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JH states he would not have involved himself in any sort of cover up, or unethical behaviour with the council as it was not the way he conducted himself and it would have been of no benefit to him or GMP to do so.

JH concludes that there has been no cover up on his part and neither is he aware of any cover up on the part GMP. JH stresses that had any specific matters been raised with him, he would have ensured that they were investigated, however, based on none specific information he would not have instructed his staff to do anything further.

JH was interviewed by PSB.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Detective Sergeant Kevin STERNDALE (KS) (retired), GMP Child Protection Unit, Rochdale Division.**

KS took up the role of Detective Sergeant in the Rochdale Divisional Child Protection Unit in 1991; he retired from GMP in 2002.

The unit was staffed by a small number of officers under his command. His immediate line manager was Detective Superintendent James Henderson (JH)

Minutes indicate that KS accompanied D/ Supt JH to the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1991

(See minutes above), where the child protection issues were discussed.

Further documents in possession of Operation Clifton suggest that, post the publication of the VM report in 1992, KS was appointed by JH to undertake an investigation into the issues raised.

KS has been interviewed by Operation Clifton, and he said as far as KVS is concerned, I dealt with no investigations involving the staff, pupils or any other officials. I do remember an incident at the school, when a lad called HILTON was released from prison and began hanging around the school grounds.

I attended the school along with a colleague, but I cannot remember who, but if I remember rightly, that was resolved by Rochdale Council deciding that they were going take out an Injunction out against HILTON. So we had no further dealings. That was the last involvement I had with KVS.

He also said as far as I remember, I do not remember attending any meetings/case conferences or strategy meetings or the contents of any of the meetings. If there is documentation that has me listed as being present during any meeting, then I was obviously present, but I honestly cannot remember the contents of any of the meetings.

Martin DIGAN (MD) alleges that sometime between 1994 and 1996, accompanied by Martyn Green, a reporter from the Rochdale Observer newspaper, he attended at Littleborough Police Station where he handed a dossier containing a number of allegations regarding abuse at KVS to KS. He also states that approximately ten days later KS handed the dossier back to him, informing him that he had been told by his superiors that the allegations had already been investigated.

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