

Councillor P.N.E. Hawton,
Chairman,
Rochdale Health Authority,
Birch Hill Hospital,
ROCHDALE OL12 9QB.

Strictly Confidential

Dear Councillor Hawton,

KNOWL VIEW RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Thank you for your letter of 4th April 1991, received on 8th April.

I share your concerns about the situation at Knowl View following the Report by Mr. Shepherd, made available to me by Dr. Bullough. There had been meetings about the concerns identified in the Report prior to you coming in to see me, involving Gordon Littlemore and Mrs. Diana Cavanagh, Chief Education Officer. Decisions were taken to make a co-ordinated response to the problems at Knowl View. I followed up our discussion by arranging an urgent meeting with Mrs. Cavanagh, on 4th April. Having reviewed the situation again, in particular your concerns, it was decided to continue with a concerted approach to the problem involving the Police, Education and Social Services. (I enclose a copy of a letter to Mr. Shepherd sent by Mrs. Cavanagh following this meeting, in case you have not received this).

A subsequent meeting was then held at our instigation to finalise the details on the way this matter should be investigated. As a result, following consultation with staff and with the appropriate parents, a number of boys will initially be interviewed by Police Officers and Social Work staff. Obviously much will depend on the outcome of these interviews but it may well be that further joint investigations will need to be undertaken. This approach is being taken in full consultation with the newly appointed Headteacher.

I understand that the Education Department are also tackling various management and training issues which have arisen and I shall be drawing Mrs. Cavanagh's attention to your concern that care staff should be fully aware and involved in tackling the problems identified.

Director
Coming in to see me.

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