

Title: The Regulation and Development of Education and Training and the Social Work Workforce report

Date: 6th December 2023

Presented by: Marian O'Rourke, Director of Regulation and Standards

ACTION REQUIRED

This Paper is	For Approval
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SUMMARY

This annual accountability report accounts for the regulation and development of social work education and training across the qualifying and post qualification spectrum. It also reports on monitoring and quality assurance of the social work workforce in undertaking on-going learning and development to support them in meeting their standards of conduct and practice and thereby maintain their registration.

BACKGROUND

The Health and Personal Social Services Act (NI) 2001 establishes the Social Care Council as the regulator for the social work workforce and for social work education and training. These statutory functions are laid out in Rules: The Registration Rules (2022), The Degree in Social Work Rules (2012) and the Professional in Practice Rules (Revised 2023). These functions are delivered under the Directorate of Regulation and Standards by executive staff and in partnership with our key stakeholders. The NI Degree Partnership is approved by the Social Care Council to oversee and manage regional arrangements for the delivery of the Degree in Social Work and the Professional in Practice Partnership is a sub-committee of the Board, reporting updates on a regular basis. The work is governed by a Quality Assurance Framework with regular reporting to the Senior Leadership Team and annual reporting to the Board.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

All of the statutory functions of regulating education and training and regulating the social workforce have been undertaken and delivered to the required standards with satisfied outcomes reported.

ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

The regulation of education and training is delivered in partnership with key stakeholders including education and training providers, employers, students, social workers and external assessors

RECOMMENDATIONS

The report is approved and made available for publication on the Council's website.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS AND/OR LINKS HERE

Appendix I - The Regulation and Development of Education and Training and the Social Work Workforce report