

**Bristol Women's Forum AGM Meeting**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009**  
**Venue: Council House**  
**Time: 7–9pm**

Present: Margaret Grey (MG) Co-Chair, Val Jenkins (VJ) Co-Chair, Helen Mott (HM) Advisor, Florene Jordan (FJ) Advisor, Sheila Dawkins (SD) Advisor, Eve Clark (EC) Advisor, Natasha Mulvihill (NM) Advisor, Anne Walder (AW) Advisor, Jan Youngs (JY) Equalities Officer, Sue Topalian (ST) CYPs Speaker, Bonnie Cyrrian (BC) CYPs Facilitator, Keister Raynead (KR) Facilitator, Hilary Lielsay (HL) Bristol Crisis Service for Women, Gillian Lockyer (GL) WOW, Catherine Gain (CG) UK Bristol Foundation Trust, Shirley Brown (SB) Cllr, Rowena Hayward (RH) 6 MB Trade Union, Sian Rhiannon (SR), Grace McWilliams (GMW) The Bristol Drugs Project, Lin Mitchell (LM), Natasha Riley Harrison (NRH), Shagufta Kabour (SK), Nathalie Vaifour (NV), Taishie Riley Harrison (TRH), Angela Hartmann, Tansy Pot (TP) Administrator

Apologies: Elaine Hutton (EH) Advisor

Circulation: WF Advisors/AH/AMcG/File

**AGENDA**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item no</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>6.30</b>		<b>Light refreshments and reimbursement of expenses</b>
<b>7.00</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction to the evening by Natasha Mulvihill</b>
<b>7.05</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction by Sue Topalian to the Consultation: 'Bristol's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Children and Young People'</b>
<b>7.20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Consultation discussion in small groups</b>
<b>7.50</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Consultation feedback</b>
<b>8.00</b>		<b>COMFORT BREAK</b>
<b>8.10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Apologies and Minutes of the last AGM - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008</b>
<b>8.20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Discuss the work the Forum has done this year and the focus for next year</b>
<b>8.30</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Election of Advisors and Co-optees</b>
<b>8.45</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>AOB</b>
<b>9.00</b>		<b>Close</b>

## 1. Introduction to the evening by Natasha Mulvihill

NM introduced the evening and spoke about the work of the WF.

NM introduced the Consultation speaker Sue Topalian.

## 2. Introduction by Sue Topalian to the Consultation: 'Bristol's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Children and Young People'

Sue Topalian gave a power point presentation of the Consultation 'Bristol's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Children and Young People'.

Attendees were asked to raise issues in small groups after the Introduction. See 3

Some of the slides explain:

- *The Consultation aims to* 'coordinate the planning and commissioning of services so that resources are used in the most effective way to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people in Bristol'
- *This means* 'Improving Children and Young People's Emotional Health is key to achieving all the Every Child Matters outcomes, and improving their long term life chances.'
- *A few Statistics re gender:*
  - No gender difference in severe mental disorder eg bipolar disorder, psychosis
  - Depression twice as common in women
  - Higher post traumatic stress disorder in women (related to sexual violence)
  - Alcoholism more than twice as common in men

- 3 times as many men diagnosed with anti social personality disorder
- Around 10% 5-16 year olds have a mental disorder (11.4% boys; 7.8% girls)
- In Bristol, this is around 3,000 boys and 2,000 girls
- For boys, most of these are conduct disorders; for girls, most are depression or anxiety
- Eating disorders and self harm much more prevalent in girls

### **3. Consultation discussion in small groups**

The following are issues/points that came up in from the consultation speech.

Groups were asked to think about the following subheadings: 'right aims', 'what is missing', 'provision issues', 'priorities and provision for girls'.

The Following are points taken from the flipcharts.

- *'Right aims'*
  - Need discipline in home and school – parenting classes
  - Underpin stress/pressure on female image. Challenge stereotypes.
  - Need to prioritise building self esteem/confidence in parenting and in schools
  - Female, friendly career advice/support
  - Build aspirations on what/who they are not on what they should be

- More PHSE focus on health + well being + educate to make choices (need to say need zero tolerance of sexuality? Etc in schools).
- Early intervention
- Continuity of relationships important
- Importance of pastoral care in schools
- *'Provision issues'*
  - Need to empower young women at earlier age
  - Violence between young men/women, increase awareness earlier
- *'What is missing'*
  - How to identify girls if they 'internalise'
  - Clear first point of contact without stigma
  - Not enough provision for girls with anorexia
  - Professional awareness and recognition of poverty and full spectrum of households
  - Girls quite in schools not picked up
  - If girls from Somali community told not to go to school nurse how do we identify problem. Reluctance to discuss in community. Teachers not equipped to deal with this. Also forced marriages (FM unit). Parental pressure on schools to take posters down.
  - Technology and emotional health – recognise modern issues.
- *'Priorities'*
  - Specialist schools for girls. Government possibly too reliant on Schools. Training/capacity building in schools

- Funding for one stop shops
- *‘Provision for girls’*
  - In schools support early identification
  - Schools/parent training about emotional wellbeing
  - Peer support to build confidence, in modern formats
  - Peer mentoring/prefects/mediators
  - Cross Bristol Discussion Groups
  - No gender focus in consultation. Male and female needs need to be considered independently. E.g talking therapy works better with females.  
Teachers and others don’t understand this is a human rights issue and against the law.
  - teaching of young people re relationships needs to clearly outline issues for girls and boys.
  - Make GPs more child and YP friendly
  - Training for teachers – must identify and include different issues for girls and boysa

#### **4. Consultation feedback**

Refer to point 3

#### **COMFORT BREAK**

#### **5 Apologies and Minutes of the last AGM - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008**

Apologies were recorded as above and Minutes were agreed.

**6 Discuss the work the Forum has done this year and look at the focus for next year.**

AH has created a very good annual report that can be referred to by going to the website.

Topics/areas the WF would like to work on in the coming year were prioritised and are as follows:

- a) Human trafficking
- b) Forced marriage
- c) Support families when mothers get ill
- d) Mental Health Services Offering Counselling quickly enough
- e) Support campaigns against domestic violence
- f) Women's Centre for Bristol
- g) Strengthen Links with Muslim Women's Group
- h) Continue toilet campaign
- i) More open Forums in wards/communities
- j) Lobbying for Bristol women say conference
- k) Young carers awareness
- l) Support Fawcett initiative on profile of women in the media
- m) Continue to develop the 'Women Who Make a Difference Day'
- n) Developing and publicise the website
- o) Better link with media department

It was suggested going to the Council to request 'International Women's Day' take place again. 'Women Who Make a Difference' came from IWD.

The WF should have a media person to get stories into newspapers.

WF could do an online petition to get IWD back.

Before the election the WF could ask each party what they are going to do about IWD. RH said she might be able to create a draft to present to parties.

## **7 Election of Advisors and Co-optees**

Co-Chair re-elected was: Margaret Gray

VJ asked whether anyone would like to take over her job as Co-Chair. No one came forward. VJ said she would bring it up at the next Advisors meeting.

New Advisors elected were: Rowena Hayward, Gillian Lockyer

Advisors re-elected were: Elaine Hutton, Valerie Jenkins, Anne Walder, Florene Jordan, Rose-Marie McGinn, Eve Clark.

Shaila Dawkins is stepping down from being an Advisor.

## **8 AOB**

JY told us of a new consultation taking place called: 'Together we can end violence against women and girls'. Leaflets were distributed and it was explained anyone could respond or participate to this consultation.

A Centre for advise and counselling for young people should be priority for the WF this year. There has been a proposal to begin a centre at Bridgewell police station. There was surprise and scandlement at the choice of venue. Website address:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/keepwomensafe](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/keepwomensafe)

People present were asked to think about communities the WF could go to.

The Co-Chairs were thanked for their commitment and hard work.

Shaila Dawkins was thanked for her hard work.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:	Date:	xxx 10
	Venue:	Council House
	Time:	7-9pm