

Notes

Stakeholder forum –online meeting

Wednesday 11 February 2026 - 10:00am – 12:30pm

Attendees:

Elaine Armstrong (Chairperson)	The Cedar Foundation
Ian Simpson (Vice-Chair)	NIPSCBF
Aoife Hamilton	Deputy Chief Commissioner
Andrea Brown	Disability Action
Tony Clarke	Start 360
Mary T Conway	Omagh Forum for Rural Associations
Denise Copeland	NICVA
Lorraine Griffin	COSTA
Denise Hayward	Volunteer Now
Clare Jenner	Parentkind
Lisa Keys	Boys Brigade NI
Louise Little	North Down Community Network
Valerie McConville	CO3
Brenda McMullen	Halifax Foundation NI
Bill Megraw	County Down Rural Community Network
Diarmuid Moore	Early Years
Ashleigh Roberts	EBCDA
Ann Breslin	CCNI – PDM, Notetaker.

Apologies:

Conor Flanagan	Supporting Communities
Michele Crilly	Special Olympics

Ref	Item	Action point/Decision
1	Welcome and apologies	
2	Notes of the previous meeting and update on action points.	<p>AP1: amend notes of meeting to replace 'critical friends to the forum' to 'critical friends to the Commission.'</p> <p>Correct error in numbering of action points.</p>
3	<p>Commission update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual public meeting - Registration threshold - NISRA consultation 	<p>Discussion on these items led to the following action points.</p> <p>AP2: When updating model governing documents, Commission to consider adding a power for charity trustees to remove another trustee – as suggested by M. Smith KC at the Commission's Annual Public meeting.</p> <p>Note re NISRA and the Continuous Household Survey. Possibly another approach to charity questions.</p>
4	<p>Information from Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement strategy – being reviewed and new strategy being drafted. - New Fundraising Regulator NI representative 	<p>Suggestion that when the Annual Monitoring return is being updated, Commission to consider changing question on AMR: Are you registered with the Fundraising regulator? with:</p> <p>Do you follow the Code of Fundraising Practice?</p> <p>AP3: Policy manager to ensure this is on the relevant issues log.</p> <p>AP4: New Fundraising Regulator NI representative to be invited to speak to the forum at its October 2026, online meeting.</p>

5	Discussion of items for the forum's workplan 2026/27	<p>AP5: As Minister is to make decision on s.167, add discussion of s.167 to the workplan.</p> <p>AP6: Add discussion on charity Closures to the workplan and what is the Commission's role.</p>
6	<p>Update on preparation for Registration Threshold - Head of Charity Services.</p> <p>As part of this discussion there was a question re the potential impact on charities who exercise their registration exemption in terms of accessing funding, if criteria is limited to registered charities.</p> <p>Halifax Foundation representative reminded forum of survey of members of the Funder Forum (40) that received 34 responses, of which only 3 said their criteria would remain that a charity would have to be registered to apply for funding.</p> <p>AP7: Halifax Foundation representative to ask Funders Forum have members views changed as the threshold approaches.</p> <p>Via the chat function: Another impact may be the fact that, for example Council Grants allow registered charities to submit less information in applications etc.</p> <p>AP8: Commission guidance to encourage charities to consider the pros/cons of the exemption for their charity. Charities that do not want to exercise their exemption can choose to register with the Commission.</p> <p>AP9: Policy manager to communicate offer of user testing of the new online application and reporting system by members of the forum, to IT team.</p>	
7	Proposed changes to guidance and materials for the Registration Threshold - Head of Charity Services & Policy development manager	
8	Members items	No items were added to the agenda.
9	Members update	Boys Brigade Northern Ireland (BBNI).
10	AOB	

Next meeting:

Date: Tuesday 9 June 2026

Time: 10:00am – 12:30

Venue: Online