

**Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Registrants' Forum
Friday 9th February 2018, 10:00am
NISCC Offices, Belfast**

Present

Roberta Magee (Chair)
Carolyn Ewart (Deputy Chair)
Damien Maguire (NIPSA)
Loughlinn Duffy (SHSCT)
Tamera McDevitt (Student Rep)

Apologies

Dillon McMahon (Positive Futures)
Patricia Higgins (Director of Regulation and Standards)

In Attendance

Catherine Maguire (Professional Advisor)
Kevin Mulhern (Communications Manager)
Alison Shaw (Workforce Development Officer)
Jordan Adair (Business Support)

Item	Agenda	Action
1	Welcomes and Apologies	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and in particular welcomed the new student representative Tamera McDevitt from Ulster University. Apologies were noted from Dillon McMahon and Patricia Higgins.	
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
2.1	The minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 29 th September were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
3	Matters Arising	
3.1	<u>Joint NISCC/CORU Fringe Event:</u> The Deputy Chair informed the group that planning for the joint NISCC and CORU fringe event to be held at the IFSW conference in July, was underway and would include the Irish Association of Social Workers. The main discussion will be around social work practice in	

	the North and South.	
3.2	<p><u>Sickness Absence Figures:</u> Mr Maguire informed Members that the figures for sickness absence in social work had now been passed to the Director of Regulation and Standards.</p>	
3.3	<p><u>Residential Childcare:</u> Mr Maguire informed members about a meeting that NIPSA had with the Department of Health about NIPSA's concerns about the pressures on staff working in the residential childcare. The Department, while disputing some of the information raised, have accepted that there are difficulties that need to be overcome and have agreed to a joint piece of work to counteract the deficit in the area.</p>	
3.4	<p><u>"What Do I Expect from my Social Care Worker":</u> Ms Maguire shared the final copy of "What Do I Expect From My Social Care Worker". Mr Duffy questioned the word "behave" being included as per the previous minutes (Friday 29th September 2017): <i>They noted that the phrase "behave well" suggests that social care workers do not behave well while at work and recommended that it should be changed to "provide good care and carry out their job properly".</i> Ms Maguire agreed to raise this with the Director of Regulation and Standards.</p>	
4	Social Care Matters – Event – Friday 8th December 2017	
4.1	Ms Maguire, Ms Shaw and Mr Mulhern gave a short update on the Northern Ireland Social Care Council's recent "Social Care Matters" symposium that was held in Malone house on 8 th December 2017. Members were shown a short video that was presented at the event and received sample packs that were given out on the day.	
5	NISCC Draft Business Plan – 2018/2019	
5.1	<p><u>Communication and Engagement</u> Mr Mulhern informed Members that the NISCC Business Plan for 2018/2019 was currently in draft form and contains objectives focussing on communication and engagement activities.</p> <p>Members heard that Mr Mulhern and Ms Shaw each took up their respective roles at the end of 2017 and are currently working together to develop how NISCC as an organisation engages and communicates with its key stakeholders. The project they are undertaking is looking at branding, digital transformation, raising the company profile, internal communications and external engagement. Ms Shaw also spoke briefly about upcoming NISCC events (Lunchtime Seminars, Social Care Manager's Forums and the Ambassador Network) for this year to engage with registrants of</p>	

	<p>different levels. She agreed to share the event's feedback sheet with the group once the new layout and content had been confirmed.</p> <p>Members were asked for their feedback and provided the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managers find it difficult to get in touch with such a high number of staff so have chosen to use text messages as their primary form of communication. • Mr Maguire suggested the best time to hold events would be between the hours of 2pm and 4pm as this is when most domiciliary staff would be free. • Mr Maguire also suggested that going to their bases/hubs and having face-to-face contact, for example, clinic days where staff can drop in and out when they're free. • Members commented that they felt NISCC did not show enough support for their registrant's in the media; that NISCC are only seen as a threat instead of a useful resource. They suggested that there was not enough evidence of the support given in terms of workforce development and NISCC needs to make this more visible to all levels of social work and social care staff. • There was a discussion around bringing the Registrant's Forum back to what it was originally intended to be – not just about NISCC sharing information but also registrants being able to relay information to NISCC in a meaningful way. Ms Maguire informed Members that work is underway to review broader engagement with registrants. • Ms McDevitt informed the group that as a student, they only visit the NISCC website and register because they are told that they have to and that they are less likely to get their information from NISCC's social media accounts. 	AS
6	Update from Forum Members	
6.1	Mr Maguire reiterated NIPSA's concern about residential childcare and said that conditions had not changed although he told Members about the positive meeting with the Department to address some of the problems.	
6.2	<p>The Deputy Chair informed members about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That NIASW were about to do a survey to social workers around violence and threats of violence in their workplace as it is a big issue for staff. • That NIASW are currently working with a number of MLA's, MP's, the Department of Justice and the Department of Health for legal reform around section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (NI) 1967. This pertains to the issue raised previously about the 2 child tax credit. 	

7	Matters to be raised with council	
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residential Child Care• Purpose of the Registrant's Forum	
8	AOB	
8.1	None.	
9	Dates of Future Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBC	

Signed:



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