



Friday 26th September 2014, Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick

MINUTES

In Attendance

Alan Brecknell

Alex Bunting

Mitch Bresland

Liz Clarke

Violet Craig

Fiona Kelly

Roberta Holmes

Irene Kerrigan

John Loughran

Jennifer McNern

Peter Heathwood

Jude Whyte

Ann Travers

Jeff Smith

Apologies

Eibhlin Glenholmes

Stephen Gault

Present

John Beggs (Chair)

Adrian McNamee

Tina McCann

Neil Foster

1. Minutes from Meeting- August 7th 2014

The minutes from the last meeting were checked and verified. No amendments were made and the minutes were proposed and seconded by Violet and Jeff for adoption to the record.

2. Matters Arising

John reviewed the action point from the last meeting and advised that the Commission were not able to access the text of Minister David Ford's BBC Radio Ulster comments from the 7th August. The Commission is keen to broaden the debate on potential cuts and their impact on dealing with the past and proposed inviting the Chief Constable to meet with the Forum to look at the implications for victims and survivors.

The members agreed that this would be advisable before any cuts are implemented and John added that it would be useful to look at the speech given by the Chief Constable to the British Irish Association on the 6th September.

AP: TMC draft letter of invite to Chief Constable Hamilton and circulate text of speech he gave to British Irish Association to members.

3. Urban and Rural experiences Trip- October 2014

Tina briefed the members on the plan for the Urban Rural Educational Trip which will be held in November. She advised that she would circulate a date as soon as the agenda had been finalized. John said that it would be useful to ask some speakers who work at a grassroots level in interface communities. Tina will meet with John to discuss further.

AP: TMC to meet with J Loughran to discuss agenda for Urban Rural Educational Trip.

4. Commission Update:

- **Steering Committee Feedback Work Plan October –December 2014**

Adrian presented the members with a proposed work programme for the Forum over the next quarter as requested by the Steering Committee members at their meeting on the 1st September. It was agreed with the Steering Committee that the focus of today's meeting would be funding as it is currently a critical issue.

- **Junior Ministers engagement with Forum- 16th October Meeting**

John advised that the scheduled meeting of the Junior Ministers with the Forum was now cancelled for the 16th October and would now take place at the November 13th meeting. Forum members were highly concerned at the delay in this engagement and urged the Commission to contact the Ministers and advise them that the issue of services had become critical, it was imperative that this meeting take place sooner rather than later.

AP: Commission to contact Ministers to discuss meet 13th November engagement.

- **QUB 'Remedying the Past and Healing for the Future' Conference October 3rd**

Adrian gave an overview of the conference being held in Queens University on October 3rd on reparations. This conference would help inform the discussion on reparations as detailed in the work plan.

- **INCORE Conference November 2014**

Tina briefed on the INCORE Accounts of the Conflict Conference in November and advised that Professor Gillian Robinson would be attending the 16th October meeting to give an overview of the programme.

- **Feedback on meetings with Secretary of State and Minister McCausland**

Alex and Peter gave an overview of the two meetings they had held in September with the Secretary of State and Minister McCausland. Both meetings proved to be beneficial and the issues discussed were a pension for the severely injured and the impact of welfare reform.

- **Feedback from September Meetings- Victims Practitioners Working group and CFNI Thematic Group**

Tina told the members that members of the Services Working Group met with the Victims Practitioners Working Group on 9th September. It was agreed to optimize the lines of communication across all stakeholders and as Eibhlin represents the Forum on this group she would continue to feed back to the Forum.

Tina also advised that Fiona, Jude and Alan had a follow up meeting CFNI Prison to Peace Thematic Working Group. The thematic group members requested a presentation on the pension as they were unaware of this issue and would like to know more. Alex and Peter have agreed to this presentation and will attend CFNI on November 5th.

Jude gave an overview of the CFNI Conference he and other Forum members attended on June 3rd. A discussion followed on the importance of building relationships with this constituency and it agreed to scope the potential development of this relationship.

5. AOB

John noted a special thank you to Sandra Peake in her absence as this meeting marked the end of her tenure as an Associate Forum Member. He said that Sandra had provided invaluable knowledge skills and experience over the past 2 years to the Forum and the Services Working Group in particular.

Alex asked his Forum colleagues to consider engaging with Ivan Lewis, Shadow Secretary of State on the issue of a pension as it was important to build this relationship in view of the UK elections next year.

He also advised that the Forum members should request to meet with Board members of the VSS to discuss some issues that have emerged with the VSS.

It was agreed to request these meetings.

AP: Tina to request meetings with the Ivan Lewis, Shadow Secretary of State and VSS Board members.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Forum will meet with WKM on October 9th in the Ramada Encore, Belfast

Next monthly meeting is on Thursday 16th October, venue to be confirmed.