



23 January 2020
Riddell Hall, Queens University Belfast

Present

Judith Thompson (JT)
Andrew Sloan (AS)
Neil Foster (NF)
Peter Mann (PM)
Alana Fisher (AF)
Holly Taylor (HT)
Nicky Cahill (NC)

Alan Brecknell
Paul Crawford
Paul Gallagher
Paul McCormac
Lesley Veronica
Kathryn Johnston
Sam Wilson
Minty Thompson
Emmett McConomy

Apologies

Donal Dunn
Mary Moreland
Niall O Murchu
Mina Jadeja

Outline of Meeting

JT welcomed Forum members and noted apologies.

JT outlined that the format of the next Forum meeting is to be a residential and provided updates on engagements to occur throughout the meetings.

JT highlighted the Commission's upcoming engagement with the Assembly Committee for the Executive Office.

There was discussion regarding the Stormont House Agreement and the 100 day timeframe for this to be implemented, and following issues which arose regarding the recognition of victims. This was followed by discussion regarding the Queens Speech and the issue regarding prosecution of soldiers.

There was discussion surrounding Forum replenishment. This focused upon Forum engaging in a workshop to discuss key messaging and how this can be successfully implemented.

Engagement with the Victims and Survivors Strategy Independent Evaluation Team (RSM)

RSM staff delivered a presentation to the Forum on the evaluation of the Strategy for Victims and Survivors (2009-2019). RSM are commissioned by the Executive Office to carry out the evaluation.

The team outlined recommendations from the 2016 mid-term review. There was discussion surrounding the success of delivery in providing support and assistance to victims and survivors.

There was detailed discussion regarding the groups who currently are, and could be, consulted from the strategy.

Action Point: Suggestions for additional groups to be passed on to RSM through the Commission.

There was discussion regarding the risk assessment for those who were to be involved, and the availability for supported for those who wish to engage.

There was discussion regarding the successes and positive benefits which have emerged from the current strategy, with reference to practical service provision and the impact of transgenerational conflict.

Engagement with the BBC Rewind Project

The BBC engaged with the Forum to deliver a presentation of the 'Rewind Project' which features Forum member participation.

In this presentation, there was a central focus on the use of digital platforming tools which had been used to engage in their project.

There was discussion regarding the format which the project's website was to take, with consideration given to censorship of sensitive images and footage.

There was discussion regarding the participation of Forum members in the project.

The BBC showed numerous clips of footage showcasing as examples to the work which they are currently undertaking.

Engagement with Trauma Research Team

JT welcomed Professor Michael Duffy and Dr Carolyn Blair from the Trauma Research Team at Queens University Belfast.

There was discussion surrounding the impact of therapy services currently being offered in the address of conflict-related mental health conditions. There was acknowledgement of the Commission's contribution to the research which has been conducted.

A presentation was delivered by Dr Blair focused upon the review of the trauma services interim project.

There was discussion surrounding the impact of transgenerational trauma and the effects which this has on children. A comparison was made to the Democratic Republic of Congo as similar issues have presented according to research.

There was further discussion surrounding the diagnosis of ill mental health, and data collection in Northern Ireland. There was a specific mention to PTSD and mental health in wider society.

Action Point: CVS to assist Professor Duffy in the distribution of questionnaires.

Meeting closed.

Agreed Actions

1. Suggestions for additional groups to be passed on to RSM through the Commission.
2. CVS to assist Professor Duffy in the distribution of questionnaires.
3. A session on trauma to be delivered to new Forum members upon the completion of the replenishment.