

Rochdale Health Authority

Chairman: Councillor P.N.E. Hawton

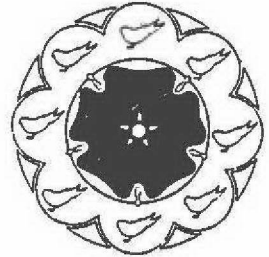
Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale OL12 9QB
Telephone: Rochdale (0706) 377777

Chief Executive:
Mrs. G. Oates, RGN, DMS, I.HSM, FBIM

Your Ref

Our Ref PNEH/KT

Please ask for
Ext. **DPA**



16th March 1992

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Diana

I found the meeting and the report from Mrs. V. Mellor regarding the situation at Knowl View School very illuminating and helpful.

However, certain aspects of the whole business still leave me with considerable areas of anxiety. I should be glad to know what action is proposed regarding the teachers who were unwilling to co-operate with Mrs. Mellor's investigation. It seems all too convenient to me to place a large part of the blame for some of the occurrences which took place on the caretaker but, it seems to me, that other people must have been involved.

As you are aware, from the outset, I was anxious not to make any part of my concerns about Knowl View School public both in the interests of the young people at the school and also the Authority but I still retain a strong feeling of concern about the whole matter. The fact that all the incidents described took place and the atmosphere at the school existed as described - surely somebody at a more senior level should have been taking far more action to get Knowl View on an even keel again well before the time about which the investigation took place.

The new Headteacher seems to be a sound and sensible man, but it is my strongly held view that it will not be possible for him to achieve the objective, of getting the whole atmosphere of the school in better shape, without some action being taken to cull the staff of any teacher who cannot give wholehearted support to the new regime.

I regret to say that I still feel that greater efforts will be needed to ensure that the ethos at Knowl View achieves a healthier aspect but I am glad we have made arrangements to review the situation in January next year.

Yours sincerely

DPA

COUNCILLOR P.N.E. HAWTON OBE
Chairman

Mrs. D. Cavanagh
Director of Education
PO Box 70
Municipal Offices
Smith Street
Rochdale
OL16 1YD

cc Dr. V. Mellor, Jubilee Unit
Booth Hall Hospital

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