

## **Present Position of Child Guidance work in London and L.C.C**

**February 1947**

**By Dr Margaret Lowenfeld**

The whole subject of the Psychological work being carried out in London both under the L.C.C. directly and in other connections was reviewed by the L.C.C. during 1945 and the decisions taken by the Council in regard to the future of such work in as far as the L.C.C. is involved was published in the report of the Chief Medical Officer to the Council of 1945.

Copies of the Report are to be had from the Staples Press Ltd 14 (Gret Smith St and the official number of the report is No. 3575.

The effective paragraph is in this report relevant to this work may be summarised as follows:-

The L.C.C. withdrew permission for parents to be made for the treatment of children by Child Guidance Clinics in the way they had hither to been mad; that is that payments were made direct from the appropriate section of the L.C.C. to the Clinics operating on demand from the Clinics and according to the children referred direct from Care Comes etc as reported by the Clinics.

In place of this system the L.C.C. have, by the decisions of this report substitute: the following system-

Children for whom treatment is desired are reflected to a Case Conference of the L.C.C. operating in the district to which the child belongs. A number of such Cas Conferences were set up, one in each Educational Division and consists of the following members:

- District Inspector of schools for the division (Chainman)

- Divisional Officer (attendance officer)
- Divisional Medical Officer District
- Care Organiser (secretary)

Each case is reviewed by this Comes and permission is granted to certain outside persons, such as for example the teacher responsible for a particular child being considered by the Comee.

If it is decided that the case cannot be dealt with satisfactorily through the ordinary channels of the schools the child is then referred to Dr. Dobbie with recommendation that it should attend a specified clinic.

As a matter of fact I am told that Dr. Dobbie has not so far been known to challenge such a recommendation so that in practice arrangements are proceeded with immediately in the assumption that permission will be given by Dr. Dobbie for the child to receive the treatment recommended.

The child is then referred to the Clinic chosen and the relevant papers are sent to the Clinic. Payment then, can be applied for by the Clinic for the treatment given the child.

NO CHILD FOR WHO? IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE L.C.C. SHALL PAY OR FOR WHOM THE COOPERATION OF THE AUTHORITIES IS DESIRED MY REACG THE CLINICS IN ANY OTHER WAY.

(The L.C.C. official who gave no this information made it clear that the L.C.C. can have no control over parents who may wish to take their children where they will but that the above applies to the question of payment and to that of cooperation only.)

The following are the clinics recognised by the L.C.C. under this arrangement.:-

The East London Child Guidance Clinic

The Child Guidance Clinic Operating in Guys Hospital The Tavistock Clinic

The Child Guidance Clinic operating in the London Hospital  
The Woodside Child Guidance Clinic (Headquarters of what was the C. G. Council  
teaching Clinic  
The Maudsley Hospital  
The Child Guidance Clinic operating in University Hospital  
The West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases  
Creighton Rinse Clinic.

An interesting commentary on this list which was given me by the Senior Organise at  
County Hall id that

St. Bartholomew Hospital  
Hospital for Sick, Children  
I.S.T.D.  
Middlesex Hospital  
Paddington Green Children's Hospital  
\* Victoria Hospital for children

which appear in the official list issued by the N.NM.H.

As regards the I.C.P. the Organiser was surprised that this was not on the list before  
her and particularly so when I read her the particulars of the children recently Holland Park  
Avenue section of the L.C.C. she has undertaken by to look into this matter immediately. I  
distinctly remember that the I.C.P. we in the list of Clinics quoted in the report for 1945 and  
the fact that children are sent officially to us makes the point clear in effect if not in the  
central list.

As to the other two Clinics starred on the list above I am informed that the Maudsley  
hospital Clinic is the only one at present supported by the L.C.C. since the Maudsley hospital  
as a whole is an L.C.C. responsibility.

As regards the Tite st Clinic I am also informed that this has been until recently one of the Clinics recognised but this recognition has recently been withdrawn owing to dissatisfaction with the staffing of the Clinic.

As regards the Bishop Creighton Clinic the position is as follows. This Clinic operates in the premises of the BP. C. Settlement end only on certain days of the week. Recently an application was made by the Comtee of the Clinic to say they urn unable to carry on further and a visit of inspection was paid by the officials of the L.C.C. An agreement was came to that the present staff should cease to operate and that a nee set of staff should be appointed when the L.C.C. agreed for some such work in that area, when the L.C.C. agreed to be responsible for the expenses of that clinic. This arrangement I understand has not yet entirely gone through.

The further position in the London area.

We had been informed earlier that the local Boroughs in some cases operated Child Guidance Clinics at the Authorities expense. I therefore took this point with Marylebone, one of the boroughs quoted. I find that the situation is that a single physician (Dr Grace Craver in this instance) attends at the Town Hall twice in the week in the MATERNITY and CHILD WELFARE section to see mothers and children under five who need advice. She is assisted by the Health Visit.

The Position of Dr Leonard Browne.

Dr. Browne was elected on the L.C.C. at the last election. He has been made Vice-Chairman of the special come for care of children and is as such very concerned with attitude of the L.C.C. to Child Guidance work and has asked if he may attend Case Conferences and an arrangement has been made by which notices of all such conferences are now sent to him and he attends as many as he is able to. Dr. Browne has certain plans for improving the situation in his mind but none of these have yet come to the point of being practical politics though the authorities seem not to be adverse to them.

## **The Psycho-Somatic Position**

The point was raised spontaneously by the L.C.C. official that the L.C.C at present run the following extra clinics

Nutrition Clinics	15
Rheumatism Supervisory Clinics	22
Speech Therapy	15

and that in all probability certain at any rate of the children attending these Clinics would benefit from psychological advice also. The extravagance involved in the maintenance of separate organisations for all these separate efforts was pointed out by them and the greater advantage there would be in combining them under one head. I explained that this was the policy already elaborated by the I.C.P. and that was in action in one at least of their Clinics and the point aroused interest.

I have also heard from another official of the L.C.C. that the memorandum sent in by the I.C.P. during the last Government with regard to the combination of work in Children's Centres over the country had reached them and aroused interest.