

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report addresses **Aberlour Child Care Trust's** policies and procedures in respect of the migration of children whose care originated in Scotland, for the period 1 January 1900 to 31 December 1930.

The information contained within this report is based on an investigation of **Aberlour Child Care Trust's** (the organisation's) records between 1930 and present day. The records reviewed include the minutes of meetings of the organisation's governing body and relevant management committees and the Aberlour Orphanage Magazines for the period. The organisation's ledger book, which recorded admissions and discharge destinations, was consulted, as were individual case records of children resident in the Orphanage who are recorded as being discharged to destinations out with the UK.

Between 1900 and 1930, two distinct types of emigration appear to have been supported by the Orphanage:

- a) arrangements for children to join family members who were already resident overseas (for example, █████ children, █████ children, █████, probably █████ children, █████); and
- b) emigration through colonisation schemes

In some cases, there is no information in the Organisation's records to explain the circumstances of a child's discharge out with the UK.

## **1. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

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

Other than to the extent that this can be said to be covered by the establishment's purposes set out within its original constitution (ABE.001.001.0250), wherein it is recorded that the organisation's object is to provide a comfortable home for the children served, the organisation's historic records do not contain evidence of formal policies and procedures relating to migration. Formal records of such may have been maintained at the time, but if so do not appear to be available any longer. There is no individual within the organisation who was present during the operation of the establishment during this period and who could speak to the organisation's policies and procedures from direct knowledge.

The expectation is that the organisation's policies and procedures were in accordance with good practice during this period.

For example, a review of the Organisation's ledger book for the period shows that no child under 14 was discharged to a destination out with the UK except as part of a family group.

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

The aim of child migration was to secure a positive destination for the children on leaving the Orphanage. The Orphanage Magazine notes:

'Six boys have been sent to Canada under the Canadian Pacific Scheme. They are carefully looked after on the other side, materially and spiritually and have every chance of doing well' (July 1927, p 75).

Following a visit to Canada in 1928, the sub warden writes:

- 1) "We are right to take part in this important branch of the work of colonialization"; and
- 2) "Our boys...will be able to look forward to a future independence and will make for themselves an honest career and at the same time will help to build up the wealth and prosperity of the country." (Orphanage Magazine, July 1928, p. 80)

The Orphanage Magazine (1927, p 22) shows that it was procedure to make contact with the local scout association in the area that Scouts were discharged to 'in order that a hand of fellowship can be extended to them'.

The Orphanage recruited sponsors to write to the boys, with the intention of providing comfort and a link with the home country. (1927 p 59)

Boys migrated through the Canadian Pacific Scheme were provided with an outfit and £2 'landing money' (Orphanage Magazine June 1929 p 47)

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

As explained above, records of the organisation's past policies and procedures are no longer retained and there is nobody currently within the organisation who can speak to the practices during this period. For this reason, it is not possible to confirm where, or indeed whether, such policies and procedures were recorded. Other than as outlined herein, no record of relevant policies and procedures can be traced amongst the records presently available to the organisation.

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

For reasons outlined above, it is not possible to confirm what was set out in the policies and procedures, if such existed, in terms of the specific areas covered below. By examining records and accounts from the period, it is possible to identify common practice which may have been underpinned by more formal organisational policies and / or procedures.

- **Identification and checking the suitability of the places where children were sent**

According to the July 1928 Orphanage Magazine, 'boy emigration was subject to a very careful supervision.' The Inspector of the British Immigration and Colonialization Organisation through which Aberlour sent boys, 'pays visits for inspection every two months' (p 78 – 80)

According to Orphanage Magazines and some individual children's records, Aberlour records, children went to Canada as part of the Canadian Pacific Scheme. It is known that a colonisation agent visited the Orphanage in 1927 (Orphanage Magazine April 1927, p5) and that in 1928 the Warden went to Canada and personally visited all of the boys working on farms (Orphanage Magazine, July 1928, p 78 – 80, June 1929, p 47).

Reference is made within the Orphanage Magazine's Manager's report that the children are well cared for materially and spiritually, which suggests some system of oversight was in place. (July 1927, p 75)

These references suggest there may have been criteria for suitability of places children were sent to and these were actively checked.

- **Selection of children migrating including age, gender and background**

According to an article in Aberlour Orphanage Magazine, the Canadian Pacific scheme was limited to boys who were over 5 ft tall and weighed over 100lbs (April 1927, p5). The Orphanage Ledger Book shows that, within Aberlour the minimum age for migration was 14, unless a child was travelling as part of a family group with older family members. All of those selected for the scheme were in the Scouts, where presumably their characters and suitability could be assessed. The physical requirements presented a barrier to some boys from being accepted for the scheme, according to the article referenced above

There is no evidence of girls migrating from the Orphanage, other than as part of a family group.

This suggests existence of a selection policy, formal or otherwise.

- **Provision of information to the child and/or his/her parents before migration**

There is no evidence within the organisation's historic records of formal policies and procedures relating to provision of information to parents before migration.

It is known that a colonisation agent visited the Orphanage in 1927 (Orphanage Magazine, April 1927, p5) and 6 boys were chosen for the scheme 'much to the envy of their chums.' It is documented that the agent talked about the opportunities. The agent emphasised that hard work was involved, but that there was the potential to 'make headway' and always the chance of getting a farm of their own.

This is evidence that the boys were provided with some information about the scheme.

- **Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once the child had been migrated**

There is no evidence within the organisation's historic records of formal policies and procedures relating to provision of information to parents once the child had migrated.

Letters of reply from the warden were seldom held on file during the period.

We know, for example that a letter of acknowledgement for sending photographs of the ██████████ Children to their mother, is held on file, whilst the original is not. (██████████ file, p.8)

██████████ a boy who emigrated to Canada, writes his thanks for the letter and magazine and asks for questions to be answered in next letter (Orphanage Magazine, p260-261, 1930)

██████████ another boy who emigrated, in letter published in Orphanage Magazine (March 1930, p. 235) acknowledges receipt of a Christmas letter.

These examples evidence that correspondence happened but was not filed.

Records show that birth lines were sent to some of the children, or their parents or other family members after they left the Orphanage (Children's files: ██████, to self in 1935 (p.2), ██████, to father in 1934 (p.7), ██████ to sister in 1934 (p.2), ██████, to self in 1931 (p.2)

There is a letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 1915 on the ██████ file showing that the Warden sent a photo of the two girls with their uncle to the girls' mother.

These examples show that information or records were provided in some cases in response to requests for such.

- **Obtaining consent of child**

There are no records of procedures in relation to obtaining the child's consent. There is no evidence of formal consent on individual children's records.

The extract from the Orphanage Magazine which suggests that acceptance on the scheme was to be envied (April 1927, p.5) and the letters published in the magazines from boys settled in Canada point to the Scheme being a voluntary arrangement. For example, ██████ Orphanage Magazine, July 1928; ██████, Orphanage Magazine 1929, p 66)

- **Obtaining consent of parents of child**

There are no records of procedures in relation to obtaining parental consent. There is no evidence of formal consent on individual children's records.

There is evidence that some children emigrated with their next of kin's knowledge and / or at their request.

██████ Children's file: Letter from Aunt (p.19-22)

██████ p.4, letter from mother (p.4)

██████ (Orphanage Magazine, July 1929, p. 64)

- **Obtaining of consent of others e.g. Secretary of State**

There is no evidence of a requirement to obtain the Secretary of State's consent during the period.

- **Responding to requests for information from the child migrants**

There is no evidence within the organisation's historic records of formal policies and procedures relating to responding to requests for information from child migrants.

Letters from the Warden were rarely filed in children's records during the period (please see response above on 'Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once the child had been migrated')

There are numerous examples of correspondence between 'old boys' and the Orphanage which indicates that strong links continued after discharge which would be conducive to positive responses to request from the child migrants.

For example, as highlighted above, [REDACTED] a boy who emigrated to Canada, writes his thanks for the letter and magazine and asks for questions to be answered in next letter (Orphanage Magazine, p260-261, 1930)

[REDACTED] another boy who emigrated, in letter published in Orphanage Magazine (March 1930, p. 235) acknowledges receipt of a Christmas letter.

- **Other issues**

There is no evidence within the organisation's historic records of formal policies and procedures dealing with other issues concerning child migration.

**e) Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?**

The organisation's historic records do not contain evidence of formal policies and procedures relating to migration. Formal records of such may have been maintained at the time, but if so do not appear to be available any longer. There is no individual currently within the organisation who was present during the operation of the establishment and who could speak to the organisation's policies and procedures in this period from direct knowledge

In general, policies and procedures of the Orphanage were compiled by the warden and approved by the establishment's management committee and the organisation's governing body. There are no references to migration between 1900 and 1930 in the management meeting minutes.

The inclusion of articles and letters referring to boys' emigration to Canada within the Orphanage Magazine, as illustrated in examples above, which was widely distributed, would suggest that the Organisation's management committee would have been aware of the practice and, whether explicitly or not, endorsed it.

**f) When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?**

The exact timing of the introduction or development of any policies and procedures of the organisation related to migration is not clear from historic records, particularly as there are no remaining written records of those policies or procedures.

The Organisation's Ledger Book show that the first boys migrating from the Orphanage to Canada via the Canadian Pacific Company left in 1927.

Emigration as part of a family group, potentially to join family, appears to have been supported on occasion throughout the period. For example, the [REDACTED] children emigrated to Canada in 1901, and the [REDACTED] family departed in 1926.

**g) Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?**

There is no evidence within the organisation's historic records of review of formal policies and procedures or changes to those being formally recorded during the period covered by this report.

**h) If so, what was the reason for review?**

Formal policies and procedures relating to migration, if they existed, do not appear to have been retained and there is no record of reviews or reasons for such reviews.

**i) What substantive changes, if any, were made to policies and/or procedures over the time?**

There is no evidence within the organisation's historic records of substantive changes to formal policies and procedures being formally recorded over this period.

**j) Why were changes made?**

As highlighted above, there is no evidence within the organisation's historic records of formal policies and procedures or changes to those being formally recorded.

**(k) Were changes documented?**

As highlighted above, there is no evidence within the organisation's historic records of substantive changes to formal policies and procedures being formally recorded over this period.

**l) Was there an audit trail?**

Formal policies and procedures relating to migration, if they existed, do not appear to have been retained and there is no record of reviews or audits.

## **2. ADHERENCE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN PRACTICE**

### **(a) Did the Organisation and its establishment(s) adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in terms of child migrants relating to the following?**

Records of any past policies and procedures of the organisation relevant to child migration over this period are no longer retained and there is nobody currently within the organisation who can speak directly to the practices during this time. For this reason, it is not possible to now confirm what was set out in any such policies and procedures, if such existed, over the period in question in relation to the specific areas covered below. By examining records and accounts from the period, it is possible to identify certain common practices which may have been underpinned by more formal organisational policies and / or procedures, and, if so, may demonstrate adherence thereto.

- **Identification and checking the suitability of the places where children were sent**

The Orphanage Magazine reports that in 1928 the Warden went to Canada and personally visited all of the boys already working on farms. (June 1928, p 78 – 80, June 1929, p 47) He travelled with the next cohort of migrants and so was present on their initial arrival. August 1928 magazine, notes ‘they seem extremely happy and well cared for and Mr Wolfe was more than pleased with the conditions under which they are living and working.’ (p. 103)

In April 1929, the Orphanage Magazine reports the existence of an inspection process: ‘Boy emigration was subject to a very careful supervision.’ The Inspector of the British Immigration and Colonialization Organisation through which Aberlour sent boys, ‘pays visits for inspection every two months’ (June 1928, p 78 – 80)

- **Selection of children to migrate including age, gender, background**

Examination of the Orphanage Ledger book, which recorded admissions and discharge destination, no child under 14 left to a destination out with the UK unless as part of a family group along with older family members. Records suggest that the Colonisation Scheme with the Canadian Pacific Company which Aberlour participated in was only used for boys over 14.

No girls were involved in emigration except as part of a family group.

This suggests adherence to a selection policy, formal or otherwise.

- **Provision of information to the child and/or his/her parents before migration**

There is no evidence within the organisation’s historic records of formal policies and procedures relating to provision of information to parents before migration.



The visit and talk by a colonisation agent described in the Orphanage Magazine (April 1927, p5) demonstrates that boys were provided with general information.

- **Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once child had been migrated**

There is no evidence within the organisation's historic records of formal policies and procedures relating to provision of information to parents after migration.

A letter on file written on behalf of the mother of two girls [REDACTED] who emigrated to live with their Uncle shows that the Warden sent photos of the children with their Uncle in Canada to the mother who was in a 'work house' which 'made her very happy'. There were two requests for information about the girls on file and the mother did not have the children's forwarding address. Replies from the Warden were rarely filed, and we do not know if this was provided.

In a letter in Orphanage Magazine (Feb 1930 p261) [REDACTED] states he writes to his mother weekly and she sent him a gramophone, which is evidence that his mother knew his address in Canada.

Records show that birth lines were sent to some of the children, or their parents or other family members after they left the Orphanage ([REDACTED], to self in 1975, [REDACTED], to father in 1934, [REDACTED] to sister in 1934, [REDACTED] to self in 1931.)

These examples suggest that information or records were provided in response to requests for such. However, in the absence of clear records of a formal policy in relation to provision of information, it cannot be asserted that, where information and records were provided, this was in adherence to a particular policy in existence at that time.

- **Obtaining consent of child**

There are no records of procedures in relation to obtaining the child's consent. There is no evidence of formal consent on individual children's records.

The Orphanage Magazine 'Scouting Notes (March 1929, p. 250 notes that 'most of our Big boys are keen on emigration and we hope to be able to send some out to Canada again.

This and an extract from the Orphanage Magazine which suggests that acceptance on the scheme was to be envied (April 1927, p.5) along with the letters published in the magazines from boys settled in Canada point to the Scheme being a consensual arrangement.

However, in the absence of clear records of a formal policy in relation to provision of information, it cannot be asserted that, where consent was given, secured or indicated, this was in adherence to a particular policy in existence at that time.

- **Obtaining consent of parents of child**

There is no evidence within the organisation's historic records of formal policies and procedures relating to obtaining consent of parents before migration.

Some children may have emigrated at their parents' request. For example, ██████'s Mother arranged for the children to be looked after at the Orphanage until she was settled in Canada. The boys' stepfather was in the Canadian Navy. She Indicated she would take them out when the older one was 14.

Records indicate that ██████, who emigrated to Canada with a group of boys in 1929, would be joining his Mother in Canada (Orphanage Magazine, 1929, p. 5).

- **Obtaining consent of others e.g. Secretary of State**

There are no records of policies or procedures in relation to obtaining the consent of others, e.g. the Secretary of State during this period. There is also no evidence of such consent being obtained.

- **Responding to requests for information from former child migrants**

There are numerous examples of correspondence from former residents who migrated.

For example, ██████ – asking for questions to be answered in next letter (Orphanage Magazine, p261, 1930)

Letter in 1930 Magazine (p78) from ██████ demonstrates ongoing correspondence with Orphanage. It highlights that another boy ██████ who emigrated returned and visited the Orphanage, and that he ██████ is thinking of visiting next Christmas.

(Magazine 1929 p83) Warden notes frequency of contact from old boys and girls, noting that it is the atmosphere of a home, not merely of an institution, which prevails.

One letter from an 'old boy' suggests that he was given a contact by the Warden of a farm in Australia where he may find work (Orphanage Magazine 1929, p 168)

Records show that birth lines were sent to some of the children, or their parents or other family members after they left the Orphanage (Children's files: ██████, to self in 1935 (p.2), ██████, to father in 1934 (p.7), ██████ to sister in 1934 (p.2), ██████ to self in 1931 (p.2)

- **Other issues**

No other policy or procedural issues were identified.

**(b) How was adherence demonstrated?**

There are no records of formal methods to demonstrate adherence to policies and/or procedures, formal or otherwise.

Some of the practice examples referred to in this report were sourced from the Orphanage magazine. These were promotional in nature, aimed at gaining and maintaining support for the work of the Orphanage. They intentionally highlight adherence to what was considered good practice at the time.

For example in the account of the visit to boys in Canada by the Warden, there is a note that 'in each case, although the boy had a vague notion of the proposed visit, he was called upon at an unexpected moment. This served the useful purpose of finding the boy under his everyday conditions and his normal environment – there were no special preparations.' (Orphanage Magazine July 1928 p 79)

Reverend Wolfe writes 'One was pleased to find that the boys still correspond with their sponsors in the home country, and they appreciate more than their words can express the kindly homey letters and the occasional books and magazines.' (Orphanage Magazine July 1928 p 80)

**c) How can such adherence be demonstrated to the inquiry?**

In the absence of clear records of a formal policy in relation to provision of information, it cannot be asserted that, where any particular action was taken, this was in adherence to a particular policy in existence at that time. The records which are available serve to demonstrate practice at the material time even in the absence of clear evidence of policy.

**d) Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?**

Limited records were kept, consistent with practice of the period.

However, a note was written in most children's files detailing when, where, and to whom birth lines were sent.

The age of the child on migrating was noted in the ledger book.

A letter from such sponsor to the warden demonstrates that sponsors were found to write to the boys, and that such letter writing took place.

In the absence of clear records of a formal policy in relation to provision of information, it cannot be asserted that, where particular actions were taken, this was in adherence to a particular policy in existence at that time. The records which are available serve to demonstrate practice at the material time even in the absence of clear evidence of policy.

**e) Have such records been retained?**

The records noted above have been retained.

**f) If policies/procedures was not adhered to in practice, why not?**

On the basis that the organisation has been unable to trace records of specific policies or procedures applicable over the period in question, there is no evidence to suggest that policies and procedures were not adhered to in practice.

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

According to the Orphanage ledger books, 44 children went to destinations out with the UK on discharge from the Orphanage, all but 3 went to Canada, of which 16 went out in 3 separate groups of Scouts under the Canadian Pacific Scheme.

The Orphanage Magazine (April 1929, p.5) suggests a link with the Church of England Immigration council indicating that one boy from Aberlour went to Australia under their care, sometime after discharge from the Orphanage.

It is not possible to be precise about how many children left the UK following their discharge from the Orphanage. There are numerous letters in the Orphanage Magazine from 'old boys' who have emigrated, but for many the emigration happened after discharge (Orphanage Magazine 1928, p 184) and was not arranged through Aberlour, or during the period of residence within the Orphanage

There are some discrepancies between the numbers recorded in the Orphanage ledger as leaving to a destination out with the UK at the time of discharge and numbers noted as leaving for Canada within the Orphanage Magazine.

The Orphanage Magazine for May 1928 states 'we saw the last of nine more 'Canada' boys for a few years' (p.5); Only 6 boys are recorded with Canada as a destination that year.

The appended table provides information about the destinations.

**h) What was their age and gender?**

Please see appended table

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

The Organisation's Ledger book show that the first boys migrating from the Orphanage to Canada via the Canadian Pacific Company left in 1927.

Emigration as part of a family group, potentially to join family, appears to have been supported on occasion throughout the period.

For example, the [REDACTED] children emigrated to Canada in 1901, and the [REDACTED] family departed in 1926. (Orphanage ledger book and children's files)

**j) Who funded the child migration?**

Little is recorded in the organisations' records concerning arrangements for emigration.

In one instance the Warden payed the fair as a loan. The cost of passage of £16.6.6 was to be repaid by instalments from the boy's war pension. (Fox file p 5-7).

The Orphanage Magazine (June 1929 p 47) indicates that 'the Canadian outfit costs roughly £8 per boy, and we give him £2 for landing money, a total of £10 per boy.' The Orphanage sought to raise money through donations towards the cost of Emigration.

**k) Who received the funding in relation to child migrant children?**

The Organisation's records do not have information regarding who received funding for child migrant children.

**l) In general terms, how much was this funding?**

The Organisation's records do not provided details of any funding, other than as above, the cost of passage.

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

Records show that birth lines were sent to some of the children, or their parents or other family members after they left the Orphanage;(Children's files: [REDACTED], to self in 1935 (p.2), [REDACTED] to father in 1934 (p.7), [REDACTED] to sister in 1934 (p.2), [REDACTED] to self in 1931 (p.2)

Records also indicate that the boys received letters from the Orphanage (please see below)

Replies from the Warden were not routinely filed during the period. We know, for example that a letter of acknowledgement for sending photographs of the [REDACTED] Children to their mother, is held on file, whilst the original is not. [REDACTED] file, p.8)

[REDACTED] a boy who emigrated to Canada, writes his thanks for the letter and magazine and asks for questions to be answered in next letter (Orphanage Magazine, p260-261, 1930)

[REDACTED] another boy who emigrated, in letter published in Orphanage Magazine (March 1930, p. 235) acknowledges receipt of a Christmas letter.

These examples evidence that correspondence happened but was not filed.