

would have been a little bit later, it certainly in 1991, I don't think. But again

NG That's three Steves, Titcoomb, Dooks and Knowles, that's a lot of Steves.

ID Yes, I always called Stephen Netherwood Stephen to distinguish him from Steve Titcoomb. Yes you are absolutely right because later on Steve Titcoomb became when Jane Held left, Assistant Director for Childcare so in my management team we had two Stephens, so one was Stephen and one was Steve. Thank you for reminding of that.

AH How well did the team get on? Did you have differences in professional view on where thresholds would be about taking children into care, all that kind of thing, professional disagreements?

ID Sorry, which team?

AH Sorry I should have made that more specific, particularly I'm thinking post-1990/1991, so particularly the different Area Managers, so you and then Freema Taylor and Steve Titcoomb and Steve Dicks.

ID Sorry, can you sort of just put that

AH Was there a difference in approach in how intervention would be, in different members of the team were? Any professional disagreements?

ID You say you are going to come on to the Langley cases and so on, I mean that was a very significant event

AH Let me start there then

ID and in terms of the aftermath of that and what had happened there certainly there was a lot of learning to be done from that because the Department was very severely criticised at that time, as I am sure you are aware and Steve Titcoomb who had been involved in those cases because he was the Area Manager in Middleton, yes my view was that there was some learning to be done by him in view of all that had happened in Middleton, so I took a particular view about that, a particular perspective about that. That was inevitable arising from what happened there. As far as I don't think there was anything other than that in terms of difference of view.

AH We you involved in the Middleton cases?

ID Yes, I was.

AH To what extent?

ID I was the Assistant Director so I was responsible for all of the Area Managers including Steve Titcoomb and obviously Gordon Littlemore as the Director he kind of fronted that up and I was closely involved with him at the time. So yes, I was fully involved.

AH There was obviously some changes to the team after the Middleton issue and the media fallout from it and the criticisms of the Court. Gordon Littlemore resigned as we understand it literally because of that?

ID Yes, that's correct.

AH You were his Assistant Director and yet you kept your job and were promoted to the Director post. How did that happen?

ID I was interviewed with the Deputy Director at the time,

NG Mr Buckley?

ID Mr Buckley, yes. The Council decided to appoint me