

Northern Ireland Social Care Council Confirmed Minutes of Board Meeting Wednesday 26th June 2019 at 10.00a.m NISCC Offices, Millennium House, Belfast

Present: Board members:

Paul Martin (Chair) Noelle Barton Neil Bodger Sarah Browne Roslyn Dougherty David Hayes Christine Hunter Jacqui McGarvey Brenda Maitland Catherine McPhillips Anne O'Reilly Lee Wilson

In Attendance:

Patricia Higgins - Interim Chief Executive Declan McAllister- Director of Registration & Corporate Services Catherine Maguire – Interim Head of Workforce Development – for item 4 only Maureen Martin – Council Secretary Marian O'Rourke – Interim Director of Regulation & Standards

Observer:

Lorraine Conlon, Government Liaison Officer, Department of Health Fiona McMahon, Board Apprentice

Apologies:

Gerry Guckian Council member Carolyn Ewart, Deputy Chair of Registrants' Forum Roberta Magee, Chair of Registrants' Forum

ltem		Presenter
1.	Welcome and Apologies	
1.1	The Chair extended a welcome to all attendees .Apologies were received from Carolyn Ewart, Gerry Guckian and Roberta Magee.	Chair
1.2	In order to expedite the agenda, the Chair stated that he would invite individual comment on the Annual Report & Accounts and the Annual Assurance Report on the Regulation & Development of the Social Work and Social Care Workforce.	Chair
2.	Declarations of Interest	Chair
2.1	The Chair approved the request from a member to recuse themselves from discussion at item 4.1 due to a conflict of interest.	
3.	Chair's Business	Chair
3.1	 The Chair noted key meetings since the last Council meeting on 17 April 2019: 1. The Chair, Senior Executive team and several Board members had attended the Professional in Practice (PiP) Awards ceremony hosted by the Social Care Council on 18 June 2019. The Chair emphasised the importance of the event in raising the profile of Social Work and acknowledging the work and development of Social Workers throughout their career. Thanks and appreciation were extended to all those involved in arranging the event. 2. The Chair and the interim Chief Executive met with the Chief Social Services Officer, Department of Health for the year end Accountability meeting on 5 June 2019. The Chair reported that it had been a positive and constructive meeting and no significant issues had been raised. It was highlighted that the Permanent Secretary had attended briefly to note his appreciation of the work of the Social Care Council and the positive engagement in relation to the pre Landscape review. The Chair confirmed that he had raised concerns around the financial imposition of further 2 + 1% efficiencies and the impact of this on a small organisation. The Chair thanked the 	

	 Government Liaison Officer for addressing this financial challenge and working with the Social Care Council towards a resolution in the new accounting year. 3. The Chair and Senior Executive team had attended a Landscape Review preparatory workshop on 20 May. The Chair had updated Board members on the workshop at the last Strategic session. The interim Chief Executive will update members on the newly established working group. 4. The Chair, Senior Executive team and several Board members had attended the NICON conference in May and it was noted as positive networking event. 5. The Chair and the Senior Executive team had attended the UK BASW '<i>Together in Social Work</i>' conference in Titanic on 21 June. This was noted as an excellent event with interesting presentations on the work of BASW in raising the UK. 	
3.2	The Chair advised that formal notification on the Annual Appraisals of Non-Executive Directors has not yet been received from the Public Appointments Unit. One to one meetings for the Chair and Non-Executive Directors will be arranged over the coming months.	
3.3	The Chair noted receipt of correspondence from the Department of Health regarding a new approach to second term of appointment of Chairs and Members to the Boards of Arm's Length Bodies. The Department will no longer automatically re-appoint for a second term and all reappointments will be subject to open competition. The Department retains the discretion to re-appoint for a second period if there are exceptional circumstances that warrant this, such as the need to maintain a quorum of members so that a Board may operate effectively; and/or circumstances where there has been significant change or turnover within the Non-Executive Members of the Board. The new approach will be introduced on a phased basis starting this year. The implementation of the new approach may only impact Board members from the last tranche of appointments.	
3.4	As this was the final attendance of the current Boardroom Apprentice placement due to the end of the yearlong placement, the Chair noted it the scheme as an excellent experience. The Boardroom Apprentice expressed thanks for the opportunity and excellent learning opportunity. Special thanks were extended to the member who had taken on the supporting role of Boardroom 'buddy'.	

4.1	A Board member recused himself for the duration of this item due to a conflict of interest declared earlier in the agenda. The Interim Head of Workforce Development delivered a short presentation which gave an overview on the establishment of the Review of the Social Work Degree project group along with findings and next steps. A report and associated papers had been issued to members in advance. It was noted that some of the data in the Data Pack paper was missing due to an IT issue. The paper has been amended and will be recirculated. The following were highlighted: • Terms of Reference for the project group were agreed with the Strategie Advisory (SAC) and 2 areas of feaus	
	presentation which gave an overview on the establishment of the Review of the Social Work Degree project group along with findings and next steps. A report and associated papers had been issued to members in advance. It was noted that some of the data in the Data Pack paper was missing due to an IT issue. The paper has been amended and will be recirculated. The following were highlighted: • Terms of Reference for the project group were agreed with	
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	 the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and 3 areas of focus were agreed; partnership arrangements, curriculum and outcomes of the degree A project group was established consisting of Social Care Council staff, Board members, a Participation Forum member, representatives from the Social Work Degree Partnership and external experts from social work education and training; A high volume of qualitative and quantitative data was collected to evidence the methodology and outcomes via surveys and focus groups with Social Work students, Practice teachers, Line Managers and newly qualified Social Workers (AYEs). The project group analysed the data captured and agreed the format for the final report; Six recommendations have been identified against the three areas of focus; The next steps are to : ✓ disseminate findings ✓ develop an Implementation Plan ✓ measure improvements 	

Workforce Development advised that the report was presented for review and approval by the Board and invited questions from members. It was agreed that the report is comprehensive, informative and easy to read. The interim Chief Executive confirmed that the Degree Partnership will be implementing the out workings of the recommendations so there will not be any financial constraints or additional resource implications for the Social Care Council.	
Discussion took place around the report and it was proposed that key messages could be communicated to employers to support the Signs of Safety model that is being embedded. A member highlighted the statement in the report from a member of the Participation Forum who had been part of the Project group. The statement had highlighted the value and opportunity afforded by being involved in the review, consultation process and supporting improvements.	
The interim Chief Executive noted that the Department of Health is doing a current survey on supervision of Social Workers and the Social Care Council may pick up on some of the out workings of this.	
Interim Objet Engentions Demont / femintermention)	
Interim Chief Executive's Report (for information)	
The Chair noted the formal extension to 31 st March 2020 of the appointment of the interim Chief Executive.	
The interim Chief Executive invited questions or comments on the report which outlined engagement and activity of the in the last quarter.	
The interim Chief Executive advised that following on from a Landscape Review workshop on 20 th May, the Chair, interim Chief Executive and Government Liaison Officer had attended a meeting of representatives from the voluntary sector and Trusts. Discussion had been held on the development of a professional framework for Social Work CPD and to identify any gaps in what is currently in place to support the Social Work professional in practice.	
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	The pre Landscape Review is mainly focused on Social Work and it was highlighted that if this is developed into a Landscape Review, a broader discussion on the Social Care workforce may be required. The Government Liaison Officer noted that the Social Care Council is due a Landscape Review and this will be used to look at the Reform of Adult Social Care and the Transformation agenda in parallel.	
	It was agreed that a Board Strategic session would be arranged on Duty of Candour and an invitation is to be extended to the Chief Executive of Inspire and Quentin Oliver, who are leading on the 2 Duty of Candour work streams. In response to a query from a member, the interim Chief Executive confirmed that the Social Care Council have always had local contact with RQIA and a formal process has been commenced to connect data systems and share intelligence generated.	
	Action: The Board noted the Interim Chief Executive's Report Action : Peter McBride and Quentin Oliver, Duty of Candour Workstream leads to be invited to attend Board Strategic Session	Secretariat
6.	Minutes of Board Meeting of Wednesday 17 th April 2019 (for approval)	
6.1	The Minutes of the Board meeting of Wednesday 17th April 2019 were approved.	
7.	Matters Arising	
7.1	9.1- Council member highlighted the need for detailed training for the Whistleblowing Champion role and a meeting is to be arranged with the DRCS to discuss the advocacy role in more detail	
	Action: The Director of Registration & Corporate Services (DRCS) reported that Whistleblowing training would be arranged for all Non - Executive Directors and appropriate staff	DRCS
7.2	The Director of Registration & Corporate Services noted that the update on the annual appraisals of Non-Executive Directors had been recorded under Chair's Business (3.2).	

8.	Business Matters	
8.1	Draft Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19 (for approval)	
8.1.1	The Director of Registration & Corporate Services spoke to the draft Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19 and sought approval from the Board. The DRCS confirmed that the Annual Report had been prepared for the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) in mid-May and following review, have assurances had been received from the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee, Participation Forum and internal and external auditors.	
	On behalf of the Chair of the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee, a member confirmed that the report had been reviewed by the Committee and no issues had been identified. The appointment and good relationship with the new external auditors were noted.	
	The final Accounts have been scrutinised by internal and external auditors and presented twice at the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee.	
	The DRCS advised that to ensure compliance with the Annual Report timetable the full report would be updated today with any proposed amendments for immediate signature by the Chair and interim Chief Executive. As the Comptroller General, NIAO takes an annual leave period in July, it was noted that this time frame would ensure that the Accounts are certified by the NIAO by 23 July before being laid in the NI Assembly by 26 July.	
	The Chair invited roundtable comments from members and the following were highlighted:	
	Clarity is required in all reports differentiate between the use of the terminology 'Board' and 'Council'. The DRCS confirmed that clarity is being sought from the Public Appointments Unit around terminology and members will be updated and a final decision made. It was agreed for current report purposes, members would be collectively referred to as the 'Board'.	
	A member requested an amendment to an incorrect entry under the	

	table of attendance for members at Board and Committee meetings. It was agreed that this correction would be completed.
	Action: The Board approved the Draft Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19 subject to the amendment agreed.
8.2	Fitness to Practise Capacity and Resources (for approval)
8.1.1.1	The interim Director of Regulation and Standards invited final comments on the Fitness to Practise Capacity and Resources report. The report provides a review of the capacity and resources of the Fitness to Practise function to the end of March 2019 along with the resources projected to 2022/23. The context and rationale for the paper has been outlined at previous Board meetings and the interim Director of Regulation and Standards sought Board approval today on the content of the report which will form the basis of the outline business case to the Department of Health.
	In response to a query from a member, the interim Chief Executive confirmed that discussion at the Accountability meeting had indicated that an increase in the registration fee for social care workers was not an option at this time. The GLO reported that the a benchmarking exercise on the cost of registration fees across the UK had shown that Northern Ireland had the lowest fee so whilst there is no current appetite to increase the £30 fee this may need to be revisited in the future.
	Following review the following amendments were agreed:
	2.2 - amount given should be qualified as to what it equates to in terms of resource;
	3.6 - amend sentence to ' the additional increase in regulatory committee activity';
	5.3 – remove 'carriage of' from sentence at top of page 7;
	9.1 – Option 3 should be amended to include ' <i>a timely handling of a regulatory function</i> '
	10.1b – Option 2 – remove <i>'reputational damage'</i> from sentence;
	The GLO will confirm with Sponsor Body whether an additional option of an increase in registration fee can be added to the report.

	The interim Director of Regulation and Standards advised that the paper has been to TMG noting concerns around efficiencies and the Business Case will form part of a submission that has been drafted to the Permanent Secretary to highlight the financial position of the Social Care Council. The Board noted the implications on the regulatory function of the Social Care Council should the Business Case not be successful. A member commented that the information on Page 23 of the report relating to the increase of caseloads from 38 to 69 cases per Fitness to Practise officer could evidence that funding was accepted based on the original case load numbers. Action: The Board approved the Fitness to Practise Capacity and Resources subject to amendments and proof reading.	
	and Resources subject to amendments and proor reading.	
9.	Performance Reporting	
9.1A	Performance Management Framework (for approval)	
9.1.1A	The Director of Registration & Corporate Services (DRCS) advised that the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee had recommended the the Performance Management Framework to the Board for approval.	
	The document is a summary of how performance and governance is managed in the organisation. The document will be updated to reflect the new logo and terminology.	
	The Chair noted that all of the formal reports brought to the Board every year provide assurance and are of an high quality however it was queried whether the volume of reports is proportionate to the size and budget of the organisation.	
	Action: The Board approved the Performance Management Framework subject to updates to logo and terminology.	DRCS
9.1B	April 2019 Performance Report (for approval)	
9.1.1B	The Director of Registration & Corporate Services (DRCS) introduced April 2019 Performance Report and advised that the issue of the report had been delayed to allow for the inclusion of up to date information for April as the Board will not reconvene until	

	October.	
	 The following were noted: All strategic objectives have been achieved; 2 KPIs were below the required standard; registration processing(88%) and stakeholder satisfaction (57%) and are assigned red RAG status KPI for processing applications was below KPI at 88.19%. however all applications received in April, 100% were processed within 20 days; A marked increase in KPIs is expected by the next Business Performance report 	
9.2	Annual Assurance Report on the Regulation & Development of the Social Work and Social Care Workforce (for approval)	
9.2.1	The Director of Regulation & Standards introduced the Annual Assurance Report on the Regulation & Development of the Social Work and Social Care Workforce for approval and invited questions from members: Members were advised that the report provides assurance on performance across the core statutory and regulatory responsibilities of the Social Care Council along with detailed analysis of the work undertaken across the Registration, Workforce Development, Committee and Fitness to Practise functions. The Director of Regulation & Standards stated that subject to Board approval, sections of the report could be of use independently. Following discussion, the Board noted the excellent presentation of the report and approved it subject to a minor amendment of a typographical error on page 25 - (insert detail)	
	Action: The Board approved the Annual Assurance Report on the Regulation & Development of the Social Work and Social Care Workforce subject to amendment.	
9.3	Financial Performance Report and 2019/20 Budget (for information)	
9.3.1	The Director of Registration & Corporate Services spoke to the Financial Performance Report and 2019/20 Budget	

	The purpose of the document is to update the Board on the budget position for 2019/20 and the financial position at the end of May 2019.	
	The DRCS noted that the Senior Executive team, with the support of Sponsor Branch, is engaging with the Finance department at the Department of Health to resolve the issue of a year-end forecasted overspend of £154k. In Appendix 1, an interim budget for 2019/20 was presented for Board review as negotiations on the final Revenue Resource Limit (RRL) provision for 2019/20 are still ongoing.	
	 The DRCS noted the following: a slight increase of 5% in fee income is expected based on trend analysis; 	
	• Pay costs have increased on last year due to an additional 1% pay award for 2019/20 and 5% pension uplift may be covered by an non recurrent RRL and is included in expenditure figures as not confirmed;	
	 A Death in Service payment of £18k was made and may be covered by a non-recurrent RRL; £10k increased in BSO Service Level Agreement (SLA) costs for 2019/20 included in budget but not yet signed off. 	
	The DRCS advised that the report cover sheet would be updated to reflect the report was for information and not for approval as initially stated.	
	Action: The Board noted the Financial Performance Report and 2019/20 Budget	
10.	Governance	
10.1	Risk Management Strategy (for approval)	
10.1.1	The Director of Registration & Corporate Services advised that the Risk Management Committee has oversight of the Risk Management Strategy and the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee had reviewed and recommended the document to the Board for approval. The Risk Management Strategy has been updated to reflect the changes by Audit & Risk Assurance Committee and	
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	Board members in how the Social Care Council manages its risks,	
	including how the Board set up the strategic risks and risk appetite	
	for the organisation. The Strategy has also been updated to refresh	
	terminology and job roles/titles	
	The Government Liaison Officer proposed the following amendments:	
	• At 3.2 - add 'ensure we deliver ? (check Declan)' at 3.2 – remove 'appetite' from sentence ' to embed the risk management appetite across the organisation'	
	Action: The Board approved the Risk Management Strategy subject to amendment.	
10.2	Audit & Risk Assurance Committee draft unconfirmed minutes 19 June 2019 (for information)	
10.2.1	In the absence of the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee Chair, an	
	ARAC member reported to the Board and the following were	
	highlighted:	
	• Main item on ARAC agenda a was review of the draft Annual	
	Report and Accounts;	
	• The interim Head of Payroll, Shared Services, BSO had	
	attend the ARAC meeting to outline a range of measures to	
	improve customer services following a Payroll Limited	
	Assurance provision by Internal Audit;	
	 There is new risk management software in use that produces 	
	automated reports and incorporates feedback from ARAC	
	members on content and format. ARAC recommended that	
	both the Risk Assurance Framework and complete Risk	
	•	
	Register are reviewed by the Committee and the Risk	
	Assurance Framework only is presented to the Board.	
	It was agreed that the ARAC agenda item should be moved higher	
	up the Board meeting agenda to allow for more in depth discussion.	
	Action: The Board noted the unconfirmed Audit & Risk	
	Assurance Committee minutes of 19 June 2019	
10.3	Remuneration Committee draft unconfirmed minutes 19 June 2019	
10.3.1	Following a request from the Chair, the Director of Registration &	
	Corporate Services confirmed that collective training for	DRCS

	Remuneration Committee members will be progressed with the other Arms' Length Bodies. The Chair advised that the membership and meeting schedule may need to be revised once the Senior Executive Pay Award Circular is received. The Chair confirmed that the Remuneration Committee had agreed that the objectives from the date of appointment of the interim Chief Executive had been met and objectives had been set for the	
	upcoming year. The Chair noted that the current allocation of 2 days attendance per month for Board members may need to be reviewed to ensure there is adequate capacity for members to take up the engagement and ambassadorial roles over the coming months. Further discussion on this matter was deferred until a later date when the program of engagement is agreed. <i>Action: The Board noted the unconfirmed Remuneration</i>	
10.4	Committee minutes of 19 June 2019.RemunerationCommitteeTermsofReference(for approval)	
10.4.1	The Chair advised that the Terms of Reference had been presented at the Remuneration Committee meeting of 19 June and were recommended for approval by the Board.	
	A member reiterated the need to standardise the terminology used in the document to ensure differentiation between the Board and the Council.	
	Action: The Board approved the Remuneration Committee Terms of Reference.	
11.	Partnership Updates	
11.1	Participation Forum unconfirmed minutes of 6 June 2019 (for information)	
11.1.1	In the absence of the Chair of the Participation Forum , a Committee member gave an overview of the work of the Participation Forum	

	and the following wave highlighted	
	and the following were highlighted:	
	 a new member has been recruited to the Forum who brings experience as a social worker and a service user; The full Terms of Reference for the Forum are to be reviewed and brought to the Board at a later date; In response to a pre- consultation on remuneration for PPI (Personal and Public Involvement), Forum members have recommended the inclusion of a policy based on a current NHS England policy which allows service users to be paid according to a hierarchy of work undertaken e.g. reading papers, prep work, travelling etc. 	
	Action: The Board noted the Participation Forum unconfirmed minutes of 6 June 2019.	
11.2	Workforce Development Partnership unconfirmed minutes of 11 June 2019 (for information)	
11.2.1	In the absence of the Chair of the Workforce Development Partnership, a Committee member updated the Board and the following were highlighted:	
	 RQIA to be added to group membership; Trust membership is to be strengthened and engagement undertaken to ensure consistent meeting attendance; The name of the partnership is to be changed to Leaders in Social Care Partnership to underscore that the employer network across all sectors currently has leadership momentum; Shared responsibility and individual and organisational accountability for work emerging from the partnership to be reinforced; Leadership statement and key actions have been identified for progress and a Task and Finish group established; The importance of the views and perspective of frontline carers and service users around the Reform of Adult Social Care was emphasised. 	
	It was noted that the name change of the partnership will require Board approval and it was confirmed establishing this will form part of the work of the Task and Finish group.	

	Action: Council noted the Workforce Development unconfirmed	
12.3	<i>minutes of 11 June 2019.</i> <i>Professional in Practice (PiP) unconfirmed minutes 29 May 2019 (for information)</i>	
12.3.1	The Chair of the PiP Partnership updated members and the following were highlighted:	
	 PiP Awards ceremony was held on 18 June 2019; A copy of a Departmental publication, <i>Learning and Improvement Strategy</i> for social workers and social care workers was circulated to members and there is agreement within the Department of Health and the Health & Social Care Board (HSCB) to move this strategy forward. The interim Chief Executive reported that a meeting is to be arranged with the HSCB which will allow the Social Care Council to help shape and influence the implementation of the strategy around the PiP framework and the continuum of professional development across a social work or social care career. 	
	Action: The Board noted the Professional in Practice unconfirmed minutes of 29 May 2019	
11.4	Registrants' Forum draft unconfirmed minutes 9 May 2019 (for information)	
11.4.1	 In the absence of the Chair of the Registrants' Forum the interim Director of Regulation & Standards reported to the Board and the following were highlighted: 2 additional Board members have joined the Registrants' Forum group; As the Forum has not been convened since October 2018, the Terms of Reference have been presented to the Board for approval; It was agreed at a meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Registrants' Forum in May 2019 that the membership range would be increased and the role extended to take into account how it links to Social Work and Social Care practice. A program of engagement opportunities through the Forum is to be established. The interim Chief Executive noted that the Forum is not chaired by a Board member and as members are predominantly practitioners it can be difficult to attend due 	

	 to the nature of their work; The Senior Executive team will support and work with the Chair of the Registrants' Forum on the ongoing work in progress to appoint a new Chair. Action: The Board noted the Registrants' Forum draft unconfirmed minutes 9 May 2019 	
11.2	Registrants' Forum Terms of Reference	
11.2.1	 Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to review the Registrants' Forum Terms of Reference at a Board Strategic session which will help to differentiate between partnerships, forums and the Degree Partnership. Action: The Board held the approval of the Registrants' Forum Terms of Reference until reviewed at an upcoming Board Strategic Session. 	
12.	AOB	
12.1	The Chair thanked members for their commitment and work	
12.1	throughout the year.	
12.	Date of next meeting (s)	
12.1	The next Council meeting is at 10.00a.m on Wednesday 16 October 2019.	

Signed by Paul Martin, Chair of the Social Care Council

Date: 26th June 2019

Signature

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