

- It is reported that officers involved in the investigation of child sexual abuse at Care Homes were cross examined regarding soliciting complaints by offering compensation to victims.
- We have not been able to find any information in relation to any formal barriers that were put in place to deliberately frustrate the claiming of compensation or any civil claim.

## **The North Wales case study**

### **(6) Brief summary of investigations and outcomes**

- 6.1 A summary of the main policing investigations into abuse at Children's Care Homes in North Wales is detailed as follows. This information has been obtained by speaking to retired officers, reviewing documents that formed part of the investigation and reviewing the findings of subsequent investigations.
- 6.2 In 1974 Clwyd and Gwynedd Councils were created by local government reorganisation.
- 6.3 Between 1976 and 1984 a number of Police investigations took place into allegations of abuse within care homes in North Wales. A total of six men were convicted during this time for various sexual offences. A similar number of investigations did not meet the charging standard at the time and did not proceed to court.
- 6.4 In February 1986 the first major police investigation into reports of sexual abuse was commenced. This followed reports made by Alison Taylor (previously an officer in charge at Ty Newydd Home, Bangor, Gwynedd). The investigation lasted until April 1988 with the DPP concluding the available evidence did not merit criminal proceedings. This investigation was the subject of a review by the then West Midlands Chief Constable, Sir Ron Hadfield as part of Waterhouse tribunal in 2000. The investigation was subject of some criticism concerning its set up, lack of involvement of other agencies and issues around witness assessment.

- 6.5 Over the following period up until the second Police investigation in 1990 there continued to be a number of successful convictions for sexual offences relating to a number of care homes in both Gwynedd and Clwyd.
- 6.6 In June 1990 a second major investigation was set up to investigate reports of abuse by Stephen Roderick Norris and others in relation to the Cartrefle care home in Clwyd. This investigation formed part of Sir Ron Hadfield's review and he was satisfied the inquiry was taken, "As far as I would have expected at that time."
- 6.7 In December 1991 former North Wales Police Superintendent Gordon Anglesea was named as a suspect for assaulting children at Bryn Estyn Home in an Independent on Sunday Article. As a result of the request by both local authorities and growing concerns over abuse, a major investigation was launched. This was a complex and widespread inquiry, carried out against the backdrop of considerable media and political interest. This inquiry was reviewed by Sir Ron Hadfield and he found that it was conducted "thoroughly and impressively." He did comment on a number of issues specifically around the use of trained officers in interviews and arrangements for how witnesses were approached.
- 6.8 In July 1994 Peter Norman Howarth, a former Deputy Principal at Bryn Estyn, was convicted of seven offences of indecent assault. These were committed between 1974 and 1984 against seven boys who were resident at Bryn Estyn at the time. He was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.
- 6.9 In February 1995 John Ernest Allen was convicted at Chester Crown. Allen, the founder of the Bryn Alyn Community residential schools, was convicted of six offences of indecent assault against six young male residents at the schools between 1972 and 1983. He was acquitted of four other counts of indecent assault involving four different residents. Allen received a total sentence of six years imprisonment
- 6.10 On the 17th June 1996 the Secretary of State for Wales Rt Hon William Hague informed the House of Commons that a North Wales Abuse Tribunal would be