

# Violence Against Women

## Strategy Group Meeting

28 August 2013

### Draft Action Notes

<b>Present</b> Moira Paton, NHS Highland (representing Community Planning Partnership) 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 Vikki Wickenden, VAW Team	
<b>Apologies</b> Elaine Mead, Chief Executive NHS Highland Fiona Palin, The Highland Council Cllr Linda Munro, The Highland Council Moira Helliwell, RAL	
<b>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<b>Action</b>
Moira welcomed those present and advised the group that RAL have ceased to function as an organisation. Heather offered to contact RAL to offer support to their existing clients. Moira also informed the group that Linda Munro has resigned as political champion for VAW and has recommended that Alistair Christie be the new champion. It is not known when a new Champion will be confirmed by the Council	<b>HW</b>
<b>2. Previous Minute and Matters Arising</b>	<b>Action</b>
The previous minute was agreed as accurate.  Matters arising not covered on the agenda;  VAW training – plans for updates and sharing information on the Knowledge Hub are taking shape, just waiting for photos to be taken. There will be more information available at the next meeting.  Serious Case Review – Moira will chase up the draft as it is yet to be circulated to the group.	<b>MP</b>
<b>3. Summary of new actions added to VAW Work Plan</b>	
Gillian had circulated the new additions to the VAW Work Plan in advance for the group to consider. These activities were agreed.	
<b>4. Progress on final sign off of VAW Work Plan</b>	
The work plan can now be signed off by each agency. Fiona has arranged to take the report to CSPE committee - Cath will find out the date of this meeting.	<b>CK</b>
<b>5. VAW Work Plan – current actions progressing</b>	

<p>Gillian advised the group that the Licensing Clerk has agreed he will send her an email to let her know in advance that there are applications for adult entertainment licenses so that a response can be made. Moira and Gillian attended a licensing meeting yesterday.</p> <p>Rape and Sexual Violence Services – Gillian advised there is the potential for some money to be available to help with this from both the Scottish Government and NHS Highland, she is working on a pathway with recommendations which will be available in a few weeks.</p> <p>MATAC – Gus advised it is hoped this might be set up in September, it is already up and running in other areas and is viewed as ‘good practice’. Gus described it as a perpetrator focused, tactical group, still in early stages with more work to be done on referrals and that it will start off as a small group then open up membership more widely if appropriate. Heather voiced concerns that Women’s Aid had not been involved in the setting up of the MATAC locally as she believed that Women’s Aid can bring useful intelligence to the table. Gus will look into membership for Women’s Aid groups and report back to Heather and the Strategy Group.</p> <p>VAW Work Plan, Police Analytical Support – Gus said he was still keen for the police locally to support the production of the performance reports for the work plan, but couldn’t provide a definitive offer at the moment. It was agreed Gillian would collate data on a quarterly basis and she will email those required to report with a sample data template in order to get views.</p> <p>Education update - Cath updated the group on the progress of some of the Education tasks within the work plan. She and Gillian had met with Callum MacSween (Head of Education) earlier in the week and had a positive meeting. Cath will tie the VAW work plan in to the Education Equalities Group and For Highland’s Children 4. It is hoped that the ‘Safe not Scared’ PSE pack would be available to the Delivery for comments soon – Gillian and Cath will meet with Pat who is ‘Highlandising’ it. Other areas of work relevant for education services, include prevention of Violence Against Women, producing guidance for school settings on how to support young women who have experienced sexual violence from a peer(s) and the rolling out of guidance to early years (and beyond) settings on tackling gender stereotyping.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GG</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GG/CK</b></p>
<p><b>6. Violence Against Women Partnership statements – Prostitution &amp; adult entertainment</b></p>	
<p>Gillian had circulated position statements on ‘Adult Entertainment’ and ‘Prostitution’ to the group in advance of the meeting. It was suggested that as some people hadn’t had the chance to go through this an additional 2 weeks would be given to the group and any feedback to Gillian they would then be distributed to both the Strategy and Delivery Group members for information.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GG</b></p>
<p><b>7. Update on Extraordinary Licensing Board Meeting re ‘adult entertainment conditions’</b></p>	

This was discussed under Item 5.	
<b>8. National Attitudinal Research on Violence Against Women by White Ribbon</b>	
Gillian had circulated the White Ribbon research to the group for discussion. It was felt by the group that whilst there was interesting information, it was not really useable as a bench mark for attitudes towards VAW in Highland. Cath noted that the 'Lifestyle Survey' would include VAW questions in the future, and these could take the format of those included within the White Ribbon research.	
<b>9. Feedback to/from Delivery Group</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted duplication of discussion within the group structure</li> <li>• Questioned usefulness of developing a 'gold standard' pathway when totality of resources unknown</li> <li>• Discretionary Housing Benefit required in Lochaber for women accessing refuge accommodation</li> </ul>	
<b>10. Feedback to/from MARAC group</b>	
<p>Moira is still waiting for the letter from the council re funding for the relief MARAC Coordinator post and asked Cath to chase this up. It was confirmed that Heather's member of staff would be the third point of contact for the MARAC Coordinator if there was an emergency situation.</p> <p>Questions were raised re: Child Protection Policy relating to the mothers of the children at risk and what plans are in place re risk assessment, Gillian &amp; Gordon will look into the policy with Fiona and Bill.</p> <p>Housing - Concerns were raised about how much confidential/sensitive information regarding the woman was required on the form for special allocation points and the difficulty being if too little information was recorded and the impact of this being no house allocated. It was suggested to record the need of the woman in relation to the perpetrator's behavior not her vulnerabilities. It was agreed that the form should include a caveat to include "this form should only be seen by the representative of MARAC from Housing and Senior Manager from Housing Association..." or words to that effect. Gordon to discuss with Housing</p>	<b>CK</b>
<b>11. A.O.B</b>	
Call for Evidence on the Criminal Justice Bill, one of the themes is corroboration and the difficulty of one on one. The Police are doing a separate response and Gillian will draft a statement for inclusion.	<b>GG</b>