

**Title: Chief Executive's Report**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Presented by: Patricia Higgins, Chief Executive**

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## **ACTION REQUIRED**

<b>This Paper is</b>	<b>For Information</b>
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## **SUMMARY**

This brief report outlines key activity undertaken since the last Board meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April, covering the period mid-April to mid-June 2024

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## **BACKGROUND**

The report gives an overview of the delivery of business to support registrants and stakeholders.

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## **KEY ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS**

None

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## **ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION**

Continued active engagement with all stakeholders to ensure the Social Care Council's business activity reflects the needs of the social work and social care workforces.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

N/A

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## **ATTACHED DOCUMENTS AND/OR LINKS HERE**

Appendix I - CEO's report

## **Appendix I**

### **Chief Executives Report**

#### **Board Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

This brief report covers the period mid-April to mid-June 2024

## **1. Internal Matters**

### **1.1 Investors in People**

In celebration of our achievement of the Platinum Investors in People Award and the Gold Health and Wellbeing Award, a group of staff from across all teams, along with SLT and the Deputy Chair, met with the Permanent Secretary for a photograph:



SLT and the Head of Business Services (Sandra) are attending the liP award ceremony on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

### **2.2 All-Staff Team Building event**

We held an all-staff team building event with Arts Care. The event enabled us to take time out as an organisation to reflect on our achievements and think about future change. Arts Care are a charitable organisation, funded by DoH, HSC Trusts, PHA and the Arts Council and provide creative activities through the arts to improve personal health and wellbeing.

## **2. External Engagement**

### **Meetings and Events**

During this reporting period I have been engaged in a number of strategic meetings and presentations:

#### **2.1 All Party Group on Skills**

On 15<sup>th</sup> May the APG on Skills held its first meeting in Stormont with employers of Social Care. The APG was attended by MLA's and was chaired by Sorcha Eastwood MLA. The focus of the APG is on ensuring that skills development and supply is supported to ensure shared, inclusive prosperity and well-being across all parts of Northern Ireland.

Employers discussed the challenges facing the social care sector both in terms of workforce recruitment and retention and also access to skills training – in particular the need to develop Apprenticeships in social care and invest in leadership development.

Further meetings are planned with education providers and government departments'; however, these meetings are now on hold until after the upcoming election.

#### **2.2 Research and Evidence Partnership Stakeholder event**

On 16<sup>th</sup> May we hosted a successful workshop to explore the establishment of the Research Partnership. A range of stakeholders were present and the event was addressed by Professor Brian Taylor (UU); Professor John Devaney (Edinburgh University); Professor Jonathon Jackson, Director of NI Clinical Research Network; and Professor David Hayes who will Chair the Partnership. Feedback from the event will be collated and used to assist in the establishment of the Research Partnership.

#### **2.3 Social Care Managers Forums**

Our 2 Spring Social Care Managers Forums were held in May in Portadown and Antrim. Both events were extremely well attended and we had managed to reach out to a wider audience through our marketing of the event. Participants were provided with a wide range of information including an introduction to the Social Care Collaborative Forum; up to date information about the development of the 'Care in Practice' career and qualification framework; introduction to our new values Based Retention toolkit. Feedback from the events is very positive with participants keen to learn about new initiatives.

#### **2.4 Social Work Leadership programme**

I participated in the Leading Social Work Programme. This programme is approved within our PiP framework and is a key leadership programme for social workers. I provided an input along with other social work leaders on my leadership journey.

### **3. Other Meetings Attended**

3.1 During this period, I have also engaged in the following meetings:

- CEO's UK Health and Social Care Workforce Regulators Group
- NI Social Work Leadership Network
- CEO's Small Regional ALB's group
- Skills for Care and Development UK and Ireland Alliance
- International Social Work Regulators Group
- CEO British Red Cross

Meetings with DoH:

- Meeting with OSS team to present our Business Plan
- Social Work Workforce Implementation Board
- End of year Ground Clearing Meeting (pre-end of year Accountability Meeting)

### **4. Looking Forward - upcoming meetings and events:**

- 25<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Fair Work Forum
- 8<sup>th</sup> July - HSR UK Research Conference, Oxford – presenting on social care in NI, along with representatives from the other UK nations.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July - launch of the 2024 'Making a Difference' social care campaign in the Long Gallery
- 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Deputy Chair and CEO end of year Accountability meeting with the Permanent Secretary
- 25<sup>th</sup> September – PiP Award Ceremony, Tullyglass Hotel.

**Patricia Higgins**

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2024**