

Wandsworth

Wandsworth Borough Council

MEMORANDUM

From: Social Services Department
Mary Griffith-Jones, Team Manager
& Bernadette Khan formerly
Social Worker, Wandsworth
Adoption & Fostering

To: Henry Gilbey
Chief Executive
Lambeth Council

Ref:

DPA

Ext:

DPA

Your Ref: Date: 15th February 1994

**RE: PROGRESS REPORT TO SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 16/02/94 CONCERNING THE
INTERNAL INVESTIGATION RE THE APPLICATION OF MR AND MRS C TO FOSTER**

Having seen the above report to Social Services Committee, we would like to make the following points as we feel the report does not totally reflect the concerns which we expressed in our meetings with Verley Chambers.

Concerning point (b):-

Our understanding is that the Lambeth Team Manager contacted the Principal Officer (Fostering) Wandsworth following a conversation with the Principal Officer (Social Work) Lambeth. The essence of that conversation was the suggestion that the police reference regarding Mr and Mrs C should not be communicated to the Lambeth Panel and that the implications of the police reference would be dealt with by the chair of the Panel.

Concerning point (d):-

The Principal Officer (Fostering) Wandsworth may not have seen the record of the social workers view on file but she was well aware of the views of both the Team Manager and social worker in Wandsworth concerning the suggestion made by the Lambeth staff.

Concerning point (f):-

The investigation may have concluded that there was no evidence of improper motives by Lambeth Officer. However, as the workers in Wandsworth who were involved in this case, we wish to place on record our view that an improper and unprofessional suggestion was made to the Principal Officer (Fostering) Wandsworth. We are clear that this suggestion came from the Principal Officer (Social Work), and the team leader acted as messenger in communicating this.

In our view, this was contrary to good child care practice, in particular in relation to the role of Social Services staff in protecting vulnerable children.

Mary Griffith-Jones

& Bernadette Khan