

Summary of Interview

Edgar ZEPHYRINE

Principle Manager

Community and Voluntary Services

Between D/Supt TOMKINS and Edgar ZEPHYRINE.

Location Mary Secole House. LM Section.

Handwritten Notes

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERVIEW NOTES – GUIDE ONLY

USE SEPARATE SHEETS ARE REQUIRED

SECTION 1

Name of Interviewee	Edgar ZEPHYRINE
Status / Title	Principle Manager
Area of responsibility	Community and Voluntary Services
Contact numbers	Ext. DPA

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SECTION 6

Any other matters which this interviewee can assist with concerning the enquiry?

See attached report of meeting

Between

D/Supt TOMKINS

Edgar ZEPHYRINE

Location – Mary Seacole House 'LM' Section

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Officers Information

Date: 09/10/1992

From: DS JONES

Address: Incident Room 'LG' – Operation Bell

Information

On Friday 9th October 1992 in company with D/Supt TOMKINS, I attended LB Lambeth offices at Mary Seacole House 'LM' Section where we spoke to Mr Edgar ZEPHYRENE regarding an enquiry into the running of Southvale by [LA-F205]. The following points came out of this meeting.

1) Edgar ZEPHYRENE feels that a Mr Stephen WADEY (spelling not confirmed) a teacher when Southvale was under I.L.E.A. and who was at Southvale in 1990 could be helpful re staff practices and did give evidence to the ZEPHYRENE enquiry (No further details known at this time)

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2) Edgar ZEPHYRENE agreed that police should and would be able to see the report and notes on the 'ZEPHYRENE Enquiry' but as a matter of protocol this should be through David POPE.

3) D/Supt TOMKINS discussed the information supplied to this enquiry re [LA-F8] being seen in a boys room by Beverly CLARKE, both [LA-F8] and the boy, [LA-A71] being on the bed with [LA-F8] stroking the boy in an inappropriate manner.

Edgar ZEPHYRENE said that the enquiry notes did not support the fact that [LA-F8] was stroking the boy – however [LA-F8] confirmed...

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That he was in the boys' room. The enquiry accepted [LA-F8] version of events which was that he was there to counsel the child who was disturbed.

4) Some discussion took place between D/Supt TOMKINS and Mr ZEPHYRENE with the account of events provided to the enquiry by Beverly CLARKE:- D/Supt asked what did Beverly CLARKE say in her evidence to the enquiry 'E.Z' replied that she had said quite a bit. D/Supt asked whether he would get to see those

notes. 'E.Z' replied "Yes, that is my understanding, you will get to see them. 'E.Z' then went on to read from a report a passage which he attributed to Beverly CLARKE...

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To the effect that:- she was putting washing away – saw [LA-F8] in [LA-A71] room, lying on the bed – she walked in – both jumped up – fully dressed – she didn't know what they were doing – [LA-F8] just came out of the room.

'E.Z' maintained that the enquiry would have 'picked it up' had Beverly CLARKE mentioned that [LA-F8] was stroking [LA-A71] backside – Beverly CLARKE was passionate about Southvale but she didn't say that.

When [LA-F8] was giving evidence...

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To the enquiry he had said "Yes I was in the room, sitting on the bed with the child. I can exert a calming influence on him which is why I was there". The above was from 'E.Z' memory, he didn't have the enquiry notes on [LA-F8] but he will get them.

5) Discussion as to whether [LA-F205] rewarded children for their behaviour, sweets etc., and did he have a special favourite child.

'E.Z' said that [LA-F205] had a special child which he said originally was [LA-A71] but later corrected himself and said it was in fact [LA-A114] [LA-F205] gave him sweets. The child needed a...

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A lot of care and support and that this was his way of providing that support. Apparently [Name Redacted] told the enquiry that it was his wife that took children back to their flat – that he didn't have any favourite child – that [LA-F8] had a positive attitude.

D/Supt pointed out that [Name Redacted] was away from Southvale after [Sensitive/Irrelevant] so she couldn't have taken children to the flat, it must have been [LA-F205]

'E.Z' agreed, said the enquiry had picked up on that but 'Anne' had taken the lead.

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6) D/Supt asked whether the enquiry talked of 'Restraint Procedures'.

'E.Z' said that they had talked with [LA-F205] on that subject – He said that they were used only in extreme circumstances, it was professionally done, the duty officer saw all children that had been subject to 'Restraint Procedures'.

The view of the enquiry was that they were totally unhappy with the 'Restraint Procedure', however they had no evidence. The enquiry recommended that [LA-F205] and possibly other staff [LA-F5] [LA-F5] should be removed. Enquiry appeared to be aware that [LA-F5] was involved in the physical abuse...

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And had forcibly dragged on boy up some stairs whilst forcing his arm up his back. However, despite the enquiry being aware of [LA-F5] abuse of children he was not removed from his position.

'E.Z.' said he didn't know why that was as he only chaired the enquiry.

7) D/Supt suggested that [LA-F205] allowed Les PAUL to photograph children and encouraged them to go to Les PAUL's house – what was [LA-F205] reaction to this. 'E.Z.' said there was one occasion the enquiry asked about. Said the enquiry clearly came out against it but he would have to get the notes, 'E.Z.' said he didn't have an appreciation of the photography aspect of...

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The children visiting Les PAUL.

8) D/Supt spoke of the vast quantities of photographs and slides recovered.

'E.Z.' said that key people in the enquiry never made any allegations of "sexual abuse" so they weren't aware of it and therefore it was not a consideration for the enquiry.

9) 'E.Z.' agreed to get the notes and report from the enquiry to either David POPE or Jim CARLTON in order that D/Supt TOMKINS could have access to them.