

Account of Mr James Henderson, obtained on 21 August 2014

Mr Henderson states that the only recollection he has of Knowl View School, from the relevant time period are:

- 1) A report of a prowler that was dealt with by response officers. (Mr Henderson states he became aware of this during a morning briefing, but as far as he can recollect officers did not find anyone on attendance.)
- 2) A report that PC Janet Taylor, from the Child Abuse Section responded to. (Mr Henderson states that he cannot in fact recall what the details were of that report or whether they were of a sexual nature, however, he recalls asking PC Taylor and her advising him that there was nothing in the report.)

The following paragraph from the report made by Ms Valerie Mellor was read out to Mr Henderson:

“On 8th March 1991 a meeting was held at Fieldhouse School involving representatives of the police and Social Services. The outcome of that meeting was that the police felt that they should not be involved, and that consideration should be given to investigating the alleged activities under the Authority’s Child Protection Procedure.”

Mr Henderson was unable to provide and further detail in relation to this. Mr Henderson states that if Ms Mellor has made reference to him being spoken to or being present for a meeting then he does not dispute this, but he does not recall any aspect of it. Mr Henderson states that he does not specifically recall Ms Mellor herself, but her name does sound familiar.

Mr Henderson states that he does recall attending at Fieldhouse, but cannot say for what purpose and whether it had anything to do with Knowl View School.

Mr Henderson states that despite not having any recollection of any meetings or discussions about Knowl View School, had matters of specific sexual nature been reported to him or brought to his attention, he would have ensured that these were investigated. Mr Henderson also states that if the information had been more general, without any specific allegation or without identified victims then the advice may have been for the Council to look into these internally and then report any identified concerns.

Mr Henderson states that had any concerns about Cyril Smith been brought to his attention then he would have had no hesitation in furthering these lines of enquiries, as he had no allegiance or relationship with Cyril Smith and had found him difficult in some of the professional dealings he had experienced with him. Furthermore 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.

Mr Henderson concludes that there has been no cover up on his part and neither is he aware of any cover up on the part GMP. Mr Henderson stresses that had any specific