



Northern Ireland Social Care Council  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor James House  
2 Cromac Avenue  
Belfast | BT7 2JA

Tel: 02895362600  
Web: [www.niscc.info](http://www.niscc.info)

## Leaders in Social Care Partnership

11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 10am

Council 1&2, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, James House

### Confirmed

#### In Attendance

Sarah Browne, Chair  
Marian O'Rourke  
Dory Kidd  
Patricia Higgins Co Chair  
Carina Boyle  
Agnes Lunny  
Ryan Williams  
Rita McCullagh  
Catherine Maguire  
Paul Rooney  
Kelly Devlin  
Pauline Shepherd  
Mairead Harkin  
Andriana Alkiviadou, note taker

Board Member, Social Care Council  
Social Care Council  
Harmony Community Care Services  
Social Care Council  
Western Trust (Joined by MS Teams)  
Positive Futures  
Connected Health  
Social Care Council  
Social Care Council  
Social Care Council  
Cedar Foundation  
Independent Healthcare Providers  
Social Care Council  
Social Care Council

#### Apologies

Jenny Johnston  
Denise Magill  
Fiona McClean  
Clodagh O'Brien  
Alison Simpson  
Kirsten Hewitt  
Caroline Bucklee  
Audrey Murphy  
William Morrow  
Tina O'Reilly  
JP Watson  
Leslie-Anne Newton


Southern Trust  
Triangle Housing  
South Eastern Trust  
Belfast Trust  
Extra Care  
Simon Community  
Northern Trust  
MCare NI  
Inspire  
Extern NI  
Domestic Care NI  
ARC

Item	Agenda
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>
1.1	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies as above.
1.2	SB announced that PH will retire by the end of October this year. She confirmed that PH will be still in attendance for the next meeting on the 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2024.
1.3	SB advised that item 5 of the agenda is no longer required. Yvonne McKnight was due to attend the Partnership meeting in March, which was cancelled. She has indicated that she has now completed the training needs analysis in relation to the introduction of the Adult Protection Bill. Some members noted that she had met with them as part of that process.
2.	<b>Minutes from Previous Meeting</b>
	The minutes of the previous meeting on 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.
3.	<b>Matters Arising</b>
	All matters arising were completed and there were no further actions to follow.
4.	<b>Social Care Campaign – update by RMcC and AL</b>
	<p>AL gave a brief update of the actions that took place since last year’s evaluation of the campaign as below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A workshop and two planning meetings have taken place with the Communications Workstream.</li> <li>• The confirmed date for the next Social Care Campaign is the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024.</li> <li>• Work is in progress to draft an evaluation template.</li> </ul>
4.1	<p>RMcC shared an overview of the journey and the aim of the Social Care campaign and walked through the running order of the launch day.</p> <p>RMcC confirmed that the launch date has now changed to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 due to the announcement of the general election and it will take place at the Long Gallery in Stormont. MLA Liz Kimmins has agreed to sponsor the event.</p> <p>An invitation has been issued to the following groups;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLAs,</li> <li>• Department of Health representatives,</li> <li>• Social Care Collaborative Forum,</li> <li>• Leaders in Social Care Partnership,</li> <li>• Participation Partnership,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications Workstream</li> <li>• Social care workers and people who have participated in podcasts, videos and stories including families.</li> </ul> <p>Minister Nesbitt, Peter Toogood, Peter May and Aine Morrison have also confirmed their attendance and Wendy Austin has been commissioned as compere for the event.</p> <p>RMcC confirmed that all videos, podcasts and stories have now been completed and edited. These include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 ‘Hero’ stories – links to the videos are included below;  <a href="#">Melvin (full version original) (youtube.com)</a>  <a href="#">Natasha - The Cedar Foundation (full version original) (youtube.com)</a></li> <li>• 3 Podcasts which have already been recorded,</li> <li>• 8 Digital Stories.</li> </ul> <p>She also shared a brief update of the program running order as follow;  The event will start at 10:30a.m with AL and PH opening and setting the scene followed by MLA Liz Kimmins’s welcome.  1<sup>st</sup> video screening (Melvin’s story) with Melvin introducing the video as a compere, follow ‘thank you’ by AL.  Continue with a Social Care – career progression story from Kerry Mallon, Republic of Ireland Director of Positive Futures, follow ‘thank you’ by the Health Minister.  2<sup>nd</sup> video screening (Natasha’s story) with Natasha introducing the video as a compere follow ‘thank you’ from a stakeholder with lived experience or a family member who participated to this story.  Then a final keynote by Aine Morrison and Wendy Austin to close event.  Lunch/networking/photos will follow after.</p> <p>RMcC noted that information will be set to the media about the launch and the will also be social media coverage of the event.</p>
<p><b>4.2</b></p>	<p>Pauline Shepherd (PS) noted the importance of the management of the messages from the launch, in the context of severe pressures on the health and social care budget, and in particular the pressure on home care services. Members agreed that the campaign is an opportunity to celebrate the work that social care workers do, as well as showcasing the importance of the Social Care workforce.</p> <p>Carina Boyle (CB) also commented that the campaign is an opportunity to address the importance of the Social Care Workforce despite the challenges. The focus is the workforce and they need time to celebrate and be thanked for their services.</p> <p>AL, PH and RMCC agreed to meet to review key messages.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Social Care Workforce Development – Updates by Catherine Maguire &amp; Paul Rooney</b></p>

<p>5.1</p>	<p>Catherine Maguire (CM) shared an update of the Care in Practice Framework. Aine Morrison has confirmed that this Framework will be included in the DoH Workforce Strategy.</p> <p>CM added that funding for the ‘Certificate in Safe and Effective Practice’ will be available but hasn’t been allocated yet.</p> <p>Paul Rooney (PR) provided further updates in relation to the Certificate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A specification has been developed and agreed with the SC sector for the CS&amp;EP this has been shared with the SC sector, Awarding Organisations and with CCEA who will be responsible for accreditation for September 2024. The qualification is currently running across a number of employer pilot sites to develop guidance to support employees. including guidance around medication management and other factors that differs across each private sector in order to avoid duplications, to reduce modules and ensure confidence base and work focus</li> <li>• The Certificate will need to align with the Level 2 and Level 3 Diploma under the Practice Framework and understand the currency that should have for the pre-employment qualifications.</li> <li>• A bid for additional costs has been to support this project as it will be a mandatory training level and will need to progress a sector partnership of Social Care as Certificate has been approved at the Social Care Management Framework including Independent and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector.</li> </ul> <p>The cost of backfill to release staff to undertake qualifications was discussed, and it was agreed that there will need to be additional resource allocated to support the implementation of the Social Care Workforce Strategy, and in particular to support any additional costs in addition to assessment, qualification costs which is in addition to current mandatory training undertaken by employers.</p> <p><u>Apprenticeships</u></p> <p>PR informed members that Apprenticeships and All-Age Apprenticeships will now be available in Social Care for the Private, Voluntary and Community sectors. In addition, the new CS&amp;EP will be included onto the NI Apprenticeship Framework. He added that work is in progress by the SC sector partnership to process arrangements to finalise the addition of the new certificate onto the NIAPP Framework.</p> <p>Work is also underway to establish the Traineeship for Social Care. A specification which fits sector needs will need to be developed</p> <p>It was agreed that as much as Apprentices will add value to the Social Care Workforce it is also a good opportunity for leaders to find a way to keep them in this setting and encourage them to progress Social Care as a career. There is also a good opportunity to develop leadership capability through the Higher-Level Apprenticeship.</p> <p>CM acknowledged Paul Rooney and Meta Keenan for their work on this project.</p>
<p>5.2</p>	<p><b>Values Based Retention Toolkit – Webpage walk through by Mairead Harkins (MH)</b></p>

	<p>Values Based Retention Toolkit was presented at the end of the meeting by MH doing a walk-through of the web page. The toolkit was launched on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 via the Social Care Council's website followed by the results of an Evidence Review that was undertaken by Shirley Boyle from Open University focusing on Social Care Practitioners views and needs.</p> <p>Link available for information <a href="https://learningzone.niscc.info/learning-resources/values-based-retention-toolkit/">https://learningzone.niscc.info/learning-resources/values-based-retention-toolkit/</a></p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Social Care Collaborative Forum by PH</b>
	<p>PH shared an update of the last meeting with the Social Care Collaborative Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Annual Report has been completed and will be signed off at next meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024.</li> <li>• It has been agreed that a web page for public information about the Forum will be hosted on the DoH website. This page will be used to upload information about the work of the Forum. The Forum will agree the content of the web page at its next meeting.</li> <li>• The 2024/25 Delivery Plan has now been approved and signed off, the focus of this plan is to build sustainable workforce, improve commissioning arrangements, and improve partnership working.</li> </ul> <p>PS commented that there is an inconsistency around schedules for the workstreams meetings with clashes or last-minute cancellation of meetings. She stated that a generic calendar will be very useful as this will allow members to have a clear understanding of each meeting and managing capacity accordingly. PH noted that a shared calendar is being developed for the Forum and will be managed by the DoH Reform Programme Office, who are supporting the Forum.</p> <p>Members suggested that it would be useful to collect outcomes from all the workstreams as it is important to recognise the work that is happening within these workstreams regionally and across the services.</p> <p>PH agreed to circulate the Social Care Collaborative Forum Annual Report once it has been signed off by the Forum.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Fair Work Forum update by PH</b>
	<p>PH gave a brief update of the Fair Work Forum with key notes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FWF members have agreed to develop a Business Case to outline the cost of raising the basic level of social care worker pay to the Real Living Wage. This has been agreed as the FWF's priority area of work.</li> </ul> <p><i>PH left the meeting</i></p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Members Updates</b>
	No further updates were noted for this item
<b>9</b>	<b>AOB</b>

	<p>Members discussed the option to have these meetings on Teams instead as it is easier to attend as per busy schedules and travelling time.</p> <p>SB agreed to discuss this with PH and advise as per next in person meeting.</p>
<b>12</b>	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b>
	<p><b>8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 via MS Teams</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 via MS Teams</b> <b>20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in person TBC</b></p> <p><i>Schedule and calendar invites have already been sent out to all members</i></p>
	<b>Signed</b>
	

**Action List – date of meeting 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

Listing no.	Action	Due Date	Owner	Status
1.3	To circulate Adult Protection Training Needs report		Catherine Maguire	Closed
4.2	To arrange a meeting to review key messages and agree who will be the best person to present at the Social Care Campaign Event		Agnes Lunny, Patricia Higgins and Rita McCullagh	Closed
6	To circulate Social Care Collaborative Forum Annual Report once is final		Patricia Higgins	Closed
9	To review in person meetings		Sarah Browne, Patricia Higgins	Open