

**Fife Violence Against Women Partnership  
Executive Committee  
2:00pm, Tuesday 1 February 2022  
Microsoft Teams**



**PRESENT:** Heather Bett, Clinical Services Manager, NHS Fife (Chair)  
 Jess Denniff, MARAC Co-ordinator, Fife Violence Against Women Partnership  
 Annette Keogh, Area Personal Support Officer (North) Army Welfare Service  
 Kate McCormack, Manager, Fife Women’s Aid  
 Sheila Noble, Co-ordinator, Fife Violence Against Women Partnership  
 David Paterson, Area Services Manager, Housing and Communities  
 Karen Pedder, Service Manager, Education and Children’s Services  
 Zahida Ramzan, Equalities Co-ordinator, Community & Corporate Development  
 Barbara Ann Robb, GBV Nurse, NHS Fife  
 Paul Short, Service Manager - Housing, Health & Social Care & Older Persons  
 Rebeca Shovlin, Alcohol and Drug Partnership  
 Patricia Spacey, Team Manager, Community Safety Partnership, Housing & Communities  
 Jan Swan, Manager, Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre  
 Penny Turnbull, Assistant Director Student Services, St Andrews University  
 Dianne Williamson, Equality and Human Rights Officer, NHS Fife

**APOLOGIES:** Elizabeth Butters, Co-ordinator, Fife ADP  
 Craig Fraser, Detective Inspector, Police Scotland  
 Louise Noble, Lead Nurse, NHS Fife  
 Kelly McEwan, Detective Chief Inspector, Police Scotland  
 Cllr Judy Hamilton, Elected Member, Fife Council  
 Steve Hopton, Service Manager, Criminal Justice Service  
 Nina Munday, Manager, Fife Centre for Equalities  
 Joy Patrick, Manager, Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project  
 Rona Weir, Education Manager, Education Service

**Minute prepared by** Mary MacIntyre, Support Assistant, Business Support,

Item		Main Points of Discussion	Decision	Responsible	Timescale
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	Heather Bett welcomed all to the meeting. Minutes of previous meeting 07 October 2021.	Agreed		

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4.	<b>Matters arising/Task Register</b>	<p>Task register 07 October 2021</p> <p>Task 283 – Complete – Dianne Williamson reported that NHS Fife currently have good working policies and procedures. May look at in the future if this changes</p> <p>Task 284 ADP Rebecca to discuss with Elizabeth Butters. Feedback to FVAWP</p> <p>Health and Social Care – Heather to check where to report FVAWP annual report</p>	Agreed	<p><b>Rebecca Shovlin</b></p> <p><b>Heather Bett</b></p>	
5	<b>Resources</b>	<p><b>VAW specialist Services Report July - Sept 2021</b> Report circulated prior to meeting.</p> <p>Sheila spoke to the report and thanked all services for their input. Noted that this has been a lot of work to ensure consistency across the data going forward.</p> <p>Points to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referral rates continue to be unpredictable depending on pressures and different stages of lockdowns etc.</li> <li>• Waiting lists continue to rise.</li> <li>• Services are using staff members from other areas to manage waiting lists</li> <li>• Most services are offering both face to face and virtual appointments. Services will continue to work on a blended approach for the foreseeable future.</li> <li>• Staff numbers continue to be an issue due to self-isolation and issues around recruitment.</li> </ul> <p>Penny Turnbull reported that referral numbers are up in St Andrew's University. New FRASAC worker has been in post for almost 6 months. Penny will report back to FVAWP to show level of demand. Challenges around young people not seeing themselves as being in an 'abusive relationship'</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>		

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	<p>Sheila noted that there is some good service user feedback included in the report.</p> <p>All agreed that the report was good and easy to read</p> <p><b>Saje Scotland</b> Sheila reported that Saje Scotland have funding only until the end of May 2022. Their funding application to the DESF for £380,000 was unsuccessful. They have applied for funding via the Victim Centre Support Funds but won't hear about that until March 2022</p> <p>They have applied for funding from several places, only being successful in getting small amounts.</p> <p>They have been lobbying local papers, MPs etc to try and raise awareness that the service will not be available from June 2022 if no funding is found</p> <p><b>Delivering Equally Safe Fund</b> (report circulated) Sheila reported on the services in Fife who were successful in their funding bids to the DESF.</p> <p>Funding has been cut from 3 years to 2 years. Funding has been received for core work only.</p> <p>Sheila also reported that Lesley Irving has been appointed as an Independent Chair to undertake a strategic review of funding and commissioning.</p> <p><b>Venture Trust</b> (correction to report) Funded by DESF across all local authorities in Scotland via their Next Steps Programme which works with women facing significant disadvantage. It provides both primary and secondary prevention of VAWG through overcoming the underlying circumstances that lead to women's increased vulnerability and inequality.</p>	<p>Agreed to continue with quarterly reports in this format</p> <p>It was recognised that if Saje folds it will leave a gap in services in Fife.</p> <p>DESF has been widely criticised for cutting funding from 3 to 2 years. Jan highlighted the challenges of short-term funding</p> <p>Sheila to attend a VAW network round table event 10/02/22</p> <p>It was noted that all organisations should have links to their local VAWP. This is not the case with the Venture Trust</p>		

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	<p>Long term outcomes of the programme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved wellbeing</li> <li>• Improved relationship skills</li> <li>• Improved resilience and stability</li> <li>• Sustained connection to relevant support services</li> </ul> <p><b>FVAWP Team update</b> New Learning and Development Officer, Keri Duffy will start on 21 February 2022</p> <p>New Job Share FVAWP Co-ordinator – post has been offered to applicant. Currently waiting on recruitment checks being completed. No start date yet.</p>	Noted		
6.	<p><b>Update Presentation FVAWP Priority 4</b></p>	Apologies from Steve - to be added to agenda for next meeting		
7.	<p><b>MARAC – Jess Denniff</b></p>	<p><b>MARAC Review and Improvement Plan</b> (circulated) Jess spoke to the report.</p> <p>Review was initiated by the MARAC SOG in June 2020. Vicki Cassells was appointed to carry out the review. Key recommendations from the review have been incorporated into Action plan which will be overseen by the SOG</p> <p><b>Annual Update 2020/21</b> (circulated) Jess spoke to the report, highlighting key aspects of what had been a challenging year impacted by Covid restrictions and the impact that had on services and individuals. Good service user feedback at the end of the report</p>		
8.	<p><b>FVAWP Action Plan</b></p>	<p>FVAWP Action Plan progress (January attached) Heather asked for updates from the chairs of the Priority groups</p> <p>Priority 1 – Sheila updated.</p>		

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	<p>No new training since Louise left. Programme has been continuing with the support of FVAWP team and partners.</p> <p><a href="#">What-were-you-wearing?</a> will be in the large rehearsal room in the student's union in St Andrews 24/25 March 2022, 4-6pm.</p> <p>Priority 2 – Zahida updated Equally safe at work has been delayed but is ongoing</p> <p>Priority 3 – update given at previous Executive Committee meeting in October 2021</p> <p>Barbara Ann updated re the self-referral for victims of sexual assault:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on target for starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.</li> <li>• There will be one national telephone number</li> <li>• Pathways and polices are in place</li> <li>• Forensic materials can be kept for up to 26 months</li> </ul> <p>Heather noted that Barbara Ann is retiring soon.</p> <p>Priority 4 – add to agenda for next meeting</p>	<p>Barbara Ann was thanked from the partnership for her support over the last few years.</p>		
9	<p><b>Restorative Justice</b></p> <p>(information circulated) Sheila reported that she had attended a round table event about restorative justice at the end of 2021. Scottish Government are keen to roll this out across Scotland soon to include VAW</p> <p>There were a number of concerns raised at the meeting.</p>	<p>It was agreed Sheila would draft a statement based on discussion and circulate for further comment around the FVAWP executive before feeding back to VAW / Scottish Govt and CoSLA. The following was submitted:</p> <p>FVAWP had the opportunity to discuss the use of restorative justice in situations of domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of violence against women at our meeting 01 February 2022. Partners are united in their view that it is of great concern.</p> <p>We understand:</p>		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that safety and wellbeing are intended to underpin the proposals from the Scottish Government and Community Justice Scotland in developing restorative practice.</li> <li>• the value of restorative justice and the principles that support it</li> <li>• some survivors of VAW have said they would welcome the option of restorative justice</li> </ul> <p>However, Fife VAW Partnership consider that the risks involved, as highlighted at the Roundtable on restorative justice in November 2021 outweigh any potential benefits. We believe that there are many survivors who would be put at risk by restorative practice in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• re-traumatisation,</li> <li>• perpetrators using the opportunity to further control, intimidate and coerce victims / survivors</li> <li>• survivors feeling they “ought” to agree to restorative practice</li> <li>• lack of expertise to safely manage such high-risk consequences</li> <li>• lack of resources to develop and maintain such a complex process (and should this be our priority?)</li> </ul> <p>We also believe that there is a significant body of survivors who are strongly opposed to this proposal. Third sector colleagues participating in this discussion highlighted ways that perpetrators currently abuse</p>		

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			systems such as child contact to harass, intimidate and further abuse their victims.		
10	<b>Communities and Housing Committee Report</b>	For information			
11	<b>Equally Safe Quality Standards Local Area Report 2020/21</b>	For information	Add to agenda for next meeting		
12	<b>Fife Public Protection Risk Register</b>	Draft risk register was circulated and discussed. The meeting agreed with the general approach. Sheila, Heather and Karen to meet with Derek McEwan, Chair of Chief Officers Public Safety Group to discuss FVAWP reporting	Add to agenda for next Exec meeting		
13	<b>AOCB</b>	No other business			
14	<b>MEETING DATES 2021</b>	<b>Meeting dates 2022</b> <b>09:30, Thursday 5 May</b> <b>10:00, Thursday 8 September</b> <b>10:00, Tuesday 8 November</b>			

### **Executive Committee Distribution List**

Danielle Archibald, Adult Protection Committee Lead Officer  
Heather Bett, Clinical Services Manager, NHS Fife  
Elizabeth Butters, Co-ordinator, Fife ADP  
Louise Noble, Lead Nurse, NHS Fife  
Kelly McEwan, Detective Chief Inspector, Police Scotland  
Ann Donnan, Manager, Safe Space  
Vicki Greig, HR Lead Officer, Human Resources  
Cllr Sharon Green-Wilson, Elected Member, Fife Council  
Cllr Judy Hamilton, Elected Member, Fife Council  
Steve Hopton, Service Manager, Criminal Justice Service  
Annette Keogh, Area Personal Support Officer (North) Army Welfare Service  
Kate McCormack, Manager, Fife Women's Aid  
Kelly McEwan, T/Detective Chief Inspector, Public Protection Unit  
Elric Honoré, Chief Executive, Fife Centre for Equalities  
Sheila Noble, Co-ordinator, Fife Violence Against Women Partnership  
David Paterson, Area Services Manager, Housing and Communities  
Joy Patrick, Manager, Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project  
Karen Pedder, Service Manager, Education and Children's Services  
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### **CC to deputes**

Lynda Carey, Operational Lead, Fife Women's Aid  
Craig Fraser, Detective Inspector, Police Scotland

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### **CC for information**

Sibylle

Sharon MacDonald, PA to Heather Bett, NHS Fife  
Mary MacIntyre, Support Assistant, Fife Violence Against Women Partnership (minutes)  
Gill Musk, Policy Officer, Health Inequalities Programme  
Alan Small, Independent Chair, CPC, APC, MAPPA SOG

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