



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2010 Annual Report Victim Services and Domestic Violence Coordinator

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A. Mandate of the Unit

The Victim Assistance / Domestic Violence Coordinator's mandate is to implement and maintain programs to ensure the North Bay Police Service provides comprehensive and efficient services to victims of crime and tragic circumstances.

The unit also provides follow-up assistance to victims by coordinating the response of all the service's sections with involved community agencies.

The Domestic Violence Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the response to, and investigation of, domestic violence occurrences, including compliance with the Service's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

B. Executive Summary

This unit, consisting of one sworn officer, has made substantial progress during the past year in addressing the current and future needs of the North Bay Police Service in the area of victim services and domestic violence investigations. The Coordinator has continued to develop the appropriate knowledge, skills and abilities associated to the mandate of this unit. To achieve these ends, the Coordinator participated in several conferences, seminars and committees, which allowed for learning and employee development, development of strong partnerships with local community partners and an enhanced understanding of victims issues.

The Victim Assistance Domestic Violence Coordinator will continue to make an effort to provide victims with a consistent, coordinated, comprehensive and seamless response to their needs in the upcoming year. Monitoring and providing education on domestic violence investigations will continue to be emphasized in 2011.

C. Activities

Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee (DVCC) of Nipissing is a multi-disciplinary, advisory committee formed in 1998 to effectively address domestic violence in the District of Nipissing.

The DVCC is a community wide partnership set up to prevent, respond to and eliminate domestic violence. The committee sets out to develop and facilitate the implementation of a coordinated, effective response to the identification, assessment, response and prevention of domestic violence.

The DVCC also maintains a strong focus in other areas including: enhancing the quality of service delivery to victims of domestic violence, their children and abusers; improving the community's overall response to domestic violence; developing, implementing and monitoring local policies, procedures and protocols; and ongoing prevention and education efforts.

The Domestic Violence Coordinator attended and participated in the monthly meetings and on-going projects of the above committee.

The Education Sub-Committee

This committee is comprised of a small enthusiastic working group of members from the Coordinating Committee, including the North Bay Police Service Domestic Violence Coordinator.

On February 24th & 25th, 2010 the committee hosted the 2nd Annual Conference and Awards Dinner. The awards dinner was held to recognize and pay special tribute to frontline workers who have shown a commitment and dedication to the service of those affected by domestic violence.

The conference keynote speaker was Victor Malarek, a journalist and author who spoke about the global sex trade and the effects it has on our communities. Dr. Yaga Bialski and Dr. Allan Hirsh presented on "Self Care for Front Line Workers". Overall, the awards dinner and conference received great reviews.

On November 8th, 2010 the Education Sub-Committee of the DVCC hosted a one day workshop, titled "Expose the Truth". The workshop focused on "Healthy Relationships" and targeted grade 11 students. The one day workshop covered such topics as: healthy relationships, internet and social networking awareness, communication, and domestic and dating violence. During the morning sessions students had an opportunity to increase their knowledge on these topics. In the afternoon the students were encouraged to work in groups to develop healthy relationship awareness campaigns.

The goal of the workshop was to generate enthusiasm and to motivate students to share their knowledge and campaigns with their peers upon their return to school. This initiative received positive reviews and results.

The second phase of the initiative is to host the 3rd Annual Conference in February 2011, with the focus being on healthy relationships and the effect domestic violence has on our youth. It is anticipated that we will showcase the campaigns initiated by the students within their respective schools.

Domestic Violence Coordinators Advisory Committee

This group was developed by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – Policing Services Division. The Domestic Violence Coordinator attended quarterly meetings, which is also attended by members of several police services throughout Province. The group was established to provide advice to the Ministry regarding professional police practices specific to domestic violence in Ontario, and to act as a forum where potential areas of concern can be discussed and recommendations for action made.

It was developed to promote a coordinated, effective police response on a provincial level, to domestic violence cases by facilitating information sharing among domestic violence coordinators on best practices and initiatives. The group discusses provincial

issues and engages in problem solving techniques to enhance services to victims by police and the community. This group also facilitates the exchange of information between police services and the Ministry when developing domestic violence policies and/or making changes to the guidelines.

On August 24th to the 26th 2010, the Coordinator and D/Cst Boissonneault attended the Ontario Police College for the 5th Annual Domestic Violence Coordinators Conference. The focus of the training was threat assessment and management. The three-day training covered the administration, scoring and interpretation of threat assessment tools, report writing and expert testimony. The overall training was designed to meet the educational needs of Domestic Violence Coordinators and police officers involved in domestic violence investigations.

Currently the group is working on the 6th annual Domestic Violence Coordinators' Conference, a review of the Domestic Violence Supplementary Report, a Quick Guide on domestic violence investigations for police officers, and a training video on Safety Planning.

Seniors Liaison Officer

As of September 24th, 2010 the Coordinator has taken on the role of Seniors Liaison Officer, changing the mandate of this unit for 2011.

The responsibilities of the Seniors Liaison Officer include:

- i. Support the investigative efforts of Patrol personnel and provide support in an advisory and/or active role in occurrences of elder and vulnerable adult abuse;
- ii. Provide information and make referrals to community agencies;
- iii. Liaise with and strengthen relationships with community partners and local organizations to develop programs for preventing and responding to complaints of elder and vulnerable adult abuse, including fraud awareness and prevention;
- iv. Liaise with the Community Safety Coordinator to address and disseminate information to the public on crimes against seniors; and
- v. Where appropriate, work with families and/or other caregivers to help resolve situations where elder and vulnerable adults are at risk of abuse.

Seniors @ Risk Network

The main purpose of this committee is to work together to reduce the risk of elder abuse in our community. The goals of the Network include; raising awareness in our community via annual educational conferences, develop educational protocols within our agencies and provide educational sessions to community members, empower seniors in our community to not be victimized by abuse and establish contact information for seniors who require further information or education regarding abuse. The Seniors Liaison Officer attends regular monthly meetings of this group that is comprised of community partners, government agencies and officials.

In the fall of 2010, the committee facilitated presentations of the play "Awake Arthur". The play encourages seniors of all social classes to recognize and expose abuse. Very

often seniors will live this reality in silence. The play was presented in a dramatic and humorous way to encourage and support seniors in their efforts to end abuse.

On November 10th, 2010 the Seniors Liaison Officer attended "An Eye on Seniors" Crime Prevention Conference held at the Clarion Resort. The conference offered interesting and knowledgeable speakers from the police, medical and banking professions. Attendees were presented with information on the signs and symptoms of financial abuse, recognizing abuse: a health care perspective, power of attorney for personal care and property, and presentations from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre and Crime Stoppers.

On November 17th & 18th, 2010 the Seniors Liaison Officer attended the North East Elder Abuse Regional Conference. There were presentations from the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, Crown Attorney, Hamilton Police Service and National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (N.I.C.E.). This conference was well attended by networks across the North East Region, allowing colleagues an opportunity to showcase their individual work, projects, history and successes.

Other

The Coordinator had ongoing contact with victims regarding court procedures, assisted with updates regarding court and investigations, answered questions, relayed information to investigating officers and provided referrals to other agencies.

The Coordinator assisted victims with obtaining information related to Criminal Injuries Compensation Claims and provided further assistance in the completion of the necessary documents for these applications.

In April 2008, The Ministry of the Attorney General implemented the Early Victim Contact in Domestic Violence Cases by the Victim/Witness Assistance Program. V/WAP will attempt to contact domestic violence victims within one working day following notification of the offence by the North Bay Police Service. They will explain the Domestic Violence Court program, address victims concern about safety and involvement with the criminal justice system, provide referrals and resources and provide accurate case related information. Where contact is made prior to Bail Court, they will seek victim input on Bail conditions and provide them to the Crown prior to the hearing. In 2010, the Coordinator continued to facilitate the necessary exchange of information with V/WAP regarding this initiative.

In November of 2008, the North Bay Police Service entered into a trial project with Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service (VCARS). This initiative focused on providing a seamless response between police and victim services in relation to domestic violence calls. VCARS staff and volunteers responded to call-outs relating to domestic violence investigations. Once officers completed their investigation with the victim, VCARS staff and volunteers were present and ready to offer assistance. In 2010, the Coordinator continued to facilitate and work with VCARS on this initiative.

In 2009, Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service along with the North Bay Police Service were the co-applicants of a grant from the Ministry of Community and

Correctional Services. As a result of this grant, the “Victim Safety Project” was initiated. This eighteen month project was designed to address concerns surrounding victim safety assessments and planning as well as bail notification for all criminal offences investigated by the North Bay Police Service.

Reports indicate that this project is running very effectively and has been well received by victims. On September 30th 2010 the project came to a conclusion and a final report and recommendations were provided to the Ministry of Community and Correctional Services and the Chief of Police, North Bay Police Service.

In November 2010 fellow justice partners established a Domestic Violence High Risk Committee within our court jurisdiction. The committee is currently working on guidelines and terms of reference and hopes to be up and running in 2011.

On December 6th 2010, the Coordinator was invited to take part in a ceremony commemorating the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. At that ceremony the Coordinator joined with residents and associates of the Nipissing Transition House to remember the 1989 Ecole Polytechnique Massacre. After the ceremony the Executive Director of the Nipissing Transition House presented the Coordinator with a plaque “In appreciation of our partnership”, for 2010.

Training

The Coordinator assisted in the training of new volunteers with the Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services in the area of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault investigations.

D. Performance Indicators

Referrals to Partner Agencies	2009	2010
Victim Services of Nipissing District	160	149
VWAP	392	483
Community Care Access Centre	3	2
Seniors Mental Health	2	2

Number of New and Sustained Partnerships	2009	2010
Sustained	22	22
New	0	0

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

With the new Seniors Liaison Officer position added to the mandate of the unit, it is anticipated that there will be training issues and a need for public awareness regarding the role and responsibilities.

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

1. To host a Domestic Violence Conference in February 2011 with fellow members of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee of Nipissing.
2. To continue to provide learning opportunities to supervisors and front line officers in the area of domestic violence investigations.
3. To work with Justice Partners within the newly developed Domestic Violence High Risk Committee.
4. To host an educational session with community partners introducing the new position of Seniors Liaison Officer.
5. To review and report on-going initiatives with outside agencies and community partners.
6. To continue strong partnerships within the community.

G. Other

N/A

H. Appendices

N/A