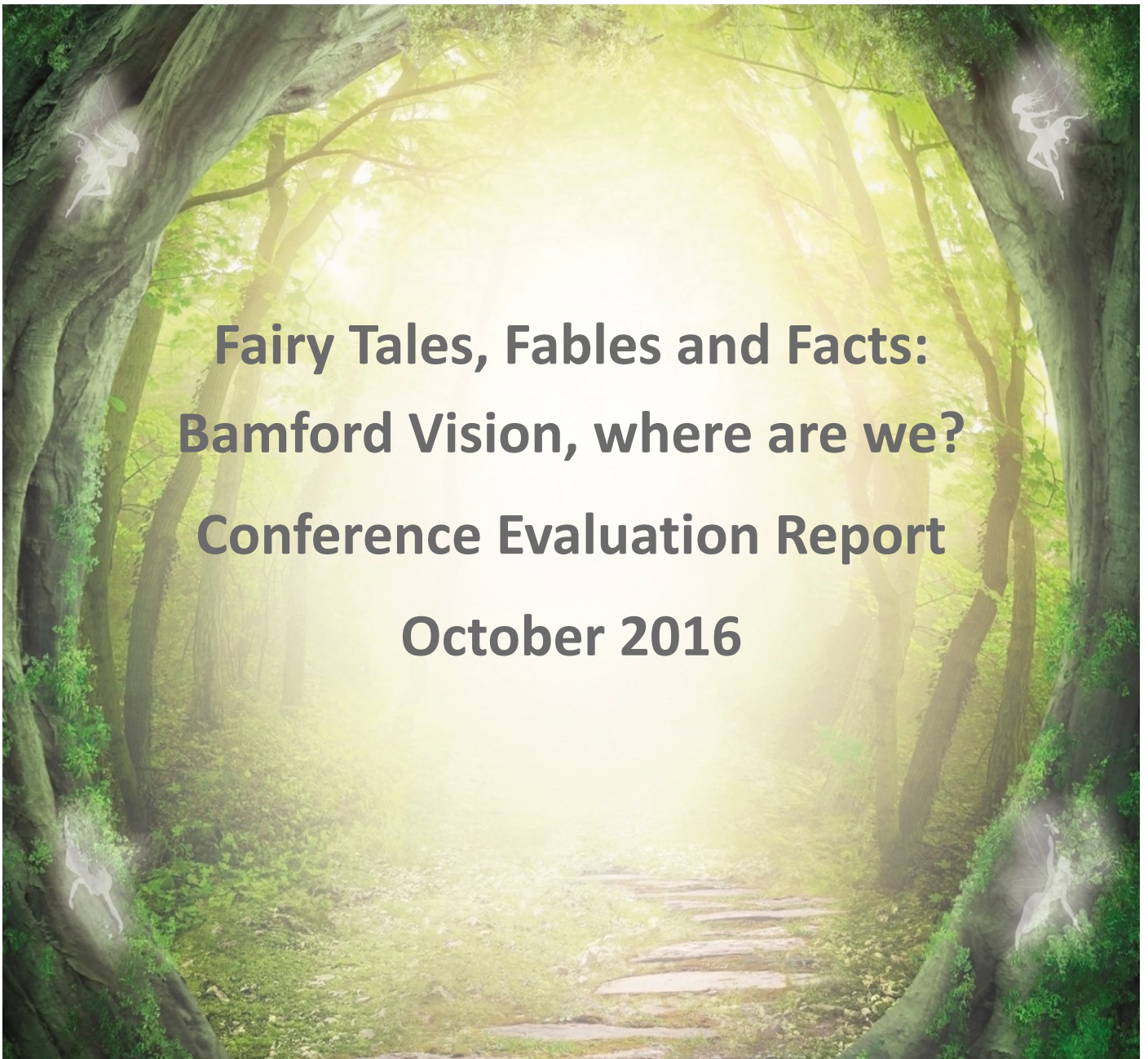




CONFERENCE EVALUATION REPORT



**Fairy Tales, Fables and Facts:
Bamford Vision, where are we?
Conference Evaluation Report
October 2016**

SPONSORED BY





*If you go into the woods today, you're in for
a big surprise!*



Introduction



ARC NI facilitated a two day event with the view of re-invigorating commitment to, and focus on, achieving the Bamford Vision. Through the support of a Planning Committee consisting of ARC NI members, it was discussed and agreed that Day 1 of the Conference would be open to any stakeholder, however Day 2 needed to target leaders and senior managers within the sector.

The aims of the conference were as follows:

DAY 1 aimed to:

- » Take stock of developments so far and the vision for the future
- » Explore what is and isn't working
- » Showcase best practice in achieving positive outcomes

DAY 2 aimed to:


- » Examine the role of leadership in creating a 'can do' culture to support real change
- » Consider a style of leadership based on inspiration, motivation and trust

Content

DAY 1 offered delegates seven key note speakers, including an inspirational speaker Clodagh Dunlop and the Minister of Health, Michelle O'Neill. There was also the Department of Health informing the audience of the findings of the recent evaluation of Bamford and RQIA updating on their review findings relating to community based learning disability services.

A total of 10 workshops were available for delegates to choose from, showcasing practice relating to transition services; service user participation; person-centred practices and positive behaviour support.

DAY 2 offered delegates four speakers who presented their thoughts, experiences and journeys, whilst describing their approach to innovation & risk taking,; the key to effective communication whilst managing change and breaking down silos; and finally themselves as leaders and their well-being.



Outputs

DAY 1 delegates breakdown:

148 in attendance of which:
104 represented the Voluntary Sector
15 represented the Statutory sector
9 represented the Private sector
17 were service users
3 were parent/carers

DAY 2 delegates breakdown:

68 in attendance of which:
46 represented the Voluntary Sector
11 represented the Statutory sector
11 represented the Private sector

66% of ARC NI member organisations were in attendance and 9 non-member organisations were represented.

The two regulatory bodies were also in attendance, namely NISCC & RQIA.

A graphic facilitator was present on DAY 1, capturing the key messages and themes discussed.





Actually the best gift you could have given her was a lifetime of adventures.



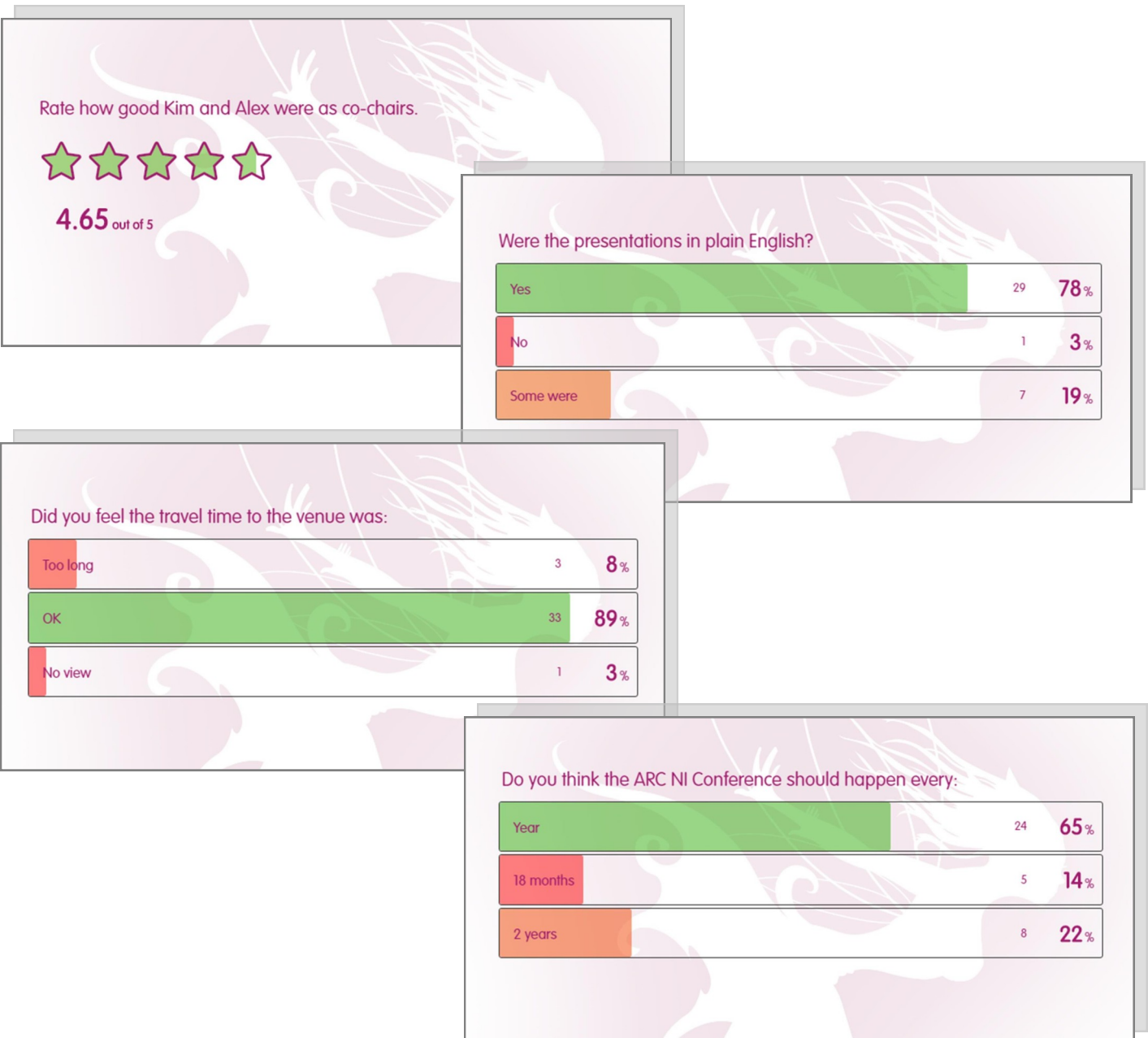
Evaluation Tools

A number of different methods were used to collate as much feedback as possible. These included an evaluation form (hard copy) in delegates' conference packs and a survey monkey (replicating the hard copy form) emailed after the event to further prompt delegates submission.

ARC NI's Telling It Like It Is (TILII) members also randomly selected delegates for on the spot verbal feedback throughout the course of day. This entailed a digital app with 4 set questions and a video or voice note quote.

Evaluation Findings

TILII members randomly selected approximately one third of the delegates during Day 1 to ask four questions through a digital app. The results are as follows:



The more detailed evaluation form was completed by a total of 77 respondents, of which 52% attended Day 1 only; 8% attended Day 2 only; with the remaining 40% attending both days.

The collated feedback reports the following findings:

- Learning and development was the main reason for attending, followed closely by networking as an opportunity
- On Day 1, Speakers Clodagh Dunlop followed closely by Roy McConkey, were identified as the two most interesting speakers
- The average rating of workshops was 4 out of 5, for both morning and afternoon sessions
- On Day 2, all speakers were well received with David Carson and Jeremy Gardiner being noted as the most interesting
- 62% of respondents fed back that the conference fulfilled their expectations, with a further 28% suggesting it did but not to their full extent
- 97% of respondents confirmed they would recommend ARC NI Conferences to others
- 83% of respondents made new connections
- 93% of respondents learnt something new that could inform their practice

In summary, respondents felt:

Please indicate your overall satisfaction with this conference.

Answer Options	Very Satisfied	Some-what Satisfied	Neutral	Some-what Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Conference Content	38	20	3	3	0	0	1.55	64
Booking & Registration	49	9	5	0	0	2	1.30	65
Venue	49	10	2	0	0	0	1.23	61
Food & Beverage	46	15	6	1	0	0	1.44	68
Conference staff	54	7	3	0	0	0	1.20	64
Evening Activities	15	6	1	0	0	12	1.36	34
Cost	31	18	7	2	1	2	1.71	61
Other (please specify)								2

answered question 72

skipped question 5

Additional Comments



"I felt that the conference did not use enough media/videos to sell the message"

"Very informative and up to date ,with latest knowledge from Health Minister, RQIA and Department around priorities and funding."

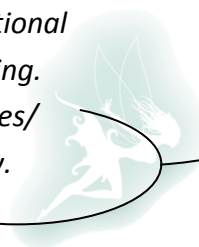
"Good to see service users being so involved in the conference."

"There were timing issues in the first half of Day 1 and this did impact on the morning workshops which was a shame."

"The focus of the day was very adult orientated. We need to learn more about children's services."

"It was great to hear of positive, sustained and effective improvements made to achieve better outcomes for service users"

"Really enjoyed the innovative day, the inspirational speakers and the great opportunity for learning. There was also a fantastic presence of families/ carers and people with a learning disability."





Even miracles take a little time.



“A very informative and enjoyable conference. All of the speakers were excellent and TILII’s Roving Reporters did a fantastic job. It was an inspiring day and the use of graphic facilitation to capture the key themes and messages was fabulous.”



State one action that ARC NI should do to bring about change?

Delegates were asked to identify one action for ARC NI to undertake to bring about positive change. The delegates feedback was varied but a sample of suggestions are outlined below:



Sharing Knowledge & learning

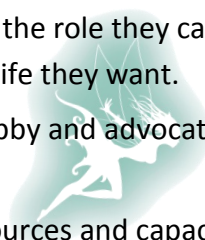
- Facilitate sharing of information, especially in the areas of good practice. Possibly encourage other organisations to become more involved. I spoke to several people and this is the first ARC NI conference they have attended.
- Provide more informative directly to delegates, on mindfulness and the importance of well being
- Create a Leadership mentoring programme (registered level) and showcase further the work on risk taking.
- More honest open dialogue within the voluntary sector. Identifying future training around creativity and leadership. "Let's find a solution together!"
- Maybe look at assistive technology for people with LD as more of a focus and look to become involved in AT across the province with other providers / policy developers; possibly look to develop a Leadership Academy.

Bringing people together to work collaboratively

- Get more representative of the Trust to attend the conference.
- Continue to find ways for members to share practice and experiences (failings as well as successes) and create a safe environment for open honest dialogue.
- Bring together in a forum regularly to share ideas and creative thinking - partnership working is essential. Explore how to work together to achieve the best outcome and maybe even save money. They could use each other services.
- Yearly conference for two full days for all.
- It would be useful if you could find a way to facilitate information sharing between VCSG organisations about who is providing what and where.

Advocacy / Lobbying

- Discussions across multiple Departments linked to PfG to achieve better outcomes for people with a learning disability.
- Take forward lobbying and holding HSC/professional to account, in particular challenging the inertia within HSC statutory bodies
- Lobby further and ensure support workers salaries are reviewed as the role they carry out is truly instrumental in ensuring people with a learning disability have the life they want.
- Ensure that the Bamford Vision is implemented by continuing to lobby and advocate for equality for people with learning disabilities.
- Continue to lobby HSCT, commissioner and legislators to allow resources and capacity to bring about change, positive risk taking and innovation.



Next Steps

Conferences in the future

ARC NI is committed to ensuring all feedback regarding the conference logistics is taken on board and used when we plan the next conference. This will include location, frequency of conference, conference content, target audiences (everyone!) and cost.

Support & Develop

Many of the models of practice showcased in the workshops and themes discussed by key note presenters during the two days were commented on positively and feedback suggests the desire for more of this. Breakfast seminars and master classes were proposed as an opportunity to explore each others' practice and engage together in new learning. ARC NI is committed to taking this forward and planning a number of short sessions, marketed widely and including all conference delegates.

Connect & Liaise

ARC NI has heard loud and clear that this conference helped people make new connections, or re-engage connections of old and how important this is for the Sector. This has resulted in our commitment to consider how ARC NI communicates across the sector, and for what purpose. We heard of the importance to reach across roles within organisations and the desire for ARC NI to create space for people to come together. But we recognise this can be costly and time consuming. ARC NI is committed to exploring this further to identify new opportunities to create connections.

Influence & Voice

Delegate feedback has suggested the need for ARC NI to lobby, ensuring the voice of the sector is heard. ARC NI already commits to submitting responses to relevant public consultations and attends many external meetings advocating the views of the Sector. Furthermore it is a member of the Planning Committee of the All Party Group for Learning Disability. The conference has suggested some key areas for ARC NI to lobby including the fulfilment of Bamford, but it would also appear timely to consider within the Programme for Government. ARC NI will identify the particular areas it will lean its attention to and work collaboratively with stakeholders to action.



Association for Real Change, Northern Ireland (ARC NI)

Wildflower Way, Boucher Road

Belfast

BT12 6TA

Tel: (028) 9038 0960

Email: arc.ni@arcuk.org.uk

Website: arcuk.org.uk/northernireland

Twitter: @arcni / @arcnidirector

Facebook: facebook.com/arcnorthernireland/



**“When we get to the end of the
story, you will know more than
you do now...”**

Hans Christian Andersen