

Feedback sought: does love hurt?

FAMILY violence in Manningham will come under the microscope next month when welfare agency Doncare begins a research project on the extent of the problem in the community.

The project, called Dimensions, is expected to take nine months and cost upwards of \$20,000.

The agency has so far received \$10,000 through Manningham Council's community development grants program and hopes to secure more funding later in the year.

Doncare counselling and family violence program manager Carmel O'Brien last week said: "What we're trying to do is get a picture of the incidence of family violence in Manningham and the services that are available; we're trying to get an accurate picture.

"Then we can look at what services we might need

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Carmel O'Brien

in Manningham to assist people . . . I think it has been very generous and very sensible of the council to support us and let us get this project off the ground."

Over the past 12 months, Doncare has worked with other support agencies and police to highlight the hidden problem of family violence.

In May, it set up a Manningham Family Violence Reference Group and in September held a family violence forum for professionals working in the field

Doncare also launched two support groups for women, but was unable to secure funding to run a similar service for men.

It is hoped the research findings will help Doncare with funding applications in the future.

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