

MINUTES OF THE NI DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND LAW SUBGROUP MEETING AT MILLENNIUM HOUSE ON TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2006

Attendees

Sharon Harley, CSU (Chair)
Mervyn Bates RM, NICtS
Alice Beggs, NICtS (*Substituting for Mandy Kilpatrick*)
Marie Brown, Foyle Women's Aid
Anne Graham, WAF
Clare Irvine, OLR
Mairead Lavery, PPS
Pauline Mooney, PSNI
Kieran McShane, SHSSB
Jo O'Reilly, Secretary

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Sharon Harley welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Domestic Violence and Law Sub-Group for 2006 and in particular to Kieran McShane. Sharon provided a brief outline of the group's remit.
- 1.2 Apologies : Fiona Greene (Victim Support), Pauline Mooney (PSNI), Eileen McAllister (PBNI), and Peter O'Brien (Law Society).

2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25 APRIL 2006

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 25 April are agreed without amendment.

3 REGIONAL STEERING GROUP ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MINUTES

- 3.1 See points 4 – 9 below.
- 3.2 Media Campaign – A two year strategy has been agreed with AV Browne looking at physiological abuse for 2006/07. Approval has been received from the Scottish Executive to use the latest TV ad targeting this (dubbed NI accents). It has also been agreed to develop a radio advert for male victims and an outdoor campaign. Marie Browne raised concern over the number/placing of the Ad-Shels in Newry, Enniskillen and Limavady in the last campaign. It was agreed to share any future locations in advance of the campaign with members. Sharon advised that the 2007/08 campaign will return to the doll's house advert - focusing on physical abuse - and will look at putting more focus on perpetrators

Action 2: Jo to send WAF and other members locations of future Ad-Shels locations.

Note: Since this meeting two media burst have been agreed from 7 August to 3 September 2006 and 8 to 28 January 2007. The August Campaign includes the TV ad focusing on physiological abuse, a 2 wk period of radio ads aimed at male victims, and an outdoor campaign that includes both washrooms and buses (no Ad-Shels).

Note: To be included on the next agenda.

4 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND WORKPLACE POLICIES

- 4.1 Sharon Harley advised that civil service has signed up to a workplace policy and the Minister on 22 May 2006 launched the 'Guidance on Workplace Policy on Domestic Violence and Abuse' at Hillsborough Castle. About 80 organisations and businesses from across the public, private, volunteer and community sector attended the event. Over 4200 copies of the Guidance have now been issued and from responses back have indicated that 50-60% of employers will consider introducing. A copy of the Guidelines was circulated at the meeting. The DV unit is looking at establishing a database for follow up.
- 4.2 The Minister is keen to establish an accreditation for businesses that introduce a workplace policy.
- 4.3 Marie Brown advised that Altnagelvin Hospital, Foyle Trust, Limavady and Strabane Councils have all introduced a workplace policy.

Note: To be included on the next agenda.

5 WOMEN'S AID/ VICTIM SUPPORT NI JOINT PROTOCOL

- 5.1 Feedback on the Protocol has been very positive. Anne Graham advised that the Minister was due to launch on 24 July and that both organisations would revisit the Protocol in 6mths. Copies of the Protocol were circulated.

6 NON-VIOLENT RELATIONSHIPS PROJECT (NVRP)

- 6.1 Sharon provided a current update and advised that personnel had been identified from each organisation but still looking at the issue of accommodation.

Note: To be included on the next agenda.

7 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CRIME AND VICTIMS ACT 2004; AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REVIEWS (DVHR)

- 7.1 Sharon Harley advised that she had written out to the statute bodies named in the legislation requesting representation to the DVHR working group. She also reported that the Home Office are currently consulting on draft guidelines (for England and Wales).

Note: To be included on the next agenda.

8 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ONE STOP SHOP

- 8.1 Sharon Harley reported that Deloitte have completed their research and feasibility study. NIO need to consider recommendations and funding streams. A summary will be made available in due course.
- 8.2 Kevin McShane raised the issue of sharing information and advised that PSNI and Social Services have a joint protocol on child protection services allowing the sharing of information. Sharon Harley advised an amendment to current legislation to allow the sharing of information is being looked at.

Note: To be included on the next agenda

9 OCTOBER CONFERENCE – ‘ONE YEAR ONE’

- 9.1 Sharon advised the group that a Conference looking at the strategy and action plan ‘One Year On’ is arranged for **24 October 2006 at the Comfort Inn, Antrim**. The aim of the conference is to recap on achievements over the last year and to focus on what actions are needed over the next 12mths. Achievable actions identified will ultimately feed into the next annual action plan.
- 9.2 Clare Irvine and Mairead Lavery agreed represent the subgroup on the steering group for this event and attend meeting scheduled for 3 July 2006.
- 9.3 Maire Brown agreed to check timescales on production of the Young People’s DVD.

Action 3: Chair to contact Clare and Mairead on Planning Group.

Action 4: Marie Brown to check DVD timescale.

Note: To be included on the next agenda

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 Sharon stated that NIO/DHSSPS had been approached by the Judicial Studies Board to make a presentation to the Judiciary in October.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 11.1 The date of the next meeting is **2.30pm on Tuesday 26 September 2006 in Millennium House**.

Jo O’Reilly
Secretary