

The Men's Advisory Project Annual Report 2008



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mens advisory project



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Vision Statement

MAP seeks to address the issues experienced by men affected by domestic violence and relationship breakdown through an equitable and inclusive provision of services.

Mission

To provide support, confidential counselling, information and referral services for men experiencing domestic abuse, relationship breakdown and anger issues.

Values

MAP will deliver services in a professional, non-judgmental, empathic, confidential and safe environment.

MAP will maintain respect and dignity for individuals using the service.

MAP adheres to the BACP Ethical Framework for Good Practice in Counselling.

MAP is based on the principles of equality and human rights.

Aims

MAP will work to preserve and protect the mental and physical well being of those men engaged through the organisation's activities.

MAP will work to relieve the distress and suffering of men who have contacted the organization for help with issues associated with domestic violence and relationship breakdown.

Objectives

To provide a confidential counselling service.

To provide an appropriate referral service for men needing additional/alternative support.

To develop a database of individuals/groups with relevant aims and objectives to MAP.

To develop and establish an appropriate funding strategy for the organization.

To respond to identified anger issues by providing either individual or group sessions subject to suitability and/or resources.

To develop a helpline.

To collate, prepare and disseminate information and research.

To explore the cause and effect of domestic violence and the impact this has on men.

To promote, develop or support regional/national/international initiatives relevant to the aims of MAP.

To inform policy development and legislation.

To deliver a range of conferences, seminars and training sessions.

To support educational activities relevant to the aims of MAP.

To assist in the provision of emergency accommodation for men subject to domestic violence.

The History of the Men's advisory project

The Men's Advisory Project was established in March 1999 by committed individuals who became aware of the need to provide services for men affected by domestic violence and relationship breakdown. Today MAP provides a variety of services for men experiencing issues related to domestic violence and relationship breakdown. (See Core Services below)

At present there are now 16 counsellors who between them deliver 1750-2000 counselling hours per year. All the counsellors are volunteers and are qualified to at least Diploma level, with the exception of students on the placement year of their Diploma. The counselling approach employed is integrated within a client centred therapeutic relationship.

The organisation currently grows in line with resources available.

The work of our organisation is ever evolving and growing with input and influence into a range of working groups and strategies now live within Northern Ireland. That being the case there is now a commitment within government strategy to improve information and support services for male victims of domestic violence.

Over the last few years there has been increased recognition of the work of the Men's Advisory Project across the community, voluntary and statutory sector. This has been demonstrated and achieved through our attempts, and increased successes, to highlight the issues of domestic violence against men. These efforts have culminated in the securing of financial support from a range of organisations including: Awards for All (Big Lottery), Tudor Trust, Lloyds TSB, PSNI, Department of Health, Social Services Public Safety, British Telecommunications Plc, Department of Social Development, VSB and the Co-Op.

In addition to financial support MAP has received recognition for our work from a range of organisations including: Women's Aid, PSNI, Victim Support and the Regional Steering Group for Domestic Violence. It is crucial, therefore, that this work and valued support from other organisations is not only maintained but increased over the life of this strategy.

The Men's Advisory Project is a project set up to recognise and raise awareness of the male victims of domestic abuse. The service focuses on men experiencing domestic abuse, relationship breakdown and problems managing their anger.

The project also stretches to include women experiencing problems managing their anger in relationships effectively. The service provided by MAP compliments and enhances other work going on in the fields of Domestic Violence, Mental Health and Men's Health. Organisations of particular relevance are NIWAF, The Malelink, Victim Support and CoSO. MAP now has representation on the Regional Steering Group for Domestic Violence, strengthening our links with statutory bodies and other bodies such as relevant Departments, Community Safety Partnerships, Domestic Violence Forums, Health Boards and Trusts, Legal Representatives, the PSNI and other NGOs.



Chairperson's Statement

Over the past year the work of the Men's Advisory Project has continued to develop. This has been as a result of the continued perseverance of our volunteer base and Project Co-ordinator.

During the previous year (2005 – 2006) MAP conducted a series of meetings in order to develop and construct a Strategic Plan for the organisation, this was completed and over the past year the Management Board has begun the process of implementing this plan within the organisation.

One of our key objectives is to work in partnership with government, public bodies, funders and voluntary and community sector organisations. The Men's Advisory Project enjoys a close working relationship at a number of levels and we see this as essential if we are to actively campaign and advocate in the interests of people affected by domestic abuse.

Over the course of the past year the Boards activities have been focused on the internal workings of MAP to ensure that both our policies and procedures are inclusive and are aimed at further streamlining the organisation. This process will continually be developed and reviewed as the organisation moves forward in the coming years.

We have been successful in applying for funds from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in relation to a new research project within the organisation. This post will be funded for a period of three years and will provide MAP with an opportunity to attain a level of understanding of how domestic violence and abuse relate to men's lives in Northern Ireland. The Board also has developed, with the assistance of the Co-ordinator, a number of other small applications for finances to further support the work of MAP in line with our Strategic Plan.

My time as Chairperson has been a real privilege – very busy, enjoyable and challenging. I'd like to thank my fellow Board members for leading MAP at a time when our work was especially demanding and for the good humour and dedication with which they carried out the task.

Finally I would like to congratulate our Co-ordinator and all our volunteers for their professionalism, hard work and commitment to the organisation. I know that those qualities will be carried forward into the year ahead and put to the service of the people we provide services to.

JAMES KNOX
CHAIRPERSON

Management Committee Report

Management Committee Members 2007 - 2008

James Knox	Chairperson
Jean Winter	Vice-Chairperson
Lorna Smith	Treasurer
Lorraine Mawhinney	Secretary
Margaret McIlvenny	
John Devlin	
Clair Jess	
Tracey Crowe	

Management Committee Members 2008- 2009

James Knox	Chairperson
Jean Winter	Vice-Chairperson
Lorna Smith	Treasurer
Lorraine Mawhinney	Secretary
Margaret McIlvenny	
John Devlin	
Tracey Iveson	

Areas Of Work And Project Updates

Regional Steering Group for Domestic Violence

For some time now MAP has been represented on the Regional Steering Group for Domestic Violence. The Regional Steering Group will now be known as the Regional Strategy Group for Domestic Violence (RSG). This is a Strategy Group driving the Government's 'Tackling Violence at Home' strategy. The key departments involved in this are DHSSPS/ NIO/ OFMDFM*. The most recent action plan is available.

The Government strategy and action plan was launched in October 2005 and MAP received some media coverage at the launch, through radio and television interviews, helping to raise the profile of MAP.

The strategy and action plan include a commitment from DHSSPS/NIO/OFMDFM to improving services for male victims of domestic abuse and to promote research in this area.

MAP is now recognised as a key player in providing services for male victims of domestic abuse and through our membership on the RSG we are able to represent male victims at a regional level and inform and influence government strategy and policy in this area.

One of the major projects undertaken by the RSG was the launch of a National Domestic Violence (Freephone) Helpline and a supporting media campaign. This national domestic violence helpline is open to ANYONE experiencing or affected by Domestic Violence. Men calling the helpline are given a supportive listening ear and are then referred to MAP and other relevant agencies.

The supporting media campaign involved a series of television and radio advertisements as well as poster boards in Adshels (bus shelters) and washrooms. While the advertisements focused on domestic violence against women, there was, also, a radio advertisement aimed at being all inclusive. During August 2006, as part of the second burst of the on-going media campaign, a radio advertisement went out aimed specifically at heterosexual men experiencing domestic abuse. During all media campaigns and promotional activities the number of men calling the helpline and MAP rose considerably.

One of the more recent media campaigns was aimed at highlighting psychological abuse and this proved very effective in raising the number of calls from both men and women to the helpline. The most recent campaign was targeted at perpetrators of domestic violence highlighting its criminal nature and the consequences; the effectiveness of this campaign is still under review.

The Media campaign will be an ongoing project and will try to target all those affected by domestic violence over time.

The RSG has now recruited a Training Co-ordinator to audit current training across the region in the area of domestic violence. This co-ordinator, Charlene Curran, will work closely with all agencies involved in Domestic Violence ensuring that everyone involved is trained in accordance with National Occupational Standards. This is a real opportunity for sharing best practice and it is also an opportunity for the area of Male Victims to be addressed in training.

Another major project for the RSG was the development and promotion of Workplace policies. Employers are encouraged to have a work place policy for dealing with staff members who are victims of or affected by domestic abuse. Sometimes the only contact victims have with the outside world is through work and with employers can be a great source of support, it is also recognised that work productivity is affected by domestic abuse and it is therefore in an employer's interest to support staff who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Further work involves the roll out of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC) across Northern Ireland. MARAC is a best practice model used to reduce repeat victimisation and to provide better protection and support for victims of domestic violence. A range of agencies coming into contact with victims of domestic abuse can carry out a risk assessment. Clients who appear to be at high risk of domestic abuse can then be referred to the MARAC with their consent. At a MARAC relevant agencies share information on the case and put together a plan to support and protect the victim and reduce risk. The pilot of the MARAC has been successful and MARAC will be rolled out following training of relevant agencies. Men's Advisory Project will be involved in the MARAC. This is an example of joined up working that supports victims and reduces the risk of vulnerable individuals slipping through the cracks.

Check out the strategy document and associated action plan for more information about the good work being done by agencies working together.

Partnership working/ Consultation

Within Northern Ireland there are five Local Domestic Violence Partnerships. These partnerships are tasked with the implementation of the Tackling Violence at Home Action Points at local level.

We have had a lot of interest from the Domestic Violence Partnerships. We try to work with as many DV Partnerships as we can. Over the past year we have been delivering awareness raising training. A series of Domestic Violence training days were organised for Statutory and Voluntary bodies and MAP helped to raise awareness of Male victims of domestic abuse. Feedback from delegates has been encouraging and this training from MAP is seen as vital. We have also been working with South Eastern Local Domestic Violence Partnership implementing the action plan at local level. This is another opportunity to represent Male Victims and to promote the cause.

We have provided awareness raising training for District Policing Partnerships, South Eastern Belfast Trust Staff Support workers and RAF aldergrove to mention a few.

There are many opportunities to have input into consultations. MAP has had links and opportunities to work with the following policy and planning initiatives over the last year:

- Regional Domestic Violence Steering Group.
- EHSSB vulnerable Adults Group.
- Eastern Area Child Protection Committee.
- Tackling Violence at Home Strategy and Action Plan.
- Children's Services Planning.
- Infant Mental Health and Adult Mental Health Services.
- Sexual Violence Strategy.
- Safeguarding Board/Panel.
- Victims and Witnesses Strategy.
- Community Safety Strategy.
- Homeless Strategy.
- Anti-Poverty/Targeting Social Need.
- Neighbourhood renewal.
- Family Support Strategy.
- Public Protection Arrangements for NI.
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC).
- UNOCINI.
- Barnardo's Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Model (DVRAM).
- Investing in health.
- Children's strategy.
- Human Resources and Equality Strategies.
- Human Rights Act.
- Supporting People.
- Hidden Harm Strategy.
- Men's Health Forum
- Men's Health Strategy

PSNI Community Relations Fair/ Training for PSNI

The community relations fair at PSNI Garnerville is an opportunity for community services to meet with new PSNI recruits and tell them about services we provide. MAP attends as many of these as possible. They are normally held on a Wednesday night at Garnerville every 6-8 weeks (except during June/July/August) or when there is a new intake of recruits. It is a good opportunity to build good relationships with the police service and raise our profile.

This year MAP has been invited to and has provided training to PSNI Occupational Health Staff and Domestic Violence Officers. This has helped to raise awareness and develop partnership working and we hope to continue to develop these links.

Map has received training from Pauline Mooney in policing procedures.

MAP hope to be able to have a more formal input into Police Training over the next year.

We also hope, as mentioned, to improve links with PSNI through the role out of MARAC. Recruiting New Volunteers

This year MAP has been able to recruit 6 (10) new volunteers. MAP now has 10 (15) volunteer counsellors on the team. The new volunteers have been a great asset to the work of the organisation. Their enthusiasm has been encouraging and as a result of their appointment MAP has been able to reduce waiting times and provide a service to more men. We hope to add to our volunteer numbers in the near future and now have an ongoing recruitment strategy to account for counsellors deciding to move on or reducing their case loads.

Peer Group / Supervision

MAP holds peer group supervision meetings as a vital support service for volunteers. Peer group meetings are held on a monthly basis. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month. This has been working well and we would continue to encourage volunteers to attend these meetings on a regular basis. The peer group meetings are a good opportunity to meet with peers, build the team, gain from the experience of others and keep up to date with developments within MAP. We have also recently been using peer group meetings to provide training to volunteers and this is set to continue.

MAP continues to provide 1 ½ hours of 1-1 supervision per month to all qualified volunteers and fortnightly supervision for student volunteers to ensure they have support and to meet with BACP accreditation requirements.

Training/ Orientation/ Team Building

MAP aims to provide regular training opportunities for volunteers through peer group meetings and special training days and events. This year we have offered training in police procedures, legal issues for men affected by domestic violence and assessment issues.

We hope to offer further training opportunities including training in Male Victims of Domestic Violence, Relationship Breakdown, Anger Management, Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults, Suicide Risk Assessment, Masculinity and Self Esteem, Equality and Sexual orientation

Counsellors had the opportunity to attend a Men's Health Conference raising awareness about issues affecting Men. This conference was extremely informative and well worth attending.

Information about other training opportunities that arise is circulated via email.

We were also represented at the Raising the Standards Conference, held in Guernsey last year. This is a conference drawing people together from all over the UK and Ireland who work with domestic violence. We were one of the only organisations representing male victims present at the conference and it was a very useful and enlightening experience. This year's conference will be held in Jersey.

Research

This year we are pleased to report that we have recruited a research officer, Daryl Sweet, to carry out research on the nature and prevalence of domestic violence against men in Northern Ireland and gaps in service provision. This research is supported and funded by the DHSSPS. To date Daryl has been reviewing available literature on the subject, developing a methodology and ethical procedures and is now moving onto the data collection phase which will include accessing victims for case studies, surveying the experiences of counsellors, reviewing service provision and mapping current public attitudes towards male victims. The study will aim to reflect men in all groups listed in section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The research completion date is set for May 2010; data collection is envisaged until September 2009. Contact Men's Advisory Project if you are in a position to help with this research.

Administration/ New Office

MAP has secured a second office in Cathedral Buildings. This office will provide a better environment for our staff and Management Committee. MAP now has a staff of three our Co-ordinator, Researcher (funding secured for 3 years) and Administrator (funding secured for three years), as part of the implementation of our strategy. Our newest member of staff, our Administrator, is Matthew McIlvenny, and we would welcome him to the organisation and all that he brings.

Website

We continue to promote our website which can be viewed at www.mapni.co.uk. This can be continuously updated. It provides another point of contact for people seeking information and assistance and it also includes links to other relevant organisations.

Counselling

Map continues to provide counselling for men experiencing domestic violence /abuse and relationship breakdown. We also provide counselling for men and women who have identified problems with managing anger and other powerful emotions. We receive on average 15 referrals for counselling each month and aim to increase the number of volunteers providing counselling through on going recruitment in order to meet the demand.

Anger Management

MAP continues to offer an Anger Management Group programme. This year we have been working in partnership through a sub-contracting arrangement with SELF NI to deliver three group programmes per year. This programme offers clients the opportunity of working towards a level two City & Guilds Certificate in Personal Development in Anger Management. We will continue to offer this programme in 2008-2009. We will also be running a rolling group in Emotional Management and Behavioural Change during 2008-2009. Funding

This year map received ongoing funding from DHSSPS. We will be receiving funding from DHSSPS for the next financial year for Project costs and anger management and for the next three years for the employment of a researcher and the production of research. We have secured funding for an administrator for the next three years from the Tudor Trust. We hope to be able to work with the DHSSPS this year to try to secure long term core funding. The financial support from funders received to date has been invaluable.

Committee/ Administration/ Strategy

Committee meetings will be held on a monthly basis. We still seek new volunteers to the committee. MAP is, as is best practice, consistently reviewing and updating our policies and procedures. This year we have implemented changes to our recording procedures and administration procedures to comply with audit requirements and these changes have been working well.

Over the next year we would like to see administration become more streamlined and consistent. This will be enhanced with the employment of our administrator.

This year we have gradually been implementing MAP's Strategic Plan (copies on request). Over the coming year time will be invested into developing an action plan to further implement our Strategic Plan.

MAP is indebted to its staff, its Membership, its Management Committee and also to its individuals and funders who have helped to develop the outworking of MAP over the past year. Without the support of whom none of our valuable work would have been possible.



Acknowledgements

Volunteers

Jackie McGarry
Jean Winter
John Devlin
Lorna Smith
Lorraine MaWhinney
Margaret McIlvenny
Mary Shaw
Maxine McCutcheon
Melissa Whiteside
Peter Martin
Phyllis Coulter
Susan Stewart
Peter Martin
Pauline Devlin
Katie Higginson
Trevor McMahan

Funders

MAP would like to thank the following funding organisations for their support in the past, without their assistance the work of MAP would not have progressed to the same degree.

Awards for All (Big Lottery), Tudor Trust, Lloyds TSB, PSNI, Department of Health Social Services Public Safety(DV Unit), British Telecommunications Plc, Department of Social Development, Voluntary Services Bureau, PSNI and the Co-Op.

Contact Details

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Appendices 1 Accounts



The Men's Advisory
Project Limited
Financial Statements
Year ended 30 April 2008



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The Men's Advisory Project Limited

Statement of directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Board

Lorna Smith
Director

Independent auditors' report to the members of The Men's Advisory Project Limited

We have audited the financial statements of The Men's Advisory Project Limited for the year ended 30 April 2008 which comprise income and expenditure account and balance sheet. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 243 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described in the statement of directors' responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the directors' report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the directors' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Independent auditors' report to the members of The Men's Advisory Project Limited (continued)

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the company's affairs as at 30 April 2008 and of its surplus for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

Hill Vellacott 22 January 2009
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors

Income and expenditure account year ended 30 April 2008		2008		2007	
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Contributions from clients		2,998		2,422	
Grants	Awards for All				
	Less deferred	385		386	
	Tudor Trust	-		10,000	
	DHSSPS	52,361		37,056	
Donations	PSNI	1,617		159	
	Women's Aid	-		145	
Total income			57,361		50,168
Expenditure					
Administrative expenses					
	Supervision & counselling training fees	2,600		5,000	
	Conference & Workshop	461		5,860	
	Salaries and National Insurance costs	22,573		21,916	
	Mileage and other expenses	4,405		1,256	
	Management charge	1,033		1,550	
	Anger management	9,520		-	
Total		40,592		35,582	
Operational expenses					
	Office rent and light, heat and power	8,117		4,044	
	Professional indemnity insurance	456		221	
	Contents insurance	565		315	
	Affiliation and compliance	262		137	
	Telecommunications	1,498		1,397	
	Office and stationery	796		737	
	Petty cash	224		709	
	Advertising and promotion	1,222		527	
Total		13,140		8,087	
Financial expenses					
	Depreciation	385		601	
	Bank charges and interest	62		63	
Total		447		664	
Total expenditure			54,179		44,333
Net surplus			3,182		5,835

Balance sheet 30 April 2008	2008		2007	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Office equipment at cost	2,585		2,585	
Less depreciation	(2,585)		(2,585)	
Computer equipment at cost	1,157		1,157	
Less depreciation	(1,026)		(641)	
Total		131		516
Current assets				
Prepayment	61		59	
Bank balance	40,475		16,803	
Total	40,536		16,862	
Current liabilities				
Sundry creditor	141		141	
Accruals	1,573		4,381	
Deferred income	23,430		515	
Total	25,144		5,037	
Net current assets		15,392		11,825
Net assets		15,523		12,341
Reserves				
Opening balance at 1 May 2007		12,341		6,506
Surplus for year		3,182		5,835
Closing balance at 30 April 2008		15,523		12,341

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 22 January 2009 and signed on their behalf by:

Lorna Smith
Director

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