



Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum NDVF NEWS!

April 2001. Issue 1

Hello and welcome everyone to the first edition of the re-issued NDVF newsletter.

As this is the first opportunity for some time to circulate information in a concise way to all Service Users, NDVF will dedicate this edition to summarising who NDVF are today, as well providing details of all the new Project initiatives that have developed over the last two years.

The Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum, re-launched in 1995, is an inter-agency initiative that brings together a range of organisations dealing with domestic violence in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. 'NDVF' aims to produce a more effective response to tackling domestic violence. The Forum, currently with just under 200 service users, including organisations and individuals, meets 4 times a year. The Steering Group Members,

elected from NDVF's subscribers meets one a month. The core services offered by NDVF are funded by the Nottinghamshire Social Services and the Nottingham City Council. NDVF currently employs 4 paid workers: Development Worker, Project Worker, Educator Worker and a Part-time Administrator.

Since the successful running of the 2 - year Awareness Campaign, 'Free From Fear', NDVF has evolved considerably, both in the eyes of the public as well as the Statutory, voluntary and private sectors. Funding has been secured over the last two years to develop many new exciting projects which has resulted in NDVF needing to re-visit its constitution and internal policies and codes of practice.

Members and Service Users agreed at an Annual General Meeting held on 1st November 2000 to update the constitution to reflect the following aims and objectives:



NDVF aims to reduce domestic violence by strengthening inter-agency working, raising public awareness and changing attitudes.

In recognition of the fact that the overwhelming majority of domestic violence and abuse is experienced by women and children and is perpetrated by men known to them, NDVF will give priority to supporting developments that maximise choices and services available to women and children. However, NDVF also recognises the existence of women's abuse of men and abuse in same sex relationships and will support initiatives to address these issues where appropriate.

The definition of domestic violence used by NDVF has been removed as a feature of the constitution. The definition is to be re-worded and issued as an appendix in the forth coming months •

NDVF PROJECTS

Nottingham Health Action Zone
By Mo Cooper,

Development Worker

I started working at the Forum in December 2000, previously having worked in the voluntary sector for over twenty years, mainly in Liverpool and London. As Development worker my job is to

manage the HAZ programme and develop new ideas and initiatives.

Along side the lottery funded Free From Fear public awareness campaign the forum's other major area of activity (and funding) has been within the Nottingham Health Action Zone. The forum is the lead organisation (referred to as a work stream lead) for the domestic violence thread of the programme and we have been able to help develop a number of projects.

The three large scale projects we have provided funding for are: the Women's Aid Advice centre 24 hours free phone help line, the Educator Project and the Information and Resource Project (the last two are reported on later).

The Phone line opened in August 2000 to provide direct support for women, children and service providers in relation to domestic violence. It is linked to Language line and / mini com service. HAZ has part funded the project over three years (including 2001/02) and WAAC are actively seeking financial support to ensure that the service continues.

We have also funded five small projects during 2000/01:

DOVINA - drop in centre in West Bridgford operational since Oct 2000



24 Hour Help-Line 0808 800 0340

NG7 Project -outreach work in NG7 area

Lawyers against Domestic Abuse
-translation of legal information leaflets into 11 community languages

Information cards - translation of information cards and flyers into 11 community languages

Mandatory Training - programme for those involved in the forum. We have run training in race awareness and disability awareness - see section on training later for future programme.

Broxtowe Women's Project has also set up a project in north Broxtowe under the homelessness workstream funding)

As part of our role as workstream lead we work with the Health Authority and other HAZ work streams to ensure that the impact of domestic violence understood

HAZ is due to finish in March 2002. There is a slight possibility that a few areas will be granted an extension and Nottingham are trying to ensure that they are one of the leasing zones in the country. HAZ effectively funds the majority of forum work at present therefore it is important for us to find other sustainable funding packages to continue our work, and that of other projects working on domestic violence issues.

Educator Project - Karen Butler

I have recently been appointed as a Young People and Domestic Violence Worker by NDVF.

As a secondary school teacher and tutor, I gained extensive experience of developing and supporting young people and played an active role in their personal, social and health education. These experiences are complimented by my training and subsequent work as a volunteer for Child-line.

Research shows that young people are affected by domestic violence even when it is not aimed at them. Therefore, NDVF has prioritised developing the Education Project to work with young people in a variety of settings, as well as those who work with young people.

The aim of the Educator Project is to facilitate a long-term reduction in domestic violence by:

- ❖ Challenging the legacy of violence and outdated ideologies and attitudes
- ❖ Empowering young people to value non-abusive relationships and their health (emotional, physical & sexual)
- ❖ Increasing awareness of domestic violence and the choices and services available to those experiencing; and



- ❖ Strengthening inter-agency partnership, policy & practice.

The Educator Project is in the developmental stages, however, it is expected to include training staff in schools and youth clubs, educating young people in schools, youth clubs and on the streets and developing a peer education programme.

If you would like further information, or have any ideas you would like to contribute, please get in touch with me at the Forum.

Information & Resource Project - Cate Hodgkinson.

Project Worker

The Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum is developing a central source for domestic violence information and resources accessible to all Services in Nottinghamshire.

It is hoped that information and statistics from all agencies can be collated and maintained in order to support the partnership framework and encourage a consistent service delivery.

The production of NDVF NEWS! is a part of this project and in the near future we are also aiming to have our own webpage and articles in other on-line sites. We will keep you up to date with developments as they occur.

Disability Sub Group

The forum has set up a sub group to consider issues around disability. This came out of previous seminars are training on disability delivered last year. It's early days but we are looking at an action plan that will cover

- Domestic Violence awareness training to specialist disability groups
- Outreach to connect with individual disabled women
- Disability training for those of us working on domestic violence issues
- How the forum complies with good practice and be more accessible to disabled people.

If any one is interested in this aspect of our work please contact Mo Cooper at the office.

TRI (Training, Resources and Information)

Most people will know that Agenda, the Nottingham based project that worked with male perpetrators, and providing training on working with men, closed last year, leaving a big gap in service provision. NDVF have appointed a consultant / fundraiser to develop a project that will provide training in this area. *For more information please contact Damian Carnell on 0115 9119 364*



Training Dates

The Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum Inter Agency Training Strategy Group has been established for two years and works to the following objectives:

1. To encourage key agencies to demonstrate a commitment to the training strategy by encouraging and supporting agencies to recognise their responsibility to develop good strategies for supporting women and children.
2. To develop a core-training programme and package that will raise awareness of domestic violence issues and its impact on women and children, ensuring that there is specific material relevant to each key agency.
3. To identify and establish an inter-agency pool of trainers.

2001 Courses:

Abuse in Same Sex Relationships	14/6/01	Full Day
Basic Awareness	17/9/01	Full Day
DV & Mental Health	25/9/01	$\frac{1}{2}$ Day
Work with Men	15/10/01	Full Day
DV & Child Protection	20/06/01	$\frac{1}{2}$ Day
DV & Disability	T.B.A	Full Day
Racial Awareness	T.B.A	Full Day

A booking form is enclosed for the Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum Training courses. Please complete and return to the NDVF Office asap.

Quarterly Seminars

11th July - Domestic violence and working with Young People

14th November - NDVF AGM / Working with Men

Each Seminar will be held at the International Clothing Centre in Hucknall between 9.30 and 12.30pm.

Your comments - Please!

We are always keen to hear your views and would like to invite all Groups to use the opportunity of disseminating information throughout the County by contributing to the future editions of NDVF News! We would particularly like to feature articles from the Local Area Forums, Refuges and Specialist DV Projects in the area.

Please note our new address:

NDVF

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Sherwood Rise
Nottingham NG7**

Tel: 0115 9623 237.

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24 Hour Help-Line 0808 800 0340

Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City Domestic Violence Forum Flowchart

