



Forum Meeting: Thursday June 20th 2013

Stormont, NI Assembly

In Attendance

	Irene Kerrigan	Neil Foster – Research Officer, CVSNI
Michael Arlow	John Loughran	
Alan Brecknell	Errol McDowell	Michael McCullough – Information and Records Officer, CVSNI
Mitch Bresland	Jennifer McNern	
Alex Bunting	David Scott	Tina McCann – Forum Manager, CVSNI
Lesley Carroll	Jeff Smith	
Violet Craig	Ann Travers	
Stephen Gault	Briege Voyle	
Eibhlin Glenholmes	Present	Apologies
Geoffrey Hamilton	Kathryn Stone-Commissioner CVSNI	Liz Clarke
Peter Heathwood		Sandra Peake
Roberta Holmes	Adrian McNamee- (Chair) Head of Policy, Research and Development CVSNI	Jude Whyte
Fiona Kelly		

1. Minutes of May 23rd 2013 meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on May 23rd were checked for accuracy. No amendments were made and passed for the record.

2. Matters Arising

Adrian chaired the meeting and offered Forum members an opportunity to feedback on the morning session with the First and Deputy First Ministers and raise any issues or questions they may have had. Comment was made by some members on their

pride in the Forum for successfully engaging at such a high level and acknowledged the courage of those who behaved with dignity and respect in a difficult situation.

The action points were reviewed from the meeting on May 23rd and Adrian gave an update. There was a query regarding the NVQ accreditation opportunity which Tina clarified.

Members who were absent from the May meeting also asked about the role of Victims Practitioners Working Group representative and Adrian clarified the role and remit. Tina advised that she would resend the relevant information to those interested.

3. Exceptional Forum Meeting on Monday 29th July on Maze Long Kesh

Adrian advised that the engagement with the Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation was arranged for July 29th. A forum member asked was it possible to hold the meeting 'on site' to get an idea of the physical development and suggested we meet with other reference groups. It was suggested that hosting the meeting on site may be difficult for some members. Adrian therefore proposed two options; option 1 is to hold the meeting on site and option 2 is to hold meeting at an external location. The Commission will review these options and advise in due course where the meeting will be held.

AP1: Tina to forward venue for 29th July meeting to Forum members when confirmed.

4. Forum Member Resignation

Kathryn advised the members that she had regrettably received a resignation letter from Alana Burke. Kathryn read the letter out to the Forum members with Alana's permission informing them of her rationale for resigning.

Kathryn said that she had written to Alana to express her sadness at her decision and thanked her for the valuable contribution made to both the Forum and the Building for the future working group.

This resignation will impact on the Working Group and this issue as well as recruitment will be raised with the Steering Committee at their next meeting in July.

AP2: Tina to add recruitment and Working Group membership to agenda for Steering Committee.

5. Forum Media Spokespersons

Adrian said that the media training of the proposed media spokespersons had now taken place and asked those who participated to feed back. All those present who

attended the media training said that it was beneficial and worthwhile and that it was important that spokespersons were to speak on behalf of the Forum as a collective voice.

It was also suggested that all Forum members should do media training to raise awareness and look at victims' issues from the media's perspective. It was agreed that the role and impact of the media needed greater exploration and discussion. Kathryn told the Forum that it would not be financially possible to provide the media training to all members, but that the Commission would explore the options.

AP3: Kathryn to scope possibility of presentation to Forum on the role of media.

It was also proposed that a letter is drafted by the media spokespersons to media directors, editors and producers to raise awareness on how the media supports victims and survivors, understands and recognises their needs and the impact of trivialising or sensationalising victims' issues.

There are issues of journalistic integrity that need to be addressed or challenged by the Forum.

AP4: Media spokespersons to draft letter to media stakeholders raising awareness of issues discussed.

Adrian advised that a rota was now in place for media spokesperson and a copy was circulated. Michael briefed on his role to support the media spokesperson and what the process would be when a media bid came into the Commission.

6. AOB

Kathryn gave an overview of her recent engagements which included a meeting with the office of the Taoiseach who are keen to meet with the Forum.

It was also suggested that it might be useful for the Forum to receive a lecture from leading academics or agencies such as NIO as the Forum is an authoritative voice in statute on victims' issues. Kathryn said any suggestions would be considered.

Three Forum members fed back on the INCORE International Summer School that they were currently attending at University of Ulster.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday September 26th- venue to be confirmed