



Northern Ireland Social Care Council

Minutes of Council Meeting Wednesday 29 April 2015 at 10am NISCC Offices, Millennium House, Belfast

Present

Council

Jim Perry (Chair)	Maire McMahon
Brenda Maitland	Catherine McPhillips
Julie Erskine	Neil Bodger
Trevor Spratt	Ruth Lavery
Lee Wilson	Ann O'Reilly

In Attendance

Colum Conway (Chief Executive)
Patricia Higgins (Director of Regulation & Standards)
Mark Bradley (Director of Registration & Corporate Services)
Sean Holland (DHSSPS)
Christine Smyth (DHSSPS)

Apologies

Geraldine Campbell
Joe Blake

Cathy Kennedy – Note Taker

Item		Action
1.	Apologies for Absence	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that apologies were received from Geraldine Campbell and Joe Blake.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Chair's Business	
3.1	The Chair stated that the annual appraisals for Council Members were now due and he would be arranging dates for meetings in May 2015.	
3.2	The Chair reported that he had attended the NICON conference along with other representatives from NISCC. He stated that it was a useful conference; however social care was not a main feature. The Chief Executive agreed and confirmed that discussions have taken place between NISCC and NICON and it has been agreed that social care will have a higher profile for the next year's conference.	
3.3	The Chair informed members that the corporate plan ended on 31 March 2015. It was agreed to continue with the key themes and issues until a new corporate plan is delivered. A timeframe for completion of the corporate plan will be agreed at the next accountability meeting with the DHSSPS.	
3.4	The Chair confirmed that NISCC are continuing to work with the DHSSPS to plan the implementation of the roll out of registration. It is anticipated that the process will take 18 months to complete and may start within the next few months once the roll out plan has been agreed. NISCC have established an internal project team to manage the internal process and external engagement with the key	

	stakeholders in the sector and with Registrants. A framework for evaluation is also being developed. Other external sub groups will be established to assist with the roll out process and the outcomes will feed into the internal project team.	
4.	Chief Executive Business	
4.1	The Chief Executive gave an update on recent activity. He commented the third Child Development app age 13 -18 has been completed and is now available. He highlighted the upcoming launch event which will take place on 01 June at Crumlin Road Gaol. He also noted that after many years of service Gerry Cunningham retired at the end of March.	
4.2	<p>The Chief Executive informed members that the following events were taking place throughout May and June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NISCC are hosting the 5 Country Regulators Meeting on 12 May • NISCC evidence session at Northern Ireland Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety on workforce planning for TYC on 13 May • The Health and Social Care Regulators Assembly Reception – 2 June. Information to be issued to Council Members • HCPC Seminar and Clear Conference – 24 June 	CC
5.	Unconfirmed Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18 February 2015.	
5.1	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chair.	
6.	Matters Arising	
	No matters arising	
7.	Business Matters	

7.1	Property and Asset Management Report	
7.1.2	The Director of Registration and Corporate Services presented the plan. He explained that this is reviewed on an annual basis and this was the third plan produced. He confirmed that the lease for NISCC at Millennium House expires in September 2016; therefore the work involved in developing this was useful for the NISCC accommodation review. A working group will be established to deliver this review which will take into account the wider HSC estate and that of the other Arms Length Bodies.	
7.1.2	Council members were content to endorse this report.	
8.	Performance Reporting	
8.1	Quarter 4 Performance Management Report	
8.1.2	The Director of Registration and Corporate Services presented this report and commented that this was the final report for 2014/15. He stated that the majority of targets had been achieved. Some targets that were not achieved can be as a result of slipped timeframes, eg the decision on the roll out of registration. The work to take this forward will be undertaken in 2015/16 financial year.	
8.1.3	The Director of Registration and Corporate Services discussed the registration output statistics and noted that there are currently 22,853 registrants.	
8.1.4	The Director of Regulation and Standards commented that whilst the target was not reached for working with the DHSSPS to effect the changes from a conduct model to a fitness to practice model, good progress has been made and a draft amendment bill has been completed and is progressing through the Department's processes . It is still anticipated that a fitness to practice model will be in place by March 2016.	
8.1.5	Council members recognized that some targets that were not achieved were beyond the control of the Council. A discussion took place on how this type of target could be identified other than being marked red.	

8.1.6	In relation to the report on conduct activity it was agreed to separate out the outcomes of committees and hearings, to show statistics for social workers and social care workers.	
8.1.7	A member raised some issues around the lack of clarity and process on the communications objectives. It was agreed that senior management would look at how best to describe the objective and clearly illustrate the impact and outcomes of engagement and communications.	
10.	Partnerships Updates	
10.1	Participation Partnership	
10.1.2	A member updated Council on a recent joint workshop with the participation partnership and the workforce development team. She reported that a key theme emerging was the limited opportunity for engagement with Participation Partnership and Council. The Director of Registration and Corporate Services reported that a strategic session is planned for the 27 May, it will be a joint session with the participation partnership and Council to review the principles of participation.	
10.3	Professional in Practice – Unconfirmed Minutes 11 March 2015. (for information)	
	The minutes from the Professional in Practice meeting was presented to Council for information.	
14	Any other business	
14.1	None	
15	Date of next meeting	
15.1	01 July 2015	

Council Discussion with Sean Holland and Christine Smyth DHSSPS

29 April 2015

The Chair welcomed Sean Holland and Christine Smyth from the DHSSPS. He explained that there would be a discussion between Council and the DHSSPS regarding current issues in social care.

The following issues were discussed:

- The proposed name change to DHSSPS and how this will affect social care.
- NICON conference – Social Care not highly featured.
- Donaldson Report and the NISCC response
- Transforming Your Care update and the reform of Adult Social Care
- Workforce planning
- Social Work Strategy
- Voice of Users and Carers
- Review of the Codes of Practice
- Communication Strategy
- Arms length bodies efficiency savings
- Public Appointments Office – Delays in appointments
- Roll out of Registration – gathering sufficient data and reviewing and evaluating the process
- Marshall Report into Child Exploitation in Northern Ireland