



**21 June 2019
Armagh City Hotel, Armagh**

Present

Judith Thompson (JT)
Andrew Sloan (AS)

Tina McCann (TMC)
Alana Fisher (AF)

Karyn Millar (KM)
Peter Mann (PM)

Jan Crawford
Paul Crawford
Paul Gallagher

Niall O Murchu
Lesley Veronica
Kathryn Johnston

Jeremy Adams
Sam Wilson
Emmett McConomy

Apologies

Donal Dunn
Don Mackay
Mary Moreland

Paul McCormac
Mina Jadeja
Minty Thompson

Alan Brecknell
Robert McClenaghan

Outline of Meeting

JT welcomed Forum members and noted apologies. JT and Forum then relayed well-wishes to KM upon her leaving the Commission.

JT gave an update on her latest Westminster engagements and the discussions had there around Legacy proposals and a Victims and Survivors Pension Arrangement (VASPA) for the most severely physically and psychologically injured. The Forum then discussed the appetite at Westminster for progressing Northern Ireland issues particularly in the context of preparing for the UK's European Union Exit.

JT went on to outline that the VASPA advice would soon be publicised with a provisional date in July and sought views from the Forum on how best to manage the media coverage of this and encouraged their participation if available. The Forum agreed that strong and consistent messages were key to ensuring that the facts of the proposals were covered by the media.

Action Point: Ascertain Forum availability for launch of VASPA.

Action Point: Develop key messages for publication of VASPA.

JT went on to open a discussion on the public consultation on the Regional Trauma Network (RTN). She outlined the phased implementation approach to the RTN with Phase 1 focussing on individuals whose trauma is Troubles-specific and Phase 2 opening to wider societal trauma of any origin, and the recent meeting between the main five political parties and the funded victims' groups to discuss issues around the referral process.

The Forum discussed the need for the Network to get up and running as a matter of urgency to address the ever-growing ill mental health issues in Northern Ireland but that value for money needed to be demonstrated with the extra funding to the health service.

Action Point: CVS Research Officer to deliver a session on the RTN at a future Forum meeting.

Action Point: Invite Dr Ciaran Mulholland to future Forum meeting.

The Forum broke into working groups to discuss and feedback to the Commission on the upcoming Forum replenishment exercise. There was a consensus from the Forum that the competency-based approach as per the last replenishment exercise was the most fit-for-purpose and should be replicated. They made suggestions to simplify some of the language in the process to ensure that the process felt inclusive regardless of academic, professional or personal backgrounds as the competencies were the most important focus in bringing lived experience to the Forum.

Action Point: Circulate Communications Plan on Forum replenishment to members when finalised.

JT advised that Carmel Rooney had submitted her resignation from the Forum.

There was an open discussion with the Forum to design the panel session at the Féile and Phobail event in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Commission for Children and Young People (NICCY) with an agreement to arrange a pre-brief with the NICCY Youth Panel participants prior to the advance itself.

Action Point: Arrange pre-brief session with Forum and NICCY Youth Panel.

Meeting closed with wrap-up and check-in session with members.

Agreed Actions

- 1. Ascertain Forum availability for launch of VASPA.**
- 2. Develop key messages for publication of VASPA.**
- 3. CVS Research Officer to deliver a session on the RTN at a future Forum meeting**

- 4. Invite Dr Ciaran Mulholland to future Forum meeting.**
- 5. Circulate Communications Plan on Forum replenishment to members when finalised.**
- 6. Arrange pre-brief session with Forum and NICCY Youth Panel.**