

1st April

Special meeting of the Governing Body to consider the report. This was attended by myself and Anne Taylor on behalf of the Chief Executive and Town Clerk.

Following the meetings above, proposals were made to offer further counselling to any parent or ex-pupils who might wish to receive it and to provide a 'listening ear' to any staff who felt anxious about their particular feelings about the incident. The Governors also urged myself to seek money from the Capital Programme for the remodelling of the dormitories into small bedrooms: this is clearly desirable and would have helped to prevent the kind of incidents that occurred and make supervision more effective.

24th March/2nd April

Discussions with the Chief Education Officers of Manchester and Tameside, both of whose Authorities currently have pupils in the school. They have received and retained copies of both versions of the report and of the account of actions so far taken. They have also received an invitation to discuss the situation with Mrs Mellor and to visit the school, should they so wish. I have had no further comments from either Mr Jobson or Mr Webster.

9th April

Discussion with the professional officers of related services (Social Services, Police, Health Authority: Probation Service invited but did not arrive). The poor communication between these services and the school and the Education Authority was a major difficulty in the situation. Neither the school nor the Authority had any information regarding the activities of pupils outside the school premises until several months after the incident in September 1990 and boys were still being referred to Knowl View without any information arriving either at the school or to the Education Authority about their previous history. In some cases it would have been obvious that these boys should not have been placed at Knowl View, had the information been available.

These difficulties are now being actively tackled. The Governing Body are very sympathetic to the proposal that the Chair of the Education Committee should be able to attend by right (although not a member of the Governing Body) and that one of the co-opted Governors should be a nominee of the Director of Social Services. I understand that Jane Held, Assistant Director, would be likely to be the nominee and her role in the implementation of the Children Act would make this highly desirable.

14th April

Meeting with Chief Superintendent, John Houghton. I was accompanied by Alan Eastwood. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the situation regarding the caretaker. The Chief Superintendent stressed that there might be one of three outcomes:

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