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Correspondence with ...

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From:
Sent: 07 November 2016 10:14
To: - s40(2)+38
Subject: RE: Review of Human Trafficking Engagement Group - questionnaire
Attachments: Questionnaire - review of Engagement Group on Human Trafficking CARE response.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Apologies for being slow on getting this back to you.

Outside scope.

Review of Engagement Group on Human Trafficking –

Questionnaire for Members

Contact name

538 -
[Empty text box]

Name of
organisation

CARE NI
[Empty text box]

Purpose of review

The Engagement Group was originally established to formalise and improve the engagement between the Department of Justice and relevant statutory bodies, and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on the issue of human trafficking, and to inform the development of human trafficking policy and programmes.

The purpose of this review is to assess the value and effectiveness of the Engagement Group; as well as to establish what works well, what perceived; weaknesses there may be; and to identify what improvements might be made.

- 1) Do you believe that the Engagement Group has made a positive difference to the response to human trafficking in Northern Ireland?**

Yes. I am of the view that the Engagement Group has in many ways made a positive difference to the response to human trafficking in Northern Ireland. It has provided a forum for information to be exchanged, ideas shared and good relationships to be formed. It also played a valuable role in the formation and development of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Act. I should say that I am grateful to the Department for the Group and for the professionalism and ability of all of the officials working in this particular area.

2) How effective do you think the Engagement Group is as a forum?

Please explain:

1. Are there particular elements about the group that you think work well?

I think the group in general functions well. The main group meetings are well attended, well chaired and I have always found them to be useful and informative. The openness of Departmental officials and their willingness to engage has been much appreciated. I also think it is very positive that the PSNI are represented.

2. What elements of how the group functions do not work so well?

From a personal perspective, I think the group functions very well. It might be argued that the sub-groups have not been as effective as they might have been, but with that said, there have been good reasons as to why this has been the case.

3. Are there any gaps or areas for improvement?

I do not believe so.

4. What suggestions do you have to address these?

Not applicable.

- 3) Do you think that co-operation between the Department of Justice/relevant statutory bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on the issue of human trafficking has improved since the establishment of the Engagement Group?**

YES

Please give your reasons and comments here and identify any examples of good (or bad) practice:

I think it is undoubtedly the case that the co-operation between NGOs and statutory bodies has improved since the engagement group was formed. An example from a personal perspective is the value of the group with regard to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill. Relationships formed through the engagement group proved hugely valuable throughout the development of that piece of legislation. It was made a better Bill by the engagement between the Department and NGOs in the group.

- 4) Do you believe that your involvement in the Engagement group is helping to inform policy/strategy? Are there ways you would like to see this changed or improved?**

YES to Q1, NO to Q2.

Please give your reasons and comments here:

The Department has always respectfully engaged with me and with CARE even when we disagreed on particular areas. The Department has always been open and willing to listen to our perspective and I feel we have had a positive impact in this area.

5) Does the Engagement Group allow for constructive two-way communication?

YES

Please give your reasons and comments here:

At group meetings NGOs have been able to provide their perspective in a variety of areas and I think the DoJ has been able to provide important information to NGOs through the group. I have always found DoJ officials to be responsive and prompt in answering requests conveyed by email.

6) DOJ currently chairs meetings of the Group. Do you believe this is effective / appropriate?

YES

Please give your reasons and comments here and identify any alternatives:

I think it is effective in this particular case. I think it would be difficult to decide on a different chair and the DoJ chairs have always been even handed and helpful.

7) Do you believe the membership of the Group appropriate? (Please see the Terms of Reference at Annex A for a full list of organisations currently represented on the Group).

YES

Please give your reasons and comments here and identify any gaps:

The group as it stands gets on well and is pulling in the same direction. There may be other organisations who would be helpful to have, but it is best to deal with those on a case-by-case basis.

8) Is the frequency and format of meetings appropriate; are there any changes you would like to see made?

Yes to Q1 here, No to Q2.

Please give your reasons and comments here and identify any alternatives:

9) Do you believe the Terms of Reference are still fit for purpose? Are there any further changes that you believe would be beneficial?

YES to Q1 here, NO to Q2.

Please give your reasons and comments here and identify any potential revisions: