



FORUM MEETING

Thursday 23RD January 2014, Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick

MINUTES

In Attendance	Fiona Kelly	Geoffrey Hamilton
Michael Arlow	Irene Kerrigan	Roberta Holmes
Alan Brecknell	John Loughran	David Scott
Mitch Bresland	Errol McDowell	Ann Travers
Alex Bunting	Jennifer McNern	
Lesley Caqrrroll	Sandra Peake	Present
Liz Clarke	Jeff Smith	Kathryn Stone OBE (Chair)
Violet Craig	Briege Voyle	Adrian McNamee-CVS
Stephen Gault	Jude Whyte	Neil Foster- CVS
Eibhlin Glenholmes		Tina McCann-CVS
Peter Heathwood	Apologies	

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were checked for accuracy and amendments and no changes were recorded.

2. Matters Arising

The action points from the 19th December meeting were reviewed and updates given. Kathryn asked the Forum for any comments or suggestions to the Commissions website. Jude proposed the minutes and Errol seconded, and the minutes will be formally adopted for the record.

3. Consultation on CVS Complaints Procedure

Tina advised the members that the Commission are currently reviewing their complaints procedure. After briefing she asked Forum members to forward any comments to her via email by 7th February.

AP: Forum members to give feedback on Commission Complaints Procedure.

4. Dealing with the past Conference

Adrian briefed the Forum members on the Dealing with the past Conference that will be held on the 25th February. He provided a programme, discussed the themes, and outlined the proceedings and the role of the Forum and DWP working group at the event.

He added that a Pre-Conference Workshop was to be held on the 6th February in the Malone House at 10.30am. He also asked Forum members if they wanted an individual role in the Conference, to notify him by the 7th February. However all Forum members were welcome in a participatory or non participatory role.

AP: Forum members to notify Adrian if they want to contribute individually to the Conference.

5. Draft Evaluation Report on Forum

Adrian advised that the draft evaluation report on the Forum had been circulated to all members for comment. A discussion followed and members commented on the lack of external stakeholder feedback but commended the report as a comprehensive and accurate account of the Forum to date. Issues raised included the role of Associate Members, the longer term plans for the Forum and wider consultation on the evaluation with key external stakeholders.

Adrian replied that a business case is now under development to generate options and identify a preferred option. It is anticipated that the current Forum will continue for the foreseeable future and that any change will be evolutionary until such times as the new option has been drafted and approved by the department. The Commission will also consider options for consulting more widely on the evaluation report with the sector.

He added that the Commission appreciated that some members may wish to leave at the agreed end of tenure of the current Forum in March 2014. In this instance, he asked that those members notify Tina in the coming weeks.

AP: Commission to consider external consultation on evaluation of Forum.

AP: Forum members to notify Tina if they intend to leave in March 2014.

6. Advice Papers

Members were reminded that the Working Groups Advice Papers were due to the Commission at the end of January and that the afternoon session would be dedicated to progressing these papers.

7. AOB

- Kathryn recommended Forum members view the BBC documentary “Watch over Me” on the work of FASA. The documentary makers had also filmed the Forum as part of this series.

AP: Tina to forward link to BBC documentary.

- A letter of thanks was circulated from Chris Lyttle, MLA for the meeting with the Forum on the 21st November. It was noted by Forum members that this was the only letter of thanks from the Haass Panel of Parties invitees who participated and that this should be acknowledged.
- Adrian updated the members on the Pensions research. He advised that an agency had now been appointed to conduct this research and provide a report that it is due by March 2014. Any queries or further information on this research should be directed to Neil at the Commission.
- The Individual Needs Review has been deferred while the Independent Assessment continues pending a report to the Commissioner at the end of January. A discussion followed on the impact of the deferment.

Members suggested that although this was a far from ideal scenario, it was critical that victims and survivors get the right services in a manner that was appropriate, dignified and respectful. It is now crucial that the VSS promptly establish a mechanism that would ensure that services could still be delivered to those most in need.

- The members were informed that Alex Bunting had been nominated to sit on the Programme Board by his colleagues on the Forum Services Working Group.
- Kathryn will be speaking to the Good Friday Agreement Committee at the Oireachtas on the 6th February.
- A residential is planned for the Forum on the 13th -14th March 2014.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the Thursday 20th February @ 10.30am, venue to be confirmed.