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**Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Participation Group Meeting**

**Tuesday 22 October 2009
In Millennium House, Belfast**

Present

Geraldine Campbell
Miriam Karp
Mark Bradley
Jackie Ogilvie

Chair - NISCC Council Member
NISCC Council Member
NISCC Director of Corporate Services
NISCC – Admin Support - Note taker

Sharon Doherty
Rosemary McGarry
Alicia Toal
Derek Follis

ACTION

1. Introduction and Apologies

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Maria Somerville, Uel McIlveen and Emma McDowell

ACTION**3. Matters Arising:**

- Derek expressed interest in contributing to the Physical Disability Qualifications. It was agreed that Gerry Cunningham, Professional Adviser, will be notified of his interest.

Mark**4. Reflection of Previous Meeting**

4.1 A short discussion took place on the Council's response to the consultation document on compulsion. It is anticipated that the roll out for compulsion will start in April next year, depending on the outcome of the Department's deliberations. If compulsion goes ahead, all social care staff should be registered by 2013.

4.2 Jackie agreed to forward the documentation from the last meeting to Derek Follis.

Jackie

4.3 Some members expressed concern that users and carers did not have any input into compiling this document and the Chair agreed to try and ascertain what input, if any, users and carers had in compiling this document.

Chair

4.4 The Chair advised that Sharon, Emma and Maria had attended the recent Conference entitled 'Social Work at its Best', which was held in conjunction with the five Health and Social Care Trusts. Members suggested that the Participation Group should have had some input into this event. Mark Bradley informed the Group that this conference was looking at best practice from the Trusts view and any conferences requiring user input will be informed by the Participation Group.

4.6 Sharon advised members that she has currently undertaken a piece of work to implement the regional autism action plan. She gave members a brief report on what this work will entail.

4.7 The Chair asked Sharon to keep the Participation Group informed of any issues which may be of interest to the Group and congratulations was extended to Sharon on her involvement which could be a blueprint for future undertakings.

Sharon

4.8 The Chair also advised that she had attended a Patient Public Involvement Course sponsored by the Department and had spoken about the Participation Group and what it hopes to achieve. She was delighted to report that the Southern Trust showed great interest in using our model of engaging with users and carers.

ACTION

4.9 Rosemary shared with the group an email she had received from the Patient and Client Council providing information on groups being set up in each Trust area. The aim of the groups is to understand what is important to patients, clients and carers in health and social care services. Jackie will contact the Patient and Client Council to find out the dates and venues of these meetings in the Trust areas.

Jackie

4.10 Mark asked Members to note that a SCIE/RQIA/NISCC Conference is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 10 March in the Civic Centre in Lisburn, which will be user laid. Maria will give further details of the Conference at the next Participation Group meeting.

5. Code of Practice and Website

5.1 The Chair welcomed Andre McKeown, Communications Officer, who took the group through the work to promote the Code of Practice for Social Care Workers. Andre explained the importance of raising the public's awareness to this and asked for comments on what the best way to distribute these leaflets would be.

5.2 A discussion took place on the areas and groups to focus on, and what the best way of distributing the flyers and other communications to ensure that all areas are covered. Members agreed to take a supply and distribute them to the various groups/organisations they are associated with, once they are available.

5.3 Andre informed the group that the strategy to promote the Codes needs further development and these leaflets will not be ready for distribution until the next financial year. Mark commented that resources are not available to address anticipated workload emanating from the provision of the Codes.

5.4 The wording in the leaflets was discussed and comments/changes were noted by Andre. Andre asked members to take these away and come back to her with further comments/changes they feel would be more appropriate.

5.5 Alicia suggested that flyers are produced for adults with learning difficulties and young people with disabilities. Andre agreed to liaise with Alicia in taking this forward.

5.6 Andre also updated members on the NISCC website and indicated that the site was updated every two weeks. The content is taken from various information and suggested that approved Minutes of the Participation Group Meetings are published on the website.

ACTION

5.7 Andre asked members to look at the handout and bring comments back to her at the next meeting of the group.

6. Committee Representation

6.1 The Chair indicated that representation would be sought from the Participation Group in respect of membership on NISCC Committees. The Chair agreed to speak to Members individually to obtain nominations.

Chair

6.2 The Chair further indicated the need for a representative from the Participation Group to become a member of the SCIE Board. This is to replace Derek, who has completed his term. The Chair thanked Derek for his contribution to SCIE.

7. Register of Interests

The Chair requested Members notify Jackie before the next meeting of any involvement or links they may have to other organisations outside of the NISCC, to avoid conflicts of interest.

8. Away Day

8.1 Mark informed Members that it is proposed to hold an away day which will be held in the Civic Centre in Lisburn. The most suitable date is Wednesday 2 December. Jackie will check with members who were unable to attend this meeting if this date is suitable for them.

Jackie

8.2 A further meeting of the Participation Group will take place on the 21st December at 11.00am in Millennium House.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 21 December at 11.00am, Millennium House

Please let Jackie know if you will be attending the meeting.

Geraldine Campbell
Chair
Participation Group