

**Highland Council/NHS Highland
Joint Monitoring Committee**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Highland Council/NHS Highland Joint Monitoring Committee held in the offices of Highland Home Carers Ltd, 1 Highlander Way Inverness Retail and Business Park, Inverness, IV2 7GE, on 13 March 2025 at 10.30am.

Present:

Highland Council

Mr David Fraser (Vice Chair)
Mr Raymond Bremner (remote)
Ms Fiona Duncan (remote)
Mr Ian Kyle
Ms Fiona Malcolm
Mr Brian Porter
Mrs Kate Lackie (from item 3) (remote)

NHS Highland

Ms Sarah Compton-Bishop (Chair)
Dr Tim Allison
Mr Graham Bell (sub for Mr A Anderson) (remote)
Ms Ann Clark (remote)
Ms Heledd Cooper
Mrs Pamela Stott
Ms Fiona Davies
Mr Gerry O'Brien (remote)
Dr Paul Treon (from item 3)

Staff Representatives

Mr John Gibson (Highland Council) (remote) (item 1 only)

Third Sector, Carer and Service User Representatives

Mr Christopher Allan (Scottish Care Highland Branch Chair – Care Homes) (remote)
Ms Roisin Connolly, (Connecting Carers) (remote)
Mr Campbell Mair (Scottish Care - Care at Home)
Ms Joan Philip (Highland Senior Citizen's Network) (sub for Ian McNamara) (remote)
Dr Gaener Rodger (Inspiring Young Voices)
Ms Mhairi Wylie (Highland Third Sector Interface) (remote)

Officers Present

Mr D Park, Deputy Chief Executive, NHS Highland
Mr S Steer, Director of Adult Social Care, NHS Highland
Mrs L Dunn, Joint Democratic Services Manager, Highland Council
Ms F MacBain, Senior Committee Officer, Highland Council

Ms S Compton-Bishop in the Chair

**1. Calling of the Roll and Apologies for Absence
Gairm a' Chlàir agus Leisgeulan**

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Ms Louise Bussell, Mr Derek Brown, Mr Alasdair Christie, Mr Derek Loudon, Mr Alex Anderson, Mr Ian McNamara and Ms Elspeth Caithness.

**2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement
Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/Aithris Fhollaiseachd**

There were none.

3. Appointments Cur an Dreuchd

The Committee **AGREED** to make the following appointments to the Committee:

- NHS Highland: Dr Paul Treon, Clinical Director (Primary Care)
- Highland Council: Mrs Kate Lackie, Assistant Chief Executive - People

4. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There had been circulated and were **APPROVED** minutes of the meetings of the Joint Monitoring Committee held on 13 December 2024.

5. JMC Action Log Loga Gnìomha

There had been circulated the Committee's Actions Log.

During discussion it was pointed out that work was ongoing on the creation of a steering group for the new delivery model and that the Committee would be kept updated on progress. Following further discussion on the issues detailed below, the Committee **NOTED** the Action Log and **AGREED**:

- i. that the workplan showing the intention to report on Risk 15 (the need for clear governance structures, as referenced in the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report 2023-24) be presented to the next meeting; and
- ii. that the presentation of a report to a future meeting on the types of support people were receiving from SDS Option 1, including the national context of the issue (as agreed by the JMC in December 2024) be added to the Action Log.

6. Chief Officer's Report Adult Services Aithisg Àrd-Oifigeir mu Sheirbheisean Inbheach

There had been circulated Report No JMC/01/25 by the Chief Officer, Highland Health and Social Care Partnership.

The Chief Officer gave a presentation on the Adult Services Strategy and the work underpinning the performance detailed in the report.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- it was requested that the results of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), and how it would be used to steer forthcoming plans, should be provided to a future meeting or development session. Information was provided on the data sets being developed to articulate the JSNA, its relationship to the Strategic Plan, and the commissioning strategy that was being worked on. The JSNA was being used to assist with a pilot project in Lochaber;
- information was requested on the data/numbers on increased recruitment in Skye. It was reported that the first birth had recently taken place in the new hospital on Skye, and it was suggested the excellent place-based partnership recruitment work that had taken place on Skye be rolled out to other areas of the Highlands. Attention was drawn to useful community communication

methods that were being used in Ardnamurchan, and to the wider implementation of community-led support initiatives;

- the benefits of the Step Up, Step Down approach were highlighted, although this approach could introduce procurement challenges for third sector organisations. The need for flexibility and reduced bureaucracy was referenced, and a pilot around this would be useful. The advantages of planning of procurement and commissioning on outcomes were summarised, and attention was drawn to the importance of using a variety of procurement tools and methods, tailored in a nuanced manner to individual situations;
- concern was expressed at the potential for inequality and imbalance with regard to recruitment and retention, noting, however, that this could be influenced by ring-fenced funding for particular projects. It was suggested that care at home should be prioritised and supported as much as care homes, though also acknowledged that both sectors were often recruiting from the same pool of staff, and that it was important to grow the whole workforce without detrimental impact to any sector;
- it was urged that in relation to technology enabled care supporting people in their homes, feedback should be sought from young people using those technologies, particularly young carers;
- the rapid digitisation of key or core services was welcomed but risked disengaging certain groups of population, and this should be taken into consideration when new technologies were introduced; and
- timelines for the new management of Moss Park care home in Fort William were sought and provided, and an update on Moss Park and Mains House was requested for the next meeting.

The Committee **NOTED** the work undertaken in implementing the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership Joint Strategic Plan and assurance performance information as supplied, and **AGREED**:

- i. any data / numbers on increased recruitment on Skye be shared with the Committee outwith the meeting;
- ii. that progress with Moss Park and Mains House care homes be reported to the Committee in June 2025; and
- iii. the results of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and how it would be used to steer forthcoming plans, be presented to the Committee after it had been considered by the Strategic Planning Group.

7. Integrated Children's Services Update **Cunntas às Ùr mu Sheirbheisean Chloinne**

There had been circulated Report No JMC/02/25 by the Chair of the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- the update on the Promise Plan and good news about Whole Family Wellbeing Programme funding were welcomed;
- the further development of the use of data to help target funding would be beneficial, for example using socio-economic profiling to promote and support breastfeeding;
- information was sought and provided on Highland's relatively high rate of referral per 1000 children to the Reporter, including thresholds and links with the Reporter's office. Ms Wylie made reference to a 2021 health check commissioned by the Community Justice Partnership, which had included the

number of children being referred to the Reporter, benchmarked against other Local Authorities, with Highland being relatively high. The number of children being admitted to hospital under the influence of alcohol had also been relatively high;

- the level of engagement undertaken with children and young people on the Promise Plan was welcomed, as was the partnership working with the third sector on some of the projects. It was hoped the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding would be able to provide support for third sector organisations, including those working in partnership with statutory organisations;
- longer term procurement contracts could be helpful to third sector and other organisations to facilitate longer term planning;
- it was welcomed that opinions in addition to data had been captured and would enable the improved interpretation of the data;
- it was suggested that good practice from implementation of the Children's Plan could be used to inform the Adult's Strategic Plan;
- while acknowledging the positive outcomes reported, it was queried whether the achievements related to the goals, including timescales and measurable impacts from actions. Reference was made to the annual report which would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee;
- it was suggested that closer scrutiny and a strategic, targeted approach was required for transitions from Children's to Adult Services, with particular reference to the increasing numbers of those with high levels of dependency and disability, and those affected by poverty and low employment. The focus on the development of life-long approaches, and to have synergy between the plans, was highlighted. In this regard, the increasing levels of partnership and integration work was welcomed, and the forthcoming audit would be useful to identify areas of good practice and gaps in services; and
- the impact of rurality on poverty data was highlighted as an area of concern, particularly as it was challenging to quantify. With child poverty being high on the list of priorities for the Scottish Government, it was important to advocate for rural elements to be properly taken into consideration. This had formed part of the work on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and could be circulated to the Committee.

Thereafter, the Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the work undertaken by the children's services planning partnership in delivering the Highland Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023 – 2026;
- ii. **NOTED** the work of the delivery groups; and
- iii. **AGREED** to circulate outwith the Committee information on rurality which had been collated for the Whole Family Wellbeing initiative, as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

8. Highland Health & Social Care Partnership Finance Report Aithisgean Ionmhais Com-pàirteachas Slàinte & Cùraim Shòisealta na Gàidhealtachd

a. Highland Health & Social Care Partnership Finance Report Aithisg Ionmhais Com-pàirteachas Slàinte & Cùraim Shòisealta na Gàidhealtachd

There had been circulated Report No JMC/03/25 by the Director of Finance, NHS Highland.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- further information was requested on the link between expenditure and activities, with concern being expressed at the reported rising costs for care at home, despite activity appearing to decline. In this regard, reference was made to the planned commissioning strategy which it was intended would provide more of this type of information including, for example, the percentage of population that might be expected to be in a care home versus receiving care at home. However, it was also pointed out that the situation was often too complex to breakdown to such a granular level, with complicating issues including the difference in costs for the NHS versus independent care providers, and the need for a suitable system to analyse the necessary data. In addition, costs could be spread across integrated services, further complicating the ability to break them down to a cost per patient, and noting that the NHS had many other factors to take into consideration over and above care. The importance of data to help understand what was being achieved for the expenditure was reiterated, as was the need to aim for patient-level costing information;
- attention was drawn to the £6m overspend (on top of £10m the previous year) on caring for people with a learning disability, and the need to work together to manage this; and
- the additional funding for short breaks for carers was welcomed and further information on this was sought.

The Committee **NOTED** the financial position at Month 9 (December) 2024/2025 and **AGREED** to report back on Scottish Government funding for the provision of respite to unpaid carers.

b. Highland Council Finance Report **Aithisg Ionmhais Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd**

There had been circulated Report No JMC/04/25 by the Chief Officer – Corporate Finance.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- it was queried why, in the Adult Social Care workstream, one of the measures of success detailed in the report was the ‘reduced cost of adult social care’ when, in order to shift the balance of care to the community, more investment was required. It was clarified that the context of this should be taken into account and that shifting the balance of care to the community would reduce costs. Attention was drawn to the £20m of additional ASC funding that had been received to produce a recurring cost reduction, noting that the current cost levels were not sustainable. The role of the Delivery Plan in this was referenced, and attention would be given to whether the wording of this could be improved;
- the challenging position in relation to costs rising faster than investment uplifts, was highlighted. Making better use of the resources available was key, and would be further considered in relation to the commissioning strategy that was being developed. The £20m of additional ASC funding was welcomed but was still not enough to meet the challenges being faced;

- the need to link cost data with activity was emphasised, and the importance of finding improved ways of working was reiterated, with the Home to Highland project being cited as an example of an improved service which also saved money; and
- it was suggested that the Children's and Adults' Strategic Plans did not yet dovetail as effectively as had been hoped in relation to the transition process from Children's to Adult services and this was an area that would benefit from further consideration at a future committee. It was clarified that work on the transitions process was ongoing and could be further considered outwith the meeting.

The Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the report and update provided;
- ii. **NOTED** the forecast out-turn position for Council and Integrated Children's Services;
- iii. **NOTED** the update provided regarding the Council's Delivery Plan; and
- iv. **AGREED** to consider the issue of transitions from Children's to Adult Services at a future committee.

Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked Ann Clark for her time on the Committee and her work for the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership, and wished her well for the future.

The meeting ended at 12.50pm.



HIGHLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING via MICROSOFT TEAMS

Minute of Meeting: 20th March, 2025

PRESENT:

Highland CPC – Mhairi Grant (Chair), Donna Munro (Lead Officer), Fiona Mackintosh (L&D Officer), Mary Cameron (Minute)

Highland Council Social Care – Fiona Duncan (ECO Health & Social Care), Gillian Buchanan (Interim Head of Service – Children, Young People & Families), Louise Smith (strategic Lead - Social Care), Pol McClelland (Strategic Lead - Youth Justice)

Highland Council Health – Toni Barker – on behalf of Jane Park - (Lead Nurse - Child Health), Nancy Healy (Lead Nurse – Child Protection),

Highland Council Education – Yvonne Ross (Education Psychology, Child Protection Officer, Education & Learning)

Highland Council Performance and Improvement – Ian Kyle (Head of Integrated Children's Services), Sadie Kevill (Performance & Improvement Childcare Manager), Jonathan Denovan (Business Intelligence Officer), Jennifer Baughan (Whole Family Wellbeing)

The Promise Programme Manager – Carrie McLaughlan

NHS Highland – Stephanie Govenden (Lead Paediatrician Child Protection), Louise Bussell (Board Nurse), Isla Barton (Director of Midwifery), Deborah Stewart (Child Health Commissioner, Public Health)

Third Sector – Wendy Strathearn (Barnardos)

Army Welfare Service - TBC

SCRA – Karen Erskine (Authority Reporter)

Children's Hearings Scotland – Lisa MacDonald (Area Convener)

Care Inspectorate – Tim Ward

APOLOGIES:

Police Scotland – DCI Ross Hamill (PPU), DCI Craig Thompson

Highland Councillor Representative - David Fraser

Highlife Highland - James Martin – (Director Corporate Services)

Highland Council Legal - James Noone - (Legal Manager – Litigation & Advice)

Highland Council Health - Jane Park - (Strategic Lead – Child Health)

Scottish Prison Service - Kerry O'Hagan - (Head of Offenders Outcomes)

Highland CPC - Mike Mawby - (Safe & Together Programme Manager)

Highland Council Social Care - Wendy Lowrie - (Children's Services Manager – Bairns' Hoose and SCIM)

1. Welcome

- Mhairi Grant opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- Concerns raised about poor attendance at the Development Day (12 Feb); members urged to attend or send substitutes.
- Staff updates:
 - Margaret McIntyre has now left; Jack Libby will take over as Head of Children's Services and Justice, Highland Council Social Work. Chair noted thanks for Margaret's support.
 - Heather Richardson replaces Tracey Gervaise (retired) as Director of Operations, Woman & Child Directorate, NHS Highland. Chair noted thanks for Tracey's support.
 - Wendy Lowrie joins the CPC as Children's Service Manager for Bairns' Hoose and SCIM. Chair welcomed Wendy to the CPC.
- Positive feedback from the Brighter Beginnings event held on 3rd March at Eden Court - well received by families and practitioners. Over 500 children attended with family members.

3. Learning & Development (agenda item brought forward)

- Fiona Mackintosh presented early due to training commitments.
- L&D team supports not just core training but also facilitates events like Brighter Beginnings, Street Belonging, and UHI.
- Emphasis on experiential learning and inter-agency collaboration.
- Training should not be a tick-box exercise; staff need time and space for meaningful development and multiagency networking.
- Capacity issues noted – current vacancy in social work training design/delivery – to be recruited.
- Fiona Duncan highlighted the need for strategic use of resources across services.

- Discussions on informal learning, culture change, and relationship-building across agencies.
- Gillian Buchanan highlighted development of Learning and Development pathway for Children's Services (Social Care) staff.
- Events and masterclasses seen as valuable for fostering shared understanding.

Action: Fiona to circulate an e-learning paper developed for the national group.

4. Quality Assurance (QA)

- Focus on IRDs (Initial Referral Discussions) and their effectiveness.
- Concerns about children not progressing to formal protection measures – what additional support is required for these children?
- Multi-case audit planned for summer; Donna and Gillie to meet with Tim Ward.
- Education's involvement in IRDs increasing - Yvonne Ross attending to assess volume and embed process.
- Over 100 IRDs in 6 weeks; capacity concerns raised.
- Police report template helps but process remains time-consuming.
- Discussion on whether IRDs are being overused; risk aversion vs. capacity – QA Sub-Group to explore this further.
- Donna confirmed CSA is on the improvement plan; also highlighted neglect linked to parental factors.
- IRDs under pressure from SCIM and CARM processes; police lack capacity for additional demands.
- Quarterly report shows drop in child protection registrations despite high IRD volume.
- Full QARO staffing may improve review timelines.
- Note: Q1 report attached, not Q2.

5. CPC Development Day & Improvement Plan

- Development Day had low CPC attendance but strong third sector representation.
- Shift from inspection plan to CPC-led improvement plan.
- Emphasis on culture change and whole-system approach.
- Donna shared presentation; members asked to contribute ideas.
- Key priorities: advocacy, school prevention, disability, neglect, healthy relationships.
- CSA and neglect span all priorities.
- Plan should align with Integrated Children's Services Plan to avoid duplication.

- Ian Kyle stressed importance of family-focused approaches.
- CPC plan should be collaborative, specific, and reference other strategic documents.

6. Starting Out Action Plan

- Nancy Healy presented the action plan for children from pre-birth to toddler.
- Focus on trauma-informed practice, father involvement, and neglect.
- Vulnerable Pregnancy Pathway renamed to “Women, Pregnancy and Additional Support.” Training available to support understanding of the pathway.
- Consulting with our Youngest Children Toolkit launched at Brighter Beginnings.
- New actions include:
 - Infant mental health project in Lochaber (Sarah Bracken).
 - SG-supported quality improvement work (led by Toni Barker).
- Isla Barton offered support from her service if required.

7. Re-Imagining Justice for Older Young People

- Awaiting SG Care & Justice Bill (June 2025) - implementation deadline tight (April 2026).
- Projects underway:
 - Anchor Project (third sector)
 - Side Step and RISE supporting children affected by criminal and sexual exploitation (Barnardos and Action for Children)
 - Contextual Safeguarding framework in development
- Secure care transportation costs highlighted (£1000+ per case).
- SG ruling prevents under-18s being placed in Polmont—pressure on secure placements.
- Funding for remand youth may revert to Scottish Government.
- Staff support for traumatic cases under review.
- Technology and restorative approaches (Signs of Safety) being considered.

8. Child Death Review (CDR)

- Stephanie Govenden presented CDR report.
- 1/3 of deaths classified as preventable; aim to reduce by 25% over 5 years.
- Data challenges due to low numbers and postcode variability.
- Recommendation: develop a SUDI strategy with councils.

- Isla and Nancy expressed support; Donna suggested Starting Out group involvement.
- End-of-life care policy in development.
- Bereavement nurse funding being pursued; partnership with Child Bereavement UK for online support.

9. Safe & Together Update

- Papers shared for noting; no further discussion.

10. AOCB

- COG update: report presented by Mhairi, discussion on deregistrations.
- CPC Conference scheduled for 17 June 2025 at Eden Court.
 - Theme: “Getting it Right in Child Protection”
 - Call for workshop ideas and volunteers.
- Women, Pregnancy and Additional Needs Guidance noted.

11. Next Meeting

- Scheduled for **Thursday 5th June 2025**, 11:00–14:00.



Highland VAW Partnership Meeting

15th July 2025

PRESENT:

Peter MacKenzie – Independent Chair HVAWP
 DI Christopher MacLeod, Police Scotland
 DI Anna Johnston, Police Scotland
 Margaret Ross, Highland Council
 Hilary Parkey, Highland Council
 Mike Mawby, Safe & Together
 Karen Peteranna, HVAWP
 Susan Birse, Public Health, NHS
 Lorraine Revitt, Lochaber Women’s Aid
 Alev Taylor, RASASH
 James Martin, HLH
 Maria Cano Montaner, Justice Service
 Mhairi MacDonald, Forensic Nurse Coordinator, NHS

Apologies: Catherine Russell, HVAWP

NOTES: Yvonne Sutherland, PH NHS

		ACTIONS
1.	WELCOME PM welcomed members to the meeting and introductions were made.	
2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 th May 2025 were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record. The Action Tracker was updated as appropriate.	
3.	HOUSING POLICY PLAN AND PROMOTION OF SURVEY HP circulated a paper to members prior to the meeting and highlighted that the ask of this group, sub-groups and groups across the network is to help identify issues, gaps and challenges to complete a housing related domestic abuse policy. The policy will set out how services are delivered for those who are at risk or experiencing domestic abuse with a view to preventing homelessness. There is an elevated level of activity in services provided where domestic abuse is or has been an issue to prevent homelessness. The impetus is to bring this into a single policy/framework. Approx. 160 households apply as homeless each year due to a dispute in the home, approx. 1400 people on average. HC are currently landlord to 15,000 tenancies and have signed up to the Make a Stand campaign led by the Chartered Institute of Housing and various domestic abuse services. There	

	will be new powers introduced to end joint tenancies in domestic abuse cases. The policy will set out how needs are met, and the overall aim is to reduce domestic abuse and its impact, to improve housing outcomes for victims and their family. An action plan will be embedded in the policy, and it is hoped partners will work collaboratively. The policy needs to fit Highland overall and a survey will be circulated to try to meet requirements. HP requested feedback on the content of the survey. SB advised she is happy to promote the questions and queried if feedback should be delayed until after the school holidays. HP advised there is no deadline initially, and happy for guidance from members. HP is keen to have an additional survey that is focussed to victim and survivors and will link with organisations/individuals with a plan on how that should be done. PM suggested sending the survey for comment via email to members of groups with a single point of contact and thereafter resending once it is live. First survey will be practitioners and professionals and then moving on to lived experience victims/survivors. MM will send links that the improvement service has developed which may be of assistance to link in and improve efficiency. ➤ ACTION HP to forward information to SB/PM/VAWP mailbox re wording of the survey so it can be circulated throughout the network for comment and provide an email address to send back suggestions.	HP
4.	FINANCIAL Police SLA PM is meeting with Ross Hamill on 30th July to discuss the finalisation of the Police SLA. RH has requested documentation from 2012 relating to the MARAC agreement and funding. CM and KP have taken actions to interrogate records. ➤ ACTION CM to investigate if any MARAC agreement documentation or previous minutes exist within the Police records for 2012. Karen will also look from the MARAC side. Oasis has increased fees by 5%. PM proposed amending the three-year plan to include this price. The increase will be implemented on 1st April 2026.	CM/KP
5.	CURRENT KEY ISSUES National VAWP Needs Assessment – Summer 2025 Improvement services informed that in February 2025, Scottish Government announced that work would commence on an assessment tool seen as an important aid to bring together partners from across different services and policy areas to raise awareness of everyone's role in tackling violence against women and girls. The tool will help identify opportunities to drive forward improvements and maximise the safety and well-being of women, children, and young people. The programme engagement activities took place during April and June to develop a draft needs assessment tool, drawing on the knowledge and expertise that exists across the whole sector and wider policy areas. The needs assessment tools will be tested in a small number of local authority areas between September 2025 and March 2026. It will help to identify examples of good practise and increase understanding and support. Learning from the testing phase will be used to develop an updated version of the needs assessment tool, which will be available to partners who wish to use it from April 2026. PM advised that the group has been asked if they wish to be one of the testing partners and we need to express an interest no later than the 15th of August 2025. Grants of up to £40,000 will be	

	available to support participation in the testing phase and each partnership will decide on the budget they need and how they intend to use it. Costs must be directly related to activity to support the testing phase and incurred between September 2025 and March 2026. All partners will be notified by the end of August if they have been successful and selected for the testing phase. PM asked members their thoughts of being one of the testing partners and commented that it would need to be a dedicated salaried position. Concern was expressed in respect of staffing restraints. PM queried if we could budget and apply for a grant for a training/data officer and will discuss with deputes offline if this is possible. PM will clarify what is expected by being a testing partner and what the grant funding is specifically for. AT also agreed that capacity would be an issue, and it would be helpful to receive guidance on what it entails, and meeting timelines would be difficult given it is mid-July. MM advised it would be important to liaise with social work under child protection, and it would need input from senior managers to ensure there is no overload. ➤ ACTION PM will ascertain the exact requirements of being a testing partner National Strategic Commissioning and Funding Review of VAWG services update (PM) Draft Annual Report for approval Elaine Lyall is continuing to work on the Annual Report. Medical Illustrations has not been contacted yet, in the pretence that one of Susan Birse's team can pick up that detail of work in a shorter timescale. PM advised AT to email the generic VAWP email address so communications can be picked up due to team sickness. JM advised the annual report is in the final stages and will need to be published even if all organisations have not replied given the length of time in edit. ➤ ACTION All partners to input into annual report, a reminder will be sent Marketing & Social Media Policies – Update (JM) JM updated that he is trying to coordinate various policies between NHS, HC and Police Scotland but struggling to contact marketing teams. It was agreed at the last meeting that comms policies for each organisation should be sent over to him and any contact names/email addresses for comms teams. ➤ ACTION JM will continue to progress this Festival and other large events support MM updated that all welfare documents for Belladrum have been completed and submitted. There is a new section on responding to sexual assault that has been included in the public protection handbook for Belladrum and all other large events. Next HVAWP Development Day (PM) This is proposed to be in November and will specifically look at training as a theme and how this can be improved. The suggestion is to have a training session in the morning and workshops in the afternoon.	PM ALL JM
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6.	Delivery Group Updates MM updated that there has been a reduction in uptake numbers for programmes offered and delivered out with the Inverness area, the cause of this is unknown. Attendance and engagement in Inverness remain at an elevated level as well as interest from colleagues out with the area. Practitioners have responded with offers of case consultations, which averages as one per week, and is highlighting issues or gaps in services. MM is part of the CP committee's case file audit process and as part of that is looking specifically at domestic abuse being a known issue, this will give an indication of whether the elements of the model are being applied in practice. The next stage is a case file audit and then a survivor mapping exercise. A formal check-in will be done towards the end of the year and will be a collaborative exercise with other partners.	
7.	COG items Addressing Perpetrators CM highlighted priority number 4 - support the Highland Caledonian Programme and advised that funding has been cut by 28% for next year. It will be monitored but there may be opportunities for partnerships to support the programme. Group membership has been improved with additions of preventions, interventions, and education. Early intervention through education can be introduced with agreement from the secondary school's coordinator who will join the group in the next quarter. MC explained that the Highland Caledonian Programme is being expanded to all 32 local authorities and the funding cut will be challenging. There are currently two social workers, 1.5 children's workers and 2 women's workers. The funding cut would result in the loss of a children's worker and a women's worker and every person who has an assessment requires a contact for support. MC will send an update to PM so he can address with the COG. Justice Services are participating with the University of Edinburgh in a programme called Advanti, currently piloted in areas of Wales and Scotland for people who would not normally be able to participate in Caledonian due to alcohol and drug use. ➤ ACTION MC to send an update regarding funding cuts to PM so he can address with the COG. Learning Development Group MM updated that the group plan to review the strategic plan so focus can be made on the objectives that fit within the coming year. A lot of actions were stagnant and have been refreshed or moved to relevant subgroups to progress. PM expressed the importance of aligning groups, so they work in unison, with the same formats and with correct membership. 16 days is a large part of the group and will remain within but there will also be a subgroup. Potential also for a subgroup for campaigns so national campaigns can be picked up alongside. ➤ ACTION Admin team for social media MARAC LR updated that the focus of the meeting was to review the MARAC operating protocol which KP has been given some time out to do. Each section was reviewed with follow up required. KP spends a lot of time gathering data on stats, but it was felt it is still a requirement, but slightly less detail at meetings. Attendance was reviewed and education have done a piece of work on the legal basis of attending	MC ADMIN

	MARAC with thoughts to replicate in other groups. This will be shared once the paperwork goes through. PM suggested sharing the proposal with the COG to raise awareness. A physical health rep to cover the core agencies is the most obvious gap in attendance. KP advised the islands have a public protection lead nurse who provides all health information and may be something to consider in Highland. MM advised there are Public Protection roles coming in Highland. KP advised that there is Chair training ongoing and MARAC rep training is being considered also. Service Delivery Group In Catherine's absence from the meeting there were no updates to the agenda items. LR highlighted that members were over reliant on Catherine bringing updates to the meeting and questioned how involved people attending the meeting are. Actions are primarily given to the back team. LR is reviewing the current priorities for the group as felt to be underutilised. Link in with EL re previous service delivery group minutes and it will be part of the four group reviews. ➤ ACTION LR to link in with EL re previous service delivery group minutes and it will be part of the four group reviews. Women's Aid Funding in Highland LR advised that there was a meeting with HC with the outcome being that there is no one service that covers what HC want. A further meeting is scheduled on 5th August where there will be two meetings, one in the morning discuss to the refuge and outreach and then a workshop type meeting in the afternoon. All women's aid groups have had meetings with HC since and the funding has been extended to March 2026 at the same level. A collaborative approach is needed to identify services to meet all the requirements of HC and is hoped to be concluded prior to Christmas.	LR/EL
8.	HVAWP RISK REGISTER There have been no amendments since the last meeting. Alev queried if extended sick leave should this be added to the register and how this is mitigated.	
9.	AOB Jack Livey, Head of Children's Services and Justice, is the replacement for Margaret McIntyre, and PM is meeting with him in the next two weeks. He will be invited to the next meeting. There was a Transport meeting in May and one of the agenda items was safety on public transport. PM is attending a learning meeting in relation to national perspective and safety on public transport for women and girls and how to promote safety. Stats through Police Scotland is that there is not a lot of violence on buses but there is a fear factor with younger women walking late at night. There are several resources and tactics to encourage them to feel safe. Scottish Government are looking at a national app for people using transport, working home late at night etc. One of the actions emerging from the meeting was to look at a media campaign with the press so we control what is put out there, so a true	

	reflection is portrayed. Each group will advise what they want to promote and what resources they have available. ➤ ACTION PM will meet JL, Head of Children's Services and Justice and invite him to the next meeting	PM
10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 29 October, 1pm-3pm To be sent out as diary invitations. MS Teams invites; agenda and related papers are sent out approximately 1 week prior to meetings. All meetings are set to pre-record for the year.	