



Minutes of the VSS Board Meeting No 67

VSS, Seatem House, 28-32 Alfred Street, Belfast

Board Meeting Type: Strategic Session

Tuesday 18th February 2020 at 10:00am

Board Members Present:

Oliver Wilkinson (OW)	Chair
Patricia Haren (PH)	Board Member
Beverley Clarke (BC)	Board Member
Bertha McDougall (BMcD)	Board Member (Chair from 12:15pm)
Richard Solomon (RS)	Board Member
Stephen McIlveen (SMcI)	Board Member

VSS Officers in Attendance:

Andrew Walker (AW)	Interim Chief Executive Officer
Tara Lewsley (TL)	Head of Corporate Services
Melissa McCartan (MM)	Business Support Officer (minutes)

Apologies

No apologies were received.

A Communications Planning for 2021

Arlene O'Connor and Chris Brown from Brown O'Connor Communications attended the meeting from 10.00am – 11.30pm and delivered an insight discovery session in preparation for VSS' 20/21 Communications Plan. Agreed output to be a high level Comms plan drafted by Brown O'Connor for the incoming year.

B Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous Board meeting held on 21 January 2020 were approved.

C CEO Reporting by Exception

Regional Trauma Network: It was noted that the co-design session will no longer take place in Q4 19/20 as previously anticipated. The session is currently being rescheduled amongst all stakeholders. No date confirmed at present.

2019-2022 VSS Corporate Plan: AW advised the Board that a draft 2019-2022 Corporate Plan and Delivery Plan has been submitted to TEO for consideration.

Preparations for additional funding under PEACE IV: It was noted that additional funding under PEACE IV was approved by Steering Committee on 22 January 2020. LOO to follow after some of the conditions are clarified and agreed, and new budget/activity uploaded onto SEUPB's eMS information system.

Historical Institutional Abuse: It was noted that VSS still await a decision on arrangements for provision of Health and Wellbeing services to victims and survivors of HIA. If decided that VSS has a role, work will commence towards an agreed date for roll out of services.

D Update on Victims Payment Scheme

AW provided the update. It was noted that an independent Board will be established in respect of the scheme. The Board will be judge-led and will have discretion in a range of areas. The date parameters for the victims payment scheme will be January 1966 – April 2010, however, the Board will have discretion to consider applications for incidents outside these dates which they consider to be in line with the purpose of the scheme.

It was noted that victims and survivors who are eligible for the scheme will be backdated to the date of the Stormont House Agreement, 23 December 2014. AW advised that the scheme will be open to victims and survivors injured anywhere in the UK, regardless of their nationality, or residence at the time of the incident. It was noted that the scheme will also be open to any UK citizen or

'person entitled to such citizenship based on birth and the provisions of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement' that was injured anywhere in Europe.

AW advised the Board that an F.A.Q document was circulated to the VSS funded groups and VSS internal staff for their reference when handling any communications in relation to the Victims Payment Scheme.

E Peace Plus Consultation Response

It was noted that AW circulated a proposed response to the VSS Board for review ahead of today's Board meeting, 18 February 2020. AW thanked the Board for their input to date and advised that VSS will submit a final response to the Peace Plus Consultation by 25 February 2020.

F AOB

The Chair announced the resignation of VSS Board member SMcl. On behalf of VSS, OW expressed his appreciation to SMcl for his time and efforts whilst on the VSS Board. The Board and VSS Officers in attendance thereafter congratulated SMcl on his new position and wished him every success for the future.

AW advised the Board that Michael Black, Chair of the Belfast Jewish Community (BJC), would like to pass on a sincere thanks to the VSS Board for working with the Institute Conflict Research (ICR). It was noted that BJC has enjoyed putting on many successful events over the last number of years due to the financial input of VSS.

It was noted that the next Victims Forum meeting is scheduled to take place on 28 February 2020, and OW and AW would attend on behalf of VSS.

G Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Friday 20 March 2020 at 11.00am in Seatem House, Belfast.