



Chief Inspector Milton Kerr

North West ('G' District)

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Making Northern Ireland Safer



Presentation on ***The Foyle Domestic*** ***Violence Protocol***

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Video





“The Troubles”

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“Changing Face of Policing”



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New figures reveal:

Derry continues to top domestic violence league

DERRY CONTINUES to have the highest rate of domestic violence in the North, police chiefs revealed week.

women and their children do not come to the attention of authorities, such as the PSNI, until they have suffered, on average, five years of abuse with at

experienced.

"Children are, once again, the hidden victims who witness and experience violence and abuse in their homes daily in this city.

the coming year and, with our interagency partners and a strategy, we hope to eventually eliminate violence in the home. This work will take

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Statistics & Research

- In the Foyle Area in 2004/05 there were 1921 reported incidents an increase of 28% from the previous year.
- Foyle Area were top for reports of domestic violence in Northern Ireland.
- Domestic violence accounted for over one third of all recordable violent crime. (How does this compare to your area?)
- Research commissioned by Foyle Women's Aid showed a significant number of victims didn't report.



Interagency Approach (Statutory & Voluntary Agencies)

- The Police Service of Northern Ireland.
- Foyle Women's Aid.
- Foyle Health & Social Services Trust.
- Victim Support.
- Probation Board.
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive.
- Derry District Policing Partnership.
- Derry City Council Community Safety Partnership.
- Foyle Interagency Partnership on Domestic Violence (FIAP).

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Issues Identified

- Police response to Domestic Violence was variable and differed depended on training received.
- Information about support available to victims was not clear. (What support is available in your area?)
- Need for a clear set of guidelines for partners.
- Role of Domestic Violence Officer needed clarified.
- Police approach to Domestic Violence should be included in a protocol and appropriate training provided.
- Issues regarding court orders and their service.

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Response to the problem

- We carried out primary and secondary research, which included table top research, consultation and best practice/creative swiping.
- Decision that a core document (The Protocol) outlining best practice and response would be most effective mechanism to effect change and direct staff as the appropriate response.



Objectives

- Reduced repeat victimisation through application of the new protocol.
- Increase intervention level between repeat victims and offenders.
- Extend partnership approach to victims to improve the quality of service provided.
- Raise community awareness, thereby increase community safety and confidence.
- Improve quality of service to victims.
- Raise Police and agency awareness to ensure most effective response to victims and offenders.

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Problems Encountered

- Lack of enthusiasm from some partners. (Is this a problem in your area?)
- Unwillingness of existing domestic violence officers to accept change to a proactive, investigative role.
- Difficulty in recruitment of administration support staff.
- Delay in office refurbishment for domestic violence unit.



Key Aspects of the protocol

- Procedures for dealing with reports of domestic violence incidents, repeat victims and offenders including police powers.
- Ensure court orders are served immediately and enforced.
- Description of roles-response police and domestic violence unit.
- Actions re vulnerable people, children, minority ethnic groups, older people and same gender relationships.
- How to deal with police employees involved in DV incidents.
- How to react if firearms are involved.
- Repeat victimisation model. (How do you deal with this?)
- Actions to avoid repeat offences – police watch.....
- Available intervention from other agencies.
- Standards of service expectations from police & other agencies.

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Results

- Repeat Victimization – More repeat offenders identified as victims confidence to report increases.
- Intervention Level – Severity of domestic violence incidents has decreased suggesting successful intervention by partners evidenced through information obtained from our partners, victims and our crime analysts.
- Extending Partnership Approach – Feedback suggests a high standard of service and clearance rate has increased.

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Results *Cont'd*

- Raised Community Awareness – Incidents & offences initially increased but have fallen since 2003/04. This gave us more accurate statistics and indicated that intervention methods were working.
- Quality of Service to Victims – Domestic violence officers and partners are effectively dealing with offenders thereby providing an improved service to victims.
- Raise Police/Agency Awareness – regular briefings on high risk offenders. Regular meetings with partners to gain feedback.

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Victims Testimony

Teresa – Very intimidating 8 years ago. Not now, training has made police more empathetic, come out quicker and give you more information on support agencies.

Tony – Survivor of abuse from his father. Took part in participative training – “many thanks to all the people who listened to me, that day I never felt uncomfortable”.

Teresa – I had a good experience from the police, they were very supportive. I can see through improvements, everyone gets a good response.

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Ongoing Work

- Introduction of a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to provide a forum for sharing information and taking joint action to reduce future harm to very high risk victims of Domestic Violence and their children.
- Joint Accredited Training with An Garda Síochána (Irish Police Force) facilitated by Foyle Women's Aid.
- One stop shop – now available on a weekly basis – victims can attend one location and speak in confidence to all relevant agencies.
- Rapid response unit – staff from relevant agencies available to attend incidents 24/7 to assist victims.

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Success

- Monitoring the compliance of the Police service of Northern Ireland with the Human Rights act 1998 Recommendation 35: The PSNI should consider adopting the Foyle Protocol as a template of good practice for tackling domestic violence and distribute it to all District Command Units.
- The interagency partnership protocol was the winner of the “Northern Ireland Policing with the Community awards 2007” (Partnership Category).

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POLICING with the COMMUNITY AWARDS 2007



**POLICING with the
COMMUNITY
AWARDS 2007**

WINNER

PARTNERSHIP OF THE YEAR AWARD

Police 2007 - *Derbyshire Constabulary*

Domestic violence figures down

By DONNA DEENEY

THE number of domestic violence in the Foyle area reported to the police has fallen for the second year, with figures dropping by 12 percent this year.

In the financial year to the end of March 2006, 572 incidents were reported, compared with 651 in the previous financial year.

Of these incidents, 79 per cent were cleared; an increase from the previous

when we had the highest number of domestic violence reports in Northern Ireland but it is now held as a model of excellence.

"The fall in figures is a step in the right direction and an incentive for the Agency to continue its innovative work."

"We would like to congratulate C/Supt Russell on achieving a reduction in violence incidents

that it will no longer be tolerated within our community.

"This is just the beginning of a range of initiatives that Foyle Women's Aid, PSNI and others are currently negotiating to further support victims of domestic violence."

The changes come in the wake of a focused initiative that has involved police and other statutory and voluntary organisations. The Foyle Interagency Partnership on Domestic Violence and the police protocol on been operational having been welcomed by

Chief Superintendent Richard Russell, the Foyle DCU commander.

"We are committed to working with all interested parties to end an ethos that seems to think that violence within the family home is acceptable."

"Domestic violence affects entire families, not just individuals within them. In recent years we have been encouraging individuals to report these incidents, rather than suffering in silence."

"We have domestic violence within the DCU who are trained to investigate all victims and to bring them to justice."

encouraged to recognise the signs of domestic violence and to ensure that cases are brought to the attention of the DVOS.

"Strand Road has a special domestic violence suite that enables victims and their families to talk to officers in confidence."

The report of domestic violence incidents that is a process of enforcement for families from voluntary com-

to

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NEWS

Drop in domestic violence linked to new PSNI strategy

By Seamus McKinney

A DRAMATIC drop in domestic violence levels in Derry has been put down to a new police and multi-agency protocol put in place to deal with the problem.

The number of domestic violence incidents reported has more than halved in the past five months.

At a glance...
The number of domestic violence incidents reported in Derry has more than halved in the past five months

Derry police inspector, Milton Kerr said the unprecedented change has been brought about through the hard work of many organisations in the north west. Inspector Kerr said: "The shocking levels that existed led to the creation of a

domestic violence protocol involving the police, Foyle Women's Aid and other local organisations and that has proved to be very successful. "The basic message is that the victims of violence do not have to suffer in silence but that there are alternatives."

Between September last year and January, 157 cases of domestic violence were reported to police in Derry compared to 327 for the comparable period in 2005. Inspector Kerr said the figures for Christmas, a period

"The basic message is that the victims of violence do not have to suffer in silence"

Inspector

which domestic violence is usually those for Christmas, a period Marie Brown

Women's Aid gave a particular welcome for the commitment in figures. "However, that

Domestic violence rates fall

There's been a 12 per cent drop in the number of domestic violence incidents reported to police in the Derry area, new figures show.

In the year to the end of March 2006, 572 incidents were reported - compared with 651 in the same period the previous year.

This was the second successive year in which the figures fell.

Of these incidents, 79 per cent were cleared, which is an increase from the previous clearance rate of 67 per cent.

The changes come in the wake of a focused initiative that has involved police and other statutory and voluntary organisations.

The Foyle Interagency Partnership on Domestic Violence and the police protocol on domestic violence have been operational for more than three years. They were set up at a time when Derry had the



Inspector Milton Kerr and the Domestic Violence Unit from Foyle Area have won the Partnership of the Year Award of the Police of Northern Ireland's annual Police Community Awards held this (Friday 16 May) at the City Hall, with a number of agencies including Foyle Women's Aid, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Victim Support and Foyle Command area. It was set up due to the high number of domestic violence incidents recorded in 2001 and 2002. The protocol was introduced just at the right time and has facilitated a drop in the number of reported domestic violence incidents in the past two years.

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Bradley welcomes new domestic violence unit

SDLP Assembly Member for forward and reform, Mary Bradley has welcomed the new Domestic Violence Centre at Strand Road, Derry. Bradley said: "Earlier new specialised violence opened very first time in P.S.N.I. Station and I hope this will be victims of domestic violence to come an

Domestic violence down 12% in Derry

CLARE WEIR
and campaign groups welcomed a 12% drop in domestic violence in Londonderry. The number of domestic violence incidents reported has more than halved in the past five months. The reporting of domestic violence incidents is just the beginning of a process that will see the law and enforcement work for families. The reporting of domestic violence incidents is just the beginning of a process that will see the law and enforcement work for families. The reporting of domestic violence incidents is just the beginning of a process that will see the law and enforcement work for families.

Community honour
Sergeant Samuel Young, of Strand Road Police Station has been awarded a very creditable second place in the Northern Ireland Community Police Officer Of the Year category. Sergeant Young entered into partnership with Megee Duncreggan Rest of anti-social behaviour of this partnership was introduced into role of cross town/Biscross Ins no



Good News Press

- **Bradley welcomes new Domestic Violence Unit.**
- **Domestic Violence down 12% in Derry.**
- **Domestic Violence rates fall.**
- **Domestic Violence Figures down.**
- **Drop in domestic violence linked to new PSNI strategies.**
- **Award for Derry Cops.**

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IT WAS A ONE OFF



SHE'S SO SORRY



IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN
SHE SWEARS

TIME

AND TIME

AND TIME

AND TIME AGAIN



YOUR FRIENDS ARE USING YOU

LOOK AT THE STATE OF YOU

DOMESTIC ABUSE TAKES MANY FORMS



DOMESTIC ABUSE
CAN ONLY STOP
WHEN YOU REPORT IT





Questions ?

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