

**TY MAWR  
COMMUNITY  
HOME INQUIRY**

**Gareth Williams Q.C.  
And  
John McCreadie M.Ed.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

We had originally hoped to have delivered this report in final draft form by January 1992. We ceased taking oral evidence in November 1991. A number of factors supervened.

First, Gwent County Council provided us with further written material which it was necessary to digest. Second, we had to give those who might be criticised a reasonable opportunity to respond. Third, and much more fundamental, we were informed that further Police investigations were current. Bearing in mind that certain aspects of that investigation are still underway, we have to be extremely cautious in what is printed in this report. We are able to indicate, however, that Police investigations on a substantial scale, not centrally based on Ty Mawr, were in hand. We needed to satisfy ourselves that nothing further of relevance to our inquiry would emerge. It is now plain that no further delay in the delivery of this report is justified and we accordingly deliver this report upon that basis. It is possible, though unlikely, that further features of relevance may emerge but we believe our duty to be to deliver this report bearing in mind the nature of its conclusions.

On the 27th day of June 1991 the Secretary of State for Wales directed Gwent County Council to institute an inquiry into the conduct and running of Ty Mawr Community Home with Education, Gilwern, Gwent. In consequence we were invited by Gwent County Council to make such an enquiry and to report.

**That the Secretary of State's decision was correct, is, we believe, beyond doubt, bearing in mind our findings and conclusions.**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

To inquire into the management and control of the Ty Mawr Community Home at Gilwern, in Gwent, having regard to allegations of mistreatment of children and young people there; to determine, on a full and fair view of the management regime and practical day to day running at Ty Mawr, whether allegations of a regime which encouraged, permitted or acquiesced in brutal or emotionally cruel treatment of children and young persons are well-founded; and to make recommendations in the interests of the children and young people who live there.

For this purpose the Inquiry Panel are

- (a) to ensure that allegations or complaints made to the Inquiry Panel by children and young persons at, or formerly at, the Home or their parents, are investigated and considered.
- (b) to take similar action in relation to allegations or complaints made to the Inquiry Panel by staff including those at, or formerly at, the Home.
- (c) to consider reported incidents of attempted suicides or major disturbances at the Home since at least 1st January 1989.
- (d) to consider whether the lack of secure accommodation for children and young persons in Wales or any other cause has led to inappropriate admissions to Ty Mawr.
- (e) to consider the management regime at and day to day running of Ty Mawr.
- (f) to scrutinize the Gwent County Council's arrangements for oversight and control and local management of the Home.
- (g) to look at the contacts which the Social Services Inspectorate in Wales have had with the Home in recent years.

In connection with the inquiry the Panel are

- (a) to note the Council's intention to make their report public and to establish methods of working and reporting which ensure the necessary consideration and protection of children and young people in care, and such consideration and protection of complainants and of staff as the Inquiry Panel consider appropriate.
- (b) to inform the County Council if at any point in their inquiry they are satisfied that action should be taken in advance of the receipt of their report.
- (c) to inform the County Council should they conclude that the inquiry should be reconstituted with the powers available to a public inquiry, in order to carry out its task.

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Ty Mawr has no viable long term future. It should be closed as soon as practicable.**
- 2. There should never in future be an institution within the control of Gwent County Council with such an inappropriate mix of residents cared for in large measure by unqualified staff.**
- 3. The County Council should be more responsive to legitimate interest from the media who in turn should recognise the overriding need for care, tact and scruple in dealing with vulnerable young people.**
- 4. The County Council must carefully bear in mind the need to trust in and care for its own employees.**
- 5. The County Council should carefully attend to our concerns about management style.**
- 6. The defects of Ty Mawr are the defects of an institution which is under-funded, under-resourced and to an extent overwhelmed by its own history. All reasonable arrangements must in our view be made to ensure that staff at Ty Mawr at whatever level are fairly and justly treated.**

## METHOD

In the nature of things an inquiry such as this touches on delicate areas. We consulted together first to identify those areas of delicacy and second to see how we might most productively conduct this inquiry. We had to bear in mind, and did, that the young persons whose lives we should be looking at were likely to be unhappy, disturbed, disadvantaged or all three. We had to bear in mind their privacy. We had to seek to avoid any long term damage by way of insensitive questioning. We had to deal fairly with their concerns and complaints.

We also regarded it as essential, bearing in mind the lurid and sensational nature of some of the allegations made and the general climate of suspicion attaching to some child care institutions, that the position of the staff at Ty Mawr should be carefully safeguarded. Finally, we had to bear in mind that those dealing with children and young people are faced with an extremely difficult task whether it be by way of employment in an establishment such as Ty Mawr, by way of social work or by way of general administrative employment in the County Council.

We decided to adopt as informal a structure as possible for the conduct of the inquiry. We needed the help of television, radio and press. We wished the maximum publicity to be given first to the existence of the inquiry, second to the terms of reference and third to our means of proceeding. We had every assistance from the media and are grateful for it.

We convened a preliminary meeting at Abergavenny on 8th July 1991. We were provided with private accommodation in the Magistrates Court building which had a separate, signposted entrance. We bore in mind that many might be unwilling or reluctant to give evidence in such a place where they might feel uneasy. Accordingly, at the preliminary hearing which was held in public, we indicated some guidelines, including the following:

- (a) that we were an independent inquiry;
- (b) that we intended, insofar as we could, to get at the truth of the matter;
- (c) that we would protect confidentiality in any way open to us;
- (d) that any person who wished to attend with a colleague, friend, union or other representative was welcome to do so;

- (e) that we would take evidence in private;
- (f) that bearing in mind the difficulties that many people encounter we should be willing to take evidence either at the enquiry room, at pupils' homes, in the day evening or weekend and that we should be prepared to travel anywhere to obtain useful material.

The preliminary hearing was widely publicised and we began our formal hearings on 22nd July 1991.

Because of the assistance given by the media, we found no reluctance in the overwhelming majority of cases to give evidence to us. We invited written submissions. At the conclusion of oral hearings we normally invited the particular witness to reflect and reconsider and, if necessary, add to the material given by way of additional written submission.

In all we interviewed eighty-seven witnesses. We also had written submissions from a number of other individuals and organisations. A full list will be found in Appendix A. It is not our intention to identify all those who gave evidence to us. We have had to use selective judgement as to anonymity and as to identification.

Where we came to certain preliminary views which might be critical of named individuals, we provided those individuals with a copy of critical findings and gave them an opportunity to respond prior to the publication of this report in its final form.

A list of acknowledgement for assistance will be found in Appendix B. It is necessary to single out one person for special thanks. He is Mr. Lee McInnes, the NALGO branch officer for Gwent County Council, who gave us enormously helpful assistance in encouraging members of NALGO to attend, to provide documents and to be as candid as possible. It would have been difficult, if not impossible, to have had as full an inquiry without his help.

Following the procedures outlined above we interviewed in the day, the evening and weekends. We visited the Young Offenders' Institution at Onley near Rugby, Aycliffe Children's Centre near Darlington, Kingswood Secure Unit near Bristol, and also carried out an interview in London. We took expert advice from Professor Norman Tutt of Leeds, and also from Dr. Masud Houghghi at Newton-Aycliffe.

Most witnesses attended with a colleague, union representative or friend. Without exception we were provided with documentation that we requested from Gwent County Council. The material provided by the Council was commendably full and well marshalled.

The interviews were conducted on the basis that they were confidential and that transcripts obtained would not be handed over to Gwent County Council or any other body without our specific authorisation. The only persons in attendance when we made our enquiry were the witness in question, with a representative or friend, together with a shorthand writer. She provided us with running transcripts of the highest quality and with commendable promptness.

We assured the witnesses that, if they wished to make criticism of fellow employees, superiors, subordinates or systems we should respect confidentiality. In the nature of things, therefore, we do not identify the source of a particular criticism or complaint since that would dishonour the undertakings we gave and possibly expose any witness unfairly to disadvantage or the fear of it.

The scheme of this report is to deal briefly with the history of Ty Mawr and then to attend to each of our terms of reference. We are conscious of the fact that time, new legislation and fresh practice has very often overtaken the events which we were instructed to investigate and that within Gwent County Council changes have been made, practices improved and fresh minds applied so that some of our criticisms may have a historic rather than a present validity.



# **TY MAWR – A DESCRIPTION**

## **Location and Layout.**

Ty Mawr is situated on the edge of the small village of Gilwern which itself is close to Abergavenny. In terms of culture and general atmosphere it is remote from Newport. This may be of some importance since a number of the more troublesome boys at Ty Mawr came from the Newport area. A number of photographs have been taken and are attached at Appendix C. The campus is large. A number of staff, including the Principal and the Deputy Principal, live on campus. Over the years some of the staff houses have been sold off.

There are four residential units of significance.

(1.) Rowley Jones Hostel.

This was normally kept for the older boys. However, there was no hard and fast rule of division by age. Rowley Jones in our view was unsuited for the accommodation of young people. There was no privacy. The dormitories were open. A young person had no privacy for his own belongings and, more importantly, no privacy for his own thoughts and feelings. There was virtually unanimous agreement that Rowley Jones was unsatisfactory and indeed a number of requests had been made over the past years for capital grants for improvement of the structure and internal premises.

(2.) Parker Hostel.

This was normally used for boys in the younger age group. Again there is general recognition that the nature of this structure makes it impossible to be improved to acceptable modern standards.

(3.) THE ICU.

This is the Intensive Care Unit normally designated for those boys whose problems required intensive and continuing care. It is now called Ty Newydd. We shall refer to it as the ICU since most staff and boys so described it. The boys in the ICU had the opportunity of separate accommodation and therefore, a degree of privacy. Attempts had been made by the staff to make the rooms as cheerful as possible. Attached to the ICU were two secure rooms. These were available for the purpose of more secure accommodation though not secure accommodation in the strict sense as later examined in this report. We propose to refer to the Welsh Office conditions relating to these two secure rooms in due time.

(4.) Ty Croeso.

This is a relatively new development. Indeed it was barely completed by the time of our last visit to Ty Mawr in December 1991. Essentially it is the conversion of relatively modern housing into a more domestic setting for young boys. It provides decent accommodation, properly furnished and carpeted with the opportunity for privacy in the bedrooms and a degree of home life on a more intimate basis than was provided elsewhere in Ty Mawr.

Finally, and in a sense distinct from the above, there were facilities for independent or semi-independent living called Stepping Stones. This was available for boys who had work, who were able to go out into the community every day, and who were given the responsibility of keeping their own accommodation clean, cooking for themselves, buying and budgeting for themselves, and having a welcome degree of amenity. This was a facility provided with a degree of imagination and commitment by the staff. All those who had used it while living at Ty Mawr spoke well of it.

**There is a central catering and dining area.** Most boys normally ate in the same dining room.

**There is an education block.** There is a well equipped workshop largely used for woodwork training and practice. The education block cannot be described as modern. However, two of the staff (in particular Mr. Jeremiah and Mr. Evans) have, with the assistance of the boys, virtually constructed a new computer room so that computer training could be given. The staff had to "scrounge" most of the material and carry out the work themselves.

**There are other garden buildings and greenhouses,** many of which were constructed by the staff and boys.

**There is no perimeter fencing of any sort.** This is an important feature for two reasons. First, a contrary impression has sometimes been given by press photographs. Second, should a boy wish to run away for any reason there is no physical constraint to prevent him doing so.

Within the campus there are **the usual office facilities.** They are modest but workable.

**There are laundry facilities and ancillary facilities** which are of an acceptable standard.

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF TY MAWR**

The history, in our view, is of continuing relevance. Ty Mawr was formally a Home Office Approved School. There was a large house called the Mansion on the site. There was a farm attached. There were trade training facilities. There was a swimming pool. Over the years the mansion was no longer available for use by Ty Mawr. The farm was disposed of, the trade training diminished very substantially, and the swimming pool was filled up.

Having been formerly a Home Office Approved School, the premises passed to Breconshire County Council in or about 1971. Following local government reorganisation and boundary changes it was vested in Gwent County Council in 1974.

There was then in existence a Children's Regional Planning Committee for Wales. The function of that committee was to coordinate. Gwent County Council directly managed Ty Mawr through its Social Services department.

The system of the Children's Regional Planning Committee ceased in Wales in 1983. The Crick Remand Home, which attended to the needs of those on remand, and Mill House at Cwmbran, which catered for junior boys and girls, were both closed.

Before 1983 the number of those attending at Ty Mawr was much larger (of the order of one hundred or so). The specialisation was for pupils with educational learning difficulties. As from 1983 the number of those attending was substantially reduced to about fifty places. In 1983 the Intensive Care Unit referred to above (ICU) was constructed. There were six places in the ICU with two licensed secure places within the Unit. The purpose of the ICU was to offer intensive support to pupils presenting special difficulties. Ultimately the Welsh Office directives meant that the ICU became an open unlocked unit.

By the time of our enquiry the number of boys present at Ty Mawr had diminished to about twenty.

## **STAFF AT TY MAWR**

### **The Principal – Mr. Christopher Phelan.**

Mr. Phelan started his professional career in 1954 as a teacher. He taught 'O' Level English and Geography for about 12 years abroad. He was a deputy headmaster for two years. In 1968 he took up a teaching post at Greenfield House Approved School, Lancashire. He was eventually appointed deputy headmaster at Troy House Approved School at Monmouth. In 1975 he was seconded for one year to study for the Certificate in Residential Social Work. It was intended to close Troy House. Accordingly he was transferred to Ty Mawr as deputy headmaster. This was an internal appointment, not a result of open advertisement.

Since 1984 he has been Principal at Ty Mawr school. Prior to 1983 he had been dealing with boys between 13 and 15 years of age. Normally they were long stay boys who had defined lengths of stay with the intention that schooling would be completed at Ty Mawr.

Since 1984 he has been Principal of a vastly changed institution. The new designation of Ty Mawr was Residential Assessment and Treatment Centre. He was obliged to cater for young people between the ages of 11 and 16+.

### **Deputy Principal – Mr. Barry Alden.**

The Deputy Principal, until his early retirement on grounds of ill-health in November 1991, was Mr. Barry Alden. He came to Ty Mawr in 1968 as a housemaster. In 1969, during a period of secondment, he obtained the Certificate in the Residential Care of Children and Young Persons. He then became Warden of a unit of eighty boys, the largest unit in the school. Having been acting Deputy Headmaster in 1976 he became Deputy Headmaster in 1977. In 1984 he was appointed Deputy Principal. His essential role was that of administration.

Mr. Alden had the duty of arranging case reviews, planning meetings, court reports, care staff meetings, staff holidays and rosters, and on occasions was needed to deputise for Mr. Phelan in the absence of the latter. It was common to all who spoke about Mr. Alden that he was a dedicated and extremely competent administrator.

### **Residential Care Staff**

The up to date figures provided to us in respect of residential care staff indicated that there was a total of twenty-seven. There were nine attached to Rowley Jones Hostel, nine attached to Parker, and nine attached to the ICU. Of the total of twenty-seven residential care staff only two had social work qualifications. In respect of the staff in the ICU there were none. This is an aspect of central importance to which we shall return in due time. It is plain that recruitment of residential staff was extremely difficult. The overwhelming bulk were untrained and unqualified. We were deeply disturbed to establish that recruitment of care staff sometimes occurred simply on a visit to the job

centre. Appointments were made by County Council members. We regard this as unsatisfactory.

### **Teaching Staff. There were seven in all.**

The senior teacher is Mr. Glyn Richards. He is a Bachelor of Education (Honours). He is secondary trained with a special needs degree.

Mr. P. Evans is a secondary trained with comprehensive school and special education experience,

Mr. H. Williams is junior and secondary trained with junior and secondary experience,

Mr. C. Guest is junior and secondary trained with secondary experience.

Mr. W. Harman is secondary trained with comprehensive education experience.

As to the technical/vocational staff:- Mr. M. Nixon is a painting and decorating teacher and horticulture instructor.

Mr. D. Jeremiah is secondary trained with experience in junior and further education. He teaches woodwork, joinery and building. He obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts by virtue of an Open University course.

All of these members of staff are relatively long-standing at Ty Mawr. Their dates of commencement range from 1971 at the earliest to 1988 at the latest.

### **Domestic Staff**

There is a domestic supervisor together with domestic staff. It is said, and we accept, that their work is not limited to domestic work in the real sense of the word. Many formed friendly and lasting relationships with the boys at the school.

### **Office Staff**

Office staff were provided as appropriate. No criticism or adverse comment has been made against them.

## **ABSENTEEISM**

We attach as Appendix D the draft absence from work records for 1988/1989, 1989/1990 and 1990/1991. It will be seen that in the first year there were 672 days of staff absenteeism, in the second 1858, and in the third 1,580. In our view these are disturbingly high, and point to an underlying problem at Ty Mawr which should have been recognised earlier.

**Our assessment of the staff at Ty Mawr is that there has been a substantial loss of morale, that there is a feeling of isolation, and a degree of helplessness, that the perception is that "County Hall" has little real interest in their problems or knowledge or understanding of them, and that they and the children at Ty Mawr are subject to an unstructured system which cannot possibly cope with the various demands made upon it.**

## ADMISSIONS

Since 1984, the mix of admissions has included the following:

- (a) Boys transferred, often in the middle of the night, from local police stations by virtue of the provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.
- (b) Boys on remand in the care of the local authority pending court appearances. **Very often such boys were deeply involved in criminal behaviour and had sophisticated knowledge and habits.**
- (c) Boys there on a short term respite basis.
- (d) Boys admitted to Ty Mawr as beyond the control of their parents. We attach as Appendix E the statistics relating to the location of home area of the boys admitted together with the reasons for admission.
- (e) Boys referred for Assessment.
- (f) Those boys placed for long term care.

### Written objectives for Ty Mawr

Mr. Phelan himself prepared a pamphlet relating to Ty Mawr's aims and objectives as a Residential Assessment and Treatment Centre. This is the only statement of written objectives which we have been able to discover. There was no statement provided by the County Council's Social Services Department. We regard this as a serious error. The purpose of written objectives in our view are:-

- (a) That the Social Services department at County Hall should clearly know what was expected of the staff at Ty Mawr.
- (b) That staff at Ty Mawr should clearly know what was expected of them.
- (c) That there would thereby be a benchmark to see whether or not the objectives were being attained.

In particular, there was no clearly defined or specified basis in practice to assist a clear understanding of who had the ultimate decision making authority as to the admission of a particular boy in particular circumstances. The view held by Mr. Phelan and his colleagues at Ty Mawr was that ultimately they were obliged to take in any boy whom the SSD required to be admitted. The SSD's view appears to have been that Mr. Phelan would have had the right of veto. For such a simple area to be so unclear was again, in our view, inviting the difficulties which subsequently occurred.

Despite the inherent difficulty of an uncontrolled and inappropriate mix, the view we have is that Ty Mawr managed with a degree of success until 1988. Accordingly we intend to concentrate substantially on the problems from 1988 to the date of our inquiry.

It is necessary to set out the self-evident, namely that the boys at Ty Mawr would be disadvantaged, unhappy and vulnerable, requiring great skill and care. The task of working with such boys is exceptionally pressured and difficult. **The two single elements which in our judgement brought about the problems which we shall later recite were that the mix of boys admitted was wholly inappropriate and that the staff required to deal with them was under-trained, by and large under-paid, and felt unsupported.**



# REPORTED INCIDENTS

We have examined a number of incidents in the light of general criticisms of Ty Mawr and now deal with the more important.

## SUMMER CAMP AT ABERAERON

At the end of September 1990 anonymous allegations were made to various newspapers and television stations in respect of happenings related to a summer camp at Aberaeron in Dyfed. The allegations were of a sensational nature and included allegations of sexual misbehaviour between a male and a female member of the care staff at Ty Mawr, allegations of assault on boys from Ty Mawr on two distinct occasions at the camp and on return to Ty Mawr, together with general complaints of staff brutality. A full police investigation was launched. The Crown Prosecution Service decided that no prosecutions were justified.

The basis of the complaints arises from a camping holiday at Aberaeron between 16th and 22nd August 1990. Two members of staff fall to be considered namely Mr. W. K. Williams and Mrs. Ann Hartwright. Mr. W. K. Williams, despite a number of requests, declined to give evidence to us. Mrs. Hartwright attended and fully co-operated. Nine boys were taken on the holiday accompanied by the two members of staff.

In our view the taking of the nine boys in question accompanied only by Mr. Williams and Mrs. Hartwright was an error of judgment. The original plan was that a larger number of staff should go but at a late stage of the preparations other members of staff became unavailable. Mrs. Hartwright therefore agreed to the arrangements. In hindsight she would agree that this was a mistake. However we find that she agreed to accompany the boys and Mr. Williams so as not to disappoint the boys and lose them their opportunity of a holiday. It is fair to record also that a number of other staff and boys spoke in the highest terms of Mrs. Hartwright's commitment to the work she did at Ty Mawr.

A single vehicle was driven with all the party to Aberaeron. There were only two tents available at Aberaeron. The larger tent included a kitchen area. Mr. Williams and Mrs. Hartwright shared that tent. This was a significant error of judgment. It made the members of staff vulnerable to allegations which were subsequently made by a number of the boys as to sexual misconduct. **We do not find that there was in fact such sexual misconduct between Mr. Williams and Mrs. Hartwright, but we do criticise the error of judgement made.**

Each of the boys had been provided with pocket money. We find that some of the pocket money was given to Mr. Williams to purchase cider for the boys to drink at the camp.

Given the ages and the background of the boys and the general circumstances of the camp we find this to have been mistaken.

Shortly after arrival at Aberaeron a number of the boys purchased lighter gas which they then sniffed. This was subsequently discovered by Mr. Williams. The allegation then is that following this discovery Mr. Williams subjected a number of the boys to physical and verbal chastisement. The allegations are on occasions difficult to assess. We are able to conclude that Mr. Williams shouted at the boys in anger at their behaviour and we cannot find this to be unreasonable.

During the remainder of the holiday a number of boys entered shops locally. They carried out fairly substantial theft. They stole keyrings, flick combs, alarm torches and a selection of pornographic magazines. Mr. Williams discovered the theft and, after a search, collected up a substantial amount of stolen property. It is then alleged that Mr. Williams struck certain of the boys and sprayed shaving foam over the head of another (shaving foam was among one of the items stolen from one of the shop premises). Undoubtedly the shaving foam incident occurred. It should not have happened. The probability is, we find, that Mr. Williams did indeed use a degree of relatively minor physical violence to certain of the boys at the camp. He also made a racist remark to one boy. We do not find that Mrs. Hartwright was a party to any such violence.

The general allegation of sexual impropriety is that one or more of the boys heard sounds which they claimed to be indicative of sexual behaviour between Mr. Williams and Mrs. Hartwright. Our finding is that the fact that the two members of staff slept overnight in the same tent gave the boys an opportunity to make what we determine to be unfounded allegations.

On Wednesday 22nd August 1990 the Police at Aberaeron telephoned Ty Mawr School. That message having been received, Mr. Williams was spoken to at Aberaeron and he then decided to abandon the camp and return to Ty Mawr. He did so without attempting to contact the local Police. We believe that to have been an error.

On return to the School there are complaints from a number of boys that they were physically struck by Mr. Williams. We believe that there was a degree of slapping and/or cuffing by Mr. Williams. It was, we find, of a relatively minimal sort but nevertheless wholly unacceptable. It arose, we believe, because of the fact that the camp had become completely out of hand, that Mr. Williams became exasperated and lost his temper and took out his feeling on the boys.

Mr. Williams was ultimately suspended and subsequently left the employment of the Social Services Department.

There are further worrying aspects. A substantial amount of stolen property, as recited above, had been confiscated, properly, by Mr. Williams. There was in fact a written procedure for dealing with stolen property extant at Ty Mawr. Mr. Williams did not

adhere to that. The Principal Mr. Phelan appeared to be unaware of the procedure to deal with stolen property. He ought to have been.

At the very least there should have been close liaison with the Aberaeron Police and a proper and appropriate attempt to return the stolen property to its owners. Even if the owners were not discoverable, the proper persons to have custody of the property were the Aberaeron Police. A number of staff present at Ty Mawr certainly saw the stolen property.

Part of the stolen goods was pornographic literature. Mr. Williams retained those pornographic books, and placed them in the sleeping in room for the staff at Ty Mawr. It was not until 3rd October 1990 (following the anonymous complaint and Police investigation) that Mr. Williams handed those items to Mr. Phelan who handed them to the Police. We are obliged to criticise Mr. Williams in the strongest terms:

- (a) This was known to be stolen property.
- (b) It was pornographic material.
- (c) It was kept at the premises for a substantial period of time.
- (d) This was a disgraceful example to set the boys.

As to the remainder of the stolen property Mr. Williams informed the Police that he had disposed of it in his domestic dustbin and in respect of a small amount of cash, had placed it in a blind box in his shop. If this occurred this was wholly wrong.

Mr. Williams admitted in Police interview that he informed the boys that the pornographic books were in the sleeping in room and that other minor items had been given to a stall in Pontypool Carnival. He further indicated at Ty Mawr that various items had been given to various people to raffle for charity. For obvious reasons this is wholly unsatisfactory. Whatever the truth of the disposal of the property ultimately Mr. William's behaviour requires censure.

- (a) He knew the goods were stolen.
- (b) He ought to have disposed of them properly as above.
- (c) This was a wholly wrong example to set the boys.

In respect of cider which had been purchased at Aberaeron and not consumed in its entirety, Mr. Williams claimed that he put it back in the shop which he himself ran at the same time as being employed at Ty Mawr. If that in fact happened it was wholly wrong.

As set out earlier, anonymous allegations relating to the camp were made towards the latter part of September 1991. The first that Mrs. Hartwright new of these allegations was following a broadcast on a local television station. She told us, and we accept, that she was appalled and distraught. **Whatever the truth of the allegation as it appeared at the time, she should have been provided with proper counselling and support in extremely fraught circumstances. Her criticism is, and we find it to be well founded, that she was given virtually no support of any sort despite the fact that she had to continue to work at Ty Mawr and that the allegations had caused her and her husband substantial distress. This is an example of poor staff management which is a recurring theme in our findings.**

To summarise therefore:-

- (a) To provide only one male and one female member of staff to supervise and control nine boys in the circumstances at Aberaeron was a misjudgment.
- (b) It was a misjudgment for Mrs. Hartwright and Mr. Williams to share the same tent.
- (c) We do not find there was any sexual impropriety between the two members of staff.
- (d) We find that a number of boys stole a substantial amount of property which was improperly dealt with by Mr. Williams. In particular he disposed of cash and drink and pornographic literature in the ways set out above which ways were wholly wrong.
- (e) It was an error to provide alcoholic drink for the boys at the camp.
- (f) When Mr. Williams discovered the glue sniffing and the theft of property he used a degree of violence to certain of the boys, which violence should not have been used.