

**Minute of Meeting**  
**Marac Advisory Group**  
**Monday 15 March 2020, 13:00 – 15:00**  
**Microsoft Teams**

Attendees  
[redacted]

**Overview**

- This is the initial meeting of the Marac Advisory Group which will have strategic oversight of the work that will be undertaking in respect of multi-agency risk assessment interventions and processes in Scotland.
- The Scottish Government will be undertaking a series of ‘deep dives’ into key themes and issues that have emerged from the consultation and subsequent discussions. Any recommendations and/or actions from these discussions will be captured within a final learning report.
- The Advisory Group will oversee this work and ultimately sign off on the final report and recommendations.
- This meeting is an opportunity to confirm the group’s remit and membership and agree the terms of reference.

**Note of Meeting**

- The group discussed the suggested frequency advisory group meetings and it was agreed that the initial suggestion of 3 meetings might not be enough and that the Scottish Government would review this. The group discussed the potential for the group to have a role in overseeing progress with the recommendations when the final report is signed off and SG will consider the evolving role of the group as we progress this work.
- With regard to membership, stakeholders suggested that it would be useful to invite a group that represents men affected by domestic abuse. **SG will look into this as an action.**
- It was also suggested that it may be useful to invite more local women’s aid organisations to be represented on the group – but there was a discussion about the fact that local groups can be represented in the deep dive groups. The Advisory Group needs to have more of a strategic focus and it would be best to not have a very large number of people involved.
- Stakeholders also suggested including a representative from the Highlands and Islands who would be able to bring experience and knowledge of people living in rural areas who are experiencing domestic abuse. **SG will look into this as an action.**
- We next talked over the terms of reference which stakeholders agreed as to:
  - Oversee progress of deep dives and work shops
  - Explore solutions
  - Provide expertise and advice
  - Produce and sign off a report with recommendations
- Stakeholders asked if it would be possible to set up a group on Microsoft Teams for the sake of information sharing. **SG will look into this as an action.**

- SG confirmed that the group could report into existing Equally Safe Governance Structures like the Equally Safe Joint Strategic Board. Stakeholders asked whether we could produce a reporting and governance diagram for the Marac Advisory Group. **SG will produce this as an action.**
- Stakeholders asked whether we could produce a timetable for the deep dives and the life span of the advisory group. **SG will produce this as an action.**
- SG noted that we are about to enter the pre-election period on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. This greatly restricts the stakeholder engagement we are allowed to do so deep dives and further work on the advisory group will not be commencing until later in May.
- At present, there are going to be 8 'deep dive' sessions focusing on the following themes:
  - Information sharing
  - Whole system response to domestic abuse / awareness raising
  - Collective leadership and accountability
  - Training
  - Capacity and resourcing
  - National guidance / statutory footing
  - Authentic voice
  - Intersectionality
- Stakeholders asked about the order these will be carried out in. **SG will address this in the timetable for the group.**
- Members questioned why intersectionality was singled out on its own and whether it would be a better idea to ensure intersectionality is woven into all seven of the other deep dives. **SG will consider this and report back to the group.**
- Members asked that we ensure that we give plenty of notice to invitees of the deep dives so they can be well attended and productive.
- Members asked if SG could consider who will chair each of the deep dive sessions – it was suggested that we have a rotational chair based on expertise. This could be drawn from members of the Advisory Group.
- SG was asked if about the makeup and format of each deep dive to ensure the discussions involved the voices of lots of many people with different experiences. SG are therefore working with the Improvement Service to send invites via EventBrite to allow stakeholders, partners and professionals across the sector to sign up.

### Next Steps

- SG will consider membership of the advisory group to ensure that it is representative of the voices of men and those from more rural communities;
- SG will set up a group Microsoft Teams chat for members to more easily share papers etc;
- SG will produce and share a governance diagram for the group illustrating how progress will be fed back through existing Equally Safe structures. and
- SG will consider how to weave intersectionality through each deep dive discussion and assess whether a standalone deepdive is required.