



Present

Members: Alderman Boyle, Councillor Elder, McGurk, McQuillan, Mairs

Officers: Amanda Hamilton, Democratic and Central Services Manager
Patricia Harkin, Good Relations Manager
Elaine McConaghie, Policy Officer
Louise Scullion, Community Development Manager
Adele McCloskey, Community Development Officer
Ivy Owens, Committee and Member Services Officer

Agenda No.	Item	ACTION
1.	Apologies	
	There were no apologies.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	There were no Declarations of Interest.	
3.	Nomination of Chair and Vice Chair	
	Nomination of Chair: Proposed by Alderman Boyle Seconded by Councillor Elder RESOLVED - that Councillor Mairs be appointed as Chair.	

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	Nomination of Vice Chair Proposed by Alderman Boyle Seconded by Councillor McQuillan RESOLVED - that Councillor Elder be appointed as Vice Chair.	
4.	Notes of Meeting held 19 February 2025	
	The Notes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2025 which had previously circulated were agreed.	
5.	Action Plan Key Areas	
	The DCSM read through the various actions contained in the Action Plan which she shared on screen. Councillor McGurk suggested third party groupings shadowing the Mayor/Deputy Mayor would encourage and engage those in the community and voluntary sector including young people. The Community Development Manager suggested linking in 'tea and chats' with service providers and funders, something which currently Elected Members do not attend. The DCSM advised that rolling out of unconscious bias training was ongoing. The DCSM agreed to provide an update to the Working Group on 'Boost' Mentoring. The DCSM provided an update on blurb for recruitment packs which she had discussed outside of the meeting with the Policy Officer.	DCSM DCSM DCSM

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	At the request of Alderman Boyle the DCSM agreed to ascertain the current level of information on recruitment packs in adherence to regulation/policy. Alderman Boyle referred to the Equality/Diversity Champion who may wish to input in this regard.	DCSM
6.	NILGA Empowering Women Programme	
	The DCSM referred Elected Members to the Leadership Training Course information pack, previously circulated, which took place in September and October. A query will be made to NILGA as to whether or not the course will be re-run and estimated dates.	DCSM
7.	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWAG)	
	Discussion took place around Bystander Training which focuses on empowering individuals to intervene in situations of harassment, bullying or discrimination. Councillor McGurk said it would be good to get more male representation. Discussion took place around training of this nature being mandatory. The DCSM agreed to include an item at the next meeting dedicated to Bystander Training. Councillor McQuillan suggested that PR around the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls be highlighted on Council website on International Men's Day - 19th November 2025. The Community Facilities Development Officer provided an update including key dates undernoted:-	DCSM DCSM

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	• <i>March 2026</i> - Executive Office funding require Council delivering a showcase event and launch of potential new grant aid. This could be undertaken in tandem with marking International Women's Day for 2026 on 8th March. • <i>20 November 2026</i> – 9 local groups will receive grass roots training on EVAWAG. This could be undertaken in tandem with marking International Men's Day on Tie in with International Men's Day on 19th November.	
8.	International Women's Day, 8th March, 2026	
	Discussion took place around ways to mark International Women's Day to include an event incorporating inspirational speakers, local groups and Elected Members. Elected Members referred to an event in Roe Valley Arts Centre last year which was poorly attended and suggested that a further event could be scheduled for Cloonavin or Ballymoney. Discussion took place around feeding this into the EMDWG meeting scheduled for 10th November. DCSM to seek cross-departmental input via SLT and HOS for joint initiative for Women's Day, 8th March 2025.	DCSM
9.	Any Other Relevant Business	
	None	
10.	Date of next meeting	
	The date of the next meeting is Monday 1st December at 4pm This being all the business the meeting closed at 5.10 pm.	DCSM

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