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Local & National

Mother of murdered teen set for discussion with PUP boss

Monday, November 26, 2007

By Stephen Breen

The grieving mother of murdered schoolboy Thomas Devlin last night offered to meet PUP leader Dawn Purvis.

Penny Holloway told how she was prepared to discuss her son's killing with the leader of the UVF-linked party in a fresh bid to get people from the notorious Mount Vernon Estate to come forward.

The PUP woman last night said she was prepared to meet with Ms Holloway.

Ms Holloway - who has vowed to continue her campaign for justice - believes her son's killer has been protected in the loyalist stronghold for the last two years.

The north Belfast mum urged the PUP leader to provide a "public assurance" that people in Mount Vernon will not be branded informers if they provide information to the police.

"I would hope Dawn Purvis could exert some influence because there are people in the Mount Vernon area who think it's more of a crime to be an informer than a child killer," she said.

"I also believe Dawn could demonstrate how this society can move away from the culture of not providing information by urging people to come forward.

"This is not about people being some kind of tout... This is about someone going that little bit further to get a child-killer off the street."

Dawn Purvis said she had already urged anyone with information on the teenager's murder to come forward.

"I am on record as saying that anyone with information on Mrs Holloway's son's murder should go to the police.

"The people who killed Thomas Devlin should be brought to justice and people do need to cooperate."

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