



**VOX 57<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**  
**Deafaction Centre, Albany Street Edinburgh**  
**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

<b>Present</b>	Gordon Johnston	Chairperson
	Amanda O'Connell	Vice Chairperson
	Pauline Bradley	Member Director
	Dianna Manson	Member Director
	John Sawkins	Member Director
	Chris White	Member Director (from item 5)
<b>In Attendance</b>	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
	John Steel	Administration Officer
<b>Apologies</b>	Dr. Alison Thom	Non Member Director
	Laura Caven	Member Director
	Chris Evans	Member Director

**1. Welcome**

Gordon Johnston welcomed those present.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

It was noted that Chris White had a declaration of interest in relation to item no. 8 on the agenda.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the 56<sup>th</sup> board meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were formally moved for adoption on the motion of Amanda O'Connell and Dianna Manson.

**4. Matters Arising**

Dianna – no guidelines currently so this would be a good area to progress.

Amanda – stated that she may in the future have to step back to some extent but is still committed to the work of VOX.

The Board members requested to have the minutes two weeks in advance of the next meeting. Other paperwork could be sent around the week before.

## 5. Work Update

### **VOX update – (using the key outcomes in the Business Plan)**

Main focus this month has been developing the funding bid (outcome 1), updating the Scottish Government of the years' work, and developing the next members meeting (outcome 1). Initiating work around the guidelines (outcome 2).

#### **Outcome 1 - Members direct the work of VOX**

- Bid put in to progress isolation work, Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund (SIALF)

The bid looks at a social assets mapping approach to support individuals to link in to local services and initiatives, and to work together as a group to identify assets.

- Advance statements champions being developed.

Utilise the VOX collective/group members to identify potential leaders across Scotland. We will provide training (through the Mental Health Greater Glasgow Network), develop an online means of communication, and provide support when possible.

- Spending cuts work

Mahmud is currently arranging visits across mental health advocacy groups to collect narratives and promote the work we are involved in.

#### **Next members meeting**

The next members meeting and AGM to take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> September in the Scottish Youth Theatre, workshops are currently being developed (including creative therapies – arts based workshop), and presentation requests/MSP invite are being progressed. An outline/early notification shall be sent out with AGM information.

#### **Outcome 2 - We share, explore and model good practice**

We are developing involvement guidelines (together with Patricia Rogers from ADVOCARD). The aim will be to ensure we are supporting wellbeing at events and conferences whilst being as inclusive as possible. This has arisen from a request for VOX to support a national guideline on involvement and wellbeing, we will utilise the VOX collective to develop further/incorporate ideas.

Key issues are around feeling safe, how to deal with disagreements, support for people pre-during-post meetings, and process to follow for when difficulties arise (should link to our risk assessments). This should also be in the context of ensuring we don't exclude people from having a voice.

### **Outcome 3 - We aim to build capacity within those who have, or have had mental health problems**

Next VOX collective meeting is being developed; the next meeting is being planned in Perth date tbc.

We have been working with partners (See Me and MHF) on the Community Conversation's Empowerment Tool.

### **Outcome 4 - Utilise members' experiences to improve models of care, services and society more generally**

VOX has been involved in the following groups

- Mental Welfare Commission Advisory Group (Dianna, Chris Evans and John)
- Observation Practice Group (Chris Evans)
- Scottish Patient Safety Programme (Gordon)
- Mental Health and the Development & Oversight Group of Our Voice (Gordon)
- Scottish Governments Implementation of the Mental Health Act Group (Chris Evans)
- Community Engagement in tandem with SSSC Social work departments. Inter-University Service Users Group (John)
- Cross Party Group mental health (Gordon)
- Cross Party group race equality (Mahmud)
- Cross Party group Health Inequalities (Mahmud)
- Learning from partner organisations in Northern Ireland, Wales and England, in particular re- improvement of DWP experiences (RCPsych Ethics Committee, London)(John)
- Scottish Parliament re- transport, accommodation needs of both physically disabled and those with "invisible disabilities" with Independent Living in Scotland (ILIS) (John)

**Outcome 5 - We aim to challenge stigma and discrimination, Outcome 6 - We aim to gather evidence and capture our members views and experiences and outcome 7 - We promote justice, human rights and social inclusion** have had less focus in the last few weeks (although in relation to the latter we have started to develop the next mental health arts and film festival moving minds event which will take place in October 2016).

### **Other Issues/areas of work**

Scottish Government yearly update has been submitted, (thanks to those who gave updates)

New Comic Relief Funding programmes have been announced, links not as strong as before for our work.

Audit process will be initiated prior to the next board meeting.

**Action: Wendy to initiate**

The Mental Welfare Commissions (MWC) engagement director Kate Fearnley would like VOX to be involved in their engagement strategy, and get involved in a joint event to bring together service users to discuss how the commission develops/influence areas of work. This is a move from their previous roadshows which were more information based (this would link to business plan outcomes 4 and 6). The board were happy for VOX to be involved in this piece of work.

**Action: Wendy to progress**

**UNCPRD bid**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) have set up a procurement offering funding for organisations or coalitions of organisations to work on a Scotland civil society report for the UNCRPD, for which they have intelligence that it will be considered and examined during 2017.

Inclusion Scotland are proposing that we put in a funding bid for the current procurement as a partnership of all the bigger DDPO's (e.g. Inclusion Scotland, GDA, LCIL, GCIL, SDEF, ILiS project, People First, and other organisations led by Deaf and/or Disabled people with a strong interest in this work) and Professor Nick Watson at Glasgow University. (Would link to 4, 5 and 6) The board agreed VOX should have a role in this bid, and be involve in gathering members' views and influencing strategic direction.

**Action: Wendy to progress**

**6. Internal Policies – Risk Assessments**, suggested changes were made and shall be incorporated in the policy.

**7. Annual General Meeting**

As discussed in the business plan update. Discussion took place around the directors' places, it was noted that as there would be SIX vacancies for board members this year, and that it would be appropriate to send out the application forms early, and offer a board taster session similar in format to last year.

It was noted that Gordon Johnston, John Sawkins and Tracy Laird would reach six years as Directors and are therefore not eligible to stand for re-election.

**Action: Wendy and John to pull together paperwork and send to our membership, including a date for the taster session to take place.**

**8. Memorandum of Understanding** – the board approved the MOU with Mental Health Foundation. (Note: Chris White did not take part in the discussion)

9. Correspondence. No correspondence was mentioned which wasn't included in other agenda items.

**10. AOCB.**

a) After discussion it was agreed to allocate one hour prior to the next board meeting for board members to provide updates on their VOX representative work. Lunch will be served at the start of this period.

b) Gordon reported on an invitation received by Mahmud Al-Gailani to an engagement event organised by the Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership on 30<sup>th</sup> June. No one was available to attend.

**11. Applications for Membership.**

There were three individual applications for membership which were approved by the board.

**Action: John Steel to letter the applicants.**

**12. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 July 2016 in the Renfield Centre, Bath Street Glasgow. It was noted that Dianna is now unable to travel to Glasgow and will contribute via Skype.