

A number of situations have arisen over the last eight-nine months which have given cause for concern. Briefly these are:

1. A group of five to six boys who attend Knowl View school were picked up inside and around the public gents toilets in Smith St by the police. These boys were believed to be engaged in 'cottaging' with adult males. The boys were interviewed by the police in relation to a number of incidents of stranger abuse. No charges against adults were brought although it is thought the boys were able to provide some useful information to the police. D.C. Goggins was involved in this matter.

2. In September 1990 a man known to pupils and staff gained the confidence of a group of boys in Norden House unit. He gained access to the boys dormitory and there was a 'party' when the boys drank cider etc. and engaged in some provocative behaviour and 'flashed' at this man and walked about in a sexually explicit manner.

On a second night he again gained access to the dormitory and on this occasion indecently assaulted one of the boys.

This man was interviewed by the police and charged with offences against the one boy. Since the prosecution another boy has suggested he was also abused at this time.

The education department launched an internal investigation which resulted in:

- No disciplinary action
- The decision to formerly cover the absence of the Headteacher who was on sick leave by the appointment of an acting head.
- Review of staff rotas
- Review of staff levels and training

During December, January and early February the staff - predominantly residential staff became aware that the boys in Norden Unit were engaged in some sexually explicit activities.

The staff referred a number of the boys independently to the Child and Family Psychiatric Unit.

Dr. Fraser and Chris Scarborough became concerned at the way the situation was being handled and requested that a meeting be convened to consider the needs of the children within a school strategy.

This meeting was held on 4.3.91 and was attended by the residential staff, Dr. Fraser, Chris Scarborough, Janet Bowyer and Brian Williams.

See minutes 4.3.91

It became apparent that there were a number of agendas around. Some of these included:

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