

**MEETING OF THE PREVENTION SUB GROUP OF THE INTER DEPARTMENTAL  
STEERING GROUP ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE**

**2.00 pm Thursday 29 October 2009  
Room C3.18, Castle Buildings, Stormont**

**PRESENT:**

Marian McIlhone	Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit, DHSSPS (Chair)
Julie Houston	Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit, DHSSPS
Jeanette Bratty	Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit, DHSSPS (Secretary)
Paul Stephenson	NSPCC
Alan McDonald	DE
Sharon Harley	Community Safety Unit, NIO
Jane Floyd	OFMDFM
Marie Brown	Women's Aid Northern Ireland
Jan Harvey	DEL
Jackie Bates-Gaston	Northern Ireland Prison Service
Roisin Leckey	Probation Board

**APOLOGIES:**

Liz Shaw	HSCB
David Lyttle	NEXUS Institute
Peter Philip	Criminal Justice Policy Division, NIO
Koulla Yiasouma	Include Youth
Patricia Nicholl	Office of Social Services, DHSSPS
Annie Campbell	Women's Aid Federation NI
Martin Cartin	WHSCCT
Dr Paul Quinn	WHSCCT
Phil Tooze	NIO
Colm Elliott	NSPCC
Eileen Sung	OFMDFM

**INTRODUCTIONS**

1. Marian welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Alan Johnston who has replaced Dorina Edgar to his first meeting of the Prevention Sub-Group.

**APOLOGIES**

2. The apologies were noted. Jane Floyd attended the meeting on behalf of Eileen Sung.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

3. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted as an accurate reflection of the meeting.
4. The action points from the meeting on 29 June 2009 were reviewed and an update provided as outlined below:
  - Members were advised that the evaluation report for the Family Education and Support pilot was still being finalized and would be circulated to the Group once available (Action Point 1).
  - Marian advised the Group that the Chairs of the Sexual Violence Inter-departmental Steering Group had met for initial discussions on the merging of domestic and sexual violence governance structures which was timely given the cross over of issues and the recent amalgamation of the 2 units within DHSSPS (Action Point 3).
  - Marian advised the Group that the Terms of Reference for the ACPC Regional Subgroup for children and young people (whose behaviour poses a risk of serious harm) had been circulated. John Duffy is to contact Marian to set up a meeting to discuss the proposal further (Action Point 4).
  - Marian advised that Action Point 5 in relation to perpetrators would be discussed within the main agenda item on the Sexual Violence Action Plan.

#### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE ACTION PLAN – APRIL 2009 TO MARCH 2010**

5. The Group discussed the key actions and initiatives outlined in Strand 2 (Prevention) of the 2009/2010 Sexual Violence Action Plan.

#### **Key Action 1: Develop and Deliver a Public Information Campaign.**

6. Marian advised the group that a Public Information Campaign Sub-Group had been established and a Communications Strategy developed. The Strategy is a living document and will be updated at regular phases throughout the lifetime of the 'tackling Sexual Violence and Abuse' Strategy.
7. Marian informed the Group that the public information campaign had commenced in Christmas 2008 with the anti-rape campaign, which targeted students and young people in the run up to the festive season. The campaign had been run again in 2009 at Easter time and was an initiative run by the PSNI and supported by DHSSPS and NIO Community Safety Unit. Marian informed the Group that DHSSPS had recently received some negative feedback in relation to this campaign from members of the public and also an MLA on behalf of a constituent. The constituent suggested that the leaflet implied women were in part to blame for rape when they have consumed alcohol. However, those individuals who raised concerns with the campaign

were not aware that the posters and leaflets were gender specific and that communications had also been targeted at males during the anti-rape campaign.

8. Marian informed the group that the public information media campaign on sexual violence and abuse would start on Sunday 1 November 2009 and run until the end of March 2010. She advised that this campaign is targeted at the general public and victims in an attempt to raise awareness of sexual violence and abuse in Northern Ireland. Lifeline will run the helpline service to support people coming forward as a result of the campaign and there will be a robust evaluation carried out at the end of the campaign.
9. The television advertisement was then shown to the Group.
10. Marian advised the Group that 2 concepts had been subject to pre testing with the "WRONG" concept coming out strongest during the pre testing phase. Marian explained that the mention of changes in the law generated a lot of emotive responses. The new sexual offences Northern Ireland legislation became effective in February 2009.

**ACTION POINT 1: Julie Houston undertook to circulate to Prevention Sub-Group members the advertising schedule for November 2009 and Question and Answer Briefing for information.**

11. Paul Stephenson indicated that following previous advertising campaigns, calls to the major churches had also increased and he undertook to send contact details of the main churches to the Domestic and Sexual violence Unit.

**ACTION POINT 2: Paul Stephenson to provide details of contacts within the main churches.**

12. Marian advised the group that the Directory of Services for all victims of sexual violence and abuse is well underway and it is hoped it will be launched in December/January, possibly at an event in Parliament Buildings to which MLAs will be invited. This would work as a tangible aid to enable MLAs to provide information to their constituents. In the meantime, Lifeline would be provided with a draft of the directory.

**Key Action 2: Improve education in Schools and Further and Higher Education Institutions to increase awareness among children and young people.**

13. Alan McDonald advised the Group that Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE) is already incorporated in the school curriculum.
14. Marian mentioned that at a meeting in December 2008, CCEA guidance for schools was mentioned. Marian asked Alan if the guidance had been

completed and if the Group could have sight of it. She also advised that information on legislation was also to be sent to schools.

**ACTION POINT 3: Alan undertook to provide an update on both these issues and feed through to Julie by the end of November.**

15. Jan advised the Group that the scoping study was on target for completion and an action plan was currently being developed. This included a written review of pastoral care. She said it was hoped that eventually every student would have an individual learning plan and it was hoped to pilot this during the 2010/11 academic year.
16. Marian asked if these plans would incorporate both domestic and sexual violence and Jan advised that if someone self disclosed, pastoral care was available for other issues.

**Key Action 3: Training for Staff.**

17. Marian told the group that a training sub group was to be set up at the end of last year, but due to a number of issues including resource capacity, to date this hasn't action moved forward.
18. Marian explained she had some initial discussions with Tara Moore, Senior Lecturer in the School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Ulster with regard to developing a training tool, possibly a CD Rom, which could be used by people working with victims. This could be linked into the Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy.

**ACTION POINT 4: Marian to discuss the matter further with Tara Moore by the end of December 2009.**

**Key Action 4: Prevent sexually harmful behaviour.**

19. Representatives from Include Youth and the Area Child Protection Partnership were not present at the meeting and it was therefore agreed that Koulla Yiasouma and John Duffy would be contacted and asked to provide a written update.

**ACTION POINT 5: Marian to write to Koulla and John requesting an update prior to the next meeting.**

1. Paul Stephenson advised the Group that the NHSSB provides training for social work staff on sexually harmful behaviours in young people which Kevin Lenahan, NSPCC, and Nick Robinson, NHSSB, were involved in.

He also advised the Group that the evaluation report on the Family Education and Support Group pilot project, which was due to be produced by August 2009, has been delayed.

**ACTION POINT 6: Paul to follow up on the training provided by NHSSB and provide the Group with an update by end November 2009.**

21. Marian advised the group that the Department met with Directors from the Public Health Agency and the Health and Social Care Board in relation to the Sexual Violence Action Plan and in particular standardising risk assessment tools across the province. However, the impact of the Review of Public Administration is still being felt and progress has been slow. Marian indicated however that Fionnuala McAndrew had agreed to look at this issue and determine how best to achieve commonality across the province. Marian advised the group that the Public Health Agency and the Health and Social Care Board were best placed to take this work forward.
22. In-depth discussion followed on unadjudicated/non-court mandated offenders. It was agreed that services in this area are extremely limited and that perhaps the terms of reference for research being carried out by the Protection Sub Group on Domestic Violence should be widened to include perpetrators of sexual violence.
23. It was also suggested that an assessment of need could be carried out to gauge if available programmes are fit for purpose and to help identify unmet need in this area. However, caution should be exercised as it was important not to raise expectations when no programmes were currently available.
24. Jackie Bates-Gaston informed the group that under the new legislation, the onus is on the perpetrator to prove they have changed and prisons are now legally bound to determine this prior to their release.

**Key Action 5: Develop and put into operation revised child protection guidance.**

25. The Group was advised that the final version of circular 3/96 (Revised) Sharing to Safeguard had been issued.

**ACTION POINT 7: Julie to check distribution of Circular 3/96 to check if voluntary organizations were included**

26. The Group was also advised that the Guidance Relating to Sexually Active Children is still in the draft stages and has not yet gone out to formal consultation. However, the paragraphs in relation to this which are to be incorporated into the Regional ACPC Policy and Procedures should meet the deadline of 31 December 2009.
27. It was agreed that a further update on the Sexual Violence and Abuse Action Plan would be provided to the next inter-ministerial group meeting scheduled for May 2010. The action on training is likely to be carried into next year's action plan.

## **UPDATE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN**

28. An update on the Public Information Campaign was already provided earlier in the meeting under agenda item 4, Sexual Violence and Abuse Action Plan (2009/2010).

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

29. Patricia Nicholl asked for the issue of perpetrators in hospital to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **ACTION POINT 8: Future Agenda item - Perpetrators in hospital to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.**

30. Roisin Leckey informed the group that a conference was to take place on 12 November 2009 at the Tullyglass Hotel regarding serious case reviews and advised that Declan Carvill ([Declan.carvill@hscni.net](mailto:Declan.carvill@hscni.net)) was the contact if anyone wished to attend.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

31. The next meeting will be scheduled for January 2010.

### **ACTION POINT 9: Jeanette to trawl for dates for next meeting.**

## **SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS**

- ACTION POINT 1:** Julie Houston undertook to circulate to Prevention Sub-Group members the advertising schedule for November 2009 and Question and Answer Briefing for information.
- ACTION POINT 2:** Paul Stephenson to provide details of contacts within the main churches.
- ACTION POINT 3:** Alan undertook to provide an update on both these issues and feed through to Julie by the end of November.
- ACTION POINT 4:** Marian to discuss the matter further with Tara Moore by the end of December 2009.
- ACTION POINT 5:** Marian to write to Koulla and John requesting an update prior to the next meeting.
- ACTION POINT 6:** Paul to follow up on the training provided by NHSSB and provide the Group with an update by end November 2009.
- ACTION POINT 7:** Julie to check distribution of Circular 3/96 to check if voluntary organizations were included
- ACTION POINT 8:** Future Agenda item - Perpetrators in hospital to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
- ACTION POINT 9:** Jeanette to trawl for dates for next meeting.

**Prevention Sub-Group Meeting – Action Point Register**

<b>Action Point</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Action Point Description</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Update/Progress</b>	<b>Status</b>
AP1	29/10/09	Circulate to Prevention Sub-Group members the advertising schedule for November 2009 and Question and Answer Briefing for information.	Julie Houston		Open
AP2	29/10/09	Paul Stephenson to provide details of contacts within the main churches.	Paul Stephenson		
AP3	29/10/09				
AP4	29/10/09				
AP5	29/10/09				
AP6	29/10/09				

Action Point	Meeting Date	Action Point Description	Responsibility	Update/Progress	Status
AP7	29/10/09				
AP8	29/10/09				
AP9	29/10/09				