

2. There is no evidence that any member of staff has actively participated in any sexual abuse of any of the pupils.
3. The sexual activity has been continuing over a very long period of time and there is no possibility that it should have been mistaken for normal horseplay between adolescents.
4. It is very difficult to believe that this behaviour had not come to the attention of at least some members of staff.
5. Rodney Hilton was known to be inappropriately attracted to boys, and he was known to be frequenting the school premises.
6. The danger to pupils from him, therefore, must have been obvious to staff.
7. Many incidents were not recorded either in the child's notes or in the school log.
8. Many incidents were not related to relevant members of staff - it would appear that the caretaker was the repository of knowledge of most of the incidents.
9. There is a high incidence of sexual abuse amongst boys prior to their entry to the school. In many instances full detailed background information was not available to care staff.
10. From the late 1970s special schools in Rochdale were allocated about half a day a week of an Educational Psychologist's time. Because of resourcing difficulties cover at Knowl View School had been reduced, and now the service only deals with individual pupils on an "on call" basis. As a result of this little advice, either to staff or to individual pupils, had been available from the Educational Psychology Service.
11. The attitude of some members of staff may well have hindered a proper response to the situation. Some members of staff had lost confidence in their own judgment and powers of discrimination. Individual members' personal views with regard to sexuality might also have affected their own reactions to incidents.

### Recommendations

#### A. Needs of Present Pupils

1. Whilst there appears to be no overt sexual activity occurring within the school at the present time, certain boys may need individual help or counselling.
2. Regular input is required from experts, such as Educational Psychologists, Clinical Psychologists and Child Psychiatrists.
3. Night time waking staff would ensure that the needs of the boys were met during the night. Whilst sexual activity can, and does, go on at any time of the day, it is at night time that the greatest opportunity occurs. The safety of both children and staff would also be better ensured by such a system.