

Violence Against Women

Strategy Group Meeting

25 06 13

Draft Action Notes

Present	
<p>Moira Paton, NHS Highland (representing Community Planning Partnership) Fiona Palin, The Highland Council Caroline Tolan, NHS Highland Gillian Gunn, VAW Development & Training Manager Heather Williams, Ross-shire Women's Aid Cath King, The Highland Council Gus MacPherson, Police Scotland Moira Helliwell, RAL Vikki Wickenden, VAW Team</p>	
Apologies	
<p>Elaine Mead, Chief Executive NHS Highland Cllr Linda Munro, The Highland Council</p>	
1. Welcome & Introductions	Action
Moira welcomed those present and introductions were made.	
2. Previous Minute and Matters Arising	Action
<p>There were a few amendments to the previous minutes to be made. Page 1 should read 14 divisions. Page 2 should read Rape Investigation team Page 2 item 4 should read 'linked to increasing safety' Page 2 item 4 should be amended to read 'It was noted that the Police recognize that to go in 'heavy handed' in historical cases of rape etc could compromise protection of the woman – this has been raised as a concern'.</p> <p>Matters arising not covered on the agenda; Pam Ross was confirmed as the Deputy Chair of the Delivery Group. It was agreed that the minutes from the Delivery group & MARAC Steering group meetings would also go to members of the Strategy Group.</p>	VW
3. Progress in agreeing VAW work plan content	
Gillian advised that the changed framework has gone out to agencies for consultation and that it's almost there in terms of being agreed	
4. Procedures for organisational 'sign off' of VAW Work plan	
It was agreed that while group members had the authority to sign off the work plan on behalf of their organisation, it would go to Safer Highland for noting and Fiona will take the document to the Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee.	MP FP
It was agreed that Gillian would email other organisations who may	GG

<p>out for comments and bring back to the Strategy meeting). Moira advised that a Consultation was launched on 24/6/13 seeking views on a proposal to separate Licensing for Adult Entertainment from Alcohol Licensing. Gillian will draft a response and distribute to the group.</p>	GG
7. Approaches to tackling Prostitution	
<p>There are various approaches to prostitution across Scotland. Moira told the group about 'Challenging Demand' and how we would hope to offer support to women to exit Prostitution. Although Highland doesn't have 'red light areas' as such, prostitution is still an issue. Gillian has done some research online and advised that there are escort services being offered on very explicit locally based websites. Gus offered to contact his colleagues in Edinburgh and Glasgow to find out how they are dealing with this issue.</p> <p>Gillian and Caroline will contact Suzy Calder from the Harm Reduction Service to find out some figures on homelessness, drugs etc for the next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that a position statement re: how we will respond to prostitution be drafted.</p>	GM GG/CT GG
8.VAW training	
<p>All VAW training will be half day from August. Cath will work with the Highland Council to identify groups to be trained. Moira advised she is planning an event which will look at learning exchange and will be inviting people to have input to this shortly.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be helpful to have updates and share information somewhere central like the Knowledge Hub. Gillian will investigate further and report back.</p>	CK MP GG
9.Update from Safer Highland/Single Outcome Agreement	
<p>Moira advised that Julian Innes from Police is the new chair of Safer Highland.</p>	
10. Feedback to/Delivery Group	
<p>This was covered throughout the meeting, Cath told the group about an Inter Faith event which is taking place in Highland on 31 October for local communities – further details to follow.</p> <p>The Police Scotland training event went ahead Gus said he hoped Pam would be able to provide training to include the Strategy Group August/September.</p> <p>Discussion took place on a tiered approach to domestic abuse cases and how levels of risk would mean that different resources may be put in place by the police (and maybe by other services). This was the essence of the MARAC approach and underpinned our formal Risk Assessment approach. It was agreed that a separate meeting would take place between the key stakeholders and Gillian, Moira and Gus would agree who should attend & there would be feedback to a future MARAC steering group and the VAW strategy group.</p>	GG/GM/MP

11. Feedback to MARAC/Steering Group	
The MARAC Steering Group had agreed that there needed to be some closer management of referrals into the system. As a result of these discussions, the police are trialling a “5 incidents in 12 months” referral criterion (compared with the previous 3 incidents) to see if this assists with some of the concerns.	
12. AOB	
Heather asked whether there was any further information at the Safer Highland meeting re Serious Case Reviews. Moira advised that a draft will be available soon for further comment.	MP
13. Date of next meeting	
28th August 2013 10 – 12 Main Conference Room Police HQ	