



Thursday 13th December 2012 @ 2pm

Radisson Blu Hotel, Belfast

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

A Brecknell (AM session only)

M Bresland

A Bunting

A Burke

L Carroll

Liz Clarke

V Craig

S Gault

J Loughran

I Kerrigan

P Heathwood

E McDowell

J McNern (PM session only)

A Travers

B Voyle

J Whyte

PRESENT

K Stone Commissioner CVS

A McNamee (Chair) CVS

N Foster CVS

T McCann CVS

APOLOGIES

David Scott

Jeff Smith

Sandra Peake

Elaine Johnston

Fiona Kelly

Eibhlin Glenholmes

Roberta Holmes

Geoffrey Hamilton

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes from the meeting on the 22nd November were checked and verified for accuracy and no amendments were made. Kathryn opened the meeting by thanking all members for their work this year and wishing them a peaceful Christmas. Kathryn then left and Adrian took the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING

Adrian listed the action points from the previous meeting and updated on each as follows:

- Adrian advised that Michael Arlow had accepted an invitation to join the Forum as an associate member and facilitate the Building for the future working group.

AP1: Michael Arlow to be recorded as Associate Member of the Forum.

- Adrian also advised that the Forum would be receiving a presentation from Julie Harrison and Kenny Knox on the Maze-Long Kesh Development at the next meeting on January 24th 2013.

DISCUSSION OF MEETING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL

It was agreed by Forum members that the meeting earlier in the day with the Attorney General, John Larkin QC had went very well. It was evident that he had prepared well, pitched the presentation at an appropriate level explaining the various concepts and constructs of Article 2. The subsequent discussion on Article 2 and dealing with the past was productive and informative for all parties. It was also noted that the Forum is engaging well and this increase in productivity is a good way to end the year.

DEBRIEF ON MEETING WITH LORD FREUD AND MINISTER MCCAUSLAND.

Alex and Jennifer gave a debrief on their meeting with Lord Freud and Minister for Social Development, Nelson McCausland on the impact of Welfare Reform on victims and survivors. They noted that this was a highly productive meeting that succeeded in its objectives. It was agreed that a direct line of communication is set up between the Commission for Victims and Survivors and the DSD to ensure that any difficulties with the implementation of reforms do not have a detrimental effect on victims.

The Forum wished to note their gratitude to the CVS staff and to Jennifer McNern and Alex Bunting for arranging and participating in this engagement. They also felt that the outcome from this meeting needed to be communicated to groups and individuals as effectively as possible. Members also requested that when the letter is received from DSD detailing the outcome of the meeting is by CVS, that it is forwarded to Forum members.

AP2: Note to victims groups communicating outcome of meeting and arrangements for communicating issues on welfare to CVS.

AP3: Forward letter from DSD to Forum when received.

UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS

Building for the future

An exceptional meeting of the working group is scheduled for the 15th January when Mike Tomlinson, QUB Sociology lecturer will present to the group on suicide causation and a briefing on 'Trouble with suicide' Report (2008).

Michael McKenna, Youth Action will also present on young men and violence.

At the next Forum meeting on the 24th January Alistair Black, PRRT will present on interventions with families and Alex Bunting Jr from FASA will present on addiction issues.

Services Working Group

Feedback was given to the Forum members on the engagement with VSS on the 5th December. Members of the working group were not content with the outcome of this meeting. Members of this group have requested another meeting in early January to discuss next steps. Adrian briefed the Forum on a meeting held between VSS and CVS where questions posed by Services working group were asked and clarified. These answers are to be forwarded to all Forum members.

The assessment form for individuals has now been forwarded to CVS and is to be forwarded to Forum members.

AP4: Forward Assessment Form and answers to Forum members.

AP5: Forward date to Services working group members for early January.

Dealing with the past working group

Peter briefed the full Forum on the engagement with Priscilla Hayner who attended a roundtable discussion hosted by the Human Rights Commission. The focus of the discussion was on Hayner's extensive knowledge of truth commissions. Members of this group felt that this area needed further exploration.

Errol suggested that given the volume of work and time constraints on members that the Commission should consider allowing the Forum to benefit from a residential event which would allow members the time necessary to discuss matters.

AP6: CVS to consider feasibility of a residential in 2012/13 year for Forum.

AOB

Alex noted that there was an issue of attendance with some members. He suggested that the CVS should explore ways to address this issue.

Jude raised a procedural matter. He pointed out that as the Chair was a member of Commission staff, this raised difficulty when staff were asked questions or required to brief the Forum on certain issues. Other members said that this was not a difficulty and it had been agreed at the November meeting that the Commission chairing the meetings was the best option.

Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday January 24th 2013 at 10.00 am, venue to be confirmed.