

Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

# Victims Unit Progress Report

*1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003*



*reshape*



*rebuild*



*achieve*

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# Victims Unit Progress Report

## 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003

### 1. Introduction

On 11 April 2002 the Victims Unit within the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister published the strategy, "Reshape, Rebuild, Achieve" which contained almost fifty actions aimed at addressing the needs of victims of the conflict in Northern Ireland. At the time the Unit undertook to produce a summary of activity on a yearly basis and pass it to all interested parties. The following report outlines the activities of the Victims Unit during the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003. Annex A details how the various targets associated with the strategy have been taken forward, Annex B details the amount of Gap funding paid, Peace II Grant amounts awarded and Peace II funding paid to March 2003 and the grants awarded by the Victims Unit during the 2002-2003 financial year are listed at Annex C.

#### 1.1 Victims Unit strategy "Reshape, Rebuild, Achieve"

The Victims Unit developed and implemented the above strategy to cover the period up until 2004 in line with the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government which states that the Executive will "continue to pay special attention to the particular difficulties faced by victims of the Troubles".

The strategy was successfully launched along with a Key Contact List on 11 April 2002. The publishing of the Key Contact List for Government Departments and Agencies alongside the strategy, was a direct response to comments made during consultation that victims wanted more and better information about help and services available from Government. To ensure the strategy reached as many victims across Northern Ireland as possible the Unit embarked on an intensive publicity campaign which included the distribution of approximately half a million leaflets through the main newspapers and other outlets such as Council premises, Libraries and GP's surgeries etc. In addition, approximately 4,000 posters were placed in areas such as Health Centres and libraries to inform the public about the strategy. We also placed a number of adverts and articles in the media to draw attention to the strategy and what it

seeks to achieve. To date we have distributed approximately 5,000 strategy documents and over 2,500 Key Contacts Lists.

## **1.2 Implementation of Strategy (Victims Unit Actions)**

The strategy contains almost 50 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 put in place a number of measures to achieve the aims set out in the strategy.

### **1.2.1 Monitoring of Strategy Targets**

A database has been developed to monitor the implementation of the strategy enabling the unit to continually monitor both overall and individual targets. A monitoring report detailing progress up to 31.03.03 is attached at Annex A.

### **1.2.2 NICS Consultations and Policy Documents**

We continue to liaise with all Departments and Agencies to ensure that all public consultation includes, where appropriate, victims groups and individuals. To date we have issued fourteen consultations on behalf of other Departments and agencies and ensured that Departments have reflected victims issues in appropriate planning documentation.

### **1.2.3 NICS Staff Training to Raise Awareness of Victims Needs**

Training has been developed, quality assured by the Victims Unit, and issued to all Departments to incorporate in relevant staff training programmes.

### **1.2.4 Service Delivery Model**

The Victims Unit, in co-operation with the Victims Liaison Unit of the Northern Ireland Office and the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund, has produced a model which outlines the roles of providers and the type of services provided. The model was issued to victims groups and other interested parties in September 2002.

### **1.2.5 Free phone number**

The Victims Unit set up a Freephone helpline (telephone number 080 8127 3333) in addition to a text phone for those with hearing difficulties(telephone number 028 9052 2343). Both facilities have been operational since 11.04.02.

### **1.2.6 Complementary Therapy Seminars**

The Victims Unit in partnership with each of the four Trauma Advisory Panel(TAP) Co-ordinators and the Community Victim Support Worker, Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust has organised and funded a series of Complementary Therapy Taster events across Northern Ireland. A number of therapists have been invited to the events to demonstrate and advise on a range of complementary therapy techniques. Two events have taken place, the first in the WHSSB area on 25.02.03 and a second in the SHSSB area on 21.03.03. Further events are planned to take place in the EHSSB, NHSSB and Sperrin and Lakeland areas in the near future.

### **1.2.7 Victims Unit Website**

The Victims Unit website: [www.victimsni.gov.uk](http://www.victimsni.gov.uk) is reviewed and updated regularly with information of interest to victims and all issues raised through the associated e-mail address: [info@victimsni.gov.uk](mailto:info@victimsni.gov.uk) are dealt with promptly by the Unit's staff.

### **1.2.8 Articles placed in Departmental Magazines**

To publicise the work of the Victims Unit throughout the Civil Service and raise awareness of victims' issues we placed an article in the in-house magazines of all the Government Departments.

### **1.2.9 Interaction with policy makers**

It was clear from the responses to the consultation, that we must make it easier for victims and their representatives to interact with Government bodies and examine how Government and other

structures can be made more responsive. To facilitate this we carried out the following actions:-

We published an article, in the December 2002 edition of The Victims Liaison Unit Newsletter asking for views on how victims could best link with and influence policymakers. From a total of twenty-two replies received, no clear conclusions emerged and, given the concerns raised by respondents about the difficulty of establishing a truly representative group, we have decided not to proceed with setting up a central advisory group at this stage. However, the responses contained a number of useful suggestions for improving interaction and a letter detailing those actions being taken forward, along with a summary of the responses received has been issued to victims/survivors groups.

#### **1.2.10 The Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG)**

The Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG) on victims is the key cross-departmental body tasked with taking the strategy forward and many of those who responded to the consultation felt that it was important that the IWG interacted more with victims, however there was no clear view on how that could best be achieved. To begin this process we invited a number of workers in the field to make presentations to Group members. The IWG met on five occasions during the period 1.04.02 to 31.03.03 and presentations were given by the Secretary to the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund (NIMF), one of the victims representatives on the Civic Forum, the Director of the Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma and Transformation based in Omagh, a representative from the North and West Belfast Trust and the four Trauma Advisory Panel co-ordinators.

#### **1.2.11 Trauma Advisory Panels (TAPs)**

The TAPs were set up in each Health Board area to take forward work and develop partnerships in a range of areas relating to victims. Initially only the Western Board appointed a full-time worker, funded by the local District Partnership and Foyle Health Trust, to co-ordinate the activities for that Panel. However, it emerged from the responses to

both research carried out by the OFMDFM Victims Unit in 2001 and the Victims Unit's consultation paper on a victims' strategy that the work of the TAPs would be an important consideration in the planning and development of services to meet victims' needs. The Victims Unit therefore offered to fund a full-time co-ordinator in each TAP until 2004 to develop its potential and work effectively with victims in its area. All four co-ordinators are now in post. The Co-ordinators are all analysing need and developing networks and services in their respective areas including compiling directories of the services available.

The Victims Unit continues to work closely with the TAPs and meets regularly with the Chairs and the four coordinators. The TAP co-ordinators will also provide quarterly reports/updates on their progress to the Victims Unit.

#### **1.2.12 Churches and Faith Communities**

The Victims Unit recognises that it is important to identify and address all victims' needs - spiritual, physical, psychological and financial - and that the Churches and Faith Communities are an important communication channel with individuals who may not be associated with victims groups. We have contacted all churches and faith communities to obtain their views and ideas on how we can work together to support victims of the conflict. As a result a steering group made up of representatives from the churches/faith communities and the Victims Unit has been formed and recently met to plan a series of seminars for clergy, faith leaders and pastoral care workers to take place later in 2003.

#### **1.2.13 Research Ethical Standards**

During the consultation exercise on the victims' strategy, "Reshape, Rebuild, Achieve", a number of respondents expressed the view that there should be agreed criteria and ethical standards of practice that should be followed by researchers working with victims.

As a first step, Research Branch within the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister has commissioned protocols and ethical

standards for researching sensitive areas including victims. Draft protocols and standards were sent to victims' groups and organisations for consultation and the final report will be completed and distributed in the near future.

#### **1.2.14 Working towards the 2004 Northern Ireland Victims Strategy**

The Victims Unit wishes to evaluate the impact of the victims' strategy, "Reshape, Rebuild, Achieve", and assess improvements to services to victims of the conflict in Northern Ireland. The study will focus on: what improvements there have been to services and awareness of those services; what impact the victims' strategy has made on those it seeks to help; and what specific areas should be examined in the development of a follow-on strategy to run from April 2004. Capita has been appointed to carry out this work which began in April 2003.

#### **1.2.15 Links outside Northern Ireland**

Officials from the Victims Unit visited the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation in Co Wicklow and attended a meeting with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Justice in Dublin in June 2002 as part of the Victims Unit's plan to develop linkages outside Northern Ireland. Officials also attended an international conference entitled "Peace is Tough" in Londonderry in August 2002, which was part funded by the Victims Unit, where delegates from Israel, Palestine, Germany, USA and South Africa informed and expanded the thinking of policymakers, groups and individuals working in this field.

#### **1.2.16 Celebrating Achievements**

It was pointed out during the consultation exercise that very often there are only negative images and negative perceptions associated with victims and that this could be challenged by somehow celebrating the achievements of people who also happen to be victims. The Victims Unit issued letters requesting ideas from victims' groups and victim support officers in June 2002 however responses indicated that this area could be divisive and should not be progressed.

### **1.2.17 Establishment of an Interdepartmental Working Group(IWG) subgroup to review strategy**

As part of the strategy review process a sub-group of the IWG was formed and asked to formally review the strategy after nine months of operation and make recommendations for any amendments. The review sub-group, made up of members from DHSSPS, DE, SSA, NIHE and DEL, and the Victims Unit met on 24.01.03. The members decided that because of the timescales involved, the impending end of year progress report and forthcoming assessment, that the formal strategy review did not need to be taken any further at this stage.

### **1.2.18 Cognitive Behavioural Therapy(CBT) Training**

CBT is a short term therapy for a wide range of problems and has been demonstrated to be effective with many common disorders including anxiety, depression and post traumatic stress disorder(PTSD) etc. The Victims Unit has provided funding to two organisations to implement this type of therapy. The Psychotherapy and Counselling Network(PCN) is currently in receipt of funding to train four trainees, working with victims/survivors, to professional accreditation level with the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. The Western Health and Social Services Board are also receiving funding to enable the Trauma Advisory Panel members to be trained in CBT.

## **2. Funding**

There are several specific government funding "streams" for victims that exist as summarised in Chapter 4 of the strategy.

### **2.1 Peace II GAP Funding**

Departments were authorised to make payments under the interim arrangements where they judged that there was a very strong likelihood that a project would be eligible for funding and be successful in an application under the new round of EU Programmes. The Victims Unit was responsible for the distribution and monitoring of interim funding to a total of 17 projects under PEACE II, Priority 2, Measure 4(b) Integration and Reconciliation of Victims. The total amount awarded and paid to groups was £565,192.08.

## **2.2 PEACE II FUNDING: PRIORITY 2, MEASURE 4b (Integration and Reconciliation of Victims)**

The EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace II), Priority 2, Measure 4b (Integration and Reconciliation of Victims) which is designed to assist the reconciliation and integration of victims, particularly through re-training, re-skilling and re-employment will provide £5.8m until 2004, although projects awarded funding can spend it up until 2006. The initial call for applications attracted 69 projects with approximately £4.9m (including Gap funding paid) out of the £5.8m having been allocated to around 40 projects.

As the accountable department with overall responsibility for this measure the Head of the Victims Unit sits on the selection panel and maintains a close working relationship with the Intermediary Funding Body, the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, and the Special European Union Programme Body through quarterly meetings. Details of Gap funding paid, Peace II Grant amounts awarded and Peace II funding paid to date are shown at Annex B.

## **2.3 Victims Programme Funding 2002-2003 and 2003-2004**

During 2002/2003 a Victims' Programme Fund was made available for activities or programmes which would have an impact on the wider victims' sector. Towards the end of May 2002 victims groups were invited to apply for funding and the programme closed on 31 October 2002.

Annex C lists the successful organisations/groups and amounts allocated for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004.

## **2.4 Core Funding**

The NIO has allocated over £3m for a new core funding scheme which has been developed following an evaluation of the existing scheme and comprehensive engagement with victims' groups. The Victims Unit has been working in conjunction with the Victims Liaison Unit regarding the development and implementation of the new core funding scheme for victims' groups. This work has included seminars with victims' groups, the development of criteria, the publishing of an Equality Impact Assessment and tendering for an

Intermediary Funding Body (IFB) to operate the scheme on a day-to-day basis. Following an open tender competition the Victims Unit and the Victims Liaison Unit agreed to appoint the Community Relations Council as the Intermediary Funding Body for the new core funding scheme.

The selection panel, which included a representative from the Victims Unit acting as an independent observer, met on the 6 and 7 March 2003 and decisions were notified to applicants on 18.03.03.

## **2.5 Strategy Implementation Fund (SIF)**

The Strategy Implementation Fund is an innovative approach to funding financed jointly by the Victims Unit and the NIO. The Unit secured funding of £1.5m over two years from the Northern Ireland Administration and this was matched by the same amount from the NIO. The fund is accessed by government departments and agencies to fund projects and services of direct benefit to victims. The Victims Unit developed and issued an application form and criteria for the SIF and encouraged departments and agencies to work with their constituent bodies, NDPBs etc to develop appropriate projects and bid against the SIF. Among the projects which have been developed across government departments are inter-agency educational support for post-primary pupils who are identified as victims of the conflict, socio-vocational rehabilitation services for survivors of traumatic brain injury, an advice and advocacy service for victims and awareness training for Health and Social Services staff around the needs of victims and survivors. The Fund will also support work to organise, index and store material relating to the Omagh bomb to provide an easily accessible collection of material for use by victims and their families, academics, researchers and historians. Departments and agencies are developing a number of other projects and further allocations from the Fund will be announced over the coming months.

## **3. Working Together – The Victims Unit(VU), Victims Liaison Unit(VLU)**

The Victims Unit continues to work closely and meet regularly, with its colleagues in the VLU of the Northern Ireland Office.

#### **4. Ministers – Meetings/Visits/Briefings/Assembly Questions/Parliamentary Questions etc**

Officials from the Victims Unit have supported Ministers at a number of visits and meetings. The Unit also supported a visit to the province by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Paul Boateng.

Before and during suspension the Victims Unit has continued to provide advice on all Ministerial queries relevant to victims issues. This includes providing briefing for official visits and advice on responses to Ministerial correspondence, and Assembly and Parliamentary Questions.

#### **5. Reports to the Committee of the Centre**

Until the suspension of the devolved administration on the 14 October 2002 the Victims Unit provided regular updates on the progress of the victims' strategy to the Committee of the Centre.

#### **6. Meetings with representatives of victims' groups (including regional meetings)**

Officials met with representatives of victims' groups/organisations to hear their views on the current victims' strategy and the evolving needs of the victims' sector, and also to update them on developments taking place. Discussions at the meetings were useful and constructive and will help to implement the current victims' strategy and inform the development of a subsequent strategy. Meetings took place in Belfast, Londonderry, Craigavon, Lisburn and Fermanagh in October 2002.

#### **7. Meetings/Discussions with other organisations**

Officials from the 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' issues and inform the work of the Unit.

## 8. Welfare Cases

Individuals can contact the Victims Unit using the freephone number 0808 127 3333 to request assistance with a range of welfare issues. For the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003 we have dealt with 52 cases in total.

## 9. Boards and Committees

The Victims Unit was represented on the following boards and committees:-

Facial Disfigurement Project, Barnardo's Parenting in a Divided Society project, the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland(CFNI) "Shaping Our Future, Victims and Survivors on the Move" conference planning committee, Evaluation of DHSSPS Trauma Services steering group and the North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust International conference "Towards a Better Future Building Healthy Communities" planning committee.

## 10. Participation in Conferences, Seminars and Launches

The Victims Unit participated in a number of conferences, seminars and launches. They included the following:-

Democratic Dialogue "Next Steps in Dealing with Victims Issues" roundtable discussion, the Derry City Council and Holywell Trust International conference entitled "Peace is Tough", CFNI "Shaping Our Future, Victims and Survivors on the Move" conference, Family Trauma Centre conference on "Working with Adolescents, Children and Families after Trauma", the launch of the Community Relations Council's Development Grants Scheme and Core Funding Scheme, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission(NIHRC) "Bill of Rights" event, and two information events organised by the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund(NIMF) to publicise the work of the NIMF.

## 11. Consultations

The Unit responded to a number of consultations including Investing for Health and the Mental Health Promotion Strategy.

## 12. Input to Government and Departmental Exercises and Initiatives

Throughout the year quarterly progress reports were provided on the Unit's objectives and actions contained in:-

- the Programme for Government (Priorities and Plans following the suspension of devolution in October 2002),
- OFMDFM's Public Service Agreement and Service Delivery Agreement, as well as regular updates on the Unit's expenditure from Executive Programme Funds.
- New TSN action plan
- OFMDFM Business Plan

### 12.1 Departmental Publication Scheme

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

### 12.2 Knowledge Network

The Knowledge Network is a government-wide, 24 hour electronic policy and briefing system enabling Ministers and officials to access up to date, accurate and relevant information. The information relating to victims issues is regularly updated by the Victims Unit.

### **13. 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 regular planning days. DFP Internal Audit also carried out an audit of the Victims Unit.

The Victims Unit also led and implemented the restructuring of the Community Relations, Human Rights and Victims Division by establishing and line managing a Divisional Support Unit, including the introduction of new job descriptions and procedural guidance.



## ANNEX A 'RESHAPE, REBUILD, ACHIEVE' TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETION OF ACTIONS

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2003
Apr 02	Use Housing Support Officers to provide specialist information for victims with special housing needs.	NIHE	Completed.
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	<b>Completed.</b> The Housing Benefit Campaign was launched in February 2002. Awareness posters and information leaflets made available to the Victims' Unit OFMDFM and distributed to Victims Groups. A programme of Outreach Days has been completed.
Apr 02	Publish a key contact list for Government Departments and Agencies	OFMDFM	<b>Completed.</b> April 2002
Apr 02	Set up a Freephone helpline and textphone to the Victims Unit	OFMDFM	<b>Completed.</b> April 2002
Apr 02	Place articles in the in-house magazines of all Government Departments to publicise the work of the Victims Unit.	OFMDFM	<b>Completed.</b> 2002
Apr 02	Fund a support worker in each Trauma Advisory Panel until 2004	OFMDFM	<b>Completed.</b>
Jun 02	Develop and publish a model of the various Government and other structures involved with victims' issues.	OFMDFM	<b>Completed.</b> 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	<b>Completed.</b> All known victims' groups have been sent information (through the Victims' Unit) about the Education and Library Boards services to support young people at risk and offering contact names.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2003
Jun 02	Produce advice literature which incorporates the role and distribution of housing support organisations.	NIHE	<b>Delayed.</b> Will be taken forward to coincide with the 'Supporting People' programme, the new funding, commissioning and contact point for supported housing which will take effect from April 2003. Progress is dependent on finalisation of supporting people contracts which is likely to be completed by end of April. Work underway on relevant information/advice literature.
Jun 02	Publish a Mental Health Promotion Strategy	DHSSPS	<b>Completed.</b> Published 12 February 2003
Jun 02	Finalise a Business Birthrate Strategy (BBRS) which will focus on raising the enterprise rates of disadvantaged groups	DETI	<b>Delayed.</b> Invest NI's draft Accelerating Entrepreneurship Strategy, previously known as the Business Birth Rate Strategy, was issued for consultation in late January 2003. Consultees, including a number of victims' groups, were invited to attend a series of workshops and focus meetings throughout Northern Ireland. The consultation period ended on 28 March 2003.
Jun 02	In conjunction with the voluntary and community sector, examine the need for delivering further capacity building	OFMDFM/NIO	<b>On target.</b> A survey of victims' groups and victim support workers confirmed that there is a need for further capacity building. Some training organisations have been awarded funding under Peace II for the purpose of providing such training and a member of the Victims Unit is sitting on the Advisory Group for one of the projects. In addition, CFNI and CRC are considering the need to undertake further capacity building.
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	<b>Completed.</b> 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 and guidance on financial monitoring provided to all attendees.
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	<b>Completed.</b> The membership of the new Task Force on Resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector was announced by the Minister on 7 February. The Task Force will consider how the sector can continue to make a substantial contribution to the achievement of Government objectives and to the well being of Society. It is expected to produce an options paper outlining key issues being considered by October 2003.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2003
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	<b>Completed.</b> Training has been developed, quality assured by the Victims Unit, 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	<b>Completed.</b> 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	<b>Delayed.</b> Will be taken forward, subject to available funding, to coincide with, the 'Supporting People' programme, the new funding, commissioning and contact point for supported housing which will take effect from April 2003.
Oct 02	Engage with victims' groups and other interested parties to develop proposals for how victims can best link with policy makers.	IWG	<b>On target.</b> An article was published in the newsletter of NIO, Victims Liaison Unit in December 2002 seeking the views of victims and victims' organisations. 22 replies were received and a summary of responses and actions taken has been issued.
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	<b>On target.</b> <b>DETI</b> – The need for careful consideration of victims' issues, where relevant, is highlighted to DETI Divisions and NDPBs through the Department's Equality and Diversity Working Group which meets on a regular basis. <b>DEL</b> - The Department has issued information about the Victims Strategy to all of its NDPBs. This will be followed up with individual discussions where required. <b>DCAL</b> - Consulted the Sports Council in August and the Arts Council in September 2002.
Dec 02	Examine the development of alternative programmes for getting intimidated young people back into education.	DE	<b>Delayed.</b> Investigation of the scale and nature of needs has started. A preliminary report with recommendations for any future action is scheduled for the end of April 2003.
Dec 02	Consider the specific needs of victims when developing strategies to engage with disaffected young people.	DE	<b>Delayed.</b> Development of a strategy has been deferred due to other work pressures. It is to be scheduled into the DE Business Plan for 2003/04.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2003
Jan 03	Subgroup of IWG begins review of the victims' strategy to make recommendations for any amendments.	IWG	<b>Completed.</b> 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.
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	<b>On target.</b> 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 has been received from the Sports Council and has been approved for funding.
Jan 03	Take forward comprehensive implementation of the Strategy for Literacy and Numeracy following consultation with, among others, victims and victims' groups.	DEL	<b>On target.</b> Published a draft consultation paper in March 2002, and copies were issued to the Victims' Unit for distribution as appropriate. The consultation closed on 21 June 2002. Essential Skills for Living – a Strategy and Action Plan for Adult Literacy in Northern Ireland was launched on 2nd October 2002. In terms of implementation, a quality framework has been put in place (on timescale) for adult literacy covering curriculum, standards, and qualifications for Foundation Key Skills at entry level. Overall, this strategy is on schedule. The Department aims to engage 6,500 adult literacy learners in the statutory and non-statutory further education sectors by March 2003 (an increase of 20% over the previous year).
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	<b>On target.</b> Included in the Evaluation of Trauma Services to Victims 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	<b>On target.</b> Plans for awareness training in progress. Bid against Strategy Implementation Fund approved.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2003
Mar 03	Examine how a potential transfer of the NIO's responsibilities for victims might be administered.	OFMDFM/NIO	<b>On target.</b> Discussions ongoing, particularly in relation to core funding.
Mar 03	Work with victims and victims' groups to explore how the achievements of victims can be celebrated.	OFMDFM/WVG	<b>Completed.</b> 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	<b>On target.</b> Summary of progress on actions has been updated on a quarterly basis and is now being communicated to all interested parties.
Apr 03	Examine how teacher development can address barriers to learning experienced by victims	DE	<b>On target.</b> A conference entitled 'Teacher Education in a Climate of Change' is to be held in April 2003 to help identify the challenges for the future development of the profession.
Apr 03	Examine how parent support, including the development of parenting skills, can be developed by schools and other agencies.	DE	<b>Not yet started.</b> Limited programmes of support are in operation in each Education and Library Board area. Further expansion will occur as resources become available. The Victims Unit is funding Bamardo's to carry out the "Parenting Matters" project.
Apr 03	Publish for consultation a policy framework on the development of counselling support services to pupils.	DE	<b>Delayed.</b> Report of scoping study on counselling in schools published in February 2003. Further investigation necessary and planned for period March ~June 2003 before work on policy framework can commence.
Jun 03	Examine how awareness raising of victims' issues can be addressed in the development of a new statutory curriculum for schools.	DE	<b>On target.</b> Responses to the consultation on the new curriculum proposals are still being analysed and discussions with CCEA are ongoing.
Jun 03	Carry out research to determine whether counselling would be helpful for victims who apply for access to coroner's inquest papers.	DCAL	<b>On target.</b> N.I. Court Service in lead.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2003
Ongoing	Ensure that all public consultation includes, where appropriate, victims' groups and individuals.	All	<b>On target.</b> All Departments and Agencies are liaising with the Victims Unit 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	<b>On target.</b> Where appropriate Corporate and/or business plans include aims and actions to address the needs of victims.
Ongoing	Work collaboratively with the NIO to ensure that victims know which part of Government to access for help.	OFMDFM/NIO	<b>Completed.</b> Information on split of responsibilities between VU and 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	<b>On target.</b> Work is ongoing and Complementary Therapy Taster Days have been carried out in partnership with the Trauma Advisory Panel Coordinators in the Western and Southern Board areas with further events planned for the Northern and Eastern Board and Sperrin and Lakeland Trust areas.
Ongoing	Take steps to develop and improve communication with those dealt with by the Victims Unit, for example through the use of newsletters and fact sheets.	OFMDFM	<b>On target.</b> A series of meetings between the Victims Unit and representatives of victims' groups was held across Northern Ireland during October to seek views on the implementation of the victims' strategy and the evolving needs of the victims' sector, and also to update them on developments taking place. The VU will work with victims and victims groups through support workers in the Trauma Advisory Panels in each of the four Health Board areas to determine the best way to improve communication.
Ongoing	Update the Victims Unit website with information of interest to victims and their representatives and respond promptly to any issues raised through the Victims Unit e-mail address.	OFMDFM	<b>On target.</b> The Victims Unit website is reviewed and updated regularly and all issues raised through the associated e-mail address are dealt with promptly.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2003
Ongoing	Ensure that the forthcoming review of mental health policy and strategy considers the needs of victims.	DHSSPS	<b>On target.</b> Reference groups being established on a rolling basis.
Ongoing	Consider the specific needs of victims when implementing the SSI review of counselling.	DHSSPS	<b>On target.</b> 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 Trauma Services to Victims reported in March.
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	<b>On target.</b> Invest NI already offers a wide range of business support schemes. Relevant contact details for further information included in the Key Contact List for Government Departments and Agencies. 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	Victims Unit in OFMDFM and Victims Liaison Unit in the NIO will continue to collaborate and work closely together.	OFMDFM/NIO	<b>On target.</b> Officials from both Units meet regularly.
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	<b>On target.</b> Regular meetings took place up until the suspension of the NI Assembly and Executive. Since suspension, NIO Minister Des Browne has had responsibility for both the Victims Liaison Unit and the Victims Unit.
Ongoing	Work with the Churches and faith Communities to provide relevant information to clergy and other representatives who may be contacted by victims.	OFMDFM	<b>On target.</b> The Victims Unit has met with several inter-church groupings and as a result plans to hold a series of seminars for clergy and faith leaders in Autumn 2003. A steering group has been set up to take these seminars forward.

Target Date	Action	Responsible Department(s)	Progress at March 2003
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	<b>On target.</b> A consultant has been commissioned by the Victims Unit and Research Branch of the Equality Directorate to produce ethics and standards for research with victims. Final ethical guidelines will be issued in the near future.
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	<b>On target.</b> The Victims Unit 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.
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	<b>On target.</b> This summary of progress on actions will be updated on a quarterly basis and will be communicated to all interested parties.

ANNEX B

MEASURE 2.4b

CFNI Ref No	SEI/PB Ref No	GAP Ref No	Organisation Name	Project Title	OFMDFM GAP Paid	CFNI Grant Amount	CFNI Paid Amount
1000693	2434	GF728	Voices Women's Group	Opportunities for women to gain access to education and training	£0.00	£10,000.00	£0.00
1000708	3016	GF938	Families Against Crime by Terrorism - F.A.C.T	Building Community Participation	£9,456.00	£130,000.00	£25,058.62
1000717	2456	GF0717	S.A.V.E.R	Connect: Working to connect individuals together	£38,920.77	£127,686.00	£53,327.12
1000730	1939		S.T.E.E.R.	Training and Support Programme		£104,265.00	£28,400.80
1000732	GF729		West Tyrone Voice	West Tyrone Voice	£39,618.07	£97,465.00	£13,828.50
1000905	4956	GF955	WAVE Trauma Centre	WAVE support services	£45,174.64	£199,969.05	£0.00
1000906	5054	GF952/3/4	WAVE Trauma Centre	WAVE Support Services in Outreach Centres	£97,428.03	£368,408.00	£0.00
1000917	3370	GF342	FAIR (Families Acting for Innocent Relatives)	Operation Co-ordinator	£20,947.95	£105,299.00	£22,721.63
1001042	2422		Institute for Counselling and Personal Development	Advanced Competent Helper		£95,575.00	£14,684.10
1001043	3191	GF734	Survivors of Trauma	Survivors of Trauma Health Training	£68,245.82	£110,000.00	£29,274.19
1001049	4835		Lisburn Prisoners Support Project	Victims All		£107,444.00	£18,707.32
1001052	4679		123 House	123 House - Outreach Women's Development Worker		£86,158.00	£0.00
1001053	4374	GF743	Tar Isteach	Tar Isteach Counselling, Advice Services for Republican Ex-prisoners & their Families		£100,493.00	£18,847.19
1001056	1913	GF761	C.A.L.M.S (Community Action for Locally Managed Stress)	Coping with the changes, and getting through the other side.	£39,983.28	£98,050.00	£14,460.00
1001061	3551	GF770	The Aisling Centre	Support for Salary Costs of a Psychotherapist	£17,309.00	£90,000.00	£0.00
1001063	5827		Shankill Stress & Trauma Group	Supporting victims / survivors		£100,712.00	£15,106.80
1001069	5704		Corpus Christi Services	From Training to Employment for Victims		£99,913.00	£14,975.40
1001071	5363		WAVE Trauma Centre	WAVE Member Training		£269,668.00	£0.00
1001073	5098	GF293	Ballymurphy Women's Centre	Ballymurphy Women's Centre Stress Management Clinic	£35,619.13	£84,958.00	£12,655.80
1001089	6207		Sub Committee for Victims	'Peace factory' Sub Committee for Victims and Steering Group		£100,000.00	£0.00
1001118	6765		NOVA Barnabds (NI)	Traumatic Stress Management Training		£85,708.00	£0.00
1001167	7345		Sub Committee for Victims	Pathway to Peace & Prosperity		£100,000.00	£0.00
1001173	6672		Fellowship of Good Counsel, Columba Community	Columba Community Development for the Re-integration of Recovering Addicts & other Victims of the Troubles			
1001174	3626		Springhill Community House	Springhill Community House		£82,808.00	£12,015.90
1001196	7289		Greater Belfast Community Network	The Acorn Project		£106,045.00	£0.00
1001198	7269	GF356	New Life Counselling Service, Ardoyne	Therapeutic Counselling and Support Services	£12,410.13	£96,710.00	£0.00
1001254	4824		Springvale Training Ltd.	4Ts (Tackling Trauma Through Training)		£98,019.00	£15,164.10
1001256	2165	GF240	GUNAMH	Deis	£36,161.56	£110,393.27	£24,368.31
1001259	7021		Disabled Police Officers Association Ltd	DPOA		£71,137.00	£10,632.00
1001335	1866		Ashton Community Trust	The Bridge		£96,222.00	£14,220.00
1001336	4790		Royal National Institute for Deaf People	Rehabilitation for Adults Deafened by The Troubles		£180,021.00	£0.00
1001357	7375		Tara Counselling & Personal Development Company Ltd	Provision of counselling/ psychotherapy and training programme		£91,940.00	£13,791.00
1001364	7456		Fermanagh College	Enhancing Counselling Skills		£89,600.00	£0.00
1001365	7245		Firinne	Firinne Training and Skills		£91,207.00	£13,060.20
1001366	7195		Victims and Survivors Trust	Memorial to Peace		£79,600.00	£11,955.00
1001763	10451		Holy Trinity Centre	Holy Trinity Community Counselling Service		£46,337.00	£0.00
1000694	1057		Relatives for Justice (Letter of Offer Not Issued Yet)	Regional Capacity Building Programme		£258,763.00	£0.00
1001072	5362		WAVE Trauma Centre (Letter of Offer Not Issued Yet)	WAVE Trauma Training		£186,789.00	£0.00
			<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>£461,274.38</b>	<b>£4,395,354.32</b>	<b>£397,253.98</b>
			<b>Total Fund</b>				
			<b>£5,849,072.00</b>				
			<b>Total allocated inc.GAP paid by OFMDFM</b>				
			<b>£4,856,628.70</b>				
			<b>Balance to Commit</b>				
			<b>£992,443.30</b>				



**ANNEX B****TABLE****Victims Programme Fund –  
Grants Approved 2002-2003 and 2003-2004**

<b>Organisation/Group</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding Awarded £</b>	<b>Funding Awarded</b>
Holywell Trust	'Peace is Tough' International Conference and Residential	5,000	nil
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	'Future of the Victims Sector' Conference	10,000	nil
Family Trauma Centre	"Impact of Trauma" conference	4,062	nil
Ashton Community Trust	Production of a social report incorporating all aspects of complementary therapy intervention.	3,800	nil
Counselling & Locally Managed Stress	Production and dissemination to the wider victims' sector of a report comparing the efficacy of different therapies, activities and seminars.	7,000	nil
Western Trauma Advisory Panel	Two day residential to Develop policies & procedures	2,700	nil
Psychotherapy & Counselling Network (NI)	Bursaries for a Trauma Counsellor course	10,160	2,540
Sperrin & Lakeland Trust	Conference on Psychotraumatology	3,000	nil
WAVE Omagh	Assessment of psychotherapy/counselling and complementary therapies to develop a qualitative model of evaluation to evaluate the effectiveness of work/services with victims/survivors.	3,060	nil
WAVE Ballymoney	Assessment of psychotherapy/counselling and complementary therapies to develop a qualitative model of evaluation to evaluate the effectiveness of work/services with victims/survivors.	4,350	nil

Organisation/Group	Project	Funding Awarded £	Funding Awarded
WAVE Armagh	Two one day conferences in Armagh and Londonderry on the theme of "Transgenerational Trauma"	2,700	nil
WAVE Armagh	Assessment of psychotherapy/counselling and complementary therapies to develop a qualitative model of evaluation to evaluate the effectiveness of work/services with victims/survivors.	4,590	nil
WAVE Londonderry	Assessment of psychotherapy/counselling and complementary therapies to develop a qualitative model of evaluation to evaluate the effectiveness of work/services with victims/survivors.	3,570	nil
SAVER/NAVER	Collection of data on the medical effects of therapies and longer term counselling and the production and distribution of a report on the findings.	3,600	6,000
Relatives for Justice	Remembering Quilt	2,903	5,735
Relatives for Justice	To build an effective network of groups working on common issues relating to victims	3,223	2,942
Ballymurphy Women's Centre	Monitoring of the effect of different complementary therapies on alcohol and drug dependency and the production of a report comparing the effects.	3,960	23,410
Victims/Survivors Rural Network	Residential to further develop rural network	2,000	nil
Cunamh	To collate personal experiences and accounts of Victims/Survivors of the conflict, archive the stories, place them on Cunamh's website, contribute selected stories to publication for the Deis project, build an archive and identify common themes and issues for research purposes.	nil	10,140
<b>Total</b>		<b>79,678</b>	<b>50,767</b>

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