



Northern Ireland Social Care Council
 7th Floor, Millennium House
 19-25 Great Victoria Street
 Belfast BT2 7AQ

Tel: 028 9536 2600
 Web: www.niscc.info

**Northern Ireland Social Care Council
 Registrants' Forum
 Thursday 14 January 2016, 10.30am
 in NISCC Offices, Belfast**

Present

Carolyn Ewart (Deputy Chair) (NIASW)
 Loughlinn Duffy (NIPSA)

Dillon McMahon (Positive Futures)
 Nichola Shanks (Beacon Well Being)

Apologies

Sharon Scott (Extra Care)
 Roberta Magee (Chair) (UNISON)

Damien Maguire (NIPSA)
 Rachel Killen (SHSCT)

In Attendance

Patricia Higgins (Director of Regulation and Standards)
 Paul Rooney (Professional Adviser)
 Helen McVicker (Professional Adviser)

Maureen Heaney/Joanne Jennings (Communications Officer)
 Susie Nelson/Jordan Adair (Minute Taker)

		Action
(1)	Welcome and Apologies	
1.1	The Deputy Chair welcomed everyone and members introduced themselves. Apologies were noted from Roberta Magee (Chair), Sharon Scott, Damien Maguire and Rachel Killen. The Director of Regulation & Standards advised that Jordan Adair will replace Susie Nelson as Administrator and Joanne Jennings will replace Maureen Heaney as the NISCC Communications link for Registrants Forum.	
(2)	Minutes of previous meeting/Matters Arising	
2.1	The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
2.2	<u>Employers Code of Practice</u> Ms. McVicker reported that she and the Head of Conduct at NISCC	

		Action
	<p>met with RQIA in December 2015 to discuss the Employers Code. RQIA are keen to work with NISCC to revise the Employers Code and as part of the work to revise the Code consideration will be given to the future status of the guidance.</p> <p>A Steering Group will be established to work on this document, with an initial meeting to be convened before end of March to agree Terms of Reference, and the work to be included in the NISCC Business Plan 2016/2017. Mr Duffy and Ms Ewart agreed to join the reference group. Jordan will email other members who weren't in attendance today to ask if they are interested before arranging a date.</p> <p>Ms. McVicker noted that the Social Work Reform Board in England has produced standards for employers and guidance for social workers on what they should expect from their employer which might usefully inform this exercise.</p>	HMcv/LD/CE/ JA
2.3	<p><u>Social Care Managers Forum</u> The Director of Regulation and Standards explained that a paper on the Social Care Managers Forum was submitted to the Workforce Development Partnership at its last meeting, to ensure they were supportive of a Forum being set up. The Partnership approved this and a meeting is currently being arranged to take place in early February. Ms Shanks will be attending and will report back to the next Registrants Forum meeting.</p>	NS
2.4	<p><u>NISCC Corporate Plan</u> The Director of Regulation and Standards informed members that the Council has commenced work to develop its new corporate plan. Workshops will be arranged with all of the partnership groups to participate in the process of developing the corporate plan. It is hoped that a half day workshop will be arranged with the Registrants Forum before Easter. A date will be confirmed as soon as possible.</p>	PH
2.5	<p><u>NISCC Website</u> Ms Heaney advised that the new website will be launched soon. It was agreed to add the website as an agenda item for the next meeting of Registrants Forum to provide members with the opportunity to look at it collectively and discuss how the website could be used to encourage registrants to become more engaged with NISCC.</p>	

		Action
(3)	Principles of Engagement with Registrants	
3.1	<p>The Director of Regulation & Standards explained she met with Ms Ewart, Ms Shanks and Mr McMahon to discuss and draft this paper on the Principles of Engagement with Registrants. The deputy Chair talked to the paper, section by section and the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Duffy advised that people are not aware that members sit on the Registrants Forum to bring their issues to the table; the Director of Regulation & Standards confirmed that the NISCC SMT and Communications Team are currently working on an Engagement Strategy • It was suggested that a Registrants Roadshow to promote the piece of work on Raising Concerns would be beneficial • It is important to show the value that engagement brings to the NISCC also, so it was agreed to re-word 4.4 to read "...to ensure they meet the needs of registrants and of NISCC" • It was agreed to include a paragraph in the Introduction on 'why we are doing this' i.e. that the Principles of Registrant Engagement reflect the NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice which support social workers and social care workers to deliver safe and effective care. • Mr Rooney provided an example about how registrants can proactively seek engagement with NISCC. A registrant who is an Internationally Qualified Social Worker (IQSW) recently contacted NISCC to seek advice about how information can be shared with other IQSWs. NISCC has agreed to follow up with this request. <p>The Director of Regulation and Standards will update the document to include the proposed amendments and will circulate to everyone in attendance. When the Forum has approved it, the documents can be submitted to Council for endorsement. Once endorsed, it will be added to the NISCC website.</p>	PH
(4)	Raising Concerns	
4.1	<p>Ms McVicker circulated a draft paper 'Raising Concerns: A Guide for Social Work and Social Care Staff' and provided a brief outline, section by section. This paper has arisen out of the work to develop the Standards of Conduct and Practice. Ms McVicker sought feedback and asked for support from members, unions and NIASW to further develop this paper. It was agreed that the paper is well written and sets the context in a clear, concise manner and will give employees the 'permission' that they seem to seek when raising concerns. Ms Ewart, Mr Duffy, Ms Shanks and Mr McMahon agreed to attend a one-off meeting with Ms McVicker on</p>	HMcv/CE/LD/ NS/DMcM

		Action
	Monday 8 February, 11.30am to take this forward. Ms Magee will also be invited to attend. The main aim will be to produce a document that all agencies/organisations can agree to and endorse. It was suggested that including a case study would make it 'real'. Ms McVicker will mark the document as draft and email it to members in advance of the meeting in February. The Deputy Chair thanked Ms McVicker.	
(5)	Any Other Business	
5.1	The Director of Regulation and Standards advised that the Bill to amend the Health and Personal Social services Act (NI) 2001 was considered by the Health Committee on 13 January 2016. The Health Committee may make recommendations or seek further clarification. There were no significant issues raised by those submitting evidence and so it is not anticipated that significant further amendments to the Bill will be required. The timescale does however remain tight as the Assembly will be going in to pre-election recess mid to end of March.	
5.2	The Director of Regulation and Standards shared an information card that was produced by a service user from the Social Work Strategy Citizens Forum entitled "What I need from my Social Worker" and suggested that we could mirror this for Social Care. Members agreed that this would be a useful tool and volunteers will be sought at the next meeting, to work on this alongside members of the NISCC Participation Partnership.	PH
5.3	The Director of Regulation and Standards informed Members of an upcoming social care conference on 7 th March 2016 entitled Best Practice: Better Outcomes. Mrs Nelson will circulate the flier to members and booking forms when they become available.	SN
5.4	Ms Ewart advised that Friday 19 February is National Care Day and VOYPIC are holding a number of events – more information is available on VOYPIC's website. NIASW are hosting a drop-in for breakfast, from 8.30 – 10.00am to start the day's events.	
(6)	Dates for future meetings	
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 5th April 2016, 10.30am at NISCC 	

Carolyn Ewart, Deputy Chair of Registrants' Committee
Northern Ireland Social Care Council