

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

**2pm Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008**

**Castle Buildings**

**Present:**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Marian McIlhone</b> | <b>Sexual Violence Unit, DHSSPS (Chair)</b> |
| <b>Julie Pollock</b>   | <b>Sexual Violence Unit, DHSSPS</b>         |
| <b>Brenda Horgan</b>   | <b>NSPCC – Stop it Now</b>                  |
| <b>Helena Bracken</b>  | <b>NEXUS Institute</b>                      |
| <b>Jan Harvey</b>      | <b>DEL</b>                                  |
| <b>Kerry Malone</b>    | <b>PBNI</b>                                 |
| <b>Koulla Yiasouma</b> | <b>Include Youth</b>                        |
| <b>Liz Shaw</b>        | <b>SHSSB</b>                                |
| <b>Peter Philip</b>    | <b>NIO</b>                                  |
| <b>Sharon Harley</b>   | <b>NIO</b>                                  |
| <b>Dorina Edgar</b>    | <b>DE</b>                                   |
| <b>Stephen Cowan</b>   | <b>NIO – Guest speaker</b>                  |

**Apologies:**

|                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Annie Campbell</b>      | <b>Women's Aid</b>       |
| <b>Marie Browne</b>        | <b>Foyle Women's Aid</b> |
| <b>Martin Cartin</b>       | <b>WHST</b>              |
| <b>Colm Elliott</b>        | <b>NSPCC</b>             |
| <b>Jackie Bates-Gaston</b> | <b>NIO</b>               |
| <b>Jim Simpson</b>         | <b>WHSSB</b>             |
| <b>Patricia Carey</b>      | <b>OFMDFM</b>            |
| <b>Dr Paul Quinn</b>       | <b>WHST</b>              |
| <b>Phil Tooze</b>          | <b>NIO</b>               |
| <b>Dr Brian Gaffney</b>    | <b>HPA</b>               |

**The meeting opened with a Presentation on the Sexual Offences (NI)**

**Order 2008 :**

- Presentation delivered by Stephen Cowan, NIO, on the Sexual Offences Order (NI) 2008. Handouts were provided at meeting.
- Questions rose in relation to raising awareness in colleges, youth work sectors and how to communicate with young people. Stephen explained that the NIO will be delivering information to different target

audiences. Stephen confirmed that he will forward draft guidance documents for comment on the Order for Julie to send to the Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering and Sub Groups.

- Stephen explained that he is happy to liaise with the Department of Education on how information is presented in schools.

**ACTION POINT 1** – Julie to issue Draft Guidance Documents re Sexual Offence (NI) Order 2008 for comment to Sexual Violence Steering Group and Sub Groups.

**ACTION POINT 2** – Dorina and Stephen to liaise re guidance on information used in schools.

### **Introduction and previous minutes:**

1. Marian welcomed the group and minutes of the previous meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were reviewed.
2. Dorina explained that she had amendments to the minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2008, please see addendum to those minutes at Annex 1.
3. In relation to action point 4 of the previous minutes – Anne offered to contact Martin Quinn and Ronnie Orr regarding the new Safe Guarding Board including how training for staff is undertaken as per key action 5 (Training for Staff, page 12, 2008/09 Action Plan). Update for the meeting, provided at annex 2.
4. In relation to action point 6 of the previous minutes – Anne to talk to Willie McAuley re action 6 (page 12 2008/09 Action Plan - to identify and promote best practice models in relation to intervention with adults who display sexually harmful behaviour so as to prevent re-occurrence) and ascertain what work is being undertaken by Vulnerable Adults

Committees. Please see update provided by Public Protection Arrangements NI at annex 3.

5. Kerry explained that Women's Aid had launched a pack on an online educative tool aimed at teachers who work with children from age 5 to 14 years which included session plans for teachers, support in dealing with the subject of domestic violence and material around good relationships in Surrey W/C 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008. Kerry to provide information to Dorina.

**ACTION POINT 3** – Kerry to provide information to Dorina re Women's Aid online educative tool.

6. Dorina explained that while the new curriculum contains social issues, DE cannot advocate any training specific packages or support packages to schools in relation to sexual or domestic violence; schools have their own autonomy based on their particular ethos etc. Koulla queried if there was a method to monitor the extent to which social issues are covered in schools. Koulla explained that before the revised curriculum was introduced, schools would buy in voluntary and community sector packages but now there is a perception that schools must educate on these subjects themselves. Dorina explained that there are two Designated Officers for Child Protection (DOCP's) in each Education and Library Board. The DOCP's are planning to establish sector specific cluster groups of designated teachers for child protection in the continuing role out of their service. The aim will be to aid the training, networking and support for the designated teachers. Voluntary Sector Organisations may be invited to help design part of the awareness raising training.
7. Sharon queried if there is a basic requirement under the curriculum to provide pastoral care and education on sexual and domestic violence and if it is audited. Koulla agreed that information regarding this would be helpful. Dorina agreed to liaise with the Education and Training

Inspectorate (ETI) on how they measure and benchmark what is currently being delivered in schools.

**ACTION POINT 4** – Dorina to liaise with ETI for more information on how schools are audited and monitored in relation to training or support packages in schools for sexual or domestic violence.

8. Dorina asked for clarification regarding point 11 of previous minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> September (Marie explained that schools are 'crying out' for organisations such as Women's Aid etc to go into the schools and deliver information to educate pupils and teachers.)

**ACTION POINT 5** – Dorina to liaise with Marie Browne, Women's Aid for further information.

## **Update on 2008 – 2009 Action Plan – Points discussed:**

9. Marian explained that the first action plan may have been too ambitious and suggested that next year the action plan should be more focused. The Action Plan 2008 – 09 has proved more time consuming than first anticipated, therefore a more focused approach may obtain a more achievable action plan for 2009 – 10. The group agreed.
  
10. The group had been provided with an updated version of the Action Plan 2008 – 09 for Strand 2- Prevention and the meeting would follow through each action point to update further.

### **Key Action 1 –** Develop and deliver a Public Information Campaign.

(Page 9)

11. Marian explained that the Public Information Campaign was under development. The communication Strategy is currently in draft form and will be issued to the Sexual Violence Steering Group and Sub groups for comment before Christmas. A Public Information Sub Group has been set up and the Department were working with Government Advertising Unit in OFMDFM to tender for a media company with the aim that the media campaign being launched in April 2009.
  
12. Marian outlined the recent launch of the PSNI pilot poster campaign in conjunction with DHSSPS and Community Safety Unit on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, in all universities, bars and nightclubs in Belfast and Derry. The campaign focuses on Male and female messages on consent and alcohol. The posters and postcards will be displayed throughout the Christmas period in washrooms in these premises. Helena indicated that she had received a number of enquiries locally about this campaign and requested that in future group members are informed about media campaigns in advance.

- 13.** Julie explained that the Communication Strategy will help challenge public perceptions and myths. The public information campaign sub group will help shape the messages to be delivered by many different media methods appropriate to target audiences.
- 14.** Marian explained that the DHSSPS and PSNI are arranging an awareness day on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009 primarily for MLA's and Public Representatives to provide information on what happens from the PSNI perspective and the Health perspective when a person is raped and the impact it has on their life.
- 15.** Sharon advised that Domestic Violence Unit have an electronic version of guidance for MLA's to help their constituents and it would be useful for sexual violence to consider.

**ACTION POINT 6** – Julie to contact DV Unit for electronic version of guidance.

**Key Action 2** – Improve education in schools and Further and Higher Education Institutions to Increase awareness among children and young people. (Page 10)

- 16.** Dorina provided an update on the revised curriculum. The revised curriculum is being introduced into schools on phased basis. This began in September 2007/08 with Years 1,5,8 and 11 extends to Years 2, 6, 9 and 12 from September 2008/09 and from September 2009/10 to Years 3, 4, 7, and 10.
- 17.** Jan provided an update on activities within Further and Higher Education regarding the commissioning of consultancy on root and branch review which will include Drugs and Alcohol, sexual violence and Domestic violence and teenage pregnancy. The terms of the review are being drafted and going out to procurement. No timescale has been finalised yet. (see summary at Annex 4)

**18.** Jan explained that the introduction of individual learning plans could provide an opportunity to self-disclose on the above issues. The project is being piloted in 3 colleges at the moment not with the view to roll out across all colleges in the next academic year.

**19.** The group queried if ETI were reviewing Further and Higher Education and how were they assessing pastoral care arrangements and support around sexual violence and abuse. Jan agreed to liaise with ETI for further information.

**ACTION POINT 7** – Jan to contact ETI for further information on their assessment of pastoral care arrangements in relation to sexual violence and abuse in Further and Higher Education Colleges.

**Key Action 3-** Promote personal safety for those who are most at risk.  
(Page 11)

**20.** Marian explained that this key action is included within the public information campaign as part of community safety. It was also agreed by the group that this is not about developing or promoting new ‘frameworks’ or arrangements, but building on Community Safety initiatives for example, Get Home Safe Campaign.

**Key Action 4** – Promote closer working. (Page 11)

**21.** Kerry queried if Probation Board should be included in the responsibility section of the Action Plan. Marian agreed and apologised for the oversight.

**22.** The group discussed how to develop close working practices and how it would be monitored and measured on progress of this key action. It was decided that a good way to measure was to ensure Sexual Violence and Abuse was on the agenda for meetings of groups such as

the new Safeguarding Board NI and PPANI. The group agreed to provide their thoughts on this key action and feedback to Julie.

**ACTION POINT 8** – Group to provide feedback on what should be included in Key Action 4 to Julie.

**Key Action 5** – Training for Staff. (Page 12)

**23.** Marian explained that Skills for Justice are currently working to develop 'Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse National Occupational Standards' and this may help contribute to this key action. These can be accredited if desired and provide skill packages for staff appropriate to the level of intervention with victim.

**24.** Kerry and Julie explained that at the last National Occupational Standards workshop, the group who attended had raised that there was not a lot being identified for perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse. The draft Standards will be issued for comment early next year.

**25.** Marian explained that in terms of a Training Strategy, a Training group has been established. However, with current pressures on other key actions, work will be carried forward into the following years of the action plan.

**Key Action 6** – Prevent sexually harmful behaviour. (Page 12)

**26.** Marian explained that all 4 sections relating to this key action are very similar and may move into the following year's action plan. Marian also explained that in relation to age appropriate messages the Communications Strategy would be key in taking this work forward.

**27.** Kerry explained that the Probation Board had completed work since the Trevor Hamilton Inquiry, and recognised that the earlier the intervention takes place, the better the outcome. Kerry further discussed the

programmes being used within probation and advised that she would provide further information to Julie for insertion in the Action Plan update.

**28.** Kerry raised the issue of the role of the senior practitioner for Alderwood, in that it had been suppressed and consequently the programme to assist with families of perpetrators was no longer being taken forward from that post. Kerry agreed to forward Marian and Liz details outlining the need for this post to be utilised and the programme being taken. Marian and Liz agreed to consider how the Sexual Violence Strategy may help take this matter forward.

**ACTION POINT 9** – Kerry to forward details of programmes being used within the Probation Board and the senior practitioner programme for perpetrators in Alderwood to Marian and Liz.

**29.** The group continued to discuss work currently being completed in relation to interventions with young people and programmes for the families of perpetrators including New Leaf, which develops employment skills for people who sexually harm after they have undertaken a programme of therapy. Circle of Friends, currently provides support for perpetrators. The group decided it would be beneficial to know more about Circle of Friends and Kerry agreed to provide more information and ask Bob Webb, who developed Circle of Friends for a presentation to the group at next meeting.

**ACTION POINT 10** – Kerry to liaise with Bob Webb, Circle of Friends for more information and a potential presentation at the meeting.

**30.** Marian confirmed that the purpose of the next meeting is to

1. Report progress on 2008/09 Action Plan and
2. Agree actions for 2009/10 Action Plan.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am at Castle Buildings.

Julie Pollock

10 – 12 - 08

Sexual Violence Unit

**Summary of Action Points – Prevention Sub Group Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
December 2008**

**ACTION POINT 1** – Julie to issue Draft Guidance Documents re Sexual Offence (NI) Order 2008 for comment to Sexual Violence Steering Group and Sub Groups.

**ACTION POINT 2** – Dorina and Stephen to liaise re guidance on information used in schools.

**ACTION POINT 3** – Kerry to provide information to Dorina re Women's Aid online educative tool.

**ACTION POINT 4** – Dorina to liaise with ETI for more information on how schools are audited and monitored in relation to training or support packages in schools for sexual or domestic violence.

**ACTION POINT 5** – Dorina to liaise with Marie Browne, Women's Aid for further information.

**ACTION POINT 6** – Julie to contact DV Unit for electronic version of guidance.

**ACTION POINT 7** – Jan to contact ETI for further information on their assessment of pastoral care arrangements in relation to sexual violence and abuse in Further and Higher Education Colleges.

**ACTION POINT 8** – Group to provide feedback on what should be included in Key Action 4 to Julie.

**ACTION POINT 9** – Kerry to forward details of programmes being used within the Probation Board and the senior practitioner programme for perpetrators in Alderwood to Marian and Liz.

**ACTION POINT 10** – Kerry to liaise with Bob Webb, Circle of Friends for more information and a potential presentation at the meeting.

## Annex 1

Amendments provided by Dorina Edgar regarding Key Action 2 – Improve education in schools and Further and Higher Education Institutions to Increase awareness among children and young people.

The Information Day was an opportunity to promote understanding of the education's pupil centred approach.

DE is committed to promoting the welfare of the child – however education is our core business which addresses the barriers that children face in achieving their full potential in education.

The Information Day provided an opportunity to raise awareness about issues such as domestic violence, sexual violence; drugs and alcohol abuse are addressed in the curriculum, teacher education and pastoral care systems.

A key message was the need to strike a balance between the pressure to address the full range of social issues within schools, the constraints of the entitlement framework for all pupils and the flexibility of schools to work within their own ethos and approach.

## Annex 2

### Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland

The DHSSPS will set up a Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI), which will replace the existing ACPC, s. The SBNI will be placed on a statutory basis, involve a wide range of agencies from both the Statutory and Voluntary sectors and have an independent chair person who will be accountable to the Minister for Health and Social Services and Public Safety. Five safeguarding panels located within the geographical area of the Trusts will support the SBNI.

The SBNI will be responsible for developing a communication strategy in relation to safeguarding, review how well agencies work together to safeguard children, ensure that information sharing is seen as a priority and that agencies and individuals are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and how to fulfil them.

### **Annex 3**

The following is a response from PPANI in relation to Point 6 re Prevention, page 13;

Under the new Public Protection Arrangements NI all those convicted of sexual offences from 6th October 2008 will be subject to risk assessment and, where necessary, risk management. Those convicted of such offences prior to 6th October 2008 can also be referred for risk assessment where an agency has evidence of "significant concerns". PPANI must be viewed as only one aspect of the Tackling Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy and its work fits neatly under Strand 2 'Prevention'. Risk Assessment will be carried out using three validated third generation risk assessment instruments, Risk Matrix 2000, Multi-Agency Dynamic Risk Assessment and Stable and Acute 2007. The new Public Protection Arrangements will seek to consider and address the following three issues in respect of each individual case where multi-agency risk management is considered necessary:

- a) Enforcement - This will include the identification of what steps are necessary to protect the public or any individual member of the public from serious harm. Measures available for this purpose include, for example, Sexual Offence Prevention Orders, Risk of Sexual Harm Orders and directed surveillance.
  
- b) Encouragement - This will include a range of measures aimed at supporting the individual to take steps to address his/her risky behaviour through treatment programmes and other preventative strategies. Within the context of 'Encouragement' other issues that will need to be addressed include, the vulnerability of the individual (many persons convicted of sexual offences have learning disabilities, physical and mental health problems, addiction problems, etc. etc.). Other issues might include the ethnic background or sexual orientation of the individual. In order to facilitate and deliver this encouragement the PPANI will seek to engage with a range

of expert services providers in the delivery of projects and initiatives that have been shown to have an impact on the reduction of risk through encouragement. Examples of such projects and initiatives include: Stop It Now and Circles of Support and Accountability. As role of partners and families are so very important when working with persons who, through their sexual behaviour, have caused harm others, PPANI will seek to encourage work with families and partners as well as making links with those who have been victim of such behaviour.

- c) Education - Much of what the public believe about sex offending and sex offenders is, very often, based on myth and stereotyping. The Public Protection Arrangements NI will therefore need to consider local community educational needs in respect of each individual case and where necessary take steps to dispel the myths and address the stereotypes. Along with others the PPANI agencies will also take steps to address the wider community educational needs. In this respect the PPANI will support the awareness raising work being carried out by "Stop It Now" as well as responding positively to communities, local representatives and the media in raising awareness of the realities around sexual abuse and violence.

## Annex 4

DEL's comments - from the Further Education side:

Colleges already support a range of health-related activities initiated by relevant authorities e.g. health trusts and would be expected to host any linked to sexual violence.

To address the effects of sexual violence and other traumas:

- College students are provided with various forms of pastoral care, support and counselling (see list below)
- The quality and relevance of pastoral care arrangements is considered by the Education and Training Inspectorate during routine College inspections.
- The Department proposes to initiate a scoping study looking at pastoral care and, particularly, child protection issues across all six Colleges. The study will identify the effectiveness of current pastoral care arrangements and Colleges will be made aware of any shortcomings. Depending on the outcome of the study, the Department will consider issuing further guidance to the sector.

### PASTORAL CARE INITIATIVES

Updated August 2008.

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>24/7 Carecall counselling service</b></p>        | <p>Carecall is used by a number of colleges to provide a 24/7 counselling service for students and staff. A counselling forum has also been established within the Further Education sector to allow staff to share and develop best practice. The forum was set up to address such areas as abuse, compulsive behaviour, self harm, and depression. Counsellors are well promoted throughout the College intranet, prospectuses, open days, display screens and inductions etc.</p> <p>Some colleges have staff employed as College Health and Welfare Officers. In the case of North West Regional College (formerly Limavady College), this member of staff is the Chair of the Families Forum for those Bereaved through Suicide and is also a member of the Western Area Suicide Implementation group.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Training sessions for students and staff</b></p> | <p><b>Staff training sessions</b><br/>An example includes staff training awareness sessions which encourage staff to remain alert to student needs e.g. to be aware of students who become unusually quiet or behave differently. Carecall also offer training sessions for staff.</p>  |  |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | <p><b>Student training sessions</b><br/>Student training sessions are completed through induction.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Student Charter</b></p>   | <p>The Student Charter outlines information and facilities which are available for students including support and counselling services. It details what students can expect from the Institute and what the Institute expects from students.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Freshers and Re-Freshers Weeks</b></p>                            | <p>Information sessions, involving outside organizations, are held for new students to outline the various services available. These sessions are also held following College holiday periods.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Student Activities Focussed events</b></p>                        | <p>Examples include drug and alcohol awareness and healthy eating.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Health Promotion Events</b></p>                                   | <p>Colleges organize health days through the Health Promotion Agency. This involves bringing in the local pharmacist and other organizations such as Breakthrough, Menssana and NUS, Heath Action Zone, and the Royal College of Nursing to raise issues such as alcohol &amp; drugs awareness etc.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Internal Health Promotion Panels</b></p>                          | <p>Northern Regional College (formerly North East Institute) set up a health promotion panel to review its college policy and procedure in this area. The Health Promotion Agency has been a source of support and guidance in the establishment of this panel.</p>                                     |  |
| <p><b>Anti Harassment Policy for Students</b></p>                       | <p>This is a local policy which is agreed by each individual college governing body. The aim of this policy is to prevent harassment and to resolve any problems should they occur and prevent re-occurrence.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Disability Policy for Students</b></p>                            | <p>This is a local policy which is agreed by each individual college governing body. Colleges have developed this policy at a local level to reflect local procedures and practices. The policy also reflects recent legislation such as SENDO.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Feel Good Road Shows in collaboration with other colleges</b></p> | <p>Southern Regional College (formerly Upper Bann, Armagh and Newry Institutes) did a road show across the three colleges to raise awareness of mental health issues.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Aware Defeat Depression – Sessions</b></p>                        | <p>This was an initiative at Southern Regional College (formerly Newry Institute) with the organization Aware Defeat Depression. A number of sessions were held for students focusing on mental health issues.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Careers Advice</b></p>  | <p>If a student is unhappy or unsure about their current programme of training, a careers officer is available to provide information and support and consider</p>  |  |

|                              |   |  |
|------------------------------|---|--|
|                              | transferral to another programme.   |  |
| <b>Learning Support</b>      | The function of learning support plays a vital role in colleges in ensuring that student needs are identified and addressed as appropriate. Within the sector a working group has been set up to review the role of learning support and present recommendations to the new 6 colleges for consideration. |  |
| <b>Personal Tutor System</b> | In Southern Regional College (formerly Newry Institute), individual class groups have a personal tutor who deals with issues such as attendance, learning support, learner agreements and is responsible for identifying any issues of bullying.  |  |

**North West Regional College** employ a welfare support officer who specialises in the area of bereavement and suicide.

The **Southern Regional College and the South West College** are presently involved with the Southern Health & Social Care Trust and the Western Health & Social Care Trust in developing a "Health Promoting College". This will be a three year project with education and health in working in partnership to promote ongoing improvement and development of physical and emotional health of which suicide risk will be a significant component.

### **Contact with Health Boards**

Four colleges confirmed that they have links with their local Health Boards (South West College (East Tyrone), Southern Regional College (Upper Bann), Northern Regional College (East Antrim) and South Eastern Regional College (Lisburn)). Colleges work with the Health Boards to discuss how best to provide health information to students and receive promotional materials from the Health Boards.

Lisburn Institute have previously organised an annual Health Fair where a variety of health professionals give advice, measure blood pressure etc. In addition Lisburn Institute has links with organisations within the trust such as Disability Network.

### **Choices DVD – Southern Regional College**

This devised drama deals with Choices in life for students.

The DVD was launched in SRC as part of Anti Bullying Week and presented as part of a Student Services Workshop a Health Promotion Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> March SWC Omagh Campus. The DVD deals with awareness raising on the following topics:

- Disability

- Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Emerging Communities
- Diversity
- Street Violence

The DVD will be used throughout the SRC to promote discussion and learning outcomes in relation to the issues listed.