

3-8-45

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To: Simon Allard

From: HERBERT LAMING
CI/SSI

Date: 23 August 1995

Copy: Andrea Hickman
Don Brand
Wendy Rose
Kathleen Taylor

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

1. As you know I visited Nottinghamshire yesterday and I attach a minute that I propose to send to PS(C) - following up Andrea's minute of 18 July - in the hope that PS(C) will agree to monitoring coming to an end. I would be grateful for your speedy reaction to the proposed minute as PS(C) is going on holiday after tomorrow.

HERBERT LAMING
Chief Inspector
Social Services Inspectorate
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hi10

DRAFT

To: Alison Tickner
PS(C)'s Office

From: HERBERT LAMING
CI/SSI

Date:

Copies: Andrea Hickman
Don Brand
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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICE

1. Further to Andrea Hickman's minute of 18 July I can now report to PS(C) that I visited Nottinghamshire County Council yesterday. There has certainly been an enormous change since my last visit. I had a long discussion with the new Chief Executive and the new Director of Social Services and it is clear that (a) they recognise the previous failures of management and practice and they are addressing these issues and (b) they recognise the need to bring about a shift in attitude amongst some members of the staff and they have set in place a robust internal review and training programme (c) the new Chair of the Social Services Committee has made clear his expectations around managerial accountability and (d) they have made a number of senior appointments of experienced and competent people who already seem to be having an impact on the way in which the Department is working.

Ashfield

2. When Andrea Hickman submitted her minute in mid-July she reported that there were still unallocated cases. By yesterday the number of unallocated cases on child protection had gone down to two and that was due an unexpected period of sickness by a member of staff at a time when many others were on annual leave. In reality there are now no unallocated cases in Nottinghamshire.

3. Nottinghamshire are very conscious of the follow-up inspection to be taken by SSI in November and that will give us a very detailed evaluation of the quality of services being delivered. The new Director has obviously established a much better working relationship with the new Chief Constable and overall I was encouraged by the developments which have taken place during recent months. I detected a significant improvement in the atmosphere amongst the staff that I met and a strong commitment to improving service delivery. In view of the inspection of child protection which is due to take place at the end of the year I hope that PS(C) will now feel able to end the monitoring and write to the Director in the terms of the letter drafted on the 18 July.

4. Happy to discuss.

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