

He did, however, indicate extreme fear of one particular boy who still remains at Knowl View [RO-A14] and said he would not be prepared to return to Knowl View whilst that boy is still present.

His mother feels strongly that her son's best interests lie in his returning to Knowl View School as she feels that he was doing well there and would greatly benefit from it's regime. However, she is equally adamant that her son must not return whilst the boy [RO-A14] is still there. She expressed a strong feeling of injustice that her own son's needs could not be met whilst a boy who was known to be abusive and to terrorise other children was allowed to remain to finish his education. It is understood that this family have been offered a place in a day school within the Authority, but they find that unsatisfactory.

Caretaker

The caretaker at the time of the incidents related above had been in post for 15 years, the first year as what he called "school keeper". Following that he had worked on a part time basis as a member of the care staff at night. This had increased to 30 hours a week. He saw his role of school keeper as follows:-

- To be a member of the team.
- To undertake a fair amount of maintenance work.
- To keep the living quarters in good repair and the whole of the fabric.
- To cost repairs and to undertake transport responsibilities.

It was clear, however, that he regarded his work as a member of the care staff as being far more important.

He was able to give a very detailed history of Rodney Hilton, the intruder, who lives directly opposite to the school.

The caretaker, Mr. Found, described many contacts with this man, including occasions when Mr. Hilton had threatened to set fire to his house and had also attacked his fiancée. He had been threatened by the man Hilton with AIDS, that is "I'll cut or scratch you to give you AIDS".

Mr. Found also described other incidents of the intruder having been on school premises on many occasions, none of which were recorded in the school log.

Mr. Found said that he had reported these incidents and expressed a need for outside help.

He has now resigned from his post.

Conclusions

1. There is no doubt that up to a quarter of the pupils resident at Knowl View School have been involved at some stage in serious sexual incidents. Boys have participated in gross sexual activity between one another, often involving coercion and violence. Some boys have acted as prostitutes in Smith Street toilets in Rochdale. Some boys have participated in gross sexual acts with an intruder, Rodney Hilton, both in the school grounds and within the school itself.