

**VOX 77th Board Meeting**

**Monday 12th November 2018**

**The Renfield Centre Glasgow**

**Present:** Dougie Pickering Chairperson

Pauline Bradley Vice Chairperson

Chris Evans Secretary

Amanda Ritchie Member Director

Jacqui Jamieson Member Director

Barry Gale Non-Member Director

**In attendance** Wendy McAuslan and Duncan McKechnie

1. Welcome and Apologies: Dougie welcomed everyone and introduced Duncan McKechnie from Inspiring Scotland.

Dougie welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave Apologies for Alastair Simmons, Andrew Muir, Colin Murchie and Annette Calder. Dougie suggested we rearrange the agenda slightly to start with Duncan from Inspiring Scotland.

1. **Inspiring Scotland**

Duncan talked about the background and aims of Inspiring Scotland. He explained that it was attempting to bring money together for social causes. One task Duncan has a focus on is youth unemployment where there has been investment of £120 million – partly private investors.

Inspiring Scotland oversees a range of projects including play initiatives (cash back from the proceeds of crime) and had worked on topics such as seeking support for Kinship carers.

He explained that in relation to VOX it is to provide a small level of support to try and enable a positive future.

Duncan saw the value of VOX as being that it had a unique perspective in being able to bridge the gap between policy and the day to day lives of ordinary people. He talked about the importance of clarifying key messages. Duncan explained he has liaised with Lee from the Mental Health Foundation and provides a link with the Scottish Government and would hope that the next stage would be more funding to increase VOX’s capacity. He stated that he felt that the formation of Mental Health Directorate a positive move forward.

1. **Conflicts of Interest and Minutes of last meeting**

No conflicts of interest were given, and the minutes of the last meeting were approved by Chris and seconded by Amanda.

1. **Policy work**

Safeguarding Policy – Wendy noted that a draft policy showing the scope of this type of policy was on OSCR’s website, and that although its regarding children the format could be similar.

**Action: The board were happy for Wendy to progress and for any feedback to be provided from the board.**

1. **Summary of Tribunal Survey**

Wendy provided a brief summary on some of the key findings so far, this included the fact that although people felt that they had a chance to put their views across that there was a problem with accuracy from staff. The staffs depth of understanding and the awareness of a patient’s circumstances were felt to be lacking due to not knowing the patient and his/her circumstances well enough.

Wendy reiterated that this was at this stage only a summary and it would have more detail and include quotes etc. Some discussion took place around the fact that the number of people with lived experience was not very high, and that as far as possible the findings should pull out the service users’ perspective (whilst also explaining the broader viewpoints we received e.g. named persons and advocates. Jacqui offered to help Wendy tabulate the findings if it is helpful.

**Action: Wendy shall produce a full report over the next few weeks.**

1. **Longing for a Connection Film**

Amanda gave an overview of the way the film had been developed and stated that she felt that the board should be supportive of the project given they had as a board approved the project and identified the aims/audiences.

Amanda stated that the film has been very well received and is planned to be used for awareness raising and training, and that we had support from See Me to take this forward.

This would include awareness raising with psychiatry, training with GPs, patient safety and a range of other groups of clinicians who have been approached and have shown interest.

Barry suggested that the film was about a sort of therapy and stated that he felt it wasn’t appropriate. The board reassured Barry that the film is about connection and has been supported throughout and updated on at previous board meetings.

1. **Financial updates**

Wendy tabled a draft finance update for the previous year and stated that the accounts process was underway, and that she would have at least draft accounts for the AGM.

RSM accountants would attend on the day and would provide an overview of the year’s accounts.

1. **VOX Member Resolution**

Barry stated that he wished to take forward an Ordinary Resolution (on behalf of Andrew Muir) and presented it to the board. The resolution was in relation to reform of Scottish Mental Health and Incapacity Legislation to ensure that, when people are deemed to lack mental capacity to make their own decisions, they nevertheless retain the same legal rights as those having mental capacity. as required by the Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The board felt that the resolution would be something which required members to be engaged in discussion and informed fully of what this may mean in various situations in order to fully understand the implications etc, and for that reason did not wish to put the resolution forward as a board resolution.

Barry stated this would be re-drafted. Wendy asked for the resolution to be sent to her as soon as it was finalised, so we would ideally have 14 days clear for members to be able to have time to read etc.

1. **Members Applications**

3 Individual and 1 group members application had been received, all were approved.

**Action: John to write to the members to inform them of their membership, and include a welcome letter and add to the database etc.**

**8. Annual General Meeting**

Wendy stated that the Conference entitled Connections would include Paul Hutton (given peoples suggestions about discussing this area of work) who can talk a bit about psychosis and decision making, That we would show our film – longing for a connection in order to update our members on its progress, and that we could still have some discussions around mental health and social media (although the speaker we had down for coming along could unfortunately not make the new date).

The formal part of the agenda would include the Previous Year’s Minutes, a Chairpersons Report, Directors Nominations and the Accounts.

In terms of nominations Pauline and Chris were due for re-election, as were Amanda and Jacquie (as they had been co-opted). A deadline of the November 23rd was provided for nominations to be received.

**9.Date of the next meeting**

**Date of Next Board Meeting Monday Feb 4th, 2019 in The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street Glasgow G2 4JP at 1.00pm**