

## **1. Child Care [Policy] Sub-committee**

**Meeting minutes 14 June 1991**

- **Attendance**
- **Agenda**

**SRO Refs. CC/B/151/1 & within CC/B/132/20**

MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES CHILD CARE POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 14 JUNE 1991

Present: M.J.D. Poulter, Esq., (Chairman)

Beach, N.G.G.  
Bullock, G.K.  
Clark, Mrs. A.  
Dean, Mrs. J.E.A.

Ivers, Mrs. V.  
Jebb, Mrs. C.R.  
O'Leary, J.  
Williams, G.F.T.

Minutes

4. RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 1991 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Chairmanship of Social Services Committee

5. A spokesman for the Conservative group gave notice that at a later date his group would move a motion of dissatisfaction with the Chairmanship of the Social Services Committee. However the Conservative members of the Sub-Committee wished to take part in the discussion and supported the meeting of the Sub-Committee in the interest of the children in the care of the County Council.

Matter of Report - Department of Health Circular Letter  
"The Pindown Experiences and the Protection of Children:  
A Report of the Staffordshire Child Care Inquiry 1990"

6. Members considered the circular letter, forwarded by the Department of Health, together with the Director of Social Services reply. The examination of care in residential homes for children had been commenced in August 1990 with the establishment of the Child Care Project Team following the SSI inspection of children's homes. In reply to questions from members it was stated that Heron Cross Home had not been specifically inspected by the Child Care Project Team as the home had only recently become operational following its refurbishment and is receiving frequent visits from Managers from the Social Services Department. In addition members of the Sub-Committee had visited the home. There was still a need to recruit more staff.

The need for members to be supplied with regular information relating to the operation of homes and the difficulties experienced by staff was emphasised but it was accepted that the requirement for information needed to be balanced against the privacy of the individuals in the homes.

In reply to a question from a member the Chairman extended an invitation to members of the County Council who did not serve on the Social Services Committee to contact him if they wished to visit Social Services establishments within their constituency area and undertook to do everything within his power to facilitate their request.

Tribute was paid to the work of staff in achieving the developments which had occurred in the provision of services since August 1990.

7. RECOMMEND - (a) That the circular letter received from the Department of Health LAC(91)10 dated 3 June 1991 together with the reply from the Director of Social Services dated 10 June 1991 be received.

# Staffordshire

## County Council

COUNTY BUILDINGS, STAFFORD  
Tel: 223121 Ext: 6171  
Please ask for Mrs. Cooper

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SOCIAL SERVICES CHILD CARE  
POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE

Friday 14 June 1991  
2.00 pm  
County Buildings

Coffee will be served prior to the meeting.

Members may find it convenient to bring their copy of the report of the Staffordshire Child Care Inquiry to the meeting.

B.A. PRICE  
County Clerk and Chief Executive  
10 June 1991

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### A G E N D A

#### PART ONE

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of meeting held on 30 May 1991
3. Matter of report: To report receipt of a Circular letter dated 3 June 1991 from Department of Health entitled "The Pindown Experiences and the Protection of Children: A Report of the Staffordshire Child Care Inquiry". A copy of the letter together with a copy of the Director of Social Services' reply is enclosed. (Green)
4. "The Pindown Experience and the Protection of Children" - Initial Response - Report of the Director of Social Services. (Buff)

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 19 JUNE 1991**

Present: M.J.D. Poulter, Esq., (Chairman)

Austin, W.F.	Harrison, P.D.	O'Leary, J.
Beach, N.G.G.	Holmes, F.	Roberts, G.E.
Beech, J.J.	Hughes, W.	Roberts, R.
Betteridge, J.T.	Ivers, Mrs. V.	Shotton, D.
Bullock, G.K.	Jebb, Mrs. C.R.	Smith, P.J.
Burton, Mrs. J.M.	Jeffries, G.V.	Smith, T.F.
Clark, Mrs. A.	Johnson, Mrs. A.H.R.	Stringer, Mrs. M.
Cooper, M.H.	Kelly, I.A.	Tolley, T.D.
Crowe, T.F.	Lythgoe, Mrs. D.	Wallis, J.G.
Dean, Mrs. J.E.A.	Morris, D.C.	Williams, G.F.T.
Dix, T.A.	Moseley, Miss I.H.	Wise, I.
Gant, K.G.	Mount, Mrs. D.	

Apologies: Callister, G.W., Dale, M., Edwards, J.H., Moger, H.W.F., Shelley, W., Stanhope, Mrs. M.

**Minutes**

300. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 1991 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters of Report**  
(Schedule 1)

301. **RESOLVED** - That the report of the County Clerk and Chief Executive be received.

**Confirmation of Chairmen's Action**  
(Schedule 2)

302. **RESOLVED** - That the action taken by the Chairmen in approving the matters as detailed in the report of the County Clerk and Chief Executive be confirmed.

**Memorandum of County Clerk and Chief Executive**  
(Schedule 3)

303. **RESOLVED** - (a) That the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Advisory Sub-Committees as detailed in the memorandum of the County Clerk and Chief Executive be reappointed up to the meeting of the Social Services Committee in May/June 1992.

(b) That appointment of the Vice-Chairmen of the Penkridge, Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley and Tunstall and Burslem Advisory Sub-Committees be left in the hands of the group leaders.

(c) That the action taken by the Chairman of the Committee in appointing Mrs. D. Mount, the Principal Officer and Secretary to the Staffordshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations to serve on the Committee be confirmed.

(d) That the persons detailed in the memorandum of the County Clerk and Chief Executive who are currently serving as co-opted members of the Advisory Committee be re-appointed up to the meeting of the Committee in May/June 1992.

(e) That the co-opted members of the Sheltered Workshops Sub-Committee as detailed in the memorandum of the County Clerk and Chief Executive be reappointed to serve on that Committee until the meeting of the Committee in May/June 1992.

(f) That the persons detailed in the memorandum of the County Clerk and Chief Executive be reappointed to serve on the appropriate outside bodies up to the meeting of the Committee in May/June 1992 with the exception of the appointment of representatives to serve on the Staffordshire Society for the Deaf which was deferred pending review of the Society.

# Staffordshire

## County Council

COUNTY BUILDINGS, STAFFORD  
Tel: 223121 Ext: 6171  
Please ask for Mrs. G. Cooper

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Wednesday 19 June 1991  
10.30 am  
County Buildings, Stafford

Members may find it convenient to bring their copy of "The Pindown Experience and the Protection of Children" report to the meeting.

Coffee will be served at 10.15 am

B.A. PRICE  
County Clerk and Chief Executive  
13 June 1991

### A G E N D A

#### PART ONE

1. Minutes - 8 March 1991.
2. Apologies.
3. Matters of Report (Green)
4. Confirmation of Chairman's action (Blue)
5. Memorandum of County Clerk and Chief Executive (Yellow)
6. Minutes of Child Care Policy Sub-Committee - 10 May 1991 (Grey)
7. Minutes of Child Care Policy Sub-Committee - 30 May 1991 (Gold)
8. Minutes of Child Care Policy Sub-Committee - 14 June 1991 -  
to be circulated at the meeting.  
The report of Mr. Allan Levy, QC, and Mrs. B. Kahan, OBE, was forwarded to members on 29 May and the reports considered by the Child Care Policy Sub-Committee are enclosed. (Grey)
9. Minutes of Sheltered Workshops Sub-Committee - 22 March 1991 (Buff)
10. Minutes of Advisory Sub-Committees (Green)
  - (a) Leek and Cheadle - 15 March 1991
  - (b) Tunstall and Burslem - 25 March 1991
  - (c) Stoke West - 25 March 1991
  - (d) Lichfield - 27 March 1991
  - (e) Cannock - 2 April 1991
  - (f) Rugeley and Hednesford - 2 April 1991
  - (g) Newcastle North - 5 April 1991
  - (h) Newcastle South - 5 April 1991
  - (i) Kidsgrove and Biddulph - 10 April 1991
  - (j) Longton - 12 April 1991
  - (k) Bucknall and Hanley - 17 April 1991
  - (l) Uttoxeter - 17 April 1991
  - (m) Codsall, Wombourne and Kinver - 20 May 1991

**Minutes of Child Care Policy Sub-Committee - 10 May 1991**  
(Schedule 4)

304. **RESOLVED** - (a) That the minutes of the Child Care Policy Sub-Committee held on 10 May 1991 be received.

(b) **RECOMMEND - GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE** - That a full presentation on the Children Act 1989 be made to all members of the County Council in September 1991.

**Minutes of Child Care Policy Sub-Committee held on**  
**30 May 1991**  
(Schedule 5)

305. **RESOLVED** - (a) That the minutes of the Child Care Policy Sub-Committee held on 30 May 1991 be received.

(b) **RECOMMEND - GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE** - That the County Council be recommended to establish a special Minor Sub-Committee with delegated power to deal with all individual staffing issues arising from the Staffordshire Child Care Inquiry.

**Child Care Policy Sub-Committee - 14 June 1991**  
(Schedule 6)

306. The Leader of the Conservative Party requested a special meeting of the County Council and presented a motion calling for the resignation of the Chairman of the Social Services Committee and the Leader of the Council. Following discussion the Chairman of the County Council approved the request.

307. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Child Care Policy Sub-Committee held on 14 June 1991 be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

**Sheltered Workshops Sub-Committee - 22 March 1991**  
(Schedule 7)

308. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Sheltered Workshops Sub-Committee held on 22 March 1991 be received.

**Minutes of the Social Services Advisory Sub-Committees**  
(Schedule 8 - 20)

309. **RESOLVED** - (a) That the minutes of the meetings of the Advisory Sub-Committees held on the dates indicated below be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted:-

		Schedule
(a) Leek and Cheadle	- 15 March 1991	8
(b) Tunstall and Burslem	- 25 March 1991	9
(c) Stoke West	- 25 March 1991	10
(d) Lichfield	- 27 March 1991	11
(e) Cannock	- 2 April 1991	12
(f) Rugeley and Hednesford	- 2 April 1991	13
(g) Newcastle North	- 5 April 1991	14
(h) Newcastle South	- 5 April 1991	15
(i) Kidsgrove and Biddulph	- 10 April 1991	16
(j) Longton	- 12 April 1991	17
(k) Bucknall and Hanley	- 17 April 1991	18
(l) Uttoxeter	- 17 April 1991	19
(m) Codsall, Wombourne and Kinver	- 20 May 1991	20

(b) **Lichfield Advisory Sub-Committee**

That the recommendation contained in minute 40 relating to patients discharged from hospital be deferred for further consideration.

REPORT TO THE CHILD CARE SUB-COMMITTEE

14 JUNE, 1991

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

"THE PINDOWN EXPERIENCE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN"- INITIAL RESPONSE

1. Purpose:-

To propose a preliminary response to the Levy/Kahan Report with a draft action plan to respond to the report proposals. (Appendix 1)

2. Background

2.1 On the 29 June, 1990 Mr Alan Levy QC and Mrs Barbara Kahan OBE MA (Cantab) M (Univ) were appointed by the County Council to conduct an independent enquiry.

2.2 The terms of reference of the enquiry are set out in Appendix (2).

3. Matters for Consideration:

3.1 That the practices outlined in the report under the general heading of "Pindown" have no place in a Social Services Department there can be no doubt. They have no basis in social work methodology, are not acceptable within social work and social services codes of practice and ethics and offend against basic principles of human rights.

3.2 While it is right to support families and endeavour to prevent family breakdown whenever appropriate, the paramount consideration must be what is in the child's best interests. Thus "care" must never be portrayed as a negative experience to be avoided at all costs. For many children and young people it will probably be a temporary or permanent relief from abuse, damaging relationships or overwhelming family stress. It can and should be helpful for both children and parents but will only be seen in a positive light if provided with skill and compassion and given full acceptance of parental responsibilities by the Council while the child is in our care. This must be expressed through the quality of the living environment, including attention to proper physical care, education and health, and through the provision of sufficient time and skill to devote to individual children and young people and their problems.

3.3 The provision of residential care should be part of a placement strategy for children and young people. This in turn should be part of a wider strategy for children's services embracing preventive and supportive services for families, diversion from Court and alternatives to custody, and incorporating counselling and more specialist treatment for children who have been seriously traumatised or damaged by their experiences.