

(a-b)

PRIME MINISTER

COMMUNITY CARE: MEETING ON 18 MAY

You saw some of the papers for tomorrow's meeting over the weekend. The full set is now available.

You will recall that a meeting originally scheduled for two weeks ago was cancelled when you saw the paper circulated by the Department of the Environment, which said little more than that further work was required. We now have some additional papers reporting the further discussions that have taken place between departments.

The full list of papers is:

Flag A - A summary paper prepared by Richard Wilson's team in the Cabinet Office, which sets out the main issues involved in following up the decision at the last meeting to proceed with a package on the Griffiths model. Attached to the summary paper are three annexes; two prepared by the Department of Social Security on the future benefit régime and entitlement of existing claimants in homes, and the third by the Department of Health on specific grants and planning and monitoring systems. You looked at the summary paper over the weekend, but you may this evening want to flick through the annexes.

Flag B - The original paper submitted by the DoE on the local authority model.

Flag C - A short handling brief by Richard Wilson which highlights the key issues to be considered. You looked at this over the weekend.

The two papers you did not have at the weekend are notes from Ian Whitehead in the Policy Unit. These are:

Flag D - A critique of the other papers.

Flag E - A fuller paper setting out an alternative way forward.

You will see that Ian expresses serious doubts about the conclusion at the last meeting favouring a Griffiths-type approach. He advocates a significantly different approach, based on the gradual development of Community Care Trusts (CCT).

You will obviously want to consider carefully Ian's arguments but I think it is inevitable that, if you are attracted by his approach, going down this road would involve substantial further delay before the Government was in a position to announce its response to the Griffiths Report.

*Paul G.*

PAUL GRAY

17 May 1989

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