



**VOX 62nd Board Meeting
Tuesday 10th January 2017
The Golden Lion Hotel Stirling**

Present:

Dougie Pickering	Chairperson
Pauline Bradley	Vice Chairperson
Chris White	Treasurer
Andrew Muir	Member Director
Alastair Simmons	Member Director
Eddie Lennon	Member Director
Barry Gale	Non Member Director

In Attendance:

Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
Mahmud Al Gailani	Equality & Development Coordinator
John Steel	Administration Officer

1. Welcome:

Dougie Pickering welcomed everyone present.

2. Apologies:

Chris Evans	Member Director
Dianna Manson	Member Director
Colin Murchie	Secretary
Dr. Alison Thom	Non Member Director

3. Conflict of Interest:

There were no conflicts of interest recorded.

4. Minutes:

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2016, which included some items from the board development day held on 13th December 2016, were approved on the motion of Andrew Muir and seconded by Pauline Bradley. It was felt that the short board meeting which was part of the development day should be a separate minute, and not included at the end of the November minutes.

Action: John to progress.

5. Winter Members Meeting:

It was agreed that the Winter Members Meeting will be held on Monday 20th February 2017, venue in Glasgow still to be confirmed. Wendy produced a draft outline of ideas for the day using world cafe format. It was felt that the format should be based on open space, using some themes as prompts but leaving many themes open to membership so members could choose whatever topics they would like to discuss. Wendy agreed to base the amended agenda on these suggestions.

Action: Wendy and John to distribute amended agenda to the VOX membership.

6. Spending Cuts Update:

Mahmud Al Gailani provided an update on the spending cuts work. Some key statistics were presented which arose from the questionnaire findings, and it was felt that these were very significant in terms of the effects the cuts were having on people with mental health problems. It was felt that the findings should be used for work with the media, and that working through the VOX collective would be an opportunity to build strength/have an impact on this hugely important area of work.

Action: Mahmud to work with the VOX collective to agree next steps and progress this area of work.

7. DRILL Project Update:

Wendy reminded the board about the scope of the project which looks at public and civic life and participation for people with mental health problems, and that it is a partnership between VOX, the Mental Health Foundation, the University of Strathclyde, the Research collective, and stated that VOX is the lead partner.

Wendy highlighted some operational issues she had been working on, namely progressing ethics through the University of Strathclyde, and issues relating to the partnership agreement, again in relation to the University of Strathclyde. A draft media article was provided for board members.

Wendy also stated that the evaluation and monitoring meeting had been very useful, and that the partnership meetings were progressing well.

Action: Wendy to inform the board of progress at the next board meeting.

8. Business Plan/Funding Proposal:

Wendy and Dougie fed back on the progress of the meeting held between VOX and the head of the mental health division at the Scottish Government. There was a sense that the proposal should look at growth of the organisation, and that areas such as influencing other areas of government policy, capacity building and exploring ways to influence the health and social care integration would all be effective areas to have an impact on.

Action: Wendy will pull together a business plan/proposal based on themes discussed at the meeting for the next meeting with the Scottish Government, and reflecting on the development days discussions.

Action: Wendy to send around the development day write up.

9. AOCB:

Dougie Pickering read out a letter from Dianna Manson intimating her resignation as a Member Director due to it becoming increasingly difficult to be able to physically attend meetings. Dianna expressed her gratitude to staff and board members and wished the organisation well.

Action: Chris White stated he will arrange to visit Dianna and thank her for her contributions.

Dougie stated that he felt it was important to reconvene the communications group so key communications issues can be revisited and progressed as appropriate.

Action: Dougie will re-initiate this group.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 14th February** 2016 in the Renfield Centre 260 Bath Street Glasgow.