

# AGENDA ITEM 12

## Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group

28<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### Minutes

#### Present

Elaine Mead, Chief Executive NHS Highland (Chair)  
 Moira Paton, Rape & Sexual Abuse Service Highland  
 Fiona Palin, Highland Council  
 Kate Blowers, Caithness & Sutherland Women's Aid  
 Lorraine Revitt, Lochaber Women's Aid  
 Cathy Russell, Inverness Women's Aid  
 Cath King, The Highland Council  
 Gordon Greenlees, MARAC Co-ordinator  
 Donald Buntain, Procurator Fiscal Office  
 Malcolm McBean, Victim Support  
 Vince McLaughlin, Police Scotland  
 Johann Roden, Violence Against Women Partnership  
 Kristeen Gall, Violence Against Women Partnership

Margaret MacRae, Family Mediation Highland (guest speaker)

#### Apologies

Heather Williams, Ross-shire Women's Aid  
 Debbie Stewart, Highland Drug & Alcohol Partnership  
 Pene Rowe, Child & Adult Protection Committees  
 Peter Rawlinson – Scottish Prison Service

#### 1 Welcome & Introductions

#### Action

Elaine welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made and Margaret MacRae from Family Mediation Highland was welcomed as a guest at today's meeting.

#### 2 Previous Minute and Matters arising

#### Action

Minutes agreed subject to one change – Item 9 to read '*about establishing a Sexual Assault Referral Network in Highland*'

- Elaine confirmed she is still trying to engage GP representation at VAWP group meetings and has someone in mind that she has yet to speak to who will hopefully agree to join.
- White Ribbon – update from Johann –Johann contacted Callum Hendry from WR for them to give confirmation that they would not support the Alcohol Industry in relation to RT's involvement in this sector. Callum confirmed that the Robertson Trust are an independent grant making trust which WR accept funding from however WR will never at any time support the relationship with the Edrington Group and Robertson Trust in respect of the alcohol industry.

Kristeen

Elaine

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Examinations – Elaine confirmed that NHS are looking at a collaborative approach across the whole of the North of Scotland to provide this medical expertise and particularly to move the doctors to the victims rather than transporting victims around, in the meantime in Highland we have secured Graeme Walker and his colleagues to continue the same role that they have had for some time. Moira asked if the notion of the Sexual Assault Referral Network is part of this discussion with the Forensic Physicians able to support this, Elaine confirmed yes it is as they are looking at having them support the whole of the North of Scotland as a resource, which would include SARN.</li> <li>• Johann confirmed the VAW Quick Guides are due to be distributed very soon.</li> <li>• Fiona Palin confirmed that Highland Council are now able to set up a zero hours contract to cover the MARAC Coordinator as and when required.</li> </ul>	
<b>3 Education Pathway</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>In Cath's absence at this point of the meeting, Moira gave an update on the Twilight Teacher Training Sessions which took place in March. There was a low uptake in teachers attending in Inverness, however there has been a degree of interest from schools to take up some specific sexual violence prevention training work, but what is in the Education Pathway that RASASH are doing jointly the uptake with teachers in the twilight sessions is low. Lorraine stated that 12 teachers attended in Fort William's session which was well received. Kate confirmed the one in Caithness and Sutherland was low in numbers, with only 2 attending.</p> <p>Cath to continue to update group – item to remain on agenda.</p>	<p>Cath</p>
<b>4 Responding to Female Genital Mutilation in Highland Policy</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>Johann confirmed the Responding to FGM Policy is now complete and has been distributed to the NHS Policy Library. Johann is planning to publicise this to relevant groups, and will send to Ken Proctor to distribute widely throughout Highland. The training on Forced Marriages and FGM is once again scheduled to be delivered later in the year by VAWP and will be advertised widely. There is also an e-learning module that staff can access on this subject. Johann stated that there is no FGM training for clinical staff and is something that is not yet being delivered in Scotland, however it is at the very early stages of being developed and Johann will ensure she passes any update of this on to Gillian Gunn prior to Johann leaving at the end of May. Elaine asked us to provide and distribute information for <u>clinical staff</u> and to again offer them training on FGM.</p>	<p>Johann/Kristeen</p>
<b>5 New Contact Centre in Highland</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>Margaret MacRae thanked the group for inviting her today. Margaret provided the group with information regarding Family Mediation Highland which is a network that provides mediation and counselling to families in Highland with a new contact centre which has recently opened in Inverness. The new contact centre which has had funding provided by the Big Lottery for the next 5 years is the first in the Highlands to open with a future 2 more to open, 1 in Caithness in 2016</p>	

<p>and 1 in Lochaber in 2018. The Contact Centre provides a handover facility, one of which is supported contact where there is no issue around safety of children but they struggle to meet each other through different reasons/concerns, this is a free service. Supervised contacts which are not free of charge are mainly court ordered with the sheriff making the decision. All contact visits are risk assessed prior to the contact and parents are supported with their needs and the children's. Margaret gave the group a good insight into how the centre works and the guidelines prior and during any contact and how the centre is run, she confirmed even although this is funded by The Big Lottery for 5 years, they are envisaging this to continue afterwards. Literature was distributed to the group regarding Mediation Highland and the new centre. Elaine thanked Margaret for coming today and for providing the group with this valuable information.</p>	
<p><b>6 Women and Welfare Reform</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p>Johann gave the group information regarding Employment Support Allowance and discrimination against women which was distributed by directors of Public Health in Scotland which is drawing attention to the new system in deciding if claimants get ESA which will discriminate women. The criteria is harder for women trying to claim ESA than it is for men and there is other issues around welfare reform impacting upon women which undoubtedly adds further stress on women experiencing VAW. Johann suggested that the partnership invite someone from Welfare Reform Working group to give a presentation on what is happening locally. Elaine felt that it was more important to gather information about these issues ourselves and try and influence change at a higher, national level. Johann to get in touch with Women's Aid groups before she leaves to gather information about how welfare reform is impacting upon the women they support. Johann also to find out more about what is happening nationally and enquire about the DWP's equality impact assessments on their policies.</p>	<p>Johann</p>
<p><b>7 Feedback from/to Safety Group</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p>Nothing to report at this time.</p>	
<p><b>8 Feedback from/to Short Term Groups</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p><b>Sexual Violence Improvement Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moira spoke about the FGM policy and in particularly around training, the key thing is to get the policies embedded within the organizations, and organizations being aware of the training that is available. If Safer Highland could look at the new policies and getting commitment from various partner agencies to make sure they are implemented and monitored.</li> <li>• The group has now had confirmation from Harm Reduction and Occupational Health to say that they have agreed there is no longer a requirement for clients to be free from substances before they can access psychological services, Moira states this is a huge step forward and will impact positively on many clients.</li> <li>• Psychological Trauma event is now organized and will take place on May 15<sup>th</sup> in Inverness with an exceptionally large number of people booked on it from a wide range of practitioners attending. Feedback on the event to be included in the next agenda.</li> </ul>	<p>Johann/Moira</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RASASH now up and running and with a new support worker post being advertised next week, they are now up to capacity for individuals who they are supporting. A recruitment drive is being arranged to recruit volunteer workers and plans for a number of launch events with open evenings will take place in the near future.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cedar Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Heathers behalf, Cathy informed that the Cedar Group has hit a number of obstacles in trying to set up a local Cedar Group for Highlands. The group looked at linking with Moray Cedar Group to combine resources and combine the project together however Heather reports that they are currently due to be disbanded due to staffing and steering group issues therefore it is a no go with Moray. Heather made recommendations for the partnership to consider; where do we want to go with Cedar? And if agreed that there is still a need, Heather would be happy to put together a funding bid for a co-coordinator, to the Big Lottery Funding. Other things for the partnership to consider would be that we would need to have full representation from all agencies involved in the group. Cathy indicated that it should be considered that we do actually recognize that there is a real need for a Cedar Group here in Highlands. Issues were discussed with regards to the travel aspect to rural areas. It was agreed that Cedar is a good tool to use however Fiona asked if there is an application made to the Big Lottery for funding should other models not be considered in Highland rather than Cedar. Cathy suggested that the bid should be for a worker to look and work at what model should be used rather than deciding on Cedar and even possibly looking at creating our own Highland model. Cathy to meet with Heather to discuss further and look at what is the best way forward in applying to The Big Lottery for funding .</li> </ul>	<p>Cathy/Heather</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p>Cath updated the group on Item no 3, since it was discussed prior to her arriving in to the meeting. Cath did confirm that attendance was low which was predicted and have not yet had time to evaluate. Cath received an email today which confirms that apparently Education Scotland are appointing someone to take forward how schools rule this work out. With regards to the framework, Cath said that one of her colleagues attended the recent forced marriage training and the feedback was where there is grooming for forced marriage within the framework and which happens at the later stages on primary school, therefore Cath will update the framework in this subject.</p> <p>Elaine informed the group that she has received a report from Vince which has been prepared in relation to a serious incident of violence towards a female who was subject to a MARAC during the offence. This is a sensitive document which requires the group to decide whether</p>	<p>Cath</p>

<p>we want to proceed to an SCR. Elaine asked for the group to read this report and for the group to discuss at the next meeting. <b>Future agenda item.</b></p> <p>Elaine thanked Johann for covering during Gillian's maternity leave and wished her well.</p>	
<p><b>10 Date of Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p>To be arranged.</p>	<p><b>Kristeen</b></p>