

Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group

29th March 2016

Minute

Present	
<p>Elaine Mead, Chief Executive, NHS Highland (Chair) Fiona Palin, Highland Council Cath King, The Highland Council Carolyn Thain, Highland Council Heather Williams, Ross-shire Women’s Aid Kate Blowers, Caithness & Sutherland Women’s Aid Lorraine Revitt, Lochaber Women’s Aid Gordon Greenlees, MARAC Co-ordinator Vince McLaughlin, Police Scotland Debbie Stewart, Highland Drug & Alcohol Partnership Peter Rawlinson – Scottish Prison Service Chrissie Campbell – Victim Support Gillian Gunn, Violence Against Women Partnership Kristeen Gall, Violence Against Women Partnership Visitor – Joanna McLaughlin, Improvement Service</p>	
Apologies	
<p>Moira Paton, Rape & Sexual Abuse Service Highland Cathy Russell , Inverness Women’s Aid Donald Buntain, VIA Pene Rowe, Child & Adult Protection Committees</p>	
2	Previous Minute and Matters arising
	Action
<p>The previous minute was agreed. Elaine thanked Fiona for chairing the last meeting. Cath King updated the group on the Education Pathway. Ailsa Villeagas is planning to develop a specific relationships day and the Violence Against Women framework would fit in there nicely. Cath iterated again that getting teachers to attend teachers training is still a challenge.</p>	
3	National Performance Framework for VAW
	Action
<p>Jo McLaughlin introduced herself and informed the group that she is from Improvement Service and her role is to co-ordinate the National VAW network. Jo is working with Scottish Women’s Aid, Scottish Government and COSLA to develop a VAW framework as part of the equally safe accountability work stream. Jo has recently delivered workshops in and around Scotland including a recent one in Inverness, she gave the group an overview of what the plans are how they see it potentially working.</p> <p>Jo will send a copy of the draft Framework to Gillian for distribution with the minute. She would welcome feedback from the Partnership on what information we think we could collect locally to demonstrate how we are tackling Violence Against Women locally – including our activity around prevention, service provision and improvement and tackling perpetrators. Jo asked the group to email her with suggestions</p>	
	<p>Jo Kristeen /Gillian</p> <p>All</p>

4 VAW Partnership Self Assessment	Action
<p>Jo explained to group that part of her role as national co-ordinator she can support VAW Partnerships to undertake a self assessment process. This focuses on partnerships strengths and weaknesses and identify areas that they could potentially be more effective in and support them to put together an improvement plan based on what they have identified. This has been done with about 10 VAW partnerships across Scotland to date. There is a standard check list that is distributed which looks at 9 key areas, with 50 questions in total. The checklist is sent around every member of the partnership and asks you to rate how effective you are in certain areas, this should be completed in 3 weeks and then the Improvement Service would come back and do a little workshop with the group and work on areas that have been identified for improvements. Jo to send a draft check list to Gillian.</p> <p>Elaine asked the group to give their comments to Gillian on this and then Gillian to report any findings/comments at next meeting. The group agreed to undertake the self assessment process with Jo's support.</p>	<p>Jo</p> <p>All Gillian</p>
5 Summary of Work Plan – remaining actions	Action
<p>Gillian distributed a copy of the Work Plan detailing the remaining actions, as many were remaining and it was unlikely that all would be completed before the end of the year. There were also some that she suggested be removed from the action plan as they had been overtaken by other issues, or may be more relevantly assigned to other groups. Elaine noted that the group had a significant number of actions to undertake this year and suggested that they be prioritised. Gillian will update the actions to reflect discussions and recommend to the group what our priorities for 2016 should be.</p> <p>As part of the discussions on the remaining actions the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gillian and Vince will write a letter, involving Moira, on behalf of the group to the North of Scotland Planning Group in relation to the work they are progressing on forensics • RASASH and the Women's Aid Groups would have off line discussions in relation to referrals between their services • Gillian will check with Helen Sikora (NHS) and Rosemary Mackinnon (THC) re: access to private spaces and information on other languages • Fiona asked that Gillian check with Carolyn Thain re: Housing actions for women with substance misuse and domestic abuse issues • 	<p>Gillian</p> <p>Gillian/ Vince/ Moira</p> <p>KB/LR/ CR/MP/ HW Gillian Gillian</p>
6 Monitoring Policies & Procedures	Action
<p>Gillian distributed a paper that she has started to put together looking at how we should develop policies and implement them, noting that many of the policies should be monitored within the statutory agencies. It was agreed that Gillian will email the paper to the group for additions, in particular in relation to the monitoring and evaluation sections. Elaine asked that we make sure that our related policies are all on the Intranet and accessible to staff if and when required. Gillian stated that presently there are 3 different places where information is accessible, however we are looking at having the information on one place that all policies will be placed and updated as required, this will be an external site where anyone can access.</p>	<p>Gillian All</p>

7 Sexual Violence Prevention Pack - RASASH	Action
<p>In Moira's absence Gillian updated the group. There is a national project through Rape Crisis Scotland where they are delivering prevention education in schools. In Highland in the past we have had an agreement with RCS that we would have a training for trainers model where we would have people going out and delivering the training, which unfortunately didn't happen in the way that was hoped. With RASASH now established and have money through the Prevention Fund to employ someone, they have been delivering much of the programme thorough a paid worker. However, it is impossible for this individual worker to meet the demand and need for this work within schools. Moira and Gillian have met to discuss how we might be able to take this work forward to ensure wider access for schools for this training. Gillian suggested that there were two potential options – firstly, to try again with a training for trainers model and secondly, to seek funding to employ others to deliver sessions. The group had a discussion regarding staff being available to be trained. Kate and Peter noted that they had staff who may be able to be trained to deliver sessions. Cath noted the discussions that we had previously in relation to building capacity within schools for school staff to deliver consistent messages in relation to VAW. Gillian noted that RASASH are approached by schools on an ad hoc basis to deliver training and that this can be difficult for staff who have been trained and where it is not their day job to have the capacity to deliver sessions. However, the group felt that whilst there were offers of support to develop capacity we should explore those prior to seeking funding. Elaine asked for this to be left on agenda and further discussions to take place when Moira is also present.</p>	<p>Kristeen</p>
8 Feedback from/to Safety Group	Action
<p>Heather gave the feedback from the Safety Group meeting held earlier. The Group wanted to inform the Partnership that they have been looking to implement the principles of the Safe & Together model for sometime, in conjunction with the Child Protection Committee. Heather asked the group for views on how this could be supported by the Partnership. Vince noted that it had recently been confirmed as part of the Child Protection Committee Development Plan and he hoped that this would help move things along. Fiona noted that the focus on auditing records may be part of the issue. It was agreed by the group that the results of the audits completed elsewhere in Scotland were quite likely to reflect local practice, therefore it might be useful to consider other ways of supporting the improvement of practice in relation to children living with domestic abuse and protection responses. Gillian will amend the work plan and will have discussion with Amelia Wilson about this.</p> <p>Vince informed the group that the roll out to MARAC Islands is going well, Gordon has been doing a bit of work on the operating protocol and has been over in the Islands. Shetland and Orkney now up and running, Western Isles should be up and running by April.</p>	<p>Gillian</p> <p>Gordon</p>
9 Feedback from Short Term Groups	Action
<p>Sexual Violence Improvement Group</p> <p>Gillian circulated an outline of tasks for the Sexual Violence Improvement Group in Moira's absence. The group were happy with the suggested tasks and Elaine asked that if anyone has specific queries or issues with the content, or additions, they should contact Moira directly.</p>	<p>All</p>

<p>Cedar No update</p> <p>Training Group Work is continuing – no specific update.</p>	
<p>10 AOB</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>The Partnership thanked Cath King for her support and presence during her time as a member of The VAW Partnership and wished her well in her retirement. Thanks also went to Carolyn Thain for her role as a member of The Safety Group, Carolyn is also retiring.</p> <p>Gillian updated the group with regards to the VAW budget for the next financial year and what we will have left to spend. Training will take up most of the remaining spend. Elaine asked that an item on the Budget should be added to the agenda at end of financial year for discussion.</p> <p>Debbie informed the group that there will be an Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Annual Stake Holders' day on the 31st May with a big host of speakers. Debbie to send the link to Kristeen regarding this for distribution to members.</p> <p>Gillian informed the group that she has had an approach from the Army Welfare Service to ask if they could attend a future partnership meeting to talk about the service they offer and to see if they could work with the partnership. It was agreed to invite them along to a future meeting.</p>	<p>Debbie/ Kris</p> <p>Kristeen</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Tuesday 21st June – Committee Room, John Dewar Building 13:00 – 15:00</p>	