

# Northern Ireland Social Care Council Participation Partnership

**Unconfirmed Minutes**  
**Monday 6th March 2023**  
**James House**



**March**

**6th**



## **Members at the meeting:**

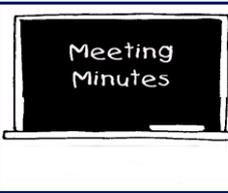
Sarah Browne (Chair) (Board Member)  
Anne Mallon (Co-Chair)  
Marcus Duignan  
Ronnie Patterson

## **Apologies:**

David Hayes (Board Member)  
David Gillen  
Maria Somerville  
Gerard McWilliams (Co-Chair)  
Joanne Sansome

## **In attendance for Social Care Council:**

Declan McAllister (Director of Registration and Corporate Services)  
Mandy Cowden (Professional Advisor)  
Andre McKeown (Evolution Manager)  
Rita Lewtas (Head of Strategic Communication & Engagement)  
Nicholas Campbell (Graphic Designer and Animator)  
Brian Moylan (Note taker)

1.		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome, Apologies, and Introductions</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>apologies</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACTION</b></p>
1.1	<p>Sarah Browne (Chair) welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and welcomed Ronnie Patterson to the group.</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair</b></p>
2.		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Previous Meeting's Minutes and Matters Arising</b></p>		
2.1	<p>Minutes from the previous meeting which was held on the 29th of November 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate statement and were passed for approval.</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair</b></p>
3.		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Matters Arising</b></p>		
3.1	<p>Declan informed the group that the report on the Reform of Adult Social Care may be with us by the end of March.</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Declan</b></p>
3.2	<p>Declan advised that the new Deputy Permanent Secretary for Social Services, Peter Toogood is setting up a Social Care Collaborative Forum and Patricia Higgins will sit on this group as a Co-Chair; Declan added that this is a big step for reforming adult social care and a central role for the Social Care Council and the Participation Partnership.</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Declan</b></p>
3.3	<p>Sarah advised that the group is still open to new members joining at present.</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair</b></p>

4.



### Chair's Update

4.1	Sarah put on record the group's deepest condolences to Alan on the passing of his wife Rosaleen.	Chair
4.2	Sarah informed the group that the Social Care Council were nominated for an Investors in People International Award for our flexible working arrangements and was the only public sector nomination. Unfortunately, the Council did not win but it is a great achievement to have been nominated.	Chair
4.3	Sarah advised that the Strategic Plan was sent out for consultation in January via a survey which will close on March 10 <sup>th</sup> .	Chair

5.



### Co-Chairs Update

5.1	Anne reported on the Southern Trust doing some work alongside the Ulster University and Professor Laurence Taggart on the future of carers; Anne advised that this project is currently looking for carers to volunteer for this piece of work.	Anne
5.2	Anne advised that her carers' group had a guest speaker in recently from the Clanrye Group to give an insight into what Clanrye do and offer and Anne reported that this was beneficial for the group.  <b>Action: IMPACT Meeting to be kept on agenda for an update from Gerard.</b>	Anne

**6.****Members Updates**

6.1	<p>Marcus reported that he is still involved with Clare CiC and suggested that a scoping exercise should be done to find out more about what smaller community- based organisations exist and what support they are contributing at present.</p> <p>Andre advised that our colleagues at PCC may be able to help with this with their Engagement Officers.</p>	<b>Marcus</b>
6.2	<p>Ronnie advised that it is important that those with disabilities should choose what they do in their lives and suggested that there should be programmes in government to help with getting disabled people into work.</p> <p>Sarah informed Ronnie that this is something that the Leaders in Social Care Partnership are currently looking at.</p>	<b>Ronnie</b>

**7.****Strategic Plan 2023-2027**

7.1	<p>Declan reported that there have been 152 responses to the online survey seeking views about the new Strategic Plan that was sent out recently via different communication channels.</p> <p>Declan provided examples of some of the feedback from the survey to the group, sharing both positive and negative responses.</p>	<b>Declan</b>
7.2	<p>Rita reported that there has been one promotional push at present for the virtual “In Your Shoes” event that will happen on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Rita advised that there will be a second promotional push this week followed by a weekly promotion.</p>	<b>Rita</b>

	<p><b>ACTION- Brian to gather contacts for more groups to distribute the event flyer to.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION- Brian to send out a reminder to registrants on the days before the virtual event.</b></p>	
<b>8.</b>	 <p><b>Progress on key priorities for the Participation Partnership</b></p>	
8.1	<p>Mandy informed the group that she is currently in the process of putting together an activity and outcome list for the Partnership that will keep a record of activities and groups the Partnership have been involved in during the year. We will start the next year from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023</p>	<b>Mandy</b>
8.2	<p>Mandy reported that Mary McColgan has been in contact and asked if there would be any volunteers from the group to look at a questionnaire she is planning to send out to service users and carers to seek their views about what behaviours should be expected of a Social Work student. Mary would like to meet some members of the Partnership to discuss how best to get people involved, give feedback about the questionnaire and to also hear the views of the Partnership about the issue..</p> <p>Andre advised the group that this is to learn from the experience of those in the group who have accessed social work services to try to influence and improve social work training.</p>	<b>Mandy</b>
<b>9.</b>	 <p><b>Any Other Business?</b></p>	
9.1	<p>Declan informed the group that there is currently an outstanding audit recommendation with respect to the development of an engagement strategy, Declan suggested that the Partnership should get together and look at this for the Council as a whole.</p>	<b>Declan</b>

9.2	Andre advised that she will be writing the Participation section for the annual report and will be in touch with the group at the end of March to confirm that all the groups work has been covered.	<b>Andre</b>
9.3	Marcus commented that he is very happy with the work that this group has been doing.	<b>Marcus</b>
9.4	Anne reported that she is eager to find out what will come out of the Social Care Collaborative Forum.	<b>Anne</b>
9.5	Mandy informed the group that all of Grace's treatments have all now finished and that she is in remission.	<b>Mandy</b>
9.6	Ronnie advised that he was happy to attend this meeting and would be happy to join the group as a member.	<b>Ronnie</b>
<p><b>ACTION: A small working group will be set up to develop and engagement strategy for the Social Care Council. Representatives from Social Care Council staff and the participation partnership will be sought.</b></p>		

### Dates of next meetings

- **Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 10:30am to 1pm**

<b>Approved by:</b>	Sarah Browne
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date of Approval:</b>	31/03/2023

## PARTICIPATION PARTNERSHIP

6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**ACTIONS LIST – 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023****ITEM****ACTION****Completed****Co-Chairs Update**

UPDATE

5.	IMPACT Meeting to be kept on agenda for Gerards update	Gerard	
5.	To invite Mervyn Bothwell to a future meeting for an update on the IMPACT group.	Mandy	

UPDATE

**Strategic Plan 2023-2027**

7.	Brian to gather contacts for more groups to distribute the event flyer to.	Brian	Completed and Closed.
7.	Brian to send out a reminder to registrants on the days before the virtual event.	Brian	Completed and Closed.



## Any Other Business?

9.	A small working group will be set up to develop and engagement strategy for the Social Care Council. Representatives from Social Care Council staff and the participation partnership will be sought.	Declan	Open
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