

# Brighton & Hove Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Forum

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 2-4pm

Brighton Town Hall Committee Room 3

## Present-

Jeanette Hope- Money Advice Plus  
 Giles Hippisley- ITF  
 Gemma Sterry- National Probation Service  
 Rebecca Rieley- Fulfilling lives  
 Mel Potter- SWOP (Oasis)  
 Sharon Munnings- BHT  
 Lindsay Adams- DV/SV/VAWG commissioner  
 Rose Hawkins- DV/SV/VAWG partnership officer  
 Tim Read- VVE coordinator BHCC  
 Helen Race- Survivors Network  
 Jo Gough- RISE **Vice-CHAIR**  
 Jo-Anne Walsh- Oasis **CHAIR**  
 Mary Crowther- Children's services lead practitioner  
 Marianne Lemond- Brighton University  
 Gemma Harfleet- Fulfilling lives

Item	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Welcome and Housekeeping</b>                      (Jo-Anne Welsh),  <b>Introductions</b>                      (15 minutes)</p>	<p>Jo- Anne- introduced group and history of VAWG forum. Historically focused on knowledge sharing and networking across areas of work, keep up to date with work in the VAWG field for those who perhaps don't work directly in this area day to day. Also used to look at strategy locally and nationally and feed into these.</p> <p>Good opportunity to have cross sector engagement from statutory and CVS.</p>	
<p><b>What do you want from a VAWG Forum?</b>                      Small group</p>	<p><b>Brighton Uni-</b> all reps at the VAWG were previously VAWG champions and this gave a clear</p>	

discussions looking at the purpose, target attendees, frequency and communications methods (20 minutes)

role to those reps and this worked well. Networking and sharing best practice was most useful.

**Fulfilling lives-** Asked questions about how VAWG forum and Operational groups can complement each other and don't overlap. Would welcome space to contribute to national strategy.

**Survivors Network-** agreed that there is a need to have an overview of how groups link with each other.

**Lindsay-** commissioner- outlined that the importance of this group is being flexible to look holistically at the needs of women and girls. Can also provide a scrutiny function to work going on.

**RISE-** The title being 'Forum' is important that it is not a formal multi-agency partnership and it's not hierarchical and the forum has the option to bring people together as we need to maintain the focus on women and girls.

**BHT-** also a space to look at what hasn't worked well as well as sharing good practice. Sharing intel about themes and what has been learnt. Looking collectively at solutions.

**Oasis-** Important to look at diversity of the group and

	<p>consider targeting certain attendance?</p> <p><b>BHT-</b> if we can define what we are doing and make the agenda interesting and use this to gather interest.</p> <p>Ideas for topics to focus on- ITF- Honour based violence Fulfilling lives- Traveller communities Survivors Network- FGM</p> <p><b>Lindsay-</b> engagement work has shown us that inviting those from BME communities to a formal meeting might not be the most effective and we may need to consider other creative ways to engage diverse communities.</p> <p><b>RISE-</b> reflected that RISE are already engaging with different communities and can represent this work in the meeting. And others can too.</p> <p><b>Fulfilling lives-</b> Asked if Police came as there are often concerns from the FL client groups about engaging with Police so it would be useful to have their input and be able to give feedback.</p> <p><b>Survivors Network-</b> CPS inclusion officer might be interested in coming?</p> <p><b>Oasis-</b> Could we move the Forum around to different venues to engage different</p>	<p><b>All who have offered space to explore this. Chair and Joint unit to agree dates for 2020 and circulate to the group and start to consider venue and</b></p>
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	<p>groups/areas? The group agreed this would be helpful.</p> <p><b>RISE-</b> previously the Forum invited community led and survivor led organisations. We could have themes and topics to attract new attendance. The group agreed themes would be good.</p> <p><b>Tim- VVE-</b> Good idea to move it around. If the meeting was at St Richards (Hangleton and Knoll) for example might be useful as an example. Tim will look into this.</p> <p><b>Brighton Uni-</b> would like to see themes for the Forum e.g. housing, Young people, etc.</p> <p><b>Frequency-</b> ppl agreed quarterly would be helpful.</p> <p><b>Communications-</b> discussion about sharing the responsibility for minutes, booking spaces reminders, etc to reduce pressure on joint unit and also to support wide attendance by positioning the group as a neutral space.</p> <p><b>Rose-</b> Partnership officer- suggested we use the Safe in the City Website to post the dates, themes, brief record of the meeting and not to hold lists, use outlook invites to reduce administration. Oasis- felt it was important to have reminders sent out to people. Rose-</p>	<p><b>themes.</b></p>
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	<p>suggested that all the members of the group could agree to email their teams/contacts in the run up to the meeting to make sure people we aware of the next meeting and the themes by putting link to the website.</p> <p><b>Tim-</b> Could EventBright be used? As a new attendee Tim would find it helpful to look at VVE via the lens of gender at this Forum. Also would like to harness CVS involvement within the VVE world. A useful exchange between VAWG and VVE.</p> <p><b>Money Advice-</b> could have venue for a meeting so will look into and let Rose know and maybe a speaker for one of the sessions.</p> <p><b>Bri uni-</b> Mouslescombe may have a venue- will look into.</p>	
<p><b>Update on the strategy development and re-commissioning process-</b> Lindsay Adam BHCC (10 minutes)</p>	<p>6 year Strategy framework is in place and stakeholder engagement has been happening for the last year to inform this and the action plan. Moves towards Pan Sussex strategy and West Sussex are coming on board to create a joined up approach.</p> <p>Strategy and commissioning events happened on 26.11.19 and the Powerpoint for this can be shared. Feedback is still being processed and will be shared with those who attended those events as soon as it's</p>	<p><b>Framework and presentation from event on 26.11 to be circulated</b></p>

	<p>ready.</p> <p>Service re-commission- going out to tender mid Feb 2020 (DV, SV, Refuge and Stalking provision). Services will be delivered from Oct 2020 onwards. Broader spectrum of offer to all but maintain focus on women and girls. Priorities- prevention, effective delivery of crisis services, challenge perpetrators, recovery. Need to focus on efficiencies and the resources.</p> <p>Mapping of governance structures and meetings is ongoing and a need to rationalise these meetings (over 20 happen per quarter on DV,SV, Harmful Practices). There is a lot of work to do to resolve these structures.</p> <p>Question- Political sign off for the strategy framework? It has already gone to the NICE committee and has been signed off.</p>	
<p><b>Caitlyn McCarthy RISE on Community Projects</b> 15 minutes</p>	<p>Presented on the Big Lottery Community Engagement &amp; Building Project (BLCP)</p>	<p>See attached diagram and for more information contact <a href="mailto:Caitlyn.McCarthy@riseuk.org.uk">Caitlyn.McCarthy@riseuk.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Networking: Agency Round Table:</b> Updates from organisations / service (30 minutes)</p>	<p><b>NPS-</b> focussed on sentencing for women and getting better outcome and avoiding custodial sentencing.</p> <p><b>Brighton Uni-</b> new disclosure response team- training/guidance on violence/ abuse of all sorts. Online</p>	

disclosure support- either named for follow up or anonymous. 50 disclosures so far. Will use this data to target awareness raising and work on prevention.

**Fulfilling lives-** last 3 years of funding so focussing on systems change. 6 themes- DV and Women with Complex needs being one of them. Currently supporting an evaluation on the MARAC Pilot due to come in Jan 2020.

**ITF and parenting team-** Parental Conflict for both those separated and those still within the relationships.

**SWOP (Oasis)-** multi-agency training will be in place from next year- one day and half day on sex workers awareness/in practice. Peer group set up along with THT aimed at independent sex workers to get support and advice from each other. 2 sessions so far with 6 ppl attending. Work happening with online resources on the website on safer working tips. Hoping to launch website on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec for International day to end Violence against Sex Workers.

**BHT- Threshold-** MH and wellbeing contact was awarded to another provider and staff were TUPED over. Threshold has sought different funding which will allow a full-time trauma specialist to be available

	<p>specifically for women. Currently planning recruitment for these new posts. New service will be called Threshold Plus.</p> <p><b>Money Advice Plus-</b> Bri and Eastbourne offices. DEEP previously DAME project (Women and DV focused) has been in place for 1 year and anyone can refer in.</p> <p>DV lead practitioner in <b>Children services-</b> perpetrator group is currently on hold and under review. It means CS do not have an intervention for perpetrators which is challenging. Living proof group for women experiencing DV which is going well. CS will be a part of the MARAC Hub pilot in Jan 2020.</p> <p><b>RISE-</b> 25 year anniversary- details of events on the RISE website. All of the large funding contracts are coming to end in the next year (BLCP, Trauma Pathway- Therapy, BHCC) so a challenging period of change is coming up.</p> <p><b>Oasis-</b> Drug and Alcohol services currently being re-tendered which of concern. Back on Track programmes- For parents and children affected by parents with alcohol use. Interesting changes to thresholds and therefore clients groups engaging are happening.</p>	
<p><b>Tim Read</b> <b>BHCC- Girls</b></p>	<p>Overview of definitions. When using legal definitions there is no</p>	<p>For more information contact</p>



**and gangs  
(local and  
national  
picture) 15  
minutes**

local gangs in B&H currently. There are families involved in criminal activities locally that may see themselves as gangs. There are developing issues with young people involved in criminal activities and county lines associations. The roles of girls in gang is developing and changing. There are often assumptions about gender and roles in gangs which are not often correct. There is more equal representation of women and girls in roles that previously were more male dominated.

Work going around trying to pull together the data held by different services/agencies on gang activity.

Abiana- London based organisation- was previously commissioned to deliver training locally and feedback was that it well received. There will be further dates in the new year.

Contextual safeguarding- University of Bedfordshire are piloting this approach. Recognises that since CP legislation was introduced the world has changed/moved on which changes the risks posed to the individuals. Across Sussex- different areas in Sussex are looking at a variety of aspects e.g. locations based safeguarding i.e. a certain park, looking at particular colleges/further education,

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If you have concerns about Cuckooing responses in the city you can contact Tim.

	looking at complex ASB- young people and vulnerable street community member interactions. Work on-going to look at some agreed contextual safeguarding principles and get views on this.	
<b>Close and Any Other Business:</b> (5 minutes)		

**Date of Next Meeting:**  
TBC