



**23-24 August 2019
Shandon Hotel, Donegal**

Present

Judith Thompson (JT)
Andrew Sloan (AS)

Tina McCann (TMC)
Alana Fisher (AF)

Neil Foster (NF)
Peter Mann (PM)

Paul Crawford
Donal Dunn
Mary Moreland
Paul McCormac

Niall O Murchu
Lesley Veronica
Mina Jadeja
Sam Wilson

Minty Thompson
Emmett McConomy

Apologies

Jan Crawford
Paul Gallagher

Kathryn Johnston
Alan Brecknell

Don Mackay
Robert McClenaghan

Outline of Day One

JT welcomed Forum members and noted apologies.

She went on to outline the status of the Victims and Survivors Pension Arrangement (VASPA) which had recently been passed through the House of Lords in Westminster with 'those who were injured through no fault of their own' to be used as the key principle when it came to legislating. JT outlined the Commission's press release welcoming this progress.

Forum members discussed the level of misinformation in the media and how areas of the advice clearly clarified many of the areas that were incorrect in the wider public domain.

The Forum discussed the concept of definition of a victim and agreed that the differing opinions around this can be seen replicated throughout post-conflict societies but that compromise and dialogue were necessary for such societies to reconcile.

Forum members also expressed their support for the Commissioner in light of very personal attacks in recent weeks and advised they were content for a more public statement if appropriate.

Action Point: Use Forum discussion as basis for future supporting press releases.

There was further discussion around the Media Guidelines for Victims, Survivors and Journalists produced in conjunction with Queen's University Belfast and whether these guidelines applied to the producers of recent TV footage featuring graphic imagery.

Action Point: CVS to determine whether media guidelines applied to named television broadcast.

The Forum members in attendance at the Féile and Phobail event held in partnership with the Northern Ireland Commission for Children and Young People (NICCY) on 9 August, went on to feedback on the panel discussion and commented on how well received the event it was.

NF and PM went on to deliver a presentation on the proposed extensions to the Strategy for Victims and Survivors (2009-19) and funding model for services. The Forum then broke into working groups and delivered feedback on to help inform the Commissioner's advice on the extensions.

Action Point: AF to send Independent Assessment of VSS reports (2014) and Commission's Service Delivery Model advice (2016) to Forum.

Day one closed with a pastoral feedback session from the Forum.

Outline of Day Two

NF delivered a presentation on the public consultation on the Regional Trauma Network (RTN) outlining the background to the development of an RTN and the phased approach to its implementation.

The Forum then had a discussion on the changes to the proposed RTN compared with the Mental Health Trauma Service as outlined in the Stormont House Agreement (2014) such as the move in a sole victims-focus to a wider societal focus on mental health care provision.

There was a discussion around the referral pathway into the RTN and how this is best implemented, the need for effective governance to demonstrate the added value of the extra funding to the system and the need for GPs to be more aware of trauma, particularly as newly qualified GPs with no frame of reference for the Troubles take up posts.

Day two closed with a pastoral feedback session from the Forum.

Agreed Actions

- 1. Use Forum discussion as basis for future supporting press releases.**
- 2. CVS to determine whether media guidelines applied to named television broadcast.**
- 3. AF to send Independent Assessment of VSS reports (2014) and Commission's Service Delivery Model advice (2016) to Forum.**