



VICTIMS &  
SURVIVORS  
FORUM

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

## **MINUTES**

### **In Attendance**

Mitch Bresland  
Alex Bunting  
Liz Clarke  
Stephen Gault  
Eibhlin Glenholmes  
Peter Heathwood  
Roberta Holmes  
Fiona Kelly  
Irene Kerrigan

John Loughran  
Jennifer McNern  
David Scott  
Jeff Smith  
Ann Travers  
Jude Whyte

### **Apologies**

Violet Craig

### **Present**

Adrian McNamee  
John Beggs  
Tina McCann

### **1. Minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> February Meeting**

The minutes were checked for accuracy and no amendments were recorded. Ann proposed and Eibhlin seconded the minutes for adoption to the record.

### **2. Matters Arising**

John gave an update on the action points from the last meeting. He confirmed that discussions related to dealing with the past would now be held in plenary rather than working group.

He also gave an update on the recruitment of a Commissioner which is currently open for application. The most realistic timescale will be interviews in May, selection list presented to Ministers in June with possible appointment over July/August.

### **3. Feedback from Conference**

A discussion was held on the 'Towards a Better Future' Conference on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. The conference received good coverage and next steps are for the Commission to take the findings and formulate advice and recommendations. These will be brought to the Building for the Future Working Group in due course.

Members commended the Commission for holding the conference on this important area of research and wished to record thanks to Fiona and Ann in particular for their contributions at the start of the conference as it set the context perfectly.

Members suggested that the Commission should take the report and digest it into a 'user-friendly' version so the findings may be accessed more widely.

#### **4. Health and Well Being Review**

John informed the members that WKM Solutions (now known as 'Supporting Justice') would be returning to Belfast to review the assessment process for the VSS. This is one of the few outstanding recommendations from the Independent Assessment of the VSS conducted in January 2014.

He said that they would be meeting with stakeholders on the 19<sup>th</sup> March and they had expressed an interest in meeting with Forum members.

Forum members who wished to attend should inform Tina.

**AP: Tina to extend invitation to Forum meeting with Supporting Justice for the 19<sup>th</sup> March.**

#### **5. AOB**

Members discussed the forthcoming financial year for VSS recipients. They urged the Commission to ensure that the funds are rolled out to victims and survivors as swiftly and appropriately as possible. John advised that the Forum Services Working Group were meeting with the VSS Interim Chair and Acting CE on the 10<sup>th</sup> March and the forthcoming plans for the financial year would be discussed.

**AP: Agenda item for meeting with VSS**

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

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March @ 1.30pm, Radisson Blu, Belfast with Supporting Justice

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Victims and Survivors Forum meeting 10.30am venue in North West Region to be confirmed.