used. They should minimise the need for restraint, and know what to do if they suspect inappropriate or abusive use of restraint.

## Listening to Children and Vulnerable Adults

### 12 Advocacy

Advocacy for children and other vulnerable individuals has been clearly linked with safeguarding, protection and the development of rights based services. CrossReach's *Advocacy Policy* was revised in 2009 and it highlights the importance of advocacy in empowering service users through effective communication. The policy applies to all CrossReach service areas and CrossReach will help to identify appropriate advocacy services for all service users, particularly those who have communication difficulties. The policy covers the need for advocacy being identified at admission and service users being provided information on advocacy services and that they are available, in the



context of Crossreach's wider commitments about effective communication and service user involvement.

### 13 Service Users Records Policy

CrossReach approved its policy on Service User Records in November 2014 and it became effective in May 2015. The policy will ensure that: service user records relating to a current service user or a service user who has used a CrossReach service in the past, will adhere to the guidelines of the Data Protection Act 1998. All service user records should contain relevant, factual, accurate information and be held securely.

Its stated purpose is to ensure that complete and accurate service user records are maintained and managed in accordance with relevant standards, in order to ensure high quality and safe care, and that staff create and keep records in accordance with statutory and business requirements.

The policy relates to all CrossReach employees and agency workers and all current and previous service users. The policy defines the nature of records and sets out which records should be contained in the service user records and which kept separately, and responsibilities with regard to records. It states that service user records will be treated confidentially and stored securely, will only be accessed by authorised employees requiring relevant access, and will contain relevant and factual information. They will only be shared with appropriate agencies. All records will be typed or written in a legible manner, clearly understood, and signed and dated, and local protocols will be in place about what information is held, storage and access. CrossReach will adhere to the Data Protection Act 1998 with regard to all service user records..

### 14 Confidentiality and Information Sharing

CrossReach introduced its policy on Confidentiality and Information Sharing in Respect of People who Use our Services in July 2015.

Confidentiality is protecting the information of people who use our service and using and sharing it within legal and ethical boundaries. It states that all information and documents within the service will be treated as confidential, should not be discussed or communicated outwith the working environmentt and should be stored securely. When information is required to be shared this “will normally be done with the knowledge, but not necessarily the consent of the person who uses the service.” Information will be shared in a timely manner and will be relevant, accurate and proportionate. All people who use services will have the right to request access to information held on them

## Chapter 4 – Recommendations

This review has highlighted that even in the 1970s and 1980s, there was detailed legislation and regulation which addressed the inspection and visiting of voluntary children’s homes and the children and young people by local authority inspectors, authorised visitors and medical officers. It has been shown that, for the most part, inspections and visits took place, and regular assessment, and planning and review meetings took place involving the children placed in Polwarth. It would be hoped that such inspections, visits and meetings would have meant that the abuse of the children and young people at Polwarth Home would not have gone unnoticed for as long as it did. Even where evidence of potential abuse came to light, both through a statement by a former employee and the discovery of obscene photographs, investigations involving the Church of Scotland, Local Authority Social Work Department and Police did not manage to throw light on to the extent of the abuse taking place and the number of children involved.

This emphasises that irrespective of the rigour or policies and procedures, these are only as effective as the way they are operationalised and used in practice. It also highlights the barriers that children face in telling about abuse, particularly when they are in care.

With respect to current policy and practice, we make the following recommendations.

### **Audit of Safeguarding and Protection Policies and Procedures**

We have seen that CrossReach policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated during 2014 and 2015. In line with a focus on continuous improvement we would anticipate ongoing review and updating. In addition, it is important to ensure not only that policies and procedures are reviewed and up-dated but that staff members are knowledgeable about, and use, the policies and procedures. It is also important that staff members across the range of services are aware of the issues of historical abuse because of its lifelong impact and its implications for services across the life-course, including issues of intimate care.

#### **Recommendation 1**

**An audit of the use of current safeguarding and protection policies and procedures should take place. This should aim to find out about staff members' knowledge of policies and procedures, and how these are used in practice.**

#### **Recruitment and Selection**

We have seen that recruitment and protection procedures in the 1970s were relatively minimal and informal. This extended more broadly to the general expectations of employment in the residential child care sector. The recruitment and selection of staff in residential child care has come under close scrutiny in recent years, for example, through the development of Safer Recruitment materials. Nevertheless, recent serious case reviews and research show that there is an ongoing need for vigilance in the recruitment and selection of staff.

#### **Recommendation 2.**

**CrossReach should continue to review and up-date its recruitment and selection policies and procedures to ensure that they are in line with the most up-to-date thinking and best practice in relation to safer recruitment and selection.**

## **Listening to Users and Whistleblowing**

Providing opportunities for people who use services to have their voices and concerns heard, is central to safeguarding and protection. Even where mechanisms are in place, children and adults at risk can find it very difficult to be open about their concerns, and so it is essential that staff are open to possible distress or abuse, and are well prepared to pass on their concerns.

### **Recommendation 3**

**CrossReach should continue to review and update its policy and practice in relation to listening to people who use services, ensuring that mechanisms for user feedback, complaints and compliments are clear and transparent, and that advocacy is effective and supportive. The whistleblowing policy should also continue to be reviewed. Training should continue to be updated and implemented for all staff, volunteers and students, based on these reviews.**

## **Training and Development on Protection, Risk and Historic Abuse**

The requirements for the training, development and support of staff has changed markedly over recent years, and requirements for qualifications have increased. However, it is also the case that issues linked to the safeguarding and protection of children and adults at risk are also changing rapidly with, for example, new risks apparent in relation to online safety and protection, sexual exploitation, and increasing awareness of historic abuse. This review has identified that communication between different agencies has not always been complete or effective, and this is a crucial aspect of protection, risk and historic abuse.

### **Recommendation 4**

**CrossReach should continue to review and update its training and professional development in relation to protection, risk and historic abuse to ensure that they are in line with the most up-to-date thinking and best practice. This should also involve the need for complete and effective collaboration and multi-agency working.**

### **Recommendation on records, record management and archiving.**

While some files dating back to the period under review were found, they were had not been archived in any systematic fashion, and individual files were poorly organised and contained miscellaneous material. Other files have been lost or destroyed over the years. It was apparent that CrossReach has not been aware of the location or existence of files and this has led to requests for access to files not being taken forward. CrossReach has recently appointed an archivist to address some of these issues.

### **Recommendation 5**

**CrossReach should continue to review and update its record-keeping, records management and archiving policy and practice, taking into account the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011, and best practice based on this, for example, the model records management plan. Information and support should be put in place to assist adults who stayed in Church of Scotland residential care as children, to access their records and information, again in line with best practice.**

### **Apology and Support**

At the start of this review report, we noted that following the trial, a letter from the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service was sent to the survivors through Police Scotland. In this letter, the Church expressed 'deep regret' for the harm experienced at the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home, and acknowledged 'the wrong that was done by Mr Samson and are sorry for the way in which this has affected you.' This review has shown that despite the regulations, policies and practice in place at the time, and the investigations which took place at the time involving professionals from the different agencies, the extent of abuse and the number of children involved was not discovered.

### **Recommendation 6**

**CrossReach should take the opportunity of this Review to emphasise their deep regret for the harm experienced by the victims, and consider further**

**support and recompense to the survivors of abuse at the Lord and Lady Polwarth Children's Home.**

## Chapter 5 – Conclusion

This independent review has considered the circumstances of the abuse of children in Lord and Lady Polwarth Home by Ian Samson who was, at the time, the Superintendent of the Home. The review has identified both positive and negative aspects to the policies and practice in operation at the time. It has placed what happened in the broader context of legislation, policy and practice at the time, and it has outlined the significant changes which have taken place at national level and in terms of the organisation.

While we hope our findings and recommendations will go some way to further improve policy and practice to safeguard and protect people who use CrossReach services, we also advocate constant vigilance to ensure that the experiences of those victims of abuse in Lord and Lady Polwarth Children's Home are not repeated.



121 George Street,  
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Email: [safeguarding@cofsotland.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cofsotland.org.uk)

Scottish Charity Number: SC01 1353

15 October 2013

**Open letter to the former residents of the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home who were harmed by Ian Samson**

I have asked the police to forward this letter to you because they have your details and keep them confidential.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Church of Scotland to express our deep regret for the harm that you experienced at the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home. We appreciate and acknowledge that the effects of that experience for you, and your family, are lifelong.

You may have seen in the newspapers and from the television that we have encouraged survivors of abuse from that time to contact the Church of Scotland's Safeguarding Service. You can find out more about the Safeguarding Service on the Church's website ([www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)). We would welcome you getting in contact if that is what you want to do. Details about how to do this can be found below. We also understand if you do not wish to take up this opportunity.

If you get in contact we will listen to what you have to say. You can say as little or as much as you wish. We will not ask you about what happened and you do not need to give us your name unless you want to.

Sometimes survivors of abuse appreciate help to decide what it is that they need. The Church has a Safeguarding Listener service which can help you with this. You can choose to use it if you wish. It is an opportunity for you to be heard and acknowledged. You are able to speak with a qualified Safeguarding Listener who is independent of the Church. Nothing that you discuss will ever be shared with the Church or the Safeguarding Service, unless you specifically wish this to happen.

Safeguarding Listeners are skilled at supporting people affected by abuse in childhood. The role of the Safeguarding Listener is not to tell you what to do but to help you decide for yourself what you want to do, when and how. Then you can let the Safeguarding Service know what support or information you need and we will aim to provide it. If you prefer, you could tell us what support you need without having to use the Safeguarding Listener Service.

We acknowledge the wrong that was done by Mr Samson and are sorry for the way in which this has affected you. If you would like to contact us you can do so confidentially by phone, in person or by email:

121 George Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 4YN  
t: 0131 240 2256 (This is the direct confidential line to the Safeguarding Service)  
e: [safeguarding@cofsotland.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cofsotland.org.uk)  
w: [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

We hope that the outcome of this court case is another positive step for you. You may like to know that we have set up an urgent review of this case, led by someone from outside of the Church, so that we can learn from what happened. If you would like to know the main findings of the report we can arrange for you to receive this information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Crosse".

Richard Crosse, Head of Safeguarding.

