

Confidential

Mr Z.R. Flammer.

Knowl View School

Notes of a meeting held in the Director's Room on Tuesday 4th June 1991 in respect of activities among pupils at Knowl View School

Present:

Mrs. D.L. Cavanagh	Director of Education
Mr. M. Kazi	Principal Education Welfare Officer
Mr. B.P. Williams	Assistant Education Officer (Special Education)
Mr. C. Bentley	Chief Adviser
Mr. D. Shipp	Deputy Town Clerk
Mr. S. Bradshaw	Headteacher, Knowl View
Mrs. V. Mellor	Director, Jubilee Unit Booth Hall Hospital
Miss M. Simpson	General Adviser

Mrs. Cavanagh introduced Mrs. Mellor and indicated that her advice had been sought as to how best to proceed with an enquiry into activities among pupils at Knowl View.

Mr. Bentley informed the meeting of an Education Department enquiry conducted by himself and Mr. Williams related to an incident involving an adult male intruder at the School in September 1990. Interviews had been held with all Teaching and Care Staff but the answers had not been reassuring and revealed a lack of awareness of the underlying issues involved, though the School's immediate reaction to the incident had been adequate.

Mrs. Cavanagh related meetings held with the Governing Body of Knowl View which had revealed some defensiveness on its part. The Authority had taken practical steps to advertise the substantive post of Headteacher and had appointed an experienced Deputy Headteacher from a mainstream secondary school as Acting Headteacher. Additional steps were taken to improve security against unauthorised intruders. Mr. Bradshaw had taken up post in April 1991.

In respect of later developments, not directly related to the September incident, Mrs. Cavanagh explained that she had been contacted by Dr. Alison Fraser (Consultant Adolescent Child Psychiatrist, Birch Hill Hospital) immediately prior to the Christmas break. Dr. Fraser had reported several referrals regarding pupils at Knowl View which concerned her. There had been consultation with Mr. David Edmonds, Senior Educational Psychologist and Social Services Department was said to have further information regarding the activities of some of the boys concerned.

Mr. Mike Poulton, Acting Headteacher (January to April 1991), had discussed training needs with Knowl View staff and training in counselling had been requested. Mr. Phil Sheppard, AIDS Co-ordinator Community Health Services Department, Rochdale Health Authority, had been invited to undertake a training session with the staff. This had revealed ongoing concerns and anxieties about activities involving some pupils. Mr. Sheppard had circulated a report to senior officers within the Health Authority and Education Department.