

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMATION SUB GROUP OF
THE REGIONAL STEERING GROUP ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2005 AT 10.00 A.M.
ROOM 135, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, STORMONT**

Present

Catherine Reilly	Ulster Community and Hospital Trust (Chair)
Maxine McCutcheon	Men's Advisory Project
Marlene Carmichael	Northern Ireland Office (for Edel Robinson)
Eugene Mooney	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
Stephanie Mallon	Women's Aid Federation (for Una Cullen)
Robin Dempsey	Police Service of Northern Ireland
Pauline Mooney	Police Service of Northern Ireland
Marie Austin	Domestic Violence Unit
Kevin Shiels	Domestic Violence Unit

Apologies

Liz McCrystal	Skills for Justice
Una Cullen	Women's Aid Federation
Edel Robinson	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
Grace Henry	Help the Aged/Age Concern
Glynnis Henderson	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment
Máire Andrews	Men to Men

1. Introduction and apologies

1.1 Ms Reilly welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 13 September 2005

2.1 Members agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 13 September 2005 without amendment.

3. Matters arising

3.1 *Routine Enquiry*

Mr Shiels informed members that DHSSPS planned to produce a routine enquiry policy circular in early 2006. Mr Shiels had already met with DHSSPS nursing colleagues to discuss the matter and future meetings would take place with relevant organisations to consider the issue further and develop the guidance.

Action: Domestic Violence Unit to arrange meeting with Ms Reilly (Chair); DHSSPS nursing colleagues; Eithne Gilligan (WAFNI); and a representative from The Beeches Management Centre.

- 3.2 *Collection and management of domestic violence data*
Mr Shiels reported that a draft paper on a guidance framework for the collection and management of domestic violence data would issue to all members in early 2006.
Action: Mr Mooney to make final amendments to paper and forward to DV Unit for distribution
- 3.3 *Domestic Violence on the school curriculum*
Members noted that the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment intends to undertake consultation in the New Year on the draft framework guidance for teachers on the new curriculum. Members welcomed the opportunity to consider and comment on the guidance when available.
Action: DV Unit to contact CCEA to confirm that sub-group will be consulted on the draft framework guidance for teachers
- 3.3.1 Ms Anne Graham tabled a copy of *'Delivering domestic violence preventative education programmes in schools and external settings: Good Practice Guidelines'* which had been produced by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland and requested that a copy be sent to CCEA for possible inclusion in any list of resources guidance that CCEA may produce for schools about the new curriculum.
Action: DV Unit to forward copy of WAF guidance to CCEA
- 3.3.2 Mr Shiels informed members that the production of specific domestic violence guidance for head teachers and others working with children and young people was still being considered.
- 4. Future media campaigns (2005/06 and 2006/07) and possible contributions from Departments**
- 4.1 Members considered the media campaign for 2005/06 and the effect the October media burst had had on domestic violence reports to police; calls to the Helpline; and, referrals to other services. Mr Dempsey informed the group that since the launch of the Helpline, with the exception of October 2005, there had been an increase of at least 100 reports per month to the police. Mr Dempsey agreed to forward the statistics to the Domestic Violence Unit.
Action: Mr Dempsey to forward statistics to the Domestic Violence Unit.
Action: Ms Mallon to forward available Helpline statistics on access for minority ethnic groups and those with disabilities.
- 4.2 Members felt that the Radio Ad may have had a particular effect on the increase in reports to the police and calls to Helpline. Mr Shiels agreed to contact AV Browne to establish whether any evaluation would be undertaken into the October 2005 and January 2006 campaigns.
Action: DV Unit to contact AV Browne regarding possible evaluation of recent media campaign

- 4.3 Members agreed to consider the current objectives for the media campaign and review them at the next meeting. Mr Shiels advised that he had been in contact with BT regarding advertising in public telephone boxes and agreed to update members at the next meeting.
Action: Members to consider media campaign objectives at March meeting
Action: DV Unit to consider other domestic violence media campaigns (such as the Metropolitan Police - <http://www.met.police.uk/dv/publicity.htm>) and report at next meeting

5. Possible audit of schools to establish number that have taken up DV training and to identify provider(s)

- 5.1 Members considered a possible audit of schools to establish the number that have taken up DV training and to identify provider(s). It was agreed that a questionnaire should be developed and sent to schools with the domestic violence guidance for head teachers and others working with children and young people that is to be developed and issued in June 2006 (Action Plan target date). Members agreed that this item should be considered further at the next meeting.

6. Young People's Behaviour and Attitudes Survey and Omnibus Survey- possibility of including questions relating to domestic violence

- 6.1 Members considered the possibility of including questions relating to domestic violence in the Young People's Behaviour and Attitudes Survey and the Omnibus Survey. A discussion paper providing details of both surveys was tabled at the meeting (see Annex 1). Members felt that the Young People's Behaviour and Attitudes Survey would best meet the needs of the Group. However, it was agreed that members should consider further and discuss at the next meeting. Members agreed to consider also at the next meeting the findings from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey and the survey completed for 'Sugar' magazine.
Action: DV Unit to issue latest NI DV Crime Survey bulletin with the minutes of the meeting
Action: Ms Mallon to send DV Unit copy of 'Sugar' magazine press release

7. Draft Training Strategy

- 7.1 Ms Reilly informed members that the Regional Steering Group Sub-Group chairs had met with members of the DV Unit to consider the way forward in relation the draft training strategy. A meeting will take place in the New Year with Scottish colleagues to discuss their experiences in developing and implementing the Scottish training strategy, which is being reviewed at present. Mr Shiels agreed to update members at the next meeting.

8. Development of Domestic Violence Website (within DHSSPS home site)

- 8.1 Ms Austin informed members that a domestic violence website - within the DHSSPS home site – is being developed. Members will be given the opportunity to view the draft website and make comments/suggestions.

Action: DV Unit to forward CD of draft website to members for comment/suggestions

9. Domestic Violence Workplace Guidance and feedback from members on position within their own organisations re: dv workplace policy

- 9.1 Mr Shiels reported that some organisations already had domestic violence guidelines in place and that the NICS and NIO would be introducing a domestic violence policy at the end of the year or early 2006. Members noted that contact had been made with Trade Unions and CIPD on how best to approach the introduction of a workplace policy with other large public and private sector organisations. Ms Reilly informed members that the Ulster Community Hospitals Trust had not got a workplace policy in place, however she would raise the matter with Senior Management. It was agreed that all the organisations represented on the Regional Steering Group and its Sub-Groups should set an example to other organisations by introducing a DV workplace policy.

Action: all members of sub-group to approach personnel departments or senior management within their relevant organisations about the introduction of DV workplace policies and report progress at next meeting

- 9.2 Members noted that the DV Unit, together with the Community Safety Unit of NIO, was giving consideration to holding a Corporate Alliance event for employers on Domestic Violence, possibly in April/May2006.

10. Action Plan target (December 2006) to update Domestic Violence Guidance for Faith Communities

- 10.1 Ms Reilly reported that consideration was being given to updating the existing Domestic Violence Guidance for Faith Communities (published in 1999 by the Regional Forum on Domestic Violence NI). Members agreed that a letter should be sent to the main churches seeking help to update existing guidance. Ms Mallon and Mr Dempsey agreed to forward details of contacts in relevant churches /organisations to DV Unit.

Action: DV Unit to draft letter to main churches enclosing strategy and action plan and a copy of existing Guidance for Faith Communities

11. Advice on possible research proposals (e.g. DV and Children and Routine Enquiry maternity)

- 11.1 Mr Mooney advised members that there was no protocol for requesting research. However, he stated that he would be willing to speak to any member of Regional Steering Group and its Sub-Groups in relation to the commissioning and funding of research into domestic violence.

12. Attendance at Raising The Standards Conference (6 & 7 February 2006)

- 12.1 Ms Austin informed members that invites for the Raising The Standards Conference would issue shortly.
- 12.2 Ms Mallon asked that invites to the RTS Conference be issued to Women's Aid Team Leaders. Ms Austin explained that there were a limited number of places for the conference (200 delegates) and that Northern Ireland was entitled to only a fraction of these (approx 40). Therefore, it would be unlikely that any more members of Women's Aid would be invited to attend.

13. Any other business

- 13.1 Mr Shiels informed members that he would meet in the near future with representatives from the Drugs and Alcohol Steering Group to discuss links with domestic violence. Mr Shiels agreed to update members at the next meeting.

14. Date and venue for next meeting

- 14.1 The next meeting of the Information Sub Group was arranged for Tuesday 14 March 2006 at 10.00 a.m. Venue to be confirmed.

Information Sub-Group of the Regional Steering Group on Domestic Violence

Introduction

At our meeting on 13 September 2005, members considered the possibility of including questions relating to domestic violence in:

- (1) the Young Person's Behaviour and Attitudes Survey and
- (2) the Omnibus Survey.

1. Young Person's Behaviour and Attitudes Survey

The Young Persons Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) is a school-based survey conducted among 11-16 year-olds. The research covers a range of topics, relevant to the lives of young people today such as school, nutrition, sports, smoking, alcohol, solvents, drugs, policing, personal safety, sexual experience and knowledge, relationships, the environment and travelling to school.

In 2000, 62 schools and 6297 pupils took part in the survey compared to 74 schools and 7223 pupils in 2003.

Two rounds of the survey have taken place - the first in Autumn 2000 and the second in Autumn 2003. It is hoped that the next will take place Autumn 2006 although this has not been confirmed. A copy of the 2003 survey is attached.

2. Omnibus Survey

The Omnibus Survey, which is also designed and conducted by CSU issues 4/5 times each year to 2200 households (one person Aged over 16 from each household is selected). It a sample survey which contains questions about a wide range of issues. The content of the Omnibus survey is different on each occasion as the clients, who differ on each run of the survey, provide the majority of the question blocks.

There are however several sections of questions which are core to the survey. The following areas of information are collected in every Omnibus survey.

- Household composition
- Age of dwelling
- Tenure of dwelling
- Education details
- Employment details
- Personal income
- Household income
- Religion

The survey is designed to provide a snapshot of the lifestyle and views of the people of Northern Ireland. Clients can receive statistical output and databases or both. Statistical output consists of tables showing the results by certain variables asked for by the client. These include age, gender, religion, socio-economic group, area (ie. Belfast, East of the Province, West of the Province), Urban/Rural area. Clients are then free to publish the results.

There would be no possibility of including information in an omnibus survey until September or October 2006. The cost per question on this survey is currently £750 and is under review with a likely increase for next year.

Members of the Information Sub-Group need to consider:

- whether one of these existing surveys (or both) should be used to ask questions on domestic violence
- what questions and issues we wish to address in a survey(s)
- what type and breakdown of data may be required
- into what context domestic violence questions should be placed (for example in which section of a survey)
- the possibility of commissioning a specific survey on domestic violence.