



Thursday 13th November 2014, Ramada Plaza Belfast

MINUTES

In Attendance

Alan Brecknell

Mitch Bresland

Alex Bunting

Violet Craig

Stephen Gault

Eibhlin Glenholmes

Peter Heathwood

Roberta Holmes

Fiona Kelly

Irene Kerrigan

Jennifer McNern

Jeff Smith

Ann Travers

Apologies

Liz Clarke

John Loughran

David Scott

Jude Whyte

Present

John Beggs (Chair)

Adrian McNamee

Tina McCann

Jennifer McCann MLA

Jonathan Bell MLA

Emma Pengelly, Special
Adviser First Minister

Ricky Irwin, OFMDFM

Patricia McIntrye,
OFMDFM

1. Meeting with Junior Ministers

The meeting commenced with an engagement between the Forum members and the Junior Ministers, Jennifer McCann MLA and Jonathan Bell MLA. The issues discussed included;

- Future funding for the VSS,
- The VSS and the appointment of Board members and Chair,
- Appointment of a Commissioner and,

- Pension for the Severely Injured.

The meeting lasted 80 minutes and then Ministers departed for their next engagement.

2. Minutes from meeting on 16th October

The minutes from the last meeting were checked and verified and no amendments were recorded. The minutes were proposed for adoption by Alex and Eibhlin.

3. Matters Arising

John gave a review of the Action Points from the last meeting. He advised that the planned research findings presentation on the RSM McClure Watters reports would now not be possible until December 2014.

AP: TMC to add research findings presentation to the December agenda.

4. Future engagement- January 29th , Chief Constable meeting

John advised that the meeting requested with the Chief Constable has been accepted and he will be meeting with the members on January 29th. Preparation will be required and this will be scheduled at the December meeting.

AP: TMC to plan preparation engagements with Victims and Survivors Forum members

5. Feedback on engagement with First Minister

John invited Alex and Peter to give an update on recent engagements with the First Minister. Alex advised that this was a positive and encouraging meeting in terms of the pension and welfare reform.

The First Minister advised that the Forum should discuss welfare reform issues with the new Minister for Social Development, Mervyn Storey MLA. Tina added that Mr Storey had already written to the Commission as a follow up to this discussion and it was agreed that a meeting would be required with him in the New Year after further discussions between the Commission and DSD officials regarding welfare.

AP: TMC to follow up with JB and AMN and issue invite to Mervyn Storey MLA in due course.

A discussion followed on the DUP Private Members Bill on the Pension. Tina advised that there was discussion with the First Minister about possible public consultation events on this bill and she would advise members when she has more detail.

AP: TMC to forward information on DUP consultation events in due course.

Tina advised that she had a response to the letter of invitation issued to Ivan Lewis MP and is currently trying to secure a date for a meeting in the near future.

6. Basque Country Visit Feedback

Adrian gave an overview of the trip to the Basque Country with SEUPB on the 21st October including rationale, objectives and other stakeholders involved. There will be an action plan drafted by SEUPB emanating from this trip and Adrian will advise on this in due course.

7. AOB

Tina advised on the arrangements for the Urban Rural Trip on the 20th November and also gave an overview on an invitation to a seminar event on the 10th December with Healing Through remembering, Community Foundation NI and the Prison to Peace Programme.

8. Date and Time of next meeting

Forum Meeting: Thursday 11th December 2014 @ 10.30, Hilton Templepatrick

Steering Committee: Tuesday 4th December 2014 @ 2pm Radisson Blu, Belfast Gasworks