



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION ON SELECTED CASE STUDIES

Investigation into the extent of any institutional failures to protect children in the care of Lambeth Council from sexual abuse and exploitation

1. On 15 March 2018, the Inquiry circulated written submissions prepared by Counsel to the Investigation (“CTI”) to core participants. These set out CTI’s submissions proposals surrounding the selection of case studies so the Inquiry might hold a hearing in the investigation that is effective. Core participants were invited to respond to the submissions on proposed case studies and to make submissions as to the form and content of the oral hearings. Core participants were given an opportunity to consider each others submissions and to submit further skeleton arguments if there were issues that they wished to bring to the Panel’s attention.
2. In their submissions, CTI submitted that examining what happened at Shirley Oaks, Angell Road and Southvale would capture some of the most serious aspects of what went wrong in Lambeth and would be the best means of examining institutional culture. In particular, these institutions would enable examination of a number of core issues including:
 - a. The recruitment and retention of Michael Carroll as the head of a children’s home after Lambeth became aware that he had been convicted of an offence of child sexual abuse.
 - b. Lambeth’s handling of Michael Carroll’s attempts to foster children or to have children stay in his home.
 - c. Whether there was political interference in Michael Carroll’s attempts to foster.
 - d. Whether there was interference in Lambeth related police investigations.
 - e. Whether there was organised sexual abuse of children amongst employees.
 - f. Lambeth’s recruitment of staff to work in care homes.
 - g. Why Les Paul was able to sexually abuse children from Lambeth for so long.
 - h. The failures of various institutions to respond to evidence that children were being sexually abused by Les Paul and others.
 - i. Failures of Lambeth’s internal investigations to uncover abuse.



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- j. The failures of various institutions to respond to evidence that children were being sexually abused by Les Paul and others.
 - k. Whether Les Paul was using children from Lambeth to make pornography.
 - l. Long term drift in the planning for children in care.
 - m. The extent and nature of abuse at Shirley Oaks.
 - n. Examples of abuse which occurred in Shirley Oaks, and failures to prevent, identify and adequately respond to this.
 - o. The response to whistleblowing and attempted whistleblowing in Lambeth.
 - p. Failures to deal with certain individuals when abuse came to light.
 - q. Failures in a long term police/local authority investigation to uncover abuse.
 - r. The wider political and corporate culture prevailing within Lambeth.
 - s. Whether there is evidence of corruption in police investigations into Lambeth.
 - t. Race as a factor in the protection of children.
3. I received a number of responses from Core Participants. In broad terms, where they provided submissions, there was consensus that the hearing ought to encompass the three institutions suggested.
4. The Shirley Oaks Survivors Association (SOSA) submitted that investigating the three homes was not enough, however, and that the oral hearings should also consider:
 - a. the sexual abuse of children at Highland Road (where Michael Carroll worked before he went to Angell Road).
 - b. Any part that Michael Carroll played in disciplinary proceedings against Les Paul (or in Operation Bell).
 - c. Lambeth homes for children with special needs (citing the examples of Chestnuts, Monkton Street and Ivy House).
 - d. Fostering.
 - e. The children's home in Lambeth Enquiry (CHILE) and why it failed.
5. Lambeth Council agreed with proposals for case studies, and the Metropolitan Police Service observed that such a focus would be proportionate and afford the views of victims and survivors proper consideration. The Crown Prosecution Service was



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neutral on the issue of case studies. In broad terms, Ms Tapsell stressed that she considered it vitally important that the oral hearings focus upon examining the role that corruption may have played in putting children at risk of sexual abuse in Lambeth. Dr Goldie appeared to agree with the institutions selected, and made a number of suggestions which on close analysis fall within the themes and issues which will be considered as part of the investigation.

6. In supplementary submissions circulated on 25 October 2018, CTI submitted that the oral hearing ought to also include specific consideration of children with special needs and the additional risks that these needs place children at. In particular, that Ivy House and Monkton Street should be added to the the case studies which would be investigated by the Inquiry.

The Preliminary Hearing

7. On 31 October 2018, the Inquiry held its third preliminary hearing in this investigation. The purpose of the preliminary hearing was for me to consider final submissions surrounding which institutions should form the basis of case study examination at the Lambeth oral hearing in 2020. As with all investigations, there is a need for me to be both selective and proportionate when identifying what material should form the basis for examination in a three to four week oral hearing.
8. On behalf of Lambeth Council, at the preliminary hearing, Mr Alex Verdan QC confirmed that Lambeth agreed with the case studies proposed by CTI. On behalf of Ms Tapsell, Mr Sam Jacobs also made it clear that he was content with the approach to the case studies, although he asked what issues would be considered within the wider investigation. No other core participants made oral submissions surrounding case studies. On behalf of Dr Goldie, representations were made by Mr Chris Jacobs encouraging early disclosure of documents to core participants wherever possible.

Decision

9. Having considered both written and oral submissions from CTI and all core participants, I consider that the case studies in the Lambeth Hearing should encompass five institutions:
 - a. Southvale Assessment Centre;
 - b. Shirley Oaks;
 - c. Angell Road;
 - d. Ivy House; and



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e. Monkton Street.

10. I am satisfied that the selection of these institutions will enable the Inquiry to examine the experiences of children in Lambeth, including the experiences of those who were especially vulnerable and where communication was difficult. It will also be able to examine the approach of individuals who had responsibilities for the institutions under consideration, and to assess institutional responses to child sexual abuse in Lambeth.
11. Until the case study material has been examined, it would be premature to comment upon the information which might be drawn from it. CTI has made it clear that part of the investigation process necessarily involves analysing a greater volume of material than can be adduced in evidence at oral hearing. All documents relevant to the Investigation will be disclosed to core participants in due course, and there will be a public hearing where evidence will be adduced in the same way as it has been in other investigations. I expect evidence going to the thematic issues of wider application will be adduced within the case studies and the investigation as a whole.
12. Accordingly, the Inquiry will consider Shirley Oaks, Southvale Assessment Centre, Angell Road, Ivy House and Monkton Street as specific case studies in the Lambeth investigation. I will of course keep the matter under review as the investigation develops.

PROFESSOR ALEXIS JAY OBE

Chair, Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

12 November 2018