

Northern Ireland Social Care Council Participation Partnership

Confirmed Minutes
Tuesday 12th December 2023
James House / Hybrid MS Teams



December





12th


Members at the meeting:


Sarah Browne (Chair) (Board Member)
Declan McAllister (Director of Registration and Corporate Services)
Gerard McWilliams (Co-Chair)
Andre McKeown (Evaluation Manager)
Alan Ritchie
Susan Croy (Cedar Foundation)
Mandy Cowden (Professional Advisor)
Grace Price
Maria Somerville
Ronnie Patterson
Rita Lewtas (Head of Strategic Communication & Engagement)
Nicholas Campbell (Graphic Designer and Animator)
Declan Beare (Note Taker)

Apologies:

Joanne Sansome
Marcus Duignan
Sandra Stranaghan (Head of Business Services)
Anne Mallon (Co-Chair)
David Hayes (Board Member)
David Gillen

1.		<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome, Apologies, and Introductions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">apologies</p> 	ACTION
1.1	Sarah welcomed everyone and introductions were made.			Chair
2.		<p style="text-align: center;">Previous Meeting's Minutes and Matters Arising</p>		
2.1	Previous minutes were agreed by all members.			Chair
3.		<p style="text-align: center;">Matters Arising</p>		
3.1	Sarah noted that today's agenda included an update about Service User and Carer involvement in the work of the Social Care Collaborative Forum. Declan gave a short update in Joanne's absence.			
3.2	Declan explained that, Patricia Higgins, Chief Executive, co-chairs the Social Care Collaborative Forum (SCCF) with Peter Toogood, Deputy Secretary for Social Care Policy in the Department of Health. 8 workstreams have been established which are progressing well. Gerard reported that he is a member of the Service User and Carer workstream.			
3.3	Rita noted that she is a member of the Communications workstream which is focused on promoting social care. There has been a lot of activity through digital media and in-person engagement. The SCCF will share more information on a website which is currently under development.			
3.4	Grace suggested a review of what the Participation Partnership members contribute and Grace asked for			

	<p>more work to be done regarding homelessness and mental health. Mandy responded that there has been some recent work being done to highlight issues of homelessness; the Social Care Council has worked with the Homelessness Prevention Forum to produce a homelessness resource and the group did a lunchtime Seminar. The group includes service users and carers. for the Grace offered to get involved in any future resources or podcasts about homelessness. Both Gerard and Grace talked about the impact hearing from someone with lived experience can have.</p>	
3.5	<p>Gerard provided an update on part of his work at the Patient Client Council which is working with the Housing Executive looking at involvement of service users and stakeholders.</p>	
3.6	<p>Ronnie asked whether the Partnership could invite the Chair of the Housing Committee to a meeting if the assembly is up and running. It was agreed this may not be possible however it was suggested that we could explore issues of homelessness and housing and raise awareness through a lunchtime seminar.</p>	
3.7	<p>Grace commented on the difficulties people have in accessing social work support and she felt that social workers don't care about people with mental health issues. Mandy referred to recent SCC audit of newly qualified social workers who are talking about being stressed because they can see the supports and services people need, but the resources aren't there to meet the need.</p>	
3.8	<p>Maria commented on the central importance of relationships in social work and how this is gone but needs to be placed front and centre of social work.</p>	
4.	 <p>Chair's Update</p>	
4.1	<p>Sarah congratulated Joanne on the launch of her film</p>	

	'Where There's a Will, There's a Way' last week at QFT and was featured on radio and social media. Rita agreed to share a link to the film with the Participation Partnership.	Chair Action - Rita
4.2	Ronnie noted he made a film with Mencap about his work at the MAC and should have a copy of it on a memory stick which he can share.	
4.3	Susan gave an update on work happening at Cedar. She advised that a service user has been involved in student occupational therapists' training. They are giving their experience of what supports are needed to help support someone with a brain injury and informing the students of the care they want. Susan will bring more information on this to a future meeting.	
4.4	Mandy will ask colleague, Tricia Devlin, about the work that is current underway to review the standards for the Degree. Tricia may be able to attend a meeting and she can give us better insight into how SCC is ensuring service users and carers are involved in social work education and training.	Action - Mandy
4.5	Sarah invited members to a Council workshop on 14 th February which is about Climate Change and also about our Equality and Disability Plans.	
5.	 <p>Co-Chairs Update a. Impact meeting b. Human rights resource pilot launch</p>	
5.1	Gerard is still involved with IMPACT (Improving Adult Care Together) and is part of a group which is looking at the health and wellbeing of the social care workforce and developing tools and guidance. The next meeting in January should be the final stage of the project.	
5.2	Gerard is also working with the Council to develop the Human Rights Toolkit which is an e-learning resource for social workers to help embed more Human Rights into	



	practice and promote them.	
5.3	<p>Gerard attended an event run by Joe Duffy at QUB focussing on improving student social work training through t listening to our shared experience and developing good practice models for Service User and Carer involvement. There were lots of great suggestions to take forward. Maria noted she attended too and enjoyed the event.</p> <p>Gerard is also working with OU social work students with preparing for practice module through role plays.</p>	
5.4	Alan noted that IMPACT are having a four-nation event as part of their consultation. He has been reading the recent IMACT report and noted that it is confusing in parts and lacks substance. Also refers to IMPACT Age well and IMPACT who are separate entities with similar names.	


6.



Members Updates

6.1	Maria noted she's working with Queens University School of Nursing to support student nurse training. Maria has recorded a video for the resource, describing how good social care supports her family and her role as a carer.	
6.2	Maria is also involved in the regional Quality Improvement Programme for social workers and nurses. This programme originally was just for social workers and has now been widened to nurses and will extend more.	
6.3	There was a discussion about the draft reimbursement policy for service users and carers and that this has been delayed. Was to be piloted. Mandy and Gerard will ask for an update at the next PPI meeting.	Mandy and Gerard
6.4	Susan advised that Cedar hosts six Service User Forums. In the last quarter, they looked at 7 different pieces of work including local councils action plans for physical activity, Stena Line service review to support people with hidden disabilities and providing service user experience	

	for Ulster University Occupational Therapy students.	
7.		Key priorities for the participation partnership
7.1	Mandy suggested having a template to log what activities group members are involved in. Working on a template. Agenda item for next meeting.	Action: Mandy
8.		Mince Pie Break
8.1	Short break took place	
9.		Social Care 'still' matters
9.1	Andre updated the group about a report called 'Social Care Still Matters'. The Council want service users and carers to inform the report. The report will be produced once a year.	
10.		Communications and engagement plan for service users and carers-update
10.1	Rita provided an update on the engagement strategy which she hopes to have drafted in the New Year. Rita advised that a lot of work has been done to rethink registrant engagement with social care workers and social workers. The Council proposes standing down the current format for the Registrant Forum and establishing two separate forums – one for social work and one for social care. This decision is based on recommendations from the project team which has been working during the last year to review the forums and its purpose.	

11.	Public Facing Poster nomination on “who the Social Care Council are”?	
11.1	Rita advised that we are looking at how we raise awareness about the Council and what we do to improve standards in social care. We will be looking at promotional opportunities, look at creating flyers or posters etc. Rita asked if anyone from Participation would consider joining a small working group.	Action: Contact Rita if interested
11.2	We also want to develop another series of Podcasts for the next business year and hope to go live with these in June 2024. We also plan to work with Wendy Austin. The Participation Partnership could be the subject of a podcast. We are asking Participation members to help us think through the next series of Care to Chat podcasts. It was agreed that this could also look at the title of the podcasts. It was also agreed to share these with Cedar	
11.3	There was a discussion about reaching out to more people and improving accessibility, other languages, braille etc.	
11.4	Mandy commented that the Social Work Awards are being hosted by the Western Trust next year. They will be held in Enniskillen. The Council will be involved in managing the applications and the judging panels. The panels must all have a service user or carer on them. There will be people invited from service user and carer groups front he Health and Social Care Trusts and other organisations.	



Dates of next meetings

- **12th March 2024**

Approved by:

Signature:	
Date of Approval:	

<u>ACTIONS LIST</u>			
		ACTION	Completed
		12th December 2023	
			
1.	Group to help come up with a participation partnership idea for a podcast episode for next year's Care to Chat podcast series	Rita	
2.	Andre and Mandy to draft a template to track the work carried out by members for the Council and share with members	Andre and Mandy	