

**MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SUB-GROUP OF THE
REGIONAL STEERING GROUP ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2008
2.00pm, HILTON HOTEL, BELFAST**

Present: Liz Shaw (Chair) Southern Health and Social Services Board
Joan McGovern Barnardos
Debbie Mehaffy NI Women's Aid Federation
Master Hilary Wells Northern Ireland Court Service
Pip Jaffa Parents' Advice Centre

Secretariat: Michael Sweeney Domestic Violence Unit
Paul Cassidy Domestic Violence Unit

1. Introductions and Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Angela McLernon, DHSSPS and the PSNI.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2007

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 19 June 2007 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 *Media Campaign*

The second stage of the appointment process for the media contract would take place on 27 February after which time an early meeting would be arranged with the successful company to develop the media campaign for 2008/09.

3.2 *Update from DENI – Guidance for schools on DV*

Unfortunately a DENI was not available to attend the meeting. However, at the Action Plan workshop on 30 January, DENI had advised that a member of staff had now started work on updating the pastoral guidance. Hopefully there should be progress to report soon.

3.3 *Meeting with Children's Commissioner*

The Chair reported that a useful meeting had taken place with the Children's Commissioner on 12 October. The Group wished to ensure that domestic violence was on the Commissioners "RADAR" and received an assurance that it was (the Commissioner is a former Chair of the Men's Advisory Project and was involved in drawing up the "Tackling Violence at Home" strategy).

4. Young Peoples Behaviour Survey

4.1 A DV module has been included in the survey which has been sent to 70 schools in NI. The results should be available in April/May 2008.

5. Barnardo's Risk Assessment Model

5.1 A short update report on the roll-out of this programme was circulated to members. The roll-out was due to be completed in 2007/08 but due to issues surrounding RPA and UNOCINI, roll-out will not now be completed until 2008/09.

6. Action Plan

6.1 The Group agreed that two or three clear actions for the Sub-Group be identified for action in 2008/09. The following actions were agreed:

- An NI version of the CAFFCAS document “*Vision for services for children and young people affected by domestic violence*” should be produced;
- the Chair will write to Muriel Orr re developments with Contact Centres;
- the Chair will write to Laura McPoland, chair of the Inter-Departmental Group on Positive Parenting to draw attention to DV issues.

6.2 Other issues agreed were:

- the development of a list of perpetrator programmes to be referred to the Law Sub-Group;
- a copy of the evaluation of the NSPCC pilot programmes should be circulated to the Group when available;
- the position regarding the roll-out and audit of UNOCINI to be checked.

7. AOB

7.1 Workplace Policies

It was suggested that an annual “DV in the Workplace” day might encourage employers to introduce workplace policies. This will be raised with RSG.

Secretariat reported that 200 employers had responded to the survey conducted in June/July 2006. Assuming that survey forms were issued to all employers who had been sent the guidelines (approximately 4,000), this represented a return rate of about 5%. The following table summarises the results of the survey:

	Number	%
Have or intend to introduce a policy	20	10
Will consider introducing a policy	124	62
Have no plans to introduce a policy	56	28

A follow-up survey to those employers who indicated that they would consider introducing a policy will be undertaken soon

7.2 Ministerial Committee on Children

Secretariat agreed to investigate membership etc of this Group and report to the Sub-Group at the next meeting.

7.3 NIWAF Research – Access to Services for Ethnic Minorities etc
This work is now completed and the Department is awaiting a copy of the final report. The report will be circulated when available.

7.4 Court Undertakings
Concern was raised that perpetrators who give “undertakings” in Court and do not keep to them cannot be pursued to the same extent as Non-Molestation Orders. It was agreed that need for an amendment to the 1998 Order to give adequate recourse where undertaking are not kept would be raised with RSG. This will also be referred to the Law Sub-Group.

8. Dates of next meeting

8.1 The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19 March 2008 at 2.00pm, venue to be confirmed.