

## RISK ENVIRONMENT – HORIZON SCANNING – APRIL 2024

### EXTERNAL

(Challenges arising from the external environment, which may not be within the Social Care Council's control)

- **NI Assembly** – the NI Assembly, having returned in February 2024, may set revised or new programmes for change.
- **Brexit** – out-workings may impact on the sector.
- **Socio-Cultural** – the public and stakeholders expectations and needs are changing and the Social Care Council needs to be able to manage this;
- **Cost of Living** – the cost of living crisis may impact on communities, funding, poverty and employment.
- **Climate Change** – may impact communities, individuals, environment, funding and ability to deliver business in the future.
- **Regulatory Reports** – recommendations arising from a range of regulatory reports and reviews in relation to the Social Care Sector may have an impact on the work and priorities for the Social Care Council. This includes the RQIA Report.
- **Reform Work** – the outcome from the consultation on the Reform of Adult Social Care may have a bearing on the programme of work for the organisation.
- **Social Care Strategy** – the lack of a focused approach to Social Care may affect the Social Care Council's ability to make a positive impact on this area of business in terms of Workforce Planning and raising standards.
- **Power to People Report** – DoH response to the Expert Report will impact on the Social Care Council's business agenda.

### OPERATIONAL

(Challenges relating to business delivery)

- **Financial pressures** may have a direct impact on service provision and the ability to deliver high quality services. HSC bodies will need to provide efficiencies to support shortfalls in HSC funding.
- **Quality and Standards** – resource pressures may impact on the Social Care Council's ability to deliver high quality services and meet its customer standards;
- **Workforce** – issues with recruitment including attracting high quality staff, resource pressures and succession planning may impact on the Social Care Council's ability to retain staff and provide them with the necessary skills and opportunities to do their job to the best of their ability.
- **Relationships and Engagement** – resource pressures may impact on the Social Care Council's ability to fully and effectively engage with its key stakeholders
- **Transformation Projects** – The DOH may require the organisation to support projects to support the social care sector.
- **Social Care Council Register** – work remains ongoing to support Registrants to engage digitally and to keep their portal accounts up to date.
- **Agile Working** – James House and the Agile Working Policy are supporting business and staff to deliver their functions in a flexible and modern way.

## APPENDIX III

### CHANGE

(Challenges created by decisions to change the business)

- **Landscape Review** – the Report has now been produced and its recommendations will be given effect through the new Strategic Plan 2023-2027
- **Registration** – engagement with employers to ensure that only those who are working in the sector are on the register.
- **Fitness to Practise** – has been embedded and has changed how regulation is delivered. Growth in register has led to growth in FtP, Committee and Registration teams' workload.
- **Transforming Your Care** – future anticipated changes will impact on Social Care Council's business and priorities;
- **Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2026** – details how social care practice will be delivered and this needs to be reflected in how the Social Care Council strategically manages its business;
- **New Strategic Plan** – provides a pathway to deliver our priorities and ambitions over the next four years.

