

# Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group

11<sup>th</sup> September 2014

## Minutes

### Present

Elaine Mead, Chief Executive NHS Highland (Chair)  
Heather Williams, Ross-shire Women's Aid  
Lorraine Revitt, Lochaber Women's Aid  
Kate Blowers, Caithness & Sutherland Women's Aid  
Debbie Stewart, Highland Drug & Alcohol Partnership  
Cath King, The Highland Council  
Gordon Greenlees, MARAC Co-ordinator  
Vince McLaughlin, Public Protection, Police Scotland  
Fiona Palin, The Highland Council  
Donald Buntain, Procurator Fiscal Office  
Karen McEwan, Victim Support  
Lesley Cunningham, Scottish Government Gender, LGBT Equality & VAW Team  
Johann Roden, Violence Against Women Partnership  
Kristeen Gall, Violence Against Women Partnership

### Apologies

Peter Rawlinson – Scottish Prison Service  
Pene Rowe, Child & Adult Protection Committees  
Moirra Paton, Rape & Sexual Abuse Service Highland  
Cathy Russell , Inverness Women's Aid

1 Welcome & Introductions	Action
Elaine welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself as the new chair person for the Violence Against Women Partnership Group. Elaine relayed to the group that she was happy to cover as chair person since Moira Paton's retirement, however did ask if there was any members of the group who would be interested in taking the chair in the future. There were no volunteers at this time.	
2 Previous Minute and Matters arising	Action
Education Pathway needs to be on next agenda. Cath to circulate to members updated education paper. The protocol for schools on responding to allegations of sexual violence was discussed. Guidance in this protocol would include list of key contacts for signposting. It is anticipated the training for this would be delivered by Cath King's team, running twilight sessions for teaching staff. Potential for Women's Aid to deliver training too if they want to be involved/have capacity.	Cath
VAWP Short Term Groups – Safety Group meeting to call on same day as VAWP Meeting to benefit those members traveling distance. Kristeen to arrange.	Kristeen

<b>3 Scottish Government Strategy – Equally Safe</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>Elaine welcomed Lesley Cunningham from Scottish Government, LGBT Equality &amp; VAW Team.</p> <p>Lesley detailed to the group what work is being done with regards to Equally Safe - Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.</p> <p>Members agreed that a national framework for MARAC was essential.</p> <p>Members agreed it was important to build links between MARAC/ADP/NHS/Women's Aid and that, due to ADP's aim of reducing drug related deaths, ADP should link into the Safety Group. Debbie to be included in Safety Group information i.e. minutes etc.</p> <p>Members agreed GPs have a key role in early identification of domestic abuse and it would be useful for a GP to attend the VAWPG meetings. Elaine to speak to GP in Dingwall regarding this.</p> <p>The role of Judges and Sheriffs in referring perpetrators to appropriate programmes and ensuring domestic abuse does not continue through contact of children was discussed. A Safe Contact approach is being developed in Highlands.</p> <p>Lesley to email information links to Kristeen to forward to partners.</p>	<p>Elaine</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Lesley Kristeen</p>
<b>4 VAW Support Officer Key Tasks and Activities</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>Johann detailed her schedule and key tasks for the next year of which the partners accepted. Johann to email partners her contact details and arrange to meet with those she will be involved with in relation to key tasks.</p>	<p>Johann</p>
<b>5 White Ribbon Draft Work Plan</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>Peter Rawlinson from SPS sent his comments to the group regarding his willingness to get involved in the project and as Keith Walker has now left Highland Council, therefore no longer in a position to lead, members agreed Peter Rawlinson to be asked if he would be willing to be the lead in this project. Calum Hendry from White Ribbon Scotland contacted Gillian Gunn regarding possible future speaker training in Inverness, Johann to liaise with Calum once she has contacted Peter Rawlinson and recognised suitable group to take this project further.</p>	<p>Johann</p>
<b>6 FGM Protocol</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>Gillian Gunn and Pene Rowe have produced a 'Responding to Female Genital Mutilation in Highland' paper.</p> <p>The letter to NHS staff from Elaine Mead regarding FGM Procedures and the need for staff to be aware of the indicators. Kristeen confirmed that the first FGM training workshop for staff from NHS Highland Sexual Health has now been arranged and future workshops to be arranged following this pilot.</p>	<p>Kristeen</p>

<p><b>7 Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing – Call for Evidence</b></p> <p>Partners all agreed nothing else to be added to the Call for Evidence paper, and now ready to be sent to Scottish Parliament. Kristeen to send paper.</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p><b>Closed Item</b></p>
<p><b>8 Outer Hebrides Domestic Abuse Forum – Letter to E Mead</b></p> <p>Letter sent to E Mead from OH Domestic Abuse Forum outlining their commitment to implement MARAC in OH. Gordon stated Shetland and Orkney had started steering group and has now employed part time coordinator with their own funding. . Gordon stated that Shetland adopted the same model as Highland and would be beneficial that OH should adopt same model thus allowing protocols to be the same as Highland. Gordon to contact OH to encourage them to set up MARAC with a local coordinator and to offer guidance and support to get them up and running.</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Gordon</p>
<p><b>9 Feedback from Safety Group</b></p> <p>Heather updated members on the discussions from meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> August. Elaine asked about MARAC reporting. Gordon confirmed that there is an Annual Report produced with press release to be included when report ready for issue. Heather agreed to be the contact once report released rather than Elaine, however Elaine’s quote still to be included in the press release. Annual Report to be distributed to GP’s, Johann to liaise with Gordon regarding this.</p> <p>Heather also confirmed Safe at Home Protocol moving forward and members working on submitting comments to Carolyn Thain at Highland Council.</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Johann</p>
<p><b>10 Feedback from/to Short Term Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual Violence Improvement Group – Moira Paton has agreed to chair this group – meeting arranged for 25<sup>th</sup> September.</li> <li>• Cedar Group - Heather detailed that it was agreed that Lochaber area was identified to do a feasibility study to see if we can raise awareness, maybe be able to get funding, Heather working on this. Heather to meet with Sally Armour. VAWP to agree if Cedar to go ahead once feasibility study etc. comes back.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>11 AOB</b></p> <p><b>CoVASS complaint</b></p> <p>CoVass being the organisation who secured funding from big lottery after Highland Council and Scottish Government ceased to fund them due to a number of concerns.</p> <p>Elaine agreed that the initial complaint sent to Lottery Funding from Gillian Gunn was entirely correct thing to do.</p> <p>Cathy Steer, Head of Health Improvement and NHS Highland Communications Team now dealing with this complaint.</p>	<p><b>Closed Item</b></p>

<p><b>Initial case review</b> Previously reviewed at MARAC, Gillian Gunn had suggested that this needs more work.</p>	<p><b>Future Agenda Item</b></p>
<p><b>12 Date of Next Meeting</b></p>	
<p>5<sup>th</sup> November, Cm Room 4, The Highland Council HQ <b>12.00 Noon</b></p>	