

MEMORANDUM

From: ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

To: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Our Ref: ID/JM Ext. DPA

Copies: Chief Executive

Your Ref:

Date: 30th May 1991

CONFIDENTIAL

KNOWL VIEW SCHOOL

As you know, we met with the Chief Executive and Deputy Town Clerk on 17th May, regarding Knowl View School. We discussed the concerns of the School and the chronology of events since the meeting which took place in early March.

I shared with you and with Mr. Pierce and Mr. Shipp my understanding regarding the allegations, which was that they do not come within the Child Abuse Guidelines and Procedures definition of sexual abuse between children.

In view of the nature of the concerns and the need to resolve the matter speedily, I agreed to look further into the concerns which the School have raised, to consider these in detail and to let you have a formal response as to whether they do in fact come within the definition of sexual abuse between children.

I met yesterday, 29th May, with Freema Taylor, Area Manager, Heywood (who is taking on additional responsibilities as far as Child Protection work is concerned) and with Annie Dodd, Senior Social Worker from the Middleton Area Office. I considered in detail the concerns regarding three boys referred by the School following the meeting on 11th April 1991:

1. RO-A15 (13 years)

The concerns about RO-A15 involve participation in oral sex; "forced RO-A11 to have oral sex, and observed oral sex between RO-A11 and RO-A14". These concerns have been followed up by Manchester Social Services Department, who have responsibility for RO-A15 and I understand that they do not intend to proceed any further following the interview which has taken place with RO-A15.

2. RO-A14 (14 years)

The concerns are that RO-A14 was involved in oral sex with RO-A11 and observed oral sex between RO-A11 and RO-A15. The view is that, if anything, RO-A14 was a perpetrator rather than a victim in these activities and that this does not fit the guidelines on sexual abuse between children.

3. RO-A11 (15 years) (now left school)

The concerns are that he was involved in oral sex with RO-A15 and also with RO-A14. It would appear that RO-A11 was a willing partner in these activities and that as the oldest boy amongst the group, he was quite able to deal with any unwelcome advances. Therefore the definition of sexual abuse between children, as outlined in the Procedures, does not apply in this case.

In summary therefore, as regards the three boys who it was originally anticipated that we would be following up with interviews, this has been completed in one case and in the other two instances the concerns do not fit the sexual abuse between children definition in the Child Abuse Guidelines and Procedures.

In the same meeting we also considered the position as regards other children in the School. You may be aware that Freema Taylor has done a considerable amount of work with the Headteacher and staff at Knowl View School and my conclusion was that the definition of sexual abuse between children does not apply in the other cases with the possible exception of RO-A12, aged 13. The information which would enable us to make a judgement on this is currently held by the Education Welfare Service and we are awaiting the report from Hilary Marsh which Manzoor Kazi has promised to supply. When we receive this information we will form a judgement on whether we can use it to proceed with an investigation and contact you again.

In conclusion, a considerable amount of assimilation of the material provided by Knowl View has been done by Freema Taylor. If it would be helpful to you to have this information, then please let me know and we can share it with you.

Also, despite the fact that the information does not enable us to proceed with investigations under the Child Abuse Procedures, we share the concerns that the staff have about sexual activity between the children in the School and I would offer our continued co-operation and assistance in any way which would help resolve this matter.

DPA
