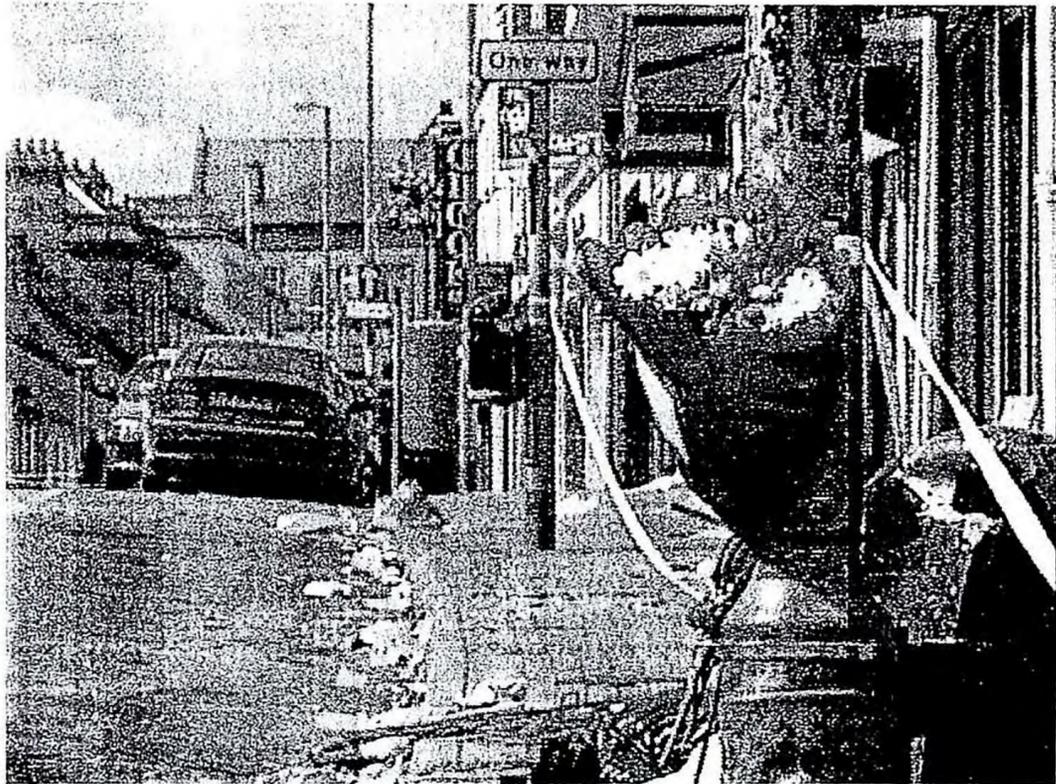


The Response to the Omagh bombing



Building hope out of adversity

A proposal for a major
international & community
initiative for
Trauma and Peace-Building

September 2000

•
•
•
• **The Omagh Trauma**
• **& Peace-building Initiative**
•

- ◆ A legacy from the suffering of the Omagh bombing;
- ◆ Addressing the trauma & distress of the Troubles;
- ◆ Making a real & practical contribution to peace-building.

•
•
•
• **Objectives**
•

- To put in place a world class centre to address the psychological & emotional impact of the Troubles;
- To establish a complimentary peace-building initiative, thereby making a contribution to peace by addressing the grief & trauma of conflict.

•
•
•

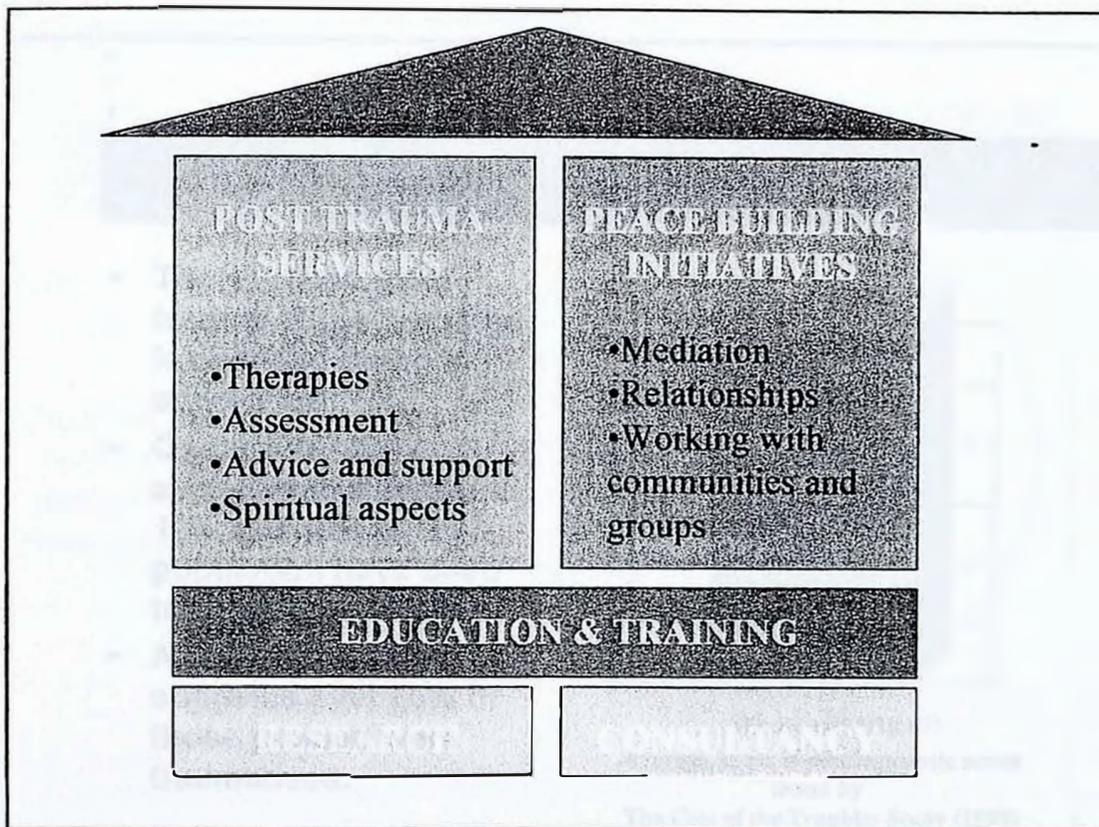
Drivers

- The desire to have in place long term responses to the impact and on-going needs of the Omagh bombing;
 - The need to provide a trauma & peace-building centre for the west of Northern Ireland;
 - The opportunity to conserve, build upon and share the unique learning and experiences of dealing with disaster and trauma in the wake of the Omagh bombing;
 - The desire to respond to the generosity shown to Omagh in the wake of the bombing.
- • • • • • • •

•
•
•

Elements of the initiative

- A service to address grief, trauma and related needs;
 - Complimentary peace-building initiatives;
 - Major educational dimension to raise knowledge about grief & trauma, and methods of intervention;
 - Research dimension to maintain and advance knowledge;
 - A spiritual dimension to understanding and addressing grief & trauma;
 - Consultancy for other communities in trouble;
 - All underpinned by humanitarian values.
- • • • • • • •



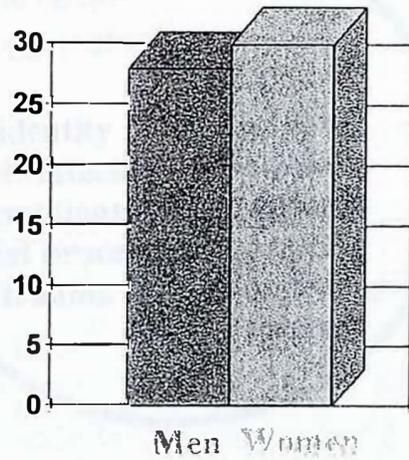
•
•
•

What is trauma?

- **It is a serious psychological reaction;**
 - **In its clinical form is often known as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD);**
 - **The distress of PTSD is very disabling;**
 - **Can have life-long consequences if untreated;**
 - **Can have family and work consequences;**
 - **PTSD and related conditions is increasingly treatable.**
- • • • • • • •

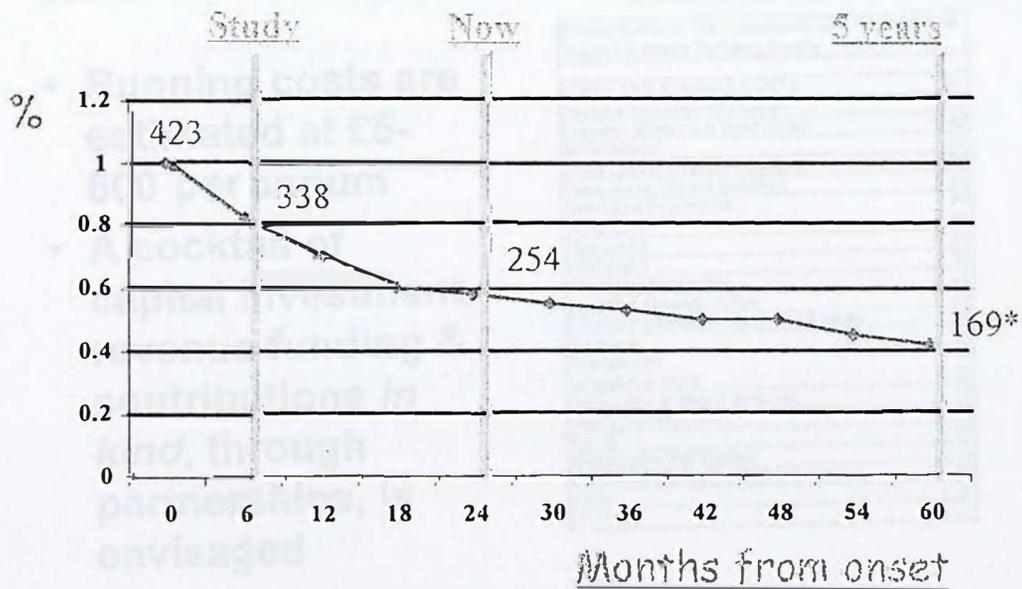
Meeting the Needs

- The psychological trauma of the Troubles is only beginning to be addressed;
- One major study suggests that between 12% and 42% of the population have been traumatised;
- A study in Omagh suggests over 55% of those present were traumatised.

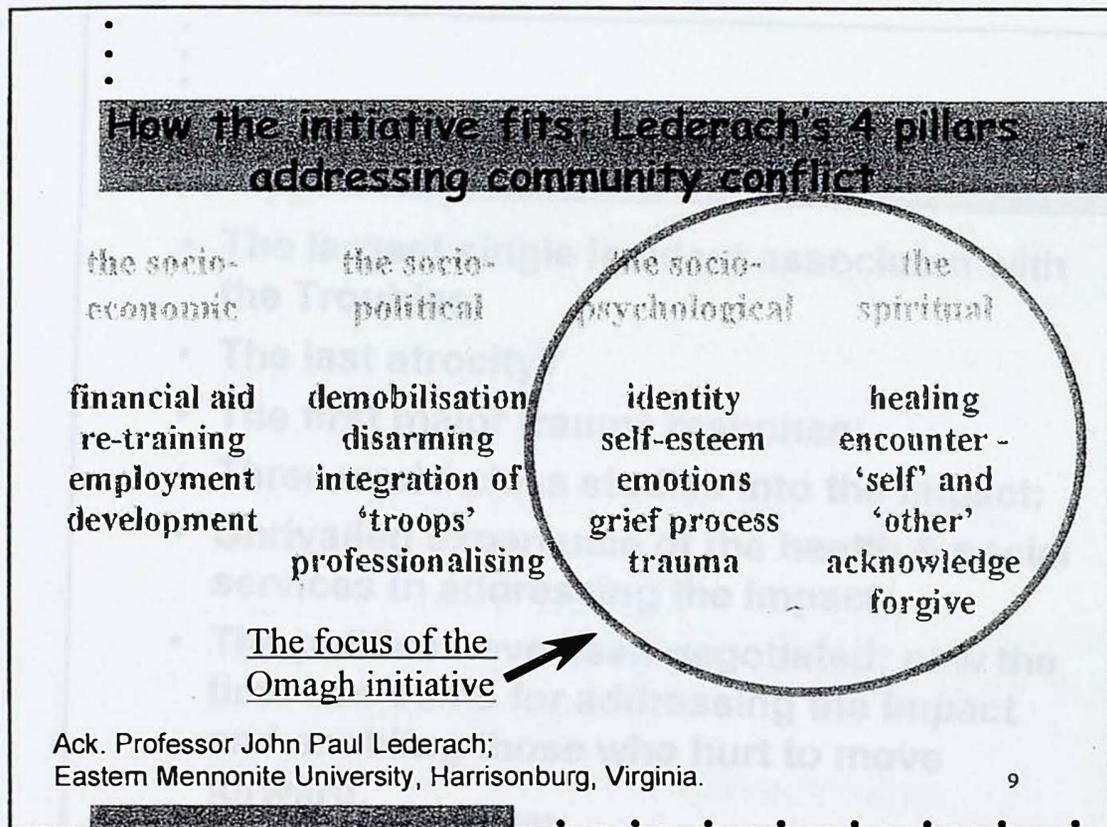


Average levels of post traumatic stress found by The Cost of the Troubles Study (1999)

Projection of PTSD of those present in Market Street, Omagh, when the bomb exploded



* When witnesses & bereaved are included figures could be twice as high



Cost Analysis

PROGRAMME BUDGET

- Running costs are estimated at £5-600 per annum
- A cocktail of capital investment, revenue funding & contributions *in kind*, through partnerships, is envisaged

PROGRAMME BUDGET	
Budget build for the Community and International Trauma & Peace Building Centre	
STAFF AND RUNNING COSTS	£K
Centre & Professional Director	40
Business Manager & Fund Raiser	40
Administrator	20
Team Leader (Trauma Services)	28
Team leader (Peace Building)	28
Consultant Psychiatrist	80
Therapist 1	25
Therapist 2	25
Therapist 3	25
Peace building worker	25
Mediation services worker	25
Education services co-ordinator & costs	30
Secretary	15
Receptionist	12
Caretaker & costs	22
Programme & project designer	18
Centre running costs	20
Travel	20
Staff training and support	10
Trustees & Management Board costs	20
Other	30
TOTAL	553

•
•
•
**Our circumstances, our strengths,
the opportunity**

- The largest single incident associated with the Troubles;
- The last atrocity?
- The first major trauma response;
- Three world-class studies into the impact;
- Unrivalled experience of the health & social services in addressing the impact;
- The politics have been negotiated; now the time has come for addressing the impact and enabling those who hurt to move forward.

•
•
•
Key Benefits

- This initiative can make a difference;
- It is most timely, given the political context, the turning of attention to victims, and the learning from the Omagh bombing;
- It can spread the benefits and learning to a much wider community, whilst enabling the on-going needs in Omagh to be addressed;
- It can realise the desire of many in Omagh to reach out to others, in Northern Ireland and beyond.

•
•
•

Contact details

David Bolton

**Director of Community Care
The Sperrin Lakeland Health
& Social Care Trust
The Erne Hospital
Enniskillen
Northern Ireland,
UK, BT94 3AN**

Tel. No. +44 (0)2866 382310

E-mail:

davidbolton@beeb.net

John McKinney

**Chief Executive
Omagh District Council
The Grange
Omagh
Northern Ireland
UK, BT79 7BL**

Tel.No. +44 (0)2882 245321