

**Professional in Practice Partnership Committee**

**Wednesday 8 June 2022, 10.00 a.m.**

**Via Zoom Call**

**Confirmed Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Catherine McPhillips	<b>Chair</b>	Board
Roslyn Dougherty		Board
Jane Lindsay		External Assessor
Denise MacDermott		UU
Anne Campbell		QUB
Daniel Quinn		WHSCCT obo Stephen McLaughlin
Eileen McKay		BHSCT
Ciaran Traynor		CiNi
Marita Magennis		SHSCT
Carole Kirk		NHSCT obo Lee Wilson
Tina O'Reilly		Extern

**In Attendance:**

Marian O'Rourke	Interim Director of Regulation and Standards
Gillian McAuley	Professional Adviser
Mandy Cowden	Professional Adviser
Neha Brijendra	Administrative Assistant
Nicola Lewis	Minute Taker

Anne McGlade	Strategic Performance and Planning Group
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**Apologies:**

Theresa Fallon	NIGALA
David Wylie	BHSCT
Martina Jordan	BASW
Adrian Nugent	EANI
Catherine Sweeney	PBNI
Gillian McAllister	YJA
Michaela Glover	HSC Board
Elaine Somerville	SEHSCT

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting via Zoom and provided an update on changes to the committee membership	

	<p>which now includes Marita Magennis, SHSCT, David Wylie, BHSCT and Maura McMackin, HSC Leadership Centre.</p> <p>Nominations for partnership membership still needed for NIGALA and BASW.</p>	<b>Gillian</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>	
2.1	The Chair asked for conflicts of interest. None were noted.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Chair's Business</b>	
3.1	<p><u>New Chair</u></p> <p>Roslyn Dougherty will take over as Chair of the Partnership Committee from Catherine McPhillips in September 2022.</p> <p>A deputy chair will be appointed in due course.</p> <p><u>Children's Services Review</u></p> <p>The chair provided an update on a discussion that the Social Care Council had with Ray Jones regarding the recommendations coming out of the Children's Services Review. The recommendations will cover areas such as recruitment, career structure, and education.</p> <p>Ray will be holding a Lunchtime Seminar on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 for those interested in joining.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting / Matters Arising</b>	
4.1	The minutes from February 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
4.2	<p><u>Agency Staff Update – Eileen McKay</u></p> <p>Eileen provided an update on the HSC Trust proposal in relation to withdrawal of support and funding for Recruitment Agency staff. Advice has been sought from Procurement and Human Resource departments within the Belfast and Southern Trusts and a decision has been taken that the changes will now not be introduced until the renewal of contacts next year in 2023.</p> <p>Marion advised that this item will remain on the agenda and discussions will take place with Trusts as to when is the best time for the Social Care Council to engage with recruitment agencies to outline and agree responsibilities in relation to achievement of mandatory conditions such as 2 requirements for agency staff.</p>	<b>Chair</b>

4.3

Outcome from Approval Panel

**Single Marking Proposal**

Gillian provided an update on the proposal from UU to move to a single marking model.

The proposal had been brought to the Approval Panel which took place on Wednesday, 13 April 2022.

Gillian advised that the Approval Panel took the decision to approve a pilot of some of the proposed changes. The pilot will take place within the first module of the Initial Professional Development Programme commencing in September 2022 with conditions. A review and evaluation process of the pilot must be undertaken by the University, IPD coordinators and Agency PiP Reps with outcomes presented to the Approval Panel.

Denise advised that a meeting had taken place on 12 May 2022 with UU, Tony McAllister, Deputy Chair of Approval Panel and all PiP Agency Representatives except for PBNI who gave apologies to discuss the pilot in relation to the 50/50 split, Quality Assurance processes, access for external examiners, and use of Turnitin. Action points were agreed and shared via SharePoint for all Agency Reps to agree and sign as per condition of Approval Panel. Denise advised that there was one known issue with BHSCT accessing SharePoint which has now been addressed. To date five signatures been received and Denise will provide an update on those still outstanding before sending to Tony as deputy chair of Approval Panel.

There was a further meeting on 25 May 2022 with UU, Tony McAllister, Deputy Chair of Approval Panel and all PiP Agency Representatives to discuss the evaluation of SWK704 and what this will look and also the five-year revalidation of all UU programmes due in early March 2023. Denise advised that one new area not included in previous revalidation was the Sustainable Development Goals which may require Agency Reps to attend some training on.

Denise clarified that the recent communication in relation to use of Turnitin for current IPD submissions was in response to GDPR compliance, cyber security risks and revised UU policy in response to this which does not allow for attachments to be sent via email, and therefore requires markers to open and view feedback via Turnitin.

Denise advised that the use of Turnitin by markers is not a skills issues, but an issue with Trust firewalls and outlined plans to support markers with this which includes, markers offered UU email accounts and A Codes which will give full access to suite of

<p>4.6</p> <p>4.7</p>	<p>programmes including SharePoint and Turnitin, and availability of laptops which can be borrowed from university.</p> <p>Jane aired caution in allowing access where markers may also be students of UU.</p> <p><b>Palliative Care Programme</b></p> <p>The programme had been brought to the Approval Panel which took place on Wednesday, 13 April 2022.</p> <p>Gillian advised that the programme was given full approval for five years with conditions which need to be met before the programme can commence in September 2023. This will be an international programme with 5 funded places for NI.</p> <p>Marion welcomed the addition of this course to the suite of programmes available to Social Workers</p> <p><u>CAR Update for Information</u></p> <p>Gillian give a detailed summary of future plans in the Business Report under item 5.1.</p> <p><u>Research Strategy Update – Anne McGlade</u></p> <p>Anne McGlade, Social Care Research Lead joined the meeting and shared a presentation on the Research Strategy and the link between the Research Methods Programme at UU. A copy of the presentation will be shared with the minutes for information.</p> <p>Anne welcomed questions and comments from the group.</p> <p>Anne Campbell and Ciaran raised comments in relation to repository's for research and broader collaboration to better include the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Anne clarified that the strategy is not just for the statutory sector and it once may have been. She confirmed that the is voluntary sector representation from CiNi on the research community and asked for more recommendations for those to be involved.</p> <p>Denise highlighted the challenge getting people to commit and put staff forward, as COVID has had an impact on numbers on modules. She commented on the need to look at ways to encourage people to embrace research.</p> <p>Roslyn commented that this was very useful to hear about the strategy's progression moving beyond the statutory sector. She highlighted the importance of recognising that QI and research are two different things and the need to keep enthusiasm and commitment from staff on the ground.</p>	
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	<p>Marita stated that work was needed to encourage and support curiosity within Social Work staff on the ground. She questioned if research could be better integrated into the profession, taking learning from other professions such as medics where it may be a bit more stitched in, and more mainstream.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Business Report</b>	
5.1	<p>Gillian and Mandy shared a presentation outlining the 2021 – 2022 end of year business report in relation to Professional in Partnership achievement and awards. A copy of this presentation will be shared with the minutes for information.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <p>Work to be completed to improve the numbers of social workers engaging in PiP which has remained quite constant over a five-year period with fluctuations in the numbers gaining full / part achievement each year.</p> <p>To take a strategic focus on increasing the numbers of social workers working towards and completing their Leadership &amp; Strategic Award which would be beneficial given the changing demographics of the profession.</p> <p>To investigate the use of the APL submission method which currently is being underutilised and offers an opportunity for social workers to use both formal and informal learning to gain achievements within PiP.</p> <p>To look into reasons for drop in verbal presentations via IAR.</p> <p>Undertake work to look at reasons for withdrawals from Approved Programme modules.</p> <p>Review timeframes for receiving approved programme outcomes information.</p> <p>Ciaran put forward a suggestion that markers could be awarded three Leadership requirements via an APEL submission following participation at four assessment points, using external assessor feedback. It was agreed that this could be further explored and assessment methods and processes consulted on in order to increase numbers of Leadership Awards and as an incentive for bringing on new assessors.</p>	<b>PiP Team</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>External Examiner – Jane Lindsay</b>	
6.1	<p>Jane gave a brief overview of her findings from her review of submissions over the various routes. A copy of her report will be shared with the minutes.</p>	

<b>7.</b>	<b>Information &amp; Development Forum Update</b>	
7.1	<p><u>Career progression into senior roles prior to 2 Requirements Achievement</u></p> <p>Gillian highlighted an area raised at the Information and Development Forum in May 2022 wherein staff are being promoted before having achieved 2 PiP requirements which may have an impact on their suitability to manage staff going through this condition.</p> <p>Marion advised that this links closely to Social Work Workforce Review and can be looked at within this piece of work to ensure there are coherent links between the PiP Framework and PiP Achievement to career progression of skilled and well-trained staff.</p> <p><u>Allocation Arrangements</u></p>	
7.2	<p>Gillian explained the marking allocation and how this is applied and the challenges faced. Gillian reminded markers and managers of the need for flexibility with the quid pro quo allocation arrangement due to complexities with resubmissions, award types and candidates who submitted from outside organisations. She stated that the Social Care Council are always looking for, and encourage new markers to come on board.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>PiP Award Ceremony</b>	
8.1	The virtual ceremony will take place on Monday, 19 September 2022 at 12noon	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	NA	
<b>10</b>	<b>Matters for Reporting to the Board</b>	
10.1	The chair confirmed she will take forward the discussion in relation to numbers of Social Working completing Leadership Awards to the Social Care Council Board for their information.	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Dates of Future Meetings</b>	
12.1	Wednesday, 21 September 2022 at 10am – Workshop	

Signed: Catherine McPhillips, Chair of Partnership Committee

*Catherine McPhillips*

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Date: 21 September 2022

### **Action List – 8 June 2022**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.1	Gillian	Continue to seek nominations for membership from NIGALA and BASW.	Open
4.2	Chair	Workforce / Agency Staff Update to be kept on agenda for further updates from all members.	Open
5.1	PiP Team	Actions from Business Report to be taken forward	Open

### **Action List – 23 February 2022**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
4.2	Chair	Anne McGlade to be invited to the next meeting of the PiP Partnership Committee.	Closed
4.2	Chair	Single Marking Proposal to be kept on agenda for further updates.	Closed
5.1	Sharon	Continue to seek nominations for membership from EANI, HSC Leadership Centre and NIGALA.	Ongoing
6.1	Adrian	Adrian to share presentation for meeting with representatives around Social Work in Schools in UK.	Open
6.1	Chair	Workforce / Agency Staff Update to be kept on agenda for further updates from all members.	Ongoing