

It is not clear to what extent this system is also used by the Aftercare service. Neither the Education Service, nor the Housing Department could offer evidence of any similar complaints system for children and young people.

7.6. **Case Management**

7.6.1. The focus of the earlier strategy meetings centred upon the need to plan a course of action in relation to the investigation. Upon learning that [RO-A36] did not wish to make a formal complaint against DL, the strategy meeting considered that that disciplinary action would be necessary even given that:

- alleged incident took place out of working hours
- [RO-A36] was no longer a school pupil
- [RO-A36] was 17 years of age
- [RO-A36] was not in the care of the Local Authority.

7.6.2. The issue centred on what could be considered as professional misconduct. The decision of the police not to take the matter further because [RO-A36] did not wish to make a complaint meant that the allegation was considered as one of professional misconduct. Had the Education service been advised it was unable to take disciplinary action because of the above points, it is not clear what other courses of action may have been possible in respect of [RO-A36]'s allegations.

7.6.3. In later strategy meetings, the focus was predominantly upon public relations and media management. In the debriefing meeting, it was suggested that consideration should be given to establishing a media management group in those situations, which are likely to attract public and media attention. This would ensure that child protection issues and case management considerations could when necessary, be addressed separately.

Rochdale Area Child Protection Committee should consider how or if, a split-function approach to high profile child protection cases, could be managed.

7.6.4. Records indicate that agencies and/or the Area Child Protection Committee have a clear policy in relation to requests for 3rd party disclosures. The efforts taken to prevent DL's legal representatives [*inappropriately*] obtaining social and educational records pertaining to [RO-A36] are particularly commended. The issues surrounding 3rd party disclosures in child protection situations are currently