



**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015,**

**Lough Erne Co. Fermanagh**

## **MINUTES**

### **In Attendance**

Mitch Bresland  
Alex Bunting  
Liz Clarke  
Violet Craig  
Stephen Gault  
Eibhlin Glenholmes  
Peter Heathwood  
Roberta Holmes

Fiona Kelly  
Irene Kerrigan  
Jennifer McNern  
David Scott  
Jeff Smith  
Ann Travers  
Jude Whyte

### **Apologies**

John Loughran

### **Present**

John Beggs (Chair)  
Adrian McNamee  
Tina McCann

### **1. Minutes from Forum meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The minutes were checked for accuracy and are to be amended to reflect that David Scott was omitted from the list of attendees.

**AP1; Amend attendance list and then add to the record.**

### **2. Matters Arising**

John gave an update on the action points from the previous meeting. Tina advised that she had not yet received a response regarding the visit to Seapark but would advise members in due course.

### **3. Presentation of Commission for Victims and Survivors Work Plan 2015-16 and budget position**

Adrian gave a presentation on the proposed Commission's Work Plan for 2015-2016. John also briefed on the challenging economic environment as the Commission have had a budget cut of 13%.

Members raised issues on Forum engagement with groups and 2.2 of the proposed work plan. It was agreed that the Commission would explore the possibility of Forum meetings being hosted by groups to promote better engagement with groups. Members also discussed the importance of the working groups in each of three areas; services, building for the future and dealing with the past.

It was agreed that although the Forum had now 16 members, it was important to find the appropriate mechanism to allow work to progress in all three areas. It was agreed that the Forum would work collectively on dealing with the past and building for the future and the Services Working Group would continue with its work as the relationship between the VSS and department progresses in light of the RSM McClure Watters research and subsequent recommendations.

**AP2: Forum to consider working group mechanism for dealing with the past and building for the future in plenary sessions rather than working groups until membership is replenished on appointment of new Commissioner.**

#### **4. Feedback on meeting with VSS on 10<sup>th</sup> February and Personal Health Budgets Pilot Study Visit**

John gave feedback from the Forum Service Working Group (FSWG) meeting with the VSS on February 10<sup>th</sup>. This included an overview of the VSS budget for 2015-2016 and ongoing communications issues that the victims and survivors are experiencing due to technical faults with the telephone system.

FSWG members added that the VSS were becoming more 'victim centric' which is a positive development and the increased transparency and effective communication was encouraging although there were still many complex issues to address.

Adrian referred to Recommendation 7 of the RSM McClure Watters research on the Individual Needs Programme (INP) which recommends the introduction of a Pilot on Personalised Budgets. Personalised Budgets are already used in GB for health and social care purposes and it has been proposed that a delegation consisting of members of the FSWG, VSS, Commission for Victims and Survivors and OFMDFM will visit Warrington, England to explore the model in use with a view to designing the pilot.

After discussion it was agreed that the Pilot is necessary in order to evidence the most appropriate mechanism for meeting the needs of victims and survivors.

#### **5. AOB**

Further to the discussion on Working Group membership, members were asked to advise Tina if they wish to express an interest in moving to another group.

**AP3: Forum members to advise Forum Manager if they wish to move working groups**

The membership of the Forum Steering Committee was raised and John agreed to review this matter.

**AP4: Commission to review status of Steering Committee**

The business meeting was closed to invite ICR to present on the Independent Post Project Evaluation of the Victims and Survivors Forum 2012-2014.

**6. Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015@ 10.30, Radisson Blu Belfast