

Services for Victims and Survivors

Consultation on Next Phase of Policy in relation to services for Victims and Survivors of the troubles in Northern Ireland and on the establishment of a Commissioner for Victims and Survivors

March 2005

Page

Introduction	3
<i>A comprehensive approach to services and a Commissioner for Victims and Survivors.</i>	
Building on ‘Reshape, Rebuild Achieve’	3
<i>Principles of partnership working, vision, values, themes and aims.</i>	
<i>Meaning of ‘victim’, emphasis on victims and survivors.</i>	
<i>Need for strategy to span several years.</i>	
Scope of Strategy	8
<i>Focus on services and how these might be better co-ordinated under the general direction of a Commissioner for Victims and Survivors.</i>	
<i>Need for greater emphasis on strategic approach to address broad range of issues. Importance of victims groups and strong community base.</i>	
<i>Need to build trust between sectors.</i>	
Structures	13
<i>Trauma Advisory Panels (TAPs) and partnership working.</i>	
<i>Greater clarity needed as regards TAPs functions and membership.</i>	
<i>Planning by TAPs. Whether TAPs should be placed on a statutory basis.</i>	
<i>Interdepartmental Working Group.</i>	
Outcomes	19
<i>Getting better information as to various therapeutic approaches.</i>	
Standards for Services	20
<i>Development of standards in relation to counselling and befriending services.</i>	
Support for individuals and a ‘One Stop Shop’	20
<i>Problems for individuals in accessing services. Creation of a ‘one stop shop’ to provide information to victims and survivors. A ‘Victims and Survivors Advisor’ to provide advice and other help to individuals.</i>	
Trauma services	22
<i>Structure and accessibility of trauma services.</i>	
Support for carers	23
<i>Study into needs of those looking after victims and survivors.</i>	
Funding for victims groups and projects	24
<i>Problems of level and continuity of funding. Funding to be linked to assessed need and plans developed by TAPs.</i>	
Northern Ireland Memorial Fund	25
<i>Operation of Fund to be reviewed.</i>	
Other specific action points	26
A Commissioner for Victims and Survivors	28
<i>Key role of Commissioner in promoting the interests of victims and survivors.</i>	
<i>Proposed duties and powers of Commissioner. Victims and Survivors Forum</i>	
Equality Statement	34

Appendix A – Summary of comments arising from consultation to date.
Appendix B - Work currently being carried forward under the existing Strategy Implementation Fund.

