

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

**WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 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
Pip Jaffa Parents' Advice Centre
Sharon Breslin NSPCC
Angela McLernon DHSSPS
Dawn Shaw NCH

Secretariat: Paul Cassidy Domestic Violence Unit

1. Introductions and Apologies

1.1 An apology was received from Hilary Wells, Office of Care & Protection

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2008

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 19 March 2008 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 *Barnardo's Risk Assessment Model*

The Chair wrote to the Western HSS Board regarding the use of the Barnardo's Risk Assessment Model. A reply has not been received, leading the Chair to assume that the model is not being used. This will be followed up. It was stressed that it is important that all trusts buy into this to ensure a regional standard. The matter will also be raised with RSG.

3.2 Joan advised that the report of an evaluation of the Model will be available soon and will go to the RSG for consideration. The Chair advised that UNOCINI was also being evaluated.

3.3 *Cafcass Guidance*

A small Group met on 30 May to consider the Cafcass Guidance "Vision for services..." and agreed that it should be adopted for NI. The Secretariat contacted Cafcass to get their agreement to producing a NI version of the document. Cafcass had referred to the Local Government Association who actually produced the document. So far the LGA has not responded to enquiries. Secretariat will pursue. The Group will meet again when this is clarified.

3.4 *RSG Workshop*

The RSG workshop on 6 June had looked at the current structures. It had been agreed that the Sub-Groups should be re-structured to mirror the three strands in the Strategy (Prevention, Protection and Justice, and Support). However, given the important issues being considered, the C&YP Sub-Group

it will remain until these tasks are completed. A written report of the workshop will be circulated in due course.

4 Action Plan

- 4.1 A final draft Action Plan had been circulated by the Chair on 10 June. It was hoped to sign off on the action plan at this meeting. It was agreed that a column be added to measure outcomes and that some timeframes should be tighter (ie rather than “ongoing”). As several issues require follow up, it suggested that a column also be added re “progress to date”.

Children’s Commissioner

- 4.2 As agreed at the last meeting, the Chair wrote to the Children’s Commissioner asking for DV to be included in the Commissioner’s Corporate Plan. The Commissioner replied on 13 June indicating that the Corporate Plan was now being finalised, taking account of comments received in the draft. The Group agreed that a follow-up letter be issued lobbying for the inclusion of DV. It was suggested that a process is needed to keep issues “live” with the Children’s Commissioner, such as inviting her to meetings of the Sub-Group.

NI Youth Forum

- 4.2 The Secretariat had contacted the NI Youth Forum regarding the possibility of meeting with the Sub-Group. However, a response had not been received. This will be followed up.

Children’s Services Planning

- 4.3 EHSSB had advised the Chair that there is no specific Planning sub-group for DV. The matter should be raised through the Area Child Protection Committee. The matter will also be referred to RSG for advice. It was pointed out that links also exist between the Regional HSC Board, the new Regional Public Health Authority and the Safeguarding Board.
- 4.4 It was agreed that members of the EHSSB Planning Group should be invited to a future meeting of the Sub-Group.

Guidelines

- 4.4 It was suggested that if the Group is to review current guidelines, the Group should identify good practice against which to measure current guidelines. “Good Practice Indicators” was suggested as a model.

5. AOB

- 5.1 It was noted that the DV Media Campaign targeting perpetrators will begin in July and includes a new TV ad and a range of AdShel posters, restroom posters, drip mats and newspapers ads.
- 5.2 It was agreed that the Chair would draft a letter to the Chair of RSG highlighting some of the issues which concern the Sub-Group and asking for guidance at regional level on how to address them. The issues are:
- response times to referrals and competence of social workers;
 - Roll-out of Barnardo’s Risk Assessment Model (WHSSB);

- Links between RSG, C&YP Sub-Group and Children's Services Planning;
- Data collection;
- Contact Centres

The Chair will draft a letter and circulate to members for comment.

6. Dates of next meeting

- 6.1 The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10 December 2008 at 2.00pm, venue to be confirmed.