

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

**FRIDAY 30 MARCH 2007 AT 10.00 A.M.
D2 Video Conferencing Room, Castle Buildings**

Present

Maxine McCutcheon	Men's Advisory Project
Stephanie Mallon	Women's Aid Federation
Liz McCrystal	Skills for Justice
Edel Robinson	NIO
Pauline Mooney	PSNI
Mark Peters	PSNI
Michael Sweeney	Domestic Violence Unit
Paul Cassidy	Domestic Violence Unit

Apologies

Catherine Reilly	UCHT (Chair)
Duane Farrell	Help The Aged

1. Introduction and apologies

1.1 Mr Sweeney welcomed everyone to the meeting. He suggested that, in the absence of both the Chair and vice-Chair, a formal meeting could not take place. However those members present agreed that an informal exchange of information would be useful. Ms Mallon agreed to act as informal Chair.

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 5 October 2006

2.1 Members were content with the minutes of the 5 October meeting.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Workplace Policies

DV Unit reported that the letter to umbrella organisations would issue shortly.

3.1 Media Campaign

At RSG a poster campaign dealing with perpetrators was suggested, possibly in conjunction with the PSNI. MAP were concerned that the issue should not be treated as a female only issue otherwise it will be difficult to get male perpetrators and victims "on board". NIWAF suggested that a gender-neutral approach could be considered as with the drink/drive campaigns which concentrated on the wrongness of the act. A meeting will be arranged with A V Browne and it was agreed that this issue be parked until then.

3.2 Guidance Documents

Guidance for LDVPs

At the meeting on 13 March, RSG agreed that the Information Sub-Group should finalise the document at the next meeting. It was agreed that LDVPs should be made up of people at an appropriate level who can influence

positive change within their organisations. An appropriate paragraph should be added to reflect this.

Guidance for Agencies

This document has not yet been issued for wide consultation. It was considered briefly at the RSG meeting on 13 March when RSG agreed that the Information Sub-Group should consider a wider consultation. It was agreed that the document be issued for consultation to the "Section 75" list of organisations. NIWAF also have a list of agencies and this will be forwarded to DVU.

4. Helpline Report October – December 2006

- 4.1 In response to queries, NIWAF confirmed
- that the data on page 8 was not by population but was related only to the number of people who "disclosed";
 - data on "non-disclosure" could be included in the next quarterly report;
 - the data on page 9 re children and women is not mutually exclusive in that children enter refuges with mothers.

5. Collection and Management of Domestic Violence Data

- 5.1 The tender had been awarded to Deloitte and a Project Initiation Meeting was to be arranged. There has been some slippage with the timescale but it is hoped that the project will be complete by the end of July.

6. Domestic Violence and Abuse Surveys

- 6.1 The Children and Young People survey questionnaire had been revised following discussions and should be piloted in schools before Easter. Hopefully the DV module will be included in the survey which will be conducted in October. Following feedback from schools the questionnaire will be circulated around the Group for further comment.
- 6.2 There was a brief discussion during which MAP voiced concerns that surveys were not dual sex surveys and that they had concerns with some data produced. MAP was also concerned that survey questionnaires might be biased against male perpetrators. Both PSNI and NIO confirmed that the Crime Survey was not gender specific.
- 6.2 A meeting to discuss the Bristol Snapshot will take place on Wednesday 4 April.

7, Any Other Business

- 7.1 It was agreed that membership of the Group should be considered at the next meeting.
- 7.2 NIWAF referred to a review of DV literature produced by Mary Barnish, HM Inspectorate of Probation. It was agreed that it would be distributed to members for information.

7.3 It was agreed that the next meeting would consider the Action Plan for 2007/08 and identify priorities for the Information Sub-Group.

8. Date of next meeting

8.1 The next meeting will be on Friday 8 June at 10.00am, venue to be confirmed.