THE POLITICS AND ECONOMICS
OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

RAY JONES
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

A STARTING POINT
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

THE 1960s

1967 MENTAL HEALTH HOSTEL ASSISTANT WARDEN
1968-72 DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

• THE LEGACY OF THE LARGE INSTITUTIONS: LONG-STAY HOSPITALS
• BORSTALS AND DETENTION CENTRES
• APPROVED SCHOOLS – COMMUNITY HOMES WITH EDUCATION
• COTTAGE HOMES VILLAGES
• BIG CHILDREN’S HOMES AND RESIDENTIAL NURSERIES
• LOCAL AUTHORITIES, BIG CHILD CARE VOLUNTARIES AND THE CHURCHES
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

STEP CHANGE 1
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

THE 1960s INTO THE 1970s:
A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICE

• 1969 ACT: SAD/MAD/BAD
• SEEBOHM AND THE 1970 LASSA
• SOCIAL SCIENCE GRADUATES
  [BOWLBY.GOFFMAN.WILMOTT AND YOUNG]

TRENDS:
• WORKING WITH FAMILIES
• LOCAL COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD FOCUS
• FOSTER CARE
• FAMILY GROUP HOMES
• (24 BED HOSTELS)

1972-1975 SSD SOCIAL WORKER
1975-1981 LECTURER IN SOCIAL WORK
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

STEP CHANGE 2
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

THE 1980s
THATCHERISM

1981-1984 SSD AREA TEAM LEADER
1984-1987 ASST DIV DIRCTR BARNARDO’S
1987-1989 SSD DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR

• THE CLOSURE OF THE LARGE INSTITUTIONS AND THE START OF THE MOVE AWAY FROM RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE [WARWICKSHIRE].

• THATCHER PENALISING THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND PREFERING THE VOLUNTARY (AND PRIVATE) SECTOR

• WITHDRAWAL OF VOL ORGS FROM RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE – CAPITAL RECEIPTS. CENTRAL GOVT GRANTS. LA PARTNERSHIP WITH VOL ORGS.

• THE UNDER FIVES INITIATIVE. NATIONAL IT FUND: OPPS FOR VOLUNTEERING. THE ALL WALES STRATEGY ON MENTAL HANDICAP.

• THE EMERGING CHILDREN’S HOMES SCANDALS.
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS
THE 1990s
THATCHERISM AFTER THATCHER

• 1989 CHILDREN ACT AND 1990 NHS AND COMMUNITY CARE ACT
• THE PURCHASER-PROVIDER SEPARATION
• THE CONTINUING SQUEEZE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY CAPITAL EXPENDITURE [COTSWOLD COMMUNITY]
• THE PUSH TO A SKEWED MIXED MARKET OF SERVICES
  • THE THREE Es
  • VALUE FOR MONEY
  • CCT
  • BEST VALUE: COMPARE. CONSULT. COMPETE. CONTRACT

• THE PREVALENCE OF FOSTER CARE
• REDUCING CARE POPULATION
• CLOSURES OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDREN’S HOMES
• 1997 LOCAL GOVT REFORM AND (TOO) SMALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES

HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

STEP CHANGE 3
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

THE 2000s
NEW LABOUR

1992-2006 DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
AND THEN DIRECTOR OF ADULT SERVICES
2006 SACKED!
2008-2015 PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK
2007-2011 TRUSTEE OF QUARRIERS

• EVERY CHILD MATTERS, CLIMBIE INQUIRY AND THE 2004 CHILDREN ACT.

• DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION → DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN’S SERVICES.

• INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORK PRACTICES.

• GROWTH OF PRIVATE FOSTER CARE AGENCIES AND PRIVATE CHILDREN’S HOMES.

• LOCAL AUTHORITIES TOTALLY WITHDRAWING FROM RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE.
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

STEP CHANGE 4
THE 2010s
CAMBORNISM

- Banker-created financial crisis used as excuse for politically chosen austerity targeting poor families and public services.
- The extension of contracting out public services.
- The ‘lean council’.
- 80% of children’s homes now in private sector.
- Children placed at a distance with unknown and unseen people.
- Profit not service motive. Complicated accountability.

2008-2015 Professor of Social Work
2010-2015 Overseeing CP improvement
2015 - Commentator and writer
THIRTY YEARS DOWN THE ROAD

LOOKING BACK AT SCANDALS FROM THE 2010s?
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS
THE FUTURE SCANDALS FROM THE 2010s

• THE ABUSE IN [PRIVATE] CHILDREN’S HOMES AND FOSTER CARE

• FORCED ADOPTIONS

• THE NEGLECT OF POOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

TWO LESSONS FROM THE PAST FIFTY YEARS

DO NOT IGNORE THE LEARNING FROM THE PAST

DO USE HISTORY TO TRACK TRENDS AND TO REFLECT ON CURRENT DIRECTIONS OF TRAVEL