

## Appendix 2

### **COMMUNITY-BASED PUBLIC EDUCATION** **REPORT 1 JANUARY 2012 TO 15 MAY 2012**

#### **Overview**

The grant kindly provided by the British High Commission enabled Help & Shelter to conduct community outreach work in the communities of Kaneville/Grove and Diamond on East Bank Demerara and Good Hope/Lusignan on East Coast Demerara.

The 2 contracted community workers conducted awareness sessions on domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and other social ills with community groups, religious organizations, schools, health centers and community representatives. They also provided assistance to victims of abuse in the form of referrals to relevant helping agencies, including Help & Shelter's counselling services, the Childcare and Protection Agency and the police, and interacted with individuals and families in providing information and guidance on problems they experienced.

A total of 2,063 people were reached during the four and a half months of community-based work.

#### **Awareness sessions**

1,823 persons (men, women and children) were reached through awareness sessions conducted at health centers, schools, churches and with other groups. Resource materials were also distributed at the various venues. Students were given information and actively participated in sessions on gender-based violence and child abuse. In the churches and women's groups the focus was on domestic violence, including reporting and prevention strategies, while persons reached at the health centres additionally benefitted from sessions on the importance of family planning. Parenting sessions were also done in the communities.

#### **Home visits**

Between 1 April and 15 May 2012, following the replacement of the Kaneville community worker (who had obtained permanent employment), fourteen home visits were made by the new community worker, who is also an experienced counsellor. Thirty five adults and twenty four children were reached during these visits, 21 of whom received counselling. Four cases were referred to the Childcare and Protection Agency and one to the Probation & Welfare Department. The community worker also provided supported when police interventions were necessary and assistance from other agencies was sought.

#### **Community Walkabouts**

161 adults and 20 children were reached through this activity. Individuals and families were given information regarding different issues relating to domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and other social ills. This was done in the form of one-on-one discussions, through the distribution of leaflets, brochures and posters, meetings and informal interactions.

#### **Networking organizations/groups**

No.	
1	Lusignan Assembly of God Church
2	The Learning Centre - Grassfield
3	Grassfield Women's Group
4	Grove Craft Centre
5	Grove Health Centre
6	Diamond Special Needs School
7	Good-Hope Mandir

8	Lusignan Health Centre
9	Kaneville Pentecostal Church
10	Grove Nursery school
11	Diamond Primary School
12	Diamond Secondary School
13	Institute of Professional Education
14	Kaneville Development Group

### **Other Activities**

- ❖ Meetings were held with the Good Hope policing group during which the chairperson pledged the group's support for the community-based work and promised to tackle issues such as the sale of alcohol and cigarettes to minors.
- ❖ A meeting was held with police officers at Vigilance police station to brainstorm public trust in the police and how Help & Shelter could work with them to reduce domestic violence in the Kaneville area. Also addressed were the inadequate response of officers to reports of abuse, matters not going to trial and victims having to go for medical examinations without police assistance.
- ❖ During February 2012 members of the Kaneville Development Group put up street signs in the area. The members also held a used clothes sale which raised \$3000.
- ❖ The Kaneville Development Group held a take away lunch on 31 March 2012 and netted a profit of \$38, 000. The group also held an inter-school walk, which was a huge success, with support coming from all schools in the community and sponsorship from private sector organizations.
- ❖ The community workers collaborated with Grove Health Centre in raising awareness of the HPV vaccine in schools and in the communities.
- ❖ On 18 February 2012, a discussion was held with Mr. Khemraj Rai who is the coordinator of the Citizen Security Programme. The need for a social venue in Good Hope was stressed and a promise was made to have a community pavilion and playfield prepared by March 2012.

### **Resource Materials Distributed**

Leaflets - over 800  
Posters - 30