

**Northern Ireland Social Care Council  
Registrants' Forum  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 11:00am  
NISCC Offices, Belfast**

**Present**

Roberta Magee (Chair) (Unison)  
Damien Maguire (BHSCT)  
Dillon McMahon (Positive Futures)

Carolyn Ewart  
Loughlinn Duffy (NIPSA)  
Nichola Shanks (Inspire)

**Apologies**

Rachel Killen (SHSCT)  
Andre McKeown (NISCC)

Sharon Scott (Extra Care)

**In Attendance**

Patricia Higgins (Director of Regulation  
And Standards)  
Jordan Adair (Minutes)

Catherine Maguire (Professional  
Adviser)

Item	Agenda	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcomes and Apologies</b>	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the group introduced themselves. Catherine Maguire was introduced as the new Professional Adviser in NISCC. Apologies were noted from Andre McKeown, Rachel Killen and Sharon Scott.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	
2.1	The minutes from the previous meeting held on Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
3.1	<u>Employers Code of Practice</u> The Director of Regulation and Standards reported that NISCC Council had endorsed the draft Standards of Practice for Employers. She highlighted key amendments made as result of the stakeholder consultation: <i>2.6: Ensuring clear lines of responsibility and accountability are established between recruitment/employment agencies and employing organisations in relation to agency workers.</i> <i>3.2: Providing and maintaining a work environment that is healthy</i>	

*and safe and free from harassment, bullying or violence.*

*3.5: Having appropriate systems in place to address and manage poor performance.*

Members were informed that Ms. McVicker is currently writing an introduction to the document. A completed document will be forwarded to RQIA for endorsement.

3.2 NISCC Website

Ms. McKeown has sent out an email to the group requesting short biographies from each member. The Director of Regulation and Standards asked Members to reply as soon as possible and informed everyone that NISCC were still looking at ways to best use the Registrant's Forum area of the website.

**ALL**

3.3 Domiciliary Care App

Members discussed the Domiciliary Care App and suggested that a reminder is sent to registrants about the app and how to use it. The Director of Regulation and Standards will raise this with the communications team. She also reference work being led by Brenda Horgan and Helen McVicker on guidance for Domiciliary Care workers funded by GAIN. Brenda and Helen will be asked to the next meeting to provide an update.

**PH**

3.4 "What I need from my Social Care Worker"

The group were told that Ms. Maguire would be taking the lead on this project. It had previously been agreed that the same layout would be used as the "What I need from my Social Worker". Both Mr. McMahon and Ms. Magee agree to participate in this project.

3.5 Engagement with Registrants

Members discussed engagement with registrants and agreed that a lot of engagement activity has taken place this year. Members suggested that it would be useful to specifically target domiciliary care staff and focus on the role of NISCC and the Standards. Members recommended that with regards to new domiciliary care staff, their induction should include a more detailed explanation of why they have to complete PRTL.

3.6 Raising Concerns

The Raising Concerns Guidance was endorsed by Council, however they recommended that there should be a Plain English review of the document. Ms. McVicker has taken this forward and this work will be completed soon. The next step is a launch of the document involving all partners. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

**4 Workshop with Council**

Members reflected that the meeting with Council had been useful and suggested an annual meeting would be beneficial, especially since new Council Members will be coming in over the next few months.

The Director of Regulation and Standards will prepare a paper for the next meeting highlighting the issues discussed.

**5 Corporate and Business Plans**

Corporate Plan 2017 - 2021

The Director of Regulation and Standards informed Members that the Corporate Plan had been signed off by the Council and submitted to the Department. She thanked Members for their participation in the development of the Corporate Plan and highlighted the 5 Key Corporate Objectives:

1. Putting Standards at the heart of Social Work and Social Care practice and education and training
2. Regulate the workforce and Social Work Education and Training
3. Develop the Social Work and Social Care Workforce
4. Promote a Systems Leadership approach across the Social Care sector
5. Communicate, Connect and Engage

Business Plan 2017-2018

The Business Plan is still in draft and will be circulated to Members once it has been approved by the Department.

**6 Economic Value of Adult Social Care**

Members considered a report produced by the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre, in collaboration with NISCC, Bryson Care, Cedar Foundation and NIAMH (now Inspire), to highlight the contribution made by Social Care to the local economy. Members agreed that it was an important document as it takes account of Social Care being a growth industry and a healthy contributor to the economy.

**7 Public Facing Register**

The Director of Regulation and Standards asked Members for their view on the information published on the Public Facing Register. Having reviewed the range of information, Members agreed that the information published is appropriate.

**8 Council Membership**

Members were informed that the Term of Office of a number of NISCC Council Members is coming to an end and the Public Appointments Unit will be advertising for new Council members, including the position of Chairperson. 3 out of the 6 vacancies are to be filled by registrants in Social Care and Social Work roles.

**9 Update from Forum Members**

Ms. Shanks informed Members that 'Beacon Wellbeing' had rebranded to 'Inspire' and have moved their offices to Lombard Street in Belfast.

Mr. McMahon informed Members about a staff consultation that is currently underway in his organisation.

Mr. Maguire informed Members about his involvement in the interviews for Fitness to Practise hearing committee members. He is currently sitting on the panel for selection of a Chairperson and lay committee members.

Mr. Duffy noted that there had been some issues regarding the applications from social care workers in the Southern Trust, however he was pleased to report these had been resolved and the register now reflects the numbers of staff registered.

Ms. Ewart reminded Members about this year's World Social Work Day taking place on the 21<sup>st</sup> March and that the campaign would be "10 days, 10 ways" #SocialWorkMakesADifference.

**10 Matters to be raised with Council**

- Public Facing Register
- Feedback from joint Council/Registrants Forum workshop

**11 AOB**

None.

**12 Dates of Future Meetings**

- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 @ 10:00am

Signed:



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