

KNOWL VIEW SCHOOL

CONFIDENTIAL

Notes of a meeting held at 3.45 pm  
on Friday 13th March 1992  
in the Director's Office

Present:	Mrs D L Cavanagh	Director of Education
	Cllr M Moffat	Chair of Education Committee
	Mrs V Mellor	Director Jubilee Unit Booth Hall Hospital
	Cllr A Beasley	Education Spokesperson
	Mr S Bradshaw	Headteacher Knowl View School
	Mrs C Crewe	Senior Education Welfare Officer
	Mrs E Dobie	Education Officer (Special Education)
	Mr Z R Flammer	Principal Educational Psychologist
	Cllr P N E Hawton	Education Spokesperson
	Mr S Hodge	Chief Adviser
	Mrs S B Holt	Senior Admin Officer
	Mr J Humphreys	Chair of Governors Knowl View School
	Cllr R Sarginson	Education Spokesperson
	Ms M Simpson	Adviser
	Ms A Taylor	Asst Solicitor Chief Exec & Town Clerk's Dept

The Director extended a welcome to everyone attending the meeting. Mrs Cavanagh indicated that the report submitted by Mrs Mellor was now to be circulated. Mrs Mellor would then present her report and respond to any questions raised.

A further meeting was to be held at the school when the report now under consideration would be presented to school staff and Governors. The Chair of Education Committee had agreed to Chair this meeting.

The Director gave a brief resume to the background of the report, but suggested that whilst the meeting may be reflecting on past events, there was a need to be positive and look forward to the future.

Mrs Mellor introduced her report saying that she had attempted to keep it anonymous and requested that, in light of the sensitive issues involved, the content be treated with caution and in confidence. Furthermore, she wished to reaffirm that whilst she was satisfied that at the present time there was nothing improper happening at the school the situation nevertheless required very sensitive handling.

#### The Report

The report opened with the instructions from the Director of Legal Services and Director of Education in respect of the investigation uncovered:

- (i) A description of the school;
- (ii) A history of behaviour problems and an understanding of the issues involved;
- (ii) A history of sexualised behaviour;
- (iv) Information received from staff;
- (v) Interviews with families X and Y;
- (vi) Interview with Caretaker;
- (vii) Conclusions;
- (viii) Recommendations which fall into six broad headings;
  - (a) Needs of present pupils;
  - (b) Communicaton;
  - (c) Planning;
  - (d) Staff training;
  - (e) Staff support;
  - (f) Caretaker role

Discussion of the report followed.

Mrs Cavanagh then asked Ms Simpson to circulate the commentary prepared by herself and Mr Bradshaw on the development at Knowl View School. The commentary covered background factors and starting points for growth along with positive development at the school.

#### Areas for Action

- (i) Continued work on establishing management and administrative systems within the school
- (ii) Review of duties, redeployment of care staff and waking night supervision
- (iii) Establish and maintain links between Education Service staff and Social Services staff
- (iv) To set up a support group for staff within the school
- (v) To look into the provision of a training budget for staff or being able to access other training budgets
- (vi) Appointment of a permanent Caretaker
- (vii) Further review by Mrs Mellor of the situation at Knowl View School - January 1993
- (viii) Building adaptations, ie. dormitory provision to two bed units
- (ix) Redecoration/refurbishment of living accommodation to make more homely
- (x) Consider provision of grant monies for development of National Curriculum
- (xi) Consideration to be given to changing the Articles of Government. To explore the possibility of a nomination from the Director of Social Services on the Governing Body, the present vacancy being filled by a member of Education Committee and the Chair of Education Committee becoming an ex officio member.

In addition to the areas for action - some issues of the report related to individuals and it was considered that these might be discussed with the Police. Concern was also expressed about pupil Z leaving the school in the Summer Term and the possible reoccurrence of recent events. The Police should perhaps be alerted to this.

- It was suggested that whilst the Director of Social Services, at the beginning of the investigation, did not feel it necessary for formal referral to the Department of X and Y in light of the increased knowledge of events of the school the Director of Social Services should be reminded of the circumstances.

- Consideration would need to be given to the amendment of the Child Protection Procedures Handbook in light of the Children Act 1989.

Mrs Cavanagh thanked Mrs Mellor for her report and acknowledged Mr Bradshaw's assistance and support in dealing with the difficult issues involved.

SBH/KA  
27.3.92