

AT A MEETING
- of the -
SOCIAL INCLUSION
WORKING GROUP held at
the Council House, Walsall on
Wednesday 30 November
2005 at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Cassidy
Councillor Khan
Mr. R.Grainger
Mr. D.Jones

OFFICERS

Beth McPherson-Jones – (Education Walsall)
David Bovell – (Social Services)
Stuart Bentley – (Scrutiny Support)

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mary Griffiths, Walsall NHS Trust.

SOCIAL INCLUSION, A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE CHANGED CONTEXT

Beth McPherson-Jones gave a presentation outlining the changed context of children's services in light of 'Every Child Matters' and recent Government legislation.

(annexed)

Councillor Cassidy enquired if Members had read the summary report of the Victoria Climbié inquiry and asked if copies could be circulated to those members who had not.

Members thanked Beth McPherson-Jones for her a presentation and a general discussion around areas for potential scrutiny followed.

There was a general consensus that the development of Children's Trusts was an issue Members were keen to track through to full implementation by 2008 and officers were asked to supply regular updates on progress to the working group where Members could assess the need for further in-depth scrutiny of issues arising.

Members also expressed an interest in scrutinising the effectiveness of multi-agency working and Mr. Grainger suggested that a series of case-studies, taken from vulnerable groups, would be helpful.

David Bovell suggested that this could follow from a work stream currently progressing around Looked After Children. He suggested that a set of case-studies, focusing on the more complex cases, could be brought to the next meeting and Beth McPherson-Jones agreed to bring background data on achievement in order to put the case-studies in context.

Resolved:

- That copies of the summary report of the Victoria Climbié inquiry be circulated to the Members.
- That the Social Inclusion Working Group recommend to the Children's Service and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel that the working group be constituted to track the implementation of Children's Trusts through to 2008.
- That officers bring regular updates on the progress of Children's Trusts to the Social Inclusion Working Group.
- That officers produce case-studies of Looked After Children and background information around the achievement of Looked After Children to the next meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group.

TERMINATION OF THE MEETING

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.10 p.m.