

Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group	
12th December 2017	
Minute	
Present	
<p>Elaine Mead, Chief Executive, NHS Highland (Chair) Vince McLaughlin, Detective Chief Inspector, Public Protection, Police Scotland Kate Blowers, Manager, Caithness & Sutherland Women's Aid Elaine Fetherstone, Manager, Inverness Women's Aid Moira Paton, Manager, Rape & Sexual Abuse Service Highland Donald Buntain, VIA Kirsty Baird, Health Development Officer, Highland Council Kimberley Philip, Children's Service Manager, Barnardos Hame Lata, Consultant, Sexual Reproductive Health, NHS Highland Chrissie Campbell, Service Delivery Officer, Victim Support Gillian Gunn, Training & Policy Manager, Violence Against Women Partnership Maggie Hume, Training Officer, Violence Against Women Partnership Kristeen Gall, Administrator, Violence Against Women Partnership</p>	
Apologies	
<p>Antony Gardner, Group Manager, Prevention and Protection, SF&RS (Now retired) Jacquelyn Jennett, Area Care & Learning Manager North, Highland Council Gary Aitken, Assistant Procurator Fiscal, COPFS James Maybee, Principal Officer, Criminal Justice Social Work Services Lorraine Revitt, Manager, Lochaber Women's Aid Karen McBey, Manager, Ross Shire Women's Aid Debbie Stewart, Coordinator, Highland Alcohol & Drugs Partnership Christine Gordon, Care & Learning, Highland Council</p>	
2	Previous Minute and Matters Arising
	Action
<p>The previous minute was agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>A Deputy Chair has not yet been confirmed. With both James and Jacqueline not present at this meeting, this will be a member from Highland Council and will be confirmed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Gillian informed that the performance framework nationally has changed slightly and the equally safe delivery plan includes the amended framework.</p>	
3	2016-17 Data Report
	Action
<p>Gillian informed that the local data report for 2016/17 is almost complete and will be circulated to members for signing off electronically. Final data from the Police had been received this week. It was agreed that future data reports should be combined with written narrative around partnership activities. Members agreed to also share information from other sources to illustrate the experiences of individuals in Highland affected by VAW. Moira noted that RASASH were developing and implementing an outcomes framework that would be a useful local data source. Chrissie agreed that Victim Support will also look at outcomes data. Vince noted that Concern Hub data may also be available through the Police.</p>	
4	Safer Highland Funding - SBAR
	Action
<p>At the last meeting there was a decision to write to Safer Highland in terms of</p>	

<p>third sector funding. Gillian has been in contact with the specialist organisations in terms of what that content should look like. There should have been a Safer Highland meeting on the 5th December where the paper would have been tabled, however it was cancelled. The original draft was has become quite long and questions had been raised about the original recommendations included in the paper in relation to Safer Highland's role around funding decisions. Agencies are having on-going discussions about reducing funding to ensure they are operating efficiently. However sometimes those discussions are not happening any widely than at the level of single agency, but these decisions can have a significant impact across a range of services, not just the organisation receiving a reduction in funding. Elaine M agreed that it is very powerful as to what has been put together, however we must make sure that agencies are delivering on the outcomes they have been asked to achieve. It was agreed that the letter should go to the Chief Officers Group in the first instance, rather than Safer Highland. Gillian will amend and send to Steve Barron (Highland Council), George MacDonald (Police Scotland) and Elaine M.</p>	<p>Gillian</p>
<p>5 Structure of Partnership</p>	
<p>It was agreed at the last partnership meeting that, because we have a new Action Plan, we should revise our structure. Gillian was asked to work this into a paper and which she presented to members to ask for their views on this. To start with the Partnership was to change the way we operate these meetings. This will involve the sub groups reporting in and more scrutiny and updating the action plan. There should be more focus on the budget, looking about what the emerging issues are and really making it much more about the Action Plan. The partnership was asked to determine the sub groups structure, who was on them and what their priorities are and then receive updates from them. The partnership agreed to meet three times a year and have more of a focus on governance and scrutiny. It was agreed to have three permanent sub groups and one short term group. The three permanent sub groups will deliver actions around the aims in the Action Plan, these would be; The Prevention and Early Intervention Group, The Operational Group to incorporate the MARAC Steering Group (presently Safety Group) and the third being The Perpetrators Group. The short term group would continue as The Sexual Violence Group. Elaine M asked about reporting in to Safer Highland and this doesn't feel like it is the solid scrutiny place to go because Safer Highland is more of an entity and not a governance of the community, so asked if this is something that would change. Vince informed that this will most likely change and will end up becoming more of a focused Public Protection Governance Group through the Chief Officers Group. Elaine M asked Vince to ensure the VAW was included in the proposal that he is drafting for Chief Officers. Discussions took place with regards to who would chair the relevant groups. All agreed that Craig Thomson would continue to chair the Operational Group, Gillian will approach Bernadette Cairns and James Maybee for Chairs for The Prevention and Early Intervention Group and The Perpetrators Group. Moira will continue to chair The Sexual Violence Group.</p>	<p>Gillian Moira</p>
<p>6 Terms of Reference</p>	
<p>Terms of Reference was discussed within the structure of Partnership and accepted as draft. Gillian will update and recirculate the final version.</p>	<p>Gillian</p>
<p>7 Funding for Third Sector/VAW in Highland</p>	
<p>Discussed under Item 4.</p>	

<p>8 Police Scotland Consultation</p> <p>Vince wished to highlight to members the recent Police Consultation which details information on the closure of Police stations primarily around the Ross Shire/Sutherland area and Portree and Skye. Elaine asked if these closures would have a major impact, which Vince confirmed in reality in terms of operational footprint these stations do not play a direct role, they are still part of the estates that the policing structure has been focussed on. The link is available for partners to see regarding the areas affected; https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/estates</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>9 VAW Logo</p> <p>Kris presented the drafted choices of the new VAW Logo which had been created by Barry Collard, Improvement Specialist & Graphic Designer at Public Health, NHS. Barry was approached and asked if he had any ideas on a logo which primarily was for the use on the new VAWP Internet website which is presently being adapted. Barry drafted a sample Logo's which was recently distributed to members for their views. This caused some discussion, agreement and disagreement by members, therefore it was asked that members look at this today and agree on a suitable logo to put closure on this and to allow it to now be presented on the new website, VAWP literature and training materials. Discussions took place and the majority of members agreed that it would be good to have our own branding/recognised logo. Members moved to agree that bird like logo disregarded and to go back to Barry with the design which was originally presented to members and asked him to soften this and make it less masculine and the wording to be added to reflect what we do. To then be distributed to members to ask for their preference and final decision made on the preferred option by all.</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Kris All</p>
<p>10 National Developments</p> <p>Guidance on Sexual Entertainment Venues There is a consultation on guidance for licensing sexual entertainment venues. This is new legislation where councils are now going to set the number of licences where they provide "adult entertainment" Gillian is developing a draft response and working with Susan Blease from HC about the legal side of this. VAW will be involved in writing the policy and preparing a response to this and has a deadline of February 2018.</p> <p>National Violence Against Women Network – Service Standards This is related to the performance framework, which, when first developed there was lots of suggestions on what we could be monitoring and after consultation on this there is now a reduced number of performance stats to collect nationally and locally through the National Performance Framework. Service standards are now also being developed which is much more about what are people's experiences when going to services when affected by VAW issues. This is in draft at present and which should be discussed on the agenda at the next National Meeting on the 13th December. Gillian informed that she will give feedback once this develops. Moira asked about the set of standards that are already set for other organisations for example Rape Crisis Scotland and others across the whole of UK which are very onerous. Moira asked are these new service standards going to be additional or will then incorporate the ones already set. Gillian said that as far as she can remember, the new standards are going to be more about partnerships and how do we establish how good our services are, however Gillian will raise this at the meeting and feedback to the group.</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Gillian</p> <p>Gillian</p>

<p>11 Delivery Plan for Equally Safe</p> <p>Gillian informed members that the Delivery Plan for Equally Safe has now been issued by Scottish Government and COSLA and it is quite a different version that was distributed originally. There is nothing unexpected; however something that Gillian wanted to note was that there is a move to make MARAC statutory. There are also things around the standards for NHS in terms of health care following rape and sexual assault and a lot around prevention work. Elaine suggested that members read the Delivery Plan and it be featured as the first agenda item for all new sub groups in order to set the scene.</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>All</p>
<p>12 Feedback from/to Safety Group - Kate</p> <p>Child Plan Domestic Abuse Audit recommendations have now been signed off by Safety Group. This audit was compiled in relation to how we respond to domestic abuse in families in Highland and how it relates in practice and then comparing any differences in 2013 – 2016. There was some ‘learnings’ from the report and The Safety Group have now looked at recommendations and approved in full, however have asked the Partnership if they are in agreement that the Safety Group have the authority to do this. After discussion this was agreed by partners that the Safety Group has been delegated to have this authority and a copy of the recommendations be distributed to members for reference. Vince said that CPC’s Quality Assurance Sub Group have reviewed it and approved, therefore understood that once agreed at the VAWP, the Safety Group and the Quality Assurance group for the CPC would be responsible for taking this on and the local authority taking the lead in terms of developing and implementing the Safe and Together model in social work practice.</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Gillian</p>
<p>13 Feedback from/to short term groups</p> <p>a. Sexual Violence Improvement Group – Moira</p> <p>Moira informed there was poor attendance at the last meeting and very little to fed back on. There is one piece of work being looked at which is around forensics and looking at relocating Inverness’s forensic facility which should be a big improvement and see the NHS having a good head start in terms of meeting the National standards around forensics.</p> <p>b. National Task Force</p> <p>Elaine informed the group that she was leading on the workforce and training sub group for the National Task Force looking at forensic provision for the NHS. Elaine updated the group on the discussions and activities of this. Firstly there needs to be increased recognition of the role of Forensic Physician as well as a de-coupling of the custody and forensic work to ensure opportunities for specific rape and sexual assault work. This should increase attractiveness for GP’s, sexual health doctors and Obstetricians to become involved in forensics. Elaine is seeking to have forensic physician recognised as a specialty in its own right.</p> <p>Agreement has been reached that the concept of taking the specialist expertise to the victim rather than the victim to the service is the right approach and that services should be timely and gender specific. The next step is to incorporate this approach in the delivery of services. There is a year of work left and 3 regional models will be delivered with Highland in the North.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>14 Feedback from/to Safer Highland</p> <p>Discussed previously under Item 4.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>15 AOB</p> <p>Elaine raised awareness regarding the Police Scotland Domestic Abuse</p>	<p>Action</p>

<p>Christmas Campaign. Vince said that there has been a number of events previously in the year around football matches and asked if there could be some media messaging around raising the profile and ensuring correct numbers advertised.</p> <p>Chrissie informed members that Victim Support also deal with Sexual cases and are supporting a number of survivors at present. Chrissie wondered whether this was an impact of RASASH having a waiting list.</p>	
<p>16 Date of next meeting</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>It was agreed that the VAWP would continue to meet on the same day as The Operational Group (formerly The Safety Group) and preference for all would be a Wednesday, however not the last Wednesday of the month. Kris to contact Elaine's PA for suitable dates for 2018 and then distribute to members.</p>	<p>Kris</p>