

Largest Ever Funding Package Announced

Extra £12million for Victims

Victims Minister Adam Ingram has announced a £12 million funding package for victims and survivors - almost double the amount of government money given to date. This is new money and brings the total committed by Government since 1998 to over £18.25 million.

£3 million of this new funding will be allocated to the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund at the rate of £1 million a year for the next three years. This now brings the Government's contribution to the Fund, which provides practical and meaningful support to individuals, to £5 million. Details of the work of the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund including news of some new schemes is given on pages 6-8.

This funding fulfils the promise made by Government following the review of criminal injuries compensation of a further commitment of funds from April 2001

to take forward the recommendations in Sir Kenneth Bloomfield's report "We Will Remember Them".

Announcing the new funding, Mr Ingram said: *"This funding will provide sustainability for the victims community and will build upon the vital work which has already been undertaken since the publication of the Sir Kenneth Bloomfield report in 1998."*

Announcements on the allocation of the remaining £9 million will be made in the coming months in consultation with the Dermot Nesbitt and Denis Haughey in the Office of the First and Deputy First Ministers.

POSITIVE EVALUATION OF VICTIM SUPPORT GRANT SCHEME

The Victims Liaison Unit provided £225,000 for the establishment of the Victim Support Grant Scheme which was administered by the Community Relations Council. Over 50 groups and organisations received grants from the scheme.

An independent evaluation of the scheme was commissioned by the Community Relations Council and was carried out by Nuala Quiry PhD, with the purpose of:

- (i) assessing the impact of the Victim Support Grant Scheme against the Community Relations Council's Victims Programme Objectives; and,
- (ii) advising on future Community Relations Council strategy in relation to the support of victims work, and to provide a base line for future victims work.

The conclusions and recommendations in the evaluation are very positive towards the value of the scheme and the Community Relations Council's continued involvement in work with victims groups and organisations.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from CRC's Web Site: www.community-relations.org.uk, or you can obtain a copy from Micháela Mackin at CRC, by telephoning: (028) 9022 7500 or by email: mmackin@community-relations.org.uk

Contents:

£3 million boost for Memorial Fund	2	Real capacity building programme	3	Who does what in the two victims units	5
News update from OFMDFM	2	Developing Standards	4	New schemes for the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund	6

News update from OFMDFM

£420,000 Funding

The Victims Unit in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister made an announcement recently regarding the £420,000 of funding it had allocated for the 2000-2001 financial year. The vast majority of the money will go to the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund to fund projects which will assist individual victims. These will include specific initiatives in the health fields relating to prostheses and wheelchairs.

Apart from the Memorial Fund, the remainder of the money will be directed towards the work of the Eastern, Southern and Western Board's Trauma Advisory Panels, the "Towards Understanding and Healing" project being run by Derry City Council, an audit of the need for work associated with facial disfigurement and the "Fragile people living in a Fragile Peace" conference.

Other Initiatives

Other work being taken forward by the Victims Unit includes:

- Finalising the victims measure of the Peace II European funding. The Victims Unit will be responsible for administering this Measure which will be for the sole use of victims and victims groups. Approximately £6.67 million will be available;
- Developing a website. It is planned that the website will be operational from early April and will contain a wide variety of useful information;
- Commissioning research into the level of service provision available to victims. This flows from an action in the Programme for Government which relates to assessing

what improvements to services for victims have taken place by April 2002. In order to do that, research needs to be carried out now to find out what the current level of service provision is like, where the gaps are and how they can be filled; and

- Developing a cross-departmental strategy for victims. Again, this is an action in the Programme for Government and the draft strategy will be subject to wide consultation with victims, victims groups and interested organisations so that it will fully reflect the needs of victims and set out clearly how those needs are going to be addressed.

If you want additional information on any of the above issues, please contact the Victims Unit on **9052 3445**.

£3 million boost for Northern Ireland Memorial Fund

Directors of the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund welcomed the announcement by Victims Minister Adam Ingram that the Fund will receive £1 million per year for each of the next three years.

Speaking at the announcement, the Fund's Chairman Professor George Bain said "I am absolutely delighted that the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund is to benefit from this substantial financial commitment. This new funding, which brings the Government's total contribution to the Memorial Fund to £5 million over

five years, will enable the Fund to sustain its existing programmes and develop and introduce further measures that recognise and address many of the immediate needs of victims and their families."

The announcement by Adam Ingram coincided with the Fund's Annual Gala Fund-raising Dinner, primarily supported by the Northern Ireland Business Community. The event raised an outstanding £82,000 on the night.

Real capacity building programme for victims groups & funders

- (R) **Recognition**
 (E) **Empowerment**
 (A) **Awareness**
 (L) **Learning**

What is it?

The REAL Programme is an initiative co-sponsored by the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, the Community Relations Council and, the Victims Liaison Unit to build the capacity of victims groups, and policy makers and funders to provide support to victims of the Troubles.

This programme of work is being delivered by the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) and consists of three strands:

Programme A - capacity building for victims groups

Programme B - specific support for individual groups

Programme C - awareness for policy makers and funders

Programme A has been running since November 2000 and will continue to June 2001 with two parallel programmes running in Cookstown and Armagh. The programmes

consist of a combination of 15 workshops, seminars and residentials looking at areas such as:

- trauma and victimhood;
- culture, politics and history;
- group processes;
- planning;
- managing people; and
- managing money.

The Belfast European Partnership Board is also funding a REAL programme for groups based in Belfast which is run by the Ulster People's College.

Programme B allows individual groups to develop training in liaison with the WEA to meet their specific needs. It is especially aimed at committee workers and development workers within groups.

If groups wish to avail of this training they should contact Colin Neilands at the WEA on (028) 9068 7710 before the end of April 2001.

Programme C for policy makers and funders began with an awareness raising day on 31 January 2001 which was opened by Minister for Victims, Adam Ingram,

who acknowledged the important work of those in the statutory, community and voluntary sectors -

"While these services have received some criticism from victims over the years, there are also many unsung stories where peoples lives have been turned around by help and support that they have received. Help is available and as we come to understand the problems more, we can put in place effective policies to promote individual healing and empowerment.

"We cannot however bury our head in the sand and ignore some genuine criticisms of service provision and the role of policy makers and funders. Often criticism centres around the lack of awareness of the particular needs of victims which is why I welcome this seminar today."

This awareness day is being followed up by a series of four seminars with the themes of:

- The Context;
- Trauma and Victimhood;
- Working Collaboratively; and
- Developing Integrated Policy.

Psychotraumatology The First Irish Conference

The First Irish Conference on Psychotraumatology was held in Dublin in November 2000. A document containing transcripts of the lectures and plenary sessions has been prepared by

Dr Oscar Daly and Mr Michael Dempsey.

This document will be of interest to those working in the field of Psychotraumatology. Copies are available from the Victims Liaison Unit.

Evaluation of Core Funding

The Core Funding Scheme for Victims/Survivors Groups which is administered by the NIVT on behalf of the Victims Liaison Unit is to be evaluated. The proposals for this independent evaluation are being drawn up but it is hoped that this will begin in early summer, with interim results available in the Autumn.

Developing Standards

- New Report Published

The following is the Introduction to a report called 'Developing Standards for Working With Those Affected by the Troubles in Northern Ireland' which was printed in the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust's recent report Hear and Now... and Then... Developments in Victims and Survivors Work.

There has, in recent years, been a growing recognition of some of the problems faced by those affected by the Troubles in Northern Ireland. Indeed, since the cease-fires, it has become evident that there is an increased willingness by those affected to come forward for help.

In light of this, it has also become evident that clear guidance would be helpful to ensure that vulnerable people who might seek help receive the best possible service. Funders, too, are keen to be re-assured that those working in this field do so responsibly, so that they can have confidence in allocating resources to the many services (some long-standing, some very new) which have arisen to address the needs of victims/survivors.

It was in this context that a seminar, co-sponsored by the VLU, NIVT and CRC was held on 25 November 1999 to look at how standards for working in this area might be developed. Those who attended represented a wide range of interests in the area of victim support, and in the professional counselling/therapeutic field.

This document, which has emerged as a result of the discussions and workshops on that day, is designed to be a resource which groups can use for guidance when developing standards and codes specific to their organisations.

It must be recognised there are risks in undertaking this work and it should be acknowledged that it is not always either easy or safe. However, a key message which

came out of the seminar was, that if groups are working with vulnerable people, it is important that they recognise the need to try to support those people to move beyond victimisation and to affirm their own natural ability to cope.

There are now many groups providing for people who have experienced trauma as a result of the Troubles. It is important to be able to define the differences in what is available, and to give due respect to the role which each may play in an individual's recovery. This guide looks at the core values that should underpin each service and at some of the key processes involved, such as referral and the need to provide adequate supervision and support for workers in this area.

This Guide covers:

- the need for standards;
- the range of services that have emerged to help those affected by the Troubles;
- the core values that should underpin each service;
- the key processes which services should attend to (eg referral, supervision).

Copies of the full document can be obtained from either the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, the Community Relations Council, the Victims Liaison Unit or their respective websites:

www.nivt.org

www.community-relations.org.uk

www.nio.gov.uk

ON THE MOVE

As many of you know, Mary Butcher left the Victims Liaison Unit just before Christmas. Mary worked with Sir Kenneth Bloomfield in the production of his report, "We Will Remember Them" and was heavily involved with the establishment of the Victims Liaison Unit.

Brendan O'Mahony will be leaving his post as Secretary to the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund in the near future. Brendan was instrumental in establishing the Fund and has worked closely with the Directors of the Fund and others to introduce a range of schemes to support individual victims and survivors.

The staff in the Victims Liaison Unit would like to thank Mary and Brendan for their commitment to the needs of victims and survivors, and wish them well in their future careers.

Who does what in the two victims units?

The Victims Liaison Unit was established in 1998 by Minister for Victims, Adam Ingram in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). In 2000 the Victims Unit was established within the devolved administration of the Northern Ireland Assembly by Denis Haughey and Dermot Nesbitt, Ministers in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM).

The following are the current responsibilities of the NIO's Victims Liaison Unit

- Support for Ministers in the NIO;
- Provision of core funding to victims' support groups;
- Management and provision of grant aid to the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund;
- Ensuring victims issues are dealt with in the reserved and excepted fields in Northern Ireland, particularly in areas such as compensation, criminal justice, security and dealing with 'the disappeared';
- Articulating the case for victims in the reserved and excepted fields.

The following are the current responsibilities of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's Victims Unit:

- Support for Ministers in the devolved administration;
- Development of a suitable programme under PEACE II to address victims' needs;
- Development of a separate programme of activities designed to meet the strategic needs of victims;
- Ensuring the needs of victims are addressed in the devolved administration including management of an interdepartmental working group on victims' issues;
- Ensuring that the commitments on victims contained in the draft Programme for Government are met;
- Articulating the case for victims within the devolved administration.

The devolved administration has responsibility for the following departments:

- **Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister;**
- **Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development;**
- **Dept. of Culture, Arts and Leisure;**
- **Dept. of Education;**
- **Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Development;**
- **Dept. of the Environment;**
- **Dept. of Finance and Personnel;**
- **Dept. of Health, Social Services and Public Safety;**
- **Dept. of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment;**
- **Dept. of Regional Development;**
- **Dept. for Social Development;**
- **The Housing Executive; and the**
- **Social Security Agency.**

Both organisations have responsibility for:

- Improving the capacity and professionalism of victims organisations and introducing core values and standards for groups to adhere;
- Implementing the findings of the Bloomfield report; and
- Building networks for victims and victims' organisations to share experience and best practice.

OFMDFM Supports Memorial Fund Initiatives

The Office of the First and Deputy First Minister has announced a £340,000 contribution to the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund to support a variety of initiatives including the introduction

of the Fund's Amputee and Wheelchair Assessment Schemes. Responding to the news, the Fund's Chairman, Professor George Bain, said, "I welcome the announcement by Ministers Haughey and Nesbitt that the

Fund is to receive £340,000 to support its initiatives. This is tremendous news for the Fund, and for the individuals and families who will ultimately benefit from this and other recent announcements."

The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund

Peace – Reconciliation – Support

What is the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund?

The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund is an independent charitable fund that was established following the publication of Sir Kenneth Bloomfield's report "We Will Remember Them". The Fund's aim is to promote peace and reconciliation by providing practical support and recognition to individuals and families who have suffered as a result of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland.

New schemes to be launched in 2001

Plans are currently underway to introduce four new schemes in the coming months.

1. AMPUTEE ASSESSMENT SCHEME

What is the Amputee Assessment Scheme?

The Amputee Assessment Scheme is designed to give amputees the opportunity to be assessed to determine if they might positively benefit from an alternative prosthesis to the one that they are currently using.

Why introduce an Amputee Assessment Scheme?

After listening to individuals who lost limbs as a result of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland, it became apparent that many people believe they would positively benefit from an alternative prosthesis to the one that they are currently using. The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund wishes to ensure that 'Troubles' related amputees are equipped with the most suitable prosthesis available, to positively contribute to their well-being and lifestyle.

Who can apply to the Amputee Assessment Scheme?

The scheme is open to individuals who have lost a limb and require the use of a prosthetic device, as a result of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland.

What can I apply for?

You can apply to the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund for a grant to cover the cost of the recommended alternative prosthetic device, providing your application is supported by a positive recommendation from a recognised consultant in rehabilitation medicine. For individuals resident in Northern Ireland this MUST be arranged through the Regional Disablement Services at Musgrave Park Hospital. Individuals residing outside Northern Ireland should contact the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund for advice and guidance. All prosthetics MUST be supplied through the NHS.

What is not covered by the scheme?

The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund cannot award grants to enable residents of Northern Ireland to travel outside of Northern Ireland, either for their assessment, or to acquire their prosthesis. Equally, individuals residing outside Northern Ireland will be expected to attend their nearest Disablement Services Centre in their country of residence. In addition, retrospective grants cannot be awarded to reimburse the cost of prosthetic devices already acquired.

When will the Amputee Assessment Scheme be introduced and how can I apply?

Plans are underway to introduce the scheme from Wednesday 18 April 2001. Application forms can be obtained by phoning the Grants Administration Office from the 18th April on Belfast (028) 9024 5965 or by writing to:
**Northern Ireland Memorial Fund
Grants Administration Office
22-24 Mount Charles BELFAST BT7 1NZ**

2. WHEELCHAIR ASSESSMENT SCHEME

What is the Wheelchair Assessment Scheme?

The Wheelchair Assessment Scheme is designed to give individuals who require the use of a wheelchair, the opportunity to be assessed to determine if they might positively benefit from an alternative wheelchair to the one that they are currently using.

Why introduce a Wheelchair Assessment Scheme?

After listening to individuals who require the use of a wheelchair as a result of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland, it became apparent that many people believe they would positively benefit from a lightweight or alternative chair to that which they are currently using. The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund wishes to ensure that these individuals are equipped with the most suitable chair

available, to positively contribute to their well-being and lifestyle.

Who can apply to the Wheelchair Assessment Scheme?

The scheme is open to individuals who require the use of a wheelchair as a result of the 'Troubles'.

What can I apply for?

You can apply to the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund for a grant to cover the

The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund

Peace – Reconciliation – Support

cost of the recommended wheelchair, providing your application is supported by a positive recommendation from a recognised occupational therapist or suitably qualified technician.

For individuals resident in Northern Ireland this **MUST** be arranged through the applicant's local Healthcare Trust. Individuals residing outside Northern Ireland should contact the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund for advice and guidance. All wheelchairs **MUST** be supplied through the NHS.

What is not covered by the scheme?

The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund cannot award grants to enable residents of Northern Ireland to travel outside Northern Ireland, either for assessment, or to acquire a wheelchair. Equally, individuals residing outside Northern Ireland will be expected to attend their nearest Disablement Services Centre in their country of residence. In addition, retrospective grants cannot be awarded to reimburse the cost of wheelchairs already acquired, nor can grants be made available to enable individuals to purchase their wheelchairs privately.

When will the Wheelchair Assessment Scheme be introduced and how can I apply?

Plans are underway to introduce the scheme from Wednesday 18 April 2001. Application forms can be obtained by phoning the Grants Administration Office on or after the 18th April on Belfast (028) 9024 5965 or by writing to:

**Northern Ireland Memorial Fund
Grants Administration Office
22-24 Mount Charles
BELFAST BT7 1NZ**

3. THE RESPITE BREAK SCHEME

Following the success of the Fund's Respite Break Pilot Scheme which ran between May and June 2000, the Fund now plans to introduce this scheme on a permanent basis in 2001. The new Respite Break Scheme, which will be broadly based on last year's pilot scheme, will include several improvements to streamline the administrative and booking process.

What is a Respite Break?

A **Respite Break** is a short break which enables people to have a beneficial rest, away from their usual surroundings and the responsibilities and commitments that form part of their every day life. A **Respite Care Break** offers professional care for the duration of the break, similar to that provided by a residential/nursing home.

Who is the Respite Break/Respite Care Scheme for?

The Respite Break/Respite Care scheme is for individuals for whom:

1. It has not been possible to take a break away from home and,
2. who as a result of the 'Troubles' have either:
 - (a) Lost a child;
 - (b) Lost a partner;
 - (c) Have themselves been physically injured in an incident;

- (d) Have become the Primary Carer for an immediate family member who has been physically injured.

What type of Respite Breaks will be available?

The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund will be offering the following respite breaks:

Respite Breaks

Coach tours and short breaks for individuals in hotels, guest houses, caravan parks throughout Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

For people who were physically injured during the 'Troubles', have disabilities as a result and wish to travel with their family, every effort will be made to find accommodation suitable to their needs.

Respite Care Breaks

Short care breaks for those who were physically injured during the 'Troubles' and who would prefer, or whose condition necessitates, a respite break in a local residential/nursing home.

For those who are the Primary Carer for an immediate family member who was physically injured, funding will be available to arrange residential/nursing care for their dependent, should the dependent be unable to travel with them.

What is not covered by this scheme?

The Memorial Fund will not be able to award grants to reimburse individuals for breaks/holidays already arranged or taken. Part payment cannot be made towards the costs of breaks/holidays taken outside of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales, or other breaks/holidays that fall outside the remit of this scheme.

How will travel arrangements be arranged?

To ensure best value for money and continuity of service for all travel reservations, the Memorial Fund will continue to use one appointed travel agent to deal with all bookings in relation to the scheme. The Fund has once again negotiated discounted deals with a variety of hotel groups, holiday parks and tour operators. All travel arrangements **MUST** be made through the appointed agent.

When will the Respite Break Scheme be introduced and how can I apply?

Plans are underway to introduce the scheme from Monday 30 April 2001. Application forms can be obtained by phoning the Grants Administration Office on or after the 30th April on Belfast (028) 9024 5965 or by writing to: **Northern Ireland Memorial Fund Grants Administration Office 22-24 Mount Charles BELFAST BT7 1NZ**

The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund

Peace – Reconciliation – Support

4. EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING BURSARY SCHEME

The Fund is currently developing an Educational and Training Bursary Scheme that will build on the success of the Victims Liaison Unit's Educational Bursary Scheme which was piloted in February 1999. The Educational & Training Bursary Scheme will provide grant assistance to children, young people and adults whose education or vocation has been affected by their experiences and who wish to access the educational and training opportunities available to realise their legitimate ambitions.

Why introduce an Educational & Training Bursary Scheme?

After listening to individuals affected by the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland,

it became apparent that many children, young people and adults have experienced serious disruption to their education or careers. As a direct result, many people have been unable to realise their educational potential or pursue their chosen vocation.

Who can apply to the Educational & Training Bursary Scheme, and what help will they be able to receive?

The precise details of who can apply and what help will be available has not yet been finalised, as the Fund's Directors are currently developing this scheme.

The Directors have advised, however, that subject to the final criteria for the scheme, it will be open to children, young people and adults who can demonstrate a clear link between the grant requested and

the benefits to their education or career. For example the grant requested may be for course fees, books and aids; tutoring or skills training.

When will the Educational & Training Bursary Scheme be introduced and how can I apply?

Plans are underway to introduce the scheme in June 2001, and further details will be announced nearer the time. Application forms will be available in June, and can be obtained by phoning the Grants Administration Office on Belfast (028) 9024 5965 or by writing to:
**Northern Ireland Memorial Fund
Grants Administration Office
22-24 Mount Charles
BELFAST
BT7 1NZ**

Programme Update

Since the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund launched its first response, the Small Grants Scheme, on 1 December 1999, the Fund has distributed over £660,000 through its initiatives, providing practical help and support to over 2000 victims and survivors. The most successful scheme to date has proven to be the Small Grants Scheme, aimed at providing individuals who are currently experiencing financial difficulties, with small grants up to £500 to assist with the purchase of essential household items and services.

Can the Small Grants Scheme help you?

If you are currently experiencing financial difficulties, do not have the means to acquire an essential item or service, and as a result of the 'Troubles' you;

- have lost either a parent, partner or child;
- have yourself been injured; or
- are the primary carer for an immediate family member who has been injured,

the Small Grants Scheme may be able to help you.

Please Note: With effect from 1 April 2001, the Small Grants Scheme has been extended to consider applications from individuals who lost siblings as a result of the 'Troubles', where the applicant can clearly demonstrate they were;

- financially dependent on the sibling at the time of the incident; or
- were with the sibling at the time of the incident.

For further information or an application form please contact the Grants Administration Office.

Can the Chronic Pain Management Scheme help you?

The Chronic Pain Management Scheme was introduced in May 2000. The scheme provides grant assistance to enable individuals who have suffered physical injuries resulting in persistent chronic physical pain, to access private consultations and treatment with a medically qualified specialist in chronic pain management.

If you would like further information or an application form in respect of the Chronic Pain Management Scheme or any of the above schemes, please contact The Grants Administration Office on Belfast (028) 9024 5965

or write to:

**Northern Ireland Memorial Fund
Grants Administration Office
22-24 Mount Charles
BELFAST BT7 1NZ**