

Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group

5th November 2014

Minutes

Present

Fiona Palin, Highland Council (Chair)
 Moira Paton, Rape & Sexual Abuse Service Highland
 Heather Williams, Ross-shire Women's Aid
 Lorraine Revitt, Lochaber Women's Aid
 Cathy Russell , Inverness 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
 Peter Rawlinson – Scottish Prison Service
 Johann Roden, Violence Against Women Partnership
 Kristeen Gall, Violence Against Women Partnership

Apologies

Pene Rowe, Child & Adult Protection Committees
 Donald Buntain, Procurator Fiscal Office
 Malcolm McBean, Victim Support

1 Welcome & Introductions	Action
Fiona Palin who acted as chairperson today in the absence of Elaine Mead, welcomed everyone to meeting. Introductions made.	
2 Previous Minute and Matters arising	Action
Minute agreed. Johann to check with Elaine Mead if she has contacted GP in Dingwall regarding GP representation at VAWP group meetings.	Johann
Outer Hebrides MARAC – Gordon stated he contacted OH to offer guidance and support in setting up MARAC, however they stated that they will probably not go ahead with appointing a coordinator.	
3 Education Pathway	Action
Cath circulated VAW Pathway leaflet and discussed levels as to assisting teachers with learning. Short term working group to ok pathway, should be finalised for distribution end of November, Cath will inform members when ready to go out. Any matters arising to be discussed at next meeting.	Cath
4 Equally Safe and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Development Day	Action
Johann informed group that she attended a Development Day recently which looked at how Equally Safe could be used to take forward work around CSE. VAWP have started work on a questionnaire which will form policy on supporting women to exit prostitution. Johann stated that she has met with Public Health colleagues who have some concerns regarding	

the questionnaire as it stands and Moira also stated her reservations regarding the questionnaire. Johann agreed she will arrange to meet with Lisa Ross to discuss the questionnaire and will also look into what services are available to women in prostitution.	Johann
5 Feedback from White Ribbon Draft Work Plan	Action
Johann gave an update of WR. There has been good progress on the plan and 2 new training courses for men only now advertised on the 2015 VAW training calendar. Johann to contact communications regarding press release and to also advertise to all agencies. Peter Rawlinson agreed to lead WR work in Highland and confirmed 6 members of prison staff now trained for WR Speaker Training. Peter and Johann to meet to discuss setting up a WR steering group after first training in January.	Johann/Peter
6 Drug related deaths and domestic abuse	Action
Debbie spoke about how to identify the link between drug use and domestic abuse in Highland and how best for other agencies to share information about this. Debbie stated that the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) now have responsibility for collecting information about individuals who have died due to drug use. Previously this was the responsibility of the police. When a person dies due to drug use ADP send a questionnaire to the police to build up some information about the deceased to try to gain insight into risk factors, services, etc. In the past year the police have informed ADP that some of the people who had died due to their drug use were also known to experience or perpetrate domestic abuse. Debbie wondered if the questionnaire could be sent to Women's Aid and perhaps other agencies to try and capture some information about women/perpetrators not known to the police and better understand the link between drug use and domestic abuse. WA managers were interested in helping with the info ADP would like but at the moment, unable to assist due to concerns about confidentiality.	
7 Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland	Action
Moira informed group that she has now interviewed for staff for RASASH and one successful interviewee to start in December. Full Service hopefully to start beginning of 2015. Building where RASASH office to be located requires building work done before moving in. Moira stated that RASHAH would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support survivors of sexual violence 2. Prevent sexual violence by campaigning 3. Work with multi-agencies RASASH will support anyone from 13 years male or female. Interim Service provided by VAWP & Rape Crisis Scotland.	
8 50 Shades of Grey – New Movie Valentine's Day 2015	Action
Johann informed group that a new movie based on the trilogy of '50 Shades of Grey' will be released on Valentine's day 2015. The group discussed their individual thoughts on this as while it is presented as a romantic story, it is in fact an abusive and controlling relationship. The group raised some concerns that any criticism about the film could be seen as censorious and the partnership would have to carefully think about any action. It was agreed that Johann would contact Scottish WA to see if they have any response to the release of the movie, particularly on Valentine's day and will feedback to group at next meeting.	Johann

9	Violence Against Women and Girls Fund 2015-16	Action
	Scottish Government has released 1 year funding for agencies working with violence against women and girls issues. This funding has to be applied for by WA with the closing date before end of 2014. WA managers looking for referees to be included in the application process and will contact both Gillian Gunn and Johann Roden for this.	WA
10	Feedback from Safety Group	Action
	Heather gave feedback on earlier Safety Group Meeting. Stating there has been progress on the MARAC outcomes. Access to Safe at Home Scheme ongoing, awaiting feedback from Carolyn Thain. Johann working on Safe Contact and will attend seminar in December and update members at next meeting.	Johann
11	Feedback from/to short term groups	Action
	Responding to Sexual Violence Group met in September – Moira discussed Trauma Pathway – work on this has been postponed until new year due to job roles. Vince to encourage someone from Police Scotland to attend the Responding to Sexual Violence Group as Pam Ross no longer member. Vince to be included in distribution in the interim.	Vince
12	AOB	Action
	Nothing added.	
13	Date of next meeting	Action
	It was agreed by members that both the Safety Group and VAWP group will meet quarterly. Next meeting to be arranged for Feb 2015. Kristeen to contact members with date.	Kristeen