

Other Document

Number: D146

Title: OPERATION MIDDLETON TERMS OF REFERENCE

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SENSITIVE

1. WITH EFFECT FROM MONDAY 231198, A JOINT POLICE AND SOCIAL SERVICES INVESTIGATION WILL COMMENCE UNDER THE NAME OF OPERATION MIDDLETON. THE POLICE TEAM WILL BE BASED AT TINTAGEL HOUSE AND WILL ADOPT HOLMES AS AN INVESTIGATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.
2. THIS INVESTIGATION SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE OF 'QUALITY PROTECTS' AND WILL FOCUS UPON ALLEGED INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE COMMITTED BY PERSONS OVER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS TO THE PREJUDICE OF CHILDREN WHO AT THE MATERIAL TIME WERE IN THE CARE OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH, AND EITHER RESIDENT AT ANGELL ROAD, STOCKWELL, OR ANY OTHER RESIDENTIAL HOME OR WITH OTHER CARERS THEN UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHERE CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OR INTELLIGENCE EXISTS.
3. THE 'MATERIAL' TIME REFERRED TO IN 2 ABOVE REFERS TO THE YEARS 1974 TO 1994. ANY SPECIFIC ALLEGATION OF CHILD ABUSE OCCURRING BEFORE 1974 OR INVOLVING ANY PERSON CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY THE LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SIO AND DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKING PLACE.
4. THE JOINT INVESTIGATION WILL ADOPT A PRO-ACTIVE APPROACH TO THE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING PHASE OF THE OPERATION.
5. POLICE AND SOCIAL SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES WILL FULLY ADOPT THE

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PRINCIPLES DETAILED IN 'WORKING TOGETHER' DURING THE LIFETIME OF OPERATION MIDDLETON. TO FACILITATE THIS PARTNERSHIP, REPRESENTATIVES OF LAMBETH SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE LOCATED WITHIN SECURE PREMISES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH AND HAVE DIRECT OPERATIONAL LINKS WITH THE OFFICERS DELEGATED TO UNDERTAKE THIS INVESTIGATION.

6. WHILST INDIVIDUALS INVESTIGATION STRATEGIES WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SENIOR INVESTIGATING OFFICER IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES, THE INVESTIGATION WILL TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:-

- * THE CREDIBILITY OF THE SOURCE (PERSON, DOCUMENT, ETC.) OF INFORMATION;
- * THE PROCESS OF REFINING INFORMATION INTO INTELLIGENCE;
- * THE METHOD OF INITIATING CONTACT WITH ALLEGED OR SUSPECTED VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE
- * METHODS OF SEEKING CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE;
- * THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS LEADING TO THE ARRESTS; AND,
- * THE COLLATION OF EVIDENCE RELEVANT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN THE EVENT OF PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE.

7. THE CROWN PROSECTUTION SERVICE WILL BE APPROACHED AT AN EARLY STAGE WITH A VIEW TO SEEKING THEIR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING A SPECIAL CASE WORKER TO ACT AS A FOCAL POINT OF LIAISON.

8. ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MEDIA MUST BE AGREED BETWEEN THE SENIOR INVESTIGATION OFFICER, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH THROUGH THE RESPECTIVE PRESS OFFICERS, AND SHARED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN ADVANCE VIA SCR(L). ONLY NOMINATED PERSONNEL MAY COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

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9. IT IS RECOGNISED THAT THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE A FLEXIBLE AND DYNAMIC PROCESS WHERE FULL ACCOUNT MUST BE TAKEN OF THE SENSITIVE ISSUES LIKELY TO BE ENCOUNTERED, THEREFORE, THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE MAY BE THE SUBJECT OF REVISION BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SENIOR INVESTIGATING OFFICER AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

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