

Former pupils of Caldicott who filed complaints with the Police against several teachers at the school, attended a long promised meeting with the **Buckinghamshire Local Children Safeguarding Board on the 18th July 2007**. Regrettably neither Caldicott nor the Inspectorates attended the meeting. A criminologist who is one of the country's leading experts on paedophilia, and coincidentally a former Caldicott parent, was barred by the Chairman of the LSCB from entry to the meeting despite her being the official representative of the parents and the victim of abuse, none of whom could attend on that day.

Item 15 on the LSCB Caldicott School meeting agenda asked:

"Will the school adopt a policy of filing the copy notifications in a single file to be handed on to an incoming successor Headmaster? ("Red Book Policy")"

In a written response to the LSCB received on 21st September the school said:

"It is inconceivable that any new Headmaster would not be fully briefed on all past Child Protection Issues. We would be happy to keep such records in a single file."

Between February the 7th-10th 2000, Caldicott underwent a Boarding School Welfare Inspection Report. At the time of this inspection the Headmaster was Mr Simon Doggart who is the Head today. He became Headmaster in September 1998 some 18 months before the inspection which occurs every six years.

Item 24 on the Inspection report is marked "**Essential Standard**" and is headed:

"The school should report to the DfES any member of staff or other adult employed to work with pupils, who is either dismissed, or who resigns, in circumstances which suggest that they are unsuitable to work with children"

The next box says: "Any dismissal or resignation of a member of staff or adult working with pupils at the school, in circumstances which suggest their unsuitability to work with children, has been notified promptly and in writing to the DfES." The box is ticked – **satisfactory**.

At the bottom of this box it asks:

"Evidence for Assessment and Comments"

The inspector wrote: "**Discussion with Headmaster indicated that no such situations had arisen to his knowledge at the school but that he was aware of his notification responsibilities.**"

In October 1996 two years prior to Mr Doggart becoming Headmaster **the school dismissed a member of staff**, and a Notification was sent by the then Headmaster to the DfES. Mr Doggart failed to inform the Inspector of this incident. Quite why this might happen when Caldicott says:

"It is inconceivable that any new Headmaster would not be fully briefed on all past Child Protection Issues" has yet to be explained by Caldicott.

You might remember from earlier in these pages that prior to April 2005 Inspectorates were not routinely supplied with copies of these vital Notifications by the DfES, but neither did the Inspectorates routinely request the information directly of the DfES. It goes to explain why the Inspector was asking the Head for the information, and he was reliant on the Mr Doggart's answer. This unsatisfactory situation continues today for Notifications issued prior to April 2005, and for schools outside the automatic transmission arrangements for Notifications to the Inspectors.