

11CM13

17 April 2007

Sexual Violence Unit
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Room C4.8 Castle Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Dear Sir/Madam

HIDDEN CRIMES SECRET PAIN

Armagh City and District Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation document on the proposed regional strategy for addressing sexual violence in Northern Ireland.

The consultation document relates to specialized field of expertise and as a result the Council feels unable to comment in great detail, however, it would make the following observations:

Q1 – Sexual violence is defined as ‘any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted or takes place without consent’. Is this definition of sexual violence acceptable?

It is felt that greater clarification is necessary between what constitutes an act of sexual violence and an incident of sexual harassment

Q4 – How best can children’s attitudes to sexual violence be gathered?

The school setting is probably the most appropriate setting for this type of evidence to be gathered, however, it is clear that this may pose serious resource implications in terms of available time, finance and staff training.

Q7 – What steps could the media take to support the process of increasing public understanding and awareness of the realities of sexual violence?

The exercise of greater responsibility by advertisers in relation to the potential exploitations (intended or unintended) of young people for commercial gain.

Q9 – In addition to the education and training sector, what other sectoral groups and influencers have a role in delivering relevant messages?

There exists a vast range of voluntary organisations specifically established to undertake work with young people and they would probably offer a good vehicle in delivering appropriate messages to young people.

The Council wishes to be kept informed of developments.

Yours faithfully

W J Briggs

Clerk and Chief Executive (Acting)