

RISK ENVIRONMENT – HORIZON SCANNING – JUNE 2022

EXTERNAL

(Challenges arising from the external environment, which may not be within the Social Care Council's control)

- **COVID-19** – the pandemic remains within the community however cases are reducing and social distancing measures are relaxing.
- **NI Assembly** – The NI Assembly has not been reconvened following the May 2022 and this, together with the absence of a Health Minister may impact on policy and the appointment of Board members
- **The Draft Programme for Government** is currently out for consultation and the organisation has submitted a response;
- **Brexit** – out-workings may impact on the sector;
- **Socio-Cultural** – the public and stakeholders' expectations and needs are changing and the Social Care Council needs to be able to manage this;
- **Regulatory Reports** – recommendations arising from a range of regulatory reports and reviews in relation to the Social Care Sector may have an impact on the work and priorities for the Social Care Council. This includes the RQIA Report.
- **Reform Work** – the outcome from the consultation on the Reform of Adult Social Care may have a bearing on the programme of work for the organisation.
- **Social Care Strategy** – the lack of a focused approach to Social Care may affect the Social Care Council's ability to make a positive impact on this area of business in terms of Workforce Planning and raising standards.
- **Power to People Report** – DoH response to the Expert Report will impact on the Social Care Council's business agenda.

OPERATIONAL

(Challenges relating to business delivery)

- **COVID-19** – ~~has~~ impacted on how the organisation delivered its business and its workforce is currently working ~~piloting an agile working policy to inform how it will operate remotely from home however this has been managed well with plans to work in an agile way~~ in the future.
- **Financial pressures** may have a direct impact on service provision and the ability to deliver high quality services. ~~It is expected that HSC bodies will need to provide efficiencies to support shortfalls in HSC funding.~~
- **Quality and Standards** – resource pressures may impact on the Social Care Council's ability to deliver high quality services and meet its customer standards;
- **Workforce** – ~~issues with recruitment including attracting high quality staff~~, resource pressures and succession planning may impact on the Social Care Council's ability to retain staff and provide them with the necessary skills and opportunities to do their job to the best of their ability.
- **Relationships and Engagement** – resource pressures may impact on the Social Care Council's ability to fully and effectively engage with its key stakeholders;
- **Transformation Projects** – The DOH may require the organisation to support projects to support the social care sector.
- **Social Care Council Register** – work remains ongoing to support Registrants to engage digitally and to keep their portal accounts up to date.
- **Move to James House** – will provide a modern and digitally enabled environment that supports agile working and IT supported business.

APPENDIX III

CHANGE

(Challenges created by decisions to change the business)

- **Landscape Review** – the Report has now been produced and its recommendations will be given effect through the new Corporate Strategy.
- **Registration** – engagement with employers to ensure that only those who are working in the sector are on the register.
- **Fitness to Practise** – has been embedded and has changed how regulation is delivered. Growth in register has led to growth in FtP workload.
- **Transforming Your Care** – future anticipated changes will impact on Social Care Council's business and priorities;
- **Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2026** – details how social care practice will be delivered and this needs to be reflected in how the Social Care Council strategically manages its business;
- **New Corporate Strategy** – may present change and new priorities ~~and opportunities~~ for the organisation.