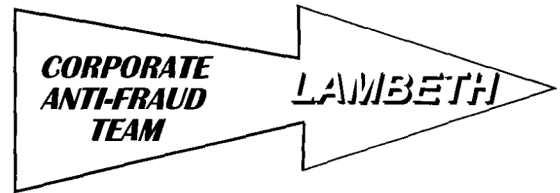


MEMORANDUM



TO: Chris Lee – PA to Chief Exec.

FROM: Tania Peart – Principal Fraud Manager CAFT

TEL: DPA

DATE: 29/9/99

REF:

SUBJECT: Foster Carers

Introduction

Further to Chris Lee's request, CAFT have compiled the following briefing for the CE's use at a press conference on Thursday 30th September, 1999.

The first page provides short "Bullet point" responses to the questions set. The annexes contain more detailed information.

- Appendix a - email detailing proposed changes to improve procedures**
- Appendix b - prints of information now held on foster carer database**
- Appendix c - social services summary listing of previous foster carers**
- Appendix d - report to panel detailing the case against the Name Redacted foster carers**
- Appendix e - report to panel detailing the case against Name Redacted foster carer**
- Appendix f - report to panel detailing the case against Name Redacted foster carer**

What was the situation with foster carer checks 12 months ago?

From enquiries undertaken by CAFT, it has been established that there was:-
(see appendix a)

- Limited management information on foster carers and other members of the household
- Limited history of police checks on nominated foster carers
- Virtually no history of police checks on other household members
- Lack of management controls
- Misuse of senior management position in resolving potential de-registrations or concerns raised in relation to carers.

Fosterings
Eric De Mello (Service Manager for Children's Resources) has stated that in the past, the ~~Child Protection~~ Panel has been undermined by senior management who have overturned the Panels decision to de-register foster carers following allegations from Social Workers and Team Managers.

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Where are they now (what's the current situation)?

It has been reported by the Auditor, Diana Edwards and Eric De Mello that:-

- Foster carers records have been updated and maintained on a database (see appendix b)
- Recent police checks have been undertaken and acted upon
- New procedures have been implemented to ensure the continued integrity of foster carers. And this is being rolled out to other members of the house hold.

How many foster carers have been de-registered/resigned etc.?

Eric De Mello has stated that when he joined in December 1997 there were 220 carers listed, compared to the 170 now registered. This is as a result of both resignations and the decisions of the Panel to de-register.

CAFT have received a summary listing of previous foster carers, the details of which can be found at appendix c. Below is a table indicating the numbers of carers and the reasons they are no longer foster carers.

Resigned	Blocked	De-registration pending	De-registered	Lapsed	Total
8	7	2	6	2	25

- Resigned = resigned
- Blocked = no children to be placed until further notice
- De-reg pending = no children to be placed until panel comes to decision
- De-reg = foster carer no longer registered following a panel decision
- Lapsed = lapsed

Specific detailed questions related to the Name Redacted family (as discussed with Chris Lee on 29/9/99) details of this case and two others can be found at appendices d,e and f

DPA

Sensitive/Irrelevant

LA-F180

This represents our findings to date scheduled visits to all foster carers are being carried out by CAFT commencing next week.

DPA

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