

NISCC Participation Group Update – SCIE Partners Council July 2009

The Partners' Council is the key stakeholder network for the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). Its purpose is to ensure that SCIE's work in shaping and influencing social care in the UK reflects the needs of people in the social care sector, in particular service users and carers. The Council meets three times a year and meetings are often themed around a current policy issue. Members are able to take an active part in the discussions and decision making at the meetings and are encouraged to disseminate information to their organisation. Members also by give talks to SCIE staff on their areas of expertise, serve on project steering groups, interview panels and help SCIE quality assure their work. Miriam Karp, Geraldine Campbell and Derek Follis represent NISCC on the Partners' Council.

SCIE Partners Council recently held a session called 'Through a Glass Darkly – social care and the media'. This looked at the high political and media profile social care has received over the last few months. This was an opportunity for members to explore how the sector could respond media attention in the wake of recent child protection cases and stories about failures in adult safeguarding that have portrayed social care in a negative light. They also discussed and what can be done to encourage positive media coverage. SCIE will take forward some of the feedback from the day to identify how they can contribute to promoting social work and social care.