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| All forms of domestic violence and abuse are wrong. It is often a crime.Where there is immediate danger pleasecall the police on 999Who can I contact for help:Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline0808 802 1414email:24hrsupport@dvhelpline.orgtext: Support to 07797 805 839They will believe you.More contact details on the back page. |  |

**What’s it all about?**

Most relations with partners and family

are happy and healthy. Sadly, some are

not. Domestic abuse is a big problem in

Northern Ireland. Tragically every year,

on average five people are killed here by

a partner, ex-partner or family member.

Everyone deserves to live in a safe community where we respect the law and each other. The Department of Justice, working with others, wants to protect people from abuse. Where we can, we want to stop it from happening in the first place. We want to work together to help people who might be abused. We want to work with people to change their abusive behaviour.

We think it’s important to improve how we and others help and protect people. We think when someone is killed we should all learn from it. So we can work better in the future.

We have set out in this document how we think we might learn together. We’ve got advice from experts who provide people with support and protection.

We want to hear from people who might have been abused. We also want to hear from people who have been affected by abuse. You might be a family member, a friend or work colleague. You might be a child, a young person or a concerned member of the public.

**Your views are important.**

**How will we learn?**

We think it’s important that services come together to discuss and learn from each case.

What happened when you met?

What services did you provide?

What action can we take now?

What worked well?

How did you all work together?

How can we improve?

We need to involve the right people - the right organisations.

Bring them all together as a group to discuss what happened.

**Like who?**

Police Probation Health

Housing Charities who help An expert to lead

**Who should be involved?**

**What do we want them to do?**

We think an expert not involved in the case should take the lead. The expert would lead discussions and work with the group to bring all the pieces of information together. To get a full picture the group would ask important questions about the people and services involved. To find out what worked and what could change.

They might write or talk to people like:



**Kid’s school teacher**

**A&E Nurse**

**Local**

 **Doctor**

**Babysitter**



 **Work colleague**

**Family members**

**Best**

**friend**

**Support worker**

**Prison**

 **Officer**

**Landlord**

**Probation**

 **worker**

**Police**

Family have an important role as they understand the people involved the best. They‘ll know things that others won’t know.

**What sort of things should the group look for?**

**What about children and young people?**

We have spoken to colleagues about what happens when a child is killed. We think that there are already good ways in place for us all to learn when this happens. As this is working we don’t want to confuse things.

We do think that when a young person (16+) is killed by a partner that should be part of our learning.

Sometimes a couple of ways of learning will happen at the same time. We think that good communication will really help us all learn and work well together.

**Involving family in our learning**

As we said earlier - family will be important in helping us learn. This may include the young people in the family. For example the person killed might have children. They may want to help and be involved. We will need to take care and support them if they want to take part and provide information.

**How should family, including young people, be involved?**

**What will come out of it?**

We think that the expert leading the group should produce a report for each case.

**What sort of report?**

The report should be clear.

It should focus on important facts about the case. It should only include details that help us all learn. It will look at what services did or did not do. How they worked on their own or with other services.

It will state what worked and what could be changed. It should give services ideas on how to improve. The report should also be written carefully with the people involved and families in mind.

**What have you to say about the report?**

**Where required, we need to be able to change things quickly.**

We might have to wait for a court case to end before we can share our report. But we think we should change things as soon as possible. We should not wait for the report.

**We think it’s important that the family will see the report first.**

**So now what?**

**Thanks for reading this and taking part.**

Together we can help and protect people from domestic abuse.

**Is there anything else you want to say about our idea?**

Please send your answers to:

DOJCommunity.SafetyUnitProjMailbox@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Or post to

**Department of Justice**

Community Safety Division

Room A4.03

Castle Buildings

Stormont Estate

BELFAST

BT4 3SG

Closing date **Friday 28 September 2018.**

**What happens to my answers?**

When we have read and thought about all the answers we’ll pull them all together in a short report. We will put all the responses on our website. We will make sure you cannot be identified by what you have said.