

**Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group
21st November 2018
Minutes**

Present

Kate Blowers, Manager, Caithness & Sutherland Women's Aid
Gillian Gunn, Development & Training Manager, VAWP – **Temporary Chair & Minutes**
Lorraine Revitt, Manager, Lochaber Women's Aid
Elaine Featherstone, Manager, Inverness Women's Aid
Donald Buntain, VIA
Meg Wright, Interim Manager, Ross-shire Women's Aid
Helen Eunson, Professional Lead Nurse Mental Health, NHS Highland
Moirra Paton, Manager, Rape & Sexual Abuse Service Highland
Jacquelyn Jennett, Area Care & Learning Manager North, Highland Council, by TC – **Depute Chair**
Hame Lata, Consultant, Sexual & Reproductive Health, NHS Highland
Suzy Calder, Head of Service – Drug & Alcohol Recovery Services & Prison Healthcare, NHS Highland
Jennifer Baughan, Detective Sergeant, Police Scotland

Apologies

Vince McLaughlin, Detective Chief Inspector, Public Protection, Police Scotland
Gail Waters, Administrator, VAWP
Ailsa Villegas, former Health Development Officer, Highland Council
Derek Wilson, Group Manager (Prevention & Protection), Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
James Maybee, Principal Officer, Criminal Justice Social Work Services
Peter Rawlison, Head of Offender Outcomes, Scottish Prison Service
Pamela McBride, Principle Officer - Equalities, NHS Highland

2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

As Jacquelyn was teleconferencing into the meeting, it was agreed Gillian would chair on this occasion.

The draft minutes from 15th August 2018 were approved.

Equally Safe – Survivor Engagement

Hailey Maxwell was unable to attend today due to an engagement event with survivors in Lochaber. She has asked for suggestions for other groups who she may contact to get the views of survivors in Highland. Gillian and Elaine have suggested Serenity and Survive and Thrive (NHS). If there are other groups, please inform Gail who will pass to Hailey.

Actions:

- **Invite Hailey to next meeting – Gail**
- **Let Gail know if there are other survivors groups Hailey could contact - All**

Violence Against Women Plan

The plan is in a new excel format which lists all actions agreed by the Partnership and the various sub groups. This can be filtered by individual who is reporting and by relevant group. All areas not priorities for 2018 have been shaded grey, as agreed previously.

Women's Aid Data collection

Women's Aid groups continue to have discussions about data gathering. Once this has been agreed data will be shared with the Partnership. Gillian also discussed the issue with VAF and the Improvement

Service. There is likely to be a move to collect the outcomes data as part of future Scottish Government arrangements and VAF are planning including outcomes measurement in future training.

3. Updated VAWP Budget

An updated budget sheet had been circulated to the group. Due to the transfer of Police and NHS MARAC monies over to the VAWP budget, and no requirement to fund MARAC administration from April – October, there is now an underspend for 2018/19. Previously, there had been no funding for any activity other than training for 2018/19. It was agreed that the underspend be allocated as follows:

- £3,500 for MARAC admin costs until end of the financial year
- £2,500 budget for the MARAC Co-ordinator to progress the MARAC Action Plan
- £3,0000 increase to the training and awareness budget, to include the reprint and development of Highland wide materials
- £10,000 to conduct a 'roadshow' to raise the profile of the VAWP and support the development of a practitioners network following on from the Trauma Conference held on the 14th November

Actions:

- **Arrange for the training budget to be spent – Gillian**
- **Consider process for implementation of Trauma Network – Moira**
- **Identify if agencies can 'lodge' underspend in order to protect it – Kate**

4. Risk Register

The Risk Register was updated, following discussions. This included rephrasing the risks and increasing the likelihood of risk 1 – governance – to 3. Additional activity to reduce risk is also taking place with Women's Aid to be involved in presenting to Council Committee. It was agreed that this should be done through the NHS Board too.

Actions:

- **Update the risk register - Gillian**
- **Arrange for Women's Aid to present to Council Committee – Jacquelyn**
- **Arrange for RASASH to present to NHS Board – Gillian**

4a. SBAR Third Sector Funding

Following discussion, the SBAR to include additional recommendations to include third sector involvement in the design and delivery of services; and to ensure that future cuts are subject to wide ranging impact assessments. Moira also asked that the information on core costs for RASASH be amended to include NHS only funding – 7.3% of core costs. It was agreed that survivors' quotes be used throughout the document.

Actions:

- **Provide survivor quotes for inclusion in the document – Meg, Elaine, Lorraine, Moira & Kate**
- **Update document - Gillian**

5. Quality Standards

A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting outlining how Highland could improve its quality standards submission to the Improvement Service. It was recognised that some already planned work would contribute to this. Also, the agreement on how to spend the additional monies would also contribute. Additional activity discussed at the group, was the potential funding ward to Rape Crisis Scotland for work with specific groups of women (although it was not known if this would be accessible to Highland) and the bid to continue working with migrant women experiencing domestic abuse.

6. VAWP Priorities

The full updates from the groups will be circulated with the papers.

6a. Sexual Violence Group

The group was concerned that there was to be no Chair as Moira is due to leave post in the next few weeks. However, RASASH had not yet appointed and will be advertising again in January. Meg informed the group that Ross-shire Women's Aid would also be advertising for a Manager around this time.

It was agreed at the meeting that a paper should be developed and presented to Chief Officers Group (Public Protection) on addressing prostitution in Highland. A number of potential funding streams were identified, including through mental health, alcohol & drugs, housing and VAW.

Action:

- **Draft paper to Chief Officers requesting additional support in conducting a scoping exercise and identifying potential service delivery options - Gillian**

6b. Operational Group

The MARAC action plan has been circulated to the Operational Group and all members are to provide comments and identify their top three priorities by beginning of December.

The group requested that the delay in progress of introducing Safe & Together be escalated through the Partnership to Chief Officers, in line with the Child Protection Committee. This was agreed.

Actions:

- **All group members also on the Operational Group to comment on MARAC plan – as required**
- **Escalate Safe & Together delay to Chief Officers – VAW Chair**

6c. Perpetrators Subgroup

The group acknowledged the progress being made in establishing Caledonian in Highland. It was agreed that further support in recruiting staff would be provided through the partnership if required.

6d. Prevention & Early Intervention Sub Group

The group agreed Highland Council was required to seek a new Education Lead (and Chair) for the group. Maggie Hume, VAW Training Officer, will be interim Chair.

Much of the 2018/19 underspend has been allocated to producing materials and raising the profile of the VAWP, which meets the request of the group to allocate funding to prevention and awareness activities.

The group did not agree with the proposal to remove third party reporting in schools from the workplan. It was agreed that this required further investigation and a process should be developed and then tested with child protection and Highland Practice Model colleagues to ensure consistency with these approaches. Support may be given for this through UHI who recently implemented a third party process.

Action:

- **Ask Bernadette Cairns to identify new VAW Education Lead – Jacquelyn**
- **Develop a compliant process for third party reporting – Maggie**

7. Future Chair

Moira did not agree with paying for an independent Chair when the third sector agencies were concerned about cuts and the low level of funding RASASH received from the statutory sector. She also felt that the group was able to self-manage and didn't necessarily need someone independent. Others felt that paying for a Chair would result in improved commitment to the role, better progress in delivering the plan and an enhanced profile for the Partnership. It was agreed that Jacquelyn Jennett, as depute chair, would fulfil this role in the interim whilst options were considered again in more detail at the next meeting.

Actions:

- **Chair future meetings in the interim – Jacquelyn**
- **Discuss options for Chair in more detail at next meeting – add to agenda - Gail**

8. Interim VAW cover

As Gillian has accepted a secondment until March 2019, the Partnership will be without a lead officer for the next four months. A paper with three options was circulated to the group for interim cover and Option 2 was agreed. This means that NHS Highland Public Health department will take measures to backfill the post and ensure that the officer functions continue to happen. Gillian will speak with her manager, Cathy Steer, and this will be put in place swiftly.

Action:

Identify VAW Manager cover through NHS Highland - Gillian

9. Report to Chief Officers

The following will be raised to the Chief Officers meeting through the Chair:

- Lack of progress with Safe & Together – joint work between VAWP and Child Protection Committee
- Third Sector Services SBAR
- Paper on addressing prostitution with a recommendation to seek funding to scope the work
- Full VAW plan and associated risk register

10. AOB

No other business was raised.

11. Date of Future Meeting

2019 meetings are to be set – one to be held Tuesday, one Wednesday and one Thursday due to diary challenges.

Action:

- **Distribute dates for 2019 which will fall just before Chief Officers - Gail**