

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

**TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2005**

**ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- In attendance:** Ken Wilson (Chair) Social Services Inspectorate, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety  
Joan McGovern Barnardos  
Anne Marks Police Service of Northern Ireland  
Pip Jaffa Parents Advice Centre  
David Mann Department of Education (NI)  
Debbie Mehaffey Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation  
Margaret Graham Midwifery Advisory Group, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety  
Caroline Holloway National Society for the Prevention and Cruelty to Children
- Apologies:** John Devaney Eastern Health and Social Services Board  
Dawn Shaw NCH - National Children's Home  
Hilary Wells Central Services Agency  
Liz Shaw Southern Health and Social Services Board
- In attendance:** Maddie Bell Barnardos
- Secretariat:** Kevin Shiels Domestic Violence Unit  
Marie Austin Domestic Violence Unit

**1. Introductions and Apologies**

1.1 Mr Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2005**

2.1 Members agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2005.

**3. Matters Arising**

3.1 Mr Wilson informed members that he had written to Ms Pauline Leeson (CiNI) to seek advice on how to access the views of children affected by domestic violence. Ms Jaffa agreed to raise the matter at the next CiNI Board meeting.

**Action:** Ms Jaffa to raise matter at next CiNI Board meeting

- 3.2 A paper mapping preventative programmes/materials being used in schools was tabled. Members noted that Women's Aid was the main provider of programmes for schools.
- 3.3 Mr Wilson informed members that he and staff from the Domestic Violence Unit had met with Ms Mary Potter and Mr Brian White from the Department of Education to consider ways in which domestic violence issues could be addressed through child protection procedures within schools. It was agreed that, in the first instance, Mr White should raise the issue of domestic violence at the next Anti-Bullying Forum meeting because of the links between domestic violence and bullying. Mr Shiels agreed to contact the Chair of the Forum to establish links between the Anti-Bullying Forum and the Regional Steering Group on Domestic Violence. It was also agreed that the Chair of the Children and Young People Sub-Group and the Domestic Violence Unit should meet with Department of Education colleagues twice-yearly to consider further domestic violence and child protection issues.

**Action:** Mr Shiels to contact the Chair of the Anti-Bullying Forum to establish links between the Anti-Bullying Forum and the Regional Steering Group on Domestic Violence

**Action:** DV Unit to arrange meetings with Department of Education

#### **4. Presentation on Barnardo's Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Model**

- 4.1 Ms Maddie Bell (Barnardos) gave a brief presentation on Barnardo's Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Model which had been used to assess the severity of risk posed by domestic violence within families where children are present. Some of the areas covered included:

- Background;
- Principles of the model;
- Assessment areas;
- Threshold scales; and
- Findings from pilot studies.

The model had been piloted in three Health and Social Services Trusts in the Southern Health and Social Services Board and the Ulster Community Hospitals Trust. Members noted that the Regional Steering Group had allocated funding of £20k in-year and £40k for 3 years thereafter to fund provision of a mentoring service for the roll-out of the model across the four Board areas. Ms Bell had already discussed roll-out of the model with three of the Boards and would be arranging a meeting shortly with the Northern Board. The Group asked to be kept informed of developments as roll-out continued.

## **5. Proving support for children who have witnessed domestic violence**

- 5.1 Members considered a copy of guidance produced by the Home Office - *Tackling Domestic Violence: providing support for children who have witnessed domestic violence*. Members agreed that this guidance should be considered by the Domestic Violence Unit for issue to relevant organisations accompanied by a regional resource/contact list.  
**Action:** DV Unit to consider distributing Home Office guidance and regional resource/contact list

## **6. Possible development of Child Contact Centres**

- 6.1 Members considered the way forward in relation to Child Contact Centres. Mr Shiels suggested that a multi-departmental bid may be appropriate to access funding to extend child contact services in a number of locations on a pilot basis. Ms Jaffa suggested that any future bid would need to address alternative dispute resolutions. There was general consensus that the issue of Child Contact Centres would sit better with the Children in Need Strategy and the Family Parenting Strategy but that the Regional Steering Group and the Children and Young People Sub-Group should continue to monitor the position and encourage further development.

## **7. Domestic Violence on the School Curriculum**

- 7.1 Mr Mann agreed to contact Ms Glynnis Henderson from the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) to find out the position in relation to domestic violence on the curriculum. Ms Henderson had agreed at a meeting of the Information Sub-Group (23 May 2005) to consider the opportunities for inclusion of references to domestic violence in relevant areas of the draft curriculum framework and report her findings via Department of Education.  
**Action:** Mr Mann to contact CCEA and report back to the Sub-Group
- 7.2 Mr Shiels informed the Group that Ms Catherine Reilly, Chair of the Information Sub-Group, had agreed that the Children and Young People Sub-Group should take forward the issue of domestic violence and schools as the issue straddled both areas and the Information Sub-Group had already a heavy workload. Mr Mann agreed to follow up with his Education colleagues on the development of Northern Ireland domestic violence guidance for teachers and others working with children and young people and report position to the Domestic Violence Unit and to the next meeting.  
**Action:** Mr Mann to follow up with colleagues the possible production of domestic violence guidance for head teachers and others working with children and young people.

## **8. Collection and dissemination of statistics**

8.1 Mr Shiels informed members that statistics colleagues in DHSSPS and NIO were considering draft guidance on the collection and management of domestic violence data and that a copy would be issued to all members in due course.

**9. Any other business**

9.1 Members agreed that Mr John Devanney should be approached in relation to taking up the position of Deputy Chair of the Sub-Group.  
**Action:** Mr Wilson to contact John Devanney in relation to the matter.

**10. DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING**

10.1 The next meeting of the Sub-Group was scheduled for Wednesday 30 November 2005 at 10.00 a.m. in Room 21, Parliament Buildings, Stormont.