

Title of report	Convener's Report
Public/Confidential	Public
Summary/purpose of report	Update on Convener's activity since last full Council meeting on 26th May 2022.
Recommendations	The Council is asked to note the summary of recent key issues and activities from the viewpoint of the Convener.
Author	Sandra Campbell, Convener
Responsible Officer	Maree Allison, Acting Chief Executive
Link to Strategic Plan	<p>The information in this report links to:</p> <p>Outcome 1: People who use services are protected by ensuring the regulated workforce is fit to practise.</p> <p>Outcome 2: The SSSC supports and enhances the development of the registered workforce to deliver high standards of practice and drive improvement.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Our workforce planning activities support employers, commissioners and policy makers to deliver a sustainable, integrated and innovative workforce.</p> <p>Outcome 4: The social work, social care and early years workforce is recognised as professional and regulated and valued for the difference it makes to people's lives.</p>
Link to Risk Register	<p>Risk 1: We fail to ensure that our system of regulation meets the needs of people who use services and workers.</p> <p>Risk 2: We fail to ensure that our workforce development function supports the workforce and employers to achieve the rights standards and qualifications to gain and maintain registration.</p> <p>Risk 3: We fail to meet corporate governance, external scrutiny and legal obligations.</p>

	<p>Risk 4: We fail to provide value to stakeholders and demonstrate our impact.</p> <p>Risk 5: We fail to develop and support SSSC staff appropriately to ensure we have a motivated and skilled workforce to achieve our strategic outcomes.</p> <p>Risk 6: The SSSC fails to secure sufficient budget resources to fulfil the financial plans required to deliver the strategic plan.</p> <p>Risk 7: Business continuity Plans (PCP) are in place and tested.</p> <p>Risk 8: We fail to have the appropriate measures in place to protect against cyber security attacks.</p>
Impact assessments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was not required. 2. A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) was not required. 3. A Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) was not required.
Documents attached	None
Background papers	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report summarises the activity of the Convener from 26 May 2022 to date.

INTRODUCTION

2. This report covers the period from my last report for the meeting of 26 May 2022. This has been a relatively quiet period with little partnership activity to report and therefore few meetings. However, there are important issues for the SSSC, both internally and from the perspective of the Scottish Government which will have long term implications but will take a longer period of time to clarify and implement.
3. The main internal issue is the Rewards Review, and I would like to note that the Council Members have been briefed on the progress and issues arising and are aware of the impact on our staff. We are working together with the Executive Management Team to agree a way forward as soon as possible.

MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

4. As an ex-officio member of the board of the Care Inspectorate I attended a board meeting on 16 June 2022, a key issue which I noted being ongoing work to implement learning from the period of the COVID pandemic, in relation to the most effective inspection programme.
5. A new Care Inspectorate Chief Executive has been appointed, taking up post in the next few weeks: Jackie Irvine, who most recently served as the Chief Social Work Officer for Edinburgh City Council. I look forward to working with Jackie. Paul Edie is completing his term as Chair at the end of this month and his successor will join our Council; no Ministerial announcement has yet been made although interviews have taken place.

MEETINGS WITH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

6. I have continued to have regular meetings with Iona Colvin, the Chief Social Work Adviser and my key link with our Sponsor. These have been helpful as always, with one key issue being the recruitment of a Council Member to replace Russell Pettigrew, whose tenure ends this month. There will be a short delay in the appointment of a new Member, likely to be in early 2023. I have agreed with the Chair of the Audit and Assurance Committee that this can be managed in the interim, assuming the proposed timescale is feasible.

7. The implications of the next stage of the National Care Service have been the other main topic, with minimal (and expected) change confirmed in the short-term for the SSSC. However, the Scottish Government has embarked on further consultation in the sector over the next few months and so we await detailed confirmation of the proposed way forward. In the meantime, the Council continues to be focused on the budget implications for the SSSC, which to date have been unclear for the longer term, adding to the difficulty in taking a long view on our strategic plans.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

8. The Development Session on 27 June 2022 was largely focused on early thoughts around developing the next Strategic Plan, with slightly different language and presentation being proposed. This led to some useful discussion which will be picked up again in a future session. We were also able to hear from two partner organisations, namely Scottish Care and Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS). These sessions were, by necessity, brief due to our busy agenda but Members very much appreciated the input from Becca Young and Nigel Henderson. This follows a long-term plan to enhance the wider knowledge base of the services in which our registrants are employed, and which has been delayed due to the intervention of COVID-19. This also linked in very well to the continuing discussion about the development of our Strategic Plan.
9. The Council is now largely meeting in-person but with the facility for a hybrid meeting when necessary. This has worked very well to date.
10. My key activity over the last two months has been the annual appraisal of Council Members. As always this proved to give useful insight into how Members have experienced the last year and we were able to look forward to future developments in the SSSC, which is aspirational and forward-facing in a climate of change in public services.

CONCLUSION

11. In conclusion, I would like to thank Maree Allison for her support as Acting Chief Executive during this period, and to note that Council Members send their best wishes to Lorraine Gray.