

# Northern Ireland Social Care Council Participation Partnership

**Confirmed Minutes**  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**James House / Hybrid MS Teams**



**September**  
**12th**



## **Members at the meeting:**

Sarah Browne (Chair) (Board Member)  
Anne Mallon (Co-Chair)  
Gerard McWilliams (Co-Chair)  
David Hayes (Board Member)  
Alan Richie  
Joanne Sansome  
Ronnie Patterson  
David Gillen  
Susan Croy (Cedar Foundation)

## **Apologies:**

Marcus Duignan  
Grace Price  
Maria Somerville  
Sandra Stranaghan (Head of Business Services)  
Andre McKeown (Evaluation Manager)

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

Paul Martin (Chair of Social Care Council)  
Declan McAllister (Director of Registration and Corporate Services)  
Mervyn Bothwell  
Alison Shaw

Mandy Cowden (Professional Advisor)


Rita Lewtas (Head of Strategic Communication & Engagement)

Nicholas Campbell (Graphic Designer and Animator)

Leona Devlin (Note Taker)

<b>1.</b>		<b>Welcome, Apologies, and Introductions</b>	<b>apologies</b> 	<b>ACTION</b>
1.1	Sarah Browne (Chair) welcomed and thanked everyone for coming today and also extended a warm welcome to Paul Martin (Chair) for joining the meeting. Apologies were received from Marcus Duignan, Grace Price, Maria Somerville, Sandra Stranaghan and Andre McKeown.			<b>Chair</b>
<b>2.</b>		<b>Previous Meeting's Minutes and Matters Arising</b>		
2.1	Minutes from the previous meeting which was held on the 6 <sup>th</sup> of June 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate statement and were passed for approval.			<b>Chair</b>
<b>3.</b>		<b>Matters Arising</b>		
3.1	Declan gave the group an update on the Social Care Collaborative Forum. The Social Care Collaborative Forum is chaired by Peter Toogood and Patricia Higgins and reports directly to Peter May Permanent Secretary through the Transformation Board.			<b>Declan</b>
3.2	The forum is taking forward many of the issues around Social Care, based on the challenges and			

	<p>recommendations which came out of the 2017 Power to People report alongside the Social Care Councils own reports e.g. Social Care Matters and Economic Profile. The Forum brings together the statutory independent and voluntary sectors working collaboratively with the SPPG and DOH.</p>	
3.3	<p>The work is broken into seven workstreams that look at the different aspects for example there is one workstream that focuses on looking at commissioning. The statutory sector is responsible for commissioning Social Care into the sector and at forum level we are happy that we have representation on the commissioning workstream.</p>	
3.4	<p>Declan and Ryan McWilliams from Connected Health are chairing a workstream on data research and evidence within Social Care. Peter May attended the last meeting and was very supportive of the work taking place. Declan will keep the Partnership updated on the progress of this forum. Sarah asked Declan if there still going to be a separate body known as the Fair Work Forum. Declan advised that John Patrick who was representing the unions attended the last forum meeting, and the understanding is they are looking to restart the Fair Work Forum.</p>	
3.5	<p>Joanne attends the main Collaborative Forum and would be open to joining any workstream that is relevant to service users and carers.</p>	
3.6	<p>Rita informed that Raissa from the Communications Team within the Social Care Council attends the Communications workstream which builds on the Leaders and Social Care Partnership. They have had one meeting so far which was focused on how to they can get the message out to people tell people about the forum, what it is and why it has been put together. The Communications</p>	


	<p>workstream is chaired by Agnes Lunny and JP Watson.</p> <p>3.7 Gerard had queried regarding the community and voluntary sector, if there had been any workscope around looking what are the resources out there to support the workforce e.g. working with other organisations within the workstream. Declan advised Gerard that there is a workstream that is focused on this.</p> <p>3.8 Declan provided an update on the Social Care Council app. The discovery phased has now been completed. The first phase on the release is solely based on Registration which will include making sure registrants can easily apply or update their registration and pay their fees on the app. The aim is to release the prototype which will be shared with around 2000 registrants in late October and then we will be focused on getting feedback on this.</p> <p>3.9 The second phase is focused on training, developing and content. There will be engagement completed with service users, carers and organisations who want to share content on the app platform and then this will be designed into the next phase of releasing the app which is aimed to be released January/February 2024. Declan will keep the partnership informed on the progress of the Social Care Council app.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	 <p><b>Chair's Update</b></p>	
<p>4.1</p>	<p>The strategic plan, business plan and annual report were all signed off at the last Board meeting which took place in July. They have been published and Declan and Mandy shared the links to these with the partnership.</p>	<p><b>Chair</b></p>

4.2	There has been no further update on the public appointment recruitment process as still in the waiting process for this to be sent out from the public appointment's office. As discussed, the board are seeking to find three non-executive directors one of them being a service user or carer. Paul is hopeful that we will be able to get this completed by around Christmas.	
4.3	The Council have a new boardroom apprentice Shauna Marie Carberry and Sarah would like to extend an invite for Shauna to join one of the partnership meetings.	
4.4	Mandy sent out information regarding the 10000 voices engagement event which is taking place next Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September.	

5.	 <b>Co-Chairs Update</b>	
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5.1	Anne took part in a podcast for the School of Nursing and Midwifery with Queens University. They have asked Anne to complete some lecture talks for them from October.	<b>Anne</b>
5.2	Gerard has been working with a number of universities in terms of the degree of Social Work and new Social Work roleplay. In particular the Open University, Gerard has been more involved on a strategic level, working alongside students, being involved within the feedback of their workshops.	<b>Gerard</b>
5.3	Gerard will be working alongside the student lectures for the training module in relation to learning disabilities for the Royal College of Nursing and Midwifery.	
5.4	Completed the four sessions of the IMPACT network.	

5.5	Completed work alongside Alison and Mairead from the Social Care Councils Workforce Development Team on the Human Rights module.	
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<b>6.</b>		<b>Members Updates</b>
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6.1	Ronnie suggested that as there is a champion for mental health that there should be one for learning difficulties. Declan advised that there is a report coming out from the Department in response to the recommendations.	
6.2	Susan reported that Cedar Foundation have been busy with the user forum, they have been engaged with thirteen different consultations within the first quarter of the year which has been mainly focused on disability action plans. They have had engagement with two internal consultations within Cedar. They have received feedback on previous consultations on evidence and the impact on the user forum. Cedar have been supporting the 'making a difference' campaign and have been involved working on the Adult Protection Engagement platform for Patient Client Council.	
6.3	Alan attended the Board meeting in July for observation and has signed up for the 10,000 voices which was sent out by Mandy.	
6.4	David Gillen has been continuing to work on workshops alongside Ciaran Trainor based on Trauma Informed Practice within Social Care and Social Work.	
6.5	Attending an annual visit to Queens University to facilitate information to Social Work students on previous experience as an ex service user particularly in terms of	

	Social Work values.	
6.6	David has been commissioned by the Children’s Law Centre to complete work in terms of children with severe learning disabilities and autism.	
6.7	Invited by the Arch Bishop in Downpatrick to speak in terms of experience in trauma influenced and safe guarding. This will take place in Portadown and Dundalk in November.	
6.8	Joanne is working alongside Tricia Devlin from the Social Care Councils Workforce Development team on the Review of the Degree in Social Work. They will be meeting for the third time this week. Completing work with Queens on their social policy degree.	

<b>7.</b>	 <b>Communications and Engagement Plan for Service Users and Carers</b>
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7.1	Rita and Declan delivered a PowerPoint presentation which will be sent out to all Participation Partnership members.	<b>Declan Rita</b>
7.2	Members shared feedback regarding the slide shared on ‘What we do now’. Anne noted that the Participation Partnership is an example of engagement as all members have different experience and connections and are involved in many different types of work. Ronnie suggested that an open day would be useful to invite learning disability groups along. Mandy agreed with the option of holding an open day although due to funding this could be held online although may receive a better audience face to face.	

<p>7.3</p> <p>7.4</p>	<p>Members shared feedback regarding the slide shared on 'why we are unique'. Gerard stated that voicing opportunities as we can hear from service user and care worker voices. Alan thinks that it would be important to have a natural interaction/connection with hearing service user/care worker voices directly although thought would be needed on how we could do this. Susan shared that Cedar would be happy to engage with the Social Care Council looking at values internally and externally. Ronnie shared that dealing with anybody with learning difficulties that using publications that are easy to read, include pictures and using braille for those who are blind.</p> <p>Members shared feedback regarding the slide shared on 'what is or is not important'. Anne shared that feedback is very important as this can show what impact is being made and gives value to the work they are doing. David Gillen suggested that not everyone may know who the Social Care Council are or what they do. Joanne shared a point of asking why are more service users needed and who are they directly for. Susan and Alan both had the approach of passing this onto different forums or groups although Ronnie shared that Mencap already do this and that possibly we could meet with them to discuss. David Gillen felt that the Social Care Council need to focus on how they are delivering. The term of regulatory body can confuse NISCC with RQIA.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b>  <b>Progress on key priorities and collation of activities for the Participation Partnership</b></p>		
<p>8.1</p>	<p>To pick up on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>Mandy</b></p>



9.



### Public Facing Poster nomination on "Who the Social Care Council are?"

9.1	To pick up on the agenda for the next meeting.	Rita
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### IMPACT Progress

10.1	Mervyn Bothwell from the Social Care Council Workforce Development Team delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the IMPACT progress which will be sent out to all Participation Partnership members.	Mervyn
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11.

### Any Other Business?




11.1	<p>To pick up on the following two agenda items at next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress on key priorities and collation of activities for the Participation Partnership</li> <li>- Public Facing Poster nomination on "Who the Social Care Council are?"</li> </ul>	
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### Dates of next meetings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30 am – 13.00 pm</li> </ul>	
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Approved by:		
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Signature:		
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Date of Approval:		
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## ACTIONS LIST

**ACTION**

**Completed**



**12<sup>th</sup> September 2023**



1.	To invite the Board Apprentice to a future meeting	Sarah	Open
2.	To invite Peter Toogood to a future meeting.	Declan	Open
3.	Update on the App Project.	Declan	Ongoing
4.	Video completed by Joanne and Joe Duffy from Queens to be shared with members.	Mandy	Closed
5.	To invite Mervyn Bothwell again after the IMPACT network meeting 2 has been completed.	Mandy	Open