

The Violence Against Women and Girls Conference, Wednesday 30 November 2016

Report and feedback analysis

Introduction

We were delighted that the inaugural VAWG Conference went so well. The main hall at the Riverside Centre was just about full to capacity and, from the feedback sheets and conversations on the day, delegates found the presentations extremely informative and, on occasion, moving. The speakers were excellent and kept the attention of the audience throughout.

Speakers and Presentations

The first speaker was **Tim Rowlandson, Hampshire Constabulary**; he gave an update on the work happening around domestic abuse in the Police force. **Nick Gazzard, founder of the Hollie Gazzard Trust** followed. He gave a very moving account of his daughter's life and the events leading up to her murder by her ex-boyfriend. The Hollie Gazzard Trust works with the Police to improve services for victims of domestic violence, abuse and stalking. He also helps businesses to tackle domestic abuse and stalking in the workplace. **Lauren Fry, designer and artist** spoke briefly of her experience in creating a contemporary craft installation at Quay Arts to raise awareness of the reality of domestic homicide in the UK. The work centred on paper birds hand crafted from tattered pieces of the reports and articles that have come to represent the diverse and distinctive lives of the 88 women murdered in domestic abuse incidents in 2015. **Zoe Lodrick** spoke on the **behaviour of domestic violence victims**; she described the mechanics of how the brain functions when confronted by a situation it perceives as threatening. Zoe made this aspect of neuroscience accessible and easy to understand; it was an extremely powerful presentation. Zoe was followed by **Celia Jeffreys, Head of the National FGM Centre**. Celia spoke informatively about the issue of FGM and the work being done to safeguard girls who are vulnerable in this area. **Fiona Gwinnett, Women on Wight Project** was the last speaker of the day and outlined the progress of the project which will provide a drop in centre for girls and women on the Isle of Wight. The Freedom Course will be run from the WOW centre along with many other initiatives to help girls and women.

Presentations and speaker biographies can be found on the IoW LSAB website at www.iwight.com/domesticabuse

Information Stalls

We were very pleased that the following agencies displayed material on information stalls:

Love 146, LSAB, Medaille Trust and Treetops.

Feedback Analysis

The feedback form supplied gave statements on the venue and services, the speakers and programme. Delegates were given a choice of response ranging from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree' and 52 feedback sheets were received from a total of 102 delegates.

Delegates were also asked to give an overall conference rating and choices of response ranged from 'extremely good' to very poor'. The majority of the feedback sheets gave an overall conference rating of 'extremely good'.

Delegate opinion and comments specific to the venue as well as any comments specific to any speaker have been noted. A number of negative comments were received concerning the catering; as a multi-agency body operating with public money the Isle of Wight VAWG is constrained to use that money in the most efficient way and feel that it is preferable to channel more finance into securing high quality speakers for the conference. Comments regarding the pre-conference organisation and administrative function on the day will inform planning for the next conference.

An analysis of the feedback regarding the speakers and the programme is presented in the following table.

Sector	No. of forms	Most useful talks	Comments
		Strongly agree that the session was useful, understandable and that relevant learning could be taken back.	
Police, Criminal Justice, Probation	6	Domestic abuse update from Hampshire Constabulary Hollie Gazzard Trust Behaviour of DV Victims Barnado's and FGM Women on Wight Project	<i>I found Zoe's talk extremely interesting and useful. An excellent conference from start to finish. Fantastic speakers, especially Nick Gazzard and Zoe Lodrick!! A lot gained that will inform process development within Offender Management Unit at the prison. Really good range of speakers. As stated by someone on the day, it was a privilege to attend.</i>
IoW Council: Adult Social Care, Public Health, LSCB, Children's Services, Intensive Support Service, Outreach Family Support, Shared Lives	14	Domestic abuse update from Hampshire Constabulary Hollie Gazzard Trust Behaviour of DV Victims Barnado's and FGM Women on Wight Project	<i>Very informative conference will enhance my practice immensely. Fantastic speaker! Please secure Zoe for Adult's training.</i> <i>The talk on the Hollie Gazzard Trust was heartfelt; I felt the family's loss. The take on Behaviour of DV Victims was outstanding and the WoW Project is very good news for Island Women and Girls.</i> <i>Time was a brilliant speaker! Nick was so brave – his presentation was inspirational, sad, moving and very thought provoking. Zoe was fantastic! She made so much sense; all professionals need to hear this as well as victims. WoW sounds fab, Fiona was fab. Really good day.</i> <i><u>Revelation</u> – Zoe's comments on services giving up on children that refuse to engage! Our CAMHS must continue to offer support <u>tirelessly</u>! The impact of Nick Gazzard's presentation will stay with me forever. He inspirational and I will aim to take this passion and inspiration into my workplace. Thank you!</i> <i>Valuable, informative programme enabled me to understand from theory through to practice. I will be</i>

			<p><i>feeding this back to my colleagues.</i></p> <p>Found the whole day very informative and really enjoyed Zoe Lodrick and her explanation of human behaviour.</p> <p><i>Great conference and Nick Gazzard was amazing and a true inspiration of how to turn a tragedy into making positives. Zoe was fantastic too, it explained a lot!</i></p> <p><i>Please can those who have the influence, encourage schools on the Island to have a Hollie Gazzard programme.</i></p> <p>All has been very valuable to me and my role.</p> <p><i>Fantastic speakers, well balanced – real life, theory, local and national relevance. Thanks.</i></p> <p>I found the whole day was insightful and extremely useful for me in my role. The Hollie Gazzard Trust talk was very impactful.</p> <p><i>Very clear, learnt a lot.</i></p>
Voluntary and Independent, NGO, Charities,	16	Domestic abuse update from Hampshire Constabulary Hollie Gazzard Trust Behaviour of DV Victims Barnado's and FGM Women on Wight Project	<p>Brilliant day! Lots of learning to share/put into practice. Thank you.</p> <p><i>Wonderful presentation (Behaviour of DV Victims) – superb insight into victim behaviour.</i></p> <p>Hollie's dad, Nick, was extremely brave and incredibly inspiring. The WoW Centre sounds amazing – I'd love to make links with our Family Centres if possible.</p> <p><i>Excellent speakers, really informative and the exhibition at the Quay Arts was a bonus and fitted in so well. Very well thought out and planned. Thank you. The bird I bought will be a visual reminder of my days learning.</i></p> <p>Really interesting event – thank you!</p> <p><i>A really useful and varied day.</i></p> <p>I thoroughly enjoyed Zoe Lodrick's talk, found it very insightful and will be taking some great knowledge back with me and applying it to my current role. I felt too much focus, particularly by HC, was on mentioning male victim. This is a day for VAWG and any stats, information or discussion around male victim needs to be at a different conference and should not be discussed in relation to VAWG.</p> <p><i>An enjoyable day.</i></p> <p>Excellent.</p>
NHS: Social Care, Mental Health, Nursing Care, Crisis Care, Community Care, GP	14		<p><i>I found Zoe Lodrick's session very thought provoking and will look to expand my knowledge with respect to this subject.</i></p> <p>Overall conference was excellent, lot of information was explained really well.</p> <p><i>Absolutely amazing speakers, HGT was moving, through provoking and inspirational.</i></p> <p>Very powerful presentation from Hollie Gazzard's father on such a personal level. Zoe's style of presentation and information was delivered with such impact which enables you to retain and use in practice i.e. Evian water – small steps, persevered and make a difference! Reasons children/adults may not engage – don't give up! Excellent conference, very relevant speakers – all information shared will enhance my practice. I feel privileged to have attended conference and have the opportunity to hear such knowledgeable</p>

			<p>speakers present. <i>Excellent, thank you!</i> Very good day, excellent speakers. <i>Nick Gazzard's presentation especially hard hitting.</i> <i>Hampshire Constabulary talk promising better critical understanding. Would it be possible to have a discussion with the CCG to have presentations like Nick Gazzard's as Safeguarding Training rather than theoretical talks on processes?</i> Zoe's talk was very interesting as it always is. Conference was very interesting and worth while. Special mention to Nick Gazzard – what a truly inspirational man. The way he kept himself so composed when many in the room were reduced to tears. Amazing presentation. <i>Thank you.</i></p>
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Conclusion

The conference was a success and provided the majority of those attending with new insights and awareness. The opportunity to network with other professionals was appreciated and the venue lent itself well to that exercise. Feedback comments will be incorporated into the planning for future conferences and key issues / areas for development arising from the conference will be incorporated into the VAWG Business Plan 2016/17.

Rachel Watson, IoW LSAB Administrative Officer