

62

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Subject: Endeavour Training Farm, Riverview

RECORD NUMBER

MINUTE

DS:BW

81

The relationship between Endeavour Training Farm and the Westbrook Training Centre has always been a problem. It is my view that any direct relationship should cease to exist as I see the two institutions as providing for a different group of boys and therefore they ought to be able to develop their own programs, each distinct from the other. I know this is difficult to achieve in practice, but we ought to be refining selection techniques towards this goal.

I am aware of the situation of the two cases quoted in the minute of 31st October, as this was drawn to my attention at the time. Despite the fact that one boy was admitted to each institution, I do not feel the plan for one should effectively stop another boy leaving, if the assessment for him is that short term training was in line with his needs. We are presently assessing a length of stay at the Westbrook Training Centre, in accordance with what is seen as that boy's needs and we are endeavouring to achieve a return to community and family contact at the earliest possible opportunity.

Figures could be quoted to show that this system, along with a more intensive involvement in counselling between the boy and the Child Care Officer at the Westbrook Training Centre, and with the same officer on leaving the Centre, has cut down return rate so we would be loathe to change such a system. On the other hand, I can understand the situation raised by Mr. Schmidt and shall go into this when I have opportunity to discuss this with him and Major Bennett at Riverview.

The case of **REDACTED** was unfortunate if he arrived at Riverview demanding his clothes, and this should have been prevented. On the other hand, it would have been an extremely bad thing to have subjected this young boy to the pressures of Westbrook for any longer than he was. It was on these grounds and the fact that his being there was having a progressive detrimental effect on him, that early release was considered.

It is true that in the past when staying at Westbrook was normally four months for a first admission and six months for subsequent admission, an agreement was made that if a boy ran away from Riverview to go to Westbrook, that he would be treated as a second admission and stay there six months. This was put into practice, but can not be continued in that exact form, under the present policy which has been implemented at Westbrook.

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DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

12

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S.C.C.O. Noted. Please advise further following discussion with Major Bennett. 5 D / 14/11/72

I am concerned also about the ^{provision} location of psychiatric services, but really Westbrook is no better off than is the Endeavour Training Farm. In fact, with out-patient appointments at the Wilson Youth Hospital, more boys from Endeavour are probably receiving psychiatric consultation than are those in Westbrook. To overcome the problem which is mentioned in Mr. Schmidt's report, I will suggest to him that progress reports on a boy's behaviour, be committed to paper and forwarded in writing to the Wilson Youth Hospital where I am sure they will be welcomed. At the same time, a request could be made to the Doctor for a further report which may be helpful in determining the boy's length of stay and treatment at Endeavour and also his future placement.

I did not know that the incidents of deliberate absconding from Endeavour, in order to get to Westbrook is that high. I will go into this with Mr. Schmidt and Major Bennett and perhaps such cases could be looked at more closely on arrival at Westbrook.

The other major matter raised is the suggestion of a construction of a ~~security~~ compound at Endeavour. It would be difficult to justify this with plans being implemented for the re-building of this institution. On the other hand, I certainly feel that a small security admission unit should be a part of the new development.

I had arranged to see Major Bennett and Mr. Schmidt on 6th November, but this was deferred because of Major Bennett's illness. A further appointment will be made and I shall then make a further report.

D. Smith

D. SMITH.

(Senior Child Care Officer)

8th November, 1972.

- 1. P.C.C.O }
- 2. Director }

This report should be read in conjunction with Mr. Schmidt's report of 31st October.

3. Mr Schmidt

4. RETURN TO

SCCO (further app. with Major Bennett)

has been made by Mr. B. Smith