

Mrs. Mellor expressed the view that it would be inappropriate for one child to be interviewed in isolation as this would put pressure on that child.

Mr. Bentley agreed that all the boys thought to have been involved in the alleged activities should be questioned. He pointed to the desirability of the investigation being conducted by person(s) having the necessary skills and impartiality.

Mrs. Mellor noted that Social Services had stated categorically that the alleged incident fell outside the remit of the Authority's Guidelines. She felt that if necessary the Police should conduct their own investigation so as not to compromise any possible prosecution.

She proposed that she should conduct preliminary consultations :

- i) With Staff at Knowl View to find out more about the boys, the nature of their problems, their backgrounds and to determine ~~the conditions~~ which ~~the~~ boys should be interviewed.
- ii) With Dr. Alison Fraser on a consultant to consultant basis in confidence.
- iii) With Inspector Downs of Greater Manchester Police.

*answered
25/6/91 DLE*

It was suggested that Mrs. Mellor's consultancy should provide an impartial response to the questions.

1. Is the School providing education appropriate to the needs of the pupils at Knowl View?
2. Are staff able to deal with the problems identified?
3. What should be provided?

Mr. Bentley reminded the meeting of the Authority's existing expertise as embodied in the persons of the General Adviser and Headteacher ~~who should work together to develop the curriculum~~ in order to remediate the problems of pupils at Knowl View.

He hoped that an external consultant would bridge the present with the past in order to confirm that present assumptions based on past developments were correct.

Mrs. Mellor agreed that she would seek information at the school and offer her views on the pupils concerned and then give her recommendations.