Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group 20 th 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				
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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 21 st 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	All			
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.	Melody			

3 National VAW Partnership Guidance	Action
COSLA and Scottish Government recently updated their VAW Partnership Guidance. The group agreed that we were meeting many of the standards already and that the self assessment that Jo McLaughlin from the Improvement Service is to help us with at the next meeting will support the identification of any gaps. Elaine asked the group to consider the self assessment checklist in the guidance to see if there are any outstanding issues that we may seek to address in advance of the more formal self assessment process.	All
4 National VAW Performance Framework	Action
The performance framework for Equally Safe is in draft form and the Improvement Service is seeking VAW Partnerships to pilot it. Gillian suggested that Highland put itself forward to be a pilot site, particularly as we are currently collecting our data for our performance report. This was agreed by the group. Vince will pass the information on to his analysts to identify what data was readily available. It was noted that there would be gaps and that this was to be expected, but then plans could be put in place to address those. Elaine asked that Gillian populate the framework and bring to the next meeting.	Gillian Vince Gillian
5 VAWP Priorities	Action
Gillian circulated a paper highlighting the activities undertaken by the Partnership in relation to each priority. All members were asked to update this with activity that they were aware of that was not yet included and send to Gillian. Discussion took place on how there had been substantial activity on particular pieces of work, but that there didn't appear to have been changes in terms of service responses. Particular concerns were raised in relation to children's experiences of domestic abuse and the response to women affected by domestic abuse from children's services. Vince noted that this was also a priority for the Child Protection Committee and this was welcomed by the group. Debbie noted that there were similar issues in relation to parental substance misuse. However, concerns remained about the involvement of Children's Services at the Violence Against Women Partnership. Elaine noted that with Fiona's departure, we would be seeking representation from The Highland Council from a member of staff with equivalent seniority. Elaine extended her thanks, on behalf of the partnership, to Fiona for her involvement and support of the Highland VAWP. It was agreed that Vince would discuss the issues about children's services with Sandra Campbell, Head of Children's Services and that Gillian will contact Sandra in relation to policy/procedure and training. Elaine noted that the Partnership required to have leads from The Highland Council identified and noted that she was working at identifying an NHS Highland lead also.	All Vince Gillian Elaine
Heather questioned how we would know if we had made a difference in terms of our activities and it was agreed that Gillian would update the priorities paper with a column highlighting what our expected outcomes were and our progress towards them. It was agreed that these would be shorter term outcomes.	Gillian
6 Developing 2017-20 VAWP Action Plan/Strategy	Action
Gillian had distributed a brief paper outlining ways in which we would be able to gather views on what to include in our next strategy and action plan. It was agreed to progress all these activities and that those identified within the paper should contact Gillian with the information they have. Elaine asked about the	All

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.	Gillian
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.	Elaine/ Vince
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.	Debbie
7 LGBT Youth Scotland Charter Mark	Action
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.	Gillian
8 Feedback from Safety Group	Action
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.	
9 Feedback from Short Term Groups	Action
Sexual Violence Improvement Group	
This group is due to meet late October and new membership has been sought. 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. 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.	
Elaine asked Peter how progress on White Ribbon was being made. Peter	

noted similar issues in terms of angeging appellars and finding appertunities for	1
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.	Kate All
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.	Peter/ Gillian/ Heather
10 AOB	Action
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	All
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.	Gillian Gillian
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. Fiona Palin's Retiral Elaine reiterated the group's thanks for Fiona for her good work over the years	Melody All
and wished her well in her retirement.	
11 Date of Next Meeting	Action
20 th December, 1pm – 4pm (extended meeting for self assessment), Multi- purpose Room, Centre for Health Science, Inverness	