



FORUM MEETING

Thursday 16th October 2014 @ 11am, Roe Park Resort Limavady

MINUTES

In Attendance

Mitch Bresland

Alex Bunting

Liz Clarke

Stephen Gault

Eibhlin Glenholmes

Peter Heathwood

Roberta Holmes

Fiona Kelly

Irene Kerrigan

Jeff Smith

Ann Travers

Apologies

Alan Brecknell

Violet Craig

John Loughran

Jennifer McNern

David Scott

Jude Whyte

Present

John Beggs (Chair)

Adrian McNamee

Tina McCann

1. Minutes from 26th September

The minutes were checked for accuracy and no amendments were made. Mitch proposed the minutes and Irene seconded and they are adopted to the record.

2. Matters Arising

John gave a review of the action points from the last meeting. He advised that letters had been issued to the Chief Constable George Hamilton, Ivan Lewis MP and the Junior Ministers and were now pending a response.

3. Preparation for Junior Ministers Meeting 13/11/2014

A discussion was held on preparation for the Junior Ministers visit to the Forum on the 13th November. It was agreed that Eibhlin would speak on the issue of recruitment

instead of Peter. Issues raised included the representation from victims on the board of the VSS which is open for recruitment until the 17th October. It was agreed that this would be discussed with the Junior Ministers.

It was agreed that the four spokespersons would meet with the Commission for a briefing on the 4th November @ 2pm.

AP: Invite Eibhlin, Mitch Jennifer and Alex to meeting in Headline Building on 4/11/14

AP: Eibhlin to replace Peter as spokesperson on recruitment on 13th November and add issue of VSS Board membership to briefing notes.

4. Draft Funding Paper

Adrian presented a draft funding paper to the Forum members reflecting the issues raised at the presentation on the 26th September. He asked the members were they content that it reflected the issues discussed on the day. A discussion followed on a variety of issues such as numbers presenting to the VSS for services, the funds available and required to meet need, personalized budgets and a replacement mechanism for schemes.

Members said that it was critical that any proposed mechanism to replace the schemes that would offer a more person centered approach should be piloted first so that there is an opportunity to assess if there are any emerging issues and if that mechanism is fit for purpose. However, they did note that it is also very important to do this as swiftly as possible in order to remove the VSS from its current 'transition mode'.

Members also discussed the need to ensure that the needs of all victims were met as the bereaved had not been able to access support in recent schemes such as financial support or education and training. There was a discussion on the difference between eligibility for schemes and acknowledgement as a victim and how it is important that all victims are acknowledged.

Adrian advised that the future funding research from RSM was currently in draft but that it would be discussed in November when the final report is received by the Commission and that the FSWG would submit advice to the new Commissioner in January 2015.

AP: Agenda item for the 13th November: Research Final RSM McClure Watters Report

5. VSS Update

John gave an update on the bid to the October Monitoring Round by the VSS for a minimum of £1.3 million. However, he cautioned that this may only transpire as £0.5m for funding allocation.

WKM and CIPFA are expected to report back to the Commission by the 25th October on the implementation of their recommendations contained in the Independent Assessment of the VSS in January 2014.

Co-design sessions are being held with the department and Alex gave an update and advised that these will continue in the near future. During discussions members said that it was critical that there is ample information on the numbers of victims accessing services through groups and the VSS. The monitoring of data is critical as the experience and outcomes for victims and survivors is tracked and they acknowledged that a comprehensive and adequate information management system would be required to do this and that it should be used by all groups and the VSS.

6. Urban Rural Trip

Tina gave an overview of the scheduled visit on the 20th November.

7. Business Case Approval Forum 2014-2017

John confirmed that approval had now been given by the department for a Forum of a maximum of 24 until March 2017 and that the new Commissioner would be addressing recruitment to the Forum when they take up their post. He also advised members that a residential would be held with the new Commissioner and potentially new Forum members in the New Year.

AP: Tina to advise on residential meeting in due course.

8. AOB

No other business items were raised and the meeting was finalized to allow for a presentation from Professors G. Robinson and B. Hamber from INCORE, University of Ulster

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 13th November 2014 @ 10am