



**Minutes of the VSS Board Meeting No 49**  
**VSS, Seatem House, Belfast**  
**Board Meeting Type: Strategic Meeting**

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**Board Members Present:**

Oliver Wilkinson (OW)	Board Member (Chair)
Patricia Haren (PH)	Board Member
Bertha McDougall (BMcD)	Board Member
Richard Solomon	Board Member

**VSS Officers in Attendance:**

Margaret Bateson (MB)	Accounting Officer and CEO
Andrew Walker (AW)	Head of Corporate Services
Caroline King (CK)	Acting Head of Health & Wellbeing
Bronagh Goan (BG)	Information and Communications Officer
Maria McKeown (MMcK)	Executive Co-ordinator (Minutes)

**Others in Attendance (agenda item A only):**

Sandra Peake (SP)	WAVE trauma centre CEO
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**Apologies**

Apologies noted for the following board members.

Stephen McIlveen  
Beverly Clarke

**A WAVE TRAUMA CENTRE**

- A1** SP provided the VSS board with an overview of the work that WAVE Trauma Centre carries out on a day to day basis. WAVE has received 700 new referrals this year. Of those 700 individuals that presented 60% were male and 40% female with an average age of 51. There was increase in referrals in the Belfast and Armagh offices following the BBC 'Survivors' programme. WAVE has delivered 6000 counselling sessions to 660 people and the average number of sessions required is 12. SP outlined the main

challenges faced by WAVE trauma centre which include welfare advice, due to the implementation of Personal Independence Payment there has been an increase in the amount of support being provided to deal with issues such as appeals. Due to this increase of referrals WAVE may have to stop taking on new referrals with an exception of bereaved and seriously injured. There are major concerns with advice and welfare, as those suffering permanent physical injuries will be reviewed every 2 years yet those with psychologically injured will be reviewed after 10 years.

The success rate of appeals for PIP has been good. Legacy consultation has had an impact on services and will continue to do so. There is currently a three month waiting list for counselling through the NHS. WAVE Staff are registered with Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC). SP raised concerns that older bereaved widows are not supported through the current VSS frameworks and suggested a discretionary award should be considered. WAVE Belfast has limited office space particularly to deliver one to one therapy sessions. SP advised that WAVE will be submitting an application to build an extension. WAVE are continuing to work with the families of three remaining disappeared.

The VSS Chair OW thanked SP for taking the time to meet with the VSS board. SP left the meeting.

## **B Communication and Engagement Plan update**

BG provided an update on the Communication and Engagement Plan. The Board noted this paper.

## **C Minutes of Previous Meetings**

C1 15 May 2018. The minutes of this meeting were agreed.

## **D AOB**

### **D1 Risk Management strategy (inc Risk Appetite)**

AW presented this paper to the board for approval. The VSS board made a slight change to the narrative and approved this policy.

**E 'Hear My Voice'** Film corresponding to 'Silent Testimony' exhibition by Colin Davidson. The Board viewed this film which was followed by a discussion.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 10:00am, venue to be confirmed.