

Stakeholder forum – meeting note

Marlborough House

Wednesday 29 November 2023 10:00am – Noon

Attendees:

Charlene Brooks	Parenting NI – Chairperson
Ian Simpson	NIPSCBF – Vice Chairperson
Gerry McCurdy	Chief Commissioner
Andrea Brown	Disability Action
Tony Clarke	Start 360
Mary T Conway	Omagh Forum for Rural Associations
Denise Copeland	NICVA
Lorraine Griffin	COSTA
Colin Hayburn	Extern
Denise Hayward	Volunteer Now
Lisa Keys	Boys Brigade NI
Bill Megraw	County Down Rural Community Network
Diarmuid Moore	Early Years
Brenda McMullan	Halifax Foundation
Ann Breslin	CCNI – PDM, Notetaker.

Apologies:

Catherine Cooke, Michele Crilly, Conor Flanagan, Clare Jenner, Louise Little, Cara McCann, Valerie McConville, Leslie-Anne Newton, Derek Powell, Ashleigh Roberts.

Ref	Item	Action point/Decision
1	Apologies	Some apologies arising from impact of school strikes.
2	Notes of previous meeting.	Decision: Note of meeting accepted. AP1: Notes of future meetings to include explanation of acronyms. AP2: Following on information that material submitted as part of the Annual monitoring return can be rolled back if the Commission is notified. Agreed to highlight importance of being careful about this information in terms of data protection. Remind people to check – put reminder in e-zine, newsletter and through forum members networks.

		AP3: Alert forum members when the Department for Communities issues its call for applications for the post of Deputy Chief commissioner for the Charity commission.
3	Head of Corporate Services and Communications officer joined the meeting to give an update on revamp of Commission website and the dedicated stakeholder forum webpage. Both asked for feedback from the forum. It is hoped the website will go live in Autumn 2024. AP:4 Members of the forum agreed to submit a blog or vlog for the dedicated webpage about their work and membership of the forum. Ann and Shirley will liaise with forum members in the new year.	
4	Members of Commission staff from the Registration, Casework, Monitoring & Compliance and Concerns teams joined the meeting for a Speed networking session. An overview of feedback received about this session and the website session in Appendix 1.	
5	Members update. Update from two forum members who also attend the Department for Communities working group on the introduction of a registration threshold. Consultation document is still being proofed and hope is that this will be completed in January 2024. AP: When this consultation goes live members are asked to encourage their own and other charities to respond.	
6	Subgroup reviewing ToR Ian gave an update to the forum on the work of the subgroup reviewing the forum's Terms of Reference (ToR). The subgroup stayed on after lunch to hold another meeting. AP: If any forum member has any ideas re the ToR, end them to Ann, who will pass it on.	
7	A.O.B	There were no items under A.O.B

Prepared by: Ann Breslin.

Next meeting: online - Wednesday 13 March 2024 10:00am – Noon.

Appendix 1

A short feedback sheet was sent to those who attended the face-to-face meeting of the forum, seeking their feedback on the meeting and on the website and speed networking sessions.

Eight attendees provided feedback:

All eight attendees reported finding the update on the website very or fairly useful. They commented that it was a:

- Very clear update and clearly progress being made with forums views being taken on board where possible.
- Good opportunity to understand issues and feedback info. Good to compare other examples (of other websites).
- Good to know some of the technical limitations to the current one.
- Really useful to hear about the process and be able to provide some feedback.
- Great work, the amount of work so far has not gone unnoticed.

All those who provided feedback also reported finding the speed networking session very helpful. When asked what worked well in this session they reported:

- Great idea and great to meet the staff, very useful info. Can understand the issues better. Good feedback both ways. All questions / scenarios were so useful.
- Exceptionally helpful session, Commission staff were open and engaging – very receptive to answering questions.
- It was great that the staff rotated around groups. Staff were so helpful and willing to answer all questions.
- The face to face interaction, it was great to get to hear the practical “issues” that the CCNI staff face.

Suggestions for how this session could be improved included:

- More time to engage. Perhaps name badges for us so employees knew who they were engaging with. Opportunity for them to reach out to us if we can support them in the future.
- If anything... more time with the staff.
- Consider introducing it as a once a year event.
- Just have more of these – at least once a year.
- It was really useful and extra time would have been helpful, although there were other important agenda items so extra time wouldn't have been practical.

One person suggested that this type of session would also be useful for Helper groups. This will be provided at the Helper group meeting later in this quarter.

Thank you to all those who responded.