

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP held at 11.00 am on 14 SEPTEMBER 1998 at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN

Present:- Ronni Ayres - Victim Support, Cheryl Callow - Inspector, Essex Police, Saffron Walden Police Station, Margot Freeman - Manager CAB, Sarah Horseman - Heckford Norton Solicitors, Sarah McLagan - Head of Leisure and Amenities, Councillor Mrs J E Mennell, Liz Petrie - Senior Housing Officer, Cathy Roberts - Administrative Officer, Committee Section, Uttlesford District Council, Pauline Sanderson - Health Visitor, Graham Seal - Inspector for Community Safety, Essex Police, Braintree Division, Julie Weddow - Education Welfare Officer, North West Essex Team.

I. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Nick Franklin - Braintree Research Division, Essex Police, Nicola Norris - Domestic Violence Liaison Officer, Essex Police, Uttlesford, and Monica Peake - Social Services.

I. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 1998 were agreed.

I. MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman referred to Minute 8 and invited Sarah McLagan to outline the best arrangements for receipt of funds from outside sources. It was suggested that the Council could provide a means of managing these funds on behalf of the group and that Liz Petrie should speak with the Corporate Director Finance to arrange this. It was noted that when the Group wrote its independent Action Plan, it could then apply for funding to its umbrella organisation Uttlesford Community Safety Action Team.

Councillor Mrs J E Menell asked if the agenda and minutes could be circulated before the meeting, as she had not received a copy. Liz Petrie advised that all the agendas had been sent out but would look into this matter to ensure future agendas are received.

I. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UPDATE - STANDING ITEM

The Group was updated on the domestic violence statistics. There had been 13 recorded crimes of domestic violence in 1998 of which three were common assault, nine actual bodily harm and one grievous bodily harm. The 103 domestic incidents which had been reported to the last meeting ranged from very minor to very serious.

I. INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentations were made by each Group member about the factors seen by their particular agency as contributing to the probability of domestic violence. Many members referred to the need for good liaison among the agencies, including awareness of each other's capabilities, and for effective publicity of the help available for victims.

In answer to a question the Chairman reminded Members of the terms of reference of the Group.

It was agreed that copies of the terms of reference would be circulated to all members of the Group, and that each member would make a presentation to the next meeting about:-

- (a) the role of their particular agency,
- (b) how their agency's activities link with those of the Group and
- (c) the objective their agency wishes to submit for inclusion within

I. PROGRESS ON PREPARATION OF BOOKLET

Liz Petrie presented the booklet in its finished form and received the congratulations of the Group. She added that a contribution of £150 had been made to the costs by Social Services.

The Chairman informed the Group that the Police would help with distribution of the booklet, and assured the meeting that the placing of the Victim Support 'phone number on page 2 would be amended at the earliest opportunity.

Members felt that an effective publicity launch was essential for the booklet and the Group's Action Plan.

I. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that Victim Support referrals would be considered at a future meeting.

I. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday, 9 October 1998 at 10.30 am at the Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden.

The meeting ended at 12.45 pm.

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