



**Present**

**Members: Alderman Boyle, Knight-McQuillan, Councillor N Archibald, Elder, Mairs (Chair), McShane, Peacock**

**Officers: Amanda Hamilton, Democratic and Central Services Manager  
Patricia Harkin, Good Relations Manager  
Adele McCloskey, Community Development Officer  
Ursula Harper, Committee and Member Services Officer  
Denise Murphy, Corporate Support Officer**

<b>Agenda No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	No Apologies were received.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	There were no Declarations of Interest.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting 27.01.26</b>	
	Proposed by Councillor Peacock Seconded by Councillor Elder and Agreed that the Minutes of the Women's Working Group meeting held on Tuesday 27 January 2026 are confirmed as a correct record.	

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4.	<b>International Women’s Day – Sunday, March 8th 2026: Update and Presentation of workplan</b>	
	<p>DCSM shared the action sheet (previously circulated) and advised that the IWD toolkit has been purchased. She stated that it is planned to align the Council branding with the IWD brand.</p> <p>The DCSM advised that the events are for Elected Members and staff, as it was not possible to create an event for the general public due to the timescales involved.</p> <p>She advised that due to the timescales, ICT is unable to create a IWD webpage.</p> <p>She advised that the social media cards will be used and that group party leads will be asked to circulate the signatures for use by Elected Members.</p> <p>She advised that the PR team is following up on stories of local women of renown.</p> <p>Alderman Boyle expressed concern about turnout, as the events are during the daytime when Elected Members work. She asked whether it would be possible for attendees to be allowed to “bring a friend”. In response to a query from Alderman Boyle, DCSM advised that SMT has agreed that staff can be released to attend the events. DCSM advised that the Council buildings are for use by staff for Council activities, so it is not straightforward to invite another group to them.</p> <p>Councillor Peacock expressed disappointment that Council is not having a bigger event for the public. She stated that she was confused about the building only being used for Council business as it is used for external events such as weddings. She asked DCSM to start</p>	<p>DCSM/ party group leads</p> <p>PR</p> <p>DCSM</p>

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	<p>organising now for next year's IWD. She asked that instructions be provided on how to add the IWD banner to email signature.</p> <p>DCSM shared an outline of the free events that have been arranged (previously circulated), with the women's health talk by Dr Porter on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Cloonavin as the lead event.</p> <p>DCSM provided details of the "Mayor for the Day" event on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, during which pupils will shadow the Mayor for the day and attend a programme of events organised by the Mayor's Office.</p> <p>DCSM shared the communications plan for IWD (previously circulated) and Members discussed the videos to be recorded and shared, with the branded messages for IWD.</p> <p>Councillor Elder extended her congratulations on the excellent work that has been done to date and thanked the corporate communications team for their input. She expressed disappointment that there would be no large event this year and asked that after this year's event, planning would begin for IWD 2027.</p> <p>Councillor Peacock expressed disappointment that there would not be a networking event for women from the community and asked that planning is started for the 2027 event now, to ensure that there is a Council event moving forward.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Ideas from the group – for discussion</b>	
	<p>Alderman Boyle queried whether it would be possible for female family members to be invited. DCSM advised she would look into that and discuss with the Chair.</p>	DCSM

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	<p>Councillor Peacock expressed concern about attendance as the events are planned for daytime when Councillors work.</p> <p>DCSM stated it was not possible to change the timings at this stage but that it was useful feedback for future planning.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Members' involvement in the day</b>	
	<p>DCSM asked whether any Members wished to be involved in delivering any aspects of the day at the events.</p> <p>The Chair stated that the timings were not great and suggested that Group Leads could try to arrange for a couple of Members to attend the different events. DCSM asked that Members wishing to attend the events contact her or the Committee Clerks to advise.</p> <p>A query was raised as to whether an email could be sent to Members outlining the day's events. The DCSM said that she would arrange to have an email sent.</p>	<p>Party group leads</p> <p>DCSM</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Any Other Relevant Business</b>	
	<p>DCSM briefed Members on the CelebrateHER event at Ulster University Coleraine on 5 March 2026 and the NILGA Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Shared Island Event on 24-25 March 2026.</p> <p>DCSM advised that NILGA is happy to have additional attendees at the Shared Island event. Alderman Boyle stated that she wished to attend the Shared Island event and queried whether the costs would be covered. DCSM to confirm.</p>	<p>DCSM</p>

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	<p>Alderman Boyle and Councillor Elder requested to attend the CelebrateHER event at Ulster University Coleraine. DCSM asked any other Members interested in attending to advise Democratic Services.</p> <p>The Community Development Officer provided an update on the local EVAWG work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bin Lorry image has been finalised with the ‘There is something everyone can do’ message, with a QR linking back to info/signposting to support.</li> <li>• Working with ODHR, Bystander Training delivered by Nexus was offered in both Limavady and Coleraine.</li> <li>• A Mapping and Gap Analysis of service provision in the CCG area has been completed by EOS Consulting.</li> <li>• Preparation for a New Change Fund grant programme is beginning, which will allow C&amp;V/Sports/Arts groups to deliver EVAWG projects.</li> <li>• A local creative marketing/messaging campaign is being delivered to consider local issues and messaging, whilst linking to regional campaign. Focus groups are being set up with key local agencies to consider what is the best way to get messaging out across the Borough.</li> </ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
	<p>Alderman Boyle proposed that the group meet on a bi-monthly basis following IWD and asked that the group meet again before the Council’s Annual meeting.</p>	

Agenda No.	Item	ACTION
	Tuesday 28 April 2026 at 6pm.	

This being all the business the meeting closed at 6.45pm

UNCONFIRMED