

NOTES OF MEETING HELD AT
THE EDUCATION OFFICE ON 2ND JULY, 1981.

Present: Rev. P. Manton Chairman Brig-y-Don Committee
Mrs. D. Wagstaff Member Brig-y-Don Committee
J.S. Rodhouse Director of Education
C.A. Smith Children's Officer

The meeting was held at the request of the Chairman of Brig-y-Don to discuss the future of Brig-y-Don as a children's home for children in the care of the Education Committee.

The following points were raised by representatives of Brig-y-Don:-

- (1) The financial viability of Brig-y-Don if numbers placed there drop below 10.
- (2) The Committee's policy not to place children at Brig-y-Don when places are available in the Committee's establishments.
- (3) The advisability of placing children at Brig-y-Don who have previously stayed there as being good child care practices.
- (4) The long-term policy of the Committee which if maintained as at present could mean the closing of Brig-y-Don or a move to caring for children on a private basis e.g.: whilst parents are on holiday. On the present basis the establishment could not continue to operate for more than a year.

The Director of Education confirmed the policy of the Department regarding admissions to care pointing out that admissions to Brig-y-Don or La Preference could only be made if exceptional circumstances prevail. Agreement to admission might be made if a child had spent a long period in either establishment and following discharge the need for residential care arose again. Short periods of care would not fall into this category.

It was pointed out that some 110 residential places were available in the Island sufficient to accommodate more than half the children in care. The reduction in numbers of children placed at Brig-y-Don as a percentage was the same as reductions made at Haut de la Garenne and La Preference.

Reference was made to the recent inspection of the Child Care Service by the D.H.S.S., the report on which would be discussed by the Education Committee in the early autumn. This could result in a re-organisation of the residential care services and at that stage the future of all establishments will need to be considered. The D.H.S.S. comments on Brig-y-Don will be made available and suggestions made as to how Brig-y-Don can be integrated into the service. The Brig-y-Don Committee will have the opportunity of entering into discussion with the Education Committee so that the role of Brig-y-Don can be defined and then considered by the Management Committee. The suggestion that as organised at present Brig-y-Don is better able to care for children up to the age of 8 years was accepted, and it was agreed that if this continued a plan must be devised for each child on moving from Brig-y-Don which would call for close liaison with other establishments.

The Director of Education assured members of the Committee that once the D.H.S.S. report had been approved by the Education Committee the relevant parts will be made available to them and full discussion will follow.


6.7.81.