



Welcome to NISCC e-News

This bulletin is for our registrants, their employers and our stakeholders to update you about issues related to professional registration and to share information about our work to help improve and develop the workforce.

If you have any comments to improve our e-News, or would like to submit a story for publication please email comms@niscc.hscni.net

You can keep in touch with us on:



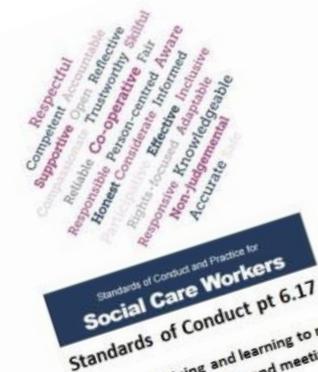
Colum Conway –
NISCC Chief Executive

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<https://niscc.info/news/136-child-care-in-practice-call-for-papers>



Standards of Conduct and Practice for
Social Care Workers
Standards of Conduct pt 6.17
Undertaking relevant training and learning to maintain and improve your knowledge and skills and meeting NISCC Post Registration Training and Learning Requirements in line with your job role:

Planning has started in preparation of the PRTL audit sample for Adult Residential Care Workers and Child Care staff. Be prepared and ensure you are recording your learning and development activities now! We will update you on the progress as it happens. <https://niscc.info/prtl-post-registration-training-and-learning>

Welcome to the new member of the NISCC team!



We would like to introduce you all to our new Director of Registration & Corporate Services Declan McAllister. Declan has worked for NIGALA for the past 21 years and we look forward to working with him for many years to come. Find out more about Declan and our Senior Management Team at <https://niscc.info/about/senior-management-team>

Social Work Successes - Over 100 NISCC Professional in Practice Awards Presented at 2017 Event



This year, over 100 social workers across Northern Ireland achieved Professional in Practice Awards for their learning and self-directed study.

To mark this achievement, Councillor Stephen McCann welcomed these social workers, along with their families and colleagues, to Omagh for the presentation at the NISCC Professional in Practice Social Work Awards Ceremony.

The event was a colourful mixture of candidate stories and video presentations. Among the successful award winners were 40 social work leaders; including NISCC's Colum Conway and Brenda Horgan. Leadership Awards were also presented to Western HSC Trust's Karen O'Brien and Paul McCafferty; Cheryl Lamont - PBNI Chief Executive; Action for Children's Dawn Shaw; South Eastern HSCT's Brendan Whittle, Vivien McConvey – Chief Executive of Voice of Young People in Care, Northern HSC Trust's Judith Brunt and Southern HSC Trust's Colm McCafferty. The event also had a family feel to it with the presentation of awards to mother and daughter duo, Christine and Cara McLaughlin.



Lots more photos from the awards celebrations are posted on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/niscc>

A series of short films that were shown at the event are available to view from our YouTube Channel at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdJcR5jHO20wg_bCYxcsZng

NISCC Mobile Learning Applications for Understanding Child Development 0-18 Win International Award

Northern Ireland Social Care Council's Understanding Child Development Apps have beaten off stiff competition from the USA and Australia to win first place in the husITa Best Human Services App Award 2017.



The three NISCC Apps – Understanding Child Development 0-7 years, 7-12 and 13-18 years – enable health and social care practitioners, and parents, to download a range of information related to developmental milestones. This award recognises the NISCC Apps as outstanding software applications that support husITa’s mission to promote the ethical and effective use of information technology to better serve humanity.

Picture – Department of Health Permanent Secretary, Richard Pengelly adds his congratulations on the App’s international success

(Left to right) – Sean Holland (Chief Social Work Officer – DoH, Colum Conway (Chief Executive – NISCC), Christine Smyth (Strategy Development Manager – DoH Social Work Strategy), and Richard Pengelly (Permanent Secretary – DoH)

Colum Conway, CEO, NISCC said:

“We are delighted to accept the husITa Award. These Apps were our first steps into mobile learning solutions. They continue to grow in popularity, with an estimated 120,000 users worldwide. Our aim was to give a wide range of people, including health and social care practitioners and parents, fingertip access to developmental milestones including social, cognitive, language and physical development. Thanks to our technology partners Learning Pool and the content authors Anne Campbell from Queens University and Mary McColgan from Ulster University, the Apps have surpassed all expectations.”

“We recognise that technology is a key enabler to developing excellence in workforce skills and knowledge. Along with our colleagues from the Scottish Social Services Council, we recently shared our experiences of mobile learning solutions for social work and social care at the European Social Services Conference in Malta. Watch our website and social media for updates on our next learning solutions later in the year.”



Sean Holland, Chief Social Work Officer, Department of Health said:

“The Social Work Strategy supported the development of this app to help social workers and those working in child care to access reliable material quickly on their mobile phones.”

“I’d like to thank NISCC, Queens University of Belfast, Ulster University, Learning Pool and everyone else involved in this project.”

Picture – Presenting the finished product are Professor Mary McColgan –Ulster University and Dr. Anne Campbell – Queens University of Belfast who authored the content of the Apps



Paul McElvaney, CEO, Learning Pool said:
“We’re pleased that we could be a part of such a worthwhile project. Delivering this learning to thousands at the press of a button was first of its kind in Northern Ireland, and the usage shows that using technology works in health and social care to improve outcomes for those involved.”

The Child Development Apps and other NISCC apps are available to download free from: <https://niscc.info/workforce-development/mobile-learning>

Picture – Learning Pool’s Software Developers Ciaran Duffy and Barry McKay celebrate the success of their Child Development Apps

Social Care Managers Forum

Earlier this year we held two Social Care Manager Forums, one in the Silver birch hotel in Omagh and the other in the Loughshore hotel in Carrickfergus, both events give social care managers the opportunity to come together to network and share their experience and practice. During the morning we had presentations on a range of topics including NISCC’s priorities and direction of travel in the next four years and updates on the roll out of registration (which now sits at 28,874 social care workers on the register, representing 81% of the overall register of 35,458). 12,687 of our registrants represent the final phase of compulsory registration for domiciliary care, day care and supported living workers. Congratulations to all the social care managers and organisations who have worked hard to ensure social care staff are registered within the agreed time frame.



At the event:

- Alice McTavish and Laura O’Hanlon from RQIA outlined the continued good practice they have found during inspections across Northern Ireland.
- Annette Baines from Skills for Care presented on the Value Based Recruitment and Retention framework and toolkit currently available to support organisation in the UK.
- Tracey Reid from the Belfast Trust presented on the importance of understanding the social work role in social care within older people’s services.
- Helen McVicker from NISCC presented on the Fitness to Practice Model.
- Brenda Horgan from NISCC outlined the Standards of Conduct and Practice – Guidelines and Audit Implementation Networks (GAIN) work on Towards Safe and Effective Care.

NISCC as part of the Social Care Work Force Partnership along with employers has commenced work in Northern Ireland to develop a similar framework to support employers utilise best practice in recruitment and retention of social care staff.

Moving Forward

NISCC are planning for the next Social Care Managers Forum in October 2017. We want to hear from social care managers across different sectors in Northern Ireland on how innovative practice continues to develop and improve the lives of service users. We also want to hear the issues that have importance to you as a social care professional.

Social Care Managers Network

NISCC sought information and interest at the Social Care Managers Forum on supporting the development of a network which could support social care managers in sharing best practice, information and support to each other. This has been met with much interest from our registrants and NISCC will be working closely with organisations and social care managers in the next while to learn and better understand how a network could be best supported and developed. NISCC believe that it is important to continue to work closely with registrants, employers and stakeholders to ensure Northern Ireland develops a World Class Social Care Workforce.

If you would like to present at the next forum, have suggestions or just want to find out more please contact our Professional Adviser paul.rooney@niscc.hscni.net

Information on upcoming events will be circulated shortly.

NISCC Chair Jim Perry recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours

Congratulations to our Chair, Jim Perry, on receiving an MBE in this year's Queens Birthday honours for his services to the Community in Ballymena.

Colum Conway, NISCC Chief Executive said:

“Jim was appointed NISCC Chair in 2013 for a four year term and has been a NISCC Council Member since 2007; representing the views and needs of lay people in raising social care workforce standards. He is also Chair of Ulster Supported Employment Ltd, providing and supporting employment opportunities for people with disabilities. This award recognises how generously Jim gives his time and expertise to help public services and his local community.”



Closer to home, Jim is an active member of Ballymena Rotary Club and a major contributor to the highly successful 'Ahoghill in Bloom' team. Last year, he was appointed High Sheriff for the County of Antrim by the Secretary of State. This prestigious role granted him the honour of greeting Royal Visitors to the County and also involved the presentation of 'County Antrim Grand Jury Bursary Awards', to selected law students at Queen's University.

Congratulations also go out to social workers Hugh Connor (Centre for Effective Services) and Fergal O'Brien (SHSCT) for their services to social work and social care. Between them they have over half a decade of service to communities in Northern Ireland.

Nominate someone for their Social Care/Social Work Contribution

Honours are given to people from all walks of life and all sections of society who have made a difference to their community. There are several different types of award, each one recognising a different type of contribution. People can be nominated by individuals, organisations or government departments. If you would like to nominate someone for their services to social work or social care, you can find out more at: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/honours>



Social Workers and Social Care Managers – You could be selected to submit your Post Registration Training and Learning for audit

If you are a social worker or social care manager, you may be part of the sample selected in August 2017 to submit your PRTL for audit. Letters for those selected in this audit sample are being sent out during August and submissions must be returned by 1 December 2017.



If you have been selected, you will be asked to provide the following information:

- Summary of your social work/social care role
- Copy of your Personal Development Plan (PDP)
- Summary of PRTL Activities Undertaken - Record of Achievement
- Personal Statement - to reflect on your learning and development

To help you complete your Audit Submission, please make sure to download a copy of the [PRTL](#) Guidance and the [PRTL](#) Recording Form relevant to your appropriate role from the NISCC website at: <http://www.niscc.info/prtl-post-registration-training-and-learning>

Social workers, who in the three years preceding their renewal of registration date have achieved a minimum 100 credits or any requirement in the [Professional in Practice Framework](#) will not be required to submit for audit. **If you have met these requirements please contact us to request exemption.**

If you need further advice about the PRTL Audit, please contact Jan Houston, Professional Adviser, on 028 9536 2960 or by email: jan.houston@niscc.hscni.net

Helping you with the Registration Process

We have lots of information and support to help social care workers and managers to complete the registration process. Go to our website to access [Resource materials](#), [‘How to Guides’](#), and [YouTube presentations](#). For further information you can contact the NISCC Customer Service Team by emailing info@niscc.hscni.net or phoning 028 9536 2600.

NISCC Seminars and Workshops – take part or catch up on YouTube

We run a range of workshops and seminars throughout the year. These seminars are free to attend. Details and booking information is shared on our website [Events](#) page. If you can't attend on the day, catch up later on our [You Tube channel](#). **You can also follow on our [Website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)**

Tax Relief on Registrant Fees

Remember to claim tax relief on fees you have paid for NISCC registration from HMRC. More information about tax and the forms you need to submit is available from the [HMRC website](#)

Council Meetings – Open and accessible

You are welcome to come along to our Council meetings.

Meetings are usually held in our office at Millennium House.

Next Date for 2017-18

25 October 2017

31 January 2018

25 April 2018

27 June 2018



If you would like to attend a meeting, please email maureen.martin@niscc.hscni.net or call 028 9536 2952. Minutes from previous meetings are published on our website at: <http://www.niscc.info/about/how-we-make-decisions>

Customer Service – Here to help

We can help with queries about our work & the services we offer, including advice on your NISCC registration, using your NISCC Online account, routes into education & training and information about our Corporate Management.

Call: **028 9536 2600** (lines open Mon-Fri 09.00-13.00 & 14.00-16.00).

Email info@niscc.hscni.net



This newsletter is to update you on news and projects affecting the social care workforce in NI. Registrants using the information within the newsletter to develop their knowledge and practice can include the learning and development in their Post Registration Training & Learning record.

Subscribe online – If you are not a NISCC registrant and would like to receive news and updates please contact the NISCC Communications Team and we will add you to our mailing list. Email comms@niscc.hscni.net

www.niscc.info



YouTube

