

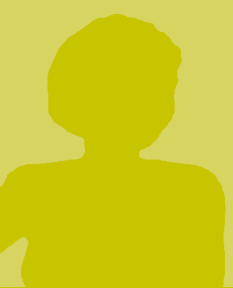




The London Domestic Violence Forum
Annual Report 2002 to the Mayor of London

	1 in 4	It was worse seeing my mother hit than being hit myself	I am forced to have contact with him through access to my son, he behaves as if nothing has happened now		1 in 4
I thought it was all my fault as this is what he told me	It is not so easy to walk out of a marriage... if there are children involved... it feels as if you've failed		1 in 4	Why can't all the authorities understand that prevention is better than cure	Why did my children have to lose everything... due to one man and his violence?
1 in 4		We need to know that there is security and safety for us... that we can keep our homes		That it happens within the home makes the crime worse... The home is the place where I should feel safest	
I was desperate for help to escape from the abuse. Reached the end of my tether	I was five months pregnant and due to his beatings and kicking, I finally lost the baby	1 in 4	I knew I couldn't go back because he would definitely kill me	1 in 4	He threatened me with deportation if I left him so I was too frightened to go to anyone

The London Domestic Violence Forum
Annual Report 2002 to the Mayor of London

November 2002

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Increasing women and children's safety

Ultimately, changes in community responses to domestic violence, to woman abuse, will be measured not by the number of multi-agency forums that are established, nor by the number of public pronouncements by government and statutory bodies as to the seriousness of the issue, but by the quality and sensitivity of services that are (or are not) available to women and children who are at risk from violence from men who they know or with whom they live.

Nicola Harwin, Director, Women's Aid Federation

Holding abusers accountable

Dealing with domestic violence takes a great deal of police time and resources. If they dealt with it properly, they would buy enough time to deal with all other crimes

John Grieves, former Head of MPS Racial and Violent Task Force, June 2002

Reducing social tolerance

This day, and the Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence that we launch today, give us an opportunity to start building a new Millennium free from violence against women and girls; an age in which all humanity knows that when it comes to violence against women, there are no grounds for tolerance and no tolerable excuses

Kofi Anan, UN Secretary General, 25th November 2000

Educating children and young people

'We don't raise boys to be men, we raise boys not to be women.' Mothers and fathers are equally responsible for teaching boys that girls are weaker and more emotional. Parents often scold little boys not to cry when they fall and hurt themselves. 'Be a man, toughen up.' They learn to repress their hurt and express only anger, an acceptable male emotion.

Don McPherson. Executive Director of the Sports Leadership Institute, 2001

Monitoring and standards

In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture.... Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Beijing Platform for Action paragraph 112, 1995

foreword by Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London

In the London Domestic Violence Strategy launched last November, I set out a vision for how we should, and could, effectively address the issue of domestic violence. The aim was to provide strategic leadership which supports and builds on existing work and which encourages and facilitates the development of new initiatives.

Domestic violence is a complex issue and we have set ourselves an ambitious task. I remain committed to the vision (see page 1) and am pleased to report that the London Domestic Violence Forum is making good progress as detailed in this document. Almost all of the targets set for the first year have been achieved and there has also been considerable progress on the work programme for next year as well. Overall, the London Domestic Violence Forum has made progress on almost half of the recommendations, as well as establishing clear structures and work programmes to take forward the remainder.

These targets are not just a paper exercise; the work we are embarked upon will make real differences to the lives of abused women and children. For example, the domestic violence channel on i-point kiosks are providing over 3,500 plans a month containing vital safety information for abused women. The police-led Domestic Violence Fatality Reviews are enabling the identification of both high risk factors and actions that increase safety. Including domestic violence provisions within employment policies, are making it easier for abused women to keep their jobs.

This work is driven by the London Domestic Violence Forum and its sub-groups which were established in January and which are meeting regularly to progress the work programme. I am grateful to the many agencies that have committed to working in partnership to help us take forward this important work. This report from the London Domestic Violence Forum shows the many and varied ways in which agencies across London are addressing domestic violence.

Nevertheless, we still have much work to do. Sadly in the past year alone, domestic violence murders accounted for the death of at least 48 Londoners and the Metropolitan Police were called out to over 88,000 domestic violence incidents. This document details what we have done in the last year and our plans for the coming year to reduce and prevent all domestic violence and its many and devastating far-reaching effects.

The progress made is due, in no small part, to the many individuals who have acted as 'Domestic Violence Champions' in their agencies and their communities. In this, their first year of operation, I have decided not to issue specific awards.

Instead I have published a 'Roll-call of Honour' containing the names of the 'Domestic Violence Champions' without whose dedicated commitment we would not have progressed so far and to whom I wish to express my warmest thanks for their time and patience.



© Liane Harris

the Mayor's Roll-call of Honour

The people named below represent those known individuals who have engaged in some way with the London Domestic Violence Strategy over the past year. It is not a complete list; for security reasons some people have been excluded and we have also not included job titles for the same reason. There will also be others about whom we do not know. For example, most abused women tell us that what helped more than anything was having a good friend or relative and we honour those who have provided this invaluable support.

But a good friend can only help so much. Abused women and children usually also need services from voluntary and public agencies. Some agencies have made huge – sometimes even dramatic – changes in the way they address domestic violence. In many cases this is due to the tenacious commitment of 'champions' who, despite under-funding and frequent set-backs, continue to work towards a vision of a world where violence no longer happens.

Abida Iqbal	Angela Jonno	Barbara Lawrence
Adiaha Antigha	Angela Piddock	Barbara Murray
Adrian Norman	Anjana Patel	Barbara Westmorland
Afsana Aramesh	Anju Bhatt	Barbara Young
Afshan Ahmed	Anjum Mouj	Bart Johnson
Ainslie O'Connor	Anna Carre	Bear Montique
Alan Baxter	Anna Harskamp	Ben Jamal
Alan Maryon Davies	Anna Johnson	Bernard Collier
Alice Spencer	Anna Tapsell	Beryl Foster
Alison Dale	Anne Coughlan	Bethan Rigby
Alison Chow	Anne Delargy	Beverley Docherty
Allison Buchanan	Anne Patterson	Bill McMahon
Allison Diamond	Anne Sturdy	Binah Taylor
Althea Smith	Annette Dale-Perera	Blossom Burt
Alva Bailey	Annette Ramsey	Bob Hale
Alyson Turner	Annette Rauf	Bobbie Wason
Amanda Johnson	Annie England	Brenda Harrison
Amelia Nice	Ann-Marie Burnett-Charles	Brenda Ellis
Amina Ahmed	Anthony Barnard	Brenda Woodward
Amira Gorani	Anthony Millinship	Brian Emmons
Amparo Beron	Antoinette Niles	Brian McKenzie
Anastasia Artemiou	Antonia Bance	Bron Lovelock
Andrea Cork	Arlene Vetere	Bumi-Loretta Akinmutande
Andrea Bennett	Ashi Dhillon	Caitriona Scanlan
Andrew Loxton	Ashley Sharpe	Carmelita Davies
Andy Keane	Asther Hagus	Carol Coventry
Andy Takoushis	Audley Phillips	Carol Hartley
Angela Ashley	Auzra Akhrat	Carol Johnston
Angela Dawe	Baljinder Heer	Carol Malone
Angela Humphrey	Barbara Castle	Carol Woodward

Caroline Goode	David Kirkpatrick	Fran Johnson
Caroline Jones	David Shaer	Frances Martineau
Caroline O'Donohugh	David Stock	Gareth Phillips
Caroline Rouse	David Vanstone	Gary Crump
Caroline Stanley	David Walker	Geethika Jayatilaka
Carolyn Dhanraj	Davina James-Hanman	Genevieve Cropper
Cath Kane	Debbie Eaton	Genevieve Painter
Catherine Burring	Deborah Hart	Glen Lloyd
Catherine Crabtree	Deborah Luff	Gloria Ogunbadejo
Catherine Orr-Deas	Deborah Nagle	Glynis Rodgers
Cathy Kelly	Deborah Williams	Graham Baxendale
Cathy Redmond	Denice Sealy	Graham Griffin
Cathy Symes	Denise Marshall	Guy Carmichael
Catrina Flynn	Diana Mills	Gwen Jones
Cecily Dunne	Dinah Cox	Gwen Kennedy
Chandni Shah	Doreen Woodburne	Haffan Yama
Charles Aina	Dot Holmes	Hala Al-Ahmadi
Charles Richards	Dr Kamalanathan	Hanana Siddiqui
Chelsey Bonehill	Dr Tseng	Harriet Cullis
Cheryl Loughmaine	Elaheh Rambarzini	Harriet Bullard
Ching Wah Wong	Elaine Peace	Hassan Bokhari
Chris Clow	Elena Noel	Hazel Jordan
Chris Saunders	Eleri Butler	Heather Cox
Chris Whelan	Elizabeth Clarson	Helen Burdock
Christina Brown	Elizabeth Cliff	Helen Deane
Christine Bridgett	Ellen Haynes	Helen Michaels
Christine Frost	Ellen Reverend	Hilary Garner
Christine Skidmore	Emily Wong	Hilary McCollum
Christine Steel	Emma Low	Howard Cohen
Clair Dudley	Emma Nicholas	Ian Beever
Claire Cocker	Emma Scott	Ian Powell
Claire Cooper	Emma Sherrington	Ila Patel
Claire Green	Emma Webb	Ilana Cravitz
Clare Allen Mulney	Enise Aymer	Iman Achara
Clare Gardiner	Esther Brewster-Thizy	Irene Ahern
Clare Jennings	F. El-Fayyouny	Isobel Williams
Clare Lazarus	Faith Ayool	Jackie Dunkley-Bent
Claudia da Silva	Faith Odeuegwu	Jackie Louden
Colin Bowen	Faranha Zia	Jackie Meldrum
Colin Lee	Fay Denton	Jacqueline Anglin
Conrad Hollingsworth	Felicity Magnay	Jacqueline Smikle
Corinne Baylee	Fiona Harrison	Jan McColm
Darryl Telles	Flore Pirard	Jan Salihi
Dave Gaywood	Floyd Millen	Jan Winning
Dave Palmer	Fotini Tsioupra	Jane Collins
David Abse	Fran Barson	Jane Hatte

Jane Ishmael	Judith Rodgers	Laura Richards
Jane Keeper	Judy Harrington	Lee Fulton
Jane Lindsay	Judy Watson	Lin Gillians
Jane Scholefield	Julia Murphy	Linda Brookbanks
Jane Warwick	Julian Gibbs	Linda Chapman
Janet Bowstead	Julie Cannadine	Linda Lovelock
Janet Davies	Julie Daley	Linda Popely
Janet Smith	Julie Hawkins	Linda Shamel
Janet Taylor	Julie Marshall	Linda Williamson
Janet Veitch	Julie Pal	Lisa Hanley
Janis Anderson	Julie Wymer	Lisa Johnson
Jason Eden	Julieann Wilson	Lisa Spiegal
Jason Lever	Juliette Taylor	Liz Dillon
Jayshree Boot	June Conyard	Liz Doherty
Jean Cross	June Pilgrim	Liz Kelly
Jean Katchild	June Pilgrim	Liz Mayne
Jean Osborne	Juneary Raymond	Liz Southcombe
Jeanette Nicholson	Juneary Raymond	Liz Wallis
Jedidah Idrisu	Kalyani Girat	Lorraine Martins
Jennette Arnold	Karen Mwaniki	Lorraine Bacchus
Jenny Armstrong	Karen Neill	Lorraine Newbold
Jenny Phaure	Karima Koia	Lorraine Stewart
Jill Bowden	Kate Iwi	Lorraine Wilson
Jill Lynch	Kate McKenzie	Louise Garner
Jill Maddison	Kate Richardson	Lubna Faied
Jill May	Katerina Tulloch	Lucy Brown
Jill Walsh	Katherine Charles	Lucy Dawes
Jo Beck	Katherine Gilcreest	Lucy Macnamara
Jo Edwards	Kathrine Charles	Lucy Walmsly
Jo Gough	Kathy Ferguson	Luqman Williams
Jo Harper	Kathy Ring	Lynn Wilders
Jo Todd	Katie McCracken	Lynne Bainbridge
Joan Feddler	Katrina Smith	Lynne Skevington
Joanna Wood	Kay Darrington	M.A. Karim
Joanna Marshall	Kay Scudder	Mac Wenham
Joanne Creighton	Keib Thomas	Maddy Halliday
Joanne Wood	Keith Giannoni	Maggie Baxter
Joe Hirst	Keri Lawrence	Maggie Crompton
John Hayward	Kez Grant	Maggie Morgan
John Meager	Khim Dew	Maggie Mulvihill
John Preuth	Kim Guest	Maggie Williams
John Taylor	Kirti Sisodia	Maki Kimura
Joy Cox	Kuria Conner	Malcolm Jenkin
Joy Jarrett	Lakhvir Randhawa	Mandy Berriman
Joy Saunders	Laura Hill	Mandy Haslam
Judith Chambers	Laura Nechi-Gherri	Margaret Connolly

Margaret Eggers	Monica Tuohy	Ragna Tulloch
Margaret Keenan	Nadia Mahmood	Ranjit Kaur
Margaret Kier	Nadine Tilbury	Ray Skingley
Margaret Nunn	Nancy Lombard	Rebecca Sycamore
Marie Joseph	Nargis Rashid	Rita Duffy
Marie Kearns	Naseem Aboobaker	Rita Hirani
Marilyn de Freitas	Nasreen Somauroo	Rita McLean
Marion Knight	Natasha Kapadia	Robert Greaves
Marion McGowan	Neelufar Khan	Robert Nunn
Marion Winterholler	Neil Blacklock	Robin Hanton
Marjory Broughton	Nezahat Cihan	Robin Haynes
Mark Tuohy	Nick Hulme	Robin Tuddenham
Martin Dixon	Nicola Forry	Roger Weissman
Martin Whiterod	Nicola Saunders	Rohan Collier
Mary Alhassan	Nicola Harwin	Ros Williams
Mary Blair	Nisha Patel	Rose Mary Owen
Mary Burkett	Nursal Livatyali	Rosette Adigeve
Mary Golden	Pankaj Doshi	Rowena Daw
Mary Kelly	Pat O'Connor	Roy Evans
Mary Maurice Jones	Patience Champion	Roz Hardie-Ejiohuo
Mary Russell	Patricia Tulloch	Rubia Bhola
Mary Sone	Patrick McGuirk	Rukhsana Shah
Mary Spillane	Pattie Friend	Ruth Bonser
Matt Comins	Paul Maddocks	Ruth Chigwada-Bailey
Matt Sterling	Paul Najsarek	Ruth Farmer
Maureen Barker	Paula Jeffery	Ruth Jones
Maureen Flannery	Pauline Bent	Ruth Power
Maureen Gallagher	Pauline Martin	Sabaina Dumbuya
Maureen Halton	Pauline Tio	Sahar Elgal
Mavis Harris	Peggy Beckford	Sally Brooks
Maxi Martin	Pek Choo	Sally Copley
Maxime Fagg	Penelope Harrison	Sally James
Mee Cheuk	Peta Sissons	Sam Brown
Meera Chardran	Peter Jeffries	Sandi Rance
Meera Ashley	Peter Messent	Sandra Machado
Mekhola Ray	Peter Patterson	Sandra McNeill
Melanie Twyford	Petra Mohr	Sandra van der Feen
Melinda Pogue-Jackson	Phil Woodall	Sandy Greenfield
Mesbah Uddin	Philippa Chipping	Sarah Andrews
Mesbah Uddin	Phillippe Mandin	Sarah Beresford
Michelle Brown	Polly Lees	Sarah Galvani
Michelle Clarke	Pragna Patel	Sarah Johnstone
Michelle Dunn	Pramila Lala	Sarah Timewell
Michelle Hendey	Purna Sen	Sasha Rakoff
Michelle Kio	Rachel Carter	Sawah Drew
Mike Kearns	Rachael Porter	Sean Dunkling

Serife Yusuf	Sumanta Roy	Yuen Teng Lai
Sevia John	Sunny Lambe	Yvette Stout
Shahid Sardar	Surinder Dhillon	Yvonne Harrison
Shakila Sharif	Surinder Jassal	Yvonne Jones
Shaminder Ubhi	Susan Crisp	Zahrah Awaleh
Sharmi Kar	Susan Hasler-Winter	Zaki Shentouf
Sharon Blackwood	Susan Lewis	Zoe Greening
Sharon Marshall	Susan Mummery	
Sharon Millington	Susan Parsonage	
Sharon Stratton	Susan Taylor	
Sharon Walker	Susie Parsons	
Sharon Hollis	Suzanne Wheeler	
Sheila Frankcom	Sylvia Bourke	
Shelagh Shannon	Sylvia Carter	
Shereen Lincoln	Sylvia Rose	
Shirley Woolford	Sylvia Williams	
Silvia Carter	Taiwo Dayo-Payne	
Simon Eversley	Taljinder Nijar	
Simone Hensby	Tamsin Larby	
Siwan Lloyd-Hayward	Tania Pouwhare	
Sonia Andrews	Tara Dickenson	
Sonia Claris	Tara Wilson	
Sonia Esnard	Tessa Flament	
Sonja Kapalay	Thoweetha Shaah	
Sonya Murison	Tim Duncan	
Sophia Ceneda	Timothy Modu	
Stella Macaulay	Tina Fernandes	
Steve Brennan	Tony Barnard	
Steve Harrison	Tracey Edmunds	
Steve Phaure	Trefor Lloyd	
Stuart Brittain	Trevor Brydges	
Sudarshan Bhuhi	Trish Moran	
Sue Ballam	Trudi Sills	
Sue Barnes	Urmila Patel	
Sue Draper	Uzo Kumi	
Sue Eacott	Val Rogers	
Sue Ellenby	Vanessa Trenton	
Sue Green	Vania Buisseret	
Sue Hurn	Veronice Cotterell	
Sue Jones	Vicki Marr	
Sue Mather	Vicky Grosser	
Sue Matthews	Vicky Mellhuish	
Sue Nicolaou	Vivienne Hayes	
Sue Sinclair	Wendy Kyrle-Pope	
Sue Williams	Wendy Norman	
Sultana Khanum	Yasmin Rehman	

the London domestic violence strategy vision

For women who experience domestic violence, there should be:

- co-ordinated services which prioritise her and her children's safety
- a range of services, sufficiently flexible to meet her individual needs yet standardised enough for her to be able to safely rely upon them
- less public silence about the abuse they are experiencing.

For children who live in violent homes there should be:

- help and support to ensure that they are not left to deal with their experiences alone
- information that the violence they have experienced is wrong, legally and morally
- opportunities to share their experiences with other children so as to reduce their isolation.

For men who perpetrate domestic violence there should be:

- interventions designed to hold him accountable for his behaviour
- negative consequences sufficient to act as a deterrent.

For practitioners who provide services there should be:

- a central information bank which disseminates good practice
- training for all relevant staff
- standard definitions relating to domestic violence work allowing all services to work towards a common purpose
- standard criteria against which services can be assessed and compared.

For agencies that resource domestic violence services there should be:

- an increase in value for money and a decrease in wasted resources
- effective monitoring to track the effectiveness of this strategy
- better data to ensure future services can be more effectively targeted.

The benefits for Londoners will be:

- a safer community
- better information for family and friends of abused women who currently provide the bulk of support
- a reduction in the cost to the public purse
- a reduction in the severity and dangerousness of domestic violence
- a reduction in repeat victimisation
- an increase in service user satisfaction
- a reduction in the long term negative consequences of domestic violence for women and children who experience domestic violence

- an increase in understanding of domestic violence amongst the general public and a decrease in social acceptance
- the upholding of women's human rights.

Overview

This report submitted to the Mayor of London, details the work of The London Domestic Violence Forum. The Forum brings together a large number of agencies to work in partnership to implement the London Domestic Violence Strategy. Although membership comprises over 80 representatives, it should be noted that many members represent other partnerships. For example, each of the 32 Borough Domestic Violence Fora are represented on the London-wide Forum and between them act as a link to over 300 further agencies across London.

In the first year of operation, therefore, establishing the structure of the Forum, its membership and terms of reference has been a major task. With so many agencies involved, in a few areas progress has sometimes been slow. However, it has been worthwhile to proceed at this pace since it has ensured that we now have solid foundations in place to make real changes happen at a more rapid rate in the coming years. For example, almost all relevant agencies are now represented in the membership of the five sub-groups. Via the membership protocol, all member agencies have mechanisms for reporting back decisions to those they represent and we now have clear action plans for implementing all the facets of the London Domestic Violence Strategy. These foundations will assist us enormously in the coming months as we embark upon more complex tasks.

Aims of the London Domestic Violence Strategy

- Increasing safe choices for women and children experiencing domestic violence so that they might plan safer futures without compromising their quality of life.
- Holding individual abusers accountable for their behaviour in such a way that not only acts as a future deterrent for them, but also as a deterrent to potential abusers.
- Actions which undermine social tolerance/approval of domestic violence or actions which challenge inaction by either individuals or organisations. This includes exposing the many stereotypes and myths so that assessments are accurate.
- Providing children and young people with the necessary knowledge and skills required to build relationships based on respect and mutual understanding, with shared power and a commitment to non-violence.

The London Domestic Violence Forum

The purpose of the London Domestic Violence Forum is to:

- review and advise on the implementation of the London Domestic Violence Strategy
- provide a mechanism whereby information can be exchanged and discussions on current issues can take place
- produce an annual report detailing progress and plans for the coming year. This report will be widely disseminated to key agencies and individuals
- establish minimum standards for Domestic Violence Fora including definitions; membership; roles and responsibilities (including domestic violence murder reviews); good practice; training; consultation with survivors and specialist services; relationship to other interagency structures, policies and priorities; information sharing protocols and a range of performance indicators
- increase awareness and appreciation of each agency's role in responding to domestic violence and encourage and maintain a co-ordinated response, joint action and support where appropriate
- ensure that all agencies treat domestic violence seriously, appropriately and consistently
- increase awareness in the community of the scale, consequences and causes of domestic violence, and the appropriate ways to tackle these issues
- encourage initiatives aimed at the prevention of domestic violence
- maximise the resources available to tackle, and ultimately to reduce, domestic violence
- publicise the work of the Londonwide Domestic Violence Forum to Londoners, voluntary organisations, statutory agencies and Government. This will include holding a public event each November 25th to commemorate the UN International Day of Action Against Violence Against Women.

Membership

Membership (see appendix A) of Londonwide Domestic Violence Forum consists of:

- key stakeholder agencies (see appendix B)
- 32 Borough Domestic Violence Fora.

Members are expected to have sufficient authority to seek and promote changes in their agencies, take responsibility for progressing the London Domestic Violence Strategy recommendations pertaining to their agency, and to actively participate in the work of the Londonwide Domestic Violence Forum.

Interested Networks

Research has shown that domestic violence initiatives are most effective when:

- the views of survivors are meaningfully incorporated within planning processes
- the voluntary sector, in particular specialist domestic violence services and agencies working with particular Black and minority ethnic communities, play a key and central role
- the views of front-line service providers are fully considered in relation to the practicable nature of proposed changes.

For this reason, the work of the Londonwide Domestic Violence Forum is enhanced by the in-put of the following:

- Regular consultation exercises with survivors of domestic violence (this is facilitated by the Greater London Domestic Violence Project in partnership with other agencies as relevant).
- Reports from the Greater London Domestic Violence Project's Development Officer (Voluntary Sector) who works with a wide range of voluntary sector groups to implement the London Domestic Violence Strategy recommendations for this sector.
- Reports from the Borough Domestic Violence Co-ordinator's Network, facilitated by the Association of London Government.

The Londonwide Domestic Violence Forum also receives reports from the Greater London Domestic Violence Project on its progress in implementing the Mayor's commitments in London Domestic Violence Strategy.

Sub-groups

The Londonwide Domestic Violence Forum has five sub-groups.

Four of the sub-groups represent each of the four aims of the London domestic violence strategy, namely:

- increasing women and children's safety
- holding abusers accountable
- reducing social tolerance
- educating children and young people.

The fifth sub-group is the Monitoring and Standards sub-group.

Each sub-group meets six times a year. Membership of the subgroups comprised of members of the London Domestic Violence Forum (maximum ten members). Where deemed appropriate, sub-groups may co-opt additional members for specific projects providing this does not mean membership quotas are exceeded.

Membership protocol

Members of the London Domestic Violence Forum sign the following protocol which commits their agency to:

- working in partnership to ensure a co-ordinated response to promote joint working, co-operation and mutual support
- the representative having sufficient authority to promote and seek changes in policy and practices to the decision making body (subject to internal decision making processes)
- taking the lead for progressing the London Domestic Violence Strategy recommendations pertaining to their agency and to incorporate within their own agency the minimum standards for all agencies. In the case of Domestic Violence Forum representatives, their role is to take the lead for progressing recommendations pertaining to Domestic Violence Fora rather than for each agency represented on their Forum
- active participation in the work of the Londonwide Domestic Violence Forum including its sub-groups where relevant. Members must attend at least one in every three meetings
- developing mechanisms for feedback progress/issues to their respective agencies and to pass on their agencies views to the Forum
- sharing relevant information at meetings and to contribute to the agenda as appropriate.

Lessons learned

We are mindful of the fact that the London Domestic Violence Strategy is an ambitious project. Although both Scotland and Northern Ireland have national strategies, there is no Government strategy for England and Wales. There are a few other regional domestic violence strategies but none that cover so large and diverse an area as London. As such, the London Domestic Violence Strategy has attracted a great deal of attention from a wide range of people and agencies, including Government, and we are keen to share our experiences.

Soon after the strategy was launched, it became clear that the management of information was a huge task requiring an additional member of staff. Funding was sought and an Information Manager was recruited to post in June 2002.

During the first year we have undertaken a large number of mapping projects so that we have a clear idea of what is in place. Such information is scattered both within and across agencies and collecting this information this has proven to be enormously time-consuming. Nevertheless, it helps us to identify different practice models, gaps in provision and prevents unnecessary duplication. Ensuring all interested parties are kept informed is also key to maintaining interest and commitment.

Due to agency structures and the growing trend away from centralisation, it has proved difficult in some instances to identify a specific individual who can fully meet the membership requirements. This is with especial reference to ensuring decisions are implemented within their agency and this is reflected in the more uneven progress of recommendations within some areas. For example, there is no existing London wide body that can fully represent the hundreds of primary and secondary schools and the Department of Education and Skills remains the only key Government ministry to have not issued any specific policy or guidance in relation to domestic violence. Some educational initiatives have nevertheless taken place and these are detailed later.

Representation can also be problematic even where there is an identified individual. Policy implementation is often patchy and fragmented and depends far too much on an individual's commitment and ability to motivate others. In many large organisations, internal communication is inadequate, making consistency of service delivery extremely difficult.

Other factors outside of the control of the London Domestic Violence Forum have also affected our progress. Acute staff shortages in many public and voluntary sector agencies can make it difficult to engage with new work. The lack of affordable housing also limits what we can do to meet this essential requirement of domestic violence survivors. Other examples include the lack of an NHS target relating to domestic violence making it more problematic to engage with health service providers, and the pressures post 11 September have impacted on the Metropolitan Police at all levels including Community Safety Units*.

We very much welcome the recently commissioned research from the Women and Equality Unit into the economic costs of domestic violence which we are hopeful will help us in making the business case for a wider range of agencies to commit significant resources to progressing this work. We also welcome the announcement from Government of the five priority areas for action. These are:

- early intervention by Health Practitioners (Department of Health)
- enhanced Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction Interface (Lord Chancellor's Department)
- increasing safe accommodation choices for women and children fleeing domestic violence (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister)
- education and awareness raising on the prevalence and social unacceptability of domestic violence (Cabinet Office and Department for Education and Skills)
- ensuring appropriate police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) response to all incidents of domestic violence (Home Office and CPS).

The picture painted above, however, is not complete. The overall situation is one of optimism and of steady progress despite these obstacles and set-backs.

Detailed below is the progress we have made against each of the recommendations in the work-plan which have reached their target delivery date and the progress we have made on recommendations ahead of time. In its entirety, the London Domestic Violence Strategy contains over 150 recommendations. We have made some progress on almost half of these in just our first year.

We are delighted that the London Domestic Violence Strategy has provided a framework for agencies to develop and implement changes in service delivery. We are aware of local strategies and action plans using the same framework, of new initiatives being developed based on the London Domestic Violence Strategy recommendations and of new agencies engaging with domestic violence work at a local level. This is helping us all in ensuring a consistent and standardised approach to this issue. One particular area of activity this year has been the expansion of the number of local authority Domestic Violence Co-ordinators. There is now a dedicated post within 18 of the 32 boroughs.

Note

*Community Safety Units have responsibility for investigating racist, homophobic and domestic violence incidents and there is one in each of London's 32 boroughs. Some are under-staffed by as much as 40 per cent.

progress since November 2001

Below are listed:

- *All the individual recommendations from the work plan with a target date of on or before November 2002.*
- *All the recommendations with a target date of after November 2002 where some progress has already been made.*

The remaining recommendations are listed in Appendix B and C.

Individual recommendations for 2002

- *Include domestic violence in bids for external funding such as Safer Communities.*

Initial mapping would suggest that the Safer Communities Initiative is not being as fully used as it might to fund domestic violence partnership projects. It is, perhaps, noteworthy that it is largely those boroughs with a Domestic Violence Co-ordinator that are most likely to have accessed this funding. We will continue to monitor this in the coming year.

- *Improve the speed of transfers in order to give a choice between transfer and Local Authority Housing and investigate the Performance Indicators for transfers.*

Given the acute housing shortage in London, it is essential that we make best use of existing resources. Whilst emergency housing will always be needed by some women, for many it is undoubtedly the option they have chosen because it offers the most speedy resolution to their housing situation. Currently, housing policy and practice varies enormously across the 32 boroughs, not just between local authority housing departments but also between Housing Associations. Some measures have been implemented to improve inter-Borough transfers (see below) but more work is needed to address transfers within boroughs. We have developed some potential models and will be piloting these in the coming year.

Information on the number of transfers for 2001/02 financial year is currently being collated and available figures on transfers for 2000/01 show a fall of 8 per cent to 12,199. Due to the housing shortage, movement within the council sector is largely stagnant with tenants in only the most acute need likely to get a transfer. Mutual exchanges between tenants also fell by 6 per cent to 3,467. Specific information on domestic violence transfers is not currently available.

Research to date has not revealed performance indicators for transfers. Councils do however have performance indicators once a transfer has been agreed around issues such as condition of the property and speed of move.

Two pilot projects are currently being run by the Association of London Government that may assist women fleeing domestic violence:

- *Notify*

This is a joint pilot project with the Greater London Authority to operate initially in three London boroughs; Westminster, Lambeth and Brent. This project commenced in September 2002 and will be rolled out across all of the London boroughs early in 2003. It is anticipated that each Homeless Persons Unit will update a specially designed database system with information on people who have been housed in temporary accommodation across London in order for boroughs to track the movement of vulnerable households and offer relevant support. All women fleeing domestic violence are now considered within this due to an extension of the 1996 Housing Act.

- *Getting London Moving* (see below).

- *Provide information on confidentiality of identity and whereabouts with electoral registration forms.*

There has been some success with regard to this recommendation. A change in the law now means that there are two electoral registers; a full version and an edited version. Information on these changes is included with the circulation of electoral registration forms and abused women can now choose to only appear on the edited version. Whilst this does not offer complete anonymity, exclusion from the edited register means that names are not sold for general purposes, the most worrying of which are web-sites such as www.192.com. Such sites, with only minimal information, can produce the address and a map to the home of anyone on the edited electoral register. We have contacted as many of these sites that we can and have compiled and publicised how to remove details of individual voters from their records.

- *Publicise more widely measures available to encourage women to co-operate with a prosecution (e.g. expenses with transportation/childcare).*

Vulnerable and intimidated witnesses are now offered the opportunity to meet with the Crown Prosecution Service prior to their court appearance. This meeting is to discuss special measures that can be taken to ensure they give their best evidence in court. A leaflet explaining the purpose of this meeting was published this year and is available in nine additional languages and also on the CPS website.¹

- *Develop creative ways in which abused women and children can access information on where and how to access help with an emphasis on using places where women go before seeking help such as in public toilets and at bus stops. This to emphasise the concept of safety planning.*

Following a pilot phase in December 2001 and January 2002, in partnership with Cityspace, we launched a domestic violence information channel on all 65 i-point kiosks across the capital in March. Since then, over 18,000 safety plans have

been printed from these kiosks. This is an imaginative way in which we can ensure that even women whose movements are heavily monitored by their abuser may be able to access crucial safety information. In the coming year we will be expanding the information still further and analysing which safety information is most accessed to inform our future activities.

■ *Explore the potential for developing an email information and support service for abused women and children.*

We participated in a pilot project to explore the feasibility of providing an on-line support group. Whilst staggeringly successful (45,000 unique visitors per month) we have still to identify long term funding to ensure that future provision is secure and properly moderated. There is clearly a need for this service and we are working with several partners to try and establish a permanent site.

■ *Include domestic violence as an issue in compulsory mental health admissions protocols (conducted in partnership with Social Services).*

In October 2002, the Government published their Women's Mental Health Strategy for consultation. We are pleased at the recognition that has been given to domestic violence within this document, including the guidance that compulsory admissions to hospital should be avoided wherever possible. We hope that when the final document is issued, it will contain clearer guidance for professionals to identify domestic violence so that the specific proposals are enacted.

■ *Domestic violence information should be included on all health websites and hospital intranets.*

To date, only a limited number of health websites have included domestic violence information on websites and hospital intranets as following extensive discussions, it was decided that it was preferable for such information to be accompanied by training. Over the past year we have put into place the necessary structures to take forward work within the health sector including improving the capacity to provide training. In Brent and Harrow Health Authority, for example, a Train the Trainer programme has been delivered. This has created a pool of trainers within the Health Authority who can now provide a rolling programme of domestic violence courses. We have also established a London Health and Domestic Violence Forum which will take forward this work.

■ *Local authorities to adopt a corporate domestic violence policy based on the principles of believing the women, ensuring her safety, confidentiality and anti-discriminatory practice.*

The Domestic Violence Co-ordinators Network, facilitated by the Association of London Government, have begun developing a standard corporate policy which could be used by all 32 boroughs. This is expected to be finalised and rolled out over the next year.

- *Integrate domestic violence into the training of police officers dealing with sex workers.*

This year, we worked with Centrex, the Central Police Training and Development Authority to develop a set of six domestic violence training modules. All police officers and relevant civilian staff in England and Wales, will take module one ('Understanding domestic violence') and additional modules depending on their specific role. This is an extremely welcome development as a major contribution towards the development of a consistent response from the police.

- *Set meaningful targets for the two Best Value performance indicators, as required by the Audit Commission.*

The Metropolitan Police Authority set these for the Metropolitan Police Service in 2002 but the 2003 performance indicators have not yet been confirmed. It is regrettable that the indicator concerning repeat victimisation has now been dropped by the Audit Commission especially since repeat victimisation is one of the high risk indicators for domestic violence murders. However, repeat victimisation continues to be monitored by the Metropolitan police as part of its risk assessment procedures.

- *Develop specific domestic violence risk assessment processes.*

Over the past year, detailed analysis has been undertaken of police data as part of the Home Office funded Understanding Race and Hate Crime Project. This has enabled the development of 'risk indicators' which have been used to create a Risk Assessment Form which can be used to help assess the levels of danger abused women may be facing. A pilot of this process is currently underway and following evaluation, it is hoped this can be utilised across the Metropolitan Police in the coming year.

- *Develop investigation and evidence gathering protocols to increase the potential for prosecutions that do not require abused women to attend court. This to include clarification to officers regarding the 'interests' and the 'wishes' of the victim whilst retaining a commitment to prioritising safety. Develop joint training to implement this, providing all such prosecutions fall within the tests as laid down in the Code for Crown Prosecutors issued under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.*

The Metropolitan Police are developing a guidance document for officers regarding the 'interests' and the 'wishes' of the victim when officers are taking the victim impact statement. This is included in the training pack for the West London Domestic Violence Court and will shortly be available on the Metropolitan Police Service intranet. This issue is also included within the Centrex training modules.

In September, London's Crown Prosecution Service and the Metropolitan Police announced the first joint working protocol to improve the investigation and

prosecution of crime in the capital. A joint steering group to take forward this work has been established with the aim of improving the quality of service provided to victims of crime. In particular, the group will focus on:

- Implementing the establishment of case preparation units, jointly staffed by CPS and police, according to recommendations made by Sir Iain Glidewell in his review of the CPS
- Developing plans to deliver changes outlined in the 'Justice for All' White Paper
- Adopting joint performance management to ensure case files are prepared on time and to a high quality
- Implementing joint training programmes on the disclosure of unused material and related matters
- 'Supporting The Best Value Review – Bringing Offenders to Justice', an MPA report which highlights the importance of a more "joined-up" approach among London's criminal justice partners

■ *Monitor and evaluate the reasons why an arrest has not been made when the power to do so.*

The Metropolitan Police's domestic violence strategy, launched in December 2001, 'Enough is Enough'² clearly states:

*'In all incidents of domestic violence action **must** be taken.*

Under Articles 2, 3 and 8 of ECHR, police are placed under positive duty to protect both adult and child victims of domestic violence. An officer's failure to exercise a power of arrest may leave the victim in immediate danger, and the police service open to a legal challenge under the law of negligence within the ECHR. Therefore when a decision is made not to arrest, the reasons should be fully documented on the CRIS report.

Home Office Circular 19/00 states that in a case of domestic violence, where there is evidence that supports a power of arrest then "the alleged offender should normally be arrested" Arrest is not mandatory, and in every case officers should consider whether an arrest is proportionate to balancing the interests of protecting the victim and any children present, the need to prevent further offences and the interests of the alleged offender.

It is the officer's decision to arrest and it is not reliant on the victim's willingness to proceed with a prosecution. This should be stressed to the perpetrator to remove responsibility from the victim. Domestic violence victims have a high risk of repeat victimisation due to the proximity of the perpetrator and the violence often escalates in severity. Officers should be aware of the fact that sometimes victims underestimate the future risk.

Where there is no power of arrest, officers still need to take action and have a number of options available. It is essential to gain best evidence with full

documentation and statements for future use in criminal or civil proceedings. Officers need to provide information about other support services on offer and refer victims to appropriate agencies. Where there are children in the relationship, officers must liaise with the child protection team and complete form 78.'

Individual Community Safety Units are now maintaining records on the reasons as to why the power of arrest was not exercised. These will be compiled and evaluated in the coming months.

- *Conduct an annual service user satisfaction survey of Community Safety Units with the data to be divisible by homophobic, racist and domestic violence crime.*

The Metropolitan Police have established an annual satisfaction survey and results are expected shortly.

- *Include/expand domestic violence as an issue on the Metropolitan Police intranet and website.*

The information on the intranet and public website is currently being reviewed and will be reviewed again in six months time. It will then contain links to other relevant organisations. This will include reporting facilities and links to Borough Community Safety Units.

- *Further develop the capacity for effectively linking series/patterns of offending.*

This has proved difficult within the current legislative framework. However, the possibility of a new domestic violence law which would allow patterns of behaviour to be prosecuted rather than a single incident, is currently being considered by Government.

In the meantime, other projects have made efforts to address this issue. For example, the Snapshot Project, operating in the London Borough of Harrow, provides forensic cameras to professionals, including health staff, to record domestic violence injuries on film. This allows abused women to create an evidential record of their injuries. In the event that they subsequently wish to take action, the history of their abuse has been documented.

- *Create a specific domestic violence group within the London Probation Service and have a named officer with Londonwide responsibility for domestic violence.*

The London Probation Service has nominated a specific individual with thematic responsibility for domestic violence. A group has been established, with external representation, to develop and implement a service wide domestic violence policy. In recognition of the importance of the issue, domestic violence will feature as a key issue in the London Probation Service's 2003 Business Plan.

■ *Probation Service staff to participate in all local Domestic Violence Fora.*

An audit is currently underway to ensure that Probation staff are represented on all borough Domestic Violence Fora.

■ *Monitor repeat breaches of Probation Orders on domestic violence offenders.*

The Probation Pathfinder programme, operating in seven London Boroughs, does monitor repeat breaches of Probation Orders. Individual perpetrators not included within the Pathfinder Project are monitored by other systems, but to date, there is no London Probation Area wide system to bring all this data together. Over the next year we will work towards establishing a common database of domestic violence offenders that can be accessed by all criminal justice system agencies.

■ *Develop a specific monitoring system to determine what happens to abusers if they have fled the scene prior to police arrival.*

Initial investigations have shown that the Crime Recording Information System (CRIS) does not currently allow for this to be recorded and centrally collated. Domestic violence statistics are only recorded when the perpetrator is arrested or under investigation. Officers can do a search on CRIS to see if the case shows up as a domestic violence situation but this search will not tell the officer whether the offender is still at the scene of the incident. Further work is therefore necessary to record this vital risk information since research has shown that offenders who flee the scene prior to police arrival are over-represented in offenders who later commit domestic violence murders.

■ *Develop a consistent approach to Crown Prosecution Service representation on London Domestic Violence Fora.*

In November 2001, the Crown Prosecution Service launched its new domestic violence policy and guidance for prosecutors. Part of this included nominating a named individual in each branch with thematic responsibility for domestic violence. A Crown Prosecution Service network of Domestic Violence Co-ordinators has been meeting regularly and part of their role includes attending meetings of their local Domestic Violence Forum.

■ *Evaluate the efficacy of various sentences available from the perspective of increasing the safety of women and children.*

Following extensive discussions, it has been agreed that this is a task that cannot be effectively done at a local level and that it requires Government involvement. The Home Office is now attending one of the London Domestic Violence Forum sub-groups and this recommendation has been added to the list of issues for the Mayor and the Greater London Authority to raise with Ministers and civil servants.

However, the introduction of the Sentencer Information Service, through which

all Home Office statistics will be collated and installed on computers in courts, will assist us greatly in moving towards more consistent sentencing

- *Encourage voluntary sector agencies to adopt the recommended minimum standards for all agencies.*

In March 2002 a Voluntary Sector Development Officer was appointed with a remit to carry forward this work. Since that time, a monthly newsletter has been established which is circulated to over 500 agencies, a seminar show-casing domestic violence best practice in the voluntary sector was held in July, with plans underway for two more, and support and advice is offered to a range of organisations to implement the minimum standards for all agencies.

- *Develop standards, assessment protocols, procedures & training to promote safe supervised contact for children.*

The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) are currently involved in a pilot project on safe contact, in partnership with Thomas Coram and the Domestic Violence Intervention Project. Unfortunately, to date, it has proved impossible to find the funding to independently evaluate this pilot.

There is currently no standard structure for risk assessments in CAFCASS which means advice on contact cases to courts is inconsistent and not subject to any standard criteria. In order to address this, CAFCASS are now embarking on the development of a modular training programme that will include risk assessments.

- *Develop routine domestic violence screening procedures for all couple based therapeutic services.*

Relate is taking the lead on this recommendation following the 'snapshot' research in 2000 which revealed that one in five Relate counselling sessions involved domestic violence. Although the organisation has a federal structure, all training is centralised and there are existing training modules on domestic violence. These modules are currently being reviewed with in-put from one of the sub-groups of the London Domestic Violence Forum.

- *Ensure all materials are linguistically and culturally appropriate and are produced in a range of accessible formats.*

Work is underway mapping the provision of translation and interpreting services for survivors of domestic violence across London (see below) and we are seeking ways in which more material can be made available in a range of languages and formats.

Earlier this year, Women's Aid successfully launched a new Language Line service for callers seeking advice on domestic violence whose first language is not English. The new facility offers an interpreting service, by women interpreters, in over 100 languages. Women can access the Language Line service by calling the normal Women's Aid Helpline number on 08457 023 468.

- *materials designed to assist friends and family members of survivors to provide helpful support.*

Information on how to most effectively support a family member or friend who is experiencing domestic violence is available on all 65 i-point kiosks across the capital and is included in the minimum standards that have been developed for all local authority web-site provision. As part of the forthcoming BBC domestic violence campaign, this information will also be included on the BBC website.

- *Ensure that increased demand for services is an integral part of the development process of planning publicity campaigns.*

The Mayor and relevant member agencies of the London Domestic Violence Forum have lobbied hard for this to be included in awareness raising initiatives being developed nationally by both Government and public bodies.

- *Develop initiative specifically designed to encourage men to challenge other men.*

This is still in development and will be launched next year.

- *Develop cultural initiatives to raise awareness and change attitudes for example themed events in libraries, poetry readings, theatre in education.*

On April 5th, V-day UK hosted a gala celebrity performance of the Vagina Monologues at the Albert Hall as a fundraiser for charities working on violence against women. V-day is an international movement, established by American playwright Eve Ensler, and has worked with hundreds of survivors of abuse. The vision for V-day, like that of the London Domestic Violence Strategy, is of a world without violence.

Some of the Borough Domestic Violence Fora have also taken up this work. For example, The Greenwich and Lewisham's Young Peoples Theatre has now completed a project that used participatory theatre and drama workshops to explore the impact of domestic violence on young people. The project STOP had the explicit aim of empowering young people to develop violence free relationships.

- *Monitor the implementation of the minimum standards for all agencies.*
- *Monitor the implementation of the London Domestic Violence Strategy recommendations by agency.*

These are the responsibility of the London Domestic Violence Forum and mapping work continues to centrally collate this information. In the coming year we will publish this information on the internet to allow for accessible comparisons.

- *Work towards the provision of a central clearing-house where data is collected, information housed and disseminated and progress on the strategy monitored.*

The Greater London Domestic Violence Project is currently acting as the central point to which domestic violence information and data is being submitted. Reports are submitted to Forum meetings and a monthly newsletter is produced with up-dates on domestic violence developments. Over the coming year we will begin publishing the information on the internet for increased accessibility.

- *Produce and widely disseminate an annual report detailing progress and plans for the coming year.*

Report produced.

- *Engage the private sector in playing a role in public education.*

This month sees the launch of *Give domestic violence the chop!* This is a project developed by Harrow Domestic Violence Forum which engages hair and beauty salons in distributing domestic violence information to their clients.

We have also been working with a number of trade unions to assist them in raising the issue of domestic violence with both their members and their employers and will be developing this work still further over the next year.

- *Develop a written plan for a public education campaign which has been consulted with survivors.*

The findings from the GLA Survivor Consultation revealed widespread support for the strategy's minimum standards and it highlights the experiences of many women that provision of statutory services are patchy. We have also been consulting survivors with reference to publicity material and this will inform our campaign next year.

- *Develop a Londonwide domestic violence poster design competition for children.*

Five hundred schools were invited to take part in a London wide poster competition and we also supplied awareness raising materials and information about domestic violence services to these schools.

- *Ensure that all work developed in this area involves full consideration of child protection issues and in collaboration with Area Child Protection Committees.*

The All London Child Protection Procedures will be launched this month for implementation in January 2003. The procedures address issues of domestic violence and this provides an excellent framework within which further work can be developed.

■ *Develop minimum standards and definitions for Borough Domestic Violence Fora.*

We have begun the process of collating information centrally about all 32 Domestic Violence Fora and a report will be published shortly. Through the Domestic Violence Co-Ordinator's Network, we are continuing discussions about standards and definitions.

■ *In partnership with Domestic Violence Data Source, Women's Aid and others, further develop website provision for practitioners and abused women. This to include information in different languages.*

We have worked with a number of existing web-sites as detailed elsewhere in this report, to increase internet provision for practitioners and abused women. We have sought and been granted funding for further work in this area. Over the coming year, this will be a major area of work as we seek to establish a central electronic clearing-house.

■ *Map current availability of interpreting and translating services across London.*

Work is underway mapping the provision of translation and interpreting services for survivors of domestic violence across London. With more than 300 languages spoken in Greater London, agencies working in the domestic violence field are now well aware that providing suitable translation and interpretation service is a crucial part of supporting clients. However, insufficient funding often makes it difficult to provide interpreter/translators for clients.

The research aims to develop a picture of policies and practices in this area including:

- a basic map of the main communities and languages in each borough
- information on formal and informal translation/interpretation services
- translation practices for London-borough publications
- voluntary sector experiences of providing translation/interpretation services within tight budgetary limitations
- models of good practice.

This information will be collated into a central database so that individual agencies can exchange their experiences and improve their access to interpretation/ translation services. In addition, we will be developing minimum standards for interpreters/translators working in the domestic violence field.

■ *Map the integration of domestic violence into other strategic plans across the statutory sector.*

There are a wide range of strategic plans into which domestic violence ought to be integrated. Some initial mapping work has taken place and information shared across the Boroughs as well as being communicated to Ministers and Government officials. A particularly good example of a thorough assessment of local domestic violence service provision and integration into other strategic

plans has been published by the London Borough of Sutton. In the coming year we begin publishing this information on the internet so that agencies can compare their progress. Initial findings suggest that domestic violence is most fully integrated into Crime and Disorder strategies and the least integrated into Health and Social Services strategies.

- *A Londonwide forum for health professionals should be established to meet on a quarterly basis for networking and dissemination of good practice and a conference held to present findings and share good practice.*

In partnership with Women's Aid and the DoH, we held a sell-out conference, *A Stitch In Time* in October at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Speakers included Hazel Blears MP, Sue Atkinson, London Director of Public Health and Dr Gene Feder, Professor of Primary Care, (UNL) and over 200 delegates attended. A Health Forum has been established to carry forward issues raised at this event and to provide an opportunity for health staff to network and share best practice.

- *Explore the potential of developing a standardised framework for assessing Domestic Violence Best Value reviews, including the possibility of using case studies for use in the compare function.*

This issue has been discussed at the Domestic Violence Co-ordinators Network meetings. Some Boroughs have related Best Value reviews pending, in that they will include some key domestic violence services, such as housing. Where possible, Boroughs are being encouraged to conduct a specific domestic violence Best Value review. Where this has been done, it has led to significant improvements in service provision.³

Individual recommendations for 2003-4

- *Ensure that existing provision and the needs of women fleeing violence are assessed as part of the work of the London Supporting People Forum. This to include exploring the potential for specialist refuge projects.*

Domestic violence has been included within the pan-London Supporting People Strategy published by the Association of London Government. During its review of funding for the women's voluntary sector, bids were particularly encouraged from groups wishing to provide specialist domestic violence services and several such groups have been funded.

In the meantime the Association of London Government has also recently funded a new second tier organisation, the Lilith Project, which will provide support services on issues relating to all forms of violence against women. Once the Lilith Project is operational, part of its role will include the collation of a range of information on refuge provision.

- *In its role under the 'Supporting People' framework, give due consideration to the development of further specialist refuge provision to meet the needs of women experiencing domestic violence currently excluded from accessing refuges.*

As part of its grants programme, the Association of London Government has recently allocated funding for the development of Project Poppy, a previously undeveloped area of work in London. This is a co-ordinating service to research prostitution and trafficking of women and children, and develop appropriate community and residential services to enable women to exit the sex industry.

- *Through its pilot project 'Getting London Moving' explore the potential of the pilot to support inter-borough housing transfers for women fleeing domestic violence.*

This is an inter borough/cross tenure choice based letting scheme, launched in March. The scheme comprises eleven of London's social landlords. Tenants from the participating landlords can search and register for a property of their choice on a Get London Moving website. Once they decide on a transfer, they can view the property and make their home available for viewing. The scheme is tenant driven. Women escaping domestic violence are not a targeted group for this scheme, but the scheme is available to them if they have a tenancy with a participating landlord.

The project is being managed by the London Housing Unit service of the Association of London Government and is grant funded by the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions as part of its Choice-Based Lettings Initiative.

- *Develop support systems for those children and young people identified as currently living in a violent home and/or teenagers involved in violent*

relationships of their own.

We are in the process of gathering information about the variety and effectiveness of existing projects. For example, one of the key needs which the children in *Just Another Day* video⁴ illustrate, is the need for teachers to become more pro-active in their support for children, and for the group to explore more ways in which peer-group mediation and support can be given to children and young adults. A training pack to accompany the video will be launched in January.

Relate is currently running services in schools for children/young adults over the age of eleven. These services focus mainly on parental break-up, but this can often lead to discussion relating to domestic violence.

We are also mapping what support provision is available to the pupils of secondary schools across London. As this involves contact with over 500 schools, we do not expect the results to be available until later next year.

This year, Women's Aid also published a leaflet called *Domestic violence and the risks to children* which we have distributed widely.

- *Whilst reviewing casework monitoring, consider ways in which domestic violence casework can be dealt with more effectively to increase women's safety. This to include an evaluation of reasons for discontinuance.*

The Crown Prosecution Service is reviewing its monitoring systems and has undergone an extensive consultation process both internally and externally. A new framework will be published early next year and included on the new IT system.

- *Explore the potential of printing details of domestic violence help-lines/websites in child benefit books.*

This idea has been raised with Government Ministers and is being actively considered as part of their awareness raising initiatives.

- *Explore increasing the availability of the current pilot model called the 'Safe Contact Project'.*

We are currently seeking funding for an independent evaluation of the pilot which we believe has enormous potential to effectively reduce the dangerousness of contact visits when domestic violence is a factor. Data collected by the Understanding Race and Hate Crime project clearly shows that along with separation, child contact visits are a common situation in which serious assaults, including murder, occur.

- *Integrate domestic violence into the work of teachers with responsibility for child protection.*

This area of work is currently being developed by the NSPCC as part of a wider

training programme to address the new duty on schools to play a more active role in child protection. This issue is also under review by the Department of Education and Skills.

- *Provide schools with information about available support services to which children/adults affected by domestic violence can be referred.*

We have made contact with 500 secondary schools in London to provide them with domestic violence information and also to elicit current practice. We will be publishing this data in the coming year.

- *Develop 'injunctions-online' to reduce the currently unacceptably high cost of civil orders for women who do not qualify for, or who are refused, Community Legal Service funds.*

Interest has been expressed from both the Court Service and the Community Legal Partnerships to take this idea forward and we will be developing this project further over the coming year.

- *Provide information on domestic violence of relevance to service users on council websites.*

We have developed minimum standards for information provision and in the coming year will be working with local authorities to implement this. We are also exploring ways in which this information can be translated into community languages. Domestic violence information is now available on 16 out of 32 local authority websites.

- *Develop closer working mechanisms between Police Community Safety Units and Child Protection Teams including routinely screening for the presence of domestic violence in all child abuse cases and vice versa. The possibility of linked IT systems should be explored.*

Following the death and subsequent inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié, major restructuring of child protection systems have taken place within the Metropolitan police. In many instances, this has led to improved communication between police offices investigating domestic violence and those investigating child abuse. Over the coming year we will be working to ensure that these changes are consistent across the whole of the Metropolitan police.

- *Magistrates' Courts Committees to include domestic violence awareness training in their training programmes and this should include court clerks.*

The Greater London Magistrates Courts Authority which replaced all previous Magistrates Courts Committees, operates the training programmes for Magistrates across London. These are supplemented by training programmes at a local level.

The Bench Training and Development Committee influences the training

programmes which the Judicial Studies Board and Magistrates Association adopt. Over the coming year we will be working with the Magistrates Association to set competency levels on sentencing levels in order to assist consistency in sentencing.

Training for court clerks has also begun this year.

- *Developed, monitor and evaluate systems to track allegations from initial phone call to 'clear up' to ensure all reported cases are being recorded on CRIS.*

Quality assurance systems have been put in place to track calls to the police to see if they have resulted in a crime report. Figures are currently collated at a borough level and we will be working towards central collation over the coming months.

- *Further develop perpetrator programmes which include the provision of equitably resourced Women's Services. Where Probation is unable to provide this service in-house, it should enter into partnerships to ensure that its work with offenders does not compromise women and children's safety.*

We are awaiting the final evaluation of the Pathfinder project which has been operating in seven London Boroughs over the past two years. Initial reports seem to indicate that the sample size may not be sufficiently large on which we can base robust conclusions. We are also lobbying for the inclusion of a domestic violence expert on the accreditation panel.

- *Develop a domestic violence policy for the London Probation Area.*

A domestic violence group has been formed within the London Probation Service. The task for this group is to progress the development and implementation of a Probation domestic violence policy which is expected to be published early next year.

- *Within legal limitations, develop a system whereby the same judge can hear a case all the way through as this has been shown to impact positively on recidivism.*

With regard to magistrates, it is currently best practice that at least one member of the bench should remain on a case from start to finish (including the sentencing stage) and this occurs in most cases. We are still exploring ways in which this can be applied to judges and including in the event of this being impossible, the creation of 'Court Watchers' with a role in briefing new judges.

- *Adopt and monitor the effect of the effect of the guidance from the Advisory Board on Family Law, Children Act sub-committee regarding domestic violence and contact.*

All magistrates have received correspondence on this matter and there has been

much lobbying to persuade the Government to accept an amendment to the Children and Adoption Bill to ensure that the guidance is elevated to the status of a requirement. At the time of going to print, this was being debated in Parliament.

If this amendment is not accepted, in addition to continuing our lobbying, we will also be exploring ways in which we might more closely monitor the effectiveness of the current guidance.

■ *Develop domestic violence information in a variety of formats, including on websites for children and young people.*

The www.There4me.com site, run by the NSPCC, is for all 12-16 year olds living in the U.K. The site provides on-screen advice about a range of issues, including abuse, bullying, domestic violence and relationships. Visitors to the site can send an e-letter to Sam, an online agony aunt who will reply within 24 hours. Alternatively, confidential and private sessions are available where the young people can 'chat' in 'real time' with an NSPCC adviser. This is part of the NSPCC *Full Stop* campaign.

In the coming year, in partnership with the major children's charities, we will be building on this model to expand the age range which can be accommodated.

■ *Develop minimum standards for refuge projects which will include standards of provision for disabled women.*

Refuge standards have been developed by Women's Aid and Refuge in consultation with refuge providers.⁵ These have been incorporated into Supporting People guidance to inform purchasers as to the quality of service provision expected from accommodation providers, and thus levels of funding required to meet the needs of abused women and children. The needs of disabled women are integrated throughout the standards. These standards are voluntary although in an effort to avoid the quality of service provision being undermined, the Mayor and the Association of Government will lobby for them to be further promoted as good practice.

Through the review processes required by Supporting People, we will be able to gather more detailed information as to the quality of service offered by refuge projects following the start of Supporting People in April 2003.

■ *Develop formal links between the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) and the local Domestic Violence Forum. Integrate domestic violence into the work of the ACPC including inter-agency training.*

London's Social Service's Directors have been working towards the development of standard child protection procedures for all boroughs and these will be launched this month. This is a welcome move towards consistency across London and the guidance includes recognition of the close relationship between

domestic violence and child abuse. This has also been acknowledged by the Department of Health who in a recent publication stated: 'At least 750,000 children a year witness domestic violence. Nearly three quarters of children on the 'at risk' register live in households where domestic violence occurs.'⁶

- *Participate in the development of a more integrated, pan London approach to risk assessment procedures in collaboration with other family support services.*

Work in this area is continuing to develop. The Domestic Violence Intervention Project in Hammersmith has developed a protocol with Social Services for a risk assessment to be done of the offender when Social Services are alerted to domestic violence incidents involving children. Over the next year we will be exploring ways in which this can be expanded to include other Family Support services.

- *Create a specific recording category for domestic violence that allows for assaults to be differentiated between stranger and familial.*

Criminal Justice System agencies are now piloting or already using a range of risk assessment tools which record this information. It is expected that these tools will be rolled out across London throughout 2003.

- *Police domestic violence training to include all police officers but especially new recruits, front line officers, custody sergeants and station office staff. Domestic violence to also be included as an issue in hostage training.*

See information on national training modules above.

- *Participate in a working group to develop a pilot domestic violence court which can deal jointly with civil and criminal cases.*

A Domestic Violence court began operating in October 2002 in West London. We will be watching this exciting development carefully to see what effect this may have on improving women and children's safety.

- *Explore ways in which domestic violence can be included in subjects additional to PHSE.*

A number of boroughs are now developing exciting educational work on domestic violence. For example, in Westminster, the Domestic Violence Forum launched a schools pack which includes curriculum material and supporting information for teachers. This pack was developed slowly, in order to incorporate extensive consultation with both children and educators. The resulting pack is practical, robust and a welcome new resource in this area.

References

- 1 The leaflet can be downloaded from here: <http://www.cps.gov.uk/>
- 2 The Enough is Enough strategy can be read in full here:
<http://www.met.police.uk/enoughisenough/strategy.htm#positive>
- 3 Best Value reports on respective boroughs can be downloaded from the Audit Commission's website.
- 4 This video was made by children and young people who are members of Newham Asian Women's Project
- 5 The standards can be found in full here:
<http://www.spkweb.org.uk/files/011009PGconsul.doc>
- 6 'Women's Mental Health: Into the Mainstream' Dept. of Health, 2002

appendices

Appendix A:

Member Agencies of the London Domestic Violence Forum

LB Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Barnet Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Bexley Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Brent Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Bromley Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Camden Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Croydon Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Ealing Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Enfield Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Greenwich Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Hackney Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Hammersmith & Fulham Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Haringey Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Harrow Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Havering Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Hillingdon Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Hounslow Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Islington Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Kensington & Chelsea Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Kingston Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Lambeth Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Lewisham Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Merton Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Newham Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Redbridge Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Richmond Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Southwark Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Sutton Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Tower Hamlets Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Waltham Forest Domestic Violence Forum
 LB Wandsworth Domestic Forum
 LB Westminster Domestic Violence Forum

Asian Women's Resource Centre
 Association of London Government
 Audit Commission
 Broken Rainbow Forum
 CAFCASS
 Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (London Metropolitan University)
 Crown Prosecution Service
 Greater London Association of Disabled People
 Greater London Domestic Violence Project

Home Office
Housing Corporation (London Region)
Housing for Women
Imkaan
Judiciary
King's Fund
London Civic Forum
London Probation
London Voluntary Services Council
Lord Chancellor's Department
Magistrates Association
Maternity Alliance
Metropolitan Police Service
Metropolitan Police Authority
National Housing Federation (London Office)
Newham Asian Women's Project
NHS Regional Executive
NSPCC
Refuge
Refugee Women's Resource Project
Relate Central Office
Respect
SERTUC
Solas Anois
Southall Black Sisters
Victim Support, London
Women's Aid Federation of England
Women's Pioneer Housing

Appendix B: Areas of work for 2003

- Ensure that children living in temporary accommodation, including refuges, as a result of domestic violence are able to join a new school quickly.
- Ensure that existing provision and the needs of women fleeing violence are assessed as part of the work of the London Supporting People Forum. This to include exploring the potential for specialist refuge projects.
- In its role under the 'Supporting People' framework, give due consideration to the development of further specialist refuge provision to meet the needs of women experiencing domestic violence currently excluded from accessing refuges.
- Through its pilot project 'Getting London Moving' explore the potential of the pilot to support inter-borough housing transfers for women fleeing domestic violence.
- Ensure that children living in temporary accommodation, including refuges, as a result of domestic violence are able to join a new school quickly.
- Ensure that existing provision and the needs of women fleeing violence are assessed as part of the work of the London Supporting People Forum. This to include exploring the potential for specialist refuge projects.
- Whilst reviewing casework monitoring, consider ways in which domestic violence casework can be dealt with more effectively to increase women's safety. This to include an evaluation of reasons for discontinuance.
- Investigate ways of monitoring of domestic violence cases beginning with a pilot in the lone parent section initial claim for income support.
- Investigate ways of fast-tracking benefit procedures for women fleeing domestic violence, including those benefits claimed by disabled women.
- Explore the potential of printing details of domestic violence help-lines/websites in child benefit books.
- Display information for women fleeing violence in benefit offices.
- Explore increasing the availability of the current pilot model called the 'Safe Contact Project'.
- Integrate domestic violence into the work of teachers with responsibility for child protection.
- Provide schools with information about available support services to which children/adults affected by domestic violence can be referred.
- Recognise the potential impact of domestic violence on educational attainment and behaviour and seek to support children in order to reduce any such problems.
- Train teachers, especially those with designated child protection responsibilities, on their responsibilities with regard to council policy on domestic violence.
- Develop 'injunctions-online' to reduce the currently unacceptably high cost of civil orders for women who do not qualify for, or who are refused, Community Legal Service funds.

- Convene a working group to consider how pan-London advocacy services might be developed which are reflective of the needs of London's diverse communities.
- Explore the provision of outreach/advocacy services in primary health care settings.
- Develop a domestic violence policy, including an effective transfer policy within existing stock.
- Provide information on domestic violence of relevance to service users on council websites.
- Ensure that policy and practice enable women experiencing domestic violence, including women without children, to make choices about their housing.
- Ensure that a range of measures are available to support women who choose to stay in their own home without the abuser including:
 - evicting the perpetrator for breach of the tenancy agreement
 - increasing security measures such as free lock changes, internal intercom systems, community alarms
 - including within the tenancy agreement an explicit statement that perpetrating domestic violence is a breach of the tenancy and perpetrators are liable to eviction.
- Seek to improve the quality of temporary accommodation to include play provision for children, outreach services and adequate security measures.
- Display leaflets and posters about available services in all council buildings open to the public including schools, libraries and leisure centres.
- Local authorities to adopt a corporate domestic violence policy based on the principles of believing the women, ensuring her safety, confidentiality and anti-discriminatory practice.
- Develop closer working mechanisms between Police Community Safety Units and Child Protection Teams including routinely screening for the presence of domestic violence in all child abuse cases and vice versa. The possibility of linked IT systems should be explored.
- Develop systems to keep women informed of all progress following her initial call to the police. These should explicitly address informing women when their abuser has been released from the police station, irrespective of whether any action was taken.
- With the London Voluntary Service Council participate in the development of a more integrated, pan London approach to risk assessment procedures in collaboration with other family support services.
- Explore the potential for increasing the range of parenting classes to support mothers to assist their children with any negative effects of having experienced/witness domestic violence. Such classes should be provided in conjunction with an increase of support services to children who are or who have suffered through domestic violence. Where parenting classes are to be provided to violent and abusive fathers, their abuse should be addressed first and separately.

- Develop routine domestic violence screening procedures for all couple based therapeutic services.
- Work with local nurseries and registered child-minders to raise awareness and understanding of domestic violence.
- Explore the potential for providing specialist support groups for children affected by domestic violence.
- Conduct an annual service user satisfaction survey of Community Safety Units with the data to be divisible by homophobic, racist and domestic violence crime.
- Create a specific recording category for domestic violence that allows for assaults to be differentiated between stranger and familial.
- Develop a specific monitoring system to determine what happens to abusers if they have fled the scene prior to police arrival.
- Evaluate the efficacy of various sentences available from the perspective of increasing the safety of women and children.
- Magistrates' Courts Committees to include domestic violence awareness training in their training programmes and this should include court clerks.
- Explore the potential for utilising reverse electronic tagging for repeat offenders.
- Developed, monitor and evaluate systems to track allegations from initial phone call to 'clear up' to ensure all reported cases are being recorded on CRIS.
- Further develop perpetrator programmes which include the provision of equitably resourced Women's Services. Where Probation is unable to provide this service in-house, it should enter into partnerships to ensure that its work with offenders does not compromise women and children's safety.
- Police domestic violence training to include all police officers but especially new recruits, front line officers, custody sergeants and station office staff. Domestic violence to also be included as an issue in hostage training.
- Develop a Probation Londonwide domestic violence policy.
- Within legal limitations, develop a system whereby the same judge can hear a case all the way through as this has been shown to impact positively on recidivism.
- Publicise the value of pre-sentence reports and the option of perpetrator programmes to the courts to encourage their greater use in sentencing.
- Develop support systems for those children and young people identified as currently living in a violent home and/or teenagers involved in violent relationships of their own.
- Develop domestic violence training modules for teachers.
- Explore ways in which domestic violence can be included in subjects additional to PHSE.
- Integrate domestic violence into existing initiatives for example on bullying, truancy, school exclusion.
- Introduce prevention programmes in schools and youth settings including

‘special’ schools, primary schools and nurseries.

- Ensure that all work is evaluated to increase the body of knowledge in this area.
- Develop domestic violence policies and protocols including:
 - Seeking to prevent domestic violence through curriculum approaches
 - ensuring access to education for children fleeing domestic violence
 - recognising domestic violence as a potential child protection issue.
- Ensure that schools have procedures in place to deal with perpetrators attempting to use the school to track down their former partner.
- Produce and widely disseminate an annual report detailing progress and plans for the coming year.
- Develop an annual award scheme to recognise and publicise innovation and good practice in domestic violence work.
- Monitor the implementation of the minimum standards for all agencies.
- Monitor the implementation of the London Domestic Violence Strategy recommendations by agency.
- Develop domestic violence training standards.
- Develop formal links between the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) and the local Domestic Violence Forum. Integrate domestic violence into the work of the ACPC including inter-agency training.

Appendix C: Areas of work for 2004

- Explore the possibility of developing information sharing protocols regarding housing of abusers.
- Encourage voluntary sector agencies to adopt the recommended minimum standards for all agencies.
- Develop standards, assessment protocols, procedures and training to promote safe supervised contact for children in line with standards being developed by the 'Safe Contact Project' and explore the potential for expanding provision in London.
- Conduct an annual service user satisfaction survey of Community Safety Units with the data to be divisible by homophobic, racist and domestic violence crime.
- Adopt and monitor the effect of the effect of the guidance from the Advisory Board on Family Law, Children Act sub-committee regarding domestic violence and contact.
- Participate in a working group to develop a pilot domestic violence court which can deal jointly with civil and criminal cases.
- Encourage voluntary sector agencies working with perpetrators to adopt the recommended minimum standards of Respect.
- Develop domestic violence information in a variety of formats, including on websites for children and young people.
- Produce and widely disseminate an annual report detailing progress and plans for the coming year.
- Develop an annual award scheme to recognise and publicise innovation and good practice in domestic violence work.
- Monitor the implementation of the minimum standards for all agencies.
- Monitor the implementation of the London Domestic Violence Strategy recommendations by agency.
- Develop online domestic violence training modules.
- Develop minimum standards for refuge projects which will include standards of provision for disabled women.
- Explore the potential of developing a standardised framework for assessing Domestic Violence Best Value reviews, including the possibility of using case studies for use in the compare function.

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