



**VOX 56<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016  
The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street Glasgow**

<b>Present</b>	Amanda O'Connell	Vice Chairperson
	John Sawkins	Secretary
	Dianna Manson	Member Director
	Chris Evans	Member Director
	Laura Caven	Member Director
	Chris White	Member Director
<b>In Attendance</b>	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
	John Steel	Administration Officer
<b>Apologies</b>	Gordon Johnston	Chairperson

**1. Opening**

The Vice Chairperson, Amanda O'Connell intimated that she would not be chairing the meeting and relinquished that responsibility to Laura Caven who welcomed everyone present.

**2. Declarations**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> Board meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were formally approved on the motion of Chris White and Chris Evans.

**4. Matters Arising**

**a) Item 4b, Line 4, Delete "must" and insert "should"**

All Board Members **should** familiarise themselves with our Memorandum & Articles of Association and Business Plan 2014-2017, in particular the 7 outcomes we have stated we will address"

**b) Page 1, Minutes, Delete "Dianna Manson" and insert "Chris White"**

The minutes of the board meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January was proposed by Chris Evans and seconded by **Chris White.**

**c) Page 1, 1 "draft bid"**

d) Memorandum of Understanding with MHF  
**Action: Wendy to complete**

e) Disability Training, June Edinburgh

**Action: Wendy to arrange**

f) Letter to Donald Grant

**Action: John to progress**

g) Lunch discussion with board members. It was intimated that there was not enough time to discuss. Board members to send in details if they have been representing VOX at outside agencies two weeks before the next board meeting.

**Action: Board to be reminded of new format** (email from John to remind board members to send in representative roles/areas of work they have taken on behalf of VOX – to be included in VOX update under outcome 4 - utilise members experiences to improve models of care, services and society more generally)

h) VOX collective, FEEDBACK to Wendy.

## 5. Staff Update

### Advance Statements

Wendy mentioned the work which has been carried out so far, including the good practice event, involvement in the development of the information resource, and potential work with Gary Morrison from the Mental Welfare Commission on promotion of the advance statements through the health boards.

Wendy mentioned the promotional/ lived experience champion type idea which we could support.

The board talked about some of the process issues relating to advance statements and the importance of knowing what proportion of advance statements are overturned. This would in turn allow us to compare health board areas to each other.

### Spending cuts work

We are still promoting the questionnaire, and we will be seeking narratives to give the report some additional impact.

## Isolation

Wendy shall be putting in a funding bid for some work around isolation and loneliness. The deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Action: Wendy to progress (and utilise a group of board members to look through the initiative/idea for the bid)**

## Mental Health Strategy Consultation Sessions

Wendy mentioned that the consultation had involved over 80 people, and that the key issues report was soon to be sent to the Scottish government.

The key areas which participants highlighted in the consultation were presented to the board.

Some issues highlighted in the paper around borderline personality disorder (BPD) were discussed including concerns around stigma/discrimination issues, and a sense that we desperately need general guidelines to be drawn up relating to BPD, or that if they exist a way of monitoring this.

Chris White mentioned the idea of differences by diagnosis, and that future work may want to explore this from an equality point of view.

## **6. Board Membership**

- a) Discussion took place regarding the possibility of co-opting two people to the board after the resignations of David Atiyah and Donald Grant. If people were to be co-opted on to the board, they would need to seek re-election at the next annual general meeting.
- b) Discussion took place regarding the non-appearance of some of the board members without an apology. **Wendy to action.**
- c) Amanda O'Connell informed the meeting that in future she would have to step back a bit from the board.
- d) Chris White suggested that the board should hold a morning session for prospective board members, this was agreed.

## **7. Funding/Budget**

Wendy McAuslan outlined the proposed budget for 2016-17 which was approved.

Chris White enquired about this year's International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership Conference in New Zealand. (IIMHL) A full discussion took place regarding the merits of spending a large sum of money sending people to this conference during

the current financial climate. It was unanimously agreed that there would be no representatives funded from VOX this year.

### **8. Correspondence**

The board was informed that, as mentioned earlier we had received a letter of resignation from Donald Grant who had been very supportive about VOX's work but doesn't feel he has the correct skill set for the organisation.

### **9. Any Other Competent Business**

The following items were discussed;

- a) Underspend, how we had use some potential underspend was clarified
- b) Newsletter (on hold)
- c) Website, is now completed
- d) Summer Meeting in Glasgow (look for a change in venue), priorities for next year in workshop type format, t-shirts so people know who to contact for assistance, feedback to members on key issues.

### **Action: Wendy and John to progress**

- e) Applications for membership; John Steel read out the three individual and one associate application for membership. The applications were formally agreed and accepted.

### **Action: John Steel to write to the individuals concerned.**

### **10. Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set (14<sup>th</sup> June, since the meeting this has changed to Tuesday the **7<sup>th</sup> June**)