

<b>Title of report</b>	Convener's Report
<b>Public/confidential</b>	Public
<b>Action</b>	For information
<b>Summary/purpose of report</b>	This report provides Council Members with an update on engagements carried out by the Convener on behalf of the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The report also provides a summary of the discussion at the Policy Forum on 14 February 2018.
<b>Recommendations</b>	The Council is asked to note the information contained in this report.
<b>Link to Strategic Plan</b>	The information in this report links to Outcome 4 of the Strategic Plan, that our stakeholders value our work.
<b>Link to the Risk Register</b>	This report links to the Strategic Risk Register in that it aims to contribute to open, transparent and informed governance arrangements.
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<b>Documents attached</b>	None

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report sets out the stakeholder engagement which has been carried out by the Convener on the SSSC's behalf and also summaries the discussion at the Policy Forum.

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

1 February 2018	Disability & Carers Benefits Group
19 February 2018	Joint Care Inspectorate/Healthcare Improvement Scotland Development event
23 February 2018	Dementia Ambassadors Conference
27 February 2018	Minister for Childcare & Early Years – visit to SSSC offices
8 March 2018	Expert Advisory Group Ministerial Round Table
14 March 2018	Dementia Champions Graduation
15 March 2018	Care Inspectorate Board Development
20 March 2018	World Social Work Day – Celebration (Audrey Cowie deputised)
21 March 2018	Ministerial Strategic Group

### **Discussion at the Policy Forum – 14 February 2018**

- 1.2 The Policy Forum is a discussion meeting attended by Council members and officers. The format allows officers to bring items to the forum and seek feedback from Council Members. The discussion at the forum is then used to further pieces of work or projects, before they are brought to full Council for public debate and decision.
- 1.3 The Policy Forum on the 14 February 2018 discussed a number of areas including:
- An update on the Education Governance Review
  - Assessment of the SSSC using Professional Standards Authority – Standards of good regulation
  - Our Digital Transformation journey
  - Succession planning – Chief Executive
  - Corporate Governance Review

## **Empowering Schools: A consultation on the provisions of the Education (Scotland) Bill**

- 1.4 A briefing paper was presented providing an overview of the consultation. The proposals in relation to the Education Workforce Council is the most significant to the SSSC.
- 1.5 Early responses suggest that there is a lack of clarity and concern was expressed that the proposals do not take into account the size and diversity of the workforce ie the majority of early years workers are employed in the voluntary and private sector.
- 1.6 The Scottish Government will publish all the responses. We will continue to keep a close watch on this consultation and the implications for the SSSC.

## **The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) – Standards of good regulation**

- 1.7 Officers presented the findings from our self-assessment against the standards for good regulation.
- 1.8 The standards cover the 'four regulatory core functions':
- setting and promoting guidance and standards for the professions
  - setting standards for and quality assuring the provision of education and training
  - maintaining a register of professionals
  - taking action where professional's fitness to practise may be impaired.
- 1.9 Council members noted that the SSSC met the majority of standards and welcomed that we identified areas for future development.

## **Update on our Digital Transformation Programme**

- 1.10 The Director of Strategic Performance and Engagement provided an overview of the Digital Transformation Programme. This consists of four projects:
- the Sequence transition which involved moving the hosting to our new supplier (completed)
  - the development and implementation of the Case Management System and paperless hearings (work in progress)
  - MySSSC/website development (work in progress)

- Project uplift – new computers and moving to Office 365 (in progress)

1.11 The four projects have identified infrastructure challenges and we are now in the process of uncoupling from the Care Inspectorate in relation to the Active Directory. As we move to the Cloud we will require less ICT support so are now looking at how we will provide future ICT support.

### **Corporate Governance Review**

1.12 The Head of Corporate Governance and Hearings set out the need for our annual review of our corporate governance arrangements and updated the Forum on progress on the 2016 action plan. All key items are complete and the work to refresh member's networks is being updated. Work to improve the end to end council reporting process is on-going. Some key points emerged from the survey of members carried out in November 2017 and the Forum discussed actions arising out of these which will be brought to Council for consideration and decision. One of the areas discussed concerned the impact of changes to Council membership and the Convener led a discussion on where Council may benefit from new members with particular skills or knowledge. These included areas such as audit and private service provider knowledge. A need to consider board diversity was also acknowledged. The Forum also considered the possibility of more informal ways of members sharing their reflections on their experience of board membership as part of recruitment.

### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

1.13 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

### **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

1.14 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

1.15 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

1.16 Internal stakeholders have contributed to this report and the report aims to include a regular update on the Convener's engagement activities with our external stakeholders.

### **IMPACT ON USERS AND CARERS**

1.17 There is no direct impact on people who use services or their carers.

## **CONCLUSION**

- 1.18 This report summarises recent engagements undertaken by the Convener on behalf of the SSSC. It also sets out the items which were discussed at the recent Policy Forum and will now be considered by Council.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 1.19 None.