

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

**FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 10.00 A.M.  
Annexe 7 Conference Room, Castle Buildings**

**Present**

Catherine Reilly	South Eastern HSC Trust (Chair)
Maxine McCutcheon	Men's Advisory Project
Stephanie Mallon	Women's Aid Federation
Liz McCrystal	Skills for Justice
Richard Erskine	NIO
Ursula Duffy	NIO
Mark Peters	PSNI
Michael Sweeney	Domestic Violence Unit
Paul Cassidy	Domestic Violence Unit

**Apologies**

Eugene Mooney	NISRA
Duane Farrell	Help The Aged
Marlene Carmichael	NIO

**1. Introduction and apologies**

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Duane Farrell, Help The Aged and Eugene Mooney, NISRA.

**2. Minutes of the meetings held on 8 June 2007**

2.1 Members were content with the minutes of the 8 June meeting.

**3. Matters arising**

3.1 Media Campaign

Discussions are ongoing with the Executive Information Service (DFP) regarding the contract for the media campaign. The campaign will focus on perpetrators and will run early in 2008. MAP queried if female perpetrators and perpetrators in the gay and lesbian communities will be addressed. Secretariat advised that the brief can be drafted to include this.

3.2 It was agreed that a meeting to consider future media campaigns should be arranged.

3.3. Guidance Documents

*Guidance for LDVPs*

This guidance has been sent to the printers. First proofs are expected soon. LDVPs will be advised by email when it is available on the website.

### *Guidance for Agencies*

A few comments have been received. A final version will be circulated to members before printing.

### *Guidance for Faith Communities*

Consultation on this document is complete. A few comments were received. A final version will be circulated to members before printing.

### *Guidance for MPS/MLAs*

This document will be launched along with the Action Plan in the Autumn.

## **4. Action Plan**

- 4.1 Secretariat reported that it is intended that the Action Plan will be launched in the Autumn along with the guidance for political representatives. The documents will be launched by both Ministers McGimpsey and Goggins, NIO.

### *Workplace Policies*

An analysis of the responses to the workplace survey will be carried out by the Secretariat for the next meeting;

### *Resource Manual*

It had not been possible to arrange a meeting with CMO/CNO. However the Chair sent a submission seeking their support. CMO has agreed to support the introduction of the manual in NI. A response from CNO is awaited.

### *Website*

The website needs revamped. NIWAF will take this forward with the Secretariat.

## **5. Collection and Management of Domestic Violence Data**

- 5.1 The Management Group met on 2 July when at which the concerns raised at the Reference Group were discussed further. It was agreed that Deloitte would proceed on the basis that personal data could be anonymised by means of a unique identifier. Members will be advised of further progress.

## **6. Domestic Violence and Abuse Surveys**

- 6.1 Secretariat reported that there had been some confusion in respect of this survey. Information had been received that the DV module would not be included as the concerns about the questions could not be resolved. Therefore a separate meeting to discuss the survey, as agreed at the last meeting, was not arranged. However, the DV module had not been dropped. Although there are still concerns at the behavioural questions, a decision needs to be made quickly if an attitudinal or behavioural survey should be included. Central Survey Unit (CSU) need a decision by 14 September.
- 6.2 After discussion it was agreed that CSU be advised that an attitudinal survey be included at this stage with the concerns surrounding the behavioural questions being addressed for inclusion in a future survey.

## **7. Any Other Business**

### **7.1 Conference "What about the Children"**

Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid are holding a conference on 13 September entitled "What about the Children". The conference is free and lunch will be provided.

### **7.2 DV Leaflet**

Secretariat tabled a draft information leaflet for political representatives to give to constituents. Comments to be forwarded to Secretariat.

### **7.3**

As has previously been mentioned, it is hoped that an event will be held in the Autumn at which the Action plan and Guidelines for Political Representatives will be launched. An announcement of the establishment of the IMG on domestic and sexual violence might also be made at that time. Further information will be provided nearer the time.

### **7.4**

Liz McCrystal announced that she was leaving Skills for Justice and would not, therefore, be attending any further meeting of the sub-Group. The Chair thanked Liz for her commitment to the work of the sub-Group and wished her well for the future.

### **7.5**

NIWAF is holding their Annual Conference on 28 November. Further information will be provided.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

### **8.1**

The next meeting will be on Friday 7 December at 10.00am, in Room C2.2, Castle Buildings.