

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

**FRIDAY 8 JUNE 2007 AT 10.00 A.M.  
C3.18 Conference Room, Castle Buildings**

**Present**

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

**Apologies**

Duane Farrell	Help The Aged
Una Lynch	QUB

**1. Introduction and apologies**

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Duane Farrell, Help The Aged and Una Lynch, QUB.

**2. Minutes of the meetings held on 30 March 2007**

2.1 Members were content with the minutes of the 30 March meeting.

**3. Matters arising**

3.1 Media Campaign

Secretariat reported that the Department had not yet awarded a new media contract. It had been suggested that if a new contract could not be awarded in the near future, the possibility of using the PSNI media contract should be investigated. This will be considered further.

**Action: Consideration to be given to using PSNI media contract for DV campaign.**

3.2 PSNI will be running a poster campaign. There will be 4 posters dealing with victims of DV, one dealing specifically with male victims. The posters are being finalised and the campaign could run in July or August with a re-run at Christmas. PSNI might decide to target the 6 or 7 most prevalent areas for DV, rather than go for a widespread campaign.

3.3 Guidance Documents  
*Guidance for LDVPs*

This guidance was ready for printing. It will only be made available in electronic format on the DV website. LDVPs will be advised by email when it is available.

#### *Guidance for Agencies*

The consultation period for this document ends on 18 June. 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 and when these are considered a final version will be circulated to members before printing.

#### *Guidance for MPS/MLAs*

This document is ready for printing. Consideration is being given to a launch event to highlight the issue and to publicise the creation of an Inter-Ministerial Group on DV announced by Minister in a recent debate on DV.

### **4. Action Plan**

- 4.1 Secretariat tabled an extract from the Action Plan identifying all action involving the Information Subgroup. The plan was discussed and the following points were made:

#### *Workplace Policies*

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

#### *Resource Manual*

arrangements will be made for the Chair to meet with CMO/CNO to discuss production and dissemination of an NI version of this document. **This should be considered a priority issue for the Group.**

#### *Website*

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

#### *Performance Indicators*

Secretariat will check back through minutes of the Group to determine what the victims/service users survey was to achieve. The target date should be put back to June 2008.

#### *Information Sharing*

The protocols surrounding the sharing of information are the main obstacle to effective information sharing. The Deloitte research project should help with this issue.

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

- 5.1 The Chair reported that she had attended a briefing session arranged by Deloitte for chairs of the LDVPs. Unfortunately only 3 chairs attended. The session was intended to provide clarification on the questionnaire. The questionnaire is complex and there is a tight deadline for completion (18 June).

5.2 The Project Management Team should meet soon to discuss findings. It was queried if the questionnaire could be put on the DV website. NIO agreed to consider this point. It was confirmed that the questionnaire had been sent to the Royal college of General Practitioners for dissemination to GPs. The questionnaire had also been sent to A&E Departments, solicitors, NIHE, PSNI, Social Services Departments, Barnardos and the Law Society.

**Action:** **Meeting of Management Team to be arranged [a meeting is being arranged for w/c 2 July]**  
**Questionnaire to be put on DV website [NIO advise that until the project is complete, the questionnaire is the property of Deloitte and cannot be put on the website]**

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

6.1 Concern was expressed about the questions proposed for inclusion in the DV module of the children and young people survey, as the questions raised child protection issues. The questionnaire was piloted in 2 grammar and 4 secondary schools. There are two questionnaires – behavioural and attitudinal. The DV module was not included but schools were asked for views. Schools were content for attitudinal questions to be asked. However, if behavioural questions are asked, children might actually be reporting crimes and there was concern about how such information should be handled.

6.2 The following points emerged from discussion:

- the Group considered whether a behavioural survey, with caveats, or a attitudinal survey would be best. There was a general consensus that an attitudinal survey, although beneficial, would not produce the information needed. Both surveys should be undertaken, with due regard to the duty of care.
- the results of the survey will be available in May 2008. A database will also be available that will allow further analysis of the results across all data fields;
- there are other surveys available – NSPCC, PricewaterhouseCoopers and a recent SHSSB survey;
- NIWAF tabled figures that suggested that between 8000 and 32000 children in NI were affected by domestic violence
- a smaller group, including representation from the Children and Young People subgroup should consider the matter further.

**Action:** **Small group to consider further, including representative from C&YP Subgroup.**

## **7, Membership of Sub-Group**

7.1 Concern at poor attendance had been expressed at the last meeting. However, it was accepted that for some members DV was a secondary or tertiary concern. Papers will continue to be sent to all members to encourage attendance. Mrs Reilly agreed to continue as chair and Mr Mooney as Deputy Chair.

**8. Any Other Business**

8.1 MARAC

PSNI gave a brief summary of the MARAC evaluation. MARAC is being written into the PSNI domestic violence policy and it is intended to roll MARAC out across all PSNI districts. PSNI are keen to engage with all stakeholders to encourage the use of MARAC. PSNI have a 15 minute DVD but a training package might be required for all agencies involved. PSNI have emailed Chair of RSG and others to consider how to take MARAC forward. Group will be kept informed of developments.

8.2 NIWAF Poster Campaign “Real Men Don’t”

A poster was circulated for members’ information.

**9. Date of next meeting**

9.1 The next meeting will be on Friday 7 September at 10.00am, venue to be confirmed.