



**VOX 61st Board Meeting
Tuesday 8th November 2016
The Renfield Centre Glasgow**

Present	Eddie Lennon	Member Director
	Andrew Muir	Member Director
	Colin Murchie	Member Director
	Pauline Bradley	Member Director
	Dougie Pickering	Member Director
In Attendance	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
	John Steel	Administration Officer
Apologies	Chris Evans	Member Director
	Chris White	Member Director
	Alastair Simmons	Member Director
	Dianna Manson	Member Director

1. Welcome

It was agreed that Pauline Bradley would assume the chair for the purpose of this meeting only. Pauline welcomed everyone present.

2. Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest announced.

3. Election of Office Bearers

After much discussion it was agreed to hold over the election of both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson until the away day.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11th October 2016 were checked for accuracy and thereafter adopted on the motion of Colin Murchie, seconded by Andrew Muir.

5. Matters Arising

The following items were raised from the minutes of the last meeting:

- a) Member and Non Member Director vacancies to be on the agenda at the development day. Several suggestions were made regarding the two vacancies for Member Directors; Annette Calder from Inverness was suggested for co-option and her profile should be made available for the development day. Dougie Pickering also suggested that the names of Richard Norris and Alex Davidson who were previously Non Member Directors should be considered once again. Andrew Muir suggested that the two members who were unsuccessful at the AGM should be approached regarding the vacancies.
- b) Options for board meeting venues. It was decided to have the January meeting in Stirling and the February meeting in Glasgow, further dates and venues to be decided at the development day.
- c) Induction packs. An induction pack folder was handed out to the board members present. It was intimated that further documents would be available in due course so that board members could also insert them in their folder. A copy of the 2014-17 business plan to be distributed to board members.
Action: John Steel to distribute post/email
- d) Finance update. Wendy gave an update regarding finances and fundraising.
- e) VOX Sub Groups. This was another item for discussion at the development day.
- f) Homeopathy.
- g) Board attendances. Dougie Pickering requested permission to approach the Royal College of Psychiatrists regarding the non-attendance of Dr. Alison Thom; it was understandable that she is very busy however it was felt that perhaps another member of the Royal College could be more available.

6. Board Development Day

Wendy McAuslan gave an outline of the draft agenda for the board development day. Discussion took place regarding the date and venue which resulted in the venue being decided as the Millennium Hotel in Glasgow and to be held on Tuesday 13th December 2016. Key aims working together, reviewing our current plan, developing our next strategy/business plan.

Draft Agenda

- Ice Breaker
- Building Interdependence/working as a board.
- Business Plan – what we have currently – overview
- VOX's business strategy for 2017/2020
- What is your strategy designed to achieve?
 - What will drive your organisation for the next three years?
 - The scope of your strategy:
- What are the boundaries?
 - Where will you not go?
 - What will you not do?

- The advantage your strategy will deliver:
 - what you will do differently or better than others
 - what beneficiaries and funders will get from you (and no-one else).
 - Thoughts for next steps

7. Staff Update

Capturing Members experiences

a) United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD)

Key findings from VOX's focus group were passed over to Inclusion Scotland to be incorporated into the Scotland Disability Paper on the UNCPRD. HUG also carried out a focus group to be incorporated.

b) Drill bid, partnership bid looking at civic/political involvement of those who have mental health problems) we have received notification that we have been successful and await letter of offer and terms and conditions. Initial work shall be developing a partnership agreement.

c) Disability/employment consultation – gap, we have been asked if we will be involved in a consultation which the DWP are undertaking to understand the disability/employment gap. Wendy will be meeting with Adrian Martin on the 15th November to discuss consultation methods.

d) Guardianship, legal team at the Scottish Government (via the VOX collective)

e) Mental Welfare Commission, Engagement event on the 21st November to give an opportunity to shape service user involvement within the commission.

f) Inputting into the Poverty Alliances engagement questionnaire so they are aware of the issues around poverty and mental health (this influences their consultation responses and ways of working e.g. programmes of work) Information came from the spending cuts review.

g) Raising Awareness raising/challenging stigma

Mental health arts and film festival, Mahmud shall update at the next board meeting. Media article - to be produced (VOX collective and support in mind – who have relevant contacts) to highlight effects of spending cuts (can utilise VOX's questionnaire information).

h) Developing Leadership/Building good practice

Safe Space Guidelines, re-arranged for January.
Honest/Open and Proud (Hop training) – likely to be January 2017, Edinburgh

i) Other – building alliances

- SRN, meeting the new director.

- SAMH, meeting their policy officer.
- Accounts – meeting our accountants on the 7th November

Meeting with the Scottish Government on 23rd, 29th November and 6th December.

A request was made for a copy of the UNCPRD report to be sent round the board.

Action: John Steel to send out the report.

8. Skills audit/training

Board members were reminded that that the skills audit forms were due for return and that training would be made available.

9. AOCB

Mental Welfare Commission meeting ????