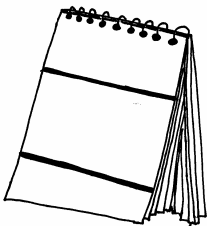


Social Inclusion Working Group

(Social inclusion means including everyone in society. The Social Inclusion Working Group has been set up to look at how all different communities in York can be given the same chances to take part in life and be included)



MINUTES



Date of meeting: 14 January 2009

**Members of the Council who were at the meeting
(to be known as 'Members' in these minutes):**



**Christian
Vassie
(Chair)**

**Janet
Looker
(Vice Chair)**

**Keith
Aspden**

**Jenny
Brooks**

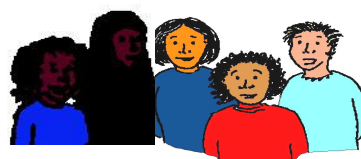
**Julie
Gunnell**

People who were at the meeting representing community groups:

Sue Lister and Larry Hotchkiss
of the Older People's Assembly



Rita Sanderson of the BME
(BME stands for Black Minority
Ethnic) Citizens Forum



David Brown (Access Group), Jim Doherty (Access Group), Claire Newhouse (Higher York), Maureen Ryan (Valuing People Partnership) and Caroline Suckling (Access Group) were also present.

1. Public Participation



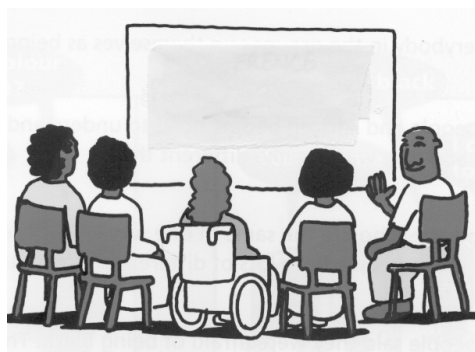
Lynn Jeffries informed the Group that the first open meeting of the Disabled People's Forum would take place at the YREN offices on Thursday 12 February 2009 at noon.

2. Matters Arising from Minutes - Taxis



Jim Doherty offered to assist the Council in the drawing-up of an accreditation scheme for taxi drivers. Geoff Henman would also be asked if was willing to help.

3. Chair's Report

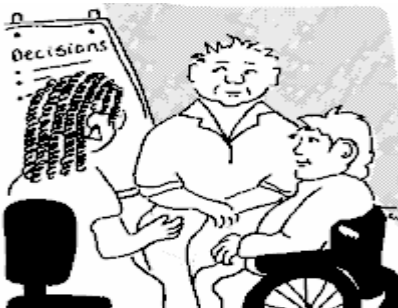


The Chair gave a presentation on the work that the Social Inclusion Working Group had carried out during 2008. If you would like a copy of the presentation please email: jayne.carr@york.gov.uk or telephone (01904) 552030



The Group agreed that the "Help us Get it Right" day had been very useful and that events like this were an excellent way to find out the views of the community. The Group looked at a report about the findings from the day.

4. Project Proposals for SIWG Budgets 2008/9



The Group recommended that the funding available for SIWG projects should be shared as follows:



£1,940 for a diversity mobile exhibition. YREN would lead this project. Display boards would include information about the different strands of inclusion, and could be used at festivals and events.



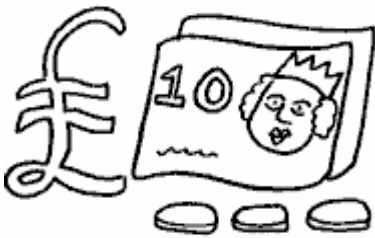
£1,500 for a SIWG Diversity Day. This could include stalls, a diversity display, food, performances and activities. York Older People's Assembly would lead on this project and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Forum would be asked if they were willing to lead as well.



£500 to Children and Inclusion (CANDI) to enable parents to offer disability training.



£500 to help the Young People's Service and YREN to work together to encourage more BME young people to access the Young People's Service



£660 remained - it might be needed at a later date.

5. Disability Community Representation on SIWG



The Group looked at a report about the membership of SIWG and discussed how disabled people were represented. It was agreed to ask the Council to increase the size of the Group so that each of the following organisations would have a co-opted non-voting representative:

- Access Group (physical and sensory disabilities)



- York People First (learning disabilities)
- Valuing People Partnership (learning disabilities)
- York Mental Health Forum (mental health)

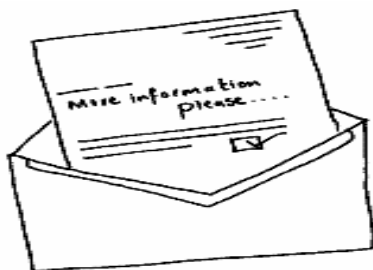
6. Equality and Inclusion Strategy and Single Equality Scheme



The Group looked at a report explaining how the Council's Equality and Inclusion Strategy and Single Equality Scheme 2009-12 would be prepared.



It was agreed that it was very important that the views of young people were taken into account when policies were written.



It was also very important that when the Council carried out surveys it collected information about matters to do with equality.

7. Forthcoming Events



The Group were told about events that they may like to attend:



International Women's Week - 7-14 March 2009. Further information available on www.yorkwomen.org.uk



York Older People Assembly would be holding an event on Monday 19 January 2009 at 2.00 pm at St Saviour Gate. Speakers would include Yorkshire Housing (new handy person service) and the Fire Service (fire safety in the home).



Real People Theatre production of "Holding the Granny" would take place on Thursday 12 March 2009.

8. Engaging with the Equality Strands



A report had been sent to Members of the Group explaining how people from the equality communities were involved with the Social Inclusion Working Group.

Small groups were formed to talk about topics including:

- The part that co-opted members and expert witnesses played in the work of the Group.
- How members of the community could be better involved, including arranging special events for them.

The views that were put forward would be discussed further at the Group's Development Day in February. They would also be used when the Engagement Strategy for SIWG was written.