

<b>Title of report</b>	European Social Network (ESN) member's forum
<b>Public/confidential</b>	Public
<b>Action</b>	Information
<b>Summary/purpose of report</b>	To update Resources Committee on European Social Network (ESN) member's forum in Brussels from 19 <sup>th</sup> April-21 <sup>st</sup> April 2017.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the contribution of the SSSC to the ESN forum. The learning from the event has been shared with our UK partners in Skills for Care and Development. The SSSC participated on behalf of the UK partnership.</li> </ol>
<b>Link to Strategic Plan</b>	SSSC strategic Outcome 3: Our resources support the professional development of the social service workforce.
<b>Link to the Risk Register</b>	The information in this report links to Outcome 3: Our resources support the professional development of the social service workforce.
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<b>Documents attached</b>	None

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The European Social Network (ESN) is the network for local public services in Europe. ESN brings together people who regulate, plan, manage and deliver public services across Europe and is a network of 120 organisations in 35 countries. The European Social Services forum brings together commissioners, regulators and managers across the social services and social welfare sectors in Europe.

## **2. INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The European Social Network's forum was held on 20-21 April 2017 and was used as a basis for scoping and preparing the ESN three year strategy (2017-2020). The strategy has been developed around the theme of 'the future of social welfare systems'. In developing the strategy the ESN forum considered four key areas of policy namely; the transformation of social welfare, growing inequalities and their social consequences, housing and homelessness and social innovation. The UK Skills for Care and Development partnership contributed to the strategy in terms of workforce implications relating to the registration regulation. This included the impact of learning technology and the driving up of standards and improvements through qualifications and wider learning and development initiatives with health partners. The Skills for Care and Development partnership also informed the strategy in relation to the impact of policies and legislation on the workforce such as self-directed support, early years, health and social integration and carers' legislation.
- 2.2 The strategy was submitted to the European Commission as part of the partnership agreement and funding to support the work of ESN over the next three years.
- 2.3 As a precursor to the member's forum the Head of Learning and Development also attended the preparatory meeting in Brighton on behalf of Skills for Care and Development. The SSSC delivered a presentation at the Brighton event on the role of social innovation and learning technology within the context of Health and Social Care in Scotland and highlighted our partnership work across the UK.

## **3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None

## **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out.
- 4.2 This activity will have no negative impact on people with one or more protected characteristics and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

## **6. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

- 6.1 Participation in the member's forum resulted in a direct contribution to the development of the ESN three year strategy on behalf of the Skills for Care and Development. SSSC have shared the learning from the member's forum with Skills for Care and Development and the social services sector in Scotland through existing networks and a range of articles were published on the ESN website.

## **7. IMPACT ON USERS AND CARERS**

- 7.1 While there is no immediate impact on users and carers, the learning from this event has helped us in our work to inform policy and learning in Scotland in particular our programme of partnership work with NES and the Care Inspectorate, and will subsequently have a positive impact on people who use social services and their carers.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The resources Committee is asked to note the report.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 None.