

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

**FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER 2007 AT 10.00 A.M.
Room C2.2, Castle Buildings**

Present

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|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Catherine Reilly | South Eastern HSC Trust (Chair) |
| Maxine McCutcheon | Men's Advisory Project |
| Stephanie Mallon | Women's Aid Federation |
| Richard Erskine | NIO |
| Ursula Duffy | NIO |
| Mark Peters | PSNI |
| Duane Farrell | Help The Aged |
| Judith Bell | NISRA |
| Paul Cassidy | Domestic Violence Unit |

Apologies

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Eugene Mooney | NISRA |
| Marlene Carmichael | NIO |
| Michael Sweeney, DHSSPS | |

1. Introduction and apologies

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Eugene Mooney, NISRA, Marlene Carmichael, NIO and Michael Sweeney, DHSSPS. Judith Bell was attending on behalf of Eugene Mooney.

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 7 September 2007

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 7 September were agreed subject to adding Ursula Duffy to the list of attendees.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Workplace Policies

Secretariat reported that 200 employers had responded to the survey conducted in June/July 2006. Assuming that survey forms were issued to all employers who had been sent the guidelines (approximately 4,000), this represented a return rate of about 5%. The following table summarises the results of the survey:

| | Number | % |
|---|---------------|----------|
| Have or intend to introduce a policy | 20 | 10 |
| Will consider introducing a policy | 124 | 62 |
| Have no plans to introduce a policy | 56 | 28 |

It was agreed that those employers who indicated that they would consider introducing a policy should be followed up, with the Group offering to help employers if necessary with drawing up a policy. A letter could also be sent to Directors of HR at the 5 HSC Trusts to encourage them to develop policies.

3.2 Resource manual

CMO has signalled his support for the production of an NI version of the Resource Manual. CNO had not yet responded and will be followed up. It was agreed that a small working group should be set up to produce this document with nominees being sought from both CMO and CNO.

3.3 Media Campaign

The campaign brief had been agreed with the Government Advertising Unit and will soon be issued for tenders. The campaign will run at Easter 2008. A meeting of the Sub-Group to consider future media requirements will be arranged in the New Year.

3.3. Guidance Documents

Guidance for LDVPs

This guidance has been finalised and will be issued electronically to Chairs of LDVPs within the next couple of weeks.

Guidance for Agencies

NCH had made several comments on the draft guidance relating to domestic violence and young people. A copy of their comment had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that NCH should be advised that the guidance is intended to be general in nature and their comments will not be reflected in the final version of the guidance.

Guidance for Faith Communities

The final draft of this had been circulated. NIWAF thought that it could be "smoothed out" a bit and agreed to look at it and advise secretariat of any changes. It will then be referred for printing with a view to launching during Ecumenical week in February.

4. **Helpline report July 2007 to September 2007**

- 4.1 The strike rate has increased to 73%, closer to the THA recommended level of 75%. Male callers increased slightly to 2%. There was an increase in callers in July, coinciding with the PSNI poster campaign.

5. **Update on Training Co-ordinator**

- 5.1 The interview panel were unable to make an appointment following the initial recruitment campaign. A second recruitment campaign ran during November. There were 16 applicants and interviews will be arranged early in 2008.

6. **Collection and Management of Domestic Violence Data**

- 6.1 The Management Group met with Deloitte on 1 November when Deloitte described three possible IT solutions to the project. One solution used MS Access/Excel and the database, and the other two used versions of Sequel software packages. Deloitte will now prepare their final report and

recommendations. Unfortunately no-one from NIO (Stats) was able to attend the meeting on 1 November. Members will be advised of further progress.

7. Domestic Violence and Abuse Surveys

- 7.1 NISRA confirmed that the attitudinal DV module had been included in the survey and was issued to 70 schools. The survey is targeted at 4th and 5th year students. The results will be available in April/May 2008.

8. Any Other Business

7.1 "Map of Gaps"

The above report by the End Violence Against Women Campaign was launched recently. NIWAF have some concerns with some of the findings in the report. For example, the report shows large areas in Northern Ireland with no services at all. This is because the locations are based on GIS mapping which uses local authority regions. While this works well for Great Britain, councils do not perform the same function in Northern Ireland in terms of budgeting, management of services or responsibility for support of victims. Copies will be forwarded to members.

- 7.2 NIWAF Annual Conference due on 28 November has been cancelled and will be rearranged. The new date will be advised to members.

8. Date of meetings in 2008

- 8.1 It was agreed that the Sub-Group will meet on the first Friday of each quarter:
- 7 March
 - 6 June
 - 5 September
 - 5 December.

All meetings will be at 10.00am and in Castle Buildings unless advised otherwise.