

PRIME MINISTER

cc: Ian Whitehead

COMMUNITY CARE

You have two meetings next week on Community Care:

- i) the talk on Monday with Roy Griffiths;
- ii) a talk I have arranged for Thursday with Kenneth Clarke, to give him a chance to go through privately with you his latest thinking.

In the following week we will have the second meeting of the full Ministerial group.

I will let you have later next week some material for the talk with Kenneth Clarke. This note covers Monday's meeting with Roy Griffiths.

I enclose a number of relevant papers.

- Flag A - A note that Roy Griffiths has himself sent in.
- Flag B - A brief prepared by Kenneth Clarke's Private Office.
- Flag C - A note from Ian Whitehead.
- Flag D - The minutes of the pre-Easter meeting of the Ministerial group.
- Flag E - A summary of the Griffiths' recommendations.
- Flag F - A summary of the reactions to the Griffiths' report.

The objective of Monday's meeting is to soothe Roy Griffiths. I think he recognises the difficulties that would be involved in having him on the Ministerial group. But he does feel bruised, mainly about the way he was handled last year by John Moore. (I don't think there is any ill will towards you personally.)

He will not be happy with the outcome of the Ministerial decisions. But it is important to the Government that he should not publicly break ranks and broadcast his discontent.

So you will want to make him feel that his efforts are appreciated and that you are giving careful consideration to his arguments.

This perhaps points to letting him do most of the talking. But the main points you may want to get across in response include:

- the main aims of policy must be to help the elderly and the other 'Community Care' groups stay in their own homes for as long as possible, and to strengthen the role of the family and voluntary agencies.
- your worries about enhancing the role of local authorities. (There is no doubt the original Griffiths' report did propose this, although he now seems to be trying to play this aspect down).
- the need to improve co-ordination of existing agencies rather than creating new bodies.
- the need to tighten up on social security payments for residential care.

Having run over the ground on Community Care, you will want to consider whether to ask him how things are going on revamping the relationship between the Department of Health and the NHS. (We have arranged another Ministerial meeting on this, which Sir Roy will be attending, for later in the month). I am not clear how fully Sir Roy is being involved in the work on this. But you will recall there was a lot in common between your objectives and what Sir Roy said he had been arguing for back in 1983. Reinforcing the message that you want him to make a positive contribution on this issue would help with the objective of sending him away feeling soothed and wanted.

P. Gray
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