

AT A MEETING of the
**OBESITY JOINT WORKING
GROUP** held at the Council House,
Walsall on **Tuesday 1st March, 2005**
at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor V.Woodruff
Councillor I.Robertson
Councillor E.Pitt

Dr. Ramaiah
Dr. Linnane
Rachel Humphreys
Jeff Chandra
Ishbel Murray
Mark Inglis
Stuart Bentley

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

3. Nomination of Lead Member

Councillor Pitt was elected Lead Member.

4. “Tackling Obesity in Walsall” A strategy for the prevention and treatment of over weight and obesity in Walsall

Dr. Ramaiah stated that both the Health and the Children’s and Lifelong Learning Panels had received presentations on Obesity in Walsall. Dr. Linnane added the circulated report focused on Adult Obesity, where the consultation period was coming to a close, and where there was plenty of guidance from Central and Local Government and other NGO’s. Both Dr. Ramaiah and Dr. Linnane suggested that the focus of any forthcoming work programme should be on Children’s Obesity where much less guidance and research exists.

Dr, Ramaiah stated that he had already had preliminary discussions with David McNulty and that they had agreed to joint fund a scoping document.

5. Scoping a review

Dr. Linnane tabled a Summary document "Tackling Obesity on Walsall" which detailed a brief for a scoping exercise in Children's Obesity to be undertaken by Jeff Chandra.

This would address:

What the nature of the problem is

What was already being done "What have we got that is good?"

and What the key areas of focus should be

Councillor Robertson suggested that the focus could be on the weakest links within council services and demographic hotspots.

Dr. Ramaiah said that the problem needed ownership. Children are effectively a captured audience and if you target the children, you target the parents.

Ishbel Murray agreed with the focus of the brief and stated that the biggest impact can be made with children and that this should then feed through to adults. She said that they had made a good start with linking services but that a more strategic view was needed.

6. Forward plan of meetings

The group agreed to use the results of the scoping exercise to drive the agenda for future meetings.

It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged in mid to late April to assess a preliminary findings with a meeting in early June to finalise the report and agree a future action plan.