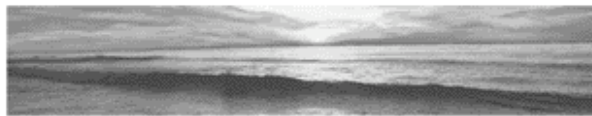




Victims Unit Progress Report

1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004



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Victims Unit Progress Report

1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004

1. Introduction

When the Victims Unit within the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) published the strategy, “Reshape, Rebuild, Achieve” in April 2002, it also undertook to produce a summary of activity on a yearly basis and pass it to all interested parties. The report would contain details about how the various targets associated with this strategy have been taken forward, and other work carried out by the Victims Unit during the year.

This progress report outlines the activities of the Victims Unit during the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004, following on from last year’s publication. Annex A details the “Reshape, Rebuild, Achieve” actions aimed at addressing the needs of victims and survivors of the conflict in Northern Ireland, and how the various actions have been taken forward. Annex B details the amount of Peace II monies awarded and paid during the year 2003-04 and Annex C shows groups in receipt of funding through the Core Funding scheme, which the Victims Unit assumed responsibility for during 2003-04. Details of projects that received funding through the Strategy Implementation Fund can be found at Annex D.

During the past year, the Victims Unit has gained some new staff members. John Clarke has become the Head of the Victims Unit after many years in the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, most recently working in the field of child protection. Edward Godfrey moved to the Victims Unit from the Statutory Duty and Human Rights Unit within OFMDFM, where he was involved with the implementation of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. John Murphy came to us as a new entrant to the Northern Ireland Civil Service, and Linda McMullan returned to the Civil Service and joined the Unit.

2. Victims Unit strategy “Reshape, Rebuild, Achieve”

The Victims Unit strategy, “Reshape, Rebuild, Achieve” set out how the Northern Ireland Executive would deliver practical help and services to the victims and survivors of more than thirty years of conflict, in line with the Executive’s first Programme for Government. Subsequent Programmes for Government have maintained the focus on improving the availability of practical help and services to victims and survivors of the conflict in Northern Ireland. The progress report published in May 2003 detailed the work carried out by the Victims Unit in the first year of developing the strategy. This report addresses the work taken forward in the year 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 and, where appropriate, mentions ongoing work in the current year

2.1 Implementation of strategy

“Reshape, Rebuild, Achieve” contained almost fifty actions spread across a range of areas including recognition, access and information, health, education and learning, housing and the development of business skills. The Victims Unit has continued to develop many of the measures it put in place during 2002-03, and has also taken forward additional work to help achieve the aims set out in the strategy. At March 2004, thirty-nine actions had been completed or were ongoing, while five actions were on target for completion. Three actions had been delayed, and two were withdrawn.

A monitoring report detailing progress up to 31 March 2004 towards implementation of the strategy is attached at Annex A.

3. Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG)

The Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG) on victims is the key cross-departmental body tasked with taking the victims strategy forward and ensuring that the needs of victims and survivors are addressed by public services. The IWG has continued to meet and the February 2004 meeting, to review progress and discuss the way ahead, was chaired by the Minister for Victims and Reconciliation, Angela Smith MP. The Victims Unit has also had bilateral meetings with individual departmental representatives on the Working Group to look at future service developments.

4. Trauma Advisory Panels (TAPs)

The TAPs were set up in each Health and Social Services Board area to take forward work and develop partnerships in a range of areas relating to victims. As part of the strategy, the Victims Unit has funded a full-time Co-ordinator in each TAP area to develop the Panel's potential and work effectively with victims and survivors. The Victims Unit has also agreed to fund the post of a Community Victim Support Officer in the Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust area until March 2005. As part of the next phase of victims and survivors policy and strategy (see section 10), a review of the way forward for the Trauma Advisory Panels is anticipated during 2004-05.

During 2003-04 the Co-ordinators have been analysing need in each of their areas, developing and publicising the work of the Panels and developing networks and services including compiling directories of available services. They meet regularly with the head of the Victims Unit and also present feedback on their work and victims and survivors issues to the IWG.

Other work taken forward by the Trauma Advisory Panels includes the following:

In the Northern Board area awareness programmes for health professionals have been developed to provide training on trauma and its effects on communities. Following on from a needs assessment exercise in the Board area, pilot schemes to provide psychological interventions to people with severe mental illness and a history of trauma are being developed. This work along with a proposal to appoint a primary care link worker to assess and treat people affected by trauma have been supported by the Victims Strategy Implementation Fund.

In the Eastern Board area, a training programme for key workers has been developed with the aim of providing two trauma specialists in each Health Trust area and work is being taken forward to develop standards and quality assure psychosocial and psychotherapeutic services offered to victims and survivors.

Trauma related training has been delivered to GPs, Primary Care Workers and other Health and Social Services Staff in the Southern Health Board area and a capacity building programme for Trauma Advisory Panel members has been developed.

The Western Board Trauma Advisory Panel has been expanded and developed to include groups in the Sperrin Lakeland Trust area and an accredited counselling training course in Northern Ireland has been developed. Research to identify gaps in provision of services for children and young people is ongoing.

Contact details for the Trauma Advisory Panel Co-ordinators, and the Community Victim Support Officer in the Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust, can be found below:

Sharon Campbell – Eastern Health and Social Services Board

Contact Address: 12-22 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BS

Telephone: 028 9055 3978
Fax: 028 9055 3620
Email: scampbell@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk

Sheena Funston – Western Health and Social Services Board

Contact Address: Upstairs Offices, Foyleville,
Academy Road
Londonderry
BT48 7LE

Telephone: 028 7136 5806
Fax: 028 7136 5804
Email: sfunston@foylebv.n-i.nhs.uk

Clare Quigley – Southern Health and Social Services Board

Contact Address: 28 Cornmarket
Newry
BT35 8GB

Telephone: 028 3083 3074
Fax: 028 3083 3075
Email: traumaadvisory@btconnect.com

Sheelagh Sheerin – Northern Health and Social Services Board

Contact Address: Rockfield Medical Centre
73-75 Doury Road
Ballymena
BT43 6JD

Telephone: 028 2565 4170

Email: s.sheerin@bopenworld.com

Sean Coll – Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust

Contact Address: Community Victim Support Officer
Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust
15 Elliott Place
Enniskillen
BT74 7HQ

Telephone: 028 6634 4240

Fax: 028 6634 4079

Email: scoll@slt.n-i.nhs.uk

5. Funding

Funding is a key issue for victims and survivors and victims and survivors groups. Several streams of funding are in place to assist victims and survivors.

5.1 Peace II Funding

The Victims Unit is the accountable body with overall responsibility for two Measures of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace II). The Measures are designed to assist with the reconciliation and integration of victims, particularly through retraining, re-skilling and re-employment. Peace II amounts awarded and paid can be found at Annex B.

5.2 Core Funding

In December 2003 the Victims Unit took over responsibility for the Core Funding scheme from the Victims Liaison Unit in the NIO. An evaluation of the scheme is currently taking place. A table of groups receiving funding and the amounts allocated can be found at Annex D.

5.3 Strategy Implementation Fund

The Strategy Implementation Fund was established to allow government departments and agencies to develop projects to assist victims and survivors and deliver the aims of the victims strategy. The Fund is additional but complementary to the sources of funding available to victims and survivors and victims' and survivors' organisations. In 2003-04, nearly £600,000 was paid out to departments for a wide range of projects including: work to organise, index and store material relating to the Omagh bombing; a pilot project aimed at developing educational support for post-primary pupils identified as victims and survivors of conflict related violence; a music therapy project; and a theatre production and outreach programme focussing on the experience of victims in Northern Ireland. A list of approved projects and payments can be found at Annex D.

6. Churches and faith communities

The Victims Unit met with a number of representatives of faith communities to discuss how we could help their practice and ensure that individual victims and survivors are informed about available sources of practical help. As a result a steering group made up of faith workers and trauma workers was set up to organise a series of seminars around Northern Ireland in autumn 2003 for clergy, faith workers and pastoral care workers. The seminars were designed to help provide them with the skills and information needed to address the sadness and distress arising from the conflict and support people on the journey towards healing. They were well attended and the feedback was positive. A report of the seminars was produced and is available on the Victims Unit website.

Building on the relationships developed between the churches and faith communities and the Victims Unit, the Minister hosted a dinner for the leaders of the four main churches to discuss the seminar report and the Victims Unit and faith communities are working together to develop a resource to support faith workers in their work with people affected by trauma.

7. Research - ethical principles

During consultation on the original victims strategy, “Reshape, Rebuild, Achieve”, it emerged that agreed criteria and ethical standards of practice for researchers who deal with victims did not exist. As a result, the Victims Unit commissioned work to develop standards for researching sensitive areas including victims and in May 2003 the Unit published a document entitled “Ethical Principles for Researching Vulnerable Groups”. Over 200 copies of the report, which is available on the Victims Unit website, were distributed to victims groups, MLAs, clergy and victims workers.

8. Victims Unit and NIO Victims Liaison Unit working together

The Victims Unit and NIO Victims Liaison Unit have continued to work closely together and the Heads of the two Units meet regularly and take forward the transfer of further responsibilities from the NIO Victims Liaison Unit to the Victims Unit. Responsibility for the Core Funding and Development Grant Programmes passed from the NIO Victims Liaison Unit to the Victims Unit during the year. The production of a consultation leaflet and the organisation of consultation workshops were a joint effort. Both Units have collaborated on the production of the Victims/Survivors Newsletter during the year, and overall responsibility for that has passed to the Victims Unit.

9. Supporting the Minister for Victims and Reconciliation

In June 2003, Angela Smith MP replaced Des Browne MP as Minister for Victims and Reconciliation. The Victims Unit has supported the Minister at a number of visits and meetings, and has continued to provide advice on ministerial queries relevant to victims and survivors issues. This has included providing briefing for official visits and advice on responses to ministerial correspondence and parliamentary questions.

10. Working towards the next victims strategy

Over recent months work has taken place to inform the development of the next phase of victims policy and strategy.

The Victims Unit commissioned Capita Consulting to carry out an evaluation of services provided for victims and survivors, and the impact to date of the original victims strategy, "Reshape, Rebuild, Achieve". Unfortunately there was a low response rate to the research, meaning that no firm conclusions could be drawn. However, the report did highlight some themes and areas that required further discussion. The executive summary of the report can be found on the Victims Unit website.

The Victims Minister has had meetings with people experienced in the development and delivery of services to victims and survivors and those with relevant research experience to discuss key areas in developing future victims policy.

In September 2003, a leaflet was distributed in the three main local newspapers inviting people who had been affected by the conflict in Northern Ireland to write to the Minister giving their views on a number of questions. The responses were collated and are being used to inform the development of the next phase of victims strategy. In addition, a series of workshops, including one especially for young people, were organised to allow victims and survivors to discuss the questions from the leaflet in more detail. The Minister attended a number of the plenary sessions of these workshops to hear at first hand what individual victims had to say, and to demonstrate her commitment to consider their views in developing the new victims strategy.

11. Welfare cases

The Victims Unit has continued to operate a helpline to assist callers with welfare issues. The freephone number is **0808 127 3333**. During the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 we dealt with around 30 cases.

12. Liaising with representatives of victims and survivors groups

Since John Clarke took up his post as Head of the Victims Unit in January 2004, he has undertaken a series of visits to victims and survivors groups throughout Northern Ireland to hear what issues were important to groups. Officials from the Victims Unit also participated in a number of workshops for victims and survivors groups organised by the TAP Co-ordinators and the Sperrin Lakeland Victim Support Officer in advance of the North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust International Conference, "Towards a Better Future – Building Healthy Communities". The aim of the workshops was to help inform the issues to be raised at the October 2003 conference.

13. Meetings with other organisations

Officials from the Victims Unit have had meetings with many other non-governmental organisations in the fields of health, education, youth work and the media to raise awareness of victims and survivors issues and inform the work of the Unit.

14. Steering groups, boards and committees

The Victims Unit was represented on a number of boards and committees during 2003-04, including the following:

Barnardo's Parenting in a Divided Society Project; Churches and Faith Communities Seminars Steering Group; Towards a Better Future – Building Healthy Communities Conference Advisory Group; WEA Steering Group; Review of Public Administration Focus Group; Children and Young People's Strategy - Family & Community Support Task Group; Security Review Task Force; Victims and Survivors Core Funding Committee (observer status), and the Peace II Measure 2.4b Selection Panel.

15. Participation in conferences, seminars and launches

The Victims Unit also participated in conferences, seminars and launches, including:

Complementary Therapy Taster Days; “Regional Disfigurement Audit”, “Improving Policy Development”, “A Shared Future”, “Pathways for Change”, “Working Together for Sustainable Peace” and “Towards a Better Future conferences; a workshop on the impact of early intervention on trauma in children; and launches of the following: Democratic Dialogue “Recognition and Reckoning” report, Human Rights Commission “Victims of Violence” report, Prison Service Victims Information Scheme, EHSSB Child Bereavement Project; RNID Rehabilitation Project, Training for Women Network research project, and the Ulster Museum Conflict Exhibition.

16. Links outside Northern Ireland

During 2003-04, officials from the Victims Unit met with members of the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation in County Wicklow and officials from the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Justice. Members of the Victims Unit sat on the advisory group responsible for a three-day international conference in October 2003, “Towards a Better Future”, organised by the North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust and the Eastern Health and Social Services Board. It was held over three days and examined ways to rebuild communities after trauma. The conference heard from speakers from Northern Ireland, USA, Germany and South Africa.

Also during the year, the Victims Unit welcomed visitors from Nepal and Oklahoma, USA, to hear about the experiences in those countries.

17. Complementary therapy seminars

In partnership with the Trauma Advisory Panel Co-ordinators and the Community Victim Support Officer of the Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust, the Victims Unit organised a series of Taster Days throughout Northern Ireland to allow victims and survivors to sample some of the different therapies available. Two of these taster days took place in 2002-03, while a further four were held in the last year.

18. Freephone

The Victims Unit freephone helpline (telephone number: **0808 127 3333**) and textphone for those with hearing difficulties (telephone number: **028 9052 2343**) have continued in operation during the past year.

19. Inputs to government consultations and internal departmental exercises and initiatives

19.1 The Victims Unit provided reports on its objectives and actions contained in:

- Priorities and Plans
- OFMDFM's Public Service Agreement

We liaise with all departments and agencies to ensure that all public consultation includes, where appropriate, victims and survivors groups and individuals. During 2003-04 we issued twelve consultations on behalf of other departments and agencies and ensured that departments have reflected victims issues in appropriate planning documentation.

The Victims Unit responded to a number of consultations and issued consultation documents to victims and survivors groups for their input.

All publications produced by the Unit were notified to and included in the Department's Publication Scheme.

The Knowledge Network is a government-wide electronic policy and briefing system enabling Ministers and officials to access up-to-date, accurate and relevant information. The Victims Unit regularly updates the information relating to victims issues.

20. Victims Unit information

The Victims Unit has a website, **www.victimsni.gov.uk**, and an email address, **info@victimsni.gov.uk**, which are interactive sources of information of interest to victims and survivors.

In September 2003 the Victims Unit Key Contact List was updated and reprinted. This is a resource listing contact details for all government departments and agencies and public bodies.

The Victims Unit has continued to contribute articles for inclusion in the Victims/Survivors Newsletter.

21. Administration

In support of the above work the Victims Unit compiled the Unit's Business and Training Plans and carried out budgetary and financial monitoring and verification, staff management, training, performance reviews and reporting, file reviews, weekly team meetings and planning meetings. DFP Internal Audit also carried out an audit of the Victims Unit during the year.

Annexes

“Rehape, Rebuild, Achieve” timetable for completion of actions

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2004
Apr 02	Use Housing Support Officers to provide specialist information for victims with special housing needs.	NIHE	Completed. Ongoing training needs of officers undertaking this role are being addressed.
Apr 02	Undertake a housing benefit awareness campaign for those ratepayers who are owner-occupiers to encourage those on low income to apply for benefit.	DFP	Completed. The Agency completed a series of Housing Benefit awareness visits to all 26 District Council areas, during 2002-2003.
Apr 02	Publish a key contact list for government departments and agencies.	OFMDFM	Completed.
Apr 02	Set up a freephone helpline and textphone to the Victims Unit (VU).	OFMDFM	Completed.
Apr 02	Place articles in the in-house magazines of all government departments to publicise the work of the VU.	OFMDFM	Completed.
Apr 02	Fund a support worker in each Trauma Advisory Panel until 2004.	OFMDFM	Completed.
Jun 02	Develop and publish a model of the various government and other structures involved with victims' issues.	OFMDFM	Completed. Model published and issued to victims groups and other interested parties at the end of September 2002.
Jun 02	Investigate how services such as the Education Welfare Service and Behaviour Support Teams can interact with victims and victims' groups.	DE	Completed.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2004
Jun 02	Produce advice literature which incorporates the role and distribution of housing support organisations.	NIHE	Delayed. Discussions planned with Victim's Support regarding possible role in the provision of housing support services for victims. Subject to the outcome of these discussions, a bid will be made for Supporting People funding for this service. Literature will be revised when the service becomes available. Service envisaged within existing financial year.
Jun 02	Publish a Mental Health Promotion Strategy.	DHSSPS	Completed. Published 12 February 2003.
Jun 02	Finalise a Business Birthrate Strategy (BBRS) which will focus on raising the enterprise rates of disadvantaged groups.	DETI	Completed. The Accelerating Entrepreneurship Strategy sets out a range of innovative measures designed to stimulate, encourage and support risk takers. Proposals include special measures to promote entrepreneurship within disadvantaged areas and plans to set targets to increase entrepreneurship among under-represented groups.
Jun 02	In conjunction with the voluntary and community sector, examine the need for delivering further capacity building.	OFMDFM/NIO	Completed. A survey of victims' groups and victim support workers confirmed that there is a need for further capacity building. WEA received funding under Peace II for the purpose of providing training to meet some of the identified needs. In addition, CFNI and CRC are considering the need to undertake further capacity building with victims' groups.
Jun 02	In conjunction with the NIO and the NIMF hold a series of information seminars in a number of different locations to provide practical help in relation to the funding process and to discuss effective monitoring and evaluation.	OFMDFM/NIO	Completed. Core funding seminars held May and June 2002. Peace II training sessions held. NIMF information days held on 2 July 2002 and 24 August 2002. A series of Core Funding information seminars were held on 9, 10, 11 and 12 December 2002 in various locations across Northern Ireland.
Jun 02	Ensure a Task Force is established to consider the long-term sustainability of the voluntary and community sector, including the needs of victims.	DSD	Completed. Task Force established in early 2003 to identify action to be taken to ensure that the voluntary and community sector can continue to make a substantial contribution to the achievement of Government objectives and to the well-being of the Northern Ireland community. Four Working Groups are now in place to consider key priority areas: Government Policy for Support and Funding of the Voluntary and Community Sector; Accountability and Organisational Systems of Governance; Infrastructure; and Sustainability. A website has also been established in a bid to inform and consult on its progress. The address is www.taskforcevcsni.gov.uk

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2004
Sep 02	Examine on a NICS-wide basis, what additional staff training is required for those dealing with victims, particularly those delivering front line services.	All	Completed. Training has been developed, quality assured by the VU, and issued to all departments to incorporate in relevant staff training programmes.
Sep 02	Review the level of emergency payments for persons re-housed as a result of intimidation.	NIHE	Completed. NIHE Board approved revised payments to take effect from April 2003.
Sep 02	Evaluate the introduction of a tenancy support (victims) service to assist relocated families to settle in their new neighbourhood and to make contact with support organisations.	NIHE	Delayed. Discussions planned with Victim's Support regarding possible role in the provision of housing support services for victims. Subject to the outcome of these discussions, a bid will be made for Supporting People funding for this service. Literature will be revised when the service becomes available. Service envisaged within existing financial year.
Oct 02	Engage with victims' groups and other interested parties to develop proposals for how victims can best link with policy makers.	IWG	On target. An article was published in the newsletter of NIO, Victims Liaison Unit (VLU) in December 2002 seeking the views of victims and victims' organisations. 22 replies were received and a summary of responses was prepared and issued. TAP Co-ordinators have been developing networks with groups and feeding back to the Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG).
Dec 02	Consult with Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), especially those providing education and/or outreach programmes to consider including victims in their target audiences.	All Departments responsible for NDPBs	Completed. DEL has issued information about the Victims Strategy to all of its NDPBs. NDPBs will in turn take any action required – examples of this are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the Construction Industry Training Board will include an article on victims issues in their next newsletter to levy payers. – Enterprise Ulster engages in outreach activity with many groups in the voluntary / community sector. They are currently in contact with a number of victims' groups and have two trainees placed with Survivors of Trauma. Enterprise Ulster also have one Training for Work trainee in each of the following:- Focus, Omagh; Fermanagh Women's Aid Enniskillen; South East Fermanagh Foundation; WAVE, Omagh.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2004
			Additionally, they are currently in contact with two other organisations with a view to placing trainees with them. They are Relatives for Justice, Belfast and Families Achieving Change Together, Lisburn. Ulster Sheltered Employment Ltd also continues to take account of victims issues in all its activities which relate to the employment of people with disabilities.
Dec 02	Examine the development of alternative programmes for getting intimidated young people back into education.	DE	Completed. The investigation identified no requirement for new services. Operational experience was that existing services could cater for the education needs of the young people referred. Any future needs will be addressed through the Interface Strategy (North Belfast) or Education Action Zones.
Dec 02	Consider the specific needs of victims when developing strategies to engage with disaffected young people.	DE	Withdrawn. The development of a strategy on tackling disaffection has been removed from the Department's Business Plan for the foreseeable future.
Jan 03	Subgroup of IWG begins review of the victims' strategy to make recommendations for any amendments.	IWG	Completed. A review subgroup was formed and met on 24 January 2003. It was decided that because of the impending end of year report and the forthcoming research to determine the extent to which the current strategy is addressing the needs of victims along with any remaining gaps, the formal strategy review did not need to be taken any further at this stage. Capita Consulting carried out research in 2003 and consultation on the next strategy is ongoing.
Jan 03	Pursue with relevant NDPBs how the use of arts and sport in particular might be used as therapeutic tools and how, for example, poetry, art and music might be used as methods of expressing the experiences of victims.	DCAL	Completed. The Arts Council has agreed to contact victim' groups to advise them of the services and opportunities that it provides. The Sports Council has already identified one area and is actively considering other sports. A proposal for the Tollymore Mountain Centre based project was received from the Sports Council and was awarded funding from the Victims Strategy Implementation Fund.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2004
Jan 03	Take forward comprehensive implementation of the Strategy for Literacy and Numeracy following consultation with, among others, victims and victims' groups.	DEL	Completed. DEL published a draft consultation paper in March 2002, and Essential Skills for Living – a Strategy and Action Plan for Adult Literacy in Northern Ireland was launched on 2nd October 2002. A quality framework has been put in place for adult literacy covering curriculum, standards, and qualifications for Foundation Key Skills at entry level. Overall, this strategy is on schedule.
Mar 03	Review the HPSS recommendations from the Bloomfield Report and the SSI Report and determine the extent of the implementation of the recommendations.	DHSSPS	On target. Included in the Evaluation of Services to Victims which was carried out by Capita Consulting.
Mar 03	Ensure that all relevant HPSS staff are aware of how to respond to the health and social needs of victims and their representatives.	DHSSPS	On target. Pilot awareness training in progress.
Mar 03	Examine how a potential transfer of the NIO's responsibilities for victims might be administered.	OFMDFM/NIO	Completed. Responsibility for the Victims Groups Core Funding Scheme 2003-2005 transferred to the VU, OFMDFM with other areas to follow.
Mar 03	Work with victims and victims' groups to explore how the achievements of victims can be celebrated.	OFMDFM/WG	Completed. A letter requesting ideas for how this could be taken forward was issued to victims' groups and victim support officers in June 2002. Responses indicated that this area should not be progressed.
Apr 03	Produce a summary of activity to date and how the various targets associated with the victims' strategy have been taken forward.	OFMDFM with input from all	Completed. Summary of progress on actions has been updated on a quarterly basis and is now being communicated to all interested parties in May 2003. Second report to issue July 2004.
Apr 03	Examine how teacher development can address barriers to learning experienced by victims.	DE	Delayed. Work on the review is being taken forward by means of a series of studies. The study on 'Continuing Professional Development' will be asked to examine the training needs of teachers in areas of serious social disadvantage.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2004
Apr 03	Examine how parent support, including the development of parenting skills, can be developed by schools and other agencies.	DE	Ongoing. Limited programmes of support are in operation in each Education and Library Board area. Further expansion will occur as resources become available.
Apr 03	Publish for consultation a policy framework on the development of counselling support services to pupils.	DE	Withdrawn. Work on a policy framework has been removed from the Department's Business Plan.
Jun 03	Examine how awareness raising of victims' issues can be addressed in the development of a new statutory curriculum for schools.	DE	Ongoing. The outline for the Local and Global Citizenship Programme does provide scope to deal with victims issues.
Jun 03	Carry out research to determine whether counselling would be helpful for victims who apply for access to coroner's inquest papers.	DCAL	Completed. Research with NI Court Service to consider.
Ongoing	Ensure that all public consultation includes, where appropriate, victims' groups and individuals.	All	Ongoing. Departments and agencies are liaising with the VU and including, where appropriate, victims' groups and individuals in consultation exercises.
Ongoing	Ensure that all departments and agencies, where appropriate, reflect victims' needs in their corporate planning documentation using the common aims and themes set down in Partners for Change.	All	Ongoing.
Ongoing	Work collaboratively with the NIO to ensure that victims know which part of Government to access for help.	OFMDFM/NIO	Completed. Information on split of responsibilities between VU and NIO VLU was included in the leaflet containing a model of service provision for victims issued to victims groups and other interested parties at the end of September 2002.
Ongoing	Work with relevant agencies, in consultation with victims and victims' groups, to deliver a range of seminars and information events designed to reach as wide an audience as possible.	OFMDFM and others as appropriate	On target. The VU in partnership with each of the four Trauma Advisory Panel Co-ordinators and the Community Victim Support Officer, Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust organised and funded a series of Complementary Therapy Taster events across Northern Ireland in 2003.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2004
Ongoing	Take steps to develop and improve communication with those dealt with by the VU, for example through the use of newsletters and fact sheets.	OFMDFM	Completed. The VU is working with victims and victims groups through the Trauma Advisory Panels in each of the four Health Board areas to improve communication. The VU and NIO VLU now produce a joint newsletter.
Ongoing	Update the VU website with information of interest to victims and their representatives and respond promptly to any issues raised through the VU e-mail address.	OFMDFM	Ongoing. The VU website is reviewed and updated regularly and all issues raised through the associated e-mail address are dealt with promptly. In July 03 the VU wrote out to all victims' groups asking for suggestions on further material that could be incorporated into the website.
Ongoing	Ensure that the forthcoming review of mental health policy and strategy considers the needs of victims.	DHSSPS	On target. Reference groups being established on a rolling basis. The SHSSB TAP Co-ordinator sits on the implementation group for the "Promoting Mental Health" strategy and action plan.
Ongoing	Consider the specific needs of victims when implementing the SSI review of counselling.	DHSSPS	On target. Counselling in Northern Ireland – Report of the Counselling Review was issued in May 2002. Chapter 7 of the report deals specially with 'Counselling and the Troubles'. Implementation of report will require new UK legislation. Consultants exercise on Evaluation of Services to Victims carried out. Guidance leaflets on counselling and best practice were produced and issued to all victims groups in July 2003.
Ongoing	Make available to all individuals and organisations, including community groups and victims' support groups, a wide range of enterprise and business start-up programmes.	DETI	On target. Invest NI offers a wide range of business support schemes. Relevant contact details for further information have been included in the Key Contact List for Victims and Victims' Organisations. Consideration is also to be given to encouraging entrepreneurship among disadvantaged groups (including victims' groups as appropriate) as part of the new Accelerating Entrepreneurship Strategy.
Ongoing	VU in OFMDFM and VLU in the NIO will continue to collaborate and work closely together.	OFMDFM/NIO	On target. Officials from both Units meet regularly.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2004
Ongoing	Ensure that OFMDFM and NIO Ministers continue to meet frequently to discuss relevant issues and examine potential activities such as joint exercises.	OFMDFM/NIO	Ongoing. Regular meetings took place up until the suspension of the NI Assembly and Executive. NIO Minister Angela Smith currently has responsibility for both the NIO Victims Liaison Unit and the Victims Unit in OFMDFM.
Ongoing	Work with the churches and faith communities to provide relevant information to clergy and other representatives who may be contacted by victims.	OFMDFM	Ongoing. In September and October 2003 the VU ran a series of eight one-day seminars across Northern Ireland for clergy and faith workers, designed to help them in their work of supporting people affected by the conflict. The seminars were well received and feedback from attendees and the Steering Group has been collated into a report which was issued to all attendees and church leaders. Angela Smith met with church leaders to discuss taking this work forward.
Ongoing	Work with groups, organisations and Research Branch of the Equality Directorate within OFMDFM to determine standards, priority areas for research and how the findings can be shared and acted upon.	OFMDFM	Ongoing. A consultant was commissioned by the VU and Research Branch of the Equality Directorate to produce ethics and standards for research with victims. Final ethical guidelines were issued in May 2003.
Ongoing	Work to build and expand our knowledge of how the conflict in Northern Ireland has reached beyond this country and also how we can learn lessons from other countries emerging from conflict and communicate those lessons.	OFMDFM	Ongoing. The VU has maintained a number of contacts and has kept abreast of developments on victims' issues throughout the UK, in the Republic of Ireland and further afield. The VU provided financial support to a major 3 day international conference in October 03 aimed at raising awareness of the impact of the conflict on the health and well being of the population of NI and the development of a long term strategy for dealing with the consequences of more than thirty years of violence.
Apr 04	Produce a summary of activity to date and how the various targets associated with the victims' strategy have been taken forward.	OFMDFM with input from all	Ongoing. A progress report for 2002-2003 was issued to all interested parties in May 2003 and a further report for 2003-2004 will issue in July 2004.

ANNEX B**Peace II Measure 2.4b amounts to March 2004**

Organisation Name	Peace II grant amount	CFNI paid amount
Voices Women's Group	£16,604.90	£13,964.90
Relatives for Justice	£259,263.00	£38,299.20
Families Achieving Change Together - F.A.C.T	£139,456.00	£94,810.39
S.A.V.E.R	£166,606.77	£148,637.84
S.T.E.E.R.	£104,265.00	£83,421.13
West Tyrone Voice	£137,083.07	£92,148.78
WAVE Trauma Centre	£245,143.69	£132,735.20
WAVE Trauma Centre	£485,836.03	£269,797.99
FAIR (Families Acting for Innocent Relatives)	£126,246.95	£86,814.43
Institute for Counselling and Personal Development	£95,575.00	£50,326.63
Survivors of Trauma	£178,245.82	£152,413.76
Lisburn Prisoners Support Project	£107,444.00	£46,065.75
123 House	£97,812.10	£52,078.83
Tar Isteach	£131,620.81	£96,558.72
C.A.L.M.S (Community Action for Locally Managed Stress)	£138,033.28	£104,654.22
Shankill Stress & Trauma Group	£100,712.00	£19,161.80
Corpus Christi Services	£99,913.00	£35,749.50
WAVE Trauma Centre	£269,668.00	£84,632.10
WAVE Trauma Centre	£198,237.00	£61,501.96
Ballymurphy Women's Centre	£120,577.13	£78,122.20
Sub Committee for Victims	£100,000.00	£53,000.50
NOVA Barnardos (NI)	£65,708.00	£11,165.52
Sub Committee for Victims	£100,000.00	£0.00
Fellowship of Good Counsel, Columba Community (Victim Support Services)	£82,808.00	£50,681.55
Springhill Community House	£106,045.00	£52,210.49
Greater Belfast Community Network	£96,710.00	£0.00
Tar Anall	£97,800.00	£26,374.55
New Life Counselling Service, Ardoyne	£80,402.13	£55,473.40
Springvale Training	£98,019.00	£18,936.49
CUNAMH	£146,554.83	£106,637.65
Disabled Police Officers Association Ltd	£71,137.00	£32,945.67
Ashton Centre Development Ltd	£96,222.00	£39,978.81
Royal National Institute for Deaf People	£180,021.00	£21,322.82
Tara Counselling & Personal Development Company Ltd	£91,940.00	£66,640.31
Fermanagh College	£69,600.00	£0.00
Firinne	£91,207.00	£42,928.26
Victims and Survivors Trust	£79,600.00	£28,224.94
Strabane Befriending and Counselling Association	£100,876.61	£32,382.52
Families Achieving Change Together - F.A.C.T	£75,330.00	£17,493.62
Holy Trinity Centre	£46,337.00	£22,197.03
Dairy Farm Jobclub	£102,410.00	£41,270.16
Corpus Christi Services	£22,670.00	£5,443.80
The Ely Centre	£60,000.00	£0.00
Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health	£95,824.00	£0.00
Royal National Institute for Deaf People	£52,585.00	£0.00
Conflict Trauma Resource Centre	£51,857.12	£19,426.68
Prison Service Trust	£64,160.00	£0.00
Lifeways Psychotherapy & Counselling Centre	£56,432.00	£8,856.00
The Wider Circle	£6,350.00	£0.00
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme	£9,995.00	£0.00
The Aisling Centre **Application withdrawn at request of group	£0.00	£0.00
Survivors of Trauma	£47,000.00	£0.00
Conflict Trauma Resource Centre	£9,337.00	£0.00
TOTALS	£5,673,281.24	£2,495,486.10
Total Fund	£5,849,072.00	

ANNEX C**Victims/Survivors Core Funding allocations**

	Group Name	Location	Award
1	Aisling Centre	Fermanagh	£50,407
2	Ashton Centre	Belfast	£52,797
3	Ballymurphy Women's Centre	Belfast	£41,239
4	C.A.L.M.S.	Londonderry	£82,631
5	Contact Youth	Belfast	£55,065
6	Corpus Christi Services	Belfast	£81,238
7	Cunamh	Londonderry	£99,705
8	Derry Well Women	Londonderry	£50,960
9	DPOA	Regional	£1,000
10	F.A.C.T.	Lisburn	£69,371
11	F.A.I.R.	Armagh	£96,649
12	F.O.D.D.	Belfast	£46,531
13	Firinne	Fermanagh	£78,096
14	H.A.V.E.N.	Belfast	£48,838
15	ICPD	Belfast	£41,934
16	Koram Centre	Strabane	£86,654
17	Lenadoon Community Counselling Pjt	Belfast	£51,409
18	Lifeline	Belfast	£12,500
19	Lifeways Psychotherapy/Counselling Ctre	Londonderry	£63,025
20	M.A.S.T.	Newry & Mourne	£26,438
21	Make Your Mark	Londonderry	£51,836
22	New Life Counselling Service	Belfast	£33,930
23	Nexus Institute	Belfast	£22,392
24	NI Music Therapy Trust	Regional	£29,284
25	NOVA Project	Craigavon	£163,794
26	Regimental Association of UDR	Coleraine	£55,552
27	Relatives For Justice	Regional	£155,758
28	S.A.V.E.R./N.A.V.E.R.	Armagh	£78,368
29	S.E. Fermanagh Foundation	Fermanagh	£81,000
30	Shankill Stress and Trauma Group	Belfast	£115,154
31	South Down Action for Healing Wounds	Banbridge	£77,900
32	Springhill Community House	Belfast	£61,576
33	Streetbeat Youth Project	Belfast	£58,040
34	Survivors of Trauma	Belfast	£86,714
35	Tara Centre	Omagh	£84,137
36	The Cross Group	Belfast	£8,345
37	The ELY Centre	Fermanagh	£82,647
38	The Wider Circle	Belfast	£51,054
39	United Services Club Victims Survivors Gp	Londonderry	£45,951
40	VAST	Belfast	£79,778
41	WAVE Trauma Centre, Armagh	Armagh	£85,684
42	WAVE Trauma Centre, Ballymoney	Ballymoney	£62,127
43	WAVE Trauma Centre, Belfast	Belfast	£81,594
44	WAVE Trauma Centre, Omagh	Omagh	£76,122
45	WAVE Trauma Centre, Londonderry	Londonderry	£96,936
46	West Tyrone Voice	Strabane/Omagh	£104,505

ANNEX D**Strategy Implementation Fund**

Department	Project	Total
DCAL	Organise, index and store material relating to Omagh bombing	45,000
DCAL	To train 12 leaders from various Victims Groups as accredited 'Walking Group Leaders'	14,786
DE	Educational support of post-primary pupils in SELB area	307,500
DHSSPS	Victims awareness training for all levels and disciplines of HSS staff in SHSSB	52,000
DHSSPS	Troubled Mind Project focusing on PTSD	49,582
DHSSPS	Support for counselling and therapeutic services in N&W Belfast Trust	325,148
DHSSPS	Socio-vocational services for survivors of Traumatic Brain Injury	115,521
DHSSPS	Training & Development Programme for SHSSB TAP members	46,000
DHSSPS	Evaluation of SHSSB Trauma Counselling Services	28,000
DHSSPS	CODA Project - using music as a therapeutic medium	61,481
DE	To work with parents, children, teachers and relevant others in the community to create a non-conflictual environment and alleviate inequality and disadvantage for children and parents from Edenbrooke Primary School, Belfast	53,558
DCAL	Ulster Museum Conflict Exhibition incorporating "Legacy" series material and input from schools. The project aims to increase awareness of the particular circumstances of victims of conflict and facilitate future learning	79,000
OFMDFM	Seminars for clergy, faith workers and pastoral care workers	10,000
DCAL	Production of "Revenge", a theatre production and an outreach programme focusing on the experience of victims in Northern Ireland	64,150
DHSSPS	Primary care link worker for NHSSB area to assess and treat people affected by trauma.	68,693
DHSSPS	Pilot service in NHSSB to provide psychological interventions to people with severe mental illness and a significant history of trauma	54,059
DHSSPS	Dissemination of findings of "Parenting in a Divided Society" project and production of a resource pack	48,261

If you would like further copies of the Progress Report contact:

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