

BEECHWOOD OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT CENTRE comprises four units:-

1. Lindens - 20 boys, aged 10 - 17.
2. Redcot - 20 boys, " " "
3. Enderleigh 20 girls, " " "
4. Administration and Classrooms Unit.

The Houses "Lindens" and "Redcot" are 200 yards apart. Central Administration Unit lies between these two.

"Enderleigh" is some 350 yards away in grounds of its own.

Boys Assessment

Boys come from Court and are admitted to "Lindens" for three weeks and full reports for Court. If a Care Order is made the boy moves to "Redcot" for "on-going" assessment and to await appropriate placement.

Girls Assessment

"Enderleigh" covers both assessment, with reports for Court and placement.

Pre-Court Assessment

Staff team (Care and Education) submit report after discussion of each individual case.

Psychiatrist sees all children and submits report. Medical Officer sees all children and completes medical card.

Education carry out tests and submit report. Parents, Probation Officers, Teachers, Police, Social Workers, Educational Welfare Officers, Medical Officer, etc., are seen and they contribute to the final report which is compiled after a Case Conference, to which all interested parties are invited. This Conference usually takes place two days before the child goes back to Court. Report from the Case Conference is presented to the Magistrates along with individual reports.

In some cases it is possible at this Case Conference to proceed to a recommendation for placement after the Care Order. In other cases it covers only recommendation to Court and, in the event of a Care Order being made, a further meeting is held to consider specific placement.

We try to complete the assessment from admission to placement in six to eight weeks. Unfortunately there is a lack of treatment places and children are having to spend longer periods of time in the Observation and Assessment Centre awaiting vacancies.

Placement Assessment

After the making of a Care Order and where a recommendation for placement has not been made at the pre-Court Case Conference, there is "on-going" assessment with a review for placement. These meetings are attended again by all interested parties and every effort is made to see that parents attend. Alternative placements are discussed and a decision is finally reached as to the ideal placement. Again, unfortunately, the ideal is not always possible and sometimes we have to apply for second best.