

Newsletter

Jan- July 2010

Inside: Launch Belfast Area Domestic Violence Partnership, Message from the Chair, Partnership News, News from Home, Trade Union News, Elder News, News from Abroad, Research News and News in Brief



Pictured from left: Oonagh Cullen (Victim Support), Carol Diffin (Partnership Chair), Lord Mayor Cllr Naomi Long, Margaret Kelly (Partnership Coordinator) and Pat McCartan (Chairman Belfast Health & Social Care Trust)

Launch Belfast Area Domestic Violence Partnership

The Launch of the Belfast Area Domestic Violence Partnership was held in the City Hall in Belfast on the 26th January 2010.

Opening the event the Chairman of the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Pat McCartan outlined key facts and statistics.

"Police respond to a domestic incident in Northern Ireland every 23 minutes, and the cost of domestic violence to services and the local economy is estimated to be in the region of £180 million.

A total of 9,211 crimes with a domestic motivation were carried out in 2008-2009 and seven murders that took place in the same year were the result of domestic violence." he said.

Carol Diffin, Chair, outlined the policy context, background and achievements of the Belfast Area Domestic Violence Partnership. She said *"The partnership aims to tackle the problem of domestic violence by bringing together the statutory,*

voluntary and community agencies involved. We know what works but we need to do it together by Communicating, Collaborating, Coordinating, Cooperating and Campaigning."

Belfast Lord Mayor Naomi Long endorsed the work of the Partnership and said that everyone had a duty and responsibility to challenge attitudes.

'We must not condone or remain silent: we must take steps to hold perpetrators accountable' she said.

'Domestic violence is not a 'part of life' but a community safety issue and a crime.

There is a real need to ensure that a clear and consistent message is provided alongside a co-ordinated approach to tackle the scourge of domestic violence and to provide the support and protection that victims and survivors need.

The challenge to us all is to affect meaningful change for those living with violence and abuse.'

Message from the Chairperson

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2010 Edition of the Belfast Area Domestic Violence Partnership's Newsletter. I hope that you will enjoy reading about the work of the Partnership and I am sure you will agree that since the last Newsletter the Partnership has continued to flourish.

The Partnership held its official launch on 26th January 2010 and we were especially honoured to have the Lord Mayor, Counsellor Naomi Long in attendance to formally endorse the work and role of the Partnership.

In March the Partnership took time out to review the work undertaken to date and to identify priority areas for development over the next year. We also updated our Operational Policy.

The four working groups have continued to meet regularly, ably assisted and supported by the Partnership's Co-Coordinator, Margaret Kelly, and as can be seen from the Newsletter have continued to take forward a range of activities and developments in line with the Partnership's Action Plan.

Members of the Prevention Working group held two Seminars on *Domestic Violence and Abuse – A Workplace Issue* whilst the Support Working Group held a seminar titled *"It's not just the language" - Barriers to seeking help*. All three seminars were very positively evaluated by those who attended and reflected the hard work and planning that was undertaken by the members of the group and the speakers. The Training and Development Group have played a key role in planning the Launch and the Partnership Review Day. The Protection and Justice Working group has continued to address some of the inconsistencies and inequalities that exist for those individuals requiring support through the legal system and has also played an important role in championing the rollout of the new MARAC process.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those involved for their continued support and commitment and I look forward to the next 6 months with the Partnership.

Carol Diffin Chair

Abbreviations/ Terms

LAPPP	Local Area Public Protection Panel
PDP	Potentially Dangerous Person
NILSC	Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission
NIWRN	N.I. Rural Women's Network
WRDA	Women's Resource and Development Agency
WCRP	Women's Centres Regional Partnership
WSN	Women's Support network
EVAW	End Violence against Women
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women

Diary dates.



4th Aug	Strategic Advisory Group Meeting
Venue	30 Adelaide Park
1st Sept	Training & Development Working Group Meeting
Venue	30 Adelaide Park
8th Sept	Protection & Justice Working Group Meeting
Venue	30 Adelaide Park
14th Sept	Support Working Group Meeting
Venue	30 Adelaide Park
29th Sept	BADVP Seminar "It's not just the Language".... Barriers to seeking help
Venue	Dundonald Ice Bowl
21st Sept	Prevention Working Group Meeting
Venue	30 Adelaide Park
8th Oct	Respect Workshop
Venue	Senate Room QUB
23rd Sept	Chief Officers Meeting
Venue	30 Adelaide Park
17th Nov	BLWA Conference Domestic Violence and Trauma
Venue	NICVA
24th Nov	Workplace Policy Seminar 12-2.00 pm
Venue	George Best Belfast City Airport
Jan 2011	DVP and DPP Conference,
Venue	City Hall

Partnership News.....

Domestic Violence and Abuse - A Workplace Issue?

Domestic Violence and Abuse is an employment issue; it impacts on the health, safety and well-being of employees. Domestic Violence and Abuse can result in deterioration in an employee's performance, increased absenteeism and poor timekeeping. Employees may also be at risk of violence and abuse in the workplace.

Members of The Belfast Area Domestic Violence Partnership Prevention sub group have been working to raise awareness regarding Domestic Abuse workplace policies. Two well attended and positively evaluated Seminars have been held over the past months.

These events aimed to;

- Provide delegates with an opportunity to explore the topic
- Encourage agencies and organisations to adopt workplace policies
- Consider how workplace policies could be implemented

Speakers discussed the impact of Domestic Violence and Abuse on the workplace and shared experiences of implementing Domestic Violence and Abuse policies.

Business in the Community Seminar

The first Seminar was held on 9th February facilitated by Business in the Community and hosted by Clanmil Housing. Delegates from a range of private, public and voluntary agencies attended.



Orla Barron
Health & Social
Inequalities Manager
(acting),
Belfast HSC Trust
speaking at the
Seminar

Partnership Model Workplace Policy

In response to requests from Partnership members for a simple and easily adapted policy template a Policy document was developed by the Prevention Working Group. The final draft was signed off in February 2010 and has been widely circulated at both recent seminars. Copies are available from Margaret Kelly.



Left to right. M.Kelly, Orla Barron, Carol Diffin , Patricia Lyness, Geraldine Alexander at NIPSA Seminar

Seminar at NIPSA

A second successful event was hosted by NIPSA at their Wellington Park offices on 17th May . The event which was oversubscribed was attended by 48 delegates from a range of agencies across the public, voluntary and statutory sectors.

What Women who have experienced Domestic Violence told us

"Domestic violence happens to regular people"

Last February Orla and Margaret met with women who were participating in the "Journey to Freedom" Programme at Women's Aid. They wanted to seek the views and experiences of women who have suffered Domestic Violence on the issues, problems and support they experienced in their workplaces.

The key issues raised by the women are briefly summarised below;

- The lack of awareness regarding Domestic Violence in the workplace. Women from the Education Sector highlighted the difficulties facing education staff that have a duty of care to children and young people and find themselves suffering violence in the home.
- The need to take "Sick Leave" further reinforcing the myth that it is somehow the women's fault.
- The need for employers and the general public to understand that Domestic Violence can happen to anyone.
- Although the women in the group had experienced Domestic Violence over varying periods of time and were at different points in their "Journey to Freedom" their message was the same – they felt shame and humiliation and wanted to keep it a secret. Nonetheless they would have wholeheartedly welcomed confidential appropriate support in the workplace.

Partnership News..

Seminar

"Its not just the language" barriers to help seeking

Members of the Partnership Support Group have been working to raise awareness regarding services and information for migrant and minority ethnic families experiencing Domestic Violence

The seminar held at Morton Community Centre on June 10th explored the barriers, how to improve existing services and learn from Chinese and Polish Women's experiences. Approximately 90 staff from the Community, Voluntary and Statutory sectors attended the event which was supported by the South Belfast District Policing Partnership. Speakers included:

Agnieszka Martynowicz, Research and Policy Officer in the Irish Penal Reform Trust in Dublin

Edie Shillue, Asylum Support Worker with Bryson Charities

Patricia Lyness, Management Co-Coordinator Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid

Carol Diffin, Chair Belfast Area Domestic Violence Partnership

The event concluded with a Discussion/ Questions session which included panel members Aleksandra Lojek N.I Polish Association, Simon Ling and Rebecca NG Chinese Welfare Association



Some feedback from the event

- ***"I wished I had recorded this morning to be able to feedback the quality of training and advice provided."***
- ***"Please, please could we have more training of this kind and quality...!"***
- ***" I found the partnership approach exhilarating fresh and new."***
- ***"It has been my first experience of training within the partnership and it was so refreshing to listen to the choice of speakers who were so sensitively informed in their contact with asylum seekers."***

N.I. MARAC Update as at July 2010

Criteria	Total for July	Cumulative Total (Since Jan)
Number of cases discussed	106	727
Number of repeat cases	5	27
Number of children in households	173	1018
Police referrals	84	576
Children's Social Care	3	10
Education	0	0
Housing	0	0
Mental health	0	1
Probation	0	4
Voluntary Sector	17	141
Other	0	0
BME cases	1	37
LGBT cases (same sex relationships)	1	1
Disability cases	0	5
Male victims.	2	29

MARAC Information Sharing Agreement

This protocol is currently available for final comments.

It is hoped that the agreement will then be available for agencies signatures and agreement.

In Brief....

Partnership Planning/ Review Workshop

A Review/ Planning Workshop on 24th March 9.30.am - 1.00pm at 30 Adelaide Park was well attended by Partnership representatives. Marie McLaughlin, Training & Development Belfast HSCT facilitated the session and the Operational Policy was reviewed and updated. It has since been signed off by the Strategic Advisory Group.

Directory of Services

The Domestic Violence Directory of Services aims to provide victims and staff with information on Domestic Violence and appropriate relevant services. The resource was revised ,updated and reprinted earlier this year and is being widely used across agencies. Thanks to the Belfast Community Safety Partnership who supported the reprinting costs through the provision of a small grant.

Partnership Leaflet/Logo

The Partnership now has its very own leaflet and logo which were designed and printed in January for the formal launch at Belfast City Hall. Work is ongoing to develop a Partnership website. Thanks to the DHSSPS Domestic & Sexual Violence Dept. for their support with the design and printing costs.

News from home....

Northern Ireland.....

Perpetrator Programme — IDAP (Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme)

The Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) is now operational in Belfast, Armagh, Derry and Antrim . The programme is led by PBNI in collaboration with Women's Aid, Social Services, and PSNI.

IDAP is a group work programme with additional individual sessions. It was developed in the USA and has been adapted for use here. It aims to;

- Help men understand why they use violence and abuse against their partners and ex partners and the effects of this behaviour on their (ex) partners, children, others and themselves
- Provide known victims and current partners of men undertaking the IDAP with information and to support safety planning
- Encourage participants to take responsibility for the abusive and violent behaviours in their relationships
- Motivate participants to take specific positive steps to change their behaviours on their relationships
- Encourage participants to learn how to use non controlling behaviour strategies in order to prevent future violence and abuse

Men referred to IDAP are subject to a Probation Order with a condition attached to complete the programme. They are supervised by a probation officer/case manager. The case manager is responsible for assessing and managing the risk men pose to the public and for managing and enforcing their entire Order. If men do not comply with their Order, the case manager will ensure that they are taken back to court.

The group work programme normally last between six and eight months and there are 27 group work sessions. These are divided into nine modules of three sessions per module. After completing each module, men meet with their case managers to review their progress. The modules, which are based on the Duluth Wheels, addresses nine themes, namely

- Non violence
- Negotiating and fairness
- Non threatening behaviour
- Respect
- Support and trust
- Accountability and honesty
- Sexual respect
- Partnership
- Responsible parenting

IDAP is a rolling programme and men can join at the beginning of any module (except sexual respect).

Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid and PSNI Support Project

This Partnership Project aims to enhance the coordinated response for women and child victims of Domestic Violence and to support access to the criminal justice system enabling women and children experiencing domestic violence to increase their safety in order to remain at home and to contribute to a reduction in repeat crime

Initially developed as a pilot in North / West Belfast the project expanded to the South / East sector in 2009. Key to the projects success is the early intervention from experienced domestic violence support workers who are based in Tennant St and Willowfield Public Protection PSNI Units. This enables a prompt and coordinated response to support and safety planning for women and children experiencing domestic violence.

The project is funded by Belfast HSC Trust, N.I Housing Executive and PSNI . Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid contribute costs "in kind" through the provision of management, supervision and support to the project worker as well as investing in the interagency development aspects of the work and having responsibility for monitoring and accountability. The project has been positively evaluated (Oct 2009) and provides a model for other areas to develop similar partnership approaches to tackling Domestic Violence.

Elder News.....

Adult Safeguarding

The Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) with the Dept of Justice) and the support of other government departments is actively taking forward policy development in relation to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults in Northern Ireland.

The policy reform aims to be more inclusive and emphasises the need for partnership working, which is underpinned by a person-centred, rights-based approach to safeguarding.

Regional and Local Partnership Arrangements guidance was published in March 2010 and the establishment of a new Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP) and five Local Adult Safeguarding Partnerships (LASPs) is planned by the end of 2010.

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For more info see www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Age N.I. With over 60 years of shared history to draw on, Age Concern NI and Help the Aged in NI joined together in April 2009 to create a powerful new voice for older people.

Their Mission is "to enhance and improve the lives of older people" and their Vision "to create a world where older people flourish"

www.ageni.org

Uniting Against Elder Abuse Advocacy Service

The service provides independent advocacy for frail older people and those with dementia, as well as raising awareness of the issue of elder abuse, which is not well understood by the general public. This is a partnership project which brings together Age NI and the Alzheimer's Society and is funded by Comic Relief. A successful continuation funding bid means that the charities are delivering a two year programme with the specific aim of:

- Providing independent advocacy for frail older people and those with dementia.
- Raising awareness of the problem of elder abuse, specifically amongst section 75 groups

Some older people can be vulnerable to abuse as a result of isolation or because they are dependent on others for their health and well-being. Elder abuse can be emotional, discriminatory, financial, physical, sexual, psychological, neglect or a combination of all of these.

Nearly three out of four of the abuse cases UAEA has dealt with involves a family member, half of whom are daughters or sons, bringing complicated family dynamics into play. Cases of abuse are complex and under reported.

It takes courage to report suspected abuse and those who do may be misunderstood, ignored or go unheard.

For more information please contact:

Caryl Williamson, Senior Advocate, AGE NI, (advocacy support for frail older people)

Tel: 028 90892649 or Marian Cinnamond, Advocacy Manager, Alzheimer's Society

Tel: 028 90387770

News from home...

South of the Border.....

Government approves National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence



"One of Cosc's primary tasks has been the development of a National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based violence. The Strategy was approved by the Government on 9th February 2010 and Cosc are now focusing on ensuring it's implementation. The Strategy sets out the general vision and objectives and actions to tackle these crimes. The overall aim of this work is to reduce the prevalence of the crimes and to ensure that the system of prevention and response functions effectively in a co-ordinated manner increasing the understanding of the general public and professional services, supporting victims and ensuring the accountability of offenders.

The actions required to tackle domestic and sexual violence primarily cut across the justice sector, the health sector, the education sector, the housing sector and the non-governmental sector. Progress must be made in the context of a common vision to ensure that those affected receive the benefit of a holistic service".

For more information or to access the full report visit www.cosc.ie

Mainland News

NHS must do more to tackle Domestic Violence

The report of the Taskforce on Health aspects of Violence against Women and Children "Responding to violence against women and children –the role of the NHS" was published in March 2010.

In his introductory remarks the Chair Sir George Alberti makes a strong case for the NHS to take the " Same rigorous and systematic approach to Domestic Violence as has been applied to other areas of NHS Work such as diabetes or stroke services."

The NHS spends more time dealing with the impact of violence against women and children than almost any other agency. The report outlines the following health Consequences;

Physical and Sexual Violence and Abuse have direct health consequences and are risk factors for a wide range of long term health problems, including mental health problems, alcohol misuse, trauma (including maternal and fatal death), unwanted pregnancy (including teenage pregnancy), abortion, sexually transmitted infections and risky sexual behaviour

The report describes the key issues identified by women and children themselves and by NHS staff as well as by experts from a wide range of interested bodies.

The report makes 23 recommendations which it calls on the Government to accept and to implement as a matter of urgency. www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Healthimprovement/ViolenceagainstWomenandChildren/

"Clinicians should have a low threshold for asking about Violence and Abuse"

News In Brief.....

Welsh National Assembly launches Domestic Abuse Policy for staff

The policy developed by the Assembly's Human Resources, Equality and Access Teams aims to provide a network of support for staff who are experiencing Domestic Abuse. Speaking at the launch in June 2010 Kate Bennett, Director of the Equality and Human Rights Commission in Wales said

" Domestic abuse is everyone's business and an issue for all workplaces. Its about employers taking small steps that will make a big difference to the lives of their staff. Implementing a Domestic abuse workplace policy will not only reduce sickness absence and save money but , more importantly will save lives."

(News Wales 21/06/10)

and abroad...

Impunity for Domestic Violence, 'honour killings' cannot continue – UN official

So-called 'honour killings' are an extreme symptom of discrimination against women, which – including other forms of domestic violence – is a plague that affects every country, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay says, calling on governments to tackle impunity for this crime. He said "The reality for most victims, including victims of honour killings, is that State institutions fail them and that most perpetrators of domestic violence can rely on a culture of impunity for the acts they commit – acts which would often be considered as crimes, and be punished as such, if they were committed against strangers."



Tajikistan — Amnesty International publish report

"Violence is Not just a family Affair :Women Face Abuse in Tajikistan" This 53 page report accuses the police and other authorities of often sharing the values of husbands and in-law families in condoning violence and discrimination against women.

The report shows that girls being married off under-age; unofficial "unregistered" marriages (with husbands often having multiple wives); and uneducated poor women being treated as servants in their husband's homes-are all contributing to very high levels of violence against women within Tajik families.

Amnesty is calling on the Tajik authorities to begin full monitoring of Domestic Violence, to provide women's shelters and to establish specialised police units to deal with the problem.
www.amnesty.org.uk/news

France outlaws psychological violence in attempt to tackle Domestic Abuse

The French parliament has approved a groundbreaking law that makes psychological violence an offence as part of a broader range of measures aimed at improving protection of victims of domestic abuse.

"We have introduced an important measure here, which recognises psychological violence, because it isn't just blows [that hurt] but also words," Nadine Morano, the Minister for Family Affairs, told the lower house of parliament.

The Bill defines mental violence as *"repeated acts which could be constituted by words or other machinations, to degrade one's quality of life and cause a change to one's mental or physical state"*. Morano said the main abuse helpline for women in France received 90,000 calls a year. "Of these, 84% concern psychological violence," she added.

(Reuters Guardian 29/06/10)

Spain calls for Europe-wide protection for battered women

Spain's interior minister, Alfredo Rubalcaba, has called for a new approach to curbing violence against women including a campaign for a Europe-wide system of restraint orders aimed at curbing violence against women, for crime statistics to be reconfigured to highlight gender violence and for EU legislation offering protection to battered women across national borders.

Different European systems use different methods and instruments to try to deal with the issue, ranging from magistrates to social services to police units, meaning that standardising the practices is more of a technical than a substantive problem, according to the Spanish, who are pushing equality of the sexes as a theme of their EU presidency.

If the campaign to legislate for battered women fails, there are moves afoot aimed at establishing an "observatory" for gathering and monitoring sexual violence across the EU, perhaps building on the work of a European human rights agency based in Vienna.

Officials pointed out that if a woman is murdered by her husband, in most systems the crime will be catalogued under the murder statistics and will not surface in the gender violence ledgers.

(Guardian 8/01/10 Ian Traynor)

Trade Union News...

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2010 EXAMINES "BUILDING EQUALITY INTO RECOVERY"



Speaking to the NIPSA Motion on Domestic Violence, Geraldine Alexander called on the trade union movement to redouble its efforts to eradicate violence in all its forms throughout the island.

She pressed on the delegates to work with employers to get them to recognise that Domestic Violence is a workplace issue and to introduce workplace policies and procedures which will create a safe and supportive working environment which gives women the confidence to come forward.

She also called on Congress to press the Governments, North and South, for an amendment to the Legal Aid rules with an automatic right given to all victims of domestic violence to access legal protection and justice free of charge. Addressing the additional challenges faced by women with no resource to public funds she asked Congress to press both Governments to:

- provide refuges with the funds they need to protect those women suffering abuse; and
- provide for an exemption to the 'no recourse' rule to ensure women are not forced to remain with a violent partner.

In her concluding remarks Geraldine said:

"Conference, in times of recession the incidents of Domestic Violence and Abuse escalate, especially financial abuse. Now more than ever women across Ireland and the Globe need our support. We must therefore continue to work with employers and organisations such as Women's Aid, Amnesty International and the Human Rights Commission to ensure that Domestic Violence is not tolerated in any society. We must continue to raise awareness among our children in schools to change the attitudes that provoke and sustain the normalisation and acceptance of violence against women and I would ask you as Trade Unionists, as parents, as a member of society to accept your responsibility to put a stop to it and to redress the suffering it causes."

Taryn Trainor Regional Women's & Equalities Organiser reports on a meeting held with the N.I. Justice Department.



A delegation from Unite's Women's Committee, recently met with the Justice Minister's officials to discuss the new Legal Aid review which it's department is carrying out. The delegation wanted to put pressure on them to remove the means testing of legal aid for domestic violence victims to obtain non-molestation orders. The delegation were concerned that victims who are mostly women cannot protect themselves because the costs are too expensive. In England and Wales you can obtain a loan to pay for your non-molestation order and the delegation didn't accept this as a viable option. After a long discussion it was noted that victims can protect themselves with harassment orders from the PSNI at no cost and the Department felt that these may be a better option.

This will be discussed further at the Partnerships Protection and Justice Working Group.

In Brief



Resources

- **DVD "Leaving"** www.leavingabuse.info
- **Domestic Violence Resource manual and DVD for employers** Respect and Refuge
www.respect.uk.net www.refuge.org.uk

Reports/ Guidelines

- **Wrong kind of victim ? The anti trafficking monitoring group summary report June 2010**
www.antislavery.org/anti-trafficking_monitoring_group/
- **Responding to violence against Women and Children– The role of the NHS March 2010**
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/ViolenceagainstWomenandChildren/DH_113753
- **Adult Safeguarding in N.Ireland, Regional and Local Partnership arrangements**
DHSSPS March 2010
- **A Guide to Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System for Victims and Witnesses of Crime**
May 2010 www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications.htm
- **Women's experiences of violence: Mapping experiences and responses** Feb 2010
www.wcrp.org.uk
- **A Guide to Northern Ireland's Criminal justice system for bereaved families and friends following murder or manslaughter** May 2010 www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications.htm
- **ROI National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender- based Violence 2010-2014**
www.cosc.ie

Articles/ Research papers

- **"Chance or Choice" Understanding why asylum seekers come to the UK (January 2010)**
www.refugeecouncil.org.uk
- **The Vulnerable Womens Project, Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women Affected by Rape or Sexual Violence. Literature Review (feb.2009)** www.refugeecouncil.org.uk
- **The Cost of Domestic Violence Up-Date 2009(Sylvia Walby)**
www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/sociology/profiles

Research News...

QUB Domestic Violence Research Special Interest Group



The Group met on the 21st April hosted by QUB . Following "Welcome and Introductions", Dr John Devaney outlined the aims of the group as follows;

- To facilitate the sharing of research findings and discussions of the implications for practice and policy
- To promote the development of ideas for new areas of research and enquiry
- To promote the evidence base informing policy and practice relating to domestic violence
- To encourage networking between members

Speakers/Presentations

- Children, Domestic Abuse and Primary School Education. Stephanie Holt, Trinity College Dublin
Bronagh McKee, Stranmillis University College
- Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme. Geraldine O Hare Head of Psychology Services & Interventions
Probation Board for N. Ireland
- Male Victims of Domestic Abuse. Daryl Sweet Men's Advisory Project (MAP)
- Older Women's experiences of Domestic Violence in Ireland. Dr John Devaney QUB

Networking

The opportunity to network among members of the Special Interest Group can be facilitated by using a tool called Listserv which uses the world wide web and email to enable groups of individuals with a common interest to talk to each other and to share information.

In order to use Listserv a group must be established around an area of interest. The Domestic Violence Research Special Interest Group has set up such a group: DomesticviolenceresearchSIG@jiscmail.ac.uk

In order to become a member of this group and therefore to be able to post messages, and reply to emails, individuals must sign up to the group by emailing myself at J.Devaney@qub.ac.uk. Your email will be registered and you will receive an email from JISCmail confirming that you are registered.

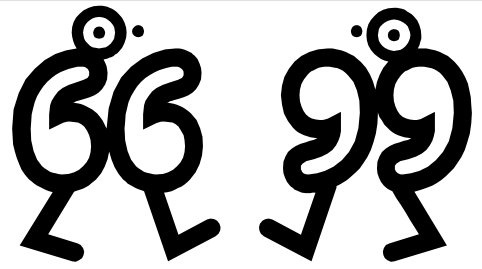
Research Scoping Exercise

The D.V. Special Interest group are keen to make a record of any research that has been conducted in either Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland on any aspect of domestic violence.

- Research can be defined broadly as any original work that seeks to gather information in a systematic way to aid understanding about the issue of domestic violence – it can include statistics, evaluations, audits, systematic reviews and empirical research
- The research must have been conducted in whole or part in either Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland
- The research must have been published, for example, peer reviewed articles/journals and published reports
- The published work can be in the format of a journal article, book, booklet, briefing paper, book chapter, conference paper, monograph, report or research Paper.

A small working group chaired by Dr John Devaney has been established to coordinate and plan the activities of the Research Special Interest Group.

Quotes of note....



"Our job is to prevent crime and that means turning the screw on abusers. If we knew when a bank was going to get robbed and we knew who was doing it, we would stop it before it happened"

Chief Inspector Bob Hamilton
Domestic Abuse Task Force Glasgow

"Violence against women continues to persist as one of the most heinous, systematic and prevalent human rights abuses in the world"

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General

"In the name of preserving family "Honour", women and girls are shot, stoned, burned, buried alive, strangled, smothered, and knifed to death with horrifying regularity"

(Navi Pillay UNHC for Human rights)

Violence against women is not a problem in Tajikistan, it is a family matter; and it depends on individual people how they resolve their problems"

(Tajik govt. official reporting to Amnesty)

" This is an area where urgent action is needed. It is a disgrace that so little has been done by the NHS so far. I urge the government not only to accept the report but also to implement the recommendations as a matter of urgency"

Professor Sir George Alberti Chair of the report of the taskforce on the Health Aspects of Violence against Women and Children

Noticeboard ...



One-Stop Shop

Under one roof access for women experiencing domestic violence to:

Women's Aid Representative, Solicitor,
Domestic Violence Officer (PSNI), Housing/Benefits Advice

Crèche facilities and disability access available

Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid
30 Adelaide Park, Belfast BT9 6FY
Tel: 02890 666049 Fax: 02890 682874

Useful links

Women's Aid 24 hr Helpline 0800 9171414

Useful sites:

Age N.I.	www.ageni.org
Barnardos	www.barnardos.org.uk
Belfast Education and Library Board	www.belb.org.uk
Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid	www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	www.belfasttrust.hscni.net
Children's Law Centre	www.childrenslawcentre.org
Citizens Advice Bureau	www.citizensadvice.co.uk
Housing Advice	www.housingadviceNI.org
Northern Ireland Policing Board	www.nipolicingboard.org.uk
Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People	www.niccy.org
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	www.nihe.gov.uk
NSPCC	www.nspcc.org.uk
Probation Board N.I.	www.pbni.org.uk
Social Security Agency	www.dsdni.gov.uk
Victim Support	www.victimsupport.org.uk

Articles and information for next edition to:

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