



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 8 January 2009

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 Scrutiny Board now receives a quarterly report on any recommendations from previous inquiries which have not yet been completed.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 For each outstanding recommendation, a progress update is provided. In some cases there will be several updates, as the board has monitored progress over a period of time.
- 1.6 To assist members, 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.

- 1.7 In particular, members should note that a number of recommendations have a draft status of 4 or 5. For these recommendations, the Principal Scrutiny Adviser suggests that progress has been made. However, the decision as to whether this progress is acceptable is a judgement for board members to make.
- 1.8 In deciding whether to undertake any further work, members will need to consider the balance of the board's work programme.

2.0 Next Steps

- 2.1 The next cycle of quarterly recommendation tracking reports will be presented to Scrutiny Boards in April 2009, 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.

Background papers

None