

L O N D O N B O R O U G H O F S O U T H W A R K

S O C I A L S E R V I C E S C O M M I T T E E

MINUTES of the non-confidential section of the meeting held on
FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 1986 at the Town Hall,
Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

MINUTES: Councillor Tony Goss (Chair)
Councillors Marjorie Henriques, Anne Matthews, Pat Morgan,
Linda Oram, Tony Ritchie, Winston Stafford, Pat Sullivan
and Andy Troke

BY Peter Coast, Fred Haynes and other
INVITATION Staffside Representatives

The Committee considered the item set out in the Agenda, copies of which are incorporated in these Minutes and each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number in the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 9th, 16th and 26th September were approved and signed by the Chair as correct records subject to the minutes of 16th September being amended to include Councillors Ken Carlisle, Tony Goss and Linda Oram as having attended as Members of the Committee.

71. APPOINTMENT TO L.J.C. (OFFICERS) AND J.C.C. (MANUAL WORKERS) (See page 400)

RESOLVED: That Councillors Pat Morgan and Andy Troke be appointed as the Social Services Committee's representatives to the L.J.C (Officers) and J.C.C (Manual Workers) respectively.

72. SERVICE ACTION PLAN (See page 401)

The Director of Social Services introduced the report and explained various issues in detail. He indicated that the timescales included in the plan reflected the priority of the scheme.

RESOLVED: That the Service Action Plan be referred to Policy Committee for consideration at their meeting on 17th November and thereafter to Council on 19th November 1986.

73. HOLLYSHAW: REPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY (See page 445)

This report was considered in conjunction with Report No. 74.

The report was introduced on behalf of the Chief Executive by the Head of Legal Services representatives.

Councillor Winston Stafford stated the report clearly identified areas which could be dealt with within the Department in particular he referred to the issues relating to the Senior Management Team and asked the Director what attempts had been made to review their role. The Director indicated that the recommendation of the panel suggesting the Senior Management Team's terms of reference be more clearly defined would of course have implications for the Senior Management Teams within other Directorates. He had held a number of discussion with his own Team but these had not been concluded.

Councillor Stafford also asked what measures had been taken to ensure a stricter monitor and review of children in care.

The Director replied that the review process was critical for the department and was a key event for the child in care and he regarded it as important. He would be looking further in more detail at these issues and would be reporting back to Members in due course.

Councillor Stafford further asked about the dissemination of information to staff in residential homes.

The Director drew Members attention to the Appendix to his report which sets out a format for reviewing what happens in residential homes. It seeks to identify the training requirements of a group and ensure that all information is available in the home.

He stated that training was a high priority but there were other areas of equal priority and if order to improve training additional financial resources would be required.

Councillor Ritchie expressed his concern at the South London Press' handling of the report which had served no purpose except to harm the children concerned. Members had also been mentioned but they had no intention of pleading their case. If mistakes had been made it should be recognised that both in the past and present their only interest was in securing the best interests of the children.

Councillor Troke broadly welcomed the report of the inquiry and was pleased to see it considered in open session. He accepted that mistakes had been made and the resulting criticisms. However he recognised the need to look to the future and therefore welcomed the reports conclusions.

In conclusion Councillor Goss stressed the importance of considering the report in open session. He deplored the initial press coverage by the South London Press and its sensationalism again today which showed no compassion for the children involved. He stressed the need to look to the future and he hoped tonight would prove to be a watershed in the development of social services, it had always been the intention of both officers and Members to provide the best possible service.

RESOLVED: (1) That the report be received.

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- (2) That officers write to the Panel thanking them for their work.

74. HOLLYSHAW: CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
(See page 561)

This report was considered in conjunction with report No. 73 above.

- RESOLVED:
- (1) That the report of the Independent Inquiry be received.
 - (2) That the suggested action contained in the report relating to the recommendations of the Inquiry Team be approved and officers report back as indicated in the report.
 - (3) That the resource implications embodied in the report be identified and be the subject of further reports to Social Services Committee.
 - (4) That the decision of the Chief Executive and Director of Social Services that there should be no disciplinary action specifically as a result of the Hollyshaw Inquiry Report be endorsed. The criticisms of the management and management systems contained within the Inquiry Report be further considered, discussed and investigated. Therefore a working party consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Councillor Henriquez be set up to examine these matters and report back to the Social Services Committee within 8 weeks.
 - (5) That the establishment of separate Fieldwork and Community Service and Residential and Specialist Day Care Sub-Committees would be detrimental to the decentralisation proposals as put forward within the Service Action Plan.
 - (6) That Housing Committee be recommended to establish in conjunction with Social Services Committee a joint Housing and Social Services Sub-Committee.

75. SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL (See page 575)

RESOLVED: That the Social Services Committee report to Council be determined by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

76. VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN SOUTHWARK (See page 576)

RESOLVED: That Race Committee be informed that the proposal have been accorded a high priority within the Social Services Committees.

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ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. S. S.', written in a cursive style.

CHAIR.