



Northern Ireland Social Care Council
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**Northern Ireland Social Care Council
 Registrants' Forum
 Tuesday 5th April 2016, 10.30am
 in NISCC Offices, Belfast**

Present

Carolyn Ewart (Deputy Chair) (NIASW)	Dillon McMahon (Positive Futures)
Nora McMahon (QUB)	Nichola Shanks (Beacon Well Being)
Damien Maguire (BHSCT)	

Apologies

Sharon Scott (Extra Care)	Rachel Killen (SHSCT)
Roberta Magee (Chair) (UNISON)	Loughlinn Duffy (NIPSA)

In Attendance

Patricia Higgins (Director of Regulation and Standards)	Andre McKeown (Communications Manager)
Paul Rooney (Professional Adviser)	Jordan Adair (Minute Taker)
	Andy McClenaghan (NIASW)

		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 and Rachel Killen.	
(2)	Minutes of previous meeting	
2.1	The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
(3)	Matters Arising	
3.1	<u>Employers Code of Practice</u> The Director of Regulation and Standards gave a short update on the review of the Employer's Code. The group were informed that a	

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	meeting had occurred and a workshop has been organised for the 19 th May 2016 @ 10.00am - 3.00pm at the NISCC offices. Attendees at the meeting agreed to review different sections of the Code in preparation for the workshop. An invitation was extended to other members of the Forum to attend the meeting in May – Mr Maguire expressed his interest and agreed to attend.	DM
3.2	<u>Social Care Managers Forum</u> The Director of Regulation and Standards confirmed that an initial meeting of the managers' sub-group had taken place and that a survey had been conducted with registered managers. Ms Shanks gave an update on the meeting. She confirmed that the results of the survey showed that finding time to participate in a network was an issue for managers but also said that managers stated that professional development and professional relationships were very important to them. Ms Shanks was asked to continue to feedback into the Registrants Forum.	NS
3.3	<u>NISCC Corporate Plan</u> The Director of Regulation and Standards explained that the Council was now developing the next Corporate Plan to commence in 2017. She described the process of its development and that the Council has been using the Logic Model as a method to help identify the key objectives for the plan. It is proposed to hold workshops with key stakeholders to assist in the development of the Corporate Plan. The Director of Regulation and Standards suggested a joint workshop with members of the Registrants Forum and the Participation Partnership on 16 th June 2016. Members agreed to this proposal. Ms Adair was asked to send the invite to the members of the Forum who were absent from the meeting.	JA
3.4	<u>Principles of Engagement Feedback</u> The Director of Regulation and Standards explained that the Principles of Engagement had now been endorsed by Council.	
3.5	<u>HPSS Act Update</u> The group were advised that the HPSS Act has concluded its passage through the Assembly and is awaiting Royal Assent.	
3.6	<u>Social Care Conference - 7th March</u> The Director of Regulation and Standards provided members with an update on the Social Care conference and noted the positive feedback that had been received. She noted that attendees were very impressed with the workshops and that there had also been a large Twitter presence on the day. Attendees at the conference were largely managers rather than care workers, and in evaluating the conference the Council is of the view that it would be beneficial to run more localised and shorter seminars/workshops for care workers to enable them to attend.	

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(4)	NISCC Website	
4.1	Ms McKeown gave an update on the newly designed NISCC website, focusing specifically on the Registrants Forum section. She welcomed feedback from the group around what they thought should go on their page and suggested that they come up with a social media comment at the end of every meeting to inform registrants about the work of the forum. The group agreed to make this a standing item on the agenda. Ms McKeown advised the group that she could put a notice in the e-zine about the Registrants Forum to encourage registrants to engage with the members. Mr Maguire agreed to forward Ms McKeown through some suggestions as to how to update the website.	DM
(5)	Raising Concerns	
5.1	The Director of Regulation and Standards tabled the draft Raising Concerns document, which had been revised following the meeting with sub-group members. She noted that there were no major changes to the document and asked that members review the content and provide feedback to Ms McVicker by the end of April. How the document would be presented and circulated was to be discussed at a later date. It is hoped that NIPSA, UNISON and NIASW will also endorse the document when finalised. Mr Rooney suggested also receiving feedback from registrants by making it available on social media after finalisation. Ms Adair was asked to forward a copy to absent members for their information.	JA ALL
(6)	“What I need from my social care worker” – joint project with Participation Partnership	
6.1	The Director of Regulation and Standards suggested that the leaflet should mirror what was produced by the Citizens’ Forum of the Social Work Strategy - “What I need from my Social Worker” leaflet. She requested 3 volunteers from the group to participate and confirmed that the time commitment in relation to this would be limited. It was suggested that it would take one meeting and then the rest could be done via email. Mr McMahan agreed to participate in this and the Director of Regulation and Standards confirmed she would extend the invitation to Ms Magee and other social care members not present today.	PH
(7)	Workshop with Council	
	The Director of Regulation and Standards indicated that the Council would like to hold a workshop with the Registrants Forum (similar to one previously held with the Participation Partnership). It could be based on the Principles of Engagement and be held in the Autumn. Members welcomed the invitation and saw this as a good	

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	opportunity to meet with the Council, discuss their role and their interface with the Council and discuss core issues for registrants. It was agreed that this will be an item for discussion on the agenda of the next meeting. Members were asked to give some consideration to the content of the workshop in advance of the next meeting. Ms Ewart agreed to head up a small sub-group to plan for the workshop.	JA ALL CE
(8)	Engagement with Registrants	
8.1	<p>Members discussed how to develop engagement with Registrants. Ms Ewart suggested a short survey asking registrants how they would like to engage with the Council and the Forum. Ms McKeown advised that fewer social care workers used Twitter but far more used Facebook. Ms McMahon confirmed that from a student's point of view, they were far more likely to pick up information from the website. The Director of Regulation and Standards acknowledged the difficulty of reaching students from both QUB and UU and asked was there a student forum that information could be circulated to – it was noted that NIASW had tried this before and it had started up well, however, it needed someone to run it and drive it forward.</p> <p>It was confirmed that a survey would be the best way to collect the information and it was to be sent via email and then also posted on Facebook and Twitter. Members discussed organising events at the two universities to provide information about the forum, advising students on what the Registrants Forum does and finding out what they want from us. The Director of Regulation and Standards stated that she would raise the matter with QUB and UU.</p>	PH
8.2	Ms Ewart suggested compiling a short profile on each Registrants' Forum member, providing a picture, providing information about what they do and why they're a member of the forum.	AMcK
(9)	Public Appointments for Council – capacity building for registrants	
9.1	It was noted that there was due to be a change in the Council membership in March and September 2017, including Registrant members. Members discussed what needs to be done to encourage Registrants to apply to be a member of the Council. It was agreed that in order to interest people, they first had to understand what is involved. Ms McKeown agreed to recirculate a guide to applying for public appointments to the group.	AMcK
(10)	AOB	
10.1	Ms Ewart informed the rest of the group of a survey on workload	

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	pressures that is currently taking place throughout the social work workforce across Northern Ireland. The closing date is the 13 th April 2016. She requested members to circulate the link to Social Workers.	
(11)	Dates for future meetings 2016/2017	
11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 21st June 2016 @ 10.30am • Tuesday 20th September 2016 @ 10.30am • Tuesday 17th January 2017 @ 10.30am • Tuesday 28th March 2017 @ 10.30am <p>It was agreed that these dates will be checked with the Chair, Ms Magee, before they are finalised.</p>	JA

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