

Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group

20th September 2016

Minutes

Present

Elaine Mead, Chief Executive, NHS Highland (Chair)
 Donald Buntain, VIA
 Kate Blowers, Caithness & Sutherland Women's Aid
 Peter Rawlinson – Scottish Prison Service
 Heather Williams, Ross-shire Women's Aid
 Gordon Greenlees, MARAC Co-ordinator
 Melody McIndoe - RASASH
 Gillian Gunn, Violence Against Women Partnership
 Vince McLaughlin, Police Scotland
 Debbie Stewart, Highland Alcohol & Drugs Partnership

Apologies

Chrissie Campbell – Victim Support
 Geoff Main – COPFS
 Fiona Palin, Highland Council
 Kristeen Gall, Violence Against Women Partnership
 Lorraine Revitt, Lochaber Women's Aid
 Moira Paton, Rape & Sexual Abuse Service Highland
 Ailsa Villegas, The Highland Council

2 Previous Minute and Matters arising

Action

The previous minute was agreed as a true and accurate record.

Substance Misuse & Housing – Debbie asked if she might raise the issue of homeless women with substance misuse issues at the Homelessness Action conference on the 21st September. It was agreed that this would be useful. Gillian also noted that she had discussion with Lyndsey Greene, VAW Housing Lead and this is an area of concern that we hope to include in the future action plan.

Debbie

Sexual Violence Prevention Pack – Melody had circulated a paper in advance of the meeting outlining some of the issues in delivering the prevention pack across Highland with one worker and requesting commitment from agencies to support delivery. It was noted that previously that individual managers did commit their staff to deliver the pack, but, in reality, did not release them to do so. Many have now moved on and it was agreed that we should consider this model again. Melody noted that staff located in areas which were more difficult to travel to should be targeted, in particular, Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross, Caithness and North West Sutherland. The group was asked to nominate individuals who may be able good at delivering this type of material to young people to Melody who will arrange a training for trainers on the pack which will be approximately 5 days, but will depend on the experience and knowledge of nominees.

All

Melody

<p>role of social media and how we might reach a wider cross section of the public to establish views. Debbie noted that as part of the ADP needs assessment they conducted a survey which received 800 responses. They also hosted Community Consultation Events. Gillian will consider how to use social media and technology, but noted that she is part of a very small team.</p> <p>Gillian and Debbie had previously considered how to involve service users in supporting us determine our progress with actions and that this was a wider issue than just VAW. It was agreed that this be raised at Safer Highland. Elaine asked Vince to do this on her behalf if she was not able to attend the December Meeting.</p> <p>Heather noted that she would wish to include in the future VAW plan conducting action research, driven by survivors. The group was supportive of this and Debbie was asked to formally approach UHI for support through the Public Health Research Group.</p>	<p>Gillian</p> <p>Elaine/ Vince</p> <p>Debbie</p>
<p>7 LGBT Youth Scotland Charter Mark</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>It was agreed that the Partnership was interested in trying to obtain the LGBT Youth Charter Mark. Gillian will pursue this with LGBT Youth Scotland and will send round some information from the Dumfries VAWP who has already received the award. Ross-shire and Inverness Women's Aid groups are already seeking individual awards. It was recognised that we are not managing to reach our LGBT community effectively in terms of their experiences of VAW. Gillian noted that this work would complement other activity on going within NHS Highland in relation to the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index, which Elaine explained is now being adopted throughout all NHS boards in Scotland.</p>	<p>Gillian</p>
<p>8 Feedback from Safety Group</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Heather fed back that the Safety Group has been considering the MARAC Action Plan and, in particular, the issues with flagging MARAC cases on agency systems and consistency between MARACs. There are new representatives on the group who are helping take forward some of this work. Elaine asked Gordon how the Islands MARACs were developing and he confirmed that they were all up and running and that there was good engagement in all areas.</p>	
<p>9 Feedback from Short Term Groups</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Sexual Violence Improvement Group This group is due to meet late October and new membership has been sought.</p> <p>Cedar Group This group has been overtaken by other work in relation to children and young people and is being considered by the Safety Group. It was requested that this short term group be dissolved and removed as a standing item from the agenda. This was agreed.</p> <p>Training Group The final meeting for this group has been held. All outstanding work has been completed. The VAWP can expect a training strategy to be developed to be delivered alongside the new Strategy.</p> <p>Elaine asked Peter how progress on White Ribbon was being made. Peter</p>	

<p>noted similar issues in terms of engaging speakers and finding opportunities for them to be involved was a similar challenged face by the delivery of the Rape Crisis Prevention Pack. Kate offered to put Peter in touch with a local football team and the group was asked to identify similar opportunities for Peter to discuss VAW with groups of men. Peter told the group that there is a national White Ribbon meeting in early October where a number of issues will be raised. He will feedback on any issues to Gillian. It was agreed to consider how to refresh the pool of speakers. Gillian, Peter and Heather will take this forward.</p>	<p>Kate All</p> <p>Peter/ Gillian/ Heather</p>
<p>10 AOB</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Scottish Women’s Rights Centre – Gillian has received a lot of literature from the SWRC – contact her if you want posters and cards for your organisation</p> <p>SPS Perpetrator Programme – Peter updated the group on progress being made to develop and deliver a perpetrator programme to men in Inverness Prison. He is working with Criminal Justice Social Work on this and asked if Gillian would be able to support the continued development, which was agreed. Gillian asked how the programme that Action for Children had been considering fitted in to this as CJSW are keen to use the same programme as SPS. Peter thought that the best person to contact to find out was Louise Wright. Gillian is already in contact with James Maybee about a related issue and will pick it up with him too.</p> <p>LGBT Forum – Melody noted that they have been asked to include a piece in the Forum’s “Dividing Lines Magazine” and asked the group for views on what angle we would be interested in taking. Melody will send a link to the magazine to the group. It was suggested that we could ask to do a series of articles in relation to gender based violence. Melody will ask the Forum. In the meantime, if anyone has suggestions for the first piece, contact Melody.</p> <p>Fiona Palin’s Retiral Elaine reiterated the group’s thanks for Fiona for her good work over the years and wished her well in her retirement.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Gillian</p> <p>Gillian</p> <p>Melody All</p>
<p>11 Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>20th December, 1pm – 4pm (extended meeting for self assessment), Multi-purpose Room, Centre for Health Science, Inverness</p>	