

**Confirmed minutes of Research and Evidence Partnership meeting**  
**28<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 2-4.30pm**  
**Conference room 4, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**James House**

**Attendees**

Prof. David Hayes	NI Social Care Council Board - Chair (DH)
Elaine Armstrong	Cedar Foundation (EA)
Susan Ritchie	Department of Health (SR)
Frances Lyons	National Children's Bureau (FL)
Prof. Lisa Bunting	NI Social Work & Social Care Research Community (LB)
Prof. Jonathan Jackson	NI Clinical Research Network (JJ)
Sonia Patton	Person with lived experience (SP)
Paul Webb	Praxis Care (PW)
Dr Janice Bailie (JB)	Public Health Agency, Research & Development Division
Carolyn Ewart	British Association of Social Work NI (CE)
Prof. Brian Taylor	Research Advocate (BT)
Prof. Paula McFadden	Research Methods Programme, Ulster University (PMcF)
Joanne Sansome	Person with lived experience (JS)
Lisa Morrison	Person with lived experience (LM)
Prof. Mark Tully	NI Public Health Research Network (MT)
Marita Magennis	Southern Health and Social Care Trust (MM)
Louise Dunlop	UK Committee on Research Integrity (LD)
Marian O'Rourke	NI Social Care Council (MOR)
Anne McGlade	NI Social Care Council (AMcG)
Helen McVicker	NI Social Care Council (HMcV)
Catherine Maguire	NI Social Care Council (CM)
Andriana Alkiviadou	Secretariat – NI Social Care Council (AA)

**Apologies**

Prof. Mike Clarke	NI Clinical Trials Unit & NI Methodology Hub (MC)
Claire Taylor	Probation Board NI (CT)
Prof. Ann-Marie Gray	Ulster University (AMG)
Kelvin Doherty	Youth Justice Agency (KD)
Prof. Louise McCabe	IMPACT (LMcC)
Kerry Cuskelly	All Ireland Social Work Research Consortium (KC)


Dr Aideen Maguire	Administrative Data Research Centre UK (AM)
Tracy Reid	Association of Executive Directors of Social Work (TR)
Majella McCloskey	Centre of Effective Services (MMcC)
Pauline Shepherd	Independent Health and Care Providers (PS)
Dr Amanda Shields	Open University (AS)
Prof. Karen Winter	Queens University (KW)
Dr Jennifer Hamilton	Ulster University (JH)
Prof. Bernie Kelly	Queen's University (BK)
Emily Wilson	Person with lived experience and Carer (EW)
Tom Cassidy	Executive Directors of Social Work

Item	Note	Action by
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies by Prof. David Hayes (Chair)</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	The Chair welcomed members to the second meeting of the research and evidence partnership and had a round of introductions.	
<b>1.2</b>	The Chair also informed members of the changes that have taken place since Patricia Higgin's retirement as Chief Executive. Declan McAllister is now the Interim Chief Executive, Helen McVicker and Catherine Maguire will share the Director of Regulations and Standards post with Helen McVicker taking on responsibility of the research agenda and the Research and Evidence Partnership following Marian O'Rourke's retirement in December 2024.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Group agreement - Anne McGlade</b>	
	AMcG reiterated proposed underpinning principles for discussion and group agreement to ensure that all members are aware of the ground rules and the way that we wish this partnership to operate moving forward.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>To agree minutes from previous meeting</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Action 1:</b> Members agreed to make amendments on item 6.2 and approve for publishing on NI Social Care Council's website.	AA
<b>3.2</b>	<b>There were no matters arising to follow</b>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Terms of Reference – for approval</b>	

	<p>A draft of Terms of Reference was issued to all members to review. Members returned their comments and had the opportunity to further review at the meeting. The following changes were agreed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 3.4 to reword ‘provide evidence’ and break down on who is included under the term social work and social care.</li> <li>• Paragraph 3.4 to be split into two separate points with 3.4 relating to the evidence base and a new 3.5 reading “The Research and Evidence Partnership will facilitate and encourage the participation in research of both people delivering, and those in receipt of social work and social care.” The other items in Section 3 will need to be renumbered accordingly.</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.4, agreed that only the Chair will need to be appointed by the Board and Co-Chair by the members of the partnership following the Boards approval.</li> <li>• To revisit and update the membership list, to include practitioners of social work and social care.</li> <li>• To revisit the terminology of Research and Evidence Partnership.</li> <li>• To elaborate on research and service evaluation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 2:</b> To make amendments as noted and resend to members for approval.</p>	AA
5.	<b>Key tasks to support development of a work plan</b>	
	<p>The Chair opened the discussion on how this partnership could develop priorities and create a framework to support the research and evidence agenda.</p> <p>As few initial ideas were recorded including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repository – to create an accessible hub for research and evidence dissemination and promotion. Members agreed that podcasts, video and reprographics are a better way to share information as it is easier for people to use instead of long documents.</li> <li>• James Lind Alliance approach for setting research priorities – members suggested that it would be good to explore this further and possibly host a workshop to present the partnership and</li> </ul>	

	<p>shared the importance and the aim of the Research and Evidence Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning portal – to focus on and gather the resources we already have including the Social Care Council’s portal, SCIE etc and ensure that these are accessible to all practitioners including community and voluntary sector and the independent sector. Further discussion is needed as this initiative will need time in order to scope out what is needed including the necessary resources for development and maintenance.</li> <li>• Lunchtime seminars – members agreed that these seminars have been very useful and successful and an easy way to disseminate new studies and findings across services.</li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Other networks and partnerships whom we should connect</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	<p>The Chair reminded members of the agreement for the establishment of a Sub Group of the Research and Evidence Partnership inclusive of the membership of the existing and active Building Research Community group. A two-way flow of updates will help keep members of the respective groups informed. The Chair has agreed to attend the next meeting of the Research Community.</p> <p><b>Action 3:</b> Term of Reference from the research community core group will be share for information.</p> <p><b>Action 4:</b> Term of Reference from the Research and Evidence Partnership to be shared with the research community group once is finalised.</p>	AMCG
<b>6.2</b>	<p>To maintain connections with other partnerships including Participation Partnership, Leaders in Social Care Partnership and PiP Partnership as the Research and Evidence Partnership will need to ensure we have an insight of all of these as we move forward.</p> <p>The Chair will provide update to the Board and ensure involvement as relevant.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>How well did we do?</b>	
	Members noted that the meeting was both helpful and productive and everyone had the opportunity to be engaged. There has been a progression on the main discussions from the previous meeting and	

	conducted in accordance of agreed timings. It was also noted that it offered a safe and inclusive space for members.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>AOB – For information and dissemination</b>	
<b>8.1</b>	<p>12th Annual Social Work and Social Care Conference Riddell Hall Belfast 5th March 2025.  Click the link to submit your abstract  <a href="#">Save the date and call for abstracts - NISCC</a></p> <p>The closing date for applications is: 5:00pm on Friday 13 December 2024</p>	
<b>8.2</b>	<p>AMCG introduced Janice Bailey from the Research and Development, Division Office who encouraged members to get involved in current consultations to support in formulation the new R and D Research Strategy. This will help in the development of the new Social Work and Social Care Research Strategy when the current e ceases in November 2025. Agreed to create a focus group that will follow up discussions with the R&amp;D office.</p> <p>Nominations of members listed as below;  Lisa Morrison  Paul Webb  Paula McFadden  Brian Taylor  Frances Lyon  Tom Cassidy  Susan Ritchie (she also nominated Jane McMillan from DoH)  Sonia Patton  Carolyn Ewart (nominated Noeleen Higgins form BASWNI)  Jonathan Jackson  Mike Clarke  Davy Hayes  Helen McVicker  Anne McGlade  Plus, members from the Building Research Community</p> <p><b>Action 5:</b> Agreed to share with all members from the research community at the next meeting in December. AMCG will collect a list with nominations and share with JB for further action.</p>	AMCG

<b>8.3</b>	A brief discussion regards the revise of the research strategy 2025 – 2030 also took place and how this will need to progress but agreed that is not a priority at the moment and a further discussion will take place to agree next steps in upcoming meetings.	
	<b>Signed</b>	
		

Item	Action	Owner	Due Date	Status	Comments
<b>MEETING HELD ON 28 November 2024 – NEW ACTIONS</b>					
3.1	make amendments on item 6.2	AA		CLOSE	
4.	amend and resend to members for approval	AA		OPEN	
6.	a. Term of Reference from the research community core group will be share for information.	AMCG		CLOSE	
	b. Term of Reference from the Research and Evidence Partnership to be shared with the research community group once is finalised.	AA		OPEN	Waiting for approval
9.2	Agreed to share with all members from the research community at the next meeting in December. She will collect a list with nominations and will share with JB for further action.	AMCG	Dec 2024	OPEN	<p>Nominations from Research and Evidence Partnership are noted above.</p> <p>Nominations from the research community group to be confirmed at the meeting in December.</p>