



## **Minutes of the VSS Board Meeting No 60**

**Titanic Suites, Adelaide Street, Belfast**

**Board Meeting Type: Strategic Session**

**Tuesday 18 June 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
Beverley Clarke (BC)	Board Member
Richard Solomon (RS)	Board Member
Stephen McIlveen (SMcI)	Board Member

### **VSS Officers in Attendance:**

Andrew Walker (AW)	Head of Corporate Services
Nicola Nugent (NN)	HWB Case Manager

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### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Margaret Bateson (CEO) and Joanne McConville (Head of Health & Wellbeing).

### **A Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**A1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 May 2019 were approved.

### **B CEO Reporting by Exception**

The Head of Corporate Services provided a report on behalf of the CEO.

Updates provided on two funded organisations:

1 – Funding withdrawn from one funded organisation on 16 May 2019, following completion of an independent corporate governance review, which confirmed serious concerns across a range of areas including safeguarding, financial management and committee governance. Appeal period has now expired and no appeal raised.

VSS reviewing eligibility of expenditure for potential clawback if required.

Focus is now on ensuing continued service provision in the area, and a call for applications from existing groups has been issued.

VSS has taken steps to ensure that support is available for victims and survivors in the area impacted in the short term.

2 – Update provided on review of one organisation relating to monitoring & evaluation records. VSS has again engaged an independent specialist to undertake a review of corporate governance, and will consider the appropriate actions following completion.

The Board discussed the broad themes of these cases, and the appropriate response from VSS in terms of monitoring, verification, audit and other approaches to gaining assurance over activities within funded organisations.

The Board also asked management to consider specifically the arrangements in place to monitor activity within the Advocacy Support Programme.

## **C Strategic Session – Programmes Overview**

### **C1 Individual Needs Programme (INP)**

AW and NN presented a report on the INP, looking individually at each framework and including the following:

- Overview of framework
- Eligibility criteria
- Provision to date
- Awards/Activity levels 2017/18 & 2018/19
- Demographics (Age & Gender)
- Outcomes
- Case Studies

Following each framework, the Board discussed the information provided, and identified areas for further examination etc.

AW and NN agreed to collate the points raised by the Board and follow up where appropriate.

Frameworks covered included:

- Disability Aids
- Education & Training / One-to-one Literacy & Numeracy
- Trauma Focussed Physical Activity
- Persistent Pain
- Psychological Therapies
- Social Isolation Volunteering

## **C2 Self Directed Assistance (SDA)**

A brief overview of the cash awards made under SDA was provided, focussing primarily on numbers of awards, clients and values (all decreasing due to clients passing away, and transition payments reducing in line with agreed 3-year plan)

## **C3 Victim Support Programme (VSP)**

This aspect was postponed to a future meeting

## **D Extension of Victims Strategy**

This aspect was postponed to a future meeting

## **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday 30 July 2019 at 9:30am at Seatem House.