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OBSERVATION- TOOLS FOR SOCIAL WORKER IN IRELAND

IMPRINT

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Daphne Project JUST/2009/DAP3/AG/1235
Project workstream 4



SUNIA GEEL – Prevent and combat violence
against children, young people and women and to
protect victims and groups at risk

For further informations please visit:
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Methodologies for Social Service Provision for Travellers affected by Domestic Violence

Observation Tool and Coordinate Questionnaire for Social Workers



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Daphne Project JUST/2009/DAP3/AG/1235

Domestic Violence – Introduction

Violence within families is a worldwide social problem. Besides children, women in particular are victims and the deeds go mostly unpunished.

Estimates suggest that more women worldwide die within their own homes than as a result of war and civil war. Domestic violence is one of the most common human rights violations and is a result of structural power asymmetries within intimate relationships and families.

Violence hinders development: such traumatic experiences have a serious negative influence on the self-esteem of affected women and undermine their ability to be strong members of a strong civil society, who stand up for their rights.

Furthermore, the damages caused by violence affect health, education and working ability. Therefore it contributes to poverty in affected families.¹

Basic concept of the working tools

This set of methodologies for social service provision for families offers five tools for five different target groups within the context of work with families affected by domestic violence. The tools are intended for social workers in group settings with entire families or individual members of families:

- Tool for work to gain access to families in need
- Tool for work within the ethnic community through out-reach projects and information materials
- Tool for work with the entire family in a group setting (wife, husband, children and - if applicable – larger family)
- Tool for work with women and children (as victims of domestic violence)
- Tool for work with men (as perpetrators)

All five tools refer to the SUNIA GEEL curriculum with introductory information and training materials for social workers working with the five target groups mentioned above.

In order to collect evidence on the way these tools work, an observation tool for social workers was developed. This observation tool build upon experience collected by Exchange House front-line social workers and was adapted towards the needs of SUNIA GEEL.

¹ Basics and Source: "Bread for the World" (Editor): Overcoming of domestic violence – A global challenge, Stuttgart 2007.

Observation forms and other documents

This tool to collect evidence on social services provided to families and individual suffering from domestic violence consist of

- Consent form (to be filled out by the client)
- Progress analysis form (to be used for multi-unit sessions)
 - basic data of client
 - partner details
 - children details
 - other professionals involved
 - assessment of client form
 - risk assessment form
- Intervention
- SUNIA GEEL tool-set action plan
- Time sheets for meetings with clients / application of tools
- Self evaluation

CONSENT FORM

I _____ D.O.B. _____

live at: _____

Give permission for information (by phone or letter/report) to be released, about myself, to the _____ (name of social service provider) from the following services:

General Practitioner: _____

Drug/ Alcohol Treatment Centre: _____

Mental Health Service: _____

Probation: _____

Social Worker: _____

Any other Agency- Please Specify Name and Address:

I understand that the relationship is confidential however information is shared within the social work team and with managers **if required**. I also understand there are circumstances where there are limits to the confidentiality: where there are child protection concerns and where there is a risk of harm to you and/or to others.

Signed: _____ Witness: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

Social service progress analysis:

Application of SUNIA GEEL tools

Referral Date:

Referred by:

Reason for referral:

Date Care Plan Began:

Date Care Plan Completed:

Client Details

First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Social Security No: _____

Medical Card No: _____

Name of GP: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

PARTNERS DETAILS

Name	
Address	
Contact Number Date of Birth	
Social Security No	

DETAILS OF CHILDREN

NAME	GENDER	DOB	Social Security	ADDRESS
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

OTHER PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED

PROFESSIONAL/AGENCY	NAME	ADDRESS	TEL NO

ASSESSMENT OF CLIENT FORM

Family and Social Relationships	
Client's strengths	
Education	
Physical Health	
Emotional and Mental health	
Accommodation/Housing	
Income/Money Management Substance/Alcohol misuse	
How long have you been with your partner?	
Abusive patterns	
Safety issues/concerns	

RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

Is there evidence to suggest that the person is at risk to themselves?

If yes, please describe

Is there evidence to suggest that this person is at risk to others?

If yes, please describe

Has the client attempted suicide before?

Does the client have suicidal ideation?

INTERVENTION

Goals for effectively responding to domestic violence victims:

- Increase victim safety and support victims in protecting themselves and their children by validating their experiences, providing support, and providing information about resources and options.
- Inform patients about any limits in confidentiality for example, child abuse or domestic violence reporting requirements.
- The goal is not to get patients to leave their abusers, but to provide support and information.

Provide information about domestic violence to the patient:

- Domestic violence is common and happens in all kinds of relationships.
- Most violence continues and often becomes more frequent and severe.
- Violence in the home can hurt children (if the patient has children).
- Domestic violence impacts the patient's health.
- Stopping domestic violence is the responsibility of the perpetrator, not the victim.

Listen and respond to safety issues:

- Discuss safety planning with her.
- Review ideas for how to keep information private and safe from the abuser.
- Offer 24 hour local, state, or national domestic violence hotline number.
- If the patient is at high risk and is planning to leave the relationship, explain that leaving without telling the partner is the safest alternative.
- Make sure the patient has a safe place to go
- Reinforce patient's autonomy in making decisions regarding her choice

Make referrals to local resources:

- Explain any advocacy and support systems available.
- Refer patient advocacy and support services within the community including legal options, advocacy services, etc.
- When possible, refer patients to organizations that reflect their cultural background

SUNIA GEEL TOOL-SET ACTION PLAN

The following information has to be agreed by the client and workers involved.

Issues to be addressed	Goals	Tasks	Person Responsible	Time Frame

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
Client

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
Social Worker

Date/Day	File #	Client/Family Name	Location/Area	Time Spent	Time Traveling	Presenting Problem	Action Taken	Outcome

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

SUNIA GEEL Self-evaluation form for social workers

After using the SUNIA GEEL tool-box for social workers working with individuals affected by domestic violence, were your expectations met?

What were your expectations of the set of tools?
Were these expectations met?
What were your expectations of the five single tools for different target groups?
Were these expectations met ?
Have you encountered any problems implementing the tools in social service provision?
Any other feedback?



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