



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

Present

Roberta Magee (Chair) (UNISON)
 Carolyn Ewart (Deputy Chair) (NIASW)

Dillon McMahon (Positive Futures)
 Rachel Killen (SHSCT)

Apologies

Sharon Scott (Extra Care)
 Nichola Shanks (Beacon Well Being)

Loughlinn Duffy (NIPSA)
 Damien Maguire (BHSCT)
 Nora McMahon (QUB)

In Attendance

Patricia Higgins (Director of Regulation and Standards)
 Helen McVicker (Professional Advisor)

Andre McKeown (Communications Manager)
 Elizabeth Murphy (Minute Taker)

		Action
(1)	Welcome and Apologies	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Loughlinn Duffy, Sharon Scott and Nichola Shanks.	
(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 advised that a small working group has been set up to review the Employers Code of Practice, which includes employers, 2 members of the Registrants Forum, a member from the Participation Partnership and representatives from RQIA. A workshop was held on 19 May 2016 with the working group. The workshop was productive and the participants provided suggestions to update and refresh the Code. It was agreed that a revised draft document will be sent back to the	HMcV and PH

		Action
	working group for comment, prior to seeking feedback from other stakeholders and Council. It is hoped that a revised Code will be issued for formal consultation during the autumn. It was agreed that revising the codes against the Quality 2020 themes might be beneficial – is care safe; is care effective, and also including the RQIA themes - is care compassionate; is care well led.	
3.2	<u>NISCC Corporate Plan</u> The Director of Regulation and Standards explained that the Council is in the process of developing the next Corporate Plan to commence in 2017 and is seeking the input of all of the NISCC partnership groups. She confirmed the joint workshop with the Participation Partnership on Thursday 16 June at 1.00pm.	
3.3	<u>HPSS Act (NI) 2001 Update</u> The Director of Regulation and Standards confirmed that the amendments to the Act received Royal Assent on 12 May 2016. This meant that the Fitness to Practise model of regulation came into operation on the 13 May. Rules, policies and procedures are in place to support the move to Fitness to Practise. The website has been updated and a range of supporting documentation has been included to explain Fitness to Practise. The Director of Regulation and Standards advised members that a number of workshops will be held in the autumn with employers to provide information about Fitness to Practise. These will be targeted at managers and human resources personnel and will be based on employer responsibilities, underpinned by the Standards of Practise. Registrants will also be engaged with on a regional basis around the end of September/October.	
3.4	<u>NISCC Website</u> Ms McKeown gave an update on the newly designed NISCC website, focusing specifically on the Registrants Forum section. She is waiting on feedback from Damien Maguire (BHSCT) with suggestions for the structure of the Registrants Forum section. Ms McKeown asked members to provide her with information to create a short bio to be placed in the Registrants Forum section of the website, to inform other registrants about the membership of the Forum. Members agreed that a picture should be included with each biography. Members agreed that going forward they should provide a brief message at the end of each meeting highlighting a key area of discussion which could be placed on the website and on twitter.	DM & AMcK
3.5	<u>“What I need from my social care worker” – joint project with Participation Partnership</u> Dillon McMahon and the Chair of the Registrants Forum are to work on this and liaise with the Participation Group. A meeting is to be scheduled.	PH
3.6	<u>Engagement with Registrants</u> Ms McKeown discussed with members a proposed survey she is	AMcK &PH

		Action
	<p>intending to send out at the end of July to Registrants to gather feedback about preferred methods of engagement.</p> <p>The Director of Regulation and Standards advised the group that Council officers are developing a communication and engagement strategy to support the roll out of registration to domiciliary, day care and supported living staff. Dates of events will be circulated and members were asked to attend engagement sessions if available.</p> <p>Ms McVicker confirmed that short videos and visual tools are being developed to help managers to inform social care workers about NISCC and about registration. A discussion took place about how best to utilise these resources. Carolyn Ewart requested that the 'Who We Are and What We Do' resource reinforces the message that NISCC is not a Union or Professional Body. The Director of Regulation and Standards agreed to ensure this.</p>	
(4)	Raising Concerns	
	<p>Members discussed the draft document and made some suggestions for improving the section on the Step by Step guide. Carolyn Ewart advised Ms McVicker that she has some feedback regarding the document and agreed to email Ms McVicker.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the process of seeking support from NIPSA and Unison for the document. It was agreed that NIPSA and Unison representatives will progress this with a view to the final draft being ready to present to the Council on 19 October. Carolyn Ewart indicated that NIASW are supportive of the document. The Chair and Deputy Chair will need to have confirmed endorsements from Unison and NIPSA respectively, by the middle of September.</p>	HMcV, CE & RM
(5)	Workshop with Council	
	<p>There was further discussion about the workshop to be held with the Council. Members agreed to the workshop on the 16 November a scheduled date for a Council strategic session. Planning for the workshop will take place at the next Forum meeting on 20 September 2016.</p>	ALL
(6)	Update from Forum Members	
	<p>Dillon McMahon (Positive Futures) provided the group with an account of his role as a Senior Support Worker with people with Learning Difficulties. He discussed the range of service users supported; the challenges faced in this work; and the high level of commitment of social care staff in providing support and care to service users with complex needs.</p> <p>The Director of Regulation and Standards will ask another member of the Registrants Forum to provide an account of their job role at the next Forum Meeting.</p>	PH & CE

		Action
(7)	Matters to be raised with Council	
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registrants Forum and Council Joint Workshop 	PH & CE
(8)	AOB	
8.1	The Deputy Chair advised the group that the Terms of Reference of the Forum are due for review and will be discussed at the next meeting.	PH
(9)	Dates for future meetings 2016/2017	
9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 20th September 2016 @ 10.30am Tuesday 17th January 2017 @ 10.30am Tuesday 28th March 2017 @ 10.30am 	

Roberta Magee, Chair of Registrants' Committee
Northern Ireland Social Care Council