

Deputy Divisional Director
South

Senior Professional Officer (Child Care)

Mr. Jones
Ext. DPA
3rd August, 1978
S/JOdB/SN
1DG/RMJ/SPH

Re: Sexual Misconduct

I refer to your memorandum of 27th July, 1978 regarding item 52 of the Homes Advisers Minutes dated 5th July, 1978.

We were talking about the sexual misconduct between children in a Community Home or of children in a Community Home outside their establishment. Clearly where this is experimental horseplay (for want of better words) there is no question of the Police needing to be involved. As we understand it if a girl returns giving the impression or stating that she has had intercourse when she is under sixteen but does not reveal the identity of the boy, - there is little that the Department can do other than feel anxious for the girl. In these circumstances referred to in G10 of the Policy Procedure and Practice Guide - Community Homes some Officers in Charge have been in the habit of asking medical practitioners to examine the girl. The policy is clearly that they should not do this unless they have first consulted their Homes Adviser.

Where a child has been the subject of U.S.I. or serious homosexual or other activity and the staff have good reason to believe that an offence has been committed - then the policy is that the Area Director should consider informing the Police immediately. As I understand it, the policy also states that only the Divisional Director has the power to agree to withhold information from the Police.

DPA

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