



VOX 4th Board Meeting

Monday 25th January 2010

The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street Glasgow

Present:	Frank Fallan Shaun McNeil Dougie Pickering Chris Evans	Vice Chairperson Company Secretary Member Director Member Director
In Attendance	Wendy McAuslan John Steel	Development Coordinator Administration Officer
Apologies	Joyce Mouriki Colin Murchie Ross McPhail Laura Cameron Dr Sandra Grant Richard Norris Alex Davidson	Chairperson Treasurer Member Director Member Director Non Member Director Non Member Director Non Member Director

1) Welcome.

In the unavoidable absence of Joyce, Frank took the chair and welcomed the members present.

2) Apologies.

Apologies were noted as above.

3) Minutes.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26th October 2009 were agreed on the motion of Shaun and Dougie, with the following amendment on Page 4, Line 15, Delete NHS Highland, insert Scottish Development Council for mental Health. The following matters arising from the minutes were also discussed: Wendy intimated that we had received 26 applications to attend the IIMHL Conference in Ireland during the month of May and that the selection process for the five available places will take place on Friday 29th January. Shaun intimated that he would try to get more copies of the CD on training for G.P.'s which included comments from himself, Frank and Lorraine Nicholson.

Action: Shaun to obtain additional copies.

4) Development Coordinator Update.

The update from Wendy, which had been previously circulated, was then discussed in detail: -

VOX New Website: It was intimated that the new VOX website was almost ready to go online with the date of Monday 1st February as the preferred date to go live. This has been a great experience for the staff involved in creating the new website and special thanks should be expressed to David Atiyah who has been a great source of information and encouragement in the whole process.

VOX Facebook: - Wendy intimated that we were still progressing our new general Facebook site which is aimed at adults with mental health problems and that David Atiyah was also helping with this. Wendy also said that the Young VOX Facebook site was working very well and this is aimed at 16 to 25 year olds.

Action: Wendy/Mahmud to progress.

IPCU's: - Wendy gave a resume on the focus groups held in 12 NHS board regions and indicated that the outcomes had been very successful regarding the input from service users who had experienced Intensive Psychiatric Care Units. Shaun asked that when the final report is made will VOX have its logo on the document; Wendy said that this had already been agreed. It was also noted that a member of HUG has produced some of the artwork for the booklet.

Action: Wendy to distribute findings when approved by QIS.

Self Directed Support: - Wendy spoke of the work which has been carried out by VOX and the Mental Health Foundation regarding Self Directed Support, the new booklet which was now in circulation.

Action: John to distribute the booklet to individuals and groups.

VOX Membership Forms: - Wendy intimated that once we go live on the website there will be both individual and group membership forms which can be filled in online, also that Mahmud had organised Braille copies of one of our information postcards and also copies our young VOX postcards.

Action: Wendy to ensure an on-line application form is available on the website.

Shaun said that perhaps we should talk to the RNIB and Shelter regarding the difficulties which may be encountered especially by homeless people wishing to become VOX members but might not have a registered address. Wendy agreed and also said that it may be possible to include something on the website in this regard.

Action: Wendy to feedback to Mahmud.

5) Sub Groups.

Communications: - Wendy gave a report on the last meeting of the Communications sub group, the majority of which relates to the website.

Training, Research & development: - Wendy said that it was perhaps time to re-visit the work to be done by this sub group. Some discussion took place regarding the introduction of a membership/information card being produced for members; this shall be in draft form at the next meeting of this sub-group.

6) Independence.

Discussion took place regarding the service level agreement with the Foundation Shaun will discuss with Isabella in relation to service level agreements and transfer of assets.

7) Directors Updates.

Frank indicated that he had been very busy over the festive season and this month with Lanarkshire Links and that he would be attending a meeting of Allied Health professionals in Stirling on 28th January and a meeting of the Scottish Advocacy Alliance in Edinburgh on 3rd February. Frank also informed the meeting that a new organisation had been formed in Lanarkshire called Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire.

Dougie reported on his involvement at a meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Shaun reported that he had attended a meeting of the Scottish Governments Cross Party Group on Mental Health last week. He also discussed the present

situation at Edinburgh City Council regarding funding and his concern regarding the concordat agreement with COSLA and the lack of ring fencing which now exists.

8) Correspondence

A discussion took place regarding LN one of our VOX members who has recently been copying us in to emails distributed by him to various people running NHS service in the Oban area. Some of Mr Nugent's emails have inappropriate content and have been highly critical of services and individuals in his local area. It was decided that Wendy would discuss directly with the individual in the first instance and follow up with a letter to remove from membership if this continued..

Action: Wendy to progress

Invitations have been received to attend the following: -

Annual General Meeting of LTCAS in Perth on 23rd February 2010

Service User Involvement Conference in London on 9th February 2010

Integrated Care Pathways Conference in London on 3rd March 2010 at which our Joyce Mouriki will be one of the speakers.

Glasgow Centre for Independent Living event.

CHEX Invitation to attend information sharing event.

9) Any Other Competent Business

Peer Support Fife, Wendy asked if anyone would like to facilitate the capacity building session with her in Fife.

Action: Wendy to progress with Chrys and Frank.

SDS/Independent Living Event – VOX to plan an event to explore independent living in relation to mental health.

Action: Wendy to progress.

Group Membership Applications: - It was decided that any future group applications for membership should be placed before the Communications Sub Group for consideration and recommendation to the board.

SMH Arts & Film Festival 2010: - It was felt that as the Glasgow event and preliminary work carried out alongside Lapidus worked well last year that we consider supporting creative writing sessions in four or five regions; it was felt to be something which would fit in neatly with our members' priorities.

Action: Wendy to discuss with Belinda.

Steering groups table: Shaun and Frank mentioned some additional groups they are members as a VOX rep, Chris also wanted to clarify the name of a group Joyce and her attend.

Action: John to update the steering group/networks table.

10) Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is planned for **Monday the 22nd February.**



VOX 5th Board Meeting

Monday 22nd February 2010
The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow

Present:

Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
Frank Fallan	Vice Chairperson
Shaun McNeil	Secretary
Colin Murchie	Treasurer
Dougie Pickering	Member Director
Chris Evans	Member Director
Richard Norris	Non Member Director
Alex Davidson	Non Member Director

In Attendance

Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
John Steel	Administration Officer

- 1) **Welcome:** Joyce welcomed everyone present
- 2) **Apologies:** Apologies were intimated on behalf of Laura Cameron and Ross Mcphail
- 3) **Minutes:** The following matters arising from the minutes were discussed:

Shaun intimated that he was still trying to obtain more copies of the DVD "Images of Psychiatry" –training for trainee psychiatrists, their trainers and the multi-disciplinary team.

Wendy stated that our new website was up and running and that we had received very positive feedback. David Atiyah was helping to realign the VOX adult and young people's Facebook sites.

IPCU's focus groups: - points raised through the focus groups: - lack of psychological therapies, female only wards etc, Wendy and Joyce to sign off the report

Peer Support Fife – application for group membership to be passed to the communication sub group for approval.

SDS/ Independent Living event taking place on the 19th March.

4) Development Coordinator Update: Wendy went through the update which had been previously distributed to all board members. The following items were fully discussed.

- a) Independent Living 19th March 2010
- b) Self Directed Support Consultation
- c) Intensive Psychiatric Care Unit Project.
- d) Peer Support and Employability focus groups.
- e) Logo on weekly updates, Shaun suggested that we should have the VOX logo on all weekly updates so that recipients can see right away that the communication comes from VOX.
- f) The next issue of our e-bulletin is due out at the end of this week.
- g) Members should have the opportunity to opt in to the mailing list.
- h) Alex reported that the employability report due to be released in Glasgow tomorrow.
- i) Shaun intimated that the Ethnic Minority Advocacy Project in Glasgow has ceased to exist.
- j) The Building from Experience flyer from Mahmud was distributed to the board members present.
- k) Shaun reported that he had attended a meeting with the on the Mental Health Arts and Film Festival and suggested that this should help to raise our own profile.
- l) Shaun also indicated that a meeting of the Mental Health Tribunal's service user group is to be held in the State Hospital at Carstairs. Chris added that the Highland User Group has started preparations for this year's event.
- m) Wendy spoke of the awareness raising that Mahmud had carried out at Donaldson School, and the training with the Scottish Dementia Working Group.
- n) IIMHL – Wendy announced that four participants had been selected to attend the IIMHL Conference in Killarney Ireland. Another person had been selected but was still to be confirmed. Shaun indicated that should any of the participants require assistance then he will be available during the course of the conference. He has been partly supported by NSUE/Irish Advocacy Project to attend.
- o) Wendy intimated that she would be attending the Scottish Recovery Network Road Show in Oban on Wednesday 24th February.
- p) It was suggested that all group members should be circulated in order to re- populate the sub groups.

5) Sub Group Updates: Wendy and Dougie gave an update on this mornings meeting of the Training, Research and Development sub group.

Membership Cards: A draft copy of a proposed membership card was distributed and members felt that this was a good idea to be taken forward with the suggestion that the print should be enlarged.

Business Cards: It was also suggested that we order another supply of business cards for directors.

Media Coverage: Discussion took place regarding media coverage in regard to mental health issues and it was suggested again that we need to raise the profile of the organisation. It was generally agreed that we should be pro-active with the media and that we now need to progress this area with our communications sub-group.

6) Independence: Shaun intimated that due to his own and Isabella's work commitments, no further discussions had taken place regarding independence.

7) Directors Updates: The Directors present each gave an update on their attendance at various conference, meetings and events since the last board meeting.

Shaun	NEHIN Mental Health and Employment Conference-Shaun distributed a report on his attendance at this event. "See Me" Panel Shaun on small grants panel RCPsych International Congress Conference-Shaun presenting at this conference on June 23 rd .
Dougie	RCPsych Scottish Executive Committee
Chris	Scottish Government "Prevention of Suicide"
Richard	Scottish Health Council Conference/ Heat Targets Patients Rights Council – get involved
Alex	Reshaping older peoples care
Colin	Commented on low levels of spending on drugs for dementia.
Frank	Acute Mental Health Conference in Stirling Quality Improvement Scotland-MH Stakeholders Scottish Health Council-PFPI Conference Allied Health Profs Meeting, Polmont 31/03/10 Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance Document Launch

Joyce

CAMHS ICP update-met with Young VOX.

8) Correspondence: Shaun read out the relevant correspondence regarding future Healthcare events-Patient Involvement and Empowerment 11/05/10 (not Mental Health) and New Horizons 25/05/10 (relevant to England only).

9) Any Other Competent Business: Dougie commented that there had been no financial reports of late. Wendy indicated that at present we have the relevant bank accounts in place, but no money, however it was hoped that this would be completed in due course.

10) Date of next meeting: The next meeting of the board will be held on Monday 29th March 2010 at 1.30pm in the Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow.



VOX 6th Board Meeting

Monday 29th March 2010

The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street Glasgow

Present: -

Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
Shaun McNeil	Company Secretary
Chris Evans	Member Director
Dougie Pickering	Member Director
Colin Murchie	Member Director
Ross Macphail	Member Director
Richard Norris	Non Member Director

In Attendance: -

Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
John Steel	Administration Officer

- 1) Welcome: -** Joyce extended a warm welcome to everyone present.
- 2) Apologies: -** An apology for absence was expressed on behalf of Frank Fallan, Vice Chairperson. It was agreed that we should send a get well card to Frank to wish him well and a speedy recovery.
- 3) Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd February 2010 were agreed

4) Matters Arising: -

“Listening to Voices” CD: - It was intimated that we had received another four copies of the Listening to Voices CD. As Frank Fallan and Lorraine Nicholson had been involved in making the CD it was decided to send each a copy and the other two copies were distributed to board members.

ICPU Report: - Joyce intimated that the report would be going out with the VOX logo attached.

Wendy mentioned that the Self directed support consultation would be taking place on the 15th April.

Self Care Procurement– Joyce spoke of VOX’s involvement in producing a response to this consultation.

Action: Wendy to summarise key areas to board members for approval.

5) Development Coordinator Report: - Wendy reported on the Employment Peer Support Project, and tabled a paper to give an idea of this strands of work. This included the focus group key themes and next steps.

Shaun – Include employability on the first page, Use large print for quotes, Send finished paper to MIND, Link to the Perkins Review.

Action: Wendy will email a copy to all board members and welcome any comments they have.

Action: Wendy will be sending out VOX’s 6 monthly report prior to the next board meeting.

6) Sub Group Reports:

Communications Sub Group: - A general discussion took place regarding the possibility of forging relationships with journalists who specialise in mental health and it was agreed that either Joyce, Shaun or Wendy would have the authority to speak on behalf of VOX should the occasion arise.

It was also suggested that we could express our opinion through the letters page of newspapers. Richard suggested that we contact the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Independence: - Wendy once again intimated that bank accounts and policies were in place and that the service level agreement had been drawn up. It was suggested that the transfer of funds would take place soon.

7) Directors Updates:

Joyce spoke about the new Delivering for Mental Health 2 (DFMH2) which will be produced shortly. Areas being looked at included additional funding for SDS, focus on co-production, hope and communities.

Joyce mentioned the Smoking Ban guidance from the Scottish Government, a media article shall be sent to the Scotsman, after guidance from public relations at the Mental Health Foundation, and courtesy e-mail to Geoff Huggins.

Action: Wendy to progress the press release.

Shaun asked about the HEAT targets in DFMH2, Joyce stated that it is anticipated that these will remain.

Shaun gave reports on the following meetings he had attended, The Scottish Government Cross Party Group for Mental Health, and the Cross Party Group for Armed Forces Veterans. Shaun also indicated that he would appreciate it if another board member could stand in whenever he is unable to attend any of these groups. Hollybush Ayrshire – Combat Stress was mentioned, and the refreshed Rights/relationships/recovery report.

Shaun also mentioned the Royal College of Psychiatrists event he would be presenting at, and how he is looking for members' views on psychiatry.

Ross talked about the Public Participation Forum, the Lothian Recovery Project, and the Edinburgh Patients Council. Ross also talked about his concerns over the gap in services for people in the mild to moderate diagnosis. Wendy suggested that this could be explored further at the next training, research and development sub-group. Ross also expressed his concern regarding both the fit for work assessments and the Employment Support Allowance forms.

Chris stated that HUG has dropped the Highland Users Group from their name and will in future be known only as HUG. Chris also mentioned that the Integrated Care Pathways (ICP's) lead in the highlands was not going to be funded in the future and that this would cause problems with continuity of this area of work. Suicide Prevention Review, unavailable to attend the final meeting, Wendy to attend in place of Chris. NHS Highland event on Thursday 22nd April 2010.

Dougie intimated that he is still involved with the Avon Mental Health Measure which shall be issued with guidelines for clinicians, and that the tool would now be called My View. VOX Membership Cards: - Dougie suggested that the membership cards which are being produced for VOX members could quite easily be adapted for use by virtually any group.

Richard talked about the Quality Standards and the areas of work that this strategy may impact on. He also suggested ways forward to media articles, and offered support in this area.

Also mentioned:

Mental Health Tribunal Service User Group on 20th April 2010 in Edinburgh.

Alex Davidson report to be copied out to board members.

Action: John to send round the board members.

- 8) Correspondence:** The following items of correspondence were read and discussed: -
- a) Towards a Mentally Flourishing Scotland are holding a National Stakeholders Event on Friday 23rd April 2010 in the Carlton Hotel Edinburgh
 - b) The Bipolar Organisation is holding their Annual Conference on Saturday 5th June 2010 in, University of Birmingham Medical School.
 - c) Healthcare Events are holding a Conference on “New Horizons”, implementing the recommendations from the national strategy “a shared vision for mental health” on Tuesday 25th May 2010 at 76 Portland Place, London.
 - d) Subscription form for the journal “Ethnicity and Inequalities in Health and Social care”
 - e) From MacKay Hannah with information regarding a one day conference on Wednesday 26th May 2010, Suicide, Mental Health Events, “Is early intervention the key to reducing suicide levels in Scotland?”
 - f) From ENUSP with information regarding a conference 28th–30th September 2010 in Thessalonika, Greece. Joined congress against discrimination and stigma, for user-orientated reforms in psychiatry and the right to alternatives, run by the [European Network of \(ex-\) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry](#) and the Pan-hellenistic Committee of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry. Incl. the next ENUSP membership-meeting

9) Any Other Competent Business

Wendy intimated that due to work commitments Laura Cameron was unfortunately unable to continue as a board member of VOX, she will of course maintain her membership.

It was agreed that due to there being several vacancies for board members, that we contact all our group members regarding the same, and also try to encourage someone from the young VOX group.

Action: Wendy and John to progress.

Wendy stated that one of our members had been in touch regarding a law which does not allow social work cases to be explored after a period of time. The board felt that they would like some details on this, and it was

generally felt that a time period restriction was not helpful in some situations, and broadly agreed that there may be a requirement for exemptions in certain cases.

Action: Wendy to progress

10) Date of the next meeting

The next board meeting will be held on **Monday 26th April at 1.30pm** in The Renfield Centre Glasgow, Bath Street Glasgow.



VOX 7th Board Meeting

Monday 26th April 2010 at 1.30pm

The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street Glasgow

Present:	Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
	Shaun McNeil	Company Secretary
	Colin Murchie	Treasurer
	Ross Macphail	Member Director
	Dougie Pickering	Member Director
	Chris Evans	Member Director

In Attendance	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
	John Steel	Administration Officer

- 1) **Welcome:** - Joyce welcomed everyone present
- 2) **Apologies:** - **Apologies** for absence were expressed on behalf of Richard Norris, Alex Davidson and Frank Fallan.
- 3) **Minutes:** - The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and approved on the motion of Colin and Shaun.
- 4) **Matters Arising:** -

Shaun intimated that on page 3, line 10, the word psychiatry should be deleted and the word Psychiatrists inserted. The Social Care procurement response had been written by Wendy.

A Press Release was approved and sent to the Scotsman newspaper in response to a previous article. Shaun also stated that he also sent the response to BBC Scotland, The Glasgow Herald and the Metro and unfortunately nothing had been printed and we had not received any feedback to say why the press releases had not been acted upon. It was acknowledged that the timing of the elections probably did not help.

Wendy explained that there had also been a delay in responding to the article due to the fact that we had to go through the Mental Health Foundation publicity

department first of all. Joyce suggested that in future we should only have to c.c. in both the Foundation and Geoff Huggins at the Scottish Government.

Mental Health Tribunal Service User & Carer Group: - Both Joyce and Shaun intimated that there will be a series of meetings to review the group and also that the Tribunal will be merging databases. Meetings will be held in Inverness on 29th July 2010 and in Ayr on 28th October 2010. Shaun indicated that unfortunately he would be unable to attend either meeting due to annual leave. Shaun also suggested that VOX may be asked to contribute to a consultation on service user's views of Mental Health Tribunals.

Avon Mental Health Measure:- In response to a question from Ross, Joyce stated that this was now termed a "Guidance" and titled "My View" and can be viewed on the NHS QIS website.

Towards a Mentally Flourishing Scotland: - It was stated that unfortunately no one was available to attend the aforementioned National Stakeholders event in Edinburgh.

ENUSP Meeting in Greece: - Joyce suggested that if possible we could fund two people to attend the conference on 28th to 30th September in Thessalonika.

Prioritise Correspondence: - It was suggested that in future we should prioritise any correspondence.

Board Members:- Wendy intimated that we had received an application from Rebecca Turner for membership of VOX Board as a director. After discussion it was agreed that, subject to contacting the referees, Rebecca should be invited to join VOX Board as a Member Director.

Wendy stated that there is a distinct possibility that we could have another two board Member Directors applications soon. Shaun also intimated that we should contact Dr. Sandra Grant, Non Member Director, to ascertain if she is still willing to commit some time to attend VOX board meetings.

5) Development Coordinator: -

The Scottish Government End of Year Report, which had been previously distributed to board members, was fully discussed. Shaun offered his congratulations to Wendy for an excellent report and asked if we could send a copy to the Royal College of Psychiatrists and also include them on our distribution list for weekly updates.

Self Directed Support Meeting: - Wendy gave a full report on the recent meeting held in Glasgow on self directed support which was attended by just over 20 people from various organisations, including two representatives from the Scottish Government. Presentations were also given by John Jackson and Alex Davidson.

Scottish Mental Health Service User Research Network : - Wendy gave a report on the last meeting of the Steering Group held on 11th March 2010 in Perth. A discussion took place also regarding the launch of another organisation called the Scottish Mental Health Research Network. Shaun suggested that we should apply to SMHRN for funding for our SMHSURN, Joyce also commented that we should be in partnership with this organisation.

6) Sub Group Updates The communications sub group met earlier on today and the following items were discussed:-

- a) Encouraging Associate Membership.
- b) Formalise Associate Membership/Partnership organisation to sign up.
- d) Mental Health Network to sign up?
- e) Media – good news stories.
- f) Website tidy up & Facebook.
- g) Local news coverage for IIMHL participants.

7) Directors Updates

Colin made comment about the upcoming general election and speaking to prospective MP's / MSP's regarding mental health issues.

Ross commented on all the issues around welfare benefits and the problems claimants' are experiencing with the assessments for Employment Support Allowance. Shaun suggested that we should consult with any of our members who have experienced these assessments and feed back the results to Denise Coia.

Shaun also reported back on the meeting of the Scottish Mental Health & Arts Film Festival when it was agreed that this year they should be more important to have more quality events rather than a larger number of events. VOX, along with Lapidus, will once again lead on the literary strand. It was also intimated that the Scottish Recovery Network will no longer be a partner for this year's event. Shaun indicated that the festival is being run on a shoestring budget and rather than producing a blanket programme for all events throughout the country, this year brochures would be printed and produced more specific for the participating regions.

Shaun also intimated that he will be a guest speaker at the Royal College of Psychiatrists conference to be held on 24th June 2010 in Edinburgh. The speech will be entitled "How Others See Us" and will include a collection of comments from service users with regard to their experience with Psychiatrists.

Chris, Training for CAB Managers / "see me" management committee want feedback regarding toolkit on website, and asked if VOX members could provide feedback Chris also mentioned the "see me" grants. Newcraigs Inpatient Forum was mentioned (no patients council), Joyce suggested talking to the PFPI Director on this subject.

Joyce, An update on the Scottish recovery indicator was given, including the evaluation research which is being put out to tender.

8) Correspondence, the following items of correspondence were read and discussed: -

- a) Two copies of the Rights, Relationships and Recovery refreshed action plan for 2010-2011.
- b) An invitation from Recovery Scotland to attend an exhibition in the Edinburgh Corn Exchange on Wednesday 23rd June 2010. It was suggested that perhaps VOX could send a couple of people to this event.
- c) From Healthcare Events regarding the annual conference of Care Pathways 2010 to be held on 23rd and 24th June 2010 in the Cavendish Conference Centre London.
- d) From Healthcare Events regarding the Twelfth National Conference on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults to be held on 9th June at the Manchester Conference Centre.
- e) From Healthcare Events regarding a conference on a practical guide to handling, resolving and learning from Complaints to be held on 19th May 2010 at the Manchester Conference Centre.
- f) A copy of the Spring Magazine from The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance.

9) Any Other Competent Business:-

AGM:- Wendy tabled a paper which provided suggestions for the format and content of the AGM/conference. A discussion took place regarding a possible venue for holding our Annual General Meeting on 30th August 2010 and it was agreed that the event should be held in a central area such as Stirling. Provisional enquiries had been made with regard to the Golden Lion Hotel in Stirling which is fairly close to the train station and reasonably priced for the day. It was also suggested that perhaps we could have a cartoonist attend on the day and that we should also make enquiries about hiring the LGBT choir.

Wendy mentioned that the Infusion Cooperative had been in touch to ask about us being involved in a tender for the SRI evaluation.

Action: Wendy to contact the Scottish government regarding conflict of interest.

In order to ensure attendance by the majority of the committee it was decided to change the Development Day date to the 20th September.

Chris indicated that she will not be able to attend the next board meeting.

10) Date of the next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is the **24th May** and shall be held in Edinburgh.



VOX Eighth Board Meeting

Monday 28th June 2010

The Renfield Centre Glasgow

Present	Francis Fallan	Vice Chairperson
	Shaun McNeil	Company Secretary
	Colin Murchie	Treasurer
	Dougie Pickering	Member Director
	Rebecca Turner	Member Director
	Chris Evans	Member Director

In Attendance	John Steel	Administration Officer
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1) Welcome and Apologies

Due to Joyce being infirm at present, Frank took the chair and welcomed everyone present; he also took the opportunity to express his thanks for the many cards and letters he had received during his recent illness. A special welcome was also extended to Rebecca who had recently been appointed and was attending her first board meeting. Apologies were intimated on behalf of, Joyce Mouriki Chairperson, Richard Norris Non Member Director, Ross Macphail Member Director and Wendy McAuslan Development Coordinator.

2) Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26th April 2010 were approved on the motion of Dougie and Colin.

3) Matters Arising

Resignation: The board members were advised of a letter of resignation from Dr Sandra Grant as a Non Member Director. Shaun suggested that we send a letter of appreciation to Sandra.

Action: John to send a letter of thanks.

Nomination for Board Member: The board members were also advised that an application from one of our group members (Bipolar Scotland) to become a Member Director of VOX had been received from Gordon Antony Johnston, currently Chairperson of Bipolar Scotland. Following a discussion it was unanimously agreed that we accept the nomination and invite Mr Johnston to attend the next board meeting.

Action: Wendy / John to send letter

ENUSP Conference in Greece: Colin asked if any decision had been made regarding the proposal to send two members to the ENUSP Conference in Thessalonika Greece on 28th, 29th and 30th September 2010 as he was prepared to go and represent VOX. Shaun indicated that we would have to first of all find out if there is any funding available for this conference.

Mental Health Tribunal Service User and Carer Group: Chris and Colin indicated that they would be attending this group meeting in Inverness on 29th July 2010. Shaun suggested that VOX may be asked to contribute to a consultation on service user's views on Mental Health Tribunals.

Royal College of Psychiatrists Conference: Shaun intimated that he had attended the conference on all four days and on 23rd June as a guest speaker and said that he would be happy to circulate copies of his speech to board members.

Scottish Recovery Network: Chris intimated that she had attended the SRN steering meeting and that the SRI was unfortunately placed on hold at the moment.

VOX Annual General Meeting: It was mentioned that final preparations were being made for the VOX Annual General Meeting in the Golden Lion Hotel Stirling on Monday 30th August 2010.

4) Sub Group Updates

There were no available updates from Sub Groups.

5) Development Coordinator Report

Due to the fact that Wendy is on sick leave, no report is available this month, Frank expressed everyone's concern that Wendy would be back with us soon and returned to good health.

6) Financial Update

No further details were available regarding any financial matters.

7) AGM/Conference

Board members were advised that final preparations are being made regarding this year's Annual General Meeting to be held in The Golden Lion Hotel Stirling on Monday 30th August 2010 at 10.30am.

8) Directors Updates

Dougie gave a report on the meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists when a number of issues were discussed including, waiting time aspirations, appeals for ESA and fatal accident inquiries. Shaun suggested that it was possible that VOX would be invited to collaborate the views of its members in regard to Fatal Accident Inquiries.

Colin spoke about psychological therapies and the increase in prescriptions for anti depressants being given out in Scotland. Chris observed that there was a distinct lack of therapies for the Highland region.

Shaun gave a brief report on attending the RCP Conference and intimated that he will give a formal report later. Shaun also intimated that he had attended a meeting of Interrelate prior to attending the IIMHL Conference in Ireland during May 2010, he also reported that he had visited the State Mental Hospital in Ireland and indicated there they were at least 15 years behind the UK in regard to forensic inequalities between men and women, it was said that there was various degrees of security for men but only one level for women.

Shaun intimated that it was with great regret that he had to tender his resignation as Company Secretary with effect from today. This was entirely due to having to curtail the amount of representation he was able to do on behalf of VOX. It was generally agreed by the members present that this was a great loss to VOX as Shaun had been instrumental in setting up the organisation and his contributions had been greatly appreciated. Shaun indicated that he would remain a member of the board but may not be able to attend every board meeting.

Chris intimated that she had attended the Scottish Recovery Networks Conference on Self Directed Support and reported that very few people had taken up the opportunity of self directed support in the Highlands. Chris also said that they were still waiting on an inpatient forum being set up at Newcraigs Hospital. Chris suggested that we should try to get as many people as possible to attend consultation groups.

Frank reported that he had attended the Patient Advocacy Service at the State Hospital in Carstairs and expressed his pleasure that two service users had now been appointed to the board. He also reported on the Lanarkshire Mental Health Service User Group and also intimated that there was two vacancies for part time and full time work through Lanarkshire Links, it was noted that these two vacancies had been included in the VOX weekly update.

Rebecca, who is in the office twice a week on a voluntary basis, gave a report on the work she had been carrying out with Wendy.

9) Any other competent business

Frank informed the board that it was once again that time of the year when the NHS calls for nominations for 2010 awards. Frank intimated that due to the very high regard with which VOX is held, he asked for permission to put forward this organisation for an award, it was unanimously agreed to this request and Frank was thanked for carrying out this task.

10) Date and Venue of next meeting

Chris and Shaun intimated apologies for the next meeting due to be held on Monday 26th July 2010. A general discussion took place regarding the feasibility of holding the next meeting during the holiday period. It was suggested that perhaps we could change the date to one in August prior to the AGM.

Action: John to circulate members regarding another date.



VOX 9th Board Meeting

Monday 16th August 2010
The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow

Present	Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
	Francis Fallan	Vice Chairperson
	Colin Murchie	Treasurer
	Ross Macphail	Member Director
	Gordon Johnston	Member Director
	Dougie Pickering	Member Director
	Chris Evans	Member Director
In attendance	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
	John Steel	Administration Officer

1) Welcome

Joyce welcomed everyone present with a special welcome to Gordon Johnston who was attending his first board meeting as a Member Director. Gordon intimated that he was looking forward to a fruitful relationship with VOX. Apologies were intimated on behalf of Richard Norris, Non Member Director and Rebecca Turner, Member Director. General comments were made that it was pleasing to have Joyce back as Chairperson after her recent knee operation and wishing her continued good health in her recovery. Joyce also thanked VOX for the bouquet of flowers she had received.

2) Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28th June 2010 were formally approved on the motion of Colin and seconded by Dougie.

3) Matters Arising

It was intimated that due to work commitments, Shaun McNeil had now resigned as a board member of VOX. Everyone was saddened to hear that Shaun had resigned but wished him well and thanked him for all of the work he had been involved in on behalf of VOX over the years. As a consequence of this, it was formally agreed that Frank Fallan should assume the temporary role of board secretary until after the AGM when Office bearers can be elected.

4) Sub Groups

Training, Research & Development

Wendy gave a detailed report on the Training, Research and Development sub group meeting earlier on today, a number of points were raised and discussed including:

- a) Priorities
- b) Survey of groups
- c) Associate members
- d) Online networks
- e) Links with local organisations
- f) Membership cards
- g) Volunteers
- h) National volunteer website
- i) Collective advocacy
- j) Mental Health delivery Plan
- k) Membership of Cross Party Group on Mental health
- l) Page for sub groups on website
- m) Board minutes on website

Consultations:

- ❖ Blue Badge, 3 focus groups VOX/HUG/Edinburgh Patients Council
- ❖ Housing, together with Capability Scotland – run one event, date to be confirmed.
- ❖ Spending cuts discussion with local groups, date 5th October, Stirling. Discussion took place around about how we channel the information which is gleaned at this meeting. E.g. the implementation board.

Human Resources & Finance

Joyce suggested that we stay with the status quo in relation to finance due to changes taking place such as maternity arrangements. There are therefore no meetings planned for the foreseeable future. The board agreed that this was a sensible approach.

Communications

It was suggested that an electronic discussion should take place to have another look at the design and perhaps a page for sub groups on the website.

It was also suggested that we also include approved board minutes on the website as well but this would not include private business.

Action: Wendy/John to put the minutes on the website.

5) Development Coordinator Update

The update included information on the following;

- a) ICPU's Report
- b) Peer Support and employability project
- c) Group members needs questionnaire
- d) Mild to moderate diagnosis, consultation, what support exists for people in this group? How do we reach people in this group?
- e) Outreach for promoting VOX, national volunteers website.

6) Financial Update

Wendy provided an update to the group; under spend was noted for local events, and slight overspend for publicity was mentioned. It was suggested that the QIS work and the employability work should be put in a separate place on the financial update. It was also suggested that an additional column be added to show how much funding is under or overspent by (in addition to the variance column)

Action: Wendy to amend in the next financial update

Gordon suggested that we should look at another funding application to the Big Lottery in time.

7) AGM/Conference

Board members were advised that plans for this year's annual general meeting and conference in the Golden Lion Hotel Stirling were complete and numbers at present stood at 74.

In accordance with our regulations it was decided that two of the present board members would have to stand down but would be available for re-election. The two names drawn out were Colin Murchie and Frank Fallan. Wendy intimated that we had received eight nominations from people who wished to become member directors, therefore the total number for the ballot paper would be ten and there would be seven vacancies.

It was to be included in the ballot paper profiles that Colin Murchie was the group representative from HUG and that Frank Fallan was the group representative from Lanarkshire Links.

Action: Wendy/John to add to the voting paper.

8) Directors Updates

Chris gave feedback on the Ash Conference, the Advisory Group and Media Alerts

Colin intimated that the proposed Inverness Patients Council had still not been formed.

9) AOCB

It was agreed that at the first board meeting after the AGM, office bearers would be elected.

It was intimated that there was no urgent correspondence relative to the work of VOX which had not already been covered in the meeting.



VOX 10th Board Meeting

Monday 20th September 2010

The Renfield Centre Glasgow

Present:

Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
Frank Fallan	Vice Chairperson
Dougie Pickering	Member Director
Ross Mcphail	Member Director
Gordon Johnston	Member Director
Tracy Laird	Member Director
John Sawkins	Member Director
James McDermott	Member Director

In Attendance:

Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
Mahmud Al-Gailani	Diversity Facilitator
John Steel	Administration Officer

1) Welcome

Wendy opened the meeting and asked that due to the fact that we had new board members present, each person should introduce themselves to the person next to them and then introduce each other to the other member of the board. An apology was intimated on behalf of Chris Evans. Wendy also intimated that Jamila Brown, who had been elected on to the board at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 30th August, had unfortunately resigned due to taking up a full time course at the university.

2) Election of Office Bearers

The following Office Bearers were elected:

Chairperson: Joyce Mouriki	proposed by Dougie and seconded by Frank
Vice Chair: Frank Fallan	proposed by Joyce and seconded by Dougie
Secretary: Dougie Pickering	proposed by Tracy and seconded by Joyce

It was agreed that the office of Treasurer should be left vacant until the next meeting. It was also agreed unanimously to re-elect Alex Davidson and Richard Norris as Non Member Directors.

It was noted that there was still vacancies for two Member Directors and one Non Member Director. Joyce said that she had mentioned the Non Member Director vacancy to Dr Donny Lyons of the Mental Welfare Commission who unfortunately had to decline as there could be a conflict of interest on his part. Discussion took place in relation to re-establishing a clinical adviser, and that perhaps the Royal College of Psychiatrists may have someone who would be keen to get involved.

It was also agreed to re-establish contact with Pat Emslie who had previously been one of the advisors to the board.

Due to the Wendy's forthcoming maternity leave it was felt that it would be beneficial to have Isabella Goldie, Mental Health Foundation Head of Scotland in addition to the advisors to the board.

3) Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 16th August 2010, having been previously circulated, were approved on the motion of Dougie and seconded by Gordon.

4) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes however, John indicated that it would be helpful for new members of the board if the full names of organisations were printed instead of acronyms.

5) Directors Induction Packs

Wendy intimated that we now have an induction pack which was handed out to the board members present. Wendy also stated that over time further inclusions to the pack such as training may be provided.

6) Sub Group Updates

Wendy gave a detailed report on the meeting of the Training, Research and Development group which had been held earlier on today.

Board members have joined the following subgroups:-

Training, Research & Development:	Tracy & James
Human Resources & Finance	Dougie
Communications	Gordon & John

7) Development Coordinator Update

Wendy's update for this month had been previously circulated to board members and further discussion took place regarding the following items:-

- ❖ Project Work
- ❖ Consultation Work, including Housing discussion paper, 21st Century Reform and DWP assessments.
- ❖ Annual General Meeting, feedback, how to utilise the key issues raised by our members.

Action: All - to be considered at our Development Day

- ❖ Scottish Government Funding/Business Plan

Action: Frank, Gordon and Dougie agreed to have a look at the business plan.

- ❖ The visit of a Community Mental Health Team from Norway on Wednesday 29th September 2010
- ❖ A delegation from Singapore on Monday 11th October 2010 - Compulsory Treatment Orders

The following board members agreed to form part in the following networks and groups as representatives of VOX:

Frank Fallan	Royal College of Psychiatrists
Frank Fallan	Allied Health Professionals
Frank Fallan	Mental Welfare Tribunal
Tracy Laird	Mental Health Research Network Steering Group
Ross Mcphail	Scottish Recovery Network
Chris Evans	Choose Life/suicide prevention
John Sawkins	Mental Health Cross Party Group

Mention was made of making contact with the Royal College of General Practitioners, Wendy intimated that she had already made contact and we had sent an introductory letter to them with unfortunately no response.

8) Correspondence

The majority of correspondence has already been discussed under other agenda items; two additional items of correspondence which referred to events in England on the Mental Health Capacity Act were not felt to be relevant.

9) Any other competent business

Wendy said that arrangements were well in hand for our development day to be held on Monday 25th October 2010 and that she had contacted Ann Brookes to confirm her attendance as the facilitator for the day.

It was agreed that the Golden Lion Hotel in Stirling would be a good venue and that board members could have an overnight stay on the Sunday night prior to the meeting. Board members were asked to contact the office if they wished to stay overnight.

Action: John to book venue, catering and any accommodation required.

A discussion took place regarding travel expenses for board member attending board meeting and other events on behalf of VOX. It was generally agreed that the status quo would prevail and it was also confirmed that anyone travelling from over 50 miles away would be entitled to have one overnight stay included. Wendy intimated that we do have an expenses policy in place however there was a need to clarify the policy given that some new directors had started.

10) Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is on the 29th November in Renfield St Stephens Church, Bath Street.



VOX 11th Board Meeting

Monday 29th November 2010 at 1.30pm

The Renfield Centre, Bath Street, Glasgow

Present:	Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
	Gordon Johnston	Treasurer
	Pamela Shanks	Member Director
	John Sawkins	Member Director
	Colin Murchie	Member Director
In Attendance	Geoff Huggins	Head of Mental Health Scottish Government
	John Steel	Administration Officer

1) Welcome

Joyce Mouriki welcomed everyone present and expressed her gratitude that people had managed to come along despite the very bad weather. Apologies were intimated on behalf of the following:

Frank Fallan	Vice Chairperson
Dougie Pickering	Secretary
Ross Mcphail	Member Director
Chris Evans	Member Director
James McDermott	Member Director
Tracy Laird	Member Director
Richard Norris	Non Member Director
Alex Davidson	Non Member Director
Mahmud Al-Gailani	Acting Development Coordinator

It was suggested that we should send get well cards to Frank, Dougie and Chris who are recovering from illness. It was also mentioned that Shaun McNeil who was previously VOX Secretary was moving to pastures new in New Zealand and

it was decided that we should send him a card of congratulations and wish him and his wife good health on their venture.

2) Minutes

The minutes of the board meeting held on Monday 20th September 2010, having been previously circulated, were approved on the motion of John Sawkins and Gordon Johnston. The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 25th October 2010 were also approved on the motion of Pamela Shanks and Joyce Mouriki.

3) Matters Arising

a) With regard to the vacancies on the board for a member director and a non member director it was mentioned as, had been agreed following the approach to the Royal College of Psychiatrists' that representation should be sought via their committee. This has been done and there is a likelihood that someone will be identified by the next meeting. Board members were also asked to make any further recommendations as well re member directors from group areas. Two suggestions were to again contact Augment and Acumen both of whom had previously been represented on the board.

Action: Board Members to make recommendations for new board members.

b) It was suggested that due to Shaun leaving the organisation completely, we should look to replace him on the following groups, the Mental Health Cross Party Group and the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

The following board members expressed an interest in attending.

Colin Murchie and John Sawkins.

At the next meeting we will confirm that the places still exist for our representatives and in what numbers and then further canvas the board for expressions of interest.

Action: Mahmud to confirm arrangements with the college and the cross party group.

Geoff Huggins, Head of Mental Health at the Scottish Government was introduced to everyone present who in turn also introduced themselves

4) Spending Cuts

Geoff gave a very full report on the implications to VOX as an organisation on a cut in funding by the Scottish Government. He indicated how much the funding cuts would be and how we were best able to approach the coming twelve months.

Joyce intimated to Geoff the concern of our members regarding the Scottish Governments spending cuts in relation to mental health as well as the impact this will have in relation to health board and local authorities allocation of funding. Joyce also read from the report of the spending cuts focus group meeting held on 5th October 2010 at which a number of groups from around the country had expressed their concern about the impending cuts

A number of these groups had asked VOX to lead on a piece of work to try and minimized the impact of proposed cuts on themselves as groups but also on the service delivered directly to their members.

HUG had examples of some funding discussions in their area where they had helped to highlight to the local services their members concern.

They had suggested that by bringing our group member organisations together we may be able to support each other as well as gathering information from across Scotland as to the real effects of these cuts.

The highlights of the report which included the worries about where the money was being spent and how we could work together to identify priorities for the service users from across Scotland was discussed and it was agreed that VOX should lead a piece of work on this.

It was reported to be extremely important to this group that this piece of work focuses on exploring issues around the services which members receive (this could include, day services, mental health crises services, psychological therapies, and wider service such as culture and leisure and housing etc and what they feel should be prioritised in order to improve their quality of life.

The idea of co-production and how this interacts with these issues had also been discussed.

It was reported that discussion had also taken place around the fact that there is obviously a reality due to the economic crises of reduced funds for a large number of services and supports, and the question around how we can try to ensure the most effective services are maintained was raised as an issue for the ongoing group to address.

The worries about the organisations themselves were not thought to be appropriate to prioritise at this stage.

Geoff suggested that rather than the outsourcing of consultants to support the work of the organisations and the evaluations of their work that that he would ask Ruth Glassborough from the Mental Health Collaborative to work on this with VOX and its members representatives to support the piece of work on effectiveness.

It was reported that it was agreed by that group to develop a paper on current experiences of service users in relation to reduction of services, the view of mental health service users in relation to priorities, backed up with cost/benefit type of evidence.

It was agreed by that group that a sub-group should then meet to identify key questions which will be asked by local mental health groups to their members and to other service users across Scotland. To ensure national consistency, all responses shall be combined and then research shall be incorporated into the paper. The group had felt that VOX were ideally placed to lead this piece of work.

The board agreed to these recommendations and will ask Mahmud to form a working party to take this forward.

The board agrees that the first priority should be the quality and effectiveness of services however the further piece of work on outcomes and evaluation of the members' organisations would be approved as a second phase.

They are also keen of availing themselves of the opportunity to work with Ruth and so will await further news from Geoff so that Mahmud can progress.

Joyce asked Geoff to comment in how we can influence the national work as the implementation board for the delivery plan no longer meets.

Geoff said that the way the agenda will be managed is going to be different as it will be on specific topics.

He will let VOX know the role that the VOX board and its members can play in these committees

Actions:

- **Mahmud to develop a paper on the cuts and arrange a sub group meeting.**
- **Geoff to contact Ruth**

- Mahmud and Ruth to liaise.
- Geoff to inform board of implementation board new arrangements

5) Development Coordinator Update

Mahmud Al-Gailani, acting Development Coordinator who is unfortunately unable to attend today, has sent in the following update:

Project outputs	Progress to date
<p>Continue to support older people on having their voices heard on mental health issues.</p>	<p>VOX now has a well established group of older people who are able to voice their views on mental health issues, and to ensure policy makers are aware of the issues which concern them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Areas of work which the group has focused on, has included the development of an exhibition of objects in the Kelvingrove art gallery which explore issues around identity and childhood. ❖ Discussion groups around transport issues and banking. ❖ Presentation about the older people’s group, their priorities and the benefits from being involved which was made at the VOX AGM and conference. <p>Number of people directly involved</p> <p><u>16 individuals</u></p> <p><u>Awareness raising to 64 people</u></p>
<p>Development of an LGBT VOX to enable individuals with mental health problems from LGBT communities to be heard.</p>	<p>A small group of dedicated individuals have started to meet to discuss how they can broaden out involvement of LGBT communities and develop meaningful ways of ensuring they are understood in relation to mental health.</p>

	<p>The group is keen to have this social space to discuss their main concerns and to focus on the key areas of work they have identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Work includes the development of clear aims and objectives. ❖ Development of suitable publicity materials. ❖ Identifying the need to develop and publish guidelines for communities and professionals on what's important in terms of LGBT mental health. ❖ How to widen communication with other LGBT groups across Scotland. ❖ Seek opportunities to link into other LGBT events to publicise their group, e.g. linking into gay pride events. <p>Number of people involved in the small working group <u>5 people</u></p>
<p>Encouraging faith leaders to have a role in mental health awareness raising within their faith communities.</p>	<p>VOX, the Mental Health Network (Greater Glasgow) and Glasgow Association for Mental Health (GAMH) worked with Pollokshields health project "social work staff" to work on raising awareness of mental health and mental health problems within the community of East Pollokshields.</p> <p>Building on knowledge from mosaics of meaning projects it was recommended to work with local faith leaders to help facilitate awareness of mental health problems and stigma.</p> <p>Numbers of faith leaders involved <u>8 faith leaders were involved directly</u></p>

	<p>These leaders are going to speak to their colleagues.</p> <p>This work shall continue to grow, and shall involve further training, and the development of resources based on parts of their religion which touch on mental health.</p> <p><u>Approximately , 30 individuals from faith communities shall be involved</u></p>
<p>Developing further work to raise awareness of mental health within black and minority ethnic communities.</p>	<p>VOX has been working with See Me, GAMH, Health Scotland and Glasgow City Council Social Work to develop a BME communities DVD.</p> <p>This group has secured funding from partner organisations and has chosen a media company who shall be producing the DVD.</p> <p>The DVD will involve hearing the stories of individuals from BME communities in order to challenge stigma within BME communities.</p> <p><u>Numbers involved</u></p> <p>The number of individual service user directly involved <u>4</u></p> <p><u>Potential of the DVD to reach a broad audience.</u></p>
<p>To support the voice of those who are often marginalised in society. Minority Ethnic LGBT group</p>	<p>VOX has been involved in the MELGBT steering group. This strand of work has developed since a piece of research entitled SHOUT identified a range of issues for MELGBT communities.</p> <p>This is leading to MELGBT awareness raising sessions in Dumfries and Galloway, and the central belt.</p> <p>Areas of work include targeting the awareness of key issues within service provider organisations and workplace</p>

	<p>settings more generally.</p> <p>Numbers involved <u>10 for each training session</u></p>
<p>Ensuring mental health organisations embed equality and diversity into their practice.</p>	<p>VOX has acted as an adviser to the Mental Welfare Commission in relation to diversity and equality issues.</p> <p>Areas which have been focused on include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Equalities Policies and Single Outcome Agreements ❖ The Equalities Bill ❖ Monitoring and Evaluation ❖ Training Needs <p>Number involved</p> <p><u>Training for commissioners ?</u></p>
<p>Developing the Virtual Diversity Network/Diversity Bulletin</p>	<p>The Diversity Bulletin has continued to develop and highlight key issues around mental health from diverse communities. This includes updates from the above groups in addition to key pieces of research and policy change from other organisations.</p>
<p>Ensuring VOX communication is inclusive and supportive in relation to diverse communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ By ensuring publicity materials are appropriate and meaningful to diverse communities. ❖ By ensuring VOX has translated information and Braille. ❖ By ensuring venues are accessible and have equipment such as a hearing loop. ❖ Information about the key issues for a broad spectrum of individuals with mental health problems is on the website, in addition to how individuals from diverse

	communities can get involved.
Continuing to write articles on equality news in the VOX newsletter.	All members receive a copy of the VOX newsletter and obtain information on some important changes and developments relating to equality and mental health.

6) Directors Updates

Copies of a very full report on the Holyrood Conference “With Work in Mind” held on 26th November attended by John Sawkins (which had been previously sent by email to all board members) were distributed to the members present. John further elaborated on the conference and indicated that another conference on the same subject has been arranged in Aberdeen.

7) Correspondence

- a) Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living on Friday 10th December 2010 at their premises in Brook Street, Glasgow G40 3AP at 11.00am.
- b) Royal College of Nursing Event (Joyce to attend)
- c) Mental Welfare Commission Event (Pamela to attend)

8) Any other competent business

Applications for membership of VOX have been received from the following:

- a) User and Carer Involvement, 81-85 Irish Street, Dumfries, there was a general discussion regarding this application on whether they are incorporated or unincorporated. If incorporated then the organisation fits the criteria for full group membership.

Action: John to make enquiries and if acceptable send out a letter of confirmation of group membership.

- b) Scotia Clubhouse, 157 Broad Street, Glasgow G40 2QR. Following consideration and agreement, it was decided that Scotia Clubhouse be confirmed as Associate Members of VOX.

Action: John to send letter of confirmation.