

Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group
15th August 2018
Minute

Present

Vince McLaughlin, Detective Chief Inspector, Public Protection, Police Scotland – **Temporary Chair**
Kate Blowers, Manager, Caithness & Sutherland Women's Aid
Gail Waters, Administrator, Violence Against Women Partnership - **Minutes**
Gillian Gunn, Development & Training Manager, Violence Against Women Partnership
Lorraine Revitt, Manager, Lochaber Women's Aid
Maggie Hume, Trainer, Violence Against Women Partnership
Elaine Featherstone, Manager, Inverness Women's Aid
Derek Wilson, Group Manager (Prevention & Protection), Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Donald Buntain, VIA
James Maybee, Principal Officer, Criminal Justice Social Work Services
Moira Paton, Manager, Rape & Sexual Abuse Service Highland
Peter Rawlison, Head of Offender Outcomes, Scottish Prison Service
Pamela McBride, Principle Officer - Equalities, NHS Highland
Debbie Stewart, Coordinator, Highland Alcohol & Drugs Partnership

1. Welcome & Apologies

Elaine Mead, Chief Executive, NHS Highland - **Chair**
Chrissie Campbell, Service Delivery Officer, Victim Support
Kimberley Philip, Children's Services Manager, Barnardo's
Jacquelyn Jennett, Area Care & Learning Manager North, Highland Council – **Depute Chair**
Hame Lata, Consultant, Sexual Reproductive Health, NHS Highland
Naomi Hyslop, Area Youth Service Officer, Highlife Highland
Ailsa Villegas, Health Development Officer, Highland Council
Suzy Calder, Head of Service – Drug & Alcohol Recover Services & Prison Healthcare, NHS Highland

2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

Draft minutes from 2nd May 2018 are approved.

Sexual Entertainment Report has been issued by the Scottish Government, link has been circulated.
Structure Paper is to be recirculated. **Action – Gillian Gunn will circulate Structure Paper with Minutes**

Group Membership – Peter emailed Highlife Highland. Jacquelyn Jennet had also contacted them – they have identified Naomi Hyslop as the VAW Lead who will be at next meeting.

Minimum Unit Pricing – the ADP is keen for information on what people think impact will be of minimum unit pricing on their service users. One criticism of minimum pricing was that dependent people would find it hard to reduce drinking at a higher level but would recognise the impact on their finances leading to more people asking for help or using more of the family budget causing issues within the family. **Action – any agency with evidence of impact should contact Debbie**

3. Equally Safe – Involvement Pilot – TBC, Scottish Women's Aid

Part of the Scottish Government & COSLA strategy to address VAW is to engage with survivors. Phase 1 has been completed in the Central Belt through Rape Crisis Scotland and Phase 2, will take place in Highland and the Islands through a consultant, Hailey Maxwell, appointed by Scottish Women's Aid. Hailey

was unable to make this meeting but will be invited to attend in November. **Actions - Gillian Gunn to include in Improvement Plan; and Gail Waters to invite Hailey to November meeting.**

4. Review of VAWP Action Plan 2018-21

Gillian Gunn updated the Action Plan with all the activity undertaken by the sub groups and circulated with this meeting's Agenda. It was agreed that all activities determined by the Sub Groups were to be added to the action plan. There was no requirement to seek permission of the Partnership. **Action – Gillian to update plan following this afternoon's discussions and 'grey out' areas which are not 2018 priorities.**

a) Progress Reports from Sub Groups

i) Sexual Violence Group

Moira Paton's Sub Group Report was circulated with the meeting agenda. Two recommendations, included in the report, were discussed with the partnership:

- Take any available opportunities to raise concerns nationally re possible loss of 3rd party/anonymous reporting options following sexual violence
- Consider if 3f is a realistic outcome for this year – we recommend some time to be spent working through possibilities & what group members/agencies are willing & able to do on this.

(3d) Improve & Extend Forensic Provision in Highland for Survivors of SV

Specific actions on the plan, such as third party reporting and self-referral for forensics are delayed due to national issues raised around legalities. **Action – it was agreed to keep this on the improvement plan, recognising that any movement on this would be national rather than through the local Sexual Violence Sub Group. It was also agreed that all should take opportunities to raise this nationally**

(3f) Commercial Sexual Exploitation

The Sexual Violence Group has been trying for some time to identify women involved in prostitution in order to determine what support women need in order to 'exit' prostitution. Discussion took place on the likely financial costs of developing a routes out solution for women, noting current funding constraints within the Partnership and more widely. **Action – Sexual Violence Group to consider approaches in more detail and determine what is likely to be feasible this year**

Further discussion took place on the current consultation on the Licensing Board's Policy Statement. This includes a section on 'adult entertainment' conditions. Gillian will draft a response and circulate to the group for comments. It was agreed that working with the Licensing Board and Licensing Committee to try to set the number of forthcoming Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licences to zero for Highland would be worthwhile adding to improvement area 3f. **Action – Gillian to add SEV Licences and work with the Licensing Board and Committee to Plan**

Concerns were raised by agencies about how gender sensitive housing allocations were. Those present noted some issues raised in relation to Houses of Multiple Occupancy and the Housing First approach. **Action – Gillian to discuss with Lyndsey Greene to identify and risks and to plan to reduce these**

In addition, Moira informed the group that a Trauma Event would be held on the 14th November for staff interested in implemented trauma informed services. **Action – Gail to circulate information on the event to the group when available**

ii) Operational Group

As the Operational Group only meets immediately before this group, the written report will be circulated with the draft minute. Kate Blowers outlined 3 issues from the Operational Group:

1) MARAC

Eilidh Moir has replaced Gordon Greenlees as MARAC Co-ordinator. Suggested HIMOOG be brought back to ensure consistency of MARACs across the Highlands & Islands, this may mirror MATAC model, meeting tri-annually to oversee the delivery of the action plan, highlight any issues and feed any potential local issues back to local groups. **Action – this was agreed and Vince will work with Craig Thomson and Eilidh Moir to re-establish this group**

2) MARAC Funding

A breakdown of MARAC funding is required asap as this has been unclear for the last few years. Discussion followed with it being agreed that as the Accountant at Highland Council could not provide figures then this should be escalated to Director level. Approximately £12,000 from the budget needs to be accounted for. Vince noted that the four public protection groups report to Chief Officers (who also agreed the MARAC allocation) so we need clarity on funding streams. **Actions – 1 Elaine Mead to ask for income and expenditure details from Bill Alexander. 2 Gillian Gunn will provide a funding update to the next meeting**

Additional discussion took place on the pressures facing third sector services supporting those affected by VAW. This is included in the risk register, to be discussed under item 5, but it was felt that a paper on the impact of funding cuts and standstill funding be written to be presented to Chief Officers. **Action - Gillian Gunn to draft a report by mid September for Chief Officers confirming what the pressures are on the services within the Partnership, showing clearly the impact of previous funding cuts and likely impact of any further cuts.**

3) Wording of Sections 3h and 3i Action Plan

Proposal to amalgamate and reword Sections 3h and 3i. It was agreed that these sections in the action plan should be reworded to be clear that the Partnership should support, sustain and improve third sector. There needs to be more specific appropriate actions and some actions need to be deleted. **Action: Kate Blowers will work with other Women's Aid Managers and report at next meeting changes made and these can then be approved.**

4) Evaluation of Interventions

Kate also reported that the evaluation from the Disclosure scheme feedback is starting to come through and she will report back to the VAWP when this is available. Feedback on the Safe@Home Scheme has been very good, 100% of private tenants felt it made them feel safer. There has been National interest in the Scheme and will look to extend it more to the Islands. It may be possible to get more funding for this too. **Action: Gillian Gunn to reflect this in Action Plan.**

iii) Perpetrators Group

The report from the Perpetrators Group had been circulated with the agenda. James noted that the sub group had only met once and was still developing the action plan. The group was looking for comments on the plan.

1) RESPECT and Caledonian

James discussed the differences between the RESPECT and Caledonian programmes. Both systems were created by Rory MacRae, with RESPECT being the precursor to the Caledonian system which is much more developed so is more robust and stronger and has additional resources so can provide support to women and children also. Both systems are dependent on being ordered in court, which leaves gaps in the system of how to deal with offenders who are not on statutory supervision. It was generally felt that Sheriffs would be receptive to the programme. Recruitment for various posts begins at the end of August 2018, (1 x Manager, 2 x Men's Workers, 2 x Women's Workers, 1.5 x children's workers and 1 x Admin). James felt there shouldn't be any staffing issues provided posts are created on a permanent basis rather than fixed term. James will report on this further as it progresses.

The group noted the progress of the group in establishing and setting actions.

iv) Prevention & Early Intervention Group

Ailsa Villegas has returned from maternity leave, her report was circulated with the Agenda and Gillian Gunn reported on her behalf.

The work of this group is progressing well. Of note for the group is the revision of guidance for schools on supporting individuals affected by sexual violence. Consultation has closed on this, and it is hoped that the final version could be 'launched' with some of the young people who have been involved in this work. The new training plan also targets Guidance Teachers to make sure staff are confident to provide support.

5. VAWP Risk Register

Vince, Donald and Gillian have worked together to develop a risk register. Unfortunately, an early version was circulated to the group and not the current draft. It was agreed that a risk register was required and would be a key tool in updating Chief Officers about the risks faced by the group in implementing the action plan. **Actions – 1. Gillian Gunn – correct version of risk register to be sent with minutes. 2. All - comments on risk register to be sent to Gillian Gunn by end of September.**

6. 2017/18 Performance Framework Submission

Performance Framework has been submitted to the Improvement Service by due date. There were some issues with missing data i.e. the £12,000 unaccounted for in the budget, data from the RESPECT Programme, Women's Aid and RASASH and we should work towards gathering this in the future.

a) Women's Aid Data Collection

Women's Aid groups found it difficult to collect the data on the % of women who feel safer at support and if their confidence has increased as the 4 groups do not use the same databases so can't get consistent information. It wasn't felt that it needed to be consistent as RASASH can capture this by using a paper survey. It was recognised that getting this information from the women at the point of disengaging from the service could be challenging. This is an issue nationally with other groups. It was noted that in the future it may be that this may be data requested by Scottish Government. At the moment, it is not and a range of funders ask for different measures. **Action - Gillian Gunn – to raise this nationally.**

7. 2017/18 Quality Standards Submission

The draft Performance Framework was significantly larger and a number of indicators were removed from this to develop the Quality Standards. Gillian will go through the area where we can improve before next year and develop some suggested actions for the Partnership. These will be considered at the next meeting and added to the action plan if agreed. **Action - Gillian Gunn to develop and Improvement Plan from the Quality Standards Submission discussion and feedback at next meeting.**

8. Emerging Issues

As above regards funding and budget.

9. Future VAWP Chair

Agreed that some names for a replacement Chair would be given to the current Chair. These possible replacements should be someone with the knowledge and political clout to lobby on VAWP behalf. Need someone identified by the date of the next meeting as current Chair leaves in December 2018. **Action – Gillian Gunn to approach possible individuals first and will then let current Chair know and she can discuss this with her Chief Officer colleagues. Any suggestions for the future Chair should be passed to Gillian Gunn.**

10. Feedback from/to Chief Officers Group

As discussed earlier, it is hoped the new governance model will be in place for the end of this year. The Chair of our meetings will feedback to the Chief Officers Public Protection meeting to be held quarterly and the Chair of the VAWP will attend and can escalate any concerns. This should give more visibility and accountability and will be in line with the Scottish Governments plan that more should be led by the Chief Officers.

11. AOB

None

12. Date of Future Meeting

13.00 – 15.00, 21st November 2018, Police HQ