

(2) That a report be submitted to the next meeting on the financial difficulties at 3 Highland Road;

(3) That the Sub-Committee's thanks be conveyed to the staff of Ingleton House for their efforts in difficult conditions.

27. ACCIDENTS TO CHILDREN

The Chairman reported that the Director of Amenity Services had been asked to look at the paddling pool at Norwood Park, where a number of accidents had occurred recently.

Mr. Woodrow was concerned about the accessibility of sleeping tablets to other children at 9 Knowle Close. Mr. Elliott explained that Knowle Close provided bed-sitter accommodation for teenagers.

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28. STAFFING IN HOMES FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Mr. Thomas pointed out that some children needed almost a 1:1 ratio with staff. Taking into account sickness, leave, absence on courses and off-duty days, there would occasionally be only two staff on duty. An additional problem was that the specified nature of the work presented the introduction of temporary coverage, from other Homes. Those staff remaining had to work long hours. Not all the domestic posts were filled, although approval had been granted for recruitment to proceed. A request had also been made for permission to advertise the driver post.

The Sub-Committee discussed with Mr. McNeil and Mr. Botley, officer-in-charge respectively of 44 Chestnut Road and 30 Monkton Street, their staffing difficulties. The Sub-Committee concluded that it was clear that staffing levels in the three Homes concerned were inadequate but that no financial provision existed for any temporary solution to the problem. It agreed to convey its extreme concern about the present situation to the Social Services Committee, and its wish that an urgent solution be found in the context of discussions arising from the sale of Shirley Oaks.

RESOLVED: (1) That paragraph 4 of the report be noted;

(2) That the Sub-Committee's extreme concern about the levels of staffing stress and the need for an urgent improvement in the Homes for Mentally Handicapped Children be conveyed to the Social Services Committee.

29. DISQUALIFICATION OF CO-OPTED MEMBER

The Chairman confirmed that the reasons for the disqualification were confidential and not connected with the work of the Sub-Committee.

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