

Title: Board Self-Assessment 2023/24

Date: 16 April 2024

Presented by: Declan McAllister, Director of Registration & Corporate Services

ACTION REQUIRED

This Paper is	For Approval
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SUMMARY

The Social Care Council's Board is required to carry out an annual Board Self-Assessment against best practice guidance issued by the Department of Health.

An overview of the Board's Self-Assessment from 2023/24 together with identified evidence has been developed for the Board's consideration [**Appendix I**].

The Board are being invited to review, and approve the draft self-assessment. The overall assessment is assessed as 'Green' (this is explained in more detail below).

A Board Effectiveness Audit will also be carried out by Internal Audit in May/June 2024 (this takes place once every three years) and a survey has been issued by Internal Audit to support this audit. The outcome of the Board Effectiveness Audit will be shared with Board members.

Subject to discussion at Board level, no new actions have been identified on the Actions Plan [**Appendix II**]. However, the Board will be invited to consider this further at the meeting.

BACKGROUND

The outcomes of the Board's Self-Assessment are reported in the Social Care Council's Governance Statement which is published in the Annual Report and Accounts. The Board's Self-Assessment for 2022/23 was published in the Governance Statement for that business year.

The template for the Board Self-Assessment is provided by the DoH and comprises four Board Indicators –

- Board Composition and Commitment
- Board Evaluation, Development and Learning
- Board Insight and Foresight
- Board Engagement and Involvement

The Board are being invited to consider the 2023/24 Self-Assessment [**Appendix I**] to determine to what extent it varies or remains applicable.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

2023/24 Self-Assessment Review

The Board Self-Assessment is attached at **Appendix I**. In the 2022/23 business year, all areas of compliance were assessed as 'Green'. Having reviewed the assessment for the 23/24 business year – it is recommended that all areas of compliance remain **Green**.

The assessment methodology is below:

Assessment	Explanation
Green	All good practices are in place and no red flags identified
Amber/Green	Some elements of good practice are in place and one red flag where there is an action plan to address it.
Amber/Red	Some elements of good practice are in place and two or more red flags but action plans are in place.
Red	Action plans to remove or mitigate against red flags are in place, on track or are robust

Since the last Self-Assessment in April 2022, the Board completed an independent assessment review report on Board Skills and Recommendations for the structure of the Board from 2023 onwards. The Board have also approved a new Strategic Plan.

Action Plan

The Action Plan from last year has been updated for review below. In doing so a revised Action Plan is attached at **Appendix II** for the Board's review and consideration.

BOARD'S SELF-ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN 2022/23 (UPDATED AT APRIL 2024)			
ACTION	TARGET DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME	PROGRESS
1. Board Membership should be reviewed to consider what skills and expertise should form part of the recruitment process.	Sept 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment is designed to ensure an appropriate skills mix. Secondary outcome – development plan in place to support the Board. 	Completed: Review of Board skills and mix carried out during 2023/24
2. PAU and DoH engaged for future	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phased recruitment and renewal plan ensuring there 	This work will continue to progress during 2023/24

planning for renewals and recruitment at Board level to better stagger appointments		are Members in post with experience to balance with the number of new appointments.	and will take account of the recent Board Skills audit. Update: Completed . DOH Sponsor Branch have submitted the Board recruitment requirements to the Public Appointments Unit and confirmation has been obtained that recruitment will commence in the Summer for the current vacancies.
3. The induction programme for new Members should be reviewed to include the wider context within which the Social Care Council operates.	Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Induction Plan and pathway in place. 	Completed : Induction pack is available to be deployed alongside recruitment – this will be refreshed again (if needed) depending on the timing of recruitment.

Overall Assessment

Using the RAG rating and assessment criteria described in the Board Self-Assessment template (also see above), the overall high-level summary of the Board's Self-Assessment against each of the indicators is set out below (this information will form part of the 2023/24 Governance Statement which is published in the Annual Report and Accounts).

Indicator		Board's Assessment 2022/23	Board's Assessment 2023/24
1.	Board Composition and Commitment		
1.1	Board positions and size	Green	Green
1.2	Balance and calibre of Board members	Green	Green
1.3	Role of the Board	Green	Green
1.4	Committees of the Board	Green	Green
1.5	Board member commitment	Green	Green
2.	Board Evaluation, Development and Learning		
2.1	Effective Board level evaluation	Green	Green
2.2	Whole Board development programme	Green	Green
2.3	Board induction, succession and contingency planning	Green	Green
2.4	Board member appraisal and personal development	Green	Green
3.	Board Insight and Foresight		
3.1	Board performance reporting	Green	Green
3.2	Efficiency and Productivity	Green	Green

3.3	Environmental and strategic focus	Green	Green
3.4	Quality of Board papers and timeliness of information	Green	Green
3.5	Assurance and risk management	Green	Green
4.	Board Engagement and Involvement		
4.1	External stakeholders	Green	Green
4.2	Internal stakeholders	Green	Green
4.3	Board profile and visibility	Green	Green

ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

The Board are invited to review the draft self-assessment at their Board meeting in April 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is invited to approve the Self-Assessment [**Appendix I**] and draft Action Plan for the year ahead [**Appendix II**].

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS AND/OR LINKS HERE

Appendix I – Board's Self-Assessment 2023/24

Appendix II – Action Plan