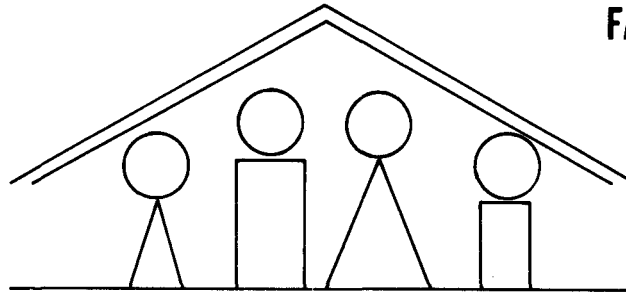


CARE- FORCE



FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES

Caring in the Community

THE "CARE-FORCE" CONCEPT

Care-Force is a multi-service strategy designed to support and strengthen family life, and to avoid institutional care of children wherever possible.

AUSPICES:

Care-Force is sponsored by —

ST. JOHN'S HOMES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS,
18 Balwyn Rd., Canterbury.

Care-Force has been developed under the "Alternatives to Residential Care" Programme, and as such is partially funded through the Office of Child Care.

Care-Force represents an attempt by a traditional residential agency to adjust its programmes to the concepts of regionalization and community-oriented intervention.

However, it is not the intention of St. John's Homes to move out of the field of residential child care and youth hostels. Rather the intention is to broaden the range of options available.

PHILOSOPHY.

Many children at risk of being admitted to care can be kept in the community by the provision of sufficient services to support and supplement family functioning.

A broad range of integrated services should be available to families in distress, to meet a variety of needs.

Services should be flexible, identifiable, and readily accessible to families in the community.

Regions offer the most appropriate framework for the provision of a broad range of professionally staffed services. The services to be developed should be specific to the needs of the particular region.

Given sufficient training, support, and supervision, community volunteers have a considerable capacity to provide localized support to families under stress.

The provision of community preventive services should be backed up by the availability of specialized or residential facilities.

STRUCTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION.

Care-Force is operating in two regions:

The North-Eastern Suburbs Region — based at
239A Murray Road, Preston, Ph. 478-7622.

The Inner-Eastern Suburbs Region — based at
61A Victoria Road, Hawthorn. Ph. 82-2523.

During the establishment phase for each region, the Care-Force teams conducted an extensive area survey, investigating the needs and resources of their regions, covering each municipality separately.

Then plans were established to develop a basic range of services, which include:—

- Family counselling,
- Family-aides (Homemaker Service),
- Emergency Child Care Service,
- Emergency Family Accommodation,
- Volunteer Action Groups.

In addition, however, each team is developing services specific to the needs of its own region, e.g.,

(1) Care-Force, Preston is seeking a Grant-in-Aid Migrant Social Worker for the extensive ethnic population in that region. The community in the region is also asking Care-Force to consider developing Family Day Care in some areas.

(2) Care-Force, Hawthorn is developing a Drop-In programme for isolated mothers, and has been running a series of seminars on maltreatment, as part of a community education programme.

Hawthorn shop front office





Care force meeting

Local newspapers have been used extensively to inform the community of the availability of the Care-Force services. In addition information pamphlets have been delivered to other helping organizations in each region.

Care-Force team conferences and staff development meetings are held regularly. The teams have been refining their roles and responsibilities, and their procedures and records. In the Preston region in particular, attention has been given to the development of techniques for evaluation, in an endeavour to identify the effectiveness of the concept of Care-Froce.

The present staff levels for the Care-Force programme are:—

Preston:

- One Social Worker 11.,
- One Social Worker 1. (being appointed),
- One Welfare Officer,
- Four Family Aides (part-time),
- One telephonist/receptionist.

Hawthorn:

- One Social Worker 11,
- One Social Worker 1,
- One Welfare Officer,
- One Family Aide (part-time),
- One receptionist/co-ordinator.

However, the pressure of referrals is such that the teams will almost certainly need to be expanded further.

COSTS: (based on the Preston team).

Recurring:

Salaries	\$56,488
Travelling	3,000
Rent, light, heat, at office	3,500
Contingencies (postage, phone, etc.)	1,000
Emergency child care payments	1,000
Material aid, bond money, etc.	1,500
Insurance	1,022

\$67,510

Non-recurring:

Purchase of emergency house	\$35,000
Furniture (house)	1,000
Furniture (office)	500

\$36,500

A grant of \$20,000 per year for three years has been received from the Office of Child Care. A further grant has now been received from the Social Welfare Department.

The balance of the establishment and operating costs are being met by St. John's from the proceeds of our "Project Child Care" public appeal.

STATISTICS:

The following figures of Preston Care-Force are given as a guide to the operation of the Care-Force programme.

NORTH-EASTERN REGION:

FIGURES TO 29th JUNE, 1977.

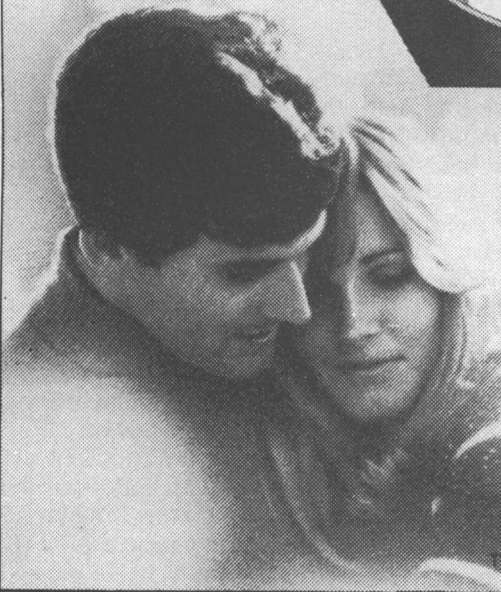
No. of Firm Cases since June, 1976	78
No. of Children under 12 in these families	207
No. of Families involving use of Family Aides	25
No. of Current Cases	58
No. of Children under 12 in Families of Current Cases	152
No. of Current Cases involving use of Family Aide's	23
No. of Children placed in Temporary Child Care	34
No. of Temporary Child Care Families enrolled	27
No. of Casual Cases	13
No. of Families using Emergency House	7

15th July, 1977.

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