

Violence Against Women Strategy

Vision:

The vision we aspire to realise is a broad one, of eradicating Violence Against Women in Highland, where women and girls are not discriminated against because of their gender; where women and men are valued equally for their contributions to society; and where women, children and young people live free from gender based violence.

We realise, however, that this cannot be done by us alone and needs concerted effort at national and international levels.

Framework for this Strategy:

To work towards the prevention of Violence Against Women:

- To continue to increase awareness within agencies of what Violence Against Women (VAW) is, why it continues to happen and the effects it can have
- To continue to increase awareness within agencies and the general public of where individuals can seek support
- To continue to increase awareness within the general public of what Violence Against Women (VAW) is, why it continues to happen, and the effects it can have
- To continue to promote an ethos of respect between boys and girls in educational settings through Curriculum for Excellence and 'Getting it Right for Every Child'
- To continue to educate children and young people about Violence Against Women (VAW)

To ensure the protection of those affected by gender based violence:

- To increase conviction rates for perpetrators of Violence Against Women (VAW)
- To improve agency responses to protect those experiencing Violence Against Women by improving personal safety
- To improve access to civil Legal Protection for Women experiencing gender based violence
- To reduce homelessness as a result of Violence Against Women
- To ensure women have 24/7 access to safe housing in emergency situations

To develop and improve the provision of services for those affected by gender based violence:

- To ensure women and children in all parts of Highland have access to services of an agreed minimum standard, regardless of their individual circumstances
- To ensure relevant and appropriate information about women and children is always shared with their permission unless there is a child protection or vulnerable adults issue – in these cases women and children will still be kept fully informed

- To ensure all agreed and appropriate qualitative and quantitative information on women experiencing gender based violence, and their children, is collated, reviewed and compared for monitoring across services in the statutory and voluntary sector to inform the planning of future service provision

To make perpetrators responsible and accountable for their conduct; to take the appropriate action against them and to provide perpetrators with the opportunity to change their behaviour:

- To improve inter-agency and single agency response to men who have perpetrated Violence Against Women (VAW)
- To give perpetrators the opportunity to change their behaviour

For service users to participate in continuing to mould the direction of Strategy and to ensure their views and experiences are taken into account in the improvement of services:

- To consult service users about the Violence Against Women Strategy and Action Plan
- To involve adult service users in preventing Violence Against Women
- To involve children and young people who are or who have been service users in preventing Violence Against Women
- To facilitate direct communication between service users and services to improve and enhance current service provision
- To involve survivors in advising the Strategy on effective measures to protect women and children from gender based violence

Respondent Information Form

Highland Wellbeing Alliance draft Violence Against Women Strategy

This consultation will run from the **8th May to 19th June 2008**.

Please answer the following questions:

Question 1

Do the broad objectives listed in the paper meet the needs of those who have experienced Violence Against Women?

Yes

No

If no, please explain what would.

Question 2

Is there anything that is not included in the framework that should be?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain what this should be.

Question 3

Do you think that if the full framework is implemented by the agencies in Highland it would improve services and outcomes for those who have experienced Violence Against Women?

Yes

No

If no, please explain why you do not agree and what would improve services for survivors.

Question 4

Are there particular objectives we need to consider in for women in particular groups (e.g. because of race, disability, sexual orientation, age)?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain what you think these impacts will be.

Question 5

Please give us any further comments on the Highland Wellbeing Alliance Draft Violence Against Women Strategy here...

Respondent Information

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we inform you of changes we make to the draft Violence Against Women Strategy.

Thank you for your help.

Name:

Postal Address:

Email Address:

Are you responding as:

An individual

On behalf of a group

Sharing Responses/Future Engagement

We will share your response internally with Highland Wellbeing Alliance policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for NHS Highland, Northern Constabulary or The Highland Council to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes

No

Please return your consultation response to:

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