

Title: Northern Ireland Social Care Council – Draft Business Plan 2023-2024.

Date: 24 April 2023

Presented by: Patricia Higgins, Chief Executive

ACTION REQUIRED

This Paper is	For Review (and approval by 9 May 2023)
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SUMMARY

The Board are considering a new Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2027 following a period of consultation. The Strategic Plan has four new strategic themes and associated outcomes. To support the delivery of the Strategic Plan, the Social Care Council have developed a draft Business Plan for the first year of the new Strategy – 2023/24 [**Appendix I**].

Due to the timing of presenting the new draft Strategic Plan the draft Business Plan is being tabled to the Board – **with the Board being invited to comment by Tuesday 9 May** – this will allow for any changes to be considered and for the Business Plan to be published alongside the new Strategic Plan.

The draft Business Plan has been developed by the Senior Leadership Team with input from the Operational Leadership Team and staff. It takes into account the challenges facing the organisation in terms of priorities and resources – to strike an achievable balance to deliver its business (including its statutory functions) during 2023/24.

The draft Business Plan is outcomes based and will support us in the delivery of our strategic objectives and strategic outcomes.

The Business Plan has also been equality screened [**Appendix II**].

BACKGROUND

The Social Care Council's current Corporate Strategy expired in 2021. As the Board are aware, the Strategy was extended over the last couple of years following a direction from the Department of Health in response to the pressures of delivering business during the COVID pandemic. At the same time the DoH advised organisations that Business Plans

were not required – however the Board agreed to develop an internal (light touch) business plan in 2021/22 and 2022/23) to help the organisation manage its business over those years.

Now that a new Strategic Plan has been developed, officials have been developing a year one Business Plan (for 2023/24) for consideration by the Board (using an outcomes-based approach).

Staff in teams were engaged – together with the Senior Leadership Team and Operational Leadership Team – the primary engagement however was recognised through the extensive consultation on the Strategic Plan of which this Business Plan is part.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

The Business Plan has been developed over the four strategic themes. In addition to our core business the Plan describes actions we will take this year in support of our strategic themes and strategic outcomes, including –

- New ICT developments and initiatives – an upgrade to the Registration and Regulation ICT system, a new case management system to support Fitness to Practise and Committee, and a new App for registrants;
- A focus on engaging people who use services and carers to learn more about their experiences when using social work or social care services, to better inform our business;
- Engagement with registrants, employers and RQIA (in respect of employers) to ensure the Standards of Conduct and Practice are informing good practice;
- Promoting our data intelligence including the production of a new State of the Nation Report;
- Supporting the new Social Care Collaborative Forum;
- Promoting the PiP Framework;
- Developing a People Plan and preparing for IIP re-accreditation in March 2024.

The Business Plan remains in draft form – and we will now use this time to review the format and layout to freshen the image style so that it mirrors the Strategic Plan.

We appreciate that the Board will need time to review the draft and we are therefore seeking comments by Tuesday 9 May to enable us to finalise the draft for publication on our website (as with the Strategic Plan – subject also to approval by the DoH).

ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

The Business Plan consultation formed part of our consultation on the Strategic Plan – in addition to development and input from staff and managers. The Business Plan has been equality screened [**Appendix II**]. This includes a table of area/items that may or will be subject to equality screening during the course of the year – **pages 18-21 of the screening template refer.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board review the draft Business Plan for comments and approval by Tuesday 9 May [**Appendix I**] and consider the Equality Screening [**Appendix II**].

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS AND/OR LINKS HERE

Appendix I – Draft Business Plan 2023-2024

Appendix II – Equality Screening