

Presentation to  
The National Assembly  
For Wales  
19th May 2004

**Stuart's Campaign**  
for Safer School Buses

**Ymgyrch Stuart**  
dros fysiau ysgol diogel



# The Aims of Stuart's Campaign

- For the children on the Ystradowen bus route to have a designated single-decker bus fitted with factory-installed seat belts of a recognised safety standard
- For each child to have a designated seat
- For adult supervision, other than the driver, to be present on the bus
- For the creation of a "safe route" for pedestrians and cyclists to go to school



# PROGRESS TO DATE

- May 2003 - NAHT unanimously support aims
- June 2003 - WLGSA promise to look into best practise throughout 22 local authorities in Wales
- June 2003 - Peter Clarke publicly supports Campaign
- June 2003 - Meeting with Cowbridge School & Chair of Governors - unable to support campaign until full legal procedures known
- July 2003 - Campaign presents at Assembly/ Sub committee to be established
- November 2003 - Chris H. present at Westminster at launch of NAHT policy to change school bus transport
- January 2004 - Inquest into death of Stuart - CPS called upon to re-open investigation - subsequently agreed to
- January 2004 - Coroner issues letter to VoG
- February 2004 - 14 months after accident VoG announce intention to create a consultative committee



# The Coroner's Findings

- Hybrid services aid confusion
- Risk assessment coverage
- Review of minimum standards
- Responsibility of Drivers
- Contract between all parties
- Not just a local issue



# A call for common sense ?

- Unfamiliar with issue ... yet....
- Jury recommendations
- Everyone knows it's the 'right thing' to do
- Action now before another tragic accident



# How to take this forward?

- Consistency – same standard across Wales
- Accountability – contract with all parties
- Confidence – Investment in school transport
- Privilege – withdrawal for breach of contract
- Update legislation – to account for tomorrow's problems



# School Transport Bill

- First overhaul in over 50 years
- Welcomed but does not go far enough
- Shortcomings of Bill
  - too little too late
- Recommendations



# The Cost ?

- Reality - not cost neutral
- To make a difference money must be spent
- Priority call
- Opportunity for Wales to lead the way





**It should be the safest journey.....**



**.....shouldn't it ?**

**What price for a child's safety ?**



# Questions ?

