

- 6.29 Whilst he was awaiting trial, on [DPA] 1978, Patrick Grant returned to work and was temporarily transferred to Adult Services to undertake administrative duties until the conclusion of the trial. Whilst awaiting trial, on [DPA] 1978 he was offered a secondment to undertake training to become a qualified social worker which he completed in 1980.
- 6.30 On [DPA] 1978, the Judge directed the jury to acquit Patrick Grant.
- 6.31 Lambeth has been unable to determine whether any separate disciplinary investigation took place as a result of these allegations.
- 6.32 In my view, it is deeply disturbing that Patrick Grant, who had been charged with such serious offences (albeit acquitted) was not suspended pending the outcome of this matter and was then seconded for social work training whilst awaiting trial. It is even more concerning that he subsequently returned to work in children's residential care until the early 1980s potentially in the absence of a disciplinary investigation. This calls into question the calibre of management decisions at that time, including the lack of any form of risk assessment and a palpable disregard for keeping children's needs and safety to the fore in all decision making.
- 6.33 On [DPA] 1980, Patrick Grant became a Group Leader Children's Home Manager at South Vale. On [DPA] 1981, he requested to move from South Vale to an administrative role. On [DPA] 1981, he left South Vale for temporary work at Southwood before becoming Administrative Officer for the Children's Home Service from [DPA] 1981 until [DPA] 1985.
- 6.34 Following an investigation by the Metropolitan Police, Operation Trinity, Patrick Grant was charged on [DPA] 2018, again with Bernard Collins, with 14 offences, of which four were in relation to his time in Lambeth's employment. All four charges were for indecent assault on a boy under 16.
- 6.35 The charges related to four victims, two of whom were children in the care of Lambeth, [LA-A19] and [LA-A219] [LA-A19] was placed at South Vale and [LA-A219] was placed at Rowan House, Shirley Oaks and were aged 10 and 11, respectively, at the time of the abuse.
- 6.36 Following a trial in [DPA] 2019, Patrick Grant was convicted on 8 counts of indecent assault on a boy under the age of 16 years. Of these eight counts, two were in relation

12.13 The Social Services Committee considered these recommendations at its meeting on 7 April 1976 following the recommendations being discussed with senior homes staff. The recommendations were broadly accepted. [AH1-12/2a]

## LA-A2

12.14 [LA-A2], born [DPA] 1961, was received into care on [DPA] 1962 along with his siblings who were already in care. He was placed at [DPA] House, Shirley Oaks on [DPA] 1963. On the evening of [DPA] 1977, [LA-A2] was discovered in the bathroom of the home and, following the attendance of the police and a doctor, was pronounced dead. A report upon post-mortem examination dated [DPA] 1977, recorded the cause of death as "[Sensitive/irrelevant]" and "[Sensitive/irrelevant]". An inquest was opened by the Coroner and the conclusion as to death, dated [DPA] 1977, was recorded as "[Sensitive/irrelevant]".  
[Sensitive/irrelevant] [AH1-12/2b]

12.15 [LA-A2] had made an allegation of sexual abuse against the house father at [DPA] House Shirley Oaks, Donald Hosegood, in 1974. In 1975, Hosegood was charged with an offence of unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16, [LA-A25] [Sensitive/irrelevant]. [Sensitive/irrelevant] However, he was subsequently acquitted due to insufficient evidence. It is unclear whether [LA-A2] gave evidence during this trial. During CHILE, a number of individuals came forward to allege that [LA-A2] had also been abused by William Hook, whom I discuss in section 6.

### Richard Fraser

12.16 Richard Fraser, born [DPA] 1972, was the subject of a Care Order to Lambeth made on [DPA] 1975. He had been placed home with his family and on [DPA] 1977 died "*in tragic circumstances consistent with non-accidental injury*" when his father battered him [DPA]

12.17 In May 1978, an independent inquiry was commissioned by the agencies involved with the family "*to inquire into and report on the facts regarding the care and services provided by the relevant authorities and the communication between and within those authorities in the case of Richard Fraser and his family*".

Knight expressed concern about the treatment of black children, the poor standard of child care, and instances of racism from the senior staff. She raised issues about the management style of senior staff, and said that she felt unable to raise any of her concerns about bad practice with the [Name Redacted] [DPA]. She also recalled [Name Redacted] treatment of particular children, including singling them out and taking them upstairs to his flat for several hours at a time. [AH1-5/5]

17.8 On [DPA] 1989, Beverly Clarke, another Team Leader at South Vale, also met with Teresa Johnston to discuss her concerns, having been advised by Estella Knight to do so. Beverley Clarke raised similar concerns to Estella Knight, including the lack of awareness of the needs of black children, the use of physical restraint, and instances of racism and sexism. She also noted the way the [DPA] favoured some staff, and his practice of singling out individual children for special treatment. [AH1-17/2]

17.9 At a meeting of the Children's Homes Sub-Committee on [DPA] 1989, it was reported that six members of staff had been suspended from South Vale in the previous three weeks. It is understood that these staff members were [Name Redacted] [DPA], [Name Redacted] ([DPA], [Name Redacted]), [Name Redacted] ([DPA], [Name Redacted]), [DPA], [Name Redacted] ([DPA], [DPA]) and [LA-F8] [DPA] who was later also suspended again in 1992 due to an allegation of sexual abuse by [LA-A71] [AH1-17/3]

17.10 It was within these circumstances the Director of Social Services commissioned the internal management inquiry in July 1989. The panel was chaired by Edgar Zephyrine Principal Manager, Community and Voluntary Services. The panel members were Hugh Alexander (Principal Manager, Special Services), An Haynes (Area Social Services Manager), Geraldine McGuinness (Senior Personnel Officer), and Albert Rose (Assistant Race Relations Adviser).

17.11 The Terms of Reference provided a broad mandate for the panel:

- a) *To investigate fully the management and running of South Vale Assessment Centre, with particular regard to the allegations of racism, sexism, and bad childcare and management practices, that have been made by some staff members.*

- b) *To have the power to call to give evidence of all existing and relevant employees of the Council, both staff and management.*
  - c) *To have the power to call to give evidence of all relevant children in care and/or, with advice, to determine the best and most sensitive means of eliciting such evidence.*
  - d) *To have the scope and resources to request and determine evidence from previous employees, children in care, and present and past students on placement at South Vale Assessment Centre.*
  - e) *To be able to request and negotiate all relevant union and other institutional documents, e.g. College Student Reports.*
  - f) *To take cognizance of and be familiar with all relevant Council and Social Services Directorate Policies, and associated procedures and practices, paying particular regard to those of Equalities, Management, and Childcare.*
  - g) *To be able to seek expert advice, both from within and without the Council.*
  - h) *To consider, analyse and structure the evidence in order to-*
  - i) *Draw conclusions and make recommendations with regard to*
    - i. The equality practices*
    - ii. The management practices;*
  - j) *Draw conclusions and make recommendations with regard to*
    - i. Disciplinary action, if necessary;*
    - ii. Individual maltreatment (both employees and children in care) and appropriate compensation, if necessary;*
  - k) *Draw conclusions and make recommendations, if necessary, with regard to improving and enhancing the Council's and Social Services Directorate's Equality, Management and Child Care Policies, Procedures and Practices.*
- [AH1-5/4]**

## Findings and Conclusions of the Report

17.12 Ultimately the Report concluded that whilst there were breaches of practice in terms of racism, sexism and poor management, there was no disciplinary case to answer. **Name Redacted** left Lambeth whilst on suspension. The Council agreed for **Name Redacted** **Name Redacted** to take early retirement. **Name Redacted** **Name Redacted** **Name Redacted** and **LA-F8** **LA-F8** all returned to work after the suspension.

17.13 The Report concluded that there were many things wrong with the regime at South Vale and identified issues with: