



***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.

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# ***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.

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# ***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.

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## ***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 Victimisation – 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 Station: Lurgan, Lurgan, Co. Antrim

Police Officer: Lurgan, Lurgan, Co. Antrim

Police Officer: Lurgan, Lurgan, Co. Antrim

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## ***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



DOMESTIC ABUSE  
CAN ONLY STOP  
WHEN YOU REPORT IT



YOUR FRIENDS ARE USING YOU

LOOK AT THE STATE OF YOU

DOMESTIC ABUSE TAKES MANY FORMS





## ***Questions ?***

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