

## Agenda Item 5

### Violence Against Women

#### Strategy Group Meeting

17 04 13

#### Draft Action Notes

<b>Present</b> 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 Cllr Linda Munro, The Highland Council Gus MacPherson, Police Scotland Vikki Wickenden, VAW Team	
<b>Apologies</b> Elaine Mead, Chief Executive NHS Highland Richard MacAulay, RAL Manager Fiona Palin, The Highland Council	
<b>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<b>Action</b>
Moira welcomed those present and introductions were made.	
<b>2. Previous Minute and Matters Arising</b>	<b>Action</b>
The previous minute was agreed as accurate. The matters arising were covered on the agenda. Moira asked if the Deputy Chair for the Delivery Group was still the police representative. Caroline confirmed that this was yet to be discussed as there was no police representative at the previous meeting. It was asked that this be discussed by the Delivery Group at the next meeting.	<b>Cath</b>
<b>3. Update from Police re Single Fore</b>	
Gus gave an update on the new single police force which has been up and running since 1 April. Gus explained that there had been no significant change in terms of day to day policing but that Highlands & Islands had become one of 14 divisions in Scotland.  Highlands & Islands Division will be led by Chief Superintendent Julian Innes assisted by three Superintendents. He told the group about the new Domestic Abuse Investigation team (D.A.I.T) which consists of a Detective Sergeant , 3 Detective Constables and 2 researchers. This team is led by Pam Ross. They are a pro-active investigation team targeting the highest risk offenders	

<p>(those who have had multiple partners &amp; are repeat offenders). Another planned resource to tackle Domestic Abuse is the 'Domestic Abuse task force' which will be led by a Detective Inspector and would service Highland &amp; Highlands/Aberdeen/Tayside. The roles and remits are still being worked through but it's hoped to be up and running soon. Gus reiterated the new Chief Constable, Steve House's message in the press that Domestic Abuse is a priority for Police Scotland. There is a new Rape Investigation team led by DS Caroline McKay with the emphasis being on consistency, the victim and support and senior investigator led. The resources pre Police Scotland are still in place but with these three new units. Gus was asked for more information on how the DALO role will change, he had no details re this but will get Eddie Ross to prepare an update which will be emailed out.</p>	<p><b>Gus</b></p>
<p><b>4. Strategic Assessment – feedback from Safer Highland</b></p>	
<p>Moira spoke about the Safer Highland meeting she had attended the previous day. The discussion had focused on the Public Protection/Community Safety Strategic Assessment and the SOA. The key priority overall is 'to make Highland a safer place'. The VAW Strategy Group had highlighted that its main priority for tackling VAW for 2013/14 would be to set up a network/services to support those who have experienced Rape and Sexual Assault and prevention of VAW (targeting young people). The Safer Highland Leadership Group were keen to see the SOA priorities as being directed linked to increasing safety and, they would wish to see the VAW priorities as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a co-ordinated 'pathway' of interconnected services for those affected by rape and sexual assault</li> <li>• Delivery of prevention education in primary &amp; secondary schools and deliver 'Bystander' Programmes in schools and colleges</li> <li>• Continue to implement MARAC</li> <li>• Develop a 'challenging demand' plan for CSE</li> </ul> <p>Moira emphasised that although this may be the priorities for Safer Highland, this would not be to the detriment of any other priorities agreed by the VAW strategy group and that the VAW workplan over the next year would of course be wider than these four Safer Highland priorities. This was agreed by the Strategy Group.</p> <p>Further discussion points on the priorities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather voiced concerns over women who fall below the MARAC threshold who still need help and support as she felt this wasn't being addressed, although work is being done by the MARAC Steering group to assist this.</li> <li>• It was noted that the Police recognise that to go in 'heavy handed' in historical cases of rape etc could compromise protection of the woman - this had been raised as a concern</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Draft VAW Workplan 2013 - 16</b></p>	

<p>Gillian went through the draft VAW work plan and noted amendments &amp; updates to be made.</p> <p>In particular, discussion focused on how the plan was framed in terms of priorities and key deliverables. It was agreed that Gillian would email the Strategy Group for views on how these should be grouped &amp; reflected in the plan, with a focus on a logic modeling approach to delivering agreed outcomes. Cath and Moira would then be briefed by Gillian on people's views. Cath noted that the key deliverables should remain static for the life of the workplan (i.e. until 2016) but that we should be flexible enough to add, change or remove tasks from the plan. This was agreed by the group. Options on the deliverables would include the current suggestion and a more focused set of options. The date for responding to this would be the 26<sup>th</sup> April with the date for responding to the workplan content the 3<sup>rd</sup> May.</p> <p>Heather suggested that the Strategy needs to be auditable and named persons accountable for each action at Delivery Group level (it was agreed that the responsible person does not need to sit on the Delivery Group, but that the delivery group rep from the agency concerned would be responsible for ensuring the action was undertaken within the agreed timescale).</p>	<p><b>GG</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<p><b>6. Feedback to/from Delivery Group</b></p>	
<p>Caroline spoke to the group about the possibility of changing the basic VAW training to a modular approach i.e. half day, VAW am/MARAC pm and to target specific groups. This was agreed and will be implemented from September.</p> <p>Membership of the Delivery group was discussed and it was agreed that other representatives should be invited to attend e.g. High Life Highland, Sexual Health, Criminal Justice. Cath will write to them to Invite them.</p> <p>A discussion on how to involve survivors took place. Various Safer Highland Development Officers have had experiences in involving survivors/stakeholders, etc.. Gillian will contact the other Development Officers and hold a meeting on how this could be progressed on a partnership basis.</p>	<p><b>CK</b></p>
<p><b>7.A.O.B</b></p>	
<p>Gillian asked Gus whether the CAADA DASH 2009 police training at The Scottish Police College could be run locally as a development day for members of the Strategy, Delivery and MARAC Steering groups as it's going to work out expensive for agencies to attend. Gus will look into this and report back.</p>	<p><b>GM</b></p>
<p><b>Date of next meeting 25 June 2013 10 – 12 Ante Room Assynt House</b></p>	