

Mr. Williams reported a meeting held at Knowl View on 4th March 1991 at the instigation of Care Staff and attended by Dr. Fraser and Ms Janet Bowyer, Child Protection Team, Rochdale Social Services Department. Staff had voiced concern about reported activities involving a number of boys within the school and in the Town Centre. A number of steps were suggested to prevent these activities from continuing and it was agreed that a meeting with the Police would be arranged.

Mrs. Cavanagh stated that subsequently a meeting had been held at Fieldhouse School on 8th March 1991, involving representatives of the Police and Social Services. The outcome of which was that the Police felt that they should not be involved and that consideration should be given to investigating the alleged activities under the Authority's Child Protection procedures.

Mr. Mansoor Kazi later attended a meeting on 11th April chaired by Ms Janet Bowyer and attended by Mr. Bradshaw. It was agreed that Ms Bowyer would interview three pupils.

Mr. Kazi stated that after six weeks, Ms Bowyer had reported her view that the three pupils looked at were likely to have been the abusers rather than the abused and undertook to investigate a further three.

Mr. Kazi explained that after the issues relating to Knowl View had been discussed at the Child Protection Guidelines Sub-Committee it had been agreed that the investigation should proceed. Ms Freema Taylor had subsequently taken over responsibility for Child Protection within the Social Services Department and had reviewed the circumstances.

Mrs. Cavanagh recorded that the Chief Executive had enquired what action was being taken with regard to Knowl View. At a meeting attended by the Chief Executive, the Acting Director of Social Services, Mr. Shipp and herself, Ian Davey had agreed to personally consider what action should be taken and had subsequently decided that the alleged activity did not fall within the Authority's Guidelines on Child Protection.

Mr. Bradshaw expressed the view that an underlying subculture had existed involving twelve boys whose activities went beyond exploration. Some were believed to have been engaged in 'cottageing' around the Town Centre.

Mrs. Cavanagh emphasised that all involved needed to be made aware that the situation was regarded as unhealthy and that the activities were seen as wrong and unacceptable.

(At this point Mrs. Cavanagh distributed copies of a memo dated (30.5.91) she had received from the Acting Director of Social Services concerning Knowl View).

It was reported that a Manchester pupil, said to have been involved in these activities, had been investigated by Manchester SSD which had decided to take no further action.