



Present Members: Alderman Boyle, Knight-McQuillan
Councillor Chivers, Peacock, McGurk, McShane, Elder (Vice-Chair)

Officers: A Hamilton, Democratic and Central Services Manager
L Scullion, Community Development Manager
A McCloskey, Community Development Officer
I Owens, Democratic Services Officer
H Campbell, Corporate Support Assistant

In Attendance: A McReynolds, Consultant - Sequoia
A McVerry, Consultant - Sequoia

Agenda No.	Item	ACTION
1.	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from Councillor Mairs and E McConaghie, Equality and Diversity Officer. This meeting was chaired by Councillor Elder in Councillor Mairs' absence.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	There were no Declarations of Interest.	

Agenda No.	Item	ACTION
3.	Minutes of the last meeting 24.02.26	
	<p>Proposed by Alderman Boyle Seconded by Councillor McGurk and Agreed that the Notes of the Women’s Working Group meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2026 are confirmed as a correct record.</p>	
4.	NILGA EVAWAG Conference in Cavan – opportunity for verbal feedback	
	<p>The Chair invited all those who were in attendance to share their feedback.</p> <p>Elected Members reported it was a well-attended event, a good talking forum and networking opportunity and spoke of the shocking statistics of domestic abuse incidents which are the same North and South of the border The following were key areas discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The address from the key speaker was interesting and spoke of the journey following domestic abuse; - Good information on signposting of help and the road to recovery; - Speakers from Women’s Aid spoke of the barriers in terms of housing and resources; - Emphasis on the need for communication to all people regardless of gender and age; - Felt this was an emotive subject; - The work required to combat this is crucial; - The impact on women in public life of regarding some of the unacceptable behaviour which should not be tolerated. <p>Councillor Peacock felt it may be useful for Council Officers to attend these type of events to identify management of key issues and rolling out of projects.</p>	

Agenda No.	Item	ACTION
5.	EVAWAG Consultants Presentation	
	<p>The Chair welcomed the speakers and invited them to address the Working Group.</p> <p>A McReynolds presented via powerpoint in respect of 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Campaign' as follows:-</p> <p>The purpose of the Campaign is to achieve whole population awareness, prevention and early intervention and provide signposting to support.</p> <p>A McReynolds sought a response from the Working Group in relation to the following:-</p> <p>What are you hearing locally?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Behaviour is sometimes normalised by victims and perpetrators. - There are generational habits often in rural areas determining the role of women. - The issue is not just a working class problem affecting a certain age bracket. - Most people know someone affected. <p>What feels most hidden or misunderstood?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of understanding including those victims who are not aware they are in an abusive relationship. <p>Where will messages reach people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reaching out to Home Start, Sure Start and Schools. - Drive message to root causes. - Change of mindset of what is acceptable including social media misogyny. 	

Agenda No.	Item	ACTION
	<p>- Requirement to raise awareness amongst victims and perpetrators.</p> <p>Alderman Boyle referred to statistics stating over a specific period 2300 arrests leading to 250 convictions. Councillor Peacock said it would be interesting to obtain local statistics and anonymous personal stories of the plight of victims via PSNI for Causeway Coast and Glens area.</p> <p>A McReynolds said they would be developing graphics for use in Council facilities. At the request of Alderman Boyle the Community Development Manager said that her team would work on a concept design to bring to the next meeting. The Democratic and Central Services Manager said that this could be followed up by a strong PR campaign online. Elected Members could be updated in this regard via the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the presenters for their attendance presentation.</p>	CDM/DCSM
6.	Feedback on IWD Council events programme	
	<p>The Democratic and Central Services Manager referred to the report, previously circulated and said that, while all sessions had been welcomed, the massage sessions, in particular, had resulted in positive feedback.</p> <p>In relation to planning for next year's event the Democratic and Central Services Manager said that Elected Members could bring suggestions and ideas to her directly.</p>	DCSM
7.	Feedback on 'Mayor for a Day' event	
	<p>The Democratic and Central Services Manager updated Members on the 'Mayor for a Day' initiative which had been enjoyed by the participating pupils from Ballycastle High School and Cross and Passion College. Pupils shadowed the Mayor as part of International Women's</p>	DCSM

Agenda No.	Item	ACTION
	<p>Day and reported greater awareness of the Mayoral role as well as increased learning regarding the activities of Council.</p> <p>The Chair requested that this initiative be rolled out to 2027 due to the positive response.</p>	
8.	Action Plan for WWG March 2027	
	Elected Members agreed to discuss this item further at the September meeting.	DCSM
9.	Any Other Relevant Business	
	There was no Other Relevant Business.	-
10.	Date of next meeting	
	The date of the next meeting was discussed and agreed to be Tuesday 22 nd September 2026 at 6pm.	-

This being all the business the meeting closed at 6.50pm