

BLOOD AND PROPERTY

I'VE LIVED IN HACKNEY FOR 10 YEARS, NOT VOTING, NOT KNOWING WHO MY MP OR COUNCILLORS ARE AND NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO HACKNEY CURRENT AFFAIRS. AM I MISSING ANYTHING?

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TUESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2010

Did Lambeth council put Hackney kids at risk?

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A court report in the Bexley Times said that Pead had previously been sacked from a job at Lambeth Council after being caught masturbating in a theatre.

Yesterday (Tuesday) a spokesperson for Lambeth Council told Blood and Property that this claim was not correct but would not provide any further details. Neither would she say when Pead worked for

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thanks - hope they can do something. I've had to remove your link from my blogroll but still hasn't stopped the warning!
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Tuesday, 16 February 2010

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A court report in the Bexley Times said that Pead had previously been sacked from a job at Lambeth Council after being caught masturbating in a theatre.

Yesterday (Tuesday) a spokesperson for Lambeth Council told Blood and Property that this claim was not correct but would not provide any further details. Neither would she say when Pead worked for Lambeth Council or what job he held there. She also said that answering Blood and Property's questions was not a priority.

Blood and Property has received a statement from Off Centre, the Hackney-based agency where Pead was working. One director of Off Centre said that all required checks were carried out but believed that the new Vetting and Barring Scheme may have alerted them to Pead's record.

Off Centre is in Hackney South and Shoreditch, the constituency of Meg Hillier, the minister in charge of the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

It remains unclear whether any of Pead's past behaviour would have alerted Off Centre, or whether this information would have been available to Off Centre via the current system, or under the Vetting and Barring scheme.

Off Centre provided this statement: "Brian Pead was employed by Off Centre from January 9th 2008 to June 13th 2008 after which he was summarily dismissed due to gross misconduct.

"Before Mr Pead took up said employment, Off Centre carried out all pertinent checks including references and enhanced CRB checks in line with child protection and safeguarding children and young people guidelines.

"On Wednesday 4th June 2008 Off Centre management was informed that Mr Pead had been arrested and was being held at a police station on charges of attempting to solicit sex over the internet with a 14-year-old girl.

"Due to the seriousness of the matter, Mr Pead was suspended immediately pending a disciplinary investigation which resulted in a dismissal from Off Centre. Mr Pead was still in his probationary period at the time.

"Off Centre co-operated fully with the ensuing police investigation and management was assured by police and our own internal investigation that none of Off Centre's clients were involved.

"The police investigation concerned events outside of the organisation and, as such, Off Centre had no further direct involvement in the matter, other than to correct Mr Pead's untruthful claim that he had been conducting research into CSA (child sexual abuse) as this was certainly not part of his role at Off Centre.

"During the subsequent court case, Nicola Noone, director of Off Centre, gave evidence to refute Mr Pead's claim as research was not part of his role at Off Centre, nor was it ever discussed with, or sanctioned by, management.

"On 23rd December 2009, the director of Off Centre was informed that a guilty verdict had been returned. On 24 December 2009, the director emailed the ISA to initiate the process of making a referral and on 18th January 2010 a full referral, together with supporting information was submitted to the ISA. Mr Pead was sentenced on 27 January, 2007."

Posted by Blood and Property at 17:28 No comments:

Labels: brian pead, child care, child protection, hackney, meg hillier, off centre

Wednesday, 17 February 2010

Response from Lambeth Council

Following the publication of the story below (Did Lambeth Council put Hackney kids at risk?), Lambeth Council sent Blood and Property this statement:

"Brian Pead worked for Lambeth Council in the Open Centre for Vocational Studies from 1st August 2005 and was suspended on 8th December 2006. Following an investigation into complaints about his conduct he was dismissed on 31st July 2007.

"None of the complaints made against Brian Pead during his time at the Council relate to inappropriate sexual activity. However, as with any employee, any formal allegations about an employee which have been found proven following a Council investigation would be stated in any future references."

Blood and Property was also asked to remove its reference to the Bexley Times article which Lambeth Council says is not true.

However, both The Bexley Times and Central News Agency said they had not heard anything from Lambeth Council about the claims made in their stories. My understanding is that if it was said in court, then people have a right to know that it was said.

It is clear from Lambeth Council's response that it does not accept the claim that it dismissed Brian Pead for masturbating in a theatre.

The Open (Learning) Centre for Vocational Studies is part of Lambeth's Children's and young people's service and Brian Pead was dismissed from his job there six months before he started work for Off Centre, a Hackney-based child counselling service.

Six months after that he was arrested in a police sting attempting to pay a 14-year-old girl for sex.

It would be useful to know what Lambeth Council did know about Brian Pead and whether this was passed on to his employers in Hackney - Off Centre - and whether they would have employed him if they had known these details. A director of Off Centre told Blood and Property that a different decision would have been likely if more information had been available.

Posted by Blood and Property at 16:53 No comments:

Labels: brian pead, child protection, hackney, lambeth council, off centre

Friday, 5 February 2010

Should Hackney child counsellor ever have got the job?

In December a Hackney child counsellor was found guilty of offering £300 to a 14-year-old girl to have sex with him: Child therapist tried to bribe underage girl for sex.

According to court reports Brian Pead had been dismissed from a job at Lambeth Borough Council for masturbating in a theatre before he came to work in Hackney.

The court was told that he worked for a counselling agency in Hackney, sometimes with children who had suffered from sexual abuse.

When he was caught in a police sting Brian Pead claimed that he was carrying out research for his work as a children's counsellor.

Blood and Property asked Hackney Council for details about Pead's work in Hackney on Wednesday but was told that, because various people were either ill or away, there would be no answer until next week.

Posted by Blood and Property at 03:40 No comments:

Labels: child care, child protection, hackney

Monday, 22 March 2010

Meg Hillier answers Blood and Property questions

Meg Hillier, MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch and Under-Secretary of State for Identity talks to Blood and Property.

Blood and Property: How does your job as a minister fit in with your job as a constituency MP?

Meg Hillier: There's quite a lot of overlap with Home Office issues and concerns in Hackney and it's helpful to have the experience of being a Hackney MP for my ministerial work and vice versa.

In terms of the time I spend in Hackney, it is much the same as it was when I wasn't a minister; a lot of an MP's time is spent in Parliament during the week.

The difference is that I can't speak about issues in the chamber of the House of Commons that aren't related to my ministerial portfolio or department.

So I can't ask questions in the House on certain issues but that's not necessarily a problem because there are other ways I can raise them. For example, on the Crown Estate proposals, which is a big issue in the constituency, threatening to sell off its property in Victoria Park, I'm working very closely with the other MPs involved who are not ministers. We're working together but they're speaking and I'm supporting.

Blood and Property: When I tried to get in touch with you about Brian Pead (Hackney child therapist caught in police sting), the initial response was that I couldn't talk to you about it without going through the Home Office press office.

Meg Hillier: In my Parliamentary office my staff are funded to deal with my Parliamentary work, not my Home Office work and don't field any Home Office phone calls. The staff there deal with Hackney, not the Home Office.

Blood and Property: So you couldn't talk to me about that stuff?

Meg Hillier: I couldn't talk to you about an individual case.