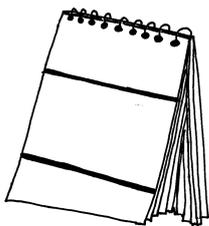


Social Inclusion Working Group

(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: 2 December 2009

Members of the Council who were at the meeting



Nigel Ayre
(Chair)

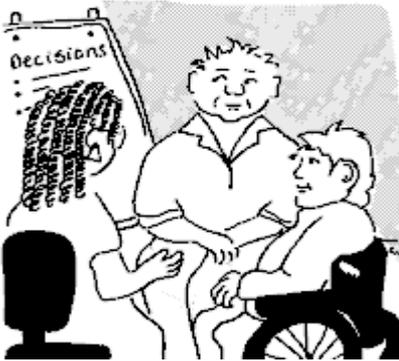
Sonja Crisp
(Vice-Chair)

Keith Aspden

Jenny Brooks

Julie Gunnell

People who were at the meeting representing community groups and as expert witnesses:



Peter Blackburn (LGBT Forum)

David Brown (York Access Group)

Sarah Fennell (LGBT Forum)

Sue Lister (York Older People's Assembly)

Claire Newhouse (Higher York)

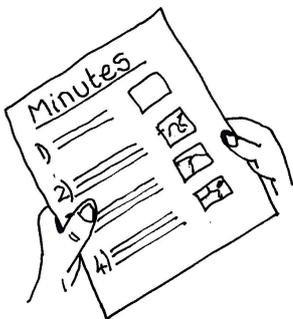
Steve Rouse (Diversity Co-ordinator LC&CS)

Rita Sanderson (York Racial Equality Network)

Maureen Ryan (Valuing People Partnership)

George Wright (Humanist)

1. Minutes



It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 24 September 2009 were a correct record of what had happened.

Details were given of the actions taken following the last meeting.



It had been agreed that Higher York would become a community representative on SIWG. The Group also said that it would be useful to make contact with the new Youth Council so that the group was aware of the views of younger people.

The Group also received information about the action that the Council had taken after SIWG had looked at the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for Democratic Services

2. Workshop: SIWG Taking Stock and Next Steps



Small groups were formed to look at different at questions about the future of SIWG including:

- How can we meet our aims?
- Should we change the name of SIWG?
- Who should attend SIWG meetings?
- How often should we meet?
- How should we spend the SIWG budget?

The views put forward by the Group are attached to these minutes.

3. Chair's Report



The Chair had provided a written report about:

- SIWG More for York EIAs Day
- SIWG EIA Fair 2009
- Chair's activity

The Vice Chair had told the Chief Executive that SIWG members thought that information from the Council was sometimes hard to understand. Training would be arranged for council staff to help improve the situation.

4. Progress Reports from 2009/10 SIWG Projects

The Group heard about how the money from the SIWG budget had been spent over the last year.



Children and Inclusion (CANDI)

CANDI was delivering training to groups who worked with children and young people who were disabled. SIWG had given the group £500. They had used the money to pay the travel and child care costs for parents who helped them with the training. This had been very useful.

Web-based training was also available on

www.disabilitytrainingyork.org



The Group said that the costs of travel and care were a big problem for some people and stopped them from taking part in activities.



SIWG Diversity Days

The Group heard about the SIWG Diversity Days. The activities at the Food and Drink Festival and the Bridging the Gap event had been fun and had brought people together.

Display Boards

Some of the SIWG money had been used to buy display boards. There was still some money left to be spent on photos and printing. Different groups were looking after the boards when they were not being used. A volunteer was needed to store one of them. One of the boards might be used to display information for International Women's Week in March.



5. SIWG - Work and Equality Impact Assessments Plan



The Group looked at the work they needed to do from December 2009 to March 2010.

They were invited to attend the "Help us Get it Right Day" on 1 February 2010. Anyone who needed help with transport was asked to telephone Evie Chandler (telephone 551726)

6. Presentation about Higher York



The Group heard about the work of Higher York. This is a partnership between colleges and universities in York. One of the students told the group about how Higher York supported students in York and also encouraged people to study in York.



Higher York wanted to improve the links between students and other people living in the community. They would be carrying out a survey to find out what could be done to make things better. They would report back to SIWG on their work.

7. Hate Incidents



The Group were very sorry to hear that the Hate Incident Reporting policy was not working well. It needed to be looked at again. They were also concerned that a Community Cohesion Strategy was not in place for the city. It was important that everyone felt safe. The Group wanted the Council to make sure that the policies were in place and worked well.

8. Development of SIWG



Members of the Group said that they had noticed an improvement in SIWG. It was good that people were working well together.