

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry
Barnardo's Part A Response – The Establishment – Blackford Brae

Part A – Background

Blackford Brae opened 8 July 1944 at 9 South Oswald Road. On 17 December 1973, it relocated to 31 South Oswald Road and became known as South Oswald Road. South Oswald Road closed 14 December 1990.

1. Characteristics

1.1 History of the Organisation and Establishment

Please see Barnardo's part A response in relation to the organisation.

1.2 Funding of Establishment

Past

- i. How were the establishment's operations and activities, so far as relating to the provision of residential care for children, funded?

During Dr Barnardo's time all the homes were funded from donations by evangelists and wealthy families, many of them bankers, like the Barclays, Bevans, Dennys and Tritons. They all knew each other and quickly spotted Dr Barnardo's gifts as a speaker, writer, fundraiser, teacher and philanthropist.

Further income came from voluntary funds raised through collection boxes and events. In 1959 Barnardo's began selling Christmas Cards. In 1961 an Appeals Department was established which brought together all the strands of fundraising to keep services going, effectively charities subsidising the state's legal responsibilities. In 1973 the first Barnardo's shop opened.

From the 1950's the homes were funded through a mixture of donors' funds, now called voluntary income, and government funding, with additional voluntary income.

- ii. Was the funding adequate to properly care for the children?

Comparatively, the children who were resident in Barnardo's homes received better material care than in many families. In the early years, prior to local authority support, the homes benefitted from a good level

of donations. The Barnardo's Book was very specific on the level of support to be provided, to the extent of setting out the amount of pocket money children were to receive. Homes tended to spend as they saw appropriate and in response to the needs they identified. That included funding holidays for children and mini-buses for the homes.

The houses were well-equipped. Funds were spent on maintenance, regular redecoration, games rooms and improved sleeping arrangements.

The children were well-nourished. There was guidance in the Barnardo's Book on meals and the provision of an adequate, varied diet for growing children.

The introduction of grants from local authorities provided funding to cover the basic needs of children placed by them, but all the residential homes were subsidised to a greater or lesser extent from Barnardo's voluntary funds.

Most of the homes had an annual fete which brought in funds for the home which in the main were spent on activities and the summer holiday.

iii. If not, why not?

Dr Barnardo's ever open door policy meant that no destitute child should ever be turned away. Barnardo's tried hard to find room for the children they were asked to care for. Children were provided with basic needs: shelter, food clothing and education. As set out in answer 1.2 ii), this developed into a more structured form over support over the years.

iv. What state support did it receive?

Where the child was placed at Blackford Brae by the local authority, Barnardo's was paid a maintenance grant.

From 1990 Blackford Brae was jointly funded by Lothian Region's education and social work departments which provided a substantial proportion of the funding.

Present

- v. If the establishment continues to provide residential care for children, how is that funded?

The home closed on 14 December 1990.

- vi. What state support does it receive?

N/A.

1.3 Legal Status

(a) Organisation

Please see Barnardo's part A response in relation to the organisation.

(b) Establishment

Past

- i. Did the establishment have a special legal, statutory or other status?

The Children & Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937 made detailed provision for removing children to a place of safety. A place of safety included voluntary homes defined as "any home or other institution for the boarding, care and maintenance of poor children of young persons, being a home or other institution supported or wholly or partly by voluntary contributions." The definition of voluntary home was maintained under the Children Act 1948. Blackford Brae was classed as a voluntary home under these Acts.

The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 removed the definition of voluntary homes and instead referred to residential homes. Residential homes 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." Blackford Brae fell within this definition.

In 1966 Blackford Brae was reclassified as a 'special home', due to the number of 'maladjusted and emotionally disturbed' children being placed there through the psychiatric services of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. It remained classified as a special home until 1990.

- ii. If not, how was the establishment described?

See answer 1.3 (i) above.

- iii. What was the legal basis which authorised, or enabled, the establishment to become responsible for managing the care of children in a residential setting?

- The Children & Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937

The 1937 Act provided for the inspection of voluntary homes.¹ The Secretary of State was given an important monitoring function. Anyone appointed by the Secretary of State had the power to go into a home and examine how it was being managed and the condition and treatment of the children.² The Act provided general provisions on the appointment and duties of inspectors.

- The Children (Boarding-out Etc.)(Scotland) Rules and Regulations 1947

These regulations covered institutions where were not classed as poor houses, remand homes or approved schools.³ The 1947 regulations therefore applied to residential homes like Blackford Brae. The local authorities were given facilities for visiting the institution and satisfying themselves about arrangements for the child's welfare.⁴

- The Children Act 1948

The 1948 Act required that voluntary homes be registered with the Secretary of State.⁵ The inspection provisions contained within the 1937 Act also applied under the 1948 Act. Anyone authorised by a local authority could go into any voluntary home to check on the children's wellbeing.⁶

The 1948 Act provided that a child in local authority care should not be placed in a voluntary home if it could not provide facilities for the child to receive a religious upbringing in keeping with his/her religion.⁷

¹ The Children & Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937, s98.

² *Ibid*, s98(3)

³ SI 21 46/1947, paragraph 2(1)

⁴ *Ibid*, paragraph 26.

⁵ *Ibid*, s29(1).

⁶ *Ibid*, s54(3)

⁷ The Children Act 1948, section 16(2)

- Voluntary Homes (return of Particulars)(Scotland) Regulations 1952

The 1952 regulations stipulated that certain details of voluntary homes had to be sent to the Secretary of State including the home's name and address, the name of the person in charge, the number of children in the home and the number of children receiving education, training or employment.

- The Administration of Children's Homes (Scotland) Regulations 1959

The 1959 regulations dealt with the conduct of voluntary homes. The administering authority had to be sure that the home was run in ways which secured the well-being of the children in its care.⁸ The administering authority was defined as the local authority or people carrying on a home. For the purposes of the 1959 regulations, the administering authority appointed for Barnardo's homes in Scotland was the Regional Executive Officer.

In voluntary homes, the person in charge was responsible to the administering authority for the home's conduct.⁹

Discipline

The general discipline of the school was to be maintained by the personal influence of the person in charge of the home.¹⁰ The person in charge had to report any case of a child being punished with abnormal frequency to the administering authority. Any punishment required to be recorded in the log book. Any punishment for misconduct could only take the form of a temporary loss of recreation or privileges. Corporal punishment could be administered in exceptional circumstances by someone who had been given the power to do so by the home's administering authority. The form of the corporal punishment had to be in line with whatever rules the administering authority had laid down and any limits prescribed in relation to the punishment.¹¹

Health and safety

The 1959 regulations provided for basic sleeping arrangements. Each child was to have a separate bed with enough ventilation and lighting, and easy access to suitable and sufficient toilets and washing facilities.¹² The administering authority was to appoint a

⁸ SI 1959/834, paragraph 1

⁹ *Ibid*, paragraph 16.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, paragraph 10(1)

¹¹ *Ibid*, paragraph 11

¹² *Ibid*, paragraph 8

medical officer who attended homes at regular intervals to ensure that he/she was closely acquainted with the health of the child.¹³

Inspections and record keeping

The home's administering authority arranged monthly visits by an authorised visitor to ensure the home was being run in a way that ensured the children's welfare. The task of monthly visiting and reporting was discharged from the Regional Executive Officer to the Deputy Regional Executive Officer and later the Associate Divisional Director. The authorised visitor was to report to the administering authority on his visit and enter into the log book his name and the date of his visit. Parents and guardians could also visit the homes.

The 1959 regulations stated that the following records should be kept by voluntary homes: a register showing the date when every child was admitted and discharged from the home; a log book recording events such as visits and inspections, punishments, details of food provided; a personal history of each child in the home including medical history, circumstances of admission, details of the child's progress in the home including visits by parents/relatives; and the child's destination when discharged from the home. The person in charge of the home was responsible for compiling the records. These could be inspected by anyone authorised to visit the home, including the medical officer.

- The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968

The 1968 Act enabled the Secretary of State to make regulations that covered how residential establishments were run and the welfare of the people resident and accommodated in them.¹⁴ These were similar to arrangements established under the 1937 Act and the 1948 Act. Establishments not run by local authorities had to apply to the local authority to be registered before they could admit residents. Existing establishments, such as Blackford Brae, were also allowed to be registered.¹⁵

The 1968 Act consolidated the procedures for inspecting residential establishments. Local authority officers with the authority to do so could go into any establishment that was registered under the 1968 Act and examine any aspect of its condition, how it was being run and the condition and treatment of residents.

- The Social Work (Residential Establishments – Child

¹³ *Ibid*, paragraph 6(2)(d)

¹⁴ The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, s60(1)

¹⁵ *Ibid*, schedule 7, paragraph 1

Care)(Scotland) Regulations 1987

The management committee to whom powers are delegated within the organisation for management of the residential establishment were considered to have a duty to provide for the care, development and control of each child resident there in such a way as would be in the child's best interests.¹⁶ The management committee were required to prepare a statement of functions and objectives which covered a number of aspects of the child's care.¹⁷

Welfare of the child

The statement of functions and objectives included arrangements for meeting the emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical needs of the child; education arrangements; measures taken to safeguard the child; disciplinary arrangements; arrangements for visits by friends and family; the establishment's policy on involving children and parents in decisions about the child's future whilst in residential care; and healthcare arrangements.

They had to ensure that each child of school age who was not receiving a school education outwith the establishment received an adequate and effective education. Every child should be able to attend religious services and receive religious instruction as appropriate to the child's religion. The committee had a duty to make sure that the establishment had arrangements in place to maintain conditions conducive to the good health of the children, including access to medical and dental treatment.

Record keeping

The statement included arrangements for keeping records including procedures for selecting children to be admitted to the establishment, details of children admitted and discharged and records about how children and parents were involved in decision making. The management committee, working with the person in charge, had to ensure that all necessary records were properly maintained for every child resident in the establishment and that a log book was kept and maintained.

Discipline

The management committee could not authorise corporal punishment.

¹⁶ The Social Work (Residential Establishments – Child Care)(Scotland) Regulations 1987, paragraph 4.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, paragraph 5.

Staff recruitment

The statement of functions and objectives included policies and practice for recruiting and training qualified staff.

Implementation and review of statement

The management committee had a duty to keep the preparation and implementation of the statement under review. They also had to ensure that the person in charge of the establishment reported to them in writing at intervals of not more than six months, on how the statement was being implemented and to ensure that visits took place at least twice a year on their behalf to report on how the statement was being implemented.

Duties of placing authorities

The care authority required to visit a child placed in residential care within one week of the placement and thereafter at intervals of no more than three months from the last visit. Visits were followed up by written reports for the care authority to consider.¹⁸

- iv. Did that legal basis require the establishment, or its management, to meet, or fulfil, any legal and/or regulatory requirements in respect of children in its care? If so, please give details.

See the information in relation to accommodation, health and safety, record keeping and discipline above at answer 1.3 iii).

- v. Did the establishment have a legal duty of care to each child in its care?

Barnardo's, and those working in its establishments, owed a common law duty to take reasonable care of children placed in its care.

Present

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The home closed on 14 December 1990.

¹⁸ *Ibid*, paragraph 23(b)

vii. If so, please give details.

N/A.

1.4 Legal Responsibility

(a) Organisation

Please see Barnardo's part A response in relation to the organisation.

(b) Establishment

Past

i. Did the establishment, or those in charge of the establishment, have any separate legal responsibility (separate from the organisation) for children in its care?

The establishment did not have any legal responsibility for the children in its care separate to that of the organisation. The organisation and, in turn, the establishment and the staff employed there, had a duty to take reasonable care of the children placed in its care.

ii. If so, what was the nature of that responsibility?

N/A.

Present

iii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The home closed on 14 December 1990.

iv. If so, please give details.

N/A.

1.5 Ethos

(a) Organisation

Please see Barnardo's part A response in relation to the organisation.

(b) Establishment

Past

- i. What services were provided at the establishment, in terms of care for children?

When it opened in July 1944, Blackford Brae was a traditional residential children's home which provided daily care for 24 primary school aged children. It was situated in Edinburgh and following World War II was orientated to accommodate children whose homes were in the region and who were unlikely to return home in the long-term.

Blackford Brae was part of the old style care system where emphasis on providing for a child's physical needs was paramount. Little emphasis was placed on the emotional wellbeing of children or on understanding the impact that long term residential care would have in later life (institutionalisation).

In the annual report of 1955 there is reference to older children, so at some point the home started to take a mixed age group of children. Barnardo's has been unable to find specific information about this in the archives.

The annual report of 1964 comments that there were 17 to 24 local authority children in placement. Six were having weekly psychiatric help and between 8 and 10 children were of "low intelligence" and were either in special schools or in special classes of ordinary schools. A request was made of Barnardo's Head Office to reduce the numbers so that the staff may be better able to meet the special needs of the children.

The superintendents retired and the home was closed in 1965. It reopened in September 1966 with new superintendents. It was now a 16 bedded unit. Weekly staff conferences were held with all residential care staff, the visiting psychiatrist, general practitioner and deputy regional executive officer. A pamphlet from 1986/7 described 31 South Oswald Road as providing specialised residential care for difficult and disturbed children aged between 5 and 12, with a linked family social work service. It describes its task as:

“enabling the children placed either to return to their own parents or move on to a permanent new family.”

The aim was to achieve this within a two year time-scale. Each child had a key worker with a staff ratio of almost 1:1. The unit also had a linked consultant child psychiatrist and family social workers attached to South Oswald Road, working as a link between parents and the unit.

The residential provision at 31 South Oswald Road closed on 14 December 1990.

In spring 1991 a residential home was opened at 91 South Oswald Road, and became known as Blackford Brae. It offered a package of care and education in the community.

- ii. Did the establishment care for children of both sexes?

Yes. Referrals were accepted from all parts of Scotland, though most came from the central lowland belt.

- iii. If the establishment cared for children of one sex only, what was the thinking behind that policy?

N/A.

- iv. Were any special child care, or child protection measures, taken in the light of that policy? If so, please provide details.

Barnardo's has annual reports from 1946 to 1969 for Scotland. Each report includes a paragraph on each of the establishments in operation, including Blackford Brae. There is no information within the annual reports or the archives which refers to special care or child protection measures taken at Blackford Brae.

- v. What was the daily routine for boys/girls cared for at the establishment?

Life in the homes in the 1930s and 1940s was regimented with each day carefully planned and ordered. From accounts given to Barnardo's by former residents a typical day would include arising at about 6.30 a.m. followed by morning exercises. Children would then wash and

clean their teeth with their numbered towel and toothbrush following which they would make their beds. Prayers were said followed by the singing of the National Anthem before breakfast. Children would then go to outside schools. On return to the home, allocated jobs were completed such as cleaning and polishing shoes before the evening meal followed by leisure activities.

The daily routine from the 1950s onwards was generally more relaxed. There was increased flexibility in relation to routine and recognition of the individual needs of children. Children were encouraged to take part in individual activities.

- vi. What were the on-site activities for children cared for at the establishment?

In the early days, the activities would have included being read a story by the housemother and playing outside in the grounds of the home.

Later there would have been a greater range of activities for the children. Many of the homes had activity rooms with arts and crafts and sports facilities.

- vii. What were the off-site activities for them?

The children attended local schools. The annual report of 1946 states that 11 children attended Sciennes Road School and 1 attended Duncan Street Special School. The 1946 report says that the children had a summer holiday in a cottage at North Berwick and a trip to the zoo with students from the University and Moray House Training College.

The annual report of 1950 reports that the children "*lead a very active social life with their cubs, scouts, brownies and guides and numerous school friends.*" It states that the children receive many visitors to the home and take an active part in any preparations for entertaining their friends.

The annual report of 1953 states that the '*Christmas holidays brought many invitations to parties, pantomimes and the circus.*'

- viii. Did children work manually, either at the establishment, or externally (e.g. farming work or other labour), or both?

There were domestic staff, a laundry lady, seamstress, cook and

gardener to undertake maintenance tasks around the home.

Children would have undertaken chores before and after school and at the weekends, ranging from polishing and cleaning their dormitories, to washing up and gardening.

- ix. If the establishment was run by a Catholic religious order, were any prospective members of the order who were in training permitted to care for children?

The home was not run by a Catholic religious order.

Present

- x. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The home was closed on 14 December 1990.

- xi. If so, please give details.

N/A.

1.6 Numbers

(a) Organisation

Please see Barnardo's part A response in relation to the organisation.

(b) Establishment

Past

- i. How many children did the establishment accommodate at a time?

In 1944 when the home opened as Blackford Brae at 9 South Oswald Road, Edinburgh it provided mixed accommodation for 24 primary school aged children.

These numbers reduced over time as the service developed into a specialised home. In September 1966 when the home re-opened, there were 12 children in placement and planned admission for a further 4 when senior staff were recruited.

- ii. Did this change, and if so, what were the reasons?

On 21 February 1966 Blackford Brae became a home for children with emotional difficulties and accommodated 16 children.

The home closed temporarily in June 1973 as the superintendent, deputy and some care staff left. A letter dated 26 June 1973 stated that ‘a responsible organisation has to set certain guidelines within which staff must operate. The present staff felt unable to agree to the particular limit set and are leaving of their own volition.’ It re-opened in February 1974 and was known as South Oswald Road, providing specialised residential care for difficult and disturbed children aged between 5 and 12. It closed on 14 December 1990.

In spring 1991 a residential home was opened at 91 South Oswald Road, and became known as Blackford Brae. It offered a package of care and education in the community. It consisted of a 24 place day special education centre based in the former South Oswald Road project building at number 31, a short term seven bed unit and a longer term five bed residential unit in the community. Most young people remained with their parents whilst attending the education centre, but some had placements in the long or short term residential centre.

- iii. How many children in total were cared for at the establishment?

Decade	Numbers of children admitted
1940's	35
1950's	45
1960's	65
1970's	45
1980's	50
1990's	107
TOTAL	347

- iv. What accommodation was provided for the children?

Barnardo's does not have specific information about the accommodation provided at Blackford Brae. Generally children would have slept in large single sex bedroom or dormitories. There would have been bathrooms, a dining room, sitting room and a playroom.

There would have been a laundry room, sewing room and a large kitchen. The superintendent and his wife would have lived on site as would other married couples. Some homes had cottages for the staff within the grounds.

- v. How many children occupied a bedroom/dormitory/house?

There is no record of the number of children who occupied a room. It would have been dependent on age and gender. The average number per room would have been between 6 and 8 children.

Present

- vi. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The home was closed on 14 December 1990.

- vii. If so, please give details.

N/A.

1.7 Children's Background/Experience

Past

- i. Did the children admitted to the establishment generally have a shared background and/or shared experiences?

Generally children admitted to the homes shared similar histories of family breakdown due to a range of contributing factors including: poverty; neglect or other abuse, parental sickness or substance abuse; the child was extra-marital or otherwise illegitimate e.g. teenage pregnancy; the parent had learning or physical disability or mental health condition; child had a disability causing parental rejection or request for support with physical care; or the child had behaviour or mental health problems often related to one of the above. From 1946 more specialist care was provided. There was a trend towards keeping children at home or fostering where possible.

- ii. Were children admitted into the care of the organisation as a whole, or were they admitted into the care of a particular establishment?

Children were admitted to the organisation as a whole. Barnardo's styled itself as "The Largest Family in the World" and children were encouraged to feel they belonged to Barnardo's.

From the late 1960s, the local authorities placed children in homes which were more tailored to their needs. Children were increasingly likely to be placed in Barnardo's because they could offer a suitable establishment in the right geographic location meeting the child's individual needs and supporting contact with the child's birth family.

Blackford Brae had a close link to the Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children in the 1960s and 1970s and took in children needing psychiatric and emotional support.

- iii. If children were admitted into the care of the organisation, did the organisation decide which establishment they would be admitted into?

Since the founding of the organisation, decisions about placement of children had been made centrally at Barnardo's Head Office. Decisions were based on age and gender of the child and where the vacancies existed at any point in time; sometimes consideration was also given to placement with siblings (see below at viii).

The centralised nature of the organisation's administrative operation during the 1940s and 1950s, was crucial to Barnardo's national evacuation programme during the 1940s when most of Barnardo's homes in Scotland opened solely for the purpose of evacuation.

From the late 1960s planning for placement became more regional and increasingly localised, and as the role of local authorities in decision-making increased, the choice of home for a child or children would ultimately be made by the local authority through application to Barnardo's for a vacancy in a particular establishment.

- iv. Who placed children with the organisation?

The bodies responsible for placing children with Barnardo's included: the RSSPCC (now Children 1st); local authority children's departments; the court system; juvenile courts; and moral welfare agencies. In addition, in early years many children were placed by voluntary agreement. In the 1940s many children came to Scotland as part of the evacuation programme. Children moved from homes in or near

large towns in England considered vulnerable to wartime bombs.

By the late 1960s the majority of children were placed by the local authorities.

- v. From 15 April 1971 (the date on which the Children's Hearing system was introduced), did the organisation/establishment receive children mainly from the Children's Hearing system?

No information has been located relating to children received through the Children's Hearing System. Children were placed by local authorities who may have in turn received responsibility for children from the hearing system.

- vi. If not, how generally did children come to be admitted into the care of the organisation?

The children were referred by moral welfare, charities, and family members.

- vii. Was there a gender or other admission policy or practice operated by the organisation or any establishment run by it?

There were changes over the years but age and gender were both factors in that some homes were single-sex and took only a specific age-range of children. As an organisation, Barnardo's accepted children of any age and both genders.

- viii. What was the policy/procedure and practice regarding admission of siblings?

In the 1940s it was more about the child fitting the age-range of the home as part of the evacuation programme.

Later some homes were specifically set up to take family groups.

- ix. How long did children typically remain in the care of the organisation?

The length of stay in the care of Barnardo's varied very widely. If restoration to the birth family was not possible then a child would

typically stay in the care of the organisation until they reached school leaving age, after which their care and supervision would be passed to the After Care Department (see below 1.7 xx) – xxiii).

Some children were admitted for a specific purpose aimed at supporting the birth family, with restoration to the family being part of the plan from the start. This was not the most common pattern but it demonstrates that planning for the children could be responsive to the circumstances within the child's birth family.

When children were admitted as babies or toddlers as a result of parental rejection or neglect / abuse, they would typically remain in Barnardo's care until they reached majority. After 1947, adoption would have been considered under certain circumstances, but not in all cases.

- x. Were children moved between different establishments run by the organisation?

In the 1940s and 1950s it was typical for a child in Barnardo's care to move from one home to another or to move from a home to a foster home (and vice versa), or between foster homes.

Later, from the late 1960s and onwards, it became more common for children to be restored to parents following shorter stays, or for the child to be moved to a more specialist provision which would better meet the child's individual needs.

- xi. If so, in what circumstances?

If a home was closing down or changing its purpose, the children were either dispersed to several other establishments or moved as a group to a new or existing home. Decisions about changes of placement were usually based on a child's age, and their 'suitability' or otherwise for fostering. Consideration might be given to placement with siblings (see below at 1.7 viii)).

Children were also moved because their behaviour indicated that the home was not meeting their needs, in which case they might move to a more specialised establishment.

As a young person approached school leaving age they were likely to be placed in one of Barnardo's vocational training schools to prepare them for the world of work until around the 1960s.

- xii. Generally did children typically stay in one, or more than one, establishment?

Most children placed in Barnardo's care in the 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s would have experienced a minimum of two placements within Barnardo's, and very many would have upwards of three changes of placement.

If a child came in for a shorter term placement they would be more likely to remain in one establishment for the duration.

In later years from the late 1960s, changes of placement became less common.

In the event of a foster home breakdown, or family breakdown following an attempt to restore to birth family, it was not uncommon for a child to be returned to the home from which they had most recently moved.

- xiii. What provision was made for contact between siblings while siblings were at the establishment?

Siblings were often placed together but where siblings were not initially placed together sometimes efforts were made to reunite a sibling group in one establishment. Where this was not possible visits were sometimes arranged between siblings; this was more common in the 1970s onwards than in the 1940s.

- xiv. What provision was made for contact between children and their parents and wider family while children were at the establishment?

In the 1940s and 1950s there was little contact between illegitimate, deserted and neglected children and their families. Where the child was placed on a short term basis and the child had contact with their family, that contact was maintained. From the 1970s more contact was made by telephone. Children were placed more closely to their families and weekend visits took place.

Contact with families was reviewed as children approached school leaving age. Some went home at weekends and holidays. The local authority, where responsible, would make these arrangements.

- xv. What provision was made for information sharing/updates about the children to their parents?

The nature of correspondence with parents changed over time. In the early days there was little contact. Barnardo's would write to parents to obtain their agreement to medical treatment and inform them about holiday arrangements.

From the late 1960s onwards when local authorities were responsible for children, the child and families would be consulted/visited prior to review for an update of the circumstances. Families would not routinely be invited to attend the review until the late 1970s.

Contact was often made through local authority welfare officers.

- xvi. What provision was made for information sharing/updates about parents to their children?

This changed over time. In the early days some children reported that they weren't told when a relative had died, others reported that parents were encouraged to tell the child about the death of their grandparent. Children would not be burdened with news of day to day life in their birth families. Where the child had been abandoned or deserted, often no information was given. If it was thought to be in the child's best interests, the information was shared with the child. As the reasons for admission changed over time, contact was more often maintained.

When a child was the responsibility of the local authority, this was all the role of the child's local authority social worker.

- xvii. What provision was made for the celebration of children's birthdays, Christmas and other special occasions?

In the early days children would have been given a birthday present by Barnardo's. In later years money provided by the local authority was given specifically for birthday gifts.

Christmas was celebrated in a big way. There was a large tree and a gift for every child. Gifts would be donated by the public or local charities, but children were told that these had been left by 'Father Christmas'. It was routine to give gifts after Christmas lunch. Children may have been invited to parties or taken to the pantomime, courtesy of local charitable organisations or military bases.

- xviii. What was the process for review of children's continued residence at the establishment, in terms of whether they continued to require to be there?

From the 1940s until after the Children Act 1948 came into force there would have been yearly internal reviews held at the home, supervised and attended by staff from Head Office. There would be no involvement or input from birth family. The 1948 Act stipulated that reviews be carried out by local authorities.

From the late 1960s onwards when the local authority was responsible for the child, the local authority would consult/visit children and families prior to review for an update of circumstances.

- xix. When children left the care of the establishment, what was the process for discharge?

Discharge from an establishment within the organisation took place without much ceremony when a child was moving to another Barnardo's placement, be it foster home or children's home. In the 1940s children frequently weren't given a detailed explanation of the reason for their move. They would be escorted between placements by a Barnardo's welfare officer or a 'travelling matron'. There was a similar approach if a child left in order to return to their birth family. The following observations therefore relate to children leaving the organisation and moving into work and independent living.

A "Farewelling" ceremony was routine in the 1940s and 1950s – the young person spent a few days at Headquarters where they would be given clothing, a suitcase, and a Bible. They would be invited into the office of a senior manager who would discuss the advisability or otherwise of contact with their birth family in the future, based on the information contained in their file.

In the 1940s and 1950s, plans for discharge were agreed and monitored through the review system and most children would have a job and lodgings to go to before they actually left the home. Unless the young person was returning to live with their birth family they would be referred to Barnardo's After Care Department for ongoing support. This was provided for as long as the young person needed it, which for some, was for many years after they left the care of the organisation.

From the 1960's onwards, the majority of discharges would have been the responsibility of the placing local authority.

- xx. What support was offered to children when they left the care of the establishment?

In the 1940s to the late 1960s, Barnardo's After Care Department actively supported young people for as long as it was needed: welfare officers assisted young people to find accommodation and employment for them, and visited them on a regular basis. If necessary, a young person's wages would be supplemented to ensure their accommodation costs were covered, and to ensure they had appropriate clothing and tools for work.

Some of the homes accommodated former residents on return visits for weekends and holidays.

The After Care Department ran a Guild membership for former residents, and distributed magazines 3 to 4 times a year with news of the homes, of other former residents, e.g. weddings and children, and general developments in Barnardo's work. The department also helped former residents to renew contact with old friends from the homes, and funded wedding gifts for the girls when they got married.

There was also a scheme for the award of Good Conduct Medals as incentive for young people to stay in the same job for one, two and three years respectively.

In later years young people would be referred to Youth Employment services and their maintenance would be financed by the DHSS. After the later 1960s, many children were placed by local authorities. The local authority placing the child was responsible for ensuring that planning for independence took place ahead of the young person's date of discharge.

- xxi. What information was sought by the organisation and/or establishment about what children leaving its care planned to go on to do?

See above at 1.7 xx).

- xxii. Was such information retained and updated?

All care records and After Care records for every child resident in a Barnardo's establishment or foster home have been retained in line with Barnardo's Records Retention Policy.

Barnardo's Making Connections service maintains the archive of children's records and provides an access to records service.

All contact with adults formerly in Barnardo's care or adopted through Barnardo's, seeking help or support or access to their information, is recorded and stored at the Making Connections Archive, in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Local authorities would have had records for those children which they placed in care.

We would also refer you to the opening statement at the start of the response on the organisation.

- xxiii. What was provided in terms of after-care for children/young people once they left the establishment?

See above under 1.7 xx).

Present

- xxiv. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The home closed on 14 December 1990.

- xxv. If so, please give details.

N/A.

1.8 Staff Background

(a) Organisation

Please see Barnardo's part A response in relation to the organisation.

(b) Establishment

Past

- i. How many persons were employed in some capacity at the establishment?

Immediately prior to the home temporarily closing in 1973, Blackford Brae had a care staff establishment of 8, with 6 in post and 5 ancillary staff as follows:

1 Superintendent
 1 Deputy Superintendent
 2 House-parents
 2 Assistant House-parents
 2 Domestic (1 part time)
 1 Laundress
 1 Cook
 1 Housekeeper

- ii. How many of those persons had the opportunity of unaccompanied access to a child, or children, cared for at the establishment?

It is likely that all employed staff would have had unaccompanied access to children at Blackford Brae. It was usual for female staff to attend to girls and male staff to attend to boys, where possible. The staff were predominantly female, particularly when the home was first set up during World War II.

- iii. How many were involved in the provision of care to children accommodated at the establishment (child care workers)?

Barnardo's is unable to provide a definitive answer to this question as staff lists are no longer in existence. When it opened Blackford Brae would have employed a superintendent and a deputy who would have been supported by matrons/assistant matrons as they were then known. Later these were called houseparents.

The annual report from 1947 states that two social science students had been on placement for an afternoon and evening each week.

In a report in 1973 there was a staffing establishment of 8.

- iv. What experience and/or qualifications, if any, did the child care workers require to have?

The original model for a Barnardo's home was based around the recreation of the family unit within a residential setting. Married couples were generally recruited to be in charge of each home. However,

when Blackford Brae opened in 1944, it was during World War II, and married couples were less available.

In the early days prior to World War II residential staff would have had little or no formal qualifications. Some superintendents had nursing qualifications and later residential child care qualifications.

By the early 1970s superintendents and senior residential staff were routinely being sent on child care courses. By the mid-1980s a high number of senior staff in residential care had a qualification. In the 1990s there was a huge push to train all residential social workers (RSW's) as they were by then known in SVQs. Barnardo's developed a comprehensive programme of SVQs across all homes ensuring that high numbers of staff at all levels were appropriately trained.

There was a move from unqualified residential social work staff to a model where staff were qualified and provided with high levels of performance management and supervision. Training for residential staff was also more widely available and encouraged, both in terms of induction training and ongoing training needs. Many staff completed the 'National Certificate in Child Care' from the Central Training Council.

The 1946 annual report on the work in Scotland highlights the many staff changes during the year, stating that "nearly all the homes are at present short of at least two staff on the children's side of work." It goes on to state that "during the last year we have received over 200 applications in answer to advertisements. 142 applicants were interviewed of whom 45 have been engaged. Many of these have only stayed for the probationary month."

In 1947 nursery nursing training courses were running in Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh for staff in residential homes

The Association for Mental Health in Scotland, supported by two members of the Home Department, organised a training day for Superintendents and Deputies to discuss issues and activities for children of different ages.

Barnardo's ran its own course for residential staff which fulfilled the requirements laid down by the CTC, but additionally had a special concern for the religious education of students. It consisted of two months' preliminary work in a children's home to test their fitness and aptitude for the work. After this, terms were spent at the Staff Training Centre, Woodford Bridge alternated with further periods of practical training in the homes of Barnardo's or the local authority. At the conclusion of 15 months' training an examination was taken. If successful the certificate was awarded.

In relation to Blackford Brae, the 1950 annual report states that Miss

Boylan, the assistant matron, attended a course arranged by the Scottish Home Department, and in 1954 was taking the Scottish Child Care Course.

In a report from 1973 the care staff had the following qualifications:

Superintendent - Master Social Work B.A.
 Deputy - Diploma in Social Work
 Senior Houseparent – M.S.W.
 Houseparent - B.A. Home Office Certificate (Field Work)
 Assistant House-parent – M.A. (ord)
 Assistant House-parent - unqualified
 1 vacant House-parent
 1 vacant assistant House-parent

- v. What was the child care worker/child numbers ratio?

Barnardo's is not able to give a definitive answer to this question as generally this information does not exist. During 1971 the average number of children in placement per month was 10.75 with an average staff figure of 6 in post and 4 on duty at any time.

During 1972 the average number of children in placement per month was 9.5 with an average staff figure of 7 in post and 4 on duty at any time.

- vi. What was the gender balance of the child care workers?

There is reference in the annual report of 1956 to there being a lack of male staff which was proving difficult now that the boys were getting older. There is evidence in the 1969 report of the appointment of a married couple as superintendents.

In the 1973 report there were three male and three female care staff in post, with 5 female ancillary staff.

- vii. Was any attempt made to employ child care workers in looking after children of the same sex as those workers?

The 1973 report shows that there was a balance between the genders.

Present

- viii. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The home closed on 14 December 1990.

- ix. If so, please give details.

N/A.

2. Organisational Structure and Oversight

2.1 Governance

Please see Barnardo's part A response in relation to the organisation.

2.2 Culture

Please see Barnardo's part A response in relation to the organisation.

2.3 Leadership

Past

- i. How was the establishment managed and led?

The home was managed by a superintendent/s.

- ii. What were the names and qualifications of the persons in charge of the establishment? Please include the dates for when each of the persons was in charge.

Dates	Name of Superintendent	Qualifications
1944 – 1957	Miss Macpherson	Home Department's refresher course for senior staff 1958
1957 – 1965	Mr and Mrs Phillips	No information available

1966-1971	Mr Currie	Letter of Recognition 1969
1966-1971	Mrs Currie	SRN
1971-1973	Mr Fulcher	Masters in Social Work
1973-1975	Mr Casey	Masters in Social Work
1975-1979	Mr Craig	No information available
1985-1990	Mr Jim Glynn (Project Leader)	Qualification in Social Work.

The 1969 annual report stated that the senior staff were a married couple, Home Office trained. Another member of staff had recently returned from the houseparents course, whilst two other had applied for places on the course. The same report stated:

'that in almost all the homes permission had been given to reduce the number of children and increase the number of staff in order to arrive at a staff/children ratio more appropriate to the demands of the children. More staff at a rate of 3 to 5 a year are being seconded on to training courses. Residential staff expect to use the services of field work staff more and more in order to further this increasing co-operation for the benefit of the children and their families.'

A request was thereafter made to increase the child care officer numbers (field staff).

- iii. What was the oversight and supervision arrangements by senior management within the establishment?

Senior staff would provide oversight and support to junior staff on duty.

- iv. What were the oversight arrangements by the organisation, including visits by or on behalf of the organisation?

From the 1960s Dr Methven, a consultant psychiatrist employed by Barnardo's, visited on a monthly basis to provide advice and support to the staff team.

From 1966 Miss Massey a psychiatric social worker who was Barnardo's Deputy Regional Executive Officer for Scotland provided support to the homes and worked closely with the parents of children placed in Blackford Brae and the appropriate Child Care Officers. In addition there was an After-Care Officer who had responsibility for school leavers. Both Miss Massey and Dr Methven would visit on a monthly basis and attend case reviews on each child.

There were monthly staff meetings of all the superintendents and the field work staff to discuss different methods of working and the development of policies.

The Regional Executive Officer would visit each home at least twice a year and would prepare a report for the Board of Trustees.

There were annual visits by the domestic advisor, the medical advisor and education advisor who provided annual reports to the Board of Trustees. The Scottish Trustee representative would visit annually as would senior management from Barnardo's Head Office in London.

Present

- v. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The home closed on 14 December 1990.

- vi. If so, please give details

N/A.

2.4 Structure

Past

- i. What was the structure of the organisation?

Please see Barnardo's part A response in relation to the organisation.

- ii. What was the structure of the establishment?

Barnardo's has not found details of the exact structure of Blackford Brae. There was a superintendent, deputy superintendent and housemothers/parents. Each houseparent managed a group of children with the assistance of care workers.

2.5 Hierarchy and Control

Please see Barnardo's part A response in relation to the organisation.

2.6 External Oversight

Past

- i. What were the arrangements for external oversight of the organisation and the establishment?

Reference is made to answer 1.3 viii). The Scottish annual report of 1955 records that "we continue to receive much help and encouragement from the Scottish Home Department and have a good relationship with the Children's Officers."

Barnardo's has not been able to locate any inspection reports for the identified Scottish homes in the archives. They would have formed part of the management papers for the home which would have been destroyed in line with Barnardo's retention and destruction policy.

- ii. Who visited the organisation and/or the establishment in an official or statutory capacity and for what purpose?

The visitors' book which would have captured the names of all those who visited Blackford Brae was destroyed under Barnardo's destruction policy.

The annual report of 1946 states that visits were made by Dr Finlay of the Public Health Department and Dr Ida Seymour and Miss Maynard of the Department of Health. The purpose of these visits is not known.

The 1950 annual report highlights the 'co-operation and encouragement in all spheres of our work received from the Scottish Home Department. Help was also received from the Department of Education and the School Medical Services, particularly in the recent endeavour to obtain information concerning physically handicapped children in Scotland.'

iii. How often did this occur?

The annual report of 1952 states that representatives from the Scottish Home Department visit the homes regularly, and frequently send out other visitors, children's officers etc. "*They are always helpful in their criticism and very appreciative of the work being done.*"

Barnardo's cannot find any additional information in the archives about the frequency of these visits other than stated at answer 2.6 ii) above.

iv. What did these visits involve in practice?

There are no records of these visits in the archives so Barnardo's is not able to comment in detail on what these visits involved. From annual reports it appears that they inspected the physical facilities and talked to the superintendent. It is unclear whether they saw any children during these visits.

v. What involvement did local authorities have with the organisation and/or the establishment in respect of residential care services for children?

Barnardo's has reviewed Scottish annual reports from 1946 to 1969 which are in the Barnardo's archives. These were retained as part of a 10% sample of management papers. These show that in 1950, 1 child was admitted to Barnardo's care from the local authority. In 1954 that number increased to 51 and by December 1960 had risen to 107. The last annual report shows that of the 78 children admitted to Barnardo's residential homes in the year 1968/1969, 70 were placed by the local authority.

The annual report for 1955 stated that 4 children local authority children were placed in Blackford Brae that year from the local authority. Barnardo's does not have any further information as to the number of children that were placed in Blackford Brae each year by the local authority.

- vi. What involvement did local authorities have with the organisation and the establishment in respect of the children at the establishment?

The annual reports from the 1960s reveal that there was a good relationship with the Local Authority Children's Officers.

- vii. If the establishment was run by a Catholic religious order, what actual involvement and/or responsibility, whether formal or informal, did the Catholic Hierarchy/Bishops' Conference have, either directly or at diocesan level, in the creation, governance, management and/or oversight of the establishment?

The establishment was not run by a Catholic Order.

- viii. What was the nature and extent of any pastoral care provided to the establishment, if it was run by a religious order?

N/A.

Present

- ix. With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

The home closed on 14 December 1990.

- x. If so, please give details.

N/A.