

On 20th May 1991 there was a meeting held with David Shipp, The Chief Executive Mr Pierce, Ian Davey and myself .

Social Services announced that they weren't willing to investigate matters discussed at the strategy meeting. The Social Services and The Police would interview a few pupils but that would be the extent of their enquiry. Subsequently The Chief Executive had enquired what action was being taken with regard to Knowl View School. Mr Shipp, myself and Ian Davey had agreed to personally consider what action was being taken and it was subsequently decided that the alleged activity did not fall within the Authorities Guidelines on Child Protection. I assume this decision was made by Ian Davey, but like me his boss was John Pierce so Ian Davey could not have made this decision unilaterally. I did not agree with this decision but it wasn't within my power to reverse it. It was then important to look for a different strategy.

David Shipp was Chief Legal officer at this time and had previously been involved in the Langley child abuse investigation which had been subject of an enquiry. A suggestion was made, and I do not know by whom, that an investigation must take place, but perhaps by an outside agency. David Shipp suggested that Valerie Mellor would be a suitable person to deal with this. Mrs Mellor at this time was a highly qualified Consultant Child Psychologist at Booth Hall Hospital.

This resulted in Mrs Mellor being commissioned by David Shipp and myself to conduct an investigation on behalf of the leader of the council. David Shipp was Director of Legal Services, which was part of Corporate Services.

This reported to Policy Committee, the Chair of whom was leader of the Council. At this time the leader was Richard Farnell

I have been shown a copy of notes of a meeting held in the Directors room of the Municipal offices on Tuesday 4th June 1991 in respect of activities amongst pupils at Knowl View School at which I am shown in attendance. Infact I chaired the meeting. At the beginning of this meeting I introduced Mrs Valerie Mellor who was the Director of the Jubilee Unit at Booth Hall Hospital. We discussed some of the background and actions that had been taken thus far. Mrs Mellor explored the dimensions we would want her to look at and told the meeting that she would consult with Inspector Downes from Greater Manchester Police, Social Services, and Dr Fraser who like her was a psychologist. There is an entry in these minutes on page two next to my name where it is stated that Social Services were not going to investigate. At this point I reported the outcome of the meeting on 20th May 1991 when Mr Pierce had enquired what action was being taken. On these minutes is a hand written note which reads ' Ian Davy overturn decision above and decides not to investigate' I do not know who wrote that note.

Signature:
2016

Signature witnessed by: