

CONFIDENTIALPRIME MINISTER

COMMUNITY CARE

Now that the NHS White Paper is out, I have been considering with Richard Wilson and Departments, the timetable and mechanisms for handling discussion of Community Care.

Ministers most concerned have been having some discussions. We have now persuaded them that there must be some early progress, and that we should be thinking in terms of a meeting with you in mid-March. Given the difficulties with this issue, I imagine you would want, in the first instance, to take a meeting just with the Ministers mostly concerned - Messrs. Clarke, Moore, Ridley and Major.

There is also the question of how to handle Roy Griffiths. I gather he is half expecting to be involved in any Ministerial group, in the same way as for the NHS Review. But, given the nature of his recommendations, Richard Wilson and I see major difficulties with this. One possibility would be for you to arrange to have a private word with Roy Griffiths after you have talked things through with the small Ministerial group. That would also provide an opportunity for you to get private reactions from Roy Griffiths on how the re-organisation of DOH, viz-a-viz the NHS, is proceeding.

Content:

Yes - for us to arrange a Community Care meeting with Messrs. Clarke, Moore, Ridley and Major around mid-March?

Possibly to fix up a private talk with Roy Griffiths in late-March/early April?

Rec.

PAUL GRAY17 February 1989CONFIDENTIAL