

File copy

From: Maire McMahon

Date: 23 November 2001

Stephen Jackson

RESPONSE TO THE LETTER FROM THE OFMDFM

As discussed attached draft background notes prepared by John Park on some of the issues for your submission to Minister. This may need to be set within the context of the recent submission by Mr R Black, Chief Executive to Mr Paul Simpson and in respect of the current questions around the funding of the regional resource centre. I will leave this for your deliberation.

John is happy to discuss his draft with you.

You may be aware that Ambrose Owen needs to finalise this response before close of play today.

MAIRE McMAHON

Response to referrals from Holy Cross/Glenbryn

The main provider of counselling to meet current needs is New Life Counselling Service, based in Ardoyne. Initially, the Trust agreed funding for work with 18 referrals for 162 hours of counselling at a cost of £7,500. Subsequently, there has been a substantial increase in demand and New Life is now seeking funding in the region of £40,000 for a total (at 16 November) of 109 referrals and this is being considered by the Trust. It is expected that a significant number of these referrals will require support beyond the agreed maximum of 8 sessions and this will have further cost implications. New Life has taken on additional counsellors to cope with the crisis but their long-term financial situation is precarious as they have no identified funding beyond March 2002.

In addition, the following services are available:

Stress Management

Stress management support for parents is being provided by the Ardoyne Community Healthcare Centre, which has requested funding of £15,000 for its programme. The Trust has provided initial funding of £5,000.

DRAFT NOTES FOR BRIEFING FOR MINISTER

Issue

Request dated 21 November 2001 from Peter May and Rosalie Flanagan, OFMDFM, concerning follow-up to North Belfast meetings. This note deals with action taken and additional need identified in respect of counselling services for children and parents affected by the Holy Cross dispute.

Background

The Trust's response to the events surrounding Holy Cross primary school should be seen in the context of the legacy of 30 years of conflict which still continues across much of the Trust's catchment area. A range of services has been put in place to provide support systems.

Helpline

was
Last year the Trust established a confidential helpline to offer advice and counselling support to distressed individuals and families. This is provided in partnership with the Institute for Counselling and Personal Development. *Amendments agreed with S. Jackson.*
~~In June this year the service was extended to North Belfast and it~~ has received 36 referrals, mainly from Ardoyne, Limestone Road and the White City. This service is costing the Trust £4,000 per month.

Response to referrals from Holy Cross/Glenbryn

The main provider of counselling to meet current needs is New Life Counselling Service, based in Ardoyne. Initially, the Trust agreed funding for work with 18 referrals for 162 hours of counselling at a cost of £7998. Subsequently, there has been a substantial increase in demand and New Life is now seeking funding in the region of £40,000 for a total (at 16 November) of 109 referrals and this is being considered by the Trust. It is expected that a significant number of these referrals will require support beyond the agreed maximum of 6 sessions and this will have further cost implications. New Life has taken on additional counsellors to cope with the crisis but their longer-term financial situation is precarious, as they have no identified funding beyond March 2002.

In addition, the following services are available:

Stress Management

Stress management support for parents is being provided by the Ardoyne Community Healthcare Centre, which has requested funding of £13,615 for its programme. The Trust has provided initial funding of £5,000.

Mutual support

Holy Cross Parents Group has organised a mutual support programme at a cost of £2,760. They have received £700 from the Passionist Order and the Trust has agreed to fund the balance.

Regional Family Trauma Centre

The Family Trauma Centre is working with 8 families referred from Holy Cross.

Additional need

In addition to the funding identified above, the Trust has received requests for funding from a large number of community organisations that are attempting to deal with the effects of the turmoil across the whole area. These are currently under consideration. The Trust reported that they are struggling to deal with this demand, as they have no identified source of funding. It was reported that the EHSSB is unable to offer funding and unsuccessful approaches have been made to the local Belfast Regeneration Office and the Belfast Education and Library Board.