

Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group

22nd April 2014

Draft Minute

Present

Heather Williams, Ross-shire Women's Aid (Chair)
Lorraine Revitt, Lochaber Women's Aid
Kate Blowers, Caithness & Sutherland Women's Aid
Caroline Tolan, Ross-shire Women's Aid
Malcolm MacBean, Victim Support Highlands & Islands
Andrew Laing, COPFS
Debbie Stewart, Highland Drug & Alcohol Partnership
Margaret McShane, Police Scotland
Pene Rowe, Child & Adult Protection Committees
Gillian Gunn, Violence Against Women Development & Training Manager
Cathy Russell, Inverness Women's Aid
Cath King, The Highland Council

Apologies

Moira Paton, NHS Highland
Fiona Palin, The Highland Council
Gordon Greenlees, MARAC Co-ordinator

1 Welcome & Introductions	Action
In the absence of Moira and Fiona, Heather agreed to chair the meeting. Heather welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the new Violence Against Women Partnership Group.	
2 Feedback from Safer Highland re: restructuring	Action
Safer Highland has accepted the proposed structure for the Violence Against Women Partnership.	
3 Terms of Reference	Action
<p>The draft terms of reference for the group had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that we would explicitly outline when the Strategy review meeting would take place each year. It was agreed that this would be at the last meeting of the calendar year in November/December as that would allow for time for any necessary remedial actions and would allow us to plan for the year ahead. Gillian will update the terms of reference and recirculate.</p> <p>The links between the VAWP and the other Safer Highland theme groups was discussed. It was agreed that Gillian would speak to Moira about getting the Development Officers together to consider how this could be managed in the future.</p> <p>It was also noted that having two members for some organisations, particularly the Council and the NHS may still mean that decisions about every service cannot be made at meetings. Gillian agreed to raise this</p>	<p>Gillian</p> <p>Gillian/Moira</p> <p>Gillian/Moira/</p>

with Fiona and Moira.	Fiona
4 Key Activities for 2014/15 for VAWP	Action
<p>Gillian had circulated her suggestions for the key activities for the VAWP over the next 12 or so months. The majority of the activities were agreed, with the following additions/alterations/actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns were raised about looking into the voluntary perpetrator programme when the current court mandated one was only being used in Ross-shire. Heather will speak to James Maybee about this and Andrew will raise the issue with the Sheriffs Principal to encourage use of the perpetrator programme across Highland. It was agreed that we needed to investigate the low use of the current programme before looking at establishing another one. It was also suggested that introducing group work in the Inverness area may help to alleviate some concerns that the 18 week programme was long. Andrew asked Women's Aid about how an increased use of the programme would impact on them in terms of offering the women's support. Heather and Cathy confirmed that the women they had contact with whose (ex)partners were on the programme were already known to them either through MARAC or as another referral • Gillian will circulate the charter developed by Women's Aid in England to the group for information • It was suggested that the Safety Group consider doing local research into women and children's experiences of contact to see how the change to the Family Law Scotland Act in relation to domestic abuse is being utilised (or not). Gillian will ask national contacts if there have been any pieces of work done on this and Heather will contact Scottish Women's Aid. Heather told the group that Fiona Morrison would be speaking at the Ross-shire Women's Aid AGM in November on the research she has done in relation to contact. • Re-distribution of the updated multi-agency guidelines for VAW • Child sexual abuse is a key issue for the Child Protection Committee for the next year – Pene suggested that we add something to the work plan • Gillian noted that it was likely we would be asked about the recent Intercollegiate guidance into FGM and be expected to have systems in place for both responding to children at risk and adults who had undergone FGM – we would be asked specifically what we will do – Gillian and Pene will draft a process for this • It was agreed that participation needed to form part of the work activities over the next year and that these could be started in advance of the service standards being agreed. <p>Gillian will update the activities table and recirculate to the group.</p> <p>Margaret updated the group on the 3rd party reporting system for domestic abuse. It was set up in Strathclyde and is expected to be rolled out although she was not aware of the specific plans for this.</p> <p>It was asked how the short term task groups would report in to the VAWPG. It was suggested that they are listed as standing agenda items and that those identified as the lead officers for each group would provide</p>	<p>Heather/ Andrew</p> <p>Gillian</p> <p>Gillian Heather</p> <p>Pene</p> <p>Gillian/Pene</p> <p>Gillian</p>

<p>a brief written update in advance of the meeting. It was suggested that a progress report in the form of a bulleted list would be helpful, similar to what happens in the HDAP. This will be added to the Terms of Reference for the group.</p>	<p>Gillian</p>
<p>5 VAWP Short Term Groups</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>It was agreed that a short term group for sexual violence was required and that one for Cedar (subject to discussion under item 7) may also be established.</p>	
<p>6 Data Collection and Reporting</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Safer Highland had requested a data report for its last meeting from the VAWP, a copy of which was circulated to the group.</p> <p>It was agreed that there needed to be more clarity around exactly what was being collected to ensure consistency and comparability. Gillian agreed to define/clarify those bits of data that could lend themselves to being more ambiguous and email those who received data requests for comments. More information on this will be taken to the next meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that Women's Aid could provide more than the MARAC data and would be able to do this. Cathy had previously emailed Gillian questions about statistics and their purpose and suggested that these would be a good starting point for consideration.</p>	<p>Gillian</p> <p>Gillian</p> <p>Gillian</p>
<p>7 Cedar</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>It was agreed to add Cedar to the VAW Work Plan for 2013-16. It was agreed to establish a Steering Group which would conduct further work on the feasibility of Cedar and the necessary budget in advance of taking things further. It was suggested that the members of the steering group be Educational Psychology, Women's Aid, Children 1st and Social Work Children and Families. Cath will speak to Susan Russell in order to ensure that Public Health Nursing is aware of this development. Gillian will let Cath know which Team Leaders from Children & Families attended the Cedar event in January. Heather will also update the Children & Families 3rd Sector Group to see if there are others who wish to be involved. Heather agreed to be the lead from the VAWPG on the Steering Group. Pene would be happy to be involved if this would be useful to the group.</p>	<p>Gillian</p> <p>Cath</p> <p>Cath/Gillian</p> <p>Heather</p> <p>Heather</p>
<p>8 AOB</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Education</p> <p>Cath circulated a paper in advance on the meeting which highlighted the key messages in relation to VAW that schools should be covering at each stage. This would be further developed to include how this linked with the e-Safety agenda, anti-bullying, and sexual health and relationships education. This would ensure that the links between VAW and other agendas would be made explicit.</p> <p>It was agreed that Women's Aid input would be moved to being recommended in S1 and S2. It was also agreed that the Cedar DVD Mickey and Jools would be added as a resource in primary schools as it provided a good introduction to discussions around safety planning.</p>	<p>Cath</p> <p>Cath</p>

<p>Lorraine asked how on going work within schools by Women's Aid could link into the programme. It was felt that it was very helpful for Women's Aid to have a sense of what schools should have covered by each age. Cath will update the paper to include the links with the other issues and circulate to the group.</p> <p>Responding to Sexual Violence in Schools Settings Cath had circulated a paper to the group in advance of the meeting, but due to holidays, it was agreed that people would like more time to look at it. Those with comments should feed them back to Cath. Pene will also take the paper to the next CPC meeting for views.</p> <p>For Highlands Children 4 The outcome for VAW in the draft FHC4 has been altered from the original submitted by the group. Gillian has emailed Ian Kyle about this change and hopes that it can be changed. The group agreed that it would be useful to consider a wider range of measures for VAW that included forms of VAW other than domestic abuse and also would come under other headings other than 'Safe'. Gillian will email the group with some suggestions and the draft set of outcomes for FHC4. As it is due to be finalised, responses to Gillian will have to be asap.</p>	<p>Cath</p> <p>All Pene</p> <p>Gillian</p> <p>All</p>
<p>9 Date of Next Meeting – 24th June, 10am – 12pm, Ante Rm, Assynt House</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>It was suggested that the VAWPG and the Safety Group take place on the same day to save travel for those from out with the Inverness/Easter Ross areas. Gillian will speak to Moira.</p>	<p>Gillian/Moira</p>
<p>10 Presentation from White Ribbon Scotland</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Callum Hendry and Davy Thompson from White Ribbon Scotland told the group about their experiences in working with other areas in embedding the White Ribbon campaign locally. Actions around White Ribbon are included in the Highland VAW Work Plan and the VAWPG needs to consider how to take this forward. In the short term, Gillian will work with Callum and Davy to draft a plan that will be discussed by the group. It is likely that this will involved establishing a speakers network in Highland.</p>	<p>Gillian</p>