

Northern Ireland Social Care Council Participation Partnership

Confirmed Minutes
Tuesday 06th June 2023
James House



June

6th



Members at the meeting:



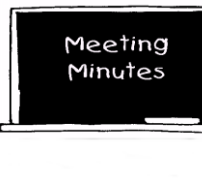

Sarah Browne (Chair) (Board Member)
Anne Mallon (Co-Chair) (Via Zoom)
Gerard McWilliams (Co-Chair)
Grace Price
Alan Richie
Joanne Sansome (Via Zoom)
Marcus Duignan
Ronnie Patterson
Susan Croy (Cedar Foundation)

Apologies:

David Gillen
David Hayes (Board Member)
Maria Somerville
Nicholas Campbell (Graphic Designer and Animator)


In attendance for Social Care Council:

Declan McAllister (Director of Registration and Corporate Services) (Via Zoom)
Mandy Cowden (Professional Advisor)
Rita Lewtas (Head of Strategic Communication & Engagement)
Sandra Stranaghan (Head of Business Services) (Via Zoom)
Leona Devlin (Note taker)
Andre McKeown (Evaluation Manager)

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| 1. |  | <p style="text-align: center;">Welcome, Apologies, and Introductions</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">apologies</p>  | ACTION |
| 1.1 | <p>Sarah Browne (Chair) welcomed and thanked everyone for coming today. The Chair welcomed Susan Croy from Cedar Foundation to the group and welcomed back Grace and Alan to the group. Apologies were received from David Hayes, David Gillen, Maria Somerville and Nicholas Campbell.</p> | | | Chair |
| 2. |  | <p style="text-align: center;">Previous Meeting's Minutes and Matters Arising</p> | | |
| 2.1 | <p>Minutes from the previous meeting which was held on the 6th of March 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate statement and were passed for approval.</p> | | | Chair |
| 3. |  | <p style="text-align: center;">Matters Arising</p> | | |
| 3.1 | <p>Declan advised that the report on the Reform of Adult Social Care has now been published by the Department of Health. The report is available for all members to review. The report reflects all elements from the consultation and the Social Care Council's Senior Leadership team are working through the document to establish what this means for the organisation. The main piece of work the Social Care Council will be involved in is the Social Care Collaborative Forum. Patricia Higgins is Joint Chair of this new forum along with Peter Toogood from the Department of Health.</p> | | | Declan |

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| 3.2 | <p>Declan also advised the group that seven workstreams have been set up including one on Social Care Data Intelligence and Evidence. Declan McAllister and Ryan Williams from Connected health will Chair this workstream and any members from the Participation Partnership who would like to join the workstream are welcome to do so.</p> | Declan |
| 3.3 | <p>Alan advised that he is pleased to see his own views on the response in the Consultation Summary report on Social Care Reform.</p> | Alan |
| 3.4 | <p>Rita informed the group that she is pleased to see communications for recognition and value of the Social Care as a workstream.</p> | Rita |
| 3.5 | <p>Grace reported that the forum needs to look at the level of difficulties with getting social workers into posts because most of the issues are due to their temporary/short term contracts.</p> | |
| 3.6 | <p>The Chair and Declan have both acknowledged the financial challenges within the workforce and have informed the partnership that Peter Toogood is adamant that he wants to see action in practice and is demanding the public carers can see changes happening. This will be a long-term project. Joanne has meetings in place with Peter Toogood and Patricia Higgins to discuss issues affecting people who use services. Peter said he would like to hear public voices and experiences and feels that it would be beneficial if they could be invited along to a Participation Partnership meeting.</p> | Declan |

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| 3.7 | <p>Declan informed the group that the Strategic Plan for 2023-27 has been finalised. He also shared a presentation on the Business Plan for 2023-2024. The next steps are to finalise the draft Business Plan, share the draft with the group to review. Once the plan is approved, it will be published on the website. The management team will report on progress quarterly to the Board and produce an Annual Report at the end of the business year.</p> | Declan |
| 3.8 | <p>Registration Mobile App Update – Declan shared an update on each phase planned for development of the new Social Care Council app. This is planned to go live in January 2024. The app will be free to download and Declan as the lead on the app project wants this app to be user friendly and have relevant content.</p> <p>The team developing the app will be engaging other organisations who are delivering services with all types of support needs. Alan suggested that acronyms should be avoided and the app is tested to make sure it is written in plain English. Grace suggested that some resources would need audio descriptions. Ronnie shared the idea to use pictures to assist people who have difficulty reading or who have learning disabilities. Declan confirmed that the app developer has taken these accessibility issues into consideration and will give a progress update on the app project at the next Participation Partnership meeting.</p> | Declan |
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;"> 4.  Chair's Update </div> | | |
| 4.1 | Sarah informed the group that Peter Toogood attended the | |

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| | <p>latest Board meeting and has expressed his interest in the Partnership. Sarah reported that she was impressed by his enthusiasm and understanding of Social Care as someone who is trying to understand key issues of social care.</p> | Chair |
| 4.2 | <p>Sarah advised that an independent review of Board Membership had taken place looking at the number of members and the range of skills. The outcome recommended the Board should be made up of eight Board Members and one Chair. Currently the Board has three current vacancies which will be one for a service user/carer, one for an accountant/person with a finance background and the third for a person with a social care background/experience. Sarah will keep the group updated on the progress of this.</p> | Chair |
| 4.3 | <p>Sarah reported that the new Social Care Council 'Care to Chat' podcast channel launched on 31 May. These recorded chats have been hosted by Wendy Austin. There are already 3 podcasts available to listen to online and there will be 14 in total. The podcasts will be released every two weeks on a Wednesday until November 2023.</p> | Chair |
| 5. |  <p>Co-Chairs Update</p> | |
| 5.1 | <p>Gerard informed the group that there have been two separate parts of the IMPACT Assembly that have been running for the past year and six months. The IMPACT assembly meet on a quarterly basis. This is a UK-wide study into social care reform which is led by Professor Deirdre Heenan from Ulster University. The focus is looking at the issues around social care. The study is looking at new approaches to service delivery, for example a project</p> | Gerard |

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| 5.2 | <p>here in Northern Ireland called 'aging well', which focuses on wider well-being. The project is looking at resolving social issues from a community development prospective. This UK project has received funding of sixteen million pounds to run this project across the four nations. Gerard will update after the next meeting.</p> <p>Gerard reported that he is working alongside Social Care Council colleagues Patricia Higgins, Alison Shaw and Helen McVicker on developing content for human rights learning resources for social workers.</p> | Gerard |
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| 6. |  <p>Members Updates</p> | |
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| 6.1 | <p>As part of UK Carers week, Anne will be completing a podcast on Friday with the school of Nursing at Queens University. It will be available from the QUB website.</p> <p>Rita suggested if everyone could share the information on the podcasts with their networks and friends so they can reach as many people as possible.</p> <p>Anne advised that there is a study being taken forward by the Degree in Social Work Partnership to review the guidance on protocols for social work students learning and development whilst they are on their Degree course. Anne is involved in this piece of work alongside Mary McColgan who is leading the study. This work is ongoing.</p> <p>Anne informed the group that discussions in the Southern Trust have also taken place with families and carers around the delivery of cross-border services and there will be further discussions on this.</p> | ALL |
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| 6.5 | <p>Joanne has met with Mary McColgan as part of the student protocol review. Joanne has also recently agreed to be on the working group for the Five-Year Review of the Degree in Social Work which takes place in the next six months. She is also is involved in work regarding the Social Care Collaborative Forum with Peter Toogood and Patricia Higgins. Another project Joanne has been involved in is with the Equality Commission on the impact on people's rights after the UK exit from the EU.</p> | |
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| 7. |  <p style="text-align: center;">Annual Report 2022/2023 and Budget Review 2023/2024 PPI Report</p> | |
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| 7.1 | <p>The Annual Report for 2022-23 includes a PPI report which reflects on all achievements and work completed by the Partnership. Sandra had asked the group if they feel this reflects all the activity completed within 2022-2023. Final changes can be accepted within the next couple of weeks. Sarah has already sent a few comments back for the report.</p> | ALL |
| 7.2 | <p>Grace commented that that Homelessness and Self-harm are topics which are not promoted enough and perhaps should be considered future events or promotional works.</p> | |

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| 8. |  <p style="text-align: center;">Working Group – Development of an Engagement Strategy and Review of “In Your Shoes” event</p> | |
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| 8.1 | <p>Declan made a presentation about engagement which is looking at how the Social Care Council should share our its ambitions and involve people as it develops as an organisation. The engagement plan recognises that it is important to hear and listen to all people who use services</p> | Declan and Rita |
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| | <p>and their carers to find out about the social work and care services that are being provided. Declan reported on work being taken forward to improve Council engagement with registrants. A steering group of Board members, staff and registrants is looking at how best to improve the previous registrant’s forum. Declan advised that there is a survey out at the moment with registrants to ask them how they want to engage with the Social Care Council.</p> <p>Over the next months, the Social Care Council will be reaching out to all stakeholder groups, including people who use services and carers to find out Where do we want to go? and What are the next steps? To deliver effective regulation, the Council needs to know the views of all stakeholders and how they want to be involved. The Council wants to support the workforce to deliver high quality care. The development of the engagement strategy will help the Council to see how best they can influence social care improvement and reform. Declan is open to hear views on how to take this forward and which engagement methods would work best for everyone.</p> | |
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9. Progress on key priorities for the Participation Partnership

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| 9.1 | Sarah commented on the wide range of opportunities available for the Partnership members to work with the Council on. The group is small and everyone has lots of commitments. It was agreed that the Partnership members would focus on a few key activities to make sure that the workload is manageable and achievable. | All |
| 9.2 | Mandy commented that there is a regional PPI event in September which may be a good opportunity to share the materials which were developed for the ‘In Your Shoes’ campaign. As a number of members are new to the Partnership, Mandy suggested that video that Joanne and Joe Duffy from Queens University created could be shared | Mandy |

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| | with the members to let them see the opportunities that engagement can bring. | |
| 10. Disability and Equality Action Plan Consultation | | |
| 10.1 | <p>As a public body, the Social Care Council has to publish plans to show how they meet their duties under Disability and Equality legislation. Sandra Stranaghan shared a presentation with the group to summarise legislation in place to help protect the rights of the nine equality groups and the reports that the Council prepares each year to demonstrate the work carried out to promote equality and rights.</p> <p>This year, the Social Care Council is due to review the 5-year Disability and Equality action plans. These plans help to ensure all staff within the Social Care Council are trained in equality and diversity. The new plans will also include an action to ensure all staff are trained in race equality which is a new requirement.</p> | Sandra |
| 10.2 | <p>The Disability action plan continues to raise awareness of the range of disabilities and the needs and experiences of people with a disability. Every year the Council participates in the HCS scheme to offer work placements which support people with a disability to get into employment. The Council is also a member of the HSC Tapestry network which develops resources and hosts information sessions to raise awareness about disability. Participation members are welcome to share their views on the new action plans with Sandra over the next 3-4 weeks. The new draft plans will be shared again to all members of the Partnership.</p> | Sandra |

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| 11. | Any Other Business? |  |
| 11.1 | Alan raised concerns about the Muckamore enquiry and would like to know if anybody at Board level is monitoring this. Sarah and Declan agreed to raise this at the next Board meeting and Declan will discuss this with the Senior Leadership Team. | Alan |
| 11.2 | Rita suggested that everyone shares the information on the podcasts that are going to be released every two weeks to get a greater audience. | Rita |
| 11.3 | If anybody is interested in joining the Data Intelligence Workstream to contact Declan. | Declan |
| Dates of next meetings | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 12th September at 10:30am to 1pm | |
| Approved by: | Sarah Browne | |
| Signature: |  | |
| Date of Approval: | 12/09/2023 | |

PARTICIPATION PARTNERSHIP

6TH JUNE 2023

ACTIONS LIST – 6TH JUNE 2023

ITEM

ACTION

Completed



Co-Chairs Update



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| 1. | To invite Mervyn Bothwell to a future meeting for an update on the IMPACT group. | Mandy | Closed |
| 2. | To invite Peter Toogood to a future meeting. | Declan | Open |
| 3. | Update on the App Project. | Declan | Closed |
| 4. | Video completed by Joanne and Joe Duffy from Queens to be shared with members. | Mandy | Open |