



**Minutes of the VSS Board Meeting No 62**  
**VSS, Seatem House, 28-32 Alfred Street, Belfast**  
**Board Meeting Type: Strategic Session**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 10:00am**

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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 (RS)	Board Member
Stephen McIlveen (SMcI)	Board Member

**VSS Officers in Attendance:**

Margaret Bateson (MB)	Chief Executive
Andrew Walker (AW)	Head of Health & Wellbeing
Tara Lewsley (TL)	Head of Corporate Services

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**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Beverley Clarke (Board Member).

**A Funded Organisation Engagement – Relatives For Justice**

A presentation was made to the VSS board by Relatives for Justice, outlining the Origins of the group and the range of services they provide to Victims and Survivors.

Topic covered included the internal referral pathways for Health & Wellbeing support, and an update on the ongoing advocacy work taking place within the organisation.

## **B Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**B1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 July 2019 were approved.

## **C CEO Reporting by Exception**

The CEO updated the Board that the Commissioner for Victims and Survivors will attend the VSS Board meeting in November 2019.

The CEO was advised by the Chair that the Performance appraisals for Board Members were in action.

The CEO advised the Board that the Annual Report and Accounts for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 would be completed and circulated for Board consideration week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> September, with draft submission to the Northern Ireland Audit Office due on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

MB updated the Board in respect to the ongoing corporate governance review (in respect of a funded organisation). An update was provided on review of the organisation at last board meeting in relation to monitoring & evaluation records. VSS has received a draft governance review from an independent specialist and is working to finalise this report. VSS will consider the appropriate actions following completion. Funding has been restricted to salaries and overheads in 2019/20 pending final outcomes of the GIAFIS and independent reviews.

The board discussed the possible need for Clinical Lead staffing within some VSP funded organisations (depending on model for engagement with RTN). MB updated the Board that it was considered that there could be a need to provide additional VSP funding for such staffing arrangements but that this would require a consistent model for application within these organisations.

MB updated the Board about her meeting with Brendan McAllister, Advocate for Victims of Institutional Abuse. It was agreed that MB would complete an initial scoping paper as to how VSS could potentially engage in the provision of support to Victims of Historical Abuse.

## **D Strategic Session – Post 2019 Strategy & Strategic Priorities**

MB updated the Board that the Commissioner for Victims and Survivors was due to give policy advice to TEO in relation to a proposed 2 year extension to the Victims Strategy and programme funding by 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and that VSS had prepared two papers to inform this advice;

1. VSS Health and Wellbeing Service Delivery Model – Consultation Based Evidence Paper.
2. VSS Health and Wellbeing Service Delivery Model – Practice Based Evidence Paper.

MB provided a summary of these papers and requested that the Board consider these papers and provide feedback in coming days to allow submission to the Commissioner and the Executive Office.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday 22 October 2019 at 10:00am at Seatem House.