



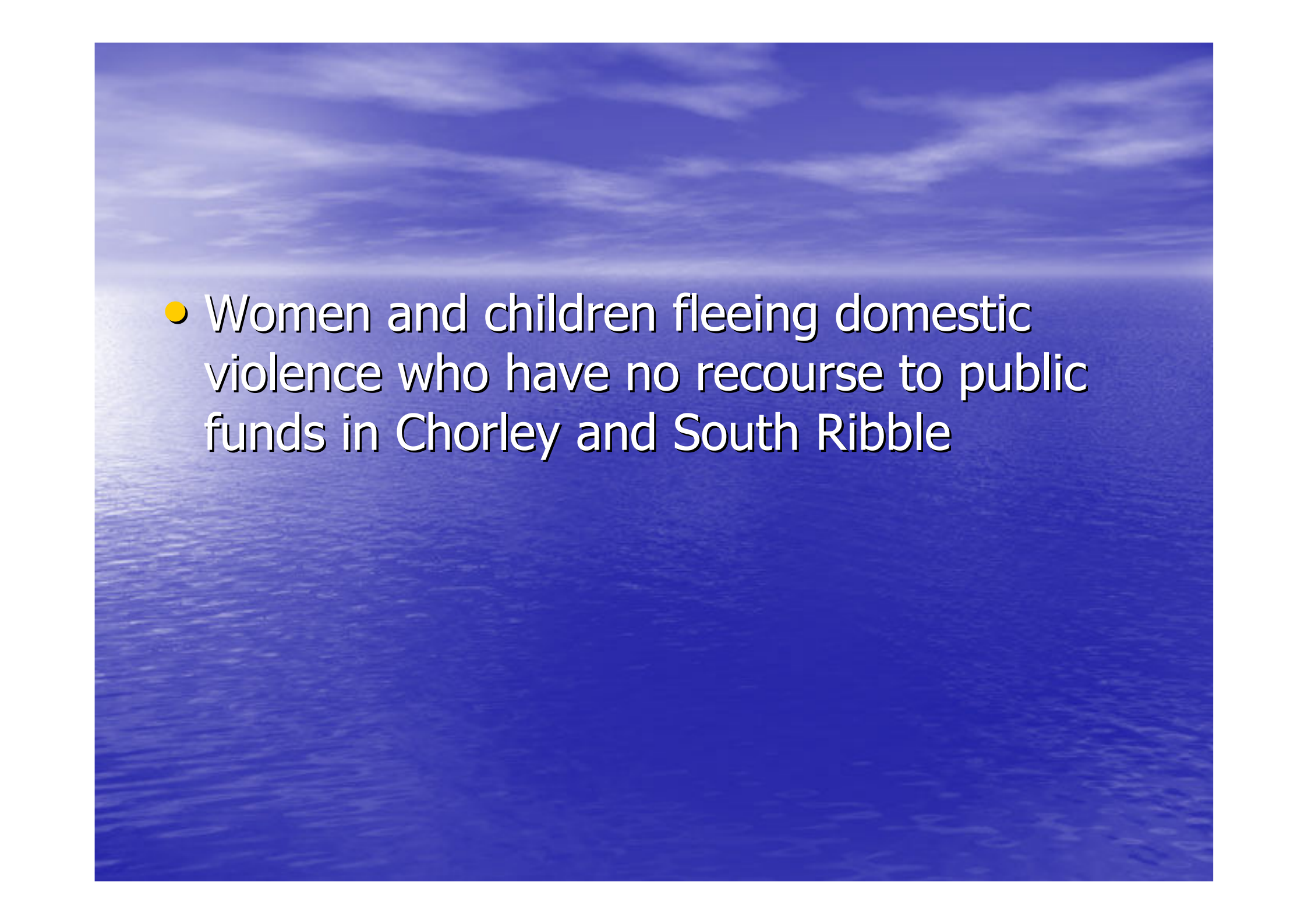
'Umeed'

Cindy Bolton

Together we can end violence against women and girls: A strategy

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/vawg-strategy-2009

- Home Office November 2009

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- Women and children fleeing domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds in Chorley and South Ribble

- Home Office estimates that over 500 women, girls and their children per year try to escape from abusive partners but cannot access emergency housing provision or other benefits because of their immigration status

Immigration status

- **Husband/Wife sponsorship**
- **After 2 years of living in UK**
- **Can either:**
 - a) apply for an extended visa of 2 years or;**
 - b) apply and be accepted for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)**

The Sojourner Project

- Pilot scheme funded by the Home Office
- Works in partnership with other voluntary agencies to co-ordinate support, accommodation and subsistence for women and their dependents throughout the country

What is happening locally?.....

- Anecdotal evidence
 - key members in our local communities
 - 'ad hoc' accommodation
 - financial assistance by way of donation from members of the public
 - practical help and assistance

Background

- Multi agency steering group to consider how we might help women fleeing domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds
- Group also considered how it might help people fleeing from 'so called' honour based violence
- Group agreed a constitution on 2nd June 2009



'Umeed'
Chorley & South Ribble

Faith, Hope and Love.....

Aims and objectives

- To relieve the distress and suffering of victimisation and domestic abuse of those residing permanently or temporarily in Chorley and South Ribble Districts
- To relieve financial hardship, sickness and the preservation of physical and mental health and well being of sufferers of domestic abuse and/or so called honour based violence
- To provide adequate shelter, food, clothing and necessities for people with no recourse to public funds and who are fleeing from domestic abuse and/or so called honour based violence
- To advance the education of and to the benefit of the public, information and education of the effects of domestic abuse and/or so called honour based violence

Powers.....

The group gave itself powers to:


- To raise funds
- To buy, take on lease any property and equip for its use
- To grant funds to the beneficiaries and their dependants

Short term.....

- Offer to provide informal 'ad hoc' short term accommodation to support women and children fleeing domestic violence with no recourse to public funds
- Raising funds by donation from individual donors and grant making bodies

Reality!

- We do not have a 'property' that is available to provide emergency accommodation to people who are fleeing domestic violence and who have no recourse to public funds or who are subject to so called 'honour based' violence
- Funds available to relieve financial hardship etc. are extremely limited!



We cannot eat the whole
elephant today!

Short term.....

- We know that there are families in the community who are willing to provide informal support to women & children who are fleeing domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds by;
 - a) providing informal accommodation
 - b) family financial contributions are being made by way of voluntary giving to support people (women and children) who are destitute

Short-term Risks.....

- Families willing to offer support could be placing themselves at risk from repercussion from family and adversaries 'in the name of 'honour''
- Limited funds could be distributed in an 'ad-hoc' way which could jeopardise any future funding applications to support those who are at risk
- The organisation could be held accountable if it is not able to support its potential 'beneficiaries'

What can 'Umeed' do?.....

- Continue to raise funds
- Develop a protocol and process of application for individuals to access financial support from Umeed from funds raised
- Raise awareness that there are women and children fleeing domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds.....here in Chorley and South Ribble

Conduct a mapping exercise

- To create a local 'directory' of information of what available assistance and support is available locally to women with no recourse to public funds
- Distribute 'directory' to public services and key members in the community

The way forward.....

- Members of Umeed agree that there is a need for statutory and public services and the whole community to agree on a way forward to enable Chorley to support women and their children with no recourse to public funds
- Protect members of the community
- Encourage new members to become actively involved in the work of Umeed