

## **Care Quality Guidance for Employers who sign up to the NI Social Care and Social Work Ambassador Service.**

Social Care and Social Work Ambassadors are identified by their employers as staff who provide and deliver good quality care and practice, which reflects the values required by the sector. All employers who want to sign up to the NI Ambassador Service must deliver good quality care and practice in line with DoH Minimum Standards, NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers and NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Workers.

Social Care is a regulated sector with providers regulated by the Regulations and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) and social care workers and social workers regulated by the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC).

All employers signing up to the NI Social Care and Social Work Ambassador Service must have no significant issues identified or improvements required as part of their latest inspection report from RQIA. Newly regulated care providers who have yet to be inspected can join, but to maintain their registration<sup>1</sup> with the NI Ambassador Service they must meet the above requirements on their first RQIA inspection. Any employer already registered with the NI Ambassador Service who subsequently has care quality or practice issues identified, should remove themselves from the Ambassador Register temporarily.

All social care and social work employees signing up to the service must have no significant fitness to practise concerns identified or have any past or pending referrals to the NISCC Fitness to Practise department. If a concern is identified while they are registered as an Ambassador, they should remove themselves from the Ambassador Register temporarily.

They can do this by informing NISCC that they need to 'take a break' until issues/concerns have been resolved. To protect the integrity of the NI Ambassador initiative, NISCC reserves the right to reject any application to join the Ambassador Service, or temporarily/permanently remove an employer or ambassador if we become aware of issues relating to Minimum Standards and/or Standards of Conduct and Practice.

If you have any questions regarding care quality or you are unsure whether you should join or 'take a break' from the Ambassador register, please contact NISCC at [info@niscc.hscni.net](mailto:info@niscc.hscni.net)

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<sup>1</sup> This registration refers to registration with the NI Ambassador Service not the NISCC Register for Social Care.