



VOX 50th Board Meeting
Monday 27th July 2015
The Renfield Centre Glasgow

Present	Gordon Johnston John Sawkins Dougie Pickering Donald Grant Chris Evans Dianna Manson Colin Murchie Tracy Laird	Vice Chairperson Secretary Treasurer Member Director Member Director Member Director Member Director Member Director
In Attendance	Wendy McAuslan John Steel Jane Hornby	Development Coordinator Administration Officer Carer for Dianna Manson
Observers	Eddie Lennon Amanda O'Connell Doug Walker Aiveen Ryan David Atiyah Claire Muir Laura Caven Margaret McDonald	
Apologies	Joyce Mouriki Carol Mapley David Harrison Richard Norris Dr. Alison Thom	Chairperson Member Director Member Director Co-opted Director Co-opted Director

1. Welcome/Opening

Due to the unavoidable absence of the Chairperson, the meeting was formally opened by Gordon Johnston who welcomed everyone present with a special welcome to the prospective board members and said that he hoped they had had a fruitful morning

session at the Training, Research and Development Sub Group and that the afternoon session would hopefully be very informative.

Gordon informed the observers of the structure of the board taster session, and explained that the observers would have an opportunity to ask more general questions after the initial formal section of the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest. The Chairperson explained to the prospective board members what might constitute a declaration, or conflict of interest for items on the agenda.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the 49th board meeting were formally adopted on the motion of Colin Murchie and John Sawkins.

4. Matters Arising

Some questions were asked regarding funding issues; Wendy stated these would be covered in the development coordinators update.

Information regarding some of the work support in mind are currently involved in was mentioned.

5. Format of board meeting/role of directors

For the benefit of the Observers, Gordon Johnstone indicated the outlay of the board agenda and the role of Directors and their duties. Gordon also spoke at length on the following:-

- Training on Governance
- Companies House
- Policies and Procedures

6. General questions from observers

Several questions were raised by observers regarding the following:-

- a) Format of the Royal College of Psychiatrists: Dougie Pickering and John Sawkins (who have been involved representing VOX at the meetings) informed the observers the formation of the meetings and indicated that there were now 3 service users involved at the meetings.
- b) More involvement for members.
- c) Phone Conferencing and Skype, Dianna commented that the idea of phone conferencing would not be good if there were too many people.
- d) Video Conferencing.
- e) Board venues.
- f) Induction Process for new Board members.
- g) VOX business plan

- h) Community Leaders.
- i) Capacity.
- j) Feedback from meetings to membership.
- k) Report on meetings on VOX website.
- l) The feasibility of Electronic voting at the annual general meeting.
- m) Inclusiveness.

These questions were discussed, and the following actions were decided upon;

Action: Online voting to be looked into.

Action: Opportunities for updates from representatives to be shared more widely with our membership shall be developed.

Action: When we have a new board in place they will look at the venue and video conference opportunities.

There being no further questions, the observers were then invited to retire.

7. Development Coordinator Update

Accounts

VOX's financial audit for 2014-2015 is currently taking place; Wendy provided an overview of the income and expenditure for financial year 2014/2015 which has been sent onto our accountants.

Action: Wendy to progress with our accountants in time for our AGM

Projected funding 2015/2016

Projected funding overview for the coming year will shortly be available. We are currently taking advice from HR about the staffing implications of the shortfall we will face at the end of the 3 year comic relief grant. Our comic relief grant will come to an end at the end of September 2015.

Funding

A one year application to comic relief was developed (at the prompt of our funding officer at comic relief), however, we have since received feedback that it is difficult to justify an additional one year funding from comic relief to progress three of our strands after a project has been awarded an investment grant.

The mental health foundations funding officer has just been recruited and it may be best to work alongside them to seek additional funding (which is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain). We are also in touch with Lankelly Chase who fund multiple discrimination issues, and have an opportunity to develop an additional funding application through new funds being made available via the Scottish Government (possibly human rights work).

Action: Lee/Wendy shall progress

Grant Updates

Our Scottish Governments 2014/2015 year monitoring update was sent in and covered our main outcome areas of; capacity building, leadership, capturing members' experiences, shaping services and society, and human rights and justice.

AGM and conference, 7th September 2015

A key agenda item for the day shall be priority setting and our AGM. It is also suggested we carry out some world café sessions around the subject of employment and mental health. We are currently seeking speakers, and looking at key questions within a current employability consultation which could be used as a vehicle to influence change.

Information regarding The Mercure City Hotel as a venue for the annual general meeting was discussed and the board authorised the confirmation of a provisional booking at this hotel for Monday 7th September 2015.

Action: Wendy to look at how we can provide an overview of the employability consultation taking place, also potential service user voice on employment.

Action: Wendy to begin process of developing the annual report.

Action: John to book AGM venue

Impaired Decision Making

Two focus groups were held (Glasgow and Perth) to help to develop an understanding of our members' thoughts on impaired decision making and mental health. Based on this we have started to develop a questionnaire which we hope volunteers from the training, research and development sub-group shall help us to further refine and develop. It is hoped we can reach a large number of individuals.

Other areas of work

- Website – to be launched at the AGM
- Community leaders programme update was given
- Training, research and development sub-group is being refreshed, some areas of development were highlighted.
- International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL). The board decided that it was feasible to send one person to the International Initiative for Mental Health leadership conference in Canada. Following discussion of the short timescale until the event it was agreed that the normal process of seeking applications of interest from members was not feasible. The Board therefore agreed that Gordon Johnston would represent VOX, subject to the approval of Scottish Government as funder

Action: Wendy to check that the Scottish government is content with the board's decision and process for the IIMHL this year.

8. Directors Information Sharing.

John Sawkins spoke on the restrictive measures for restraint.

Gordon Johnstone spoke on the following: Patient Safety Programme/ Mental Health Partnership and the development of an International Academy for Lived Experience

Leadership Dianna Manson spoke on Psychological Therapies and a conference in Edinburgh.

Chris Evans spoke on the following: A seeding grant received for Lochaber/the problems incurred by the Polish Community accessing Mental Health Services and the Commitment One Report.

Dougie Pickering spoke about an International Congress, and a workshop on service user involvement.

9. Any Other Business

It was intimated that we had received eight individual applications for membership. These were approved by the board.

10. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting shall be Monday the 24th August 2015