

AGENDA ITEM 9

Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group

22nd December 2015

Minute

Present	
<p>Fiona Palin, Highland Council (Chair) Moira Paton, Rape & Sexual Abuse Service Highland Cath King, The Highland Council Cathy Russell , Inverness Women’s Aid Heather Williams, Ross-shire Women’s Aid Kate Blowers, Caithness & Sutherland Women’s Aid Gordon Greenlees, MARAC Co-ordinator Vince McLaughlin, Police Scotland Donald Buntain, VIA Debbie Stewart, Highland Drug & Alcohol Partnership Gillian Gunn, Violence Against Women Partnership Kristeen Gall, Violence Against Women Partnership</p>	
Apologies	
<p>Elaine Mead, Chief Executive, NHS Highland Lorraine Revitt, Lochaber Women’s Aid Malcolm McBean, Victim Support Pene Rowe, Child & Adult Protection Committees Peter Rawlinson – Scottish Prison Service</p>	
2 Previous Minute and Matters arising	Action
<p>The previous minute was agreed.</p> <p>Matters arising - Initial Case review will be discussed at Safety Group.</p>	
3 Evaluation of Schools Training on Education Pathway	Action
<p>The Teacher Training Evaluation had been circulated in advance of the meeting for noting. Cath updated the group. The feedback from training was good, however numbers were low. The training was run as twilight sessions and some of the feedback given was why they are run as twilight sessions, Cath said that we may need to look at a different form of delivery. Lochaber prompted more visits from Women’s Aid and did seem to focus more on domestic abuse. Cath’s initial thoughts are to get this training onto the calendar and to embed it in other training for teachers, such as Sexual Health and Equality and Diversity. It was noted that the training may need to be refocused to ensure that staff were aware that they had should be delivering the VAW framework and that whilst it was good to have RASASH and/or Women’s Aid in schools, there should not be the expectation that they would deliver the framework for them.</p>	<p>Cath</p> <p>Cath</p>
4 VAW Training	Action
<p>Gillian had circulated a paper on training which outlines key messages, Principles and Outcomes in advance of the meeting. There are a number of things we are to ensure we are delivering including CEL41 for NHS, implementing MARAC and our local policies and protocols, all the reasons why</p>	

<p>we are delivering VAW training. Gillian informed the group that we are suggesting the key messages remain the same, i.e. to increase understanding of VAW, to recognise the impact VAW has on individuals and on wider society and to improve practice responses to VAW. The group was all in agreement of these. Gillian informed the group that the Training Group thought about themes that should be covered when delivering training, whether that is intentionally through some of the work that we cover or through the trainer as they are delivering it and agreed that we should look at VAW be seen as an equalities and a human rights issue and ensure that we take into account safety and risk and self care for staff, which was seen as the principles of the training. The group agreed on these principles for training. Each individual training course was discussed within the group regarding the key messages, principles and outcomes for both Level 1 and Level 2 training. Discussion on the content of the Perpetrators training took place. Moira asked it be widened to include perpetrators of sexual violence. Gillian felt that more research was needed in to this to ensure it was evidence based. The current training on domestic abuse perpetrators draws heavily from the Respect training. It was agreed that Sexual Violence and Sexual Exploitation should be split to form two distinct half days. Moira requested that issues of pornography be included in the Sexual Violence session as it was an issue raised by both young people in the community and survivors. Gillian agreed to make the changes and the Training Group would now agree the content of the materials.</p>	<p>Gillian</p> <p>Gillian</p>
<p>5 Forced Marriage Protocol</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Gillian asked if the group were all happy with the content. The only thing that has to be resolved was a change to the MARAC Operating Protocol to ensure that we can put Forced Marriage in as part of that. It was agreed that emergency MARAC meetings were called in line with the MARAC operating procedures for any forced marriage cases. Cath asked that the guidance clarify that men who may be at risk were particularly vulnerable if they were gay and/or if they had a learning disability. Gillian will amend the protocol to reflect this.</p> <p>Agency representatives were asked to email Gillian with the contact details from the various service leads.</p> <p>Further discussion took place on policies and protocols and how to monitor that they were been used effectively and that staff had good awareness of them. It was agreed that this be a future agenda item for the partnership.</p>	<p>Gillian</p> <p>Vince/ Fiona/ Gillian</p> <p>Kris</p>
<p>6 Highlands & Islands MARAC Co-ordination Project Proposal</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>A paper was circulated to the group prior to meeting with regards to the proposal Highlands & Islands Marac Co-ordination. Vince informed the group that Shetland and Orkney have a MARAC in place, based on the Highland model; however the Western Isles do not. A meeting of representatives took place previously and it was agreed that if the Highland MARAC was to be extended the full Highland MARAC Operating Protocol would be adopted by the various partners in the Highlands; however the delivery of the service would be the responsibility of each local authority/community planning partnership. Funding was proposed from each area to support this. The group was broadly in favour of rolling out the Highland MARAC to the Islands, but was concerned about the practicalities of this in the current financial climate. Vince was asked to confirm what funding was available and the Safety Group was asked to consider what</p>	<p>Vince</p>

the practical issues may be in terms of extending the current MARAC provision.	Heather
7 VAW Work Plan – Data Report	Action
Gillian asked the group if they were all happy with the work Data Report for Safer Highland which is connected to the VAW work plan. Gillian informed the group that the strategy comes to an end in 2016, therefore this will be the penultimate Data Report and that we should consider future measures over the course of 2016. Cath noted that due to the small numbers of data in the Lifestyle Survey that there may be issues with presenting the data. She suggested that Gillian check with Jenny Wares.	Gillian
8 Update from Safer Highland	Action
Gillian informed the group regarding the feedback from Safer Highland. SH are going to have an annual work plan and have asked VAWP to identify a theme or specific piece of work that they would want to progress and then report on to Safer Highland. We have been asked to pick a 'Headline' that we would like to focus on over the next 12 months. Suggestions were made regarding attitudes and behavior of young people and safe contact. It was agreed that this area is quite important and a challenging area. It was agreed to suggest a headline around children and young people and primary prevention and early intervention and also some of the work that is left in the work plan, i.e. Cedar, Safe Contact, Safe and Together. Gillian to put this together and send to members.	Gillian
9 Feedback to Safety Group	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARAC Funding re Highlands & Islands proposal – to be discussed further at Safety Group. 	
10 Feedback from Short Term Groups	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Improvement Group Moirra updated the group. SVIG regrouping. Review/refresh. Kris to schedule next meeting prior to next VAWP meeting in March. • Cedar No meeting since VAWP last meet. National Cedar to be invited to come to Highland. Gillian drafting a bid for Big Lottery Funding. Steering Group members to be recognised and invited – scoping exercise to be done. • Training Group This was covered earlier in the meeting. 	Kris Gillian/ Heather
11 AOB	Action
Gillian asked what information any Syrian Refugees coming to Highland would receive, in light of the high numbers likely to have experienced sexual violence and/or sexual exploitation. Fiona told the group that the third sector interface is involved with the statutory partners in considering the needs of any future refugees to Highland.	
12 Next Meeting	Action
Tuesday 29 th March 2016, 1pm – Birnie Centre, Raigmore.	