

# BLACK AND IN CARE

steering group

c/o The Childrens Legal Centre,  
20, Compton Terrace,  
London N1 2UN



Dear Linda Bellos

We the undersigned are joining with the Brixton Family Support Group to protest against the way in which Lambeth Social Services is dealing with the case of child sexual abuse at Ivy House.

The Brixton family in this case are angry that the worker at the children's home alleged to have sexually assaulted their daughter was cleared of the charge of gross misconduct, in spite of the fact that the Official Enquiry condemned him.

We question the validity of the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing, the members of which were picked by the Director of Social Services himself. We question the role of Social Services' Management in appearing to cover up the truth in this case.

## WE JOIN WITH THE FAMILY IN DEMANDING:

- 1) a public explanation why the recommendation of the Official Inquiry which sat over a period of 2 months and heard expert evidence on child abuse and concluded that the sexual assault had taken place was overturned by the Disciplinary Hearing which sat only for a few hours and then cleared the worker of the charge
- 2) a public explanation why this worker has been given a clean record by Lambeth so that he is free to continue working with some of the most vulnerable children in society although his contract with Lambeth has ceased but future employers will not know of this case
- 3) a public explanation why this Brixton family was treated so badly by Social Services' Management
- 4) that the actions of the senior management of Lambeth Social Services be fully investigated
- 5) the right to see the files on the Ivy House case
- 6) the right to see the Official Inquiry report and to have details of the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing
- 7) that a complaints procedure for children with mental disabilities in Lambeth children's homes be urgently reviewed with guidelines quickly set up
- 8) that Lambeth Social Services not only urgently reviews its policy and practice in child abuse cases but also quickly implements effective methods of dealing with child sexual abuse with fuller consultation with groups dealing with sexual abuse