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| **Minutes of Joint Forum VSC Panel Meeting****17 October 2017****NICVA, Duncairn Gardens, Belfast****Time 12:00-14:00** |
| **VSC Members in Attendance**Glenda Davies Chair/SRCF Jonny Currie Vice-Chair/EBCDAAnne-Marie McClure Start 360Denise Hayward Volunteer NowGlenda Davies SRCF Jonny Currie EBCDALorraine Griffin COSTADavid Smyth Evangelical AllianceAnne McVicker WRDAEllen Finlay Children in NIChris Quinn NI Youth ForumClare Anne Magee Carers NIEmma Patterson Bennett Equality Coalition**Secretariat in Attendance**Siobhan McAlister NICVAGeoff Nuttall NICVA**Other Attendees**Kellie Turtle WRDA**Apologies:**Craig McGuicken (NI Environment Link), Kate Clifford (Rural Community Network), Kevin Murphy (Voluntary Arts Ireland) |
| **Item** | **Description** |
| **1.0** | **Welcome, Introductions and background.**Glenda Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Siobhan McAlister to the group as the new Policy Development Officer at NICVA who will be leading on the Joint Forum. Glenda also gave a brief outline of the Joint Forum to new members. |
| **2.0** | **Recap on VCG panel meetings and role*** First meeting of VCG since May 2017
* Glenda gave recap of the role of the VCG
* There is currently a working group looking to refresh Concordat and review of forum
* Looking into reform of working relationship of the two sectors and looking at further opportunities to influence policy and how the government does business.
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| **3.0** | **Update on Concordat Refresh and Forum review process*** CAT team met earlier today to discuss review of document. The team are creating a draft review which will be discussed and consulted upon at meeting on October 27th.
* CAT team will provide draft document and will facilitate discussion workshops next Friday.
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| **4.0** | **Draft Agenda and proposed items for next Joint Forum meeting (on 27th Oct)**The breakout sessions to discuss the Concordat Review should involve table discussions to address and capture answers to the following three questions –* What would be the benefits and outcomes you would expect to see if the Joint Forum was working well and what mechanisms would help facilitate this?
* How can we ensure that the right people in the V&C sector and Government (including Central Departments, Statutory Agencies and Local Government) are fully involved in the business of the Joint Forum?
* Can you suggest good examples of case studies to illustrate where government and the V&C sector are working well together to co-deliver outcomes? (These examples could provide good practice lessons for co-delivery and provide possible ideas for venues for Forum meetings)
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| **5.0** | **Emerging Sectoral Issues/Concerns**The following issues and concerns were raised by panel members as possible agenda items for the next full Joint Forum meeting and for discussion at the Joint Chair meeting on 20th October 2017 –* The growing issue of drugs misuse pervading all sections of society and the co-ordination by government and V&C sector to ensure awareness of and access to suitable resourced services to help those affected
* The two-child cap and the rape clause and implications associated with this raised by Anne McVicker.
* The latest situation regarding the future government funding for VCG sector organisations beyond the current approvals to March 2018 in order to facilitate future planning of services
* The issue of, and current Department for Infrastructure consultation on the introduction of new requirements to hold ‘10b’ minibus licences potentially affecting employees of many voluntary and community organisations
* The latest situation with regard to the spend and progress of funding programmes related to the Fresh Start agreement
* The issue of how Brexit may affect voluntary and community organisations who operate in NI and ROI and what their governance requirements and option might be. (It was highlighted that the Charity Commission was planning events in December which could provide guidance on this issue)
* The issue of the requirement and challenge for very small voluntary & community sector organisations to register with the Charity Commission
* The impact of the new General Data Protection Regulations on how and why voluntary & community sector organisations and the public sector gather information.
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|  | **Actions to be taken:*** Glenda agreed to take these issues forward to the Joint Chairs meeting on Friday 20th October for discussion on how they might be incorporated into the agenda of the full Joint Forum meeting on 27th October.
* Anne agreed to send the NICVA secretariat a copy of WRDA’s paper on the ‘third child policy’ issue, including its implications for different government departments
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