



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**

**8 October 2024 at 10am**

### **MS Teams**

### **Confirmed**

### **In Attendance**

Sarah Browne, Chair  
Patricia Higgins Co Chair  
Marian O'Rourke  
Catherine Maguire  
Paul Rooney  
Mervyn Bothwell  
Rita McCullagh  
Agnes Lunny  
Dory Kidd  
Jenny Johnston  
Carina Boyle  
Clodagh O'Brien  
Fiona McClean  
Caroline Bucklee  
Denise Magill  
Alison Simpson  
Kirsten Hewitt  
Audrey Murphy  
William Morrow  
JP Watson  
Kathryn McCann  
Rosie McNaughton  
Andriana Alkiviadou, note taker

Board Member, Social Care Council  
Social Care Council  
Social Care Council  
Social Care Council  
Social Care Council  
Social Care Council  
Social Care Council  
Positive Futures  
Harmony Community Care Services  
Southern HSCT  
Western HSCT  
Belfast HSCT  
South Eastern HSCT  
Northern HSCT  
Triangle Housing  
Extra Care  
Simon Community  
MCare NI  
Inspire  
Optimum Care Group  
Simon Community  
Cedar Foundation  
Social Care Council

### **Apologies**

Tina O'Reilly  
Elaine Armstrong  
Kelly Devlin  
Ryan Williams  
Alex Bunting  
Leslie-Anne Newton  
Jayne Wright  
Pauline Shepherd

Extern NI  
Cedar Foundation  
Cedar Foundation  
Connected Health  
Inspire  
ARC  
Mindwise  
Independent Healthcare Providers

Item	Agenda
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>
1.1	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies as above.
1.2	The Chair congratulated Declan McAllister in his new role as Interim Chief Executive for the Social Care Council.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes from Previous Meeting</b>
	The minutes of the previous meeting on 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 were agreed and approved as a true and accurate record.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>
	All matters arising were completed and closed.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Adult Protection Bill update by PH</b>
	<p>PH shared a brief update regarding the Adult Protection Bill following the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 with the DoH and confirmed that the Bill is now ready to go. SPPG, OSS and RQIA are working on a business case which will need approval and will include costings for a public consultation, training and development of statutory guidance. Support from the OSS has been requested.</p> <p>AL commented that the Community and Voluntary sector has not been included and advised that she will approach the Build Team directly for further information on the matter.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Social Care Reform Programme – presented by MOR, CM and MB</b>
	<p>MOR acknowledged the successful delivery of the programme of work to date and recognised that good progress and outcomes have been achieved at a time when the system and social care professionals are experiencing challenges on an on-going basis.</p> <p>MB shared a presentation with key messages as noted below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives of the programme of work</li> <li>• Care in Practice (CiP) framework</li> <li>• Steps that have been already taken since June 2024</li> </ul>

- Funding streams
- Next steps

Link available for information: [Social Care Workforce Reform - NISCC](#)

It was noted that Traineeships are not included in the CiP pathways at this stage but it is work in progress and will be included once the traineeship specification is finalised.

CM confirmed that filming of social care staff from various backgrounds who completed the pilot of the Safe and Effective Care certificate will highlight the impact of the course for practitioners and the value of being registered. Feedback from social care staff has been positive and said they felt listened to, valued and encouraged to continue developing within their careers.

MOR advised that the DoH Social Care Workforce Strategy will be launched in December alongside the launch of the Care in Practice Framework. The strategy applies across all sectors and will provide clarity on priorities and gaps.

Members highlighted the need for a costed implementation plan that allows for replacement funding to release staff for training if capacity is to be built within the community/private sector, as employers continue to struggle to commit to staff training at this level.

MB invited employers to access the Get Hired programme to encourage young people into a career in social care, this may be a good opportunity for vacancies in November and February, members can contact him for further information.

<b>6.</b>	<b>'Making a Difference' Campaign by RMcC and AL</b>
-----------	--

AL reported on the campaign launch event at Stormont and highlighted the importance of thanking the social care frontline staff at the event, saying that social care staff felt valued. She added that it is necessary to maintain that momentum and keep promoting social care work.

She credited everyone involved with the campaign and recognised its success and impact on frontline staff, acknowledging also the attendance and support from MLAs on the day.

RMcC shared detail of articles and news posted on social media, local newspapers and webpages, including Belfast Telegraph and Job Finder NI and Wendy Austin's podcast as part of the Social Care Council's Care to Chat series. She informed members that the digital campaign ended in September with positive messages overall and confirmed that limited funding for next year's campaign has been secured. Plans for the winter campaign are in progress and aiming to launch by December 2024.

	RMcC also shared an update of the Communications Workstream work plan for 2024/25 with a key priority being evaluation of the last four years of the campaign.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Social Care Collaborative Forum by PH</b>
	<p>The annual report was circulated prior to this meeting. PH and AL shared updates from the Social Care Collaborative Forum as noted below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bid for additional funding to support Data and Intelligence workstream has been agreed.</li> <li>• Contracts and Commissioning in Care Homes workstream have agreed that Trusts will need to engage with community and voluntary sector and review care homes contracts.</li> <li>• Work is underway with the service user representative on the Forum and PH to ensure proper value is placed on representation and opportunity to influence are improved. This will include a focus on supporting, valuing and providing best support for service users and carer leadership.</li> <li>• John Kennedy author of Social Care Matters report met with Peter Toogood to discuss the intention of the report focusing on how to create a system that will work collectively with a positive outcome.</li> <li>• A strategic view of a health and social care approach is developing in future plans.</li> </ul>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Fair Work Forum update by PH</b>
	<p>PH shared updates from the Fair Work Forum with key messages as noted below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The economic business case is focusing on the 'real' living wage for social carers' salary, which includes travel expenses, work uniform expenses, training etc.</li> <li>• Survey for the social care workers pay has been circulated across registrants and employers with 500 responses so far. Declan McAllister agreed to extend the closing day and prompt employers to encourage their staff to complete the survey as it is important to have as many views as possible as the voice of the workforce and employers are important for the economic value business case.</li> <li>• Business case to be completed by December 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Leaders in Social Care Partnership workshop</b>
	SB encouraged members to attend on 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at Dunsilly hotel to review the term of reference using a logic model. Centre for Effective Services

	have agreed to facilitate this workshop. This work will be important in reviewing achievement and outcomes and setting future direction.
<b>10.</b>	<b>Members Updates</b>
	<p>Members thanked PH for her contribution to this group and wished her farewell for her retirement, hoping that progress will continue matching the energy of this group and the work that has been undertaken.</p> <p>PH thanked all the members and acknowledged the team effort and assured that she has very confidence that the work will continue.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>AOB</b>
11.1	<p><u>Workforce Development Information:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CM informed members that the new social work and social care Dragons Den programme is now open for applications and the purpose of this is to encourage new ideas that will improve the service within the social work and social care. Awards are up to £4000. Link for applications: <a href="https://setrust-hscni.pagetiger.com/applyingtodragonsden/1">https://setrust-hscni.pagetiger.com/applyingtodragonsden/1</a></li> <li>• She also announced that the Social Work Awards nominations is now open and encouraged members to share with their staff and submit nominations. Link for further information: <a href="https://niscc.info/nominations-open-for-regional-social-worker-awards-2025/">https://niscc.info/nominations-open-for-regional-social-worker-awards-2025/</a></li> <li>• MB shared the link with members to access the report by Big Motive on how staff engagement. <a href="https://niscc.info/our-research-and-evidence-what-we-have-heard-so-far/">https://niscc.info/our-research-and-evidence-what-we-have-heard-so-far/</a></li> </ul>
11.2	<p><u>Harmony Community Care - SAIs</u></p> <p>DK addressed that due to the increasing reports of SAI's in the health and social care sector there is a risk of a potential impact for social care staff and would welcome additional training or resources for staff who may be concerned about involvement in an SAI.</p> <p>CB agreed to have a further discussion with DK in regards of training that Western Trust have been undertaking for social care staff handling SAIs. AL also advised that she is happy to follow up with DK and willing to help and training for staff.</p>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b>
	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 – Workshop at Dunsilly Hotel</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 via MS Teams</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in person TBC</p>

	<i>Schedule and calendar invites have already been sent out to all members</i>
	<b>Signed</b>
	<i>Sarah Browne</i>

**Action list – date of meeting 8 October 2024**

<b>Listing no.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status</b>
4.	Contact Adult Protection Bill contact person to have a discussion of C&V sector inclusion		AL	Closed
11.2	Discussion around SAls training for Social Care staff		DK, CB and AL	Closed