



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 14 February 2008

Subject: Recommendation Tracking

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Last year Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to adopt a new, more formal system of recommendation tracking, to ensure that scrutiny recommendations were more rigorously followed through.
- 1.2 As a result, each board will receive a quarterly report, coinciding with the quarterly presentation of performance information. This will allow the board to monitor progress and identify completed recommendations; those progressing to plan; and those where there is either an obstacle or progress is not adequate. The board will then be able to take further action as appropriate.
- 1.3 A standard set of criteria has been produced, to enable the Board to assess progress. These are presented in the form of a flow chart at Appendix 1. The questions should help to decide whether a recommendation has been completed, and if not whether further action is required.
- 1.4 To assist Members with this task, the Principal Scrutiny Adviser has given a draft status for each recommendation. The Board is asked to confirm whether these assessments are appropriate, and to change them where they are not.
- 1.5 In deciding whether to undertake any further work, members will need to consider the balance of the board's work programme.
- 1.6 Progress against the recommendations from the Inquiry on Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs) has not been included this time. The working group on Inclusion will report back to the Board's meeting in March, and this report will include an update on the recommendations from this inquiry.

2.0 Next Steps

- 2.1 In March the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive a composite report which draws together any issues raised by each of the Scrutiny Boards during the recommendation tracking process, and decide any appropriate action.
- 2.2 The next cycle of quarterly recommendation tracking reports will be presented to Scrutiny Boards in July 2008, enabling the Board to judge progress against outstanding recommendations.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to:
 - Agree those recommendations which no longer require monitoring;
 - Identify any recommendations where progress is unsatisfactory and determine the action the Board wishes to take as a result.