



## Highland VAW Partnership Meeting

**10 August 2021**  
**1pm – 3pm (MS TEAMS)**

### Present

Gordon Greenlees, Chair  
James Maybee, Deputy Chair  
Catherine Russell, VAWP  
Helen Eunson, NHS  
Wendy Van Riet, NHS  
Sharon Holloway, NHS  
DCI Lynne Falconer, Police Scotland  
Kate Blowers, CASWA  
Elaine Fetherston, IWA  
Adele Newlands, RWA  
Lorraine Levitt, LWA  
Gwen Harrison, RASASH  
Naomi Hyslop, HLH  
Lyndsay Sutherland, UHI  
Jill Graham, SFRS

### Apologies

Jacquelyn Jennett, THC  
Cathy Steer, NHS  
Niall MacLennan, SFRS  
Calum Smith, Police Scotland  
Eilidh Moir, MARAC Coordinator  
Myra Ross, VAW Training Officer  
Elaine Lyall, VAW Administrator

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and asked for the minutes to record his thanks to Jacquelyn Jennett, who had been the previous Chair of HVAWP, for all her hard work and commitment to VAWP and VAW issues and her support to ensure an effective hand over.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were noted and approved.</p> <p>Review of Action Tracker - Items not marked as complete where updated unless already itemised on the agenda.</p> <p><u>Please Note – there are listed required actions for partners on the action tracker.</u></p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Highland VAWP Priority Action Plan 21-24 - updates from SG's to note</b></p> <p>The updates provided by the sub groups and other people were all noted. The Chair also invited more discussion on the following:</p>	

	<p><u>Aim 1, 3b – support and raise awareness of the new SARC Forensic Facility.</u> The Chair asked if partners were happy they were fully involved in the development of this facility. The RASASH Manager and WA Managers confirmed they were. They are hoping to soon have another meeting to progress things, including referral pathways. It was noted that progress on this facility would be important for Item 9, the pharmacy pilot scheme.</p> <p><u>Aim 3, 3a – Identify services who regularly undertake routine enquiries and report on monitoring and gaps.</u> This has been identified as a year 2 priority due to the significant amount of work this undertaking would involve and it was felt there was no capacity this year, especially emerging from COVID-19. It was agreed that to try to address this priority earlier, GG/CR will ascertain the work involved and carry out an initial scoping exercise to help inform VAWP on the potential scale of this priority before April 2022. This will enable VAWP to plan effectively for this exercise to take place in 22/23.</p>	GG/CR
4	<p><b>Financial:</b></p> <p>Anyone with any background information on VAWP financial processes was asked to email CR. Part of the current work plan was to develop a set of financial procedures for VAWP to sit in our Governance paperwork to improve scrutiny and transparency.</p> <p><b>Income/Expenditure – Quarter 1, 30 June 2021</b> Noted</p> <p><b>Investment Plan Updates</b> Noted and the following updates provided:</p> <p><u>VAWP Leaflets</u> – Covered later under AOB but it was agreed that GG/JM would agree outside of the meetings the amount to give as a voucher to be presented to the UHI students who would hopefully be designing the new VAWP Leaflet. GG/JM to also agree any additional minor costs involved in the designing process. Printing costs had already been ring fenced in the Investment Plan.</p> <p><u>Non-Court Mandatory Work</u> – JM outlined information he had received from his National contact that provided evidence on the potential benefits of a non-court mandatory programme. In particular JM highlighted that as most DA perpetrators do not go through the court process a non-court mandatory programme would potentially be beneficial for Highlands. JM and the Addressing Perpetrator subgroups will provide a report to the VAWP meeting in November so that this can be considered further under the Investment Plan agenda item. It was also agreed to ring-fence the current proposed expenditure until the November meeting.</p> <p><u>Service Users Input into Strategy and Service Development</u> This priority action is now being undertaken by the Service Provision, Addressing Perpetrator and Prevention subgroups jointly. It was agreed to ring fence the current proposed expenditure until the November meeting where it could be discussed further.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>GG/JM</p> <p>JM/ Addressing Perpetrators subgroup</p> <p>Subgroups</p>

	<p><u>IDAA Specialist Training</u>  Information on VAWP contracts and financial obligations are being collated in the proposed Financial Procedures document. As part of this, the funding of IDAA services and agreements will be incorporated. In the meantime there was a general consensus of opinion that adequate training is required for the IDAA's to carry out their important role as part of the MARAC process. Further work is being undertaken with the VAW support team who are researching what training is available and in what format. At the moment there is no specialists IDAA training through SafeLives for the rest of this financial year. It was therefore agreed to ring-fence the current proposed expenditure until the November meeting where a report will be presented.</p> <p><u>Video Door Bells</u>  This was previously rejected as Victim Support Scotland had informed the meeting that they had a fund that everyone could apply to, to acquire these items. However, it had since been reported by the Training subgroup that only victims of crime could apply to the VSS fund. However, it was also suggested at the meeting that some organisations that provided direct support to victims of VAWG were classed as exempt and that a crime report was not necessary. Further clarification was sought after the meeting as below:</p> <p>The victims fund is open to all those who are perceived to be victims of a crime. This crime does not have to be reported to the Police, but the applicant must have discussed this with another agency (Women's Aid, RASASH, NHS, etc). These agencies need to complete, as best they can, the 3 main eligibility criteria at the top of the application which has previously been circulated but is attached again.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain how the applicant is in urgent need of help</li> <li>2. Explain how the need is linked to a crime – this could be just putting the Victims name, that they were assaulted that they sought help and support from WA/RASASH etc.</li> <li>3. Demonstrate the need cannot be met by other means or external funds</li> </ol> <p>If anyone needs any further help VSS will be able to assist.</p>	<p><b>CR</b></p> <p><b>LF</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Sub Group Updates – to note and to discuss matters for escalation to VAWP</b></p> <p>All report contents noted. Each Chair then highlighted which had been escalated to the partnership:</p> <p>The Chair asked for small amendments to the format of reports in the future. Each priority and update should be numbered for clarity and also a new section at the top which notes who attended each meeting to be added which would negate the need for additional SG minutes.</p>	

	<p><b>MARAC SG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of consistent MARAC Cover – The new VAWP Administrator and Training Officer are now in post and are being trained to cover for the Coordinators leave.</li> <li>Chair Structure/rotation – LF to keep the VAWP updated on how that progresses. Chair training locally is being sourced. Outside the meeting N Mosely from the NHSH agreed to progress allocating appropriate representatives for the Chairs training for the NHSH rota. The Chair training will be paid for out of the £5k MARAC budget. N Mosely is also the Steering Group representative.</li> </ul> <p><b>Training SG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was agreed that the VAW Partnership Minutes should be circulated to all SG members who didn't attend the VAWP meetings to ensure they were informed of decisions and could participate ideas and opinions through the SG's to VAWP.</li> </ul> <p><b>Service Provision SG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No recommendations for VAWP</li> </ul> <p><b>Prevention SG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LF to allocate a police representation on this group.</li> <li>Clarification was sought over one of the priorities regarding consultation with service users. It was agreed that this was similar to a priority already allocated to the Service Provision and Addressing Perpetrator sub groups. It was agreed CR would co-ordinate between the SG's and update the Priority Action Plan accordingly. There were also views expressed that this should be an integral part of VAWP work involving looking at best practice across Scotland. This is also an item on the Investment Plan and it was agreed a further report would be made to the November meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>LF</p> <p>NM</p> <p>CR/EL</p> <p>LF</p> <p>CR</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Draft HPP COG Report for approval</b></p> <p>There were a few minor additions to be added from today's meeting, however, it was agreed that the report should be presented to HPP COG. The HVAWP Priority Action Plan for 2021-24 and the HVAWP Terms of Reference would go as an attachment, but as these all contained individual names, the HPP COG would be asked to keep this within the meeting and not share outwith.</p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Equally Safe Annual Returns</b></p> <p>A few minor additions needed to be made but it was agreed these would be submitted to Improvement Services. Everyone was thanked for their contribution which enabled both this year's returns to be compiled but also provided the Performance Figures for 2019/20. The 19/20 returns had not been submitted due to the workload of dealing with the immediate implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic last year. However, the HVAWP had been keen to ensure there was no gap in our annual data collection and returns, particularly as this information would be</p>	

	useful for analysing the impact of VAWG services in Highlands during the Pandemic.	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Data Collection Report to VAWP – C-19 data and learning</b></p> <p>Everyone noted the content of the report. It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At this stage we did not have capacity to take part in any International Research.</li> <li>• Currently, the partners in the VAWP collected a lot of data to inform service delivery and development and this information was fed into VAWP at relevant opportunities.</li> <li>• There was information provided in the report, and the feelings of those in the meeting, indicated that either the Scottish Government and/or Improvement Services will be conducting a national research programme on C-19 in the future. This would allow meaningful comparisons with other parts of Scotland and will avoid duplication of work. If this does not materialise then we can revisit this locally.</li> <li>• Improvement Services had asked VAWPs to send them the details of direct requests for research into C-19 so they could monitor the situation.</li> </ul>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Information on the “Community Pharmacy Pilot” – for discussion and response</b></p> <p>Comments agreed to be sent to Emma Kennedy from the partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The partnership felt that it was positive that the government were concerned that those needing support and help had lots of avenues to seek that help, especially in remote rural areas.</li> <li>• Training – it was felt essential that pharmacists receive adequate and robust training to ensure that pharmacy staff felt able to respond appropriately and would know where to signpost people for support. This is an incredibly complex and difficult subject that needs appropriate sensitivity and time to respond.</li> <li>• Confidentiality – It was felt that a pharmacy environment may not be an appropriate setting for someone to disclose personal confidential information. In small communities most people know each other and therefore pharmacy staff would potentially know both victims and potential perpetrators.</li> <li>• As most rural areas had access to GP surgeries it was felt victims would seek support there in the first instance.</li> <li>• Concerns were raised about how much community pharmacists were now being asked to undertake, especially since the start of C-19. Their important work and link in the community was recognised by all partners.</li> <li>• There was an earlier Government initiative this year where pharmacy staff were asked to support anyone seeking help for domestic abuse. It was reported that a local WA group found that 50% of pharmacy staff in their immediate area did not know about the government scheme and those that did felt inappropriately trained and supported. However, one other partner reported receiving a referral via a</li> </ul>	

	<p>pharmacist and been able to provide support to the pharmacist to help the victim to access their service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is well researched that an inappropriate response may stop a victim from going on to seek help in the future.</li> <li>• The SARC facility needed to be up and running along with further work on the new Self-Referral scheme undertaken. This scheme is due to be introduced in Spring 2022. This would greatly help to support this initiative.</li> <li>• Concerns were raised about were ongoing funding of this pilot would come from. Would funding be taken away from other key front line services already in existence.</li> <li>• We would welcome further discussions and involvement in the project to ensure our concerns are addressed.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that the VAWP Chair would respond on behalf of the partnership covering the above points.</p>	<p><b>GG</b></p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>16 days of Activism 2021 – 25/11 to 10/12</b></p> <p>Discussions on the paper presented and the updates on events and plans to date agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A group would meet to progress the national plans (summit and light up) and local plans (various events in progress) consisting of a police representative, WA &amp; RASASH, VAW support team, the deputy chair and Chair. Anyone else who would like to be part in the organising to contact CR.</li> <li>• If possible a local partner representative would attend the national meeting discussions that would ensure we aligned ourselves with the national events.</li> </ul>	<p>Those mentioned</p> <p>RR from RASASH</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Deputy Chair of VAWP</b></p> <p>The current deputy Chair had suggested it was time for a change of person in the role, in line with the TOR's recommendation, and the Chair asked if anyone else would like to stand as Deputy Chair. No volunteers at this stage. Post Minute Note – the current Deputy Chair, JM, was happy to carry on until such time as someone felt they had capacity to undertake this role.</p>	
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Any other Competent Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A paper on Gender Neutral Commissioning will be presented to the next VAWP. Currently this would be prepared by EF/GH and CR and if anyone else was interested in participating in this please let CR know.</li> <li>• UK Feminista Allegiance letter from Diane Martin – it was felt that this was a very polarised discussion area and partners felt it would be politically difficult to take a particular stance. It was also agreed that we would want to ensure we could remain impartial to be able to</li> </ul>	<p><b>CR/EF/GH</b></p> <p><b>GG</b></p>

	<p>openly respond to all requests for views on potential ways forward. The Chair to write a response and if anyone has any further views to email them to CR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VAWP leaflets – It was agreed to progress this with the UHI students. The full leaflet design proposal and wording would be circulated to all partners to agree before it was passed to the students. Consideration to be given to incorporating the new VAWP website into the leaflet.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>CR</b></p>
<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p><u>Monday 1 November</u>, 1pm to 3pm by MS Teams Please can all SG reports and agenda items be submitted by noon 21 October 2021</p>	