

Highland VAW Partnership Meeting
30 October 2024 10am

PRESENT:

Peter Mackenzie - **Chair**
 Alev Taylor, RASASH
 Catherine Russell, HVAWP
 Christopher MacLeod, Police Scotland
 Gillian Hossack, Caithness & Sutherland Women's Aid
 James Martin, Highlife Highland
 Karen Peteranna, HVAWP
 Jennifer Baughan, WFWP
 Lorraine Revitt, Lochaber Women's Aid
 Margaret McIntyre, THC
 Maria Cano, CJSW, THC
 Mhairi MacDonald, NHSH
 Mike Mawby, S&T
 Myra Ross, NHSH
 Susan Birse, Public Health, NHSH

APOLOGIES:

Elaine Lyall, HVAWP
 Isabel McLellan, THC
 Isla Barton, NHSH
 Lindsay Sutherland, UHI
 Molly Gilbert, APC/NHSH
 Ross Hamill, Police Scotland

		ACTIONS
1	Welcome and Apologies Introductions were made and new members welcomed.	
2	Minutes of previous meeting a) Approved b) Review of Action Tracker – Updated	
3	Deputy Chair – HVAWP PM reported that following the resignation of Cathy Steer as Deputy Chair, there were two nominees for the post. James Martin and Lorraine Revitt. PM proposed there will be two deputy chairs in this instance, and asked members if they	

	<p>would like to accept the proposal for this and the nominees. Members of the group accepted the proposal and both parties were appointed to Deputy Chair. Cathy Steer has intimated she would be more than happy to help in the future if needed.</p> <p>Comments: MM welcomed the proposal and thanked James and Lorraine for volunteering to be deputy chairs.</p>	
4.	<p>Financial (CR) Financial Expenditure against Income for Quarter 2, 2024/25</p> <p>The report was presented to the meeting. All income has been received for the year and confirmed by the accountant.</p> <p>On schedule for expenditure against the budget although some planned investment expenditure has been delayed and put on hold for several reasons beyond our control, ie</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application that was put in from Women's Aid groups to explore safer routes for housing accommodation is very unlikely to go ahead before the end of the financial year and suggested that money could come back to the partnership if needs be or ringfenced going forward (£6,940) • There are other things such as IDDA training (£12,000), this was agreed to be booked in 2025 for training in 2026 but has been delayed. <p>Safe & Together project funding is also not secure going forward and comments were made that as a partnership this could be given consideration. MM, Mhairi G, MMc & PM to discuss further in a separate meeting. PM confirmed he also has a meeting on Friday with the chairs from other public protection groups so he can mention this in AOCB.</p> <p>It was agreed to review the Investment Plan at the next meeting.</p>	<p>MM, MG, MMc, PM</p>
5.	<p>HPP COG</p>	

	<p>Points of note that Partners would like included in the Report to COG.</p> <p>Items to take to the COG meeting:</p> <p>MARAC situation, referral levels and SafeLives recommendations – A meeting to take place first then we will be in a better position to take this forward.</p> <p>National Funding situation update</p> <p>Local Front Line DA Contract/Funding review</p> <p>Delivery Group updates including Safe & Together</p> <p>MARAC statistics.</p> <p>Training statistics</p> <p>16 days plans</p> <p>Women's champion when document received from LR</p>	LR
6.	<p>16 Days – 2024</p> <p>A paper was circulated regarding the 16 days plan. Improvement Services and VAWPs around Scotland had created a national Database of information and work for VAWPS to use.</p> <p>There is a toolkit on the paper containing a link for people to access information and download for each organisations use. Including animations, Gifs, Messaging, and an MS screen display that everyone is encouraged to use during the 16 days</p> <p>Nationally there is a series of webinars throughout the 16 days. People can register through direct links on the paper. Members are encouraged to register as there is a wide variety of specialist GBV areas covered.</p> <p>Lighting up of Ness Bridge has been applied for. A series of social media messaging is to be released throughout the 16 days.</p> <p>We are keen to hear of local initiatives which can be promoted. The website will be updated for the 16 days with live social media streams.</p> <p>There are banners and materials, and they are being stored centrally. If anyone needs access to these, they can just contact VAWP.</p>	

	<p>MR reported she had written a series of posters and a poem around the question of “1 in 3 women will experience gender based violence”.</p> <p>The poem was put onto the chat and members approved it and agreed it could be used in the campaign along with the use of the £3,800 budget allocated for events for the year in the budget.</p> <p>MR also asked for approval, on behalf of the LDP Delivery Group for a series of half hour sessions during the 16 days (12 in total) inviting people to pop in and have a chat.</p> <p>The subject would be: What is trauma? Why does lived experience matter? Where will lived experience present within our organisations? How will this affect process and performance? The value of trauma informed practice Review of learning.</p> <p>Again, this was agreed and the HVAWP support team and other partners would try to support this where they could.</p>	
7.	<p>Current Key Issues</p> <p>a) Proposal for transfer of VAWP Training to Public Health</p> <p>This was from a proposal from Public Health from the 22nd July meeting.</p> <p>Volunteers were asked to form a working group. A paper was prepared so members of that working group could discuss the pros and cons of the proposal but also to ensure VAWP was covering its governance and Equally Safe responsibilities as lead for GBV training through partnership work across Highland. People met several times to completely clarify the role of VAWP, the role of Public Health, what it would cover and what it would entail.</p> <p>The only outstanding item was admin for Level 1 GBV training and SB confirmed that admin was to be undertaken by Public Health and HVAWP admin to send all enquiries to that mailbox.</p> <p>The rest of the paper including this change, was approved for the requisite trial period and monitoring by HVAWP.</p>	

	<p>b) National Strategic Commissioning and Funding Review of VAWG services (noting and comments on correspondence from National HVAWP Chairs to the SG/COSLA and their responses)</p> <p>The HVAWP Chair attended the meeting, and he reported concerns were raised and a subsequent letter written to Scottish Government and COSLA. The concerns raised were regarding the lack of speed, lack of direction and ongoing certainty of future funding. The Leslie Irving report was published about 18 months ago, and nothing has really happened since. There were 54 recommendations to be progressed. Paperwork had been circulated including the Chairs letter and the response from the Scottish Government and COSLA. There is no further update on that at present. There will be another meeting shortly to enable discussions to begin with regard the next plan of action. The meeting noted the paperwork.</p> <p>MMc confirmed she would ensure the LA Councillor Representative at COSLA national meetings was kept updated and thanked the HVAWP team for the regular reports they provided for him. She was reassured about the quality of feedback to COSLA now that it is coming via the partnership and confirmed this to be a strength as opposed to a single perspective.</p> <p>It was agreed that MMc, PM and the Councillor should meet to enable introductions and face to face discussions. MM suggested the discussion off table could include increasing transparency and accountability and the work that is done across the services and across the partnerships to develop and progress matters further.</p> <p>LR thanked PM and all the chairs for sending the letter on behalf of the frontline services.</p> <p>c) Annual Report – Update</p> <p>It was reported that despite several requests for information this had not been forthcoming. It was agreed PM and JM would meet to discuss progressing this in future and aligning with the new marketing developments for VAWP. They would</p>	<p>MMc</p> <p>MMc, PM,</p>
--	---	--

	<p>take into consideration suggestions from partners to incorporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good news stories from the partnership • Case study type of approach. • Data on performance • Risks • Other VAWP reports • An ongoing working group to gather this information annually <p>d) Scotland’s Strategic Approach to challenging and deterring men’s demand for prostitution and supporting the recovery and sustainable exits of those involved in prostitution – update</p> <p>It was reported there were no further responses from COSLA or Scottish Government. The VAWP leads for the original pilot schemes were still meeting as regularly as they could. CR to keep HVAWP updated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Day progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DATA working group – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Volunteers required <p>The development day went extremely well. There was a request for volunteers during this development day to set up a working group to take matters forward regarding data and creating a dashboard that could be accessed by all in the organisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> II. Cross working with other PP Committees <p>CR confirmed there will be a meeting to discuss data with the other PPC leads and data specialists-on 25th September. This was part of the joined up working now being undertaken between the different PP Committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Marketing paper <p>The paper, formulated at the development day, was shared on screen and JM briefly explained what was discussed regarding partnership objectives, what the benefits are of using the</p>	<p>CR</p>
--	---	-----------

	<p>partnership, characteristics of the partnership and why would people come to the partnership. All the words on the document came from people attending the session and further comments noted such as:</p> <p>Comments and further actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timing is good as it coincides with the Go Live page on Google and this paper can be fed into the target audience. • The simplicity in terms of characteristic, especially getting across the fact the organisation is a human partnership protecting people was positive. • The overall vision needs to have some thought – what is the Vision for HVAWP • Prevention should also be considered as being included as part of a vision statement and this could capture the broader vision sitting alongside. <p>It was suggested that the wording mentioned at the meeting today be brought in line with the strategic plan and check everyone is still happy with it going forward.</p> <p>PM stated if members put any further suggestions to JM a further draft could be circulated for comments.</p> <p>PM & JM to meet to progress next actions re communications and marketing policy.</p> <p>(f) Highland VAWP Strategic Plan 24-27 & Highland VAWP Terms of Reference updates</p> <p>The previously agreed Strategic Document and priorities for HVAWP 24-27 had been developed to incorporate reference to both the Istanbul Convention and the Local Improvement Plan. This had been circulated for comments.</p> <p>It was agreed that the document met the needs of HVAWP and the updates that had been held back from the delivery groups and HVAWP meeting reports presentation over the past few months would now be added. The final version to be circulated prior to the next meeting along with the new Updated TORs.</p>	<p>PM, JM</p> <p>JM</p>
--	---	-------------------------

8.	<p>DELIVERY GROUP UPDATES (NOT ALREADY MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY)</p> <p>Due to time constraints in this section the HVAWP Chair will invite Delivery Group Chairs to highlight the items, very briefly, for HVAWP to note/input on assuming all have had the opportunity to read fully the reports. Comments on matters arising from the reports will be invited.</p> <p>a) Addressing Perpetrators Delivery Group</p> <p>The impact of the prison early release programme</p> <p>The Chair of VAWP stated the Justice services and police has HVAWPs full support to take this matter forward and is happy for the group to pass on the information presented so far by the delivery group and that it has also been raised with HVAWP.</p> <p>It was agreed to ensure the Detective Superintendent Is updated by the Chair of the Delivery Group and look at possibilities of linking in with the Prison as things progress.</p> <p>Lack of attendance at the meetings over the last two or three occasions</p> <p>PM requested that all Delivery group Chairs identify who and what partners are needed at these delivery groups. The request can then go from PM to senior managers and organisations to ask them if they can put a deputy in. Moving forward if there is still no attendance COG could get involved. This matter was agreed by members of VAWP.</p> <p>b) Learning, Development & Prevention Delivery Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans for the 16 days which had been circulated and discussed above was approved. • A request was made to re-run the prison programme. HVAWP asked for evaluation and feedback from the 	<p>Delivery Grp Chairs</p>
----	--	-----------------------------------

	<p>prison course be presented to HVAWP before this could be considered</p> <p>c) MARAC Delivery Group</p> <p>Increase in referrals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are normally 9 referrals in a week, but the MARAC coordinator reported they had received 28 and this was due primarily to a change in the way the police were having to deal with repeat referrals. Professional judgement had previously been used but SafeLives criteria does not allow that. • Concern was raised that if this were to continue it would overload the MARAC process if systems were swamped disproportionately with referrals, it will increase the risk into that system. • Police are going to review the situation over an agreed period. • Concern was expressed by the meeting about the staffing levels and the fact the partnership is running below what SafeLives advised level already which had been reported to COG. • A meeting to take place to discuss issues and agreed actions to resolve the situation. (PM, CR, KP, CM, LR & DSI Czerniakiewicz) to help progress this matter with SafeLives. Help can be sought along with expertise from other areas as there may be somebody who has had previous experience in dealing this. • KP to ask how other MARACs across Scotland are going to deal with this situation • It was reported some additional capacity was not provided by the part time 1 year admin post for HVAWP, but this is limited as other priorities also needed urgent attention. • Other main capacity issues - The MARAC coordinator is meeting with Oasis regarding storage capacity for recording and this is ongoing. 	<p>PM, CR, KP, CM, LR</p> <p>KP</p>
--	--	---

d) **Service Provision Delivery Group**

- The contracts with Highland Council are currently under review. There is going to be a change to the way the LA contracts are now processed and will be much more highly monitored. We are waiting for Highland Council to continue finalising the specification of a PIN notice to go out on Public Contract Scotland. Women's Aid and Scottish Women's Aid have been speaking with the council. The HVAWP Chair has again offered VAWP expertise and input into the process
- There is no funding confirmed for April 2025 onwards from Government (DES) or Locally.
- The group are continuing to look at data with the help of Sarah Griffiths – (MORSE, Midwifery and Badgernet) this is ongoing. CR will take this forward.

S&T Joint Project with CPC

- Representation has been made to the Scottish Government by Safe & Together leads across Scotland in relation to funding which has not been announced past March 2025.
- Locally we have managed to significantly reduce costs by delivering in person training ourselves in the Highland area.
- A new Northern Collaborative has been set up with other local authorities who are now working closer together to look at shared resources and support.
- Uptake in training is very positive with 90% of people attended and completed the in person programme bearing in mind it is a four day programme.

Comments:

	<p>PM thanked the Delivery groups for all their hard work, productivity and input and thanked them for highlighting the main issues for discussion and action.</p>	
9.	<p>ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS</p> <p>MR asked for agreement on the materials that she placed on the chat for the 16 days which was agreed to be used for HVAWP purposes.</p>	
10.	<p>HVAWP RISK REGISTER</p> <p>MARAC consider putting on to RR. Meeting to be held first then a decision to be put to group.</p>	
11.	<p>DATES OF 2025 MEETINGS:</p> <p>To be sent out as diary invitations.</p> <p>MS Teams invitations, agendas and papers are sent out approximately 1 week before meetings.</p>	