

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP held at 11.00 am on 1 JUNE 1998 at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN

Present: Ronnie Ayres - Victim Support, Margot Freeman - Manager CAB, Sarah Horseman - Heckford Norton Solicitors, Nicola Norris - Domestic Violence Liaison Officer - Uttlesford, Councillor Mrs J E Menell, Liz Petrie, Senior Housing Officer, Linda Bunting, Committee and Electoral Assistant - Uttlesford District Council, Pauline Sanderson - Health Visitor, Graham Seal - Community Safety, Essex Police - Braintree, Monica Peake - Social Services.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Graham Brown - Education Office, Catherine Frederick - RELATE and Louise Mozzanica - Harlow Probation Office.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 1998 were agreed.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UPDATE - STANDING ITEM

Graham Seal introduced Nick Franklin from Braintree Research Division to the meeting. Mr Franklin informed those present that domestic violence had risen in the Saffron Walden area by 33%. He reported that overall there had been a decrease in other divisions of 20%. In the four months up until May 1998 there had been 103 incidents in the Saffron Walden area. These statistics related only to incidents that had actually been reported.

Graham Seal said that it was important for the Group to receive these statistics and asked Mr Franklin to make further research into these statistics.

Mrs Menell asked which area these statistics covered and was told that the Saffron Walden Division covered outlying villages from Thaxted and out as far as Clavering and Chrishall.

Ronnie Ayres said that the Group needed to know the size of the problem before any assistance could be given. Graham Seal said that the Group needed to ensure assistance was available for vulnerable people and asked for comments about the aims and actions of the Group. Monica Peake from Social Services said that the Group needed to know the number of violent domestic cases before establishing what the it's targets should be.

Liz Petrie said that some local authorities appeared to have problems in acquiring information from the Police about domestic violence. In answer to this Graham Seal told her that data protection legislation prevented the

free exchange of information and policy required a letter to be sent to the Data Protection Officer at Headquarters.

Nicola Norris reported the numbers of domestic incidents reported from January to the end of May 1998 for Dunmow and Saffron Walden as follows:-

	Non-violent	Violent
Dunmow	49	44
Saffron Walden	24	23

In view of the statistics Graham Seal asked that everyone gave some thought to what the Support Group could achieve and report back to the next meeting.

5 PROGRESS ON PREPARATION OF BOOKLET

The publication of the booklet was discussed at length. Liz Petrie had received a quotation of approximately £500 per 1,000 copies from UDC Offices Services Print Section and this was agreed as acceptable.

Funding for the booklet and any other expenses was considered. Graham Seal stated that he would be asking for a donation of £250 towards funding from the Police. Sarah Horseman would also be seeking sponsorship or a donation.

Graham Seal stated that the launch of the booklet was very important as it publicised the work of the Group through all the organisations involved.

6 AIMS OF THE GROUP/DIRECTION

Graham Seal reiterated his comments concerning the booklet regarding this item and also asked that members of the Group gave serious thought to the direction in which the Group was taking.

7 VICTIM REFERRAL/COUNSELLING

Graham Seal circulated a Home Office Police Briefing Note focusing on a project set up by West Yorkshire Police to reduce victimisation in relation to domestic violence which related to Standing Item 4.

8 METHOD OF RECEIVING FUNDS

Monica Peake asked for comments on a draft letter which she had constructed regarding seeking positive sponsorship/commitments that she hoped to circulate to local businesses. She also asked what the name of the bank account should be named and who had overall responsibility for it. Mrs Menell suggested that Sarah McLagan, Head of Leisure and Amenities of Uttlesford District Council, be invited to attend the next meeting to help clarify the position. Liz Petrie was to investigate this further.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Headed Paper

It was pointed out that headed paper had already been printed for the Uttlesford Community Safety Action Team. As the Support Group was ultimately part of the Action Team, it was discussed whether the Support Group logo should be incorporated on the same paper rather than have its own. The Group decided that they wanted to retain some form of its own identity and did not want to be taken for granted. It was agreed that Sarah McLagan be asked to give her opinion.

(ii) Polaroid Camera

Nicola Norris reported on an idea from the USA regarding response vehicles fitted with Polaroid cameras to record what they found when they attended incidents. Lancashire Police had trialed the idea and there had been a significant response. Most people connected with domestic incidents had been happy for the Police to record findings with the cameras.

(iii) Refuge Visit

A possible visit to the Refuge at Braintree, which was opened in March, was being planned.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 14 September 1998 at 11.00 am at the Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden.

The meeting ended at 12.55 pm.