

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

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Your Ref

Our Ref 16/DLC/VS

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Date 5th April 1991

Dear Mr. Shepherd

Thank you for your letter of 20th March and the copy of the Report which you attached. Unfortunately it arrived just as I had left for annual leave so I have only just had the chance to read the Report.

First of all might I say that it was valuable to have a sight of the Report and your conclusions following the discussions with the staff at Knowl View School. Clearly at the time you were not aware of other actions which were taking place (and neither were the staff you talked to). The initial incident to which you refer in September 1990 was handled by the Education Department and the Governing Body in conjunction with the Police. At that time all the staff in the School, teaching staff, care staff and auxiliary staff were interviewed by officers of the Education Department. There was no indication then of the other activities which you refer to in your Report. Information about these activities first came to light in the Spring Term and in March a Joint Meeting was held between the Police, the Social Services Department and the Education Department. Subsequently meetings have been held with the newly appointed Head Teacher designate and other officers of the Education Department and within the Social Services Teams. There will shortly be a further Joint Meeting between the Police, Social Services and the Education Department to consider the strategy of the investigation which will take place.

A copy of your Report was also passed to Councillor Hawton in her capacity of Chairman of Rochdale Health Authority and she has discussed the matter both with myself and with the Acting Director of Social Services.

In the Report many important issues are raised some of which have been the subject of discussion already and others which will be discussed as part of the investigation or as part of the programme which the new Head intends to implement. (Mr. Stephen Bradshaw, the new Head, takes up his post at the beginning of term on April 8th). I would like to assure you that although there are serious issues to be faced at Knowl View, these are now being addressed through concerted professional action.



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