

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

**TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 9.30 A.M.
ROOM 135, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, STORMONT**

Present

Maxine McCutcheon	Men's Advisory Project
Edel Robinson	Northern Ireland Office
Eugene Mooney	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
Stephanie Mallon	Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation
Marie Austin	Domestic Violence Unit
Elaine Farrell	Domestic Violence Unit

Apologies

Catherine Reilly	Ulster Community and Hospital Trust (Chair)
Liz McCrystal	Skills for Justice
Grace Henry	Help the Aged/Age Concern
Robin Dempsey	Police Service of Northern Ireland
Lynn Cree	Queens University, Belfast
James Knox	Rainbow Project
Kevin Shiels	Domestic Violence Unit

1. Introduction and apologies

Ms Austin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 23 May 2005 and 26 July 2005

Members agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 23 May 2005 and 26 July 2005 without amendment.

3. Consideration and appointment of Deputy Chair

Ms Austin informed members that Mr Shiels and Ms Reilly had suggested Eugene Mooney as Deputy Chair of the Information Sub-Group. Members were content with the proposal and Dr Mooney advised that he was happy to accept the position.

4. Publicity Campaign(s) - update on campaign proposals for 2005/06

Members viewed the new TV ad and posters and Ms Austin updated members on the publicity campaign and what had been agreed by the Regional Steering Group at its meeting on 8 September 2005:

Television

- The original Doll's House Ad will be re-run but with a new strap-line 'Anyone can suffer. So anyone can call 0800 917 1414'
- Subtitling will be added for the benefit of people with hearing difficulties

Outdoor

- Two posters will be used – one in the form of a mirror, the other as text. The mirror will be used for washrooms, and the text version for A2 rear-of-driver bus posters and for general distribution (hospitals, GP surgeries, chemists, student unions etc)
- No logos will be displayed. Consideration will be given in the future to branding advertising with Regional Steering Group on Domestic Violence.

Radio

Ms Austin advised that whilst the TV ad and the outdoor materials had been agreed by the Regional Steering Group at its meeting on 8 September 2005, there was still scope for amendment to the radio ad. Members considered the proposed radio ad and suggested the following amendments:

- Add "freephone the 24 hour domestic violence helpline";
- Include both a rural accent and ethnic voice;
- Remove "it's time you talked about it" and replace with "there is someone you can talk to".

Action: DV Unit to consider suggested amendments and liaise with AV Browne

5. Routine Enquiry Survey

Ms Austin reported that Mr Shiels and Ms Vera Kelso (Midwifery Advisor DHSSPS) had written to the Directors of Nursing Services within each of the trusts to establish the current position regarding existing arrangements or future plans regarding Routine Enquiry of Pregnant Women about domestic violence. The results of the survey had been positive and Ms Kelso, Mr Shiels and Ms Reilly would now meet to consider to whether a DHSSPS Departmental circular is needed to set out a new Northern Ireland policy on the matter. Ms Mallon suggested that Chris Holt from the Royal/Jubilee Maternity Hospital should be consulted on the matter.

Action: DV Unit to arrange meeting with Vera Kelso and Catherine Reilly

6. Collection and management of domestic violence data

Ms Austin reported that Dr Mooney and Ms Robinson were considering draft guidance on the collection and management of domestic violence data and that a copy would be issued to members in due course.

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

Dr Mooney reported that he had met recently with the Domestic Violence Unit to consider a possible audit of schools to establish the number that have taken up DV training and to identify provider(s). Ms Mallon expressed some concern that schools may not have recorded the training as “domestic violence” as training provided by Women’s Aid would not be labelled as such. Ms Mallon suggested that schools be asked to provide information on any training programmes that may be relevant to domestic violence e.g. Healthy Relationships, No Fear, Helping Hands, Girl Power etc. Members agreed that further consideration should be given to matter and that the item should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Ms Mallon to send Ms Austin a copy of the questionnaire used by NIWAF to gather training information from schools.

8. Young People’s Behaviour and Attitudes Survey – possibility of including questions relating to domestic violence

Members considered the possibility of including questions relating to domestic violence in the Young People’s Behaviour and Attitudes Survey, which is carried out on a random sample of 16-18 year olds (from one class) each year. Dr Mooney agreed to provide members with a copy of a previous survey for consideration. Dr Mooney also suggested the possibility of including questions in the Omnibus Survey which issues 4/5 times each year to 2200 households (one person from each household selected). Members agreed that this matter should be placed on agenda for further consideration

Action: Dr Mooney to provide members with a copy of the last Young People’s Behaviour and Attitudes Survey

Action: DV Unit to prepare discussion paper and place item on agenda for consideration at next meeting.

9. Domestic Violence on the school curriculum

Ms Austin advised that following discussions with Ms Reilly it had been agreed that the Children and Young People Sub-Group would take forward domestic violence on the school curriculum. All members were content with the proposal.

10. Date and venue for next meeting

The next meeting of the Information Sub Group was arranged for Monday 12 December 2005 at 10.00 a.m. in Room 135, Parliament Buildings.