

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

**MONDAY 30 APRIL 2007
2.00pm, HILTON HOTEL, BELFAST**

Present:	Liz Shaw (Chair) Joan McGovern Anne Graham Master Hilary Wells Pip Jaffa Mark Peters	Southern Health and Social Services Board Barnardos Women's Aid (<i>in place of Debbie Mehaffy</i>) Northern Ireland Court Service Parents Advice Centre PSNI
Apologies:	Caroline Holloway Angela McLernon Mary Quinn	NSPCC DHSSPS EHSSB
Secretariat:	Michael Sweeney Paul Cassidy	Domestic Violence Unit Domestic Violence Unit

1. Introductions and Apologies

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Caroline Holloway, NSPCC, Angela McLernon, DHSSPS and Mary Quinn, EHSSB. Anne Graham was attending in place of Debbie Mehaffy, NI Women's Aid.

1.2 In view of the length of time since the last meeting, the Chair asked if members would take stock of the role and purpose of the Group. A brief discussion followed during which the following points were made:

- RSG looks at domestic violence on an NI basis, this Group needs to concentrate more on children;
- Attendance at meetings has fallen. Membership needs to be reviewed to ensure that there are "core" people involved who can take issues forward. The Chair will write to current members to confirm their commitment to the Group;
- the ToR should be looked at again;
- key actions relating to children should be identified in the current draft action plan and should form the basis for the work of the Group in the coming year;

**Action: Chair to write to members re membership;
Secretariat to circulate current membership and ToR;
Secretariat to identify children's issues in current action plan,**

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2006

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 13 September 2006 were agreed.

3 Letter to John Devanney

3.1 It was noted that the letter to Mr Devanney issued on 13 November 2006.

4. Matters Arising

Draft COAC Guidance

4.1 No comments were offered on the COAC guidance. Master Wells advised that there was a new family judge in NI. There was no longer a children sub-group of COAC – it would be up to each member to raise matters for inclusion in the agenda of the main committee which meets 3 times per year.

Children Order Advisory Committee Web Portal

4.2 Master Wells advised 1 or 2 COAC news sheets are put on the Web portal each year.

Barnardos Risk Assessment Model and UNOCINI

4.3 The Chair advised that UNOCINI was compatible with the Barnardos model and that there should be no conflict between the systems.

5. Vision for Services for children & young people affected by DV

5.4 Chair asked if members had any views on the document and advised that the Children's Services Planning Group had found it useful. Barnardos suggested that a NI version of the document was needed. Master Wells considered that the absence of CAFCASS guidance was a serious matter and queried if a definition of domestic violence in civil law in NI was needed.

6. Rol Documents

6.1 The Group considered that both documents contained useful information.

7. Media Campaign

7.1 Secretariat reported that there might be a delay with this year's media campaign as the Department was in the process of negotiating a new contract. PSNI confirmed a contribution of £20k towards the campaign. Secretariat advised that DHSS had £50k and that DSD had confirmed a contribution of £10k.

8. Action Plan

8.1 A special meeting to consider the action plan took place on 23 April. The plan is now finalised and will be prepared for printing etc.

9. Young Peoples Behaviour Survey

9.1 Secretariat advised that the DV module was to be piloted in some schools at Easter and, following further consideration, it would be included in the main survey in October. The Information Sub-Group would be considering the questionnaire when the pilot programme is complete.

10. How witnessing conflict affects children's development

10.1 The presentation was noted.

11. Draft Training Strategy

- 11.1 Secretariat advised that funding had been secured for the training co-ordinator post. A meeting of the Training Sub-Group is being arranged to take the matter forward.

12. Update from DENI – Guidance for schools on DV

- 12.1 Unfortunately Dorina Edgar was unable to attend the meeting. Secretariat will try to arrange her attendance at the next meeting.

13. AOB

- 13.1 Master Wells suggested that there was a need for a register of places where, for example, a perpetrator could go for help. Magistrates have noted that there is no information available for people who work with perpetrators. A register could map out what services are available. There is a need to ensure that Courts have correct and accurate information. This could be an extremely useful tool. Members agreed that such a register would be very useful tool and that the Sub-Group should consider this further.

14. Dates for Future Meetings

- 14.1 The next meeting will be on Tuesday 19 June 2007 in Belfast.