



14 May 2019
Radisson Blu, Belfast

Present

Judith Thompson (JT)
Andrew Sloan (AS)
Peter Mann (PM)
Alana Fisher (AF)

Paul Crawford
Donal Dunn
Paul McCormac

Niall O Murchu
Minty Thompson
Alan Brecknell

Emmett McConomy

Apologies

Jan Crawford
Paul Gallagher
Kathryn Johnston

Mary Moreland
Mina Jadeja
Don Mackay

Sam Wilson
Jeremy Adams
Lesley Veronica

Outline of Meeting

JT welcomed Forum members and noted apologies.

JT gave an update on Legacy and recent engagements with the Northern Ireland Office. There was a discussion around any potential for an announcement from the NIO and a consensus that should an announcement be made, that an additional Victims and Survivors Forum (VSF) meeting is convened.

Action Point: Commission to convene additional VSF meeting in the event of an NIO announcement on legacy consultation findings.

A discussion followed on a pension arrangement for the severely injured with the timescale for submitting this to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland being just weeks away. JT outlined some of the case studies that the Commission had looked at as an evidence base on how physical and psychological injury could be assessed together to determine where an individual would sit on the scale of injury.

JT also advised that the Commission would take forward an engagement with the Northern Ireland Commission for Children and Young People's (NICCY) Youth Panel, as had been discussed at the residential in March 2019.

Action Point: Commission to take forward facilitation of engagement with NICCY Youth Panel.

Engagement with Criminal Justice Inspection (CJI) Northern Ireland

James Corrigan and Ian Cameron from CJI joined the Forum to outline the role of CJI as having responsibility for the inspection of the police, courts, police ombudsman and all aspects of the criminal justice system (with the exception of the judiciary).

There was a discussion around how long it takes for the system to process cases, disclosure processes between different bodies and some members' personal and professional experiences in dealing with organisations within the justice system.

CJI iterated the importance of their work being outcome focussed and the impact on families involved in legacy cases is a huge part of that.

Pre-brief to Engagement with Victims and Survivors Service (VSS)

PM outlined the elements of the Commission's Outcome Delivery Programme relevant to the VSS and the subsequent working groups that feed into these outcome objectives.

The Forum requested a breakdown of the various working groups the commission have a role in and details of the Forum members who sit on these and a future discussion to take place on how the work of each group could be fed back to the Forum.

Action Point: AF to draft a chart detailing Commission working groups.

Engagement with the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS)

The Forum and representatives from VSS Board, along with VSS CEO, Margaret Bateson joined the Forum.

There was a discussion on some of the data that had been outlined during the March residential. Margaret outlined the progression in data capturing by VSS over the years and advised they were now at a point of having data on some service provision that spans a number of years meaning the VSS can use this to better inform future service provision.

Action Point: VSS will provide outcome data to the Forum on advocacy services in relation to welfare reform at their next engagement.

Action Point: AF to forward postcode breakdown data to the Forum as previously provided by VSS.

There was a further discussion on eligibility for the various VSS schemes and the role of advocacy services provided through some VSS funded groups. The Forum noted the need for adequate funding of this as a support service should there be further progression of legacy institutions.

The engagement with VSS concluded with agreement that more detailed discussions on specific topic areas would take place at future agreements with gender breakdown in uptake of services to be the topic at the meeting in October 2019 and transgenerational a topic for a future meeting.

Action Point: AF to share with VSS elements of the Commission's Outcome Delivery Plan relevant to both the Forum and VSS.

Action Point: VSS to bring gender breakdown data to next meeting and a more focussed discussion to take place around this.

Action Point: Co-design to meet with the Forum again to facilitate conversations in feeding into a new Strategy for Victims and Survivors.

Engagement with VSS representatives closed.

Meeting closed with a short feedback session from Forum members.

Agreed Actions

1. Convene additional VSF meeting in the event of an NIO announcement on legacy consultation findings.
2. Commission to take forward facilitation of engagement with NICCY Youth Panel.
3. AF to draft a chart detailing Commission working groups.
4. VSS to provide outcome data to the Forum on advocacy services in relation to welfare reform at their next engagement.
5. AF to forward postcode breakdown data to the Forum as previously provided by VSS.
6. AF to share with VSS elements of the Commission's Outcome Delivery Plan relevant to both the Forum and VSS.
7. VSS to bring gender breakdown data to next meeting and a more focussed discussion to take place around this.
8. Co-design to meet with the Forum again to facilitate conversations in feeding into a new Strategy for Victims and Survivors.