

Notes

Stakeholder forum –online meeting

Wednesday 22 October 2025 - 10:00am – 13:30

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
Michele Crilly	Special Olympics
Conor Flanagan	Supporting Communities
Lorraine Griffin	COSTA
Denise Hayward	Volunteer Now
Clare Jenner	Parentkind
Lisa Keys	Boys Brigade NI
Louise Little	North Down Community Network
Valerie McConville	CO3
Bill Megraw	County Down Rural Community Network
Diarmuid Moore	Early Years
Ashleigh Roberts	EBCDA
Carolyn Scott	Early Years (observed the meeting)
Ann Breslin	CCNI – PDM, Notetaker.

Apologies: Brenda McMullan, Halifax Foundation, Sophie Nelson (HEReNI).

Ref	Item	Action point/Decision
1	Welcome and apologies	
2	Notes of the previous meeting and update on action points.	Decision: Accepted
3	<p>Commission update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board appreciation of feedback from forum on template letters - Scheme of delegation - Registration Threshold - Charities Bill - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) - Strategic plan 2026/29 consultation 	<p>Discussion on preparation for the introduction of the registration threshold suggested Commission’s Communications plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - explicitly address the potential perception of charities exercising their right to an exemption as being somehow less compliant and well run than charities on the register - include an infographic making clear that the obligations, good governance etc. apply whether a charity is registered or not. That both still fall within the Commission’s jurisdiction - have a balanced tone and welcome the introduction of the threshold. <p>AP 1: As a delivery body the Commission is neutral on the introduction of a threshold. Its communications will take a balanced tone and focus on setting out the changes to registration requirements, options for charities and how decisions will rest with charity trustees.</p> <p>AP 2: Commission to share feedback from the consultation on the draft Strategic Plan 2026/29 at the next meeting of the forum.</p>
4	Enquiries Manager joined the meeting: Update on implementation of Scheme of delegation and overview of Concerns, risk assessment and Serious incident reports.	
	At 11:00 am both Deputy Chief Commissioner and Enquiries manager left the meeting.	

5	Members agenda items	Discussion on: Use of NI Direct by the Commission. AP 3: Policy development manager to convey continued frustration experienced by some users of NI Direct and suggest that ways are found to address this, for example by providing an answering service.
6	Members update	Disability Action
7	Suggestions for accountants/solicitors to be invited to join the forum.	Decision: Four names have been forwarded to the Commission, and it was also agreed that a skills audit of current forum members would be carried out. AP 4: Skills audit to be sent out to forum members with papers for the next meeting.
8	Review workplan	
9	AOB	Credit Union accounts as an alternative to bank accounts. AP 5: To be added to the agenda of the next meeting to allow fuller discussion.

Next meeting:

Date: Wednesday 10 December 2025

Time: 10:00am – 12:30

Venue: Online