

Nottinghamshire  County Council

Social Services

Director R S Brook

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Your Ref
Our Ref
Please ask for
Direct Line/Ext
Date

O/PT/CMC
Ms P. Thompson
DPA
4 March 1997

*copy sent to
Ann Cross SC3A
6/3/97 PSC.*

Mr. P. Green,
SSI,
6th Floor,
Ladywood House,
Stephenson Street,
Birmingham
B2 4DS

Dear Phil,

Joint Social Services/Police Approach in Nottinghamshire to Children involved in Prostitution

It is my understanding from Police colleagues that the Home Office has requested information about Nottinghamshire's approach to dealing with young people involved in prostitution. Therefore I am alerting you to this fact. I attach a copy of the agreement sent by the Police to the Home Office, and offer the following background details for your information.

In response to increasing concerns about the numbers of young people, both females and males, involved in prostitution the Department and Nottinghamshire Constabulary, following a period of consultative meetings, signed up to an agreement to address this issue. The aim of the agreement is to formalise the exchange of information between the Department and the Police where children are involved in prostitution in order to advance the fullest recognition that such young people are Children in Need and to enhance investigations into individuals who procure children for prostitution and control that activity.

The approach which we have established involves a voluntary return to a place of safety, the child's family home or looked after accommodation if the child is in the care of the Local Authority. This is an attempt to establish voluntary routes, wherever possible, in recognition of young people involved in such activity as children in need rather than automatically labelling as "young prostitutes" and therefore Section 47 enquiries are not automatically triggered.

However Joint Planning meetings are held to determine a strategy for how the Department and the Police will respond to young people at which the need for Section 47 enquiries and or a criminal route are discussed.

There is a recognition that young people involved with this activity are generally being used and abused by adults and, by agreement with the Police, this is our joint starting point.

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The Department has also introduced a Policy, Practice and Procedure Guide which provides staff with detailed guidance on how to respond to the needs of young people involved in this activity. A copy of which is attached.

I should be happy to provide further information if required.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

DPA

Penny Thompson
Assistant Director - Operations