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THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

EXHIBIT N / 5 – Briefing for CE re children's homes

Briefing for CE re current child protection and related matters regarding ex-Lambeth Childrens Homes.

The arrest of John Carroll and his pending trial on 36 + charges of sexual abuse of boys in the period up to his move to Lambeth, has triggered a number of actions within Lambeth. A number of lines of enquiry are underway relating to John Carroll, but this process has re-opened a wider range of issues relating to events in Lambeth Council in the 1980's to early 90's.

It is important to keep a focus on the John Carroll matters, and especially those issues relating to young people still within Lambeth's care. In addition there is the issue of the police identifying other abusers active at the same time as JC. A range of actions are underway as part of close collaboration between LBL DSS and the Merseyside and Metropolitan police. Key actions include:

Provision of names of children from Angell and Highland Road CH's (For Liverpool police to interview)

Interviews with all young people from above still in LBL care (by LBL and met police)

Development of data bases of all children and staff from CHs

Relocation ,re-ordering and securing of archives re CHs

Review of personal files of all staff from the CHs

John Carroll is presently on bail and is known to have been in the London area. He has close links to a private children's home in Lambeth. The committal hearing is scheduled for 14 September. JC has hired Alex Carlisle as his barrister who has said he will be presenting a 'unique defence'. This may bring up issue relating to JC's disciplinary in Lambeth (for undisclosed S1 offence) and decision to keep him as CH manager. This will open up again the issues investigated by Richard Clough, and could raise questions re role of SSI etc in this matter.

The police have now interviewed Anna Tapsell and Richard Clough and are of the view that there have been 'conspiracies'. Not now of the secret society sort once being followed up, but rather along lines of

'what did JC have over senior managers with DSS that enabled him to get away with it ?' . The police are certainly interested in David Pope's involvement in these matters.

The approach being adopted within Social Services is to gather together as much information., files, logs etc in as low key a way as possible. For this reason certain staff have not yet been interviewed who may have relevant information. There is a major concern over securing logs and archives.

While preparations are being made for this becoming a major investigation possibly lasting 2 years or more, the scale of what is to come will only be known once the ex-residents from Angell and Highland Road CHs have been interviewed. Meanwhile files are being established on previous allegations and investigations relating to other homes, so that these matters can also be re-investigated as appropriate.

The JC issues go wider than abuses with Angell and Highland Roads, for his name has been linked to the 'housing porn ring' and the allegations of [Name Redacted] re ritual abuse involving children (including claimed murders). The police have decided to re-open these cases along with that of the murder of Bulic Forsythe. At present these are being led by DCI Driscoll (Lambeth Child Protection Team) with two detectives assigned to the case. These resources could be supplemented if new leads are identified.

The housing porn ring allegations implicated a wide range of senior and other officers within the Council as well as local police, and local politicians. There are still officers within the Council with links to those directly implicated in the alleged activities. A key issue for consideration is how far should these matters be examined internally within Lambeth (in conjunction with the police) and who should be undertaking this task.

To date these matters have not been picked up by the Press – but this is only a matter of time.

The SSI are well briefed on these matters and Paul Clark will be doing a briefing for Frank Dobson directly, given the sensitivities over the LA-F41 connection with Lambeth. He is also aware of the close relationship between David Pope and Denise Platt.

Issues for decision

Future liaison with police re wider investigation as well as immediate CP issues. A meeting between CE and Commander Kendryck ?

Scale and scope of LBL internal investigations re wider issues. Who is to undertake this with what terms of reference ?