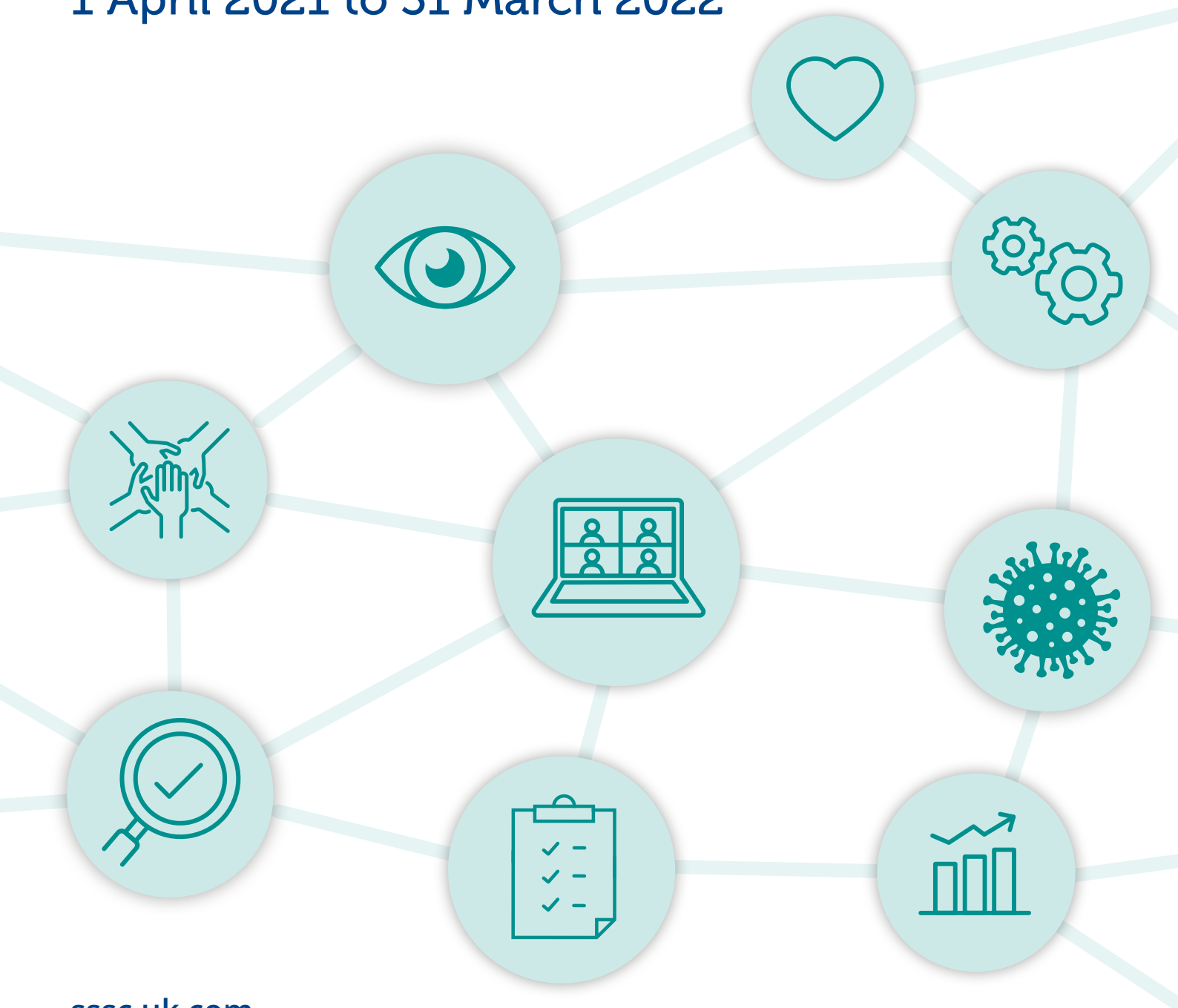


Annual Report and Accounts

1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022



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Annual Report and Accounts of the Scottish Social Services Council

This report is laid before the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Ministers under Schedule 2, Section 10(1) of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000.

1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

SI number SG/2022/16

Chief Executive's foreword

Welcome to our 2021/22 Annual Report and Accounts. It has been an extraordinary year during which everyone working in social work, social care and early years, and our staff, have continued to deliver the dedicated, valuable work that is the foundation of social services in Scotland. Throughout the year we continued to adapt to new and better ways of working following the global pandemic.

As you read this report you will see the year has been one of progress during which we have embedded our use of digital technologies and different, innovative ways of working. We have started several significant change projects that will deliver improvements for the social work, social care and early years workforce, social service employers and our staff and stakeholders, in the years ahead.

In December, we launched our Future Proofing Programme, a three-year programme that aims to make sure our regulatory system is clear, transparent and raises the standards of practice in the sector. A key part of the programme is to review and build a sustainable Register for the Future which will be easier to understand for all. We had record involvement from the sector with the consultation sharing their thoughts, feedback and ideas with us which will be of great value as we develop the Register.

We updated and improved some of our processes and introduced new services to benefit the sector and those who work in it. For example, we introduced an automated process for straightforward registration renewals, and we developed a support line for people going through the fitness to practise process.

Partnership working is fundamental to our role. We deliver our work by involving people across a broad spectrum, from those who have lived experience of using services to partners like the Scottish Government, the Scottish Refugee Council, NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and the Care Inspectorate. We supported the social service workforce at all levels to deliver high standards of practice. We worked with the Scottish Government and NES to develop leadership activities and delivered online sessions on key topics and practice areas. We developed the newly qualified social worker (NQSW) supported year model and are supporting the roll out of the supported first year of practice for NQSWs.

This year has brought out the best in our staff and the social work, social care and early years workforce despite the continued challenges we all faced. The support for our citizens and communities is impressive and I thank you all for your exceptional commitment, hard work and resilience throughout 2021.

Lorraine Gray
Chief Executive

SECTION A: Performance report

Performance overview

Our organisation

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is the regulator for the social work, social care and early years workforce in Scotland. We deliver our vision:

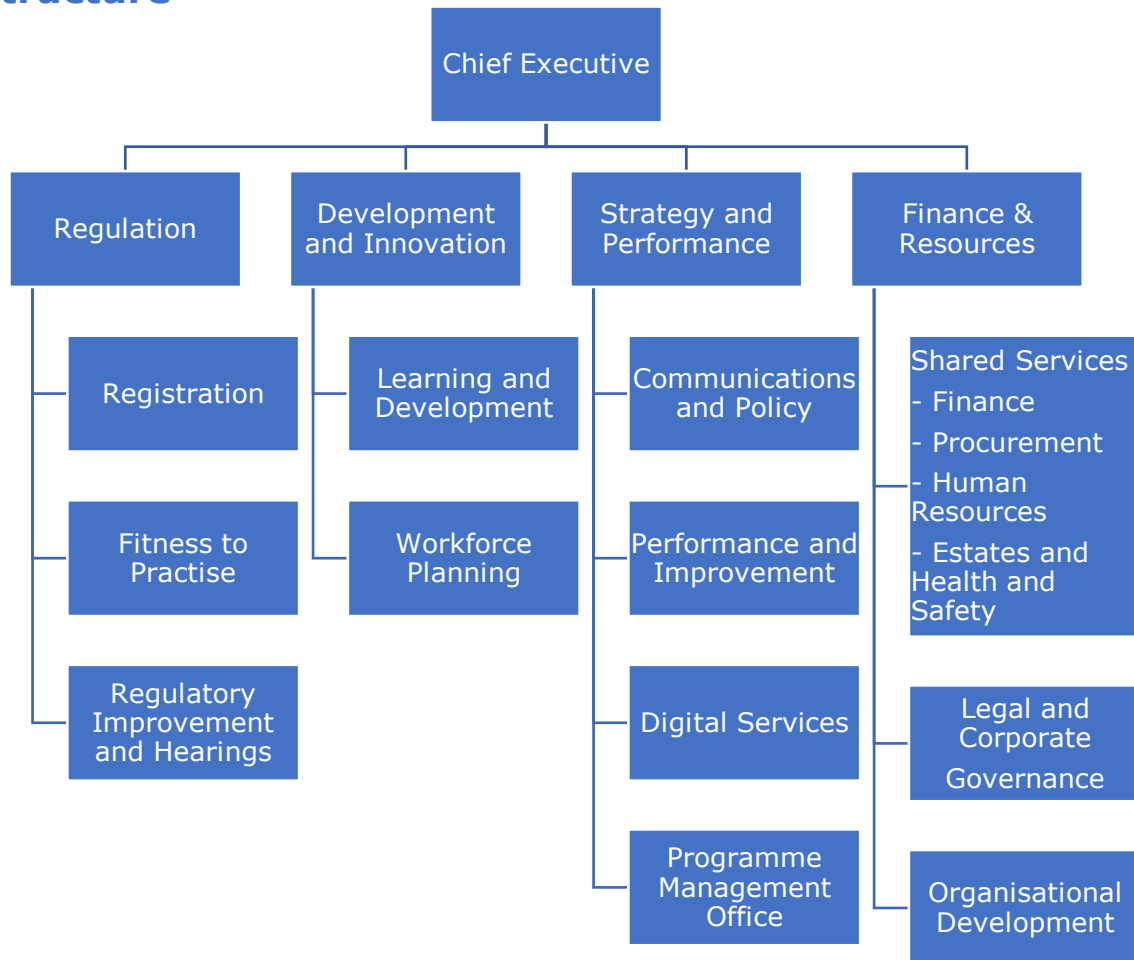
Our work means the people of Scotland can count on social work, social care and early years services being provided by a trusted, skilled and confident workforce through regulation, registration and development of their skills.

We are a non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser at the Directorate for Children and Families and set up under the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001. We are governed by a Council of 10 Members, including a Convener, who are appointed by Scottish Ministers. The Council delegates some responsibilities to the Audit and Assurance Committee.

Our Chief Executive and directors make up our Executive Management Team (EMT). The heads of each department make up our Operational Management Team (OMT).

We have 314 full-time equivalent employees working across four directorates. We share services with the Care Inspectorate including Finance, Human Resources, Procurement, Estates and Health and Safety.

Structure



Our work

The social service sector employs approximately 209,700 workers which represents almost 8% of all employment in Scotland, or 1 in 13 workers. This is the highest figure since we began publishing this data in 2008.

The workforce includes social service workers, social workers, social work students and early learning and childcare workers. They work across a range of services, in residential and day centres, community facilities and in people's homes.

We protect the public by registering social workers, social care and early years workers, setting standards for their practice, conduct, training and education and by supporting their professional development. Where people fall below the standards of practice and conduct we can investigate and take action.

We:

- publish the national codes of practice for people working in social work, social care and early years services and their employers
- register people working in social work, social care and early years and make sure they adhere to our codes of practice
- promote and regulate their learning and development
- are the national lead for workforce development and planning for the social work, social care and early years workforce in Scotland
- are the official and national statistics provider of social service workforce data in Scotland
- are the Sector Skills Council for social services in Scotland.

Our work contributes to the Scottish Government's purpose and national outcomes:

Scottish Government purpose	To focus on creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increased wellbeing, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
National Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe. 2. We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential. 3. We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society. 4. We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.
SSSC vision	Our work means the people of Scotland can count on social work, social care and early years services being provided by a trusted, skilled and confident workforce.
SSSC strategic outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who use services are protected by ensuring the regulated workforce is fit to practise. • The SSSC supports and enhances the development of the regulated workforce to deliver high standards of practice and drive improvement. • Our workforce planning activities support employers, commissioners and policy makers to deliver a sustainable, integrated and innovative workforce. • 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.

Our business model



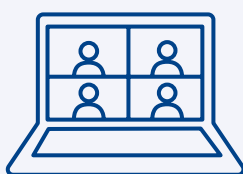
Our key partners and stakeholders

- Scottish Government sponsor – Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser and Scottish Government policy teams
- Social service employers' representative groups
- People with lived experience
- Learning providers and awarding bodies
- NHS Education Scotland
- Skills Development Scotland
- Care Inspectorate
- Other regulators within and out with social services and across the UK
- Skills for Care and Development
- Social Work Scotland
- Convention of Scottish Local Authorities



Key activities

- Maintain a register of eligible workers
- Publish the codes of practice for people working in social services and their employers
- Investigate concerns about the fitness to practise of registrants and applicants
- Sector skills council
- Support the professional development of workers
- National lead for workforce development and planning for social services in Scotland
- Engage stakeholders through our Involving People Plan
- Official and national statistics provider of social service workforce data in Scotland
- Collaboration with Scottish Government policy teams



Key resources

- Staff
- IT systems and hardware
- Office and hearing rooms
- Knowledge and experience



Value proposition

Our work means the people of Scotland can count on social work, social care and early years services being provided by a trusted, skilled and confident workforce.

We protect the public by registering social workers, social care and early years workers, setting standards for their practice, conduct, training and education and by supporting their professional development.

Where people fall below the standards of practice and conduct we can investigate and take action.



Who we reach

- Members of the public
- People who use services and their carers
- Social service user and carer representative groups
- Advocacy and campaigning groups



Our customers

- Scotland's social work, social service and early years workforce
- Workers applying for registration
- Registered workers
- Employers of registered workforce



Budget

Our budgeted expenditure is funded by grant in aid from Scottish Government and fees paid by those on the Register. Our budgeted funding for 2021/22 was £16.0m from grant in aid (outturn £16.2m) and £5.7m from fees paid by registrants (outturn £6.0m) and other income of £0.3m (outturn £0.6m).

Managing our risks

Our Council is accountable for overseeing risk management. The Council has delegated responsibility for managing our strategic risk to the Audit and Assurance Committee, who ensure we have effective risk management processes in place. To manage risk, we:

- review our risk policy annually
- agree a risk appetite statement annually
- review and update the strategic risk register quarterly
- review directorate risk registers monthly.

In 2021/22 we identified the following strategic risks that could have prevented us from achieving our outcomes.

1. We fail to ensure that our system of regulation meets the needs of people who use services and workers.
2. We fail to ensure that our workforce development function supports the workforce and employers to achieve the right standards and qualifications to gain and maintain registration.
3. We fail to meet corporate governance, external scrutiny and legal obligations.
4. We fail to plan and resource our activities to deliver our digital strategy.
5. We fail to provide value to our stakeholders and demonstrate our impact.
6. We fail to develop and support SSSC staff appropriately to ensure we have a motivated and skilled workforce or have insufficient staff resources to achieve our strategic outcomes.
7. We fail to secure sufficient budget resources to fulfil the financial plans required to deliver the strategic plan.
8. Business Continuity Plans (BCP) are in place and tested.
9. We are unable to operate effectively and efficiently due to effects of the global pandemic caused by COVID-19.

At each step in our risk management process we identify, review, record and assess risks to identify ways to mitigate their impacts. Risk management is embedded throughout the organisation with the OMT initiating the monthly risk management cycle by completing directorate risk registers for our EMT to review and escalate as appropriate. Our processes allow us to escalate and de-escalate risks when required.

Reviewing our strategic risks

We proactively identify risks around business continuity procedures, our ability to carry out planned business activities and our budget. We also monitor changes to the policy landscape, for example the recent National Care review as well as the ongoing implementation of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care and The Promise. These continue to provide opportunities for change and improvement in how we carry out our planned activities.

In February 2022 we reviewed our strategic risk register and identified a number of emerging risks and ongoing areas from last year. We will continue to monitor these over 2022/23 alongside emerging risks as we identify them. Some risks from 2021/22 have now been removed from the register. Our revised strategic risks and examples of key mitigating actions for 2022/23 are shown below.

Table 1: Descriptions of strategic risk and mitigating actions

Description of risk	Key mitigating actions
We fail to ensure that our system of regulation meets the needs of people who use services and workers.	Develop changes to the structure of the Register.
We fail to ensure that our workforce development function supports the workforce to achieve the right standards and qualifications to gain and maintain registration.	Develop new qualifications and career pathways to support delivery of new models of care. Development of workforce skills action plan to address identified skills gaps and learning needs, including shortage of provision. Development of a national induction resource to support the adult social care sector.
We fail to meet corporate governance, external scrutiny and legal obligations.	Implement regular assurance mapping reviews.
We fail to provide value to our stakeholders and demonstrate our impact.	Develop SSSC equalities data and consider publication of this to support policy changes. Use the stakeholder and registrant research and survey information carried out in 2021/22 to inform our next strategic plan.
We fail to develop and support SSSC staff appropriately to ensure we have a motivated and skilled workforce or have insufficient resources to achieve our strategic outcomes.	Deliver our People Strategy action plan.

Description of risk	Key mitigating actions
We fail to secure sufficient budget resources to fulfil the financial plans required to deliver the strategic plan.	<p>Annual review of financial strategy will take place alongside development of the next strategic plan.</p> <p>Quarterly assurance meetings to consider current financial position, organisational performance and risk.</p> <p>Regular review of resource models.</p>
Business Continuity Plans (BCP) are in place and tested.	Development of suite of business continuity management resources.
We fail to have the appropriate measures in place to protect against cyber security attacks.	<p>Revised business continuity and incident management testing plan.</p> <p>Continue to maintain our cyber essential accreditation.</p>

Engaging with our customers and stakeholders

We carry out regular engagement with customers to help us identify their needs and areas where we can improve.

We held two surveys for people on our Register in 2021/22. We also surveyed groups of stakeholders and took part in Ipsos MORI's annual survey of Members of the Scottish Parliament.

While the surveys had specific aims, as in previous years we identified consistent themes. Across both surveys for people who are registered we received 12,766 responses. The responses indicate continued positive feeling towards the SSSC and the benefit that being registered brings, as well as very positive feedback on the customer service we provide.

A consistent theme across the responses was the difficulty that workers have in finding enough time to access and use our learning resources during working hours, and alongside that, a consensus that live or recorded online training and learning sessions would be preferable.

We also noted some emerging issues that were highlighted by more than one part of the Register. We will use this information to plan development of future resources and engagement with the sector.

- Work commitments prevent attendance at events.
- Respondents would like more clarity on the role of the SSSC/information on what the SSSC does.
- Respondents want to see us promote better pay and benefits in the sector.

To make sure we build a sustainable Register that is easier to understand by workers, employers and the public and is fit for the future we launched the consultation for the first phase of our Register for the Future programme. This resulted in the highest engagement we have had for a consultation with over 6,500 responses from registered workers, employers, representative groups and people with experience of using social work, social care and early years services. This work will continue into our next strategic plan.

To improve our understanding of the value of being registered and to develop our relationships with the sector, we held our 'meet the SSSC' events for registered workers online for the first time. We ran various workshops with 120 attendees resulting in very positive feedback: 94% of respondents told us they were more positive about regulation and registration and 62% said their knowledge about these areas had improved because of the events.

Our strategic outcomes

2021/22 marked the second year of our [2020-2023 Strategic Plan](#). This Annual Report and Accounts provides a high-level assessment of our work during 2021/22 to deliver our strategic plan outcomes.

We have four strategic outcomes.

1. People who use services are protected by ensuring the regulated workforce is fit to practise.
2. The SSSC supports and enhances the development of the regulated workforce to deliver high standards of practice and drive improvement.
3. Our workforce planning activities support employers, commissioners and policy makers to deliver a sustainable, integrated and innovative workforce.
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.

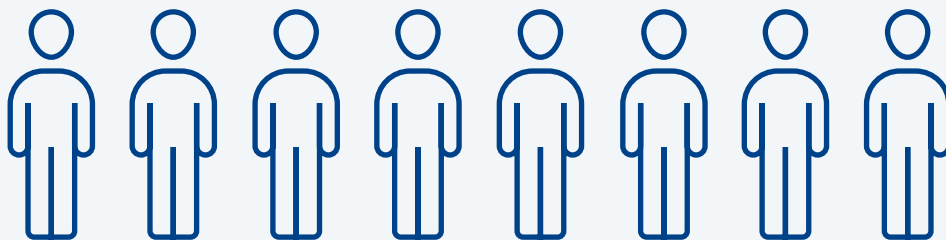
To show our progress in fulfilling these outcomes, over the remaining period of our strategic plan we will measure:

- the percentage of people using services who experience high quality care from a qualified and registered workforce
- the percentage of the workforce who believe that the work of the SSSC improves their practice
- the percentage of those who use our resources that report positively on the effectiveness of workforce planning activities
- the feedback we receive that our work promotes the value of the social care workforce through engagement activity.

One year at a glance

21/22

At its peak, around
165,811 individuals were on the Register.



6,275

SSSC Open and Health and Social Care Standards badges awarded*.



17,042

active users of MyLearning app.

*Open Badges are digital certificates recognising learning and achievements that are tied to assessment and evidence.



3,428

fitness to practise concerns received.



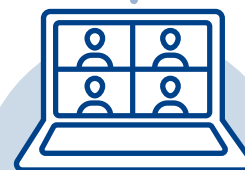
3,815

concerns closed or resolved.



201

hearings held



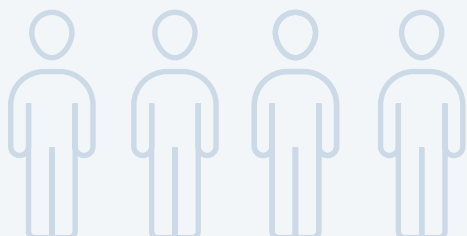
of which
197

were online



4

were a hybrid of online and in-person meetings



51,146

applications registered.

Financial performance

Our budget is funded by a mixture of grant in aid, specific grants from the Scottish Government and fees paid by registrants. (Grant in aid means the Scottish Government provides funding but without imposing day-to-day control over how we spend it). In managing our finances, we are not allowed to use overdraft facilities or to borrow.

Under section 57 of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001, the SSSC can set reasonable fees through changes to our registration rules. This requires Scottish Ministers consent. The last increase in fee rates was effective from 1 September 2017.

Our budgeted income and funding for 2021/22 was as follows:

	2021/22 Budgeted income £000	2021/22 Budgeted funding £000	2021/22 Total income and funding £000
Grant in aid		16,035	16,035
Specific grants		900	900
Registration fees	5,644		5,644
Other income	290		290
Total income and funding	5,934	16,935	22,869

Our expenditure budget was set with the aim of using all available income and funding to maximise the benefits the SSSC provides to people who use care, social work services, carers and SSSC registrants.

We set the 2021/22 expenditure budget at £25.072m. This is £2.203m more than the 2021/22 available funding of £22.869m. Our Scottish Government Sponsor agreed that we could retain additional 2020/21 grant in aid of £2.203m in our general reserve to fund practice learning fees, digital and other development during 2021/22. We did not fully use this in 2021/22 due to ongoing delays relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was no capital expenditure during the 2021/22 financial year. The following table shows our revenue budget position.

	2021/22 Budget £000	2021/22 Actual £000	2021/22 Variance £000
Revenue expenditure	25,072	24,357	(715)
Fee income	(5,644)	(5,951)	(307)
Other income	(290)	(555)	(265)
Net expenditure	19,138	17,851	(1,287)
Grant in aid (revenue)	(16,035)	(16,217)	(182)
Specific grant funded projects	(900)	(1,209)	(309)
Total funding	(16,935)	(17,426)	(491)
Deficit/(surplus) for the year	2,203	425	(1,778)
Transfer to/(from) General Reserve	(2,203)	(425)	1,778

Our actual deficit for 2021/22 was £0.425m ie £1.778m less than the budgeted deficit position of £2.203m. The Scottish Government has agreed we can carry this forward for use during 2022/23.

Budget variances were as follows:

	2021/22 £000
COVID-19 related expenditure variances	
Practice learning fees	(493)
Postgraduate bursaries	(259)
Digital development	(166)
Workforce development activity	350
Total COVID-19 related revenue expenditure variances	(568)
Other revenue expenditure variances	(321)
Voluntary Sector Development Fund (VSDF)	174
Total revenue expenditure variances	(147)
Additional registration income	(307)
Modern apprenticeship and other income	(265)
Additional VSDF income	(197)
Grant in aid funding	(182)
Workforce development grant income	(112)
Total budget variance	(1,778)

Underspends totalling £0.568m arose due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Practice learning opportunities for social work students were suspended in 2020/21 and this impacted on the 2021/22 financial year giving an underspend of £0.493m in 2021/22. It is expected that this funding will be required in 2022/23 as practice learning fee rates will increase. COVID-19 also impacted on postgraduate bursaries (£259k underspend).

Workforce development activity was also delayed due to COVID-19. We carried forward £327k grant in our general reserve from 2020/21 towards this activity in 2021/22. Digital developments were also delayed during the year (£166k underspend).

We received additional grants, grant in aid and VSDF income during the year totalling £491k and we received more income than budgeted for registration fees (£307k) and modern apprenticeship fees (£265k).

The Sponsor has agreed we can carry forward our underspend to 2022/23 in our general reserve balance to complete the delayed work impacted by COVID-19 and fund an increase in practice learning fee rates from August 2022. This means our general reserve will not reduce as much as anticipated when we set the 2021/22 budget. The closing balance of £2.389m (note 11) is 9.5% of gross expenditure. The SSSC's target range for the revenue element of the general reserve is 2.0% (£0.501m) to 2.5% (£0.627m) of our gross expenditure budget.

Reconciliation to Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

We prepare our annual accounts in accordance with the Accounts Direction issued by Scottish Ministers. The Accounts Direction (reproduced at appendix 1) requires compliance with the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM). Our funding and budgeting position is different from the accounting financial position as shown in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure (SCNE) for three reasons.

- (i) For budgeting purposes, we consider grants and grant in aid to be income. The accounting position must present grants and grant in aid as sources of funds and they are credited to the general reserve on the Statement of Financial Position (SOFPI).
- (ii) Post-employment benefits (pensions) must be accounted for using International Accounting Standard 19 'Employee Benefits'. IAS 19 requires accounting entries for pensions to be based on actuarial pension expense calculations. Our funding position is based on the cash pension contributions we make as an employer to the pension scheme.
- (iii) Grant in aid used for the purchase of non-current assets is credited to the general reserve and the balance is reduced by the amount of depreciation charged each year. The 2021/22 depreciation charge is £1k.

The table below reconciles the deficit shown on the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure (SCNE) to the planned deficit for funding and budgeting purposes. This deficit is funded from the general reserve.

	Ref/note	2021/22 £000
Deficit per the SCNE	SCNE	15,929
Funding from grants and grant in aid	12a	(17,426)
Reverse IAS 19 pension accounting adjustments	5b table 2	1,923
To fund depreciation of assets	6a	(1)
Surplus on funding and budgeting basis		425

Supplier payment policy

The SSSC is committed to the Confederation of British Industry Prompt Payment Code for the payment of bills for goods and services we receive. It is our policy to make payments in accordance with the Scottish Government's instructions on prompt payment and a target of payment within 10 days. In 2021/22 we paid 99.60% (2020/21: 99.14%) of invoices within 10 days.

Going concern

The SSSC has no reason to believe the Scottish Government and Scottish Ministers have any intention to withdraw or reduce support to the organisation. In addition, the Sponsor has confirmed grant in aid figures for 2022/23. It is therefore considered appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

The Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2022 shows net liabilities of £7.279m (2020/21: £8.776m). The net liabilities are mainly the result of actuarial assumptions adopted for the application of accounting standard IAS 19.

IAS 19 requires the liabilities and assets of the pension scheme to be valued. The pension liability represents the best estimate of the current value of pension benefits that the SSSC will have to fund. The liability relates to benefits earned by existing or previous SSSC employees up to 31 March 2022.

The SSSC participates in a pension fund which is the subject of an actuarial valuation every three years. This actuarial valuation is different from the valuation required by the accounting standard IAS 19. The actuarial valuation determines employer contribution rates that are designed to bring fund assets and liabilities into balance for the fund as a whole over the longer term.

The liability will therefore be reduced through the payment of employee and employer contributions each year. Any future increases in employer contributions will require to be reflected through the grant in aid agreed with our Scottish Government Sponsor.

Delivering our strategic plan

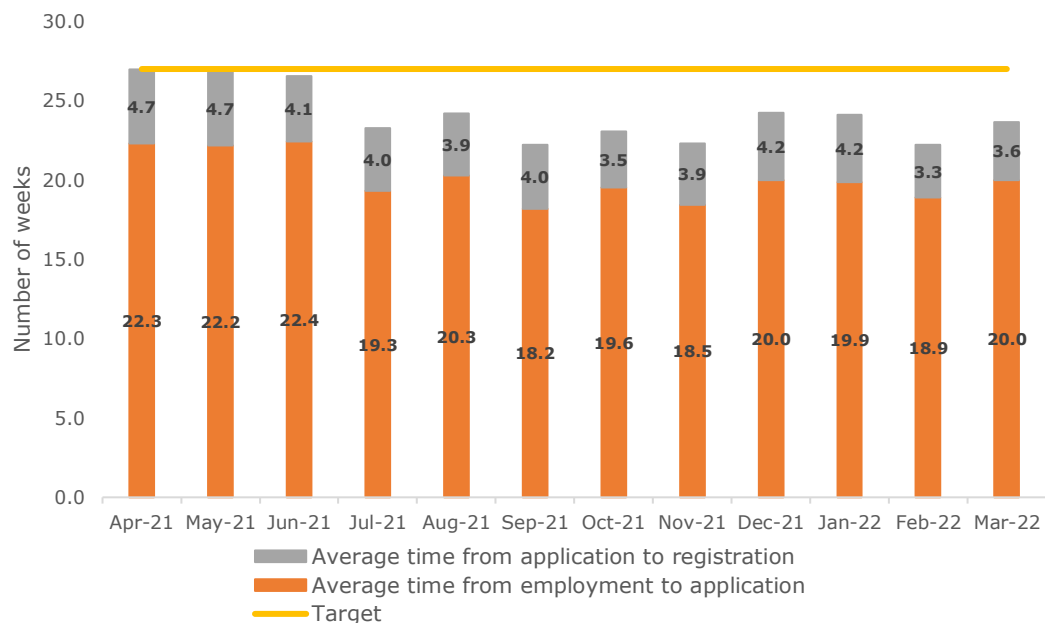
Outcome 1: People who use services are protected by ensuring the regulated workforce is fit to practise.

We need to make sure that we use our resources well so we take action where we need to. If we look at the wrong things, take too long to process applications or don't hold serious case hearings quickly enough then we increase the risk that people who use services are supported by workers who aren't fit to practise. The charts below tell us whether we are doing this well enough. We know there is more we can do to make sure we keep protecting the public. Here are some things we have done to keep improving how we do this.

1. We worked with employers to embed revised thresholds for fitness to practise investigations. The aim of this is to reduce unnecessary referrals.
2. We introduced an automated process for renewing registration to make this as quick as possible.
3. We developed a support line for those going through the fitness to practise process, worked with volunteers from the sector to help us improve our communications and set up a representative's forum to help us understand and resolve issues around the fitness to practise process.
4. We ran a temporary social work register to support services during the pandemic. Of the 307 registered, 134 moved to the permanent register when the temporary register closed in March 2022.
5. We set up a recruitment portal for the early years workforce to support the rollout of the expansion of early years services. We provide information about people who are no longer registered but want to help so employers can speak to prospective candidates more easily.
6. We held most hearings fully online to ensure public protection was maintained during the pandemic. This led to an increase from 30% of people engaging with the hearings process in March 2020 to 43% by the end of 2021/22.

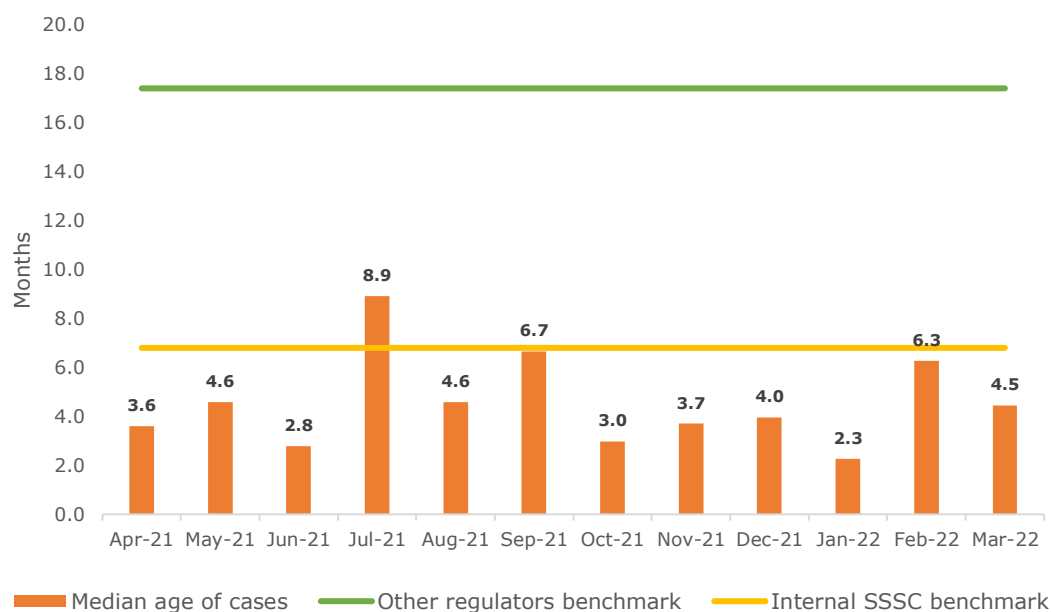
Strategic performance indicator results

Figure 1: Reduce the average time taken from a person starting their employment to being registered with the SSSC.



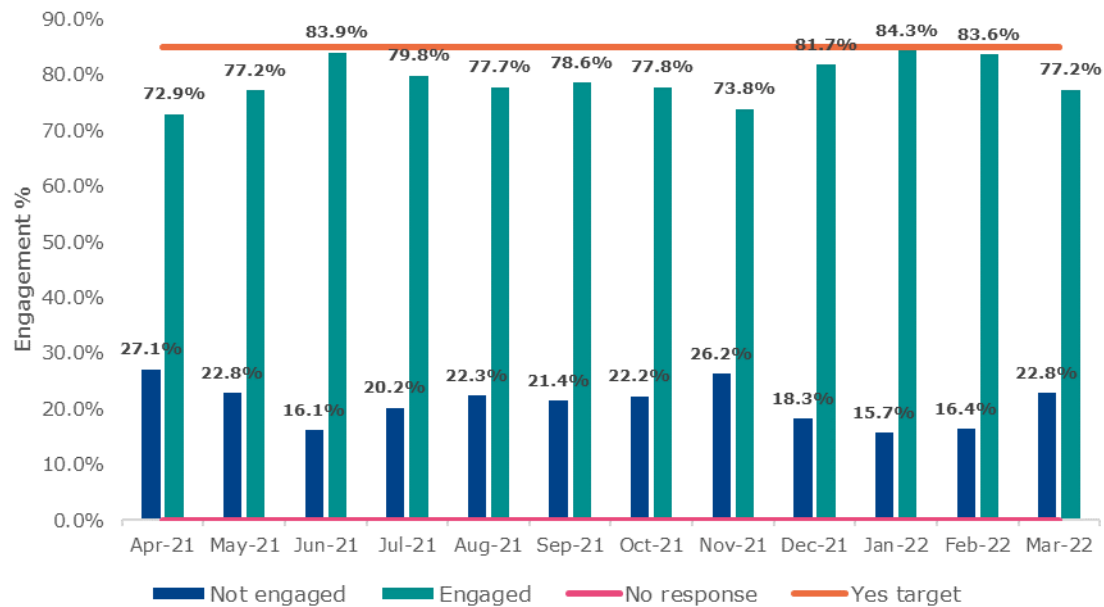
Our target for this indicator is 27 weeks. We have met this target and have reduced the average time taken for both employment to application and also application to registration. In March 2020 we extended the six month grace period to obtain registration to 12 months. The legislation reverted to six months in March 2022 and we will be working with the sector to reduce this further over the next year.

Figure 2: The median time taken to process a fitness to practise case is maintained at less time than organisations we benchmark against.



Our external benchmark is 17.4 months. We set ourselves a more meaningful target of 6.8 months based on past performance. We achieved performance below this internal target for most of 2021/22 and reduced the overall caseload by 375 cases over the course of the year.

Figure 3: Increase the percentage of the workforce who are engaged when they are involved with the fitness to practise process.



Engagement levels fluctuated throughout the year, however these remained consistently high. Overall, we achieved an average engagement rate of 78.9% across the year. Our target is 85%.

Outcome 2: The SSSC supports and enhances the development of the regulated workforce to deliver high standards of practice and drive improvement.

In 2021/22 the ongoing effects of the pandemic on the sector have meant that in some areas there has been a significant impact on our partners to engage with and contribute to collaborative projects resulting in delays. Despite these challenges we have delivered on most objectives linked to this outcome.

We supported leadership activities including the development of the 'Developing Senior Systems Leadership' programme. The Scottish Government and NHS Education for Scotland are leading this programme. Our main role is to support the inquiry and development process and make sure the voice and needs of social care and social work leaders are included.

We held non-technical cyber security awareness sessions for social service workers and managers to raise awareness of online safety and introduce our new cyber security open badges. The events were also helpful in raising awareness of what we are doing to support the social service sector.

To support continuous professional learning (CPL) we have published new information on nationally recognised learning resources that we endorse. This information is available online and highlights resources we've worked on with national partners to support professional development of each part of the sector.

We worked with colleagues in public health and within the social service sector to make sure that the development of national infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance was person-centred, relevant and meaningful for staff working in social care settings.

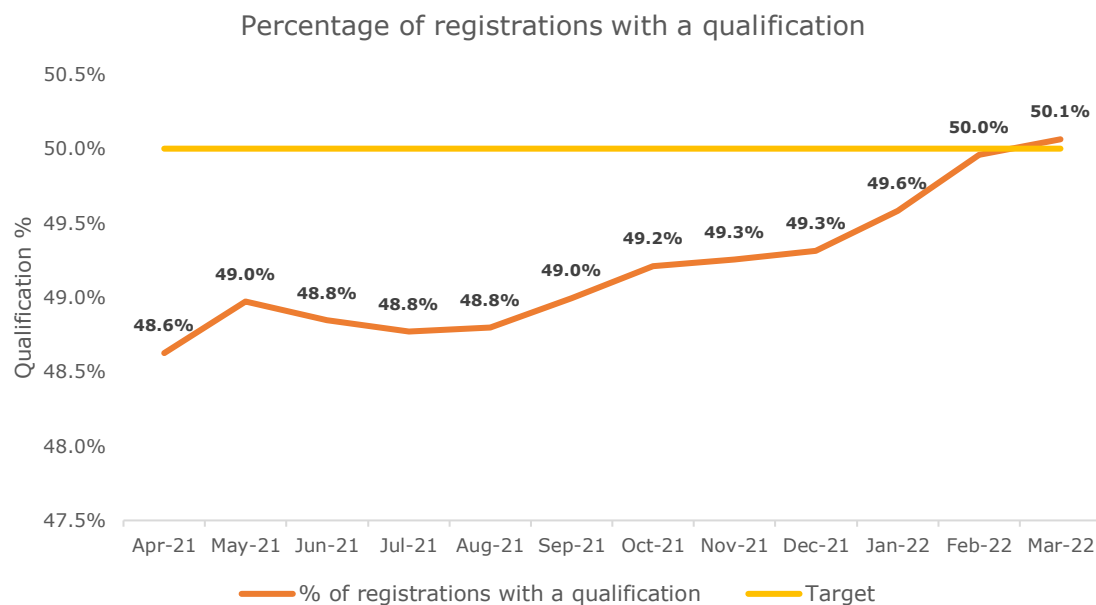
We supported the review of HNC qualifications and held a series of engagement events to set out our proposals for a new health and social care integrated award. We are establishing a working group to assist in mapping the technical requirements of the award.

We worked closely with the Care Inspectorate and NHS Education Scotland (NES) to develop a strategy to support quality improvement (QI) learning in the social service workforce and in line with the establishment of an improvement programme for adult social care. We continue to work with partners to increase the capability and capacity of the workforce in respect of QI and our learning network grew over the year with over 280 new members.

We developed the newly qualified social worker (NQSW) supported year model and related online resources for workers, and we are supporting the 10 early implementation sites to roll out the supported first year of practice for NQSWs.

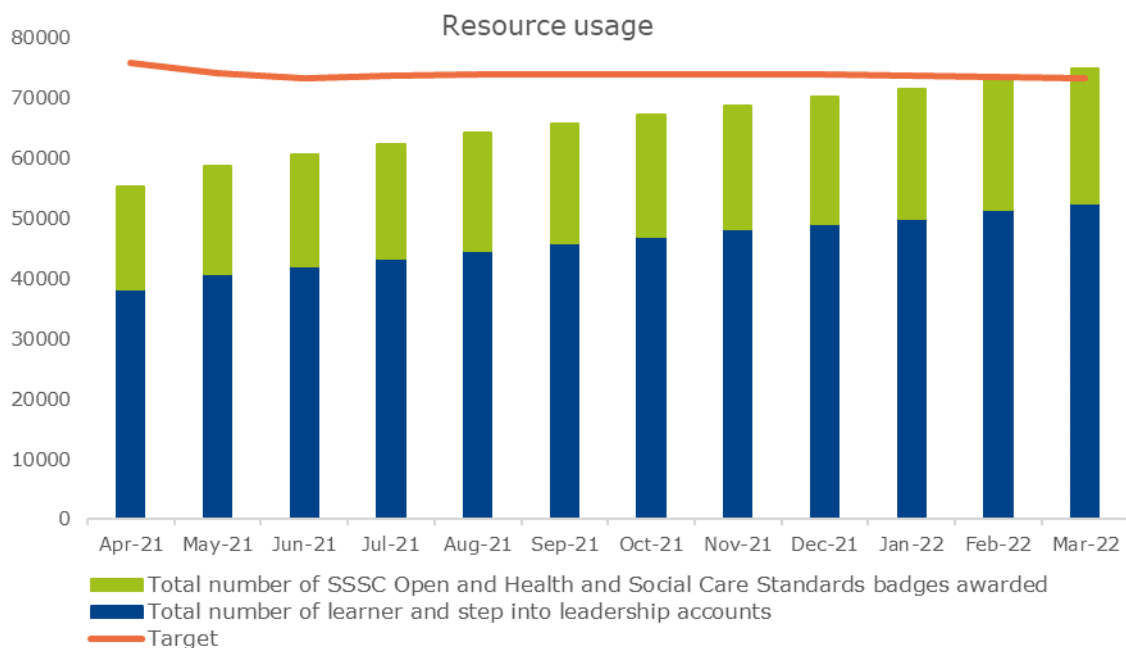
Strategic performance indicator results

Figure 4: Increase the percentage of the registered workforce with the correct qualification.



We have a target of 50% for this indicator and we reached our target for the first time in February 2022. This followed sustained increases throughout much of 2021/22.

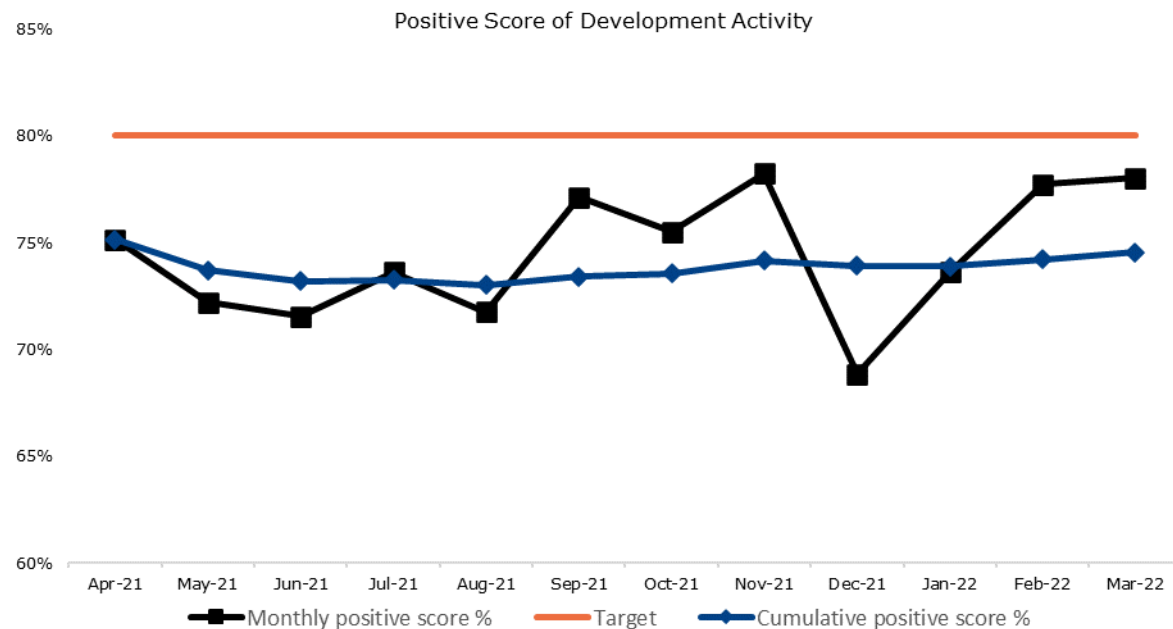
Figure 5: Increase the percentage of the workforce using our learning resources to achieve continuous professional learning.



We have achieved this aim. User accounts have increased consistently each month in 2021/22 and while open badges awarded has reduced, we believe this

is due to staff returning to full time employment as COVID-19 continued which left less time for them to focus on CPL.

Figure 6: Percentage of those reporting positively that our development activity is delivering the support required by the workforce.



We have set an ambitious target of 80% of people reporting positively that our development activity is supporting the workforce. The monthly positive score fluctuated from month to month. We can link this to the variations in responses we receive to our surveys and feedback questionnaires. Our cumulative positive score shows that we are maintaining a stable positive score for this indicator and are close to reaching our target.

Outcome 3: Our workforce planning activities support employers, commissioners and policy makers to deliver a sustainable, integrated and innovative workforce.

In 2021/22 we published a range of reports and data sets to support workforce planning including our local authority social worker tool. This tool allows users to look at data on social worker headcount and working time equivalent (WTE) per head of relevant population for different types of social workers across local authorities over the last 10 years. We also published the Workforce Skills Report in October 2021. This identifies gaps between the demand for training and the availability of training for the workforce.

Other public bodies used our data to inform national workforce planning recommendations and reports, for example Audit Scotland's Social Care Briefing. The Office of National Statistics has also cited our reports within a section of their website which provides a database of reports from all four UK nations to help improve accessibility, harmonisation and coherence of workforce data nationally.

We improved MySSSC to allow employer counter signatories to enter career opportunities which colleges can access and share with participants. We launched this in late 2021/22 and there are currently around 80 individual entries listed. Each entry could represent multiple local opportunities with one employer.

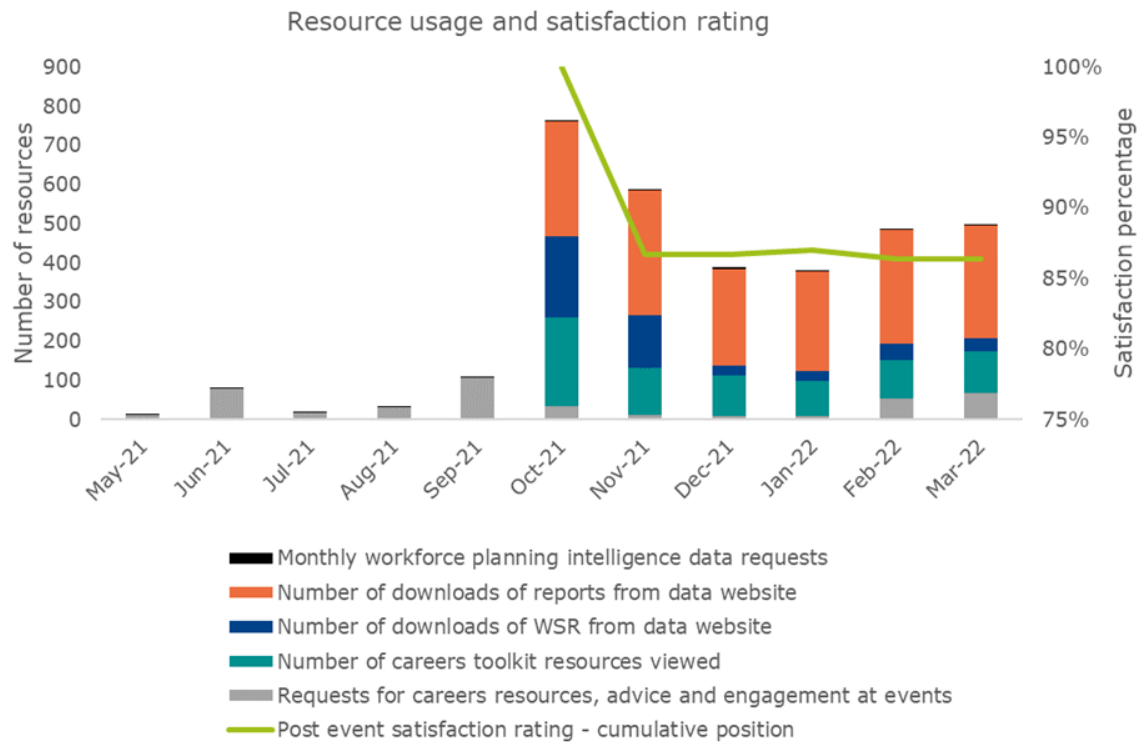
To support the development and enhancement of qualifications within the sector, we launched a careers toolkit which includes guidance for modern apprenticeships.

We have established a national Social Service Workforce Data and Planning Group which helps to oversee and direct the work of our Workforce Intelligence team to inform national planning. Membership of the group includes representatives from Scottish Government, COSLA and representative groups.

We have supported careers and employability initiatives in several ways throughout 2021/22. This includes work with colleges and the College Development Network to support development of a new online 'Introduction to a Career in Social Care' course, where our staff provided support for improving career and recruitment outcomes for both participants and social care employers, and support through our Employability in Social Services group. The group shares current and emerging employability practices which help people to work towards a new career in social services. We have committed to continued joint work in 2022/23 to improve the consistency and availability of employment support for those wishing to explore a career in social services.

Strategic performance indicator results

Figure 7: Percentage of those reporting positive awareness of workforce planning resources and report that resources are effective



We introduced this indicator part way through 2021/22 and this is reflected in the data from October 2021 onwards. We define 'positive awareness' as active use of the resources – for example, someone proactively seeking information from us or downloading our resources. This indicator will develop over time as we record more information. Our current cumulative satisfaction score is 86%.

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.

In June 2021 we introduced this outcome to build on the positive awareness of the role and value of the social work, social care and early years workforce that became evident during the pandemic.

Our Inspiring Care Stories campaign was recognised as a finalist in the Chartered Institute of Public Relations Pride Awards 2021, in the categories for 'Best Covid Response' and 'Best Public Sector Campaign'. This achievement highlighted the work of the SSSC in promoting the value of the sector to a wider audience.

The Scottish Refugee Council (SRC) invited us to contribute to a presentation for people who were looking to start a career in Scotland. We are continuing this work in 2022/23 in partnership with SRC and colleges to highlight career opportunities to people with experience of holding refugee status or claiming asylum in the UK.

We provided specialist advice and expertise to the Scottish Government as part of the advisory group for the 'There's more to care than caring' campaign for careers in adult social care. This included advice on the marketing materials and website, as well as including SSSC resources throughout. An example of this is 'A Question of Care', our resource to help people identify whether they are suited to a career in social care.

We have contributed to the living wage and effective voice workstreams of the 'Fair Work in Social Care' agenda. Within the living wage work stream we have supported the delivery of the £10.50 minimum wage for all adult social care staff in commissioned services from 1 April 2022. Within the effective voice (EV) work stream we have advised on the development of the nine EV standards, supported engagement workshops and surveys with workforce groups and contributed to the planning of the EV pilot and recruitment of a full time, fixed term appointment to support the first phase of implementation of the standards.

Strategic performance indicator results

The work of the SSSC promotes the value of the social care workforce.

The measures for this indicator involve surveying registrants across the year as well as some of our key stakeholders. The measures are that we:

- receive feedback that our work promotes the value of the social care workforce through engagement activity
- can demonstrate the impact of this workforce being qualified and registered, professional and regulated.

We held our annual registrant survey in June 2021 and asked workers to help us better understand how well we promote the sector. Registrants who responded were positive, with 69% agreeing that we promote the positive value of social work, social care and early years services. We recognise that we can do more to promote the sector. Since the survey we have launched campaigns focusing on the work we do to promote careers in care and the work we do to help registrants develop their careers and support their continuing learning and development.

Supporting delivery of our strategic outcomes

Developing our people

We completed our **evolve** programme in 2021/22. We incorporated some ongoing work into our People Strategy 2021-2024. The strategy launched in September 2021 and sets out what we will do to develop the following key areas.

- Effective leaders and managers.
- Recruit and develop excellent people.
- A healthy and inclusive organisation.
- Informed, involved and engaged employees.
- Investing in young people.
- An agile and innovative workforce.

In 2021/22 we achieved a gold award in Investors in People (IiP). Our overall scores are above the average IiP benchmark and the average industry benchmark and we are ranked in the top 20 Gold We invest in people employers. This achievement reflects the commitment of staff to making the SSSC a better place to work, and the IiP assessor has encouraged us to seek the platinum award and consider using their Investors in Wellbeing framework. We will continue with our work towards achieving this in 2022/23.

We are building our culture to embed and support all types of learning. We supported 56% of our staff in formal learning and development activities in the first year of the strategy and 94% of them reported a positive impact on their development.

We need the people who use our services to have trust and confidence in us. We do this through our people. Our 2022 registrant survey showed that 80% of registrants who responded are either satisfied or very satisfied with our work.

We have monitored the progress of our first People Strategy through our People Board which also includes our trade union partners.

We are proud of our people and their contribution to the sector we support.

Complaints

Our complaints handling procedure complies with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) guidance. We record all complaints and monitor areas of improvement and opportunities for shared learning. We report our complaints performance annually to Council and publish this and quarterly updates on our website. We introduced a revised complaints handling procedure in April 2021. This is in line with revisions to SPSO guidance.

Our average response time for stage one complaints is two working days, which is within the five-day timescale. The average for stage two responses is 24 working days, which is above the 20-day timescale.

We provided internal training to staff to build on their knowledge and understanding of how to identify and record complaints. There is a direct correlation with this training and the increase in number of complaints handled throughout the financial year.

Table 2: Complaints performance 2017/18 to 2021/22

Complaints					
Indicator	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
Stage 1 complaints received	402	90	186	222	292
Percent stage 1 responded to in five working days	94%	92%	95%	93%	93%
Stage 2 complaints received	16	8	15	15	24
Percent stage 2 responded to in 20 working days	81%	89%	71%	91%	96%
Percent upheld (all complaints)	5%	18%	23%	Not recorded	Not recorded
Percent partially upheld (all complaints)	4%	25%	17%	Not recorded	Not recorded
Percent resolved (all complaints) *	62%	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded

*resolved is a new outcome option which was introduced in the SPSO's new model in April 2021

Information governance

In 2021/22 we responded to 108 requests for information from third parties, including other regulatory bodies or Police Scotland. We also responded to 44 subject access requests and 32 requests under the Freedom of Information (Sc) Act 2022. These are similar to levels of requests received in 2020/21.

Whistleblowing

The SSSC has a dual role in responding to whistleblowing as an employer and as a prescribed person in the sector.

A social service worker can whistleblow to someone in their own organisation or to a third party known as a 'prescribed person'. The SSSC is a prescribed person listed in Prescribed Persons (Reports on Disclosures of Information) Regulations 2017. As a prescribed person, we are required to publish annually the details of referrals that qualify as whistleblowing and the actions we took.

In 2021/22 we received seven whistleblowing referrals. In six of these cases, we opened a fitness to practise case. By opening a case we investigate whether the fitness to practise of the worker is impaired or not.

In one referral we did not open a case as we assessed it as having no real prospect of finding current impairment.

For the six cases we opened:

- three cases are ongoing
- three cases have concluded
- one case resulted in no action taken as we found the worker's fitness to practise was not currently impaired
- one case resulted in a worker receiving a warning
- one case resulted in a worker being removed from the Register.

We also have two open whistleblowing referrals which we opened before 2021/22. One is still under investigation, while the other is at the decision stage. We have concluded all cases referred prior to 2020/21.

We encourage staff to raise serious concerns about wrongdoing or alleged impropriety. Our Whistleblowing Policy informs staff on when and how to raise these concerns. The policy is consistent with, and makes explicit reference to, the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

There were no internal whistleblowing referrals in 2021/22.

Counter fraud, bribery and corruption

Our Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Framework, along with other controlled documents including Human Resources (HR) policies, codes of conduct, financial and contract procedure rules, whistleblowing and complaints policy ensure legislative compliance and prevention, detection and investigation of fraud, bribery and corruption. We update the Audit and Assurance Committee at every meeting on any instances of fraud in the preceding quarter and update

on the annual position. We did not detect any instances of fraud or corruption in 2021/22.

In 2021/22 we continued our contractual arrangements with NHS Counter Fraud Services (CFS) to support our counter fraud arrangements and updated the Audit and Assurance Committee on the work we carried out to assess and reduce the risk of fraud and the training CFS provided to staff. We will update the intranet and carry out further training to increase general awareness amongst staff.

Equality

We are committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion. This commitment is underpinned by statutory duties placed upon us by the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Equality Act 2010.

In April 2021 we published our new equality mainstreaming and outcomes report. The report sets out our equality outcomes for the next four years.

We identified a gap in the collection of robust equalities data for those working in the sector and made changes to our MySSSC portal to allow all registered workers to update their equalities information with us. We will publish a summary of this information in 2022/23.

We also continue to implement the actions in our Care Experience and Children's Rights plans. For example, we are reviewing the Codes of Practice as part of wider work on modernising our Register. We are also taking steps to formalise and improve the way that we involve people in our wider work.

Social and environmental impacts

The ongoing impact of COVID-19 in 2021/22 meant that most staff have continued to work remotely. Our facilities continue to be available for staff to use as we move into an agile working approach, mixing remote with in-person work. These changes mean that our contribution to reducing emissions continues to be positive.

We manage our carbon emissions in partnership with the Care Inspectorate as part of our shared services provision.

Our 2018–2023 Carbon Management Plan sets out how we will deliver our Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 duties. Through this plan we aim to reduce our carbon emissions by 25% by 2023 (from a 2015/16 baseline).

Table 3: SSSC carbon footprint

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Total CO2 produced (tonnes CO2 equivalent)	80.67	78.0	184.6	204.1
Total CO2 produced (tonnes CO2 equivalent)				
Travel	2.5	1.9	56.5	73.9
Gas and electricity	77.86	78.0	126.06	128.6
Water	0.16	0.2	0.7	0.7
Waste and recycling	0.15	0.2	0.9	0.9

SECTION B: Governance statement

Governance statement

Introduction

As Accountable Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the SSSC's policies, aims and objectives. I am also responsible for safeguarding the public funds and assets assigned to the SSSC, in accordance with the responsibilities set out in the [Memorandum to Accountable Officers for Other Public Bodies](#).

This annual governance statement explains the SSSC's governance and risk management framework.

The governance framework

The SSSC is a non-departmental public body. We work within a broad [framework](#) agreed with the Scottish Government. The SSSC renewed its framework with the Scottish Government in February 2022. The Council is the governing body responsible for ensuring that the SSSC fulfils its aims and objectives, for promoting the efficient and effective use of staff and other resources and for identifying and managing risk.

The Council comprises the Convener and nine non-executive Members. The Scottish Ministers make the appointments which are normally for a three-year term with the possibility of a further term, subject to evidence of effective performance and satisfying the skills, knowledge and experience required on the Council at time of re-appointment. Members come from a variety of areas including health, charities, education, social work and social service sector and users of services as well as the Chair of the Care Inspectorate Board.

We maintain a register of interests of the Council Members which is available from our website [Register of Members' Interests](#).

The SSSC Code of Corporate [Governance](#) sets out the full details of the Council's role, the responsibilities of each Committee and key roles in the organisation. The Council reviews its effectiveness every year and the Code is subject to ongoing revisions as necessary and reviewed in detail every three years.

Council Members and attendance

Council Members must comply with the SSSC's Code of Conduct for Members as well as the guidance set out in appointment letters and in On Board – A Guide for Board Members of Statutory Boards.

The Council approved a new SSSC Code of Conduct for Members in February 2022 in line with the new Model Code of Conduct for Members of Non-Devolved Public Bodies. The Head of Legal and Corporate Governance provided training to Members on the new Code. We have also updated our Register of Interests declaration form this year in line with the new Model Code.

The Convener appraises the Members on an annual basis. The SSSC Sponsor Department appraises the Convener on an annual basis. We hold our Council meetings in public and the minutes of each meeting are available on our website www.sssc.uk.com.

We held all our Council meetings in 2021/22 via Teams with public access available online. In addition, eight development sessions have taken place over the year. The following table details SSSC Committee membership and Council Member attendance.

	Council	Audit and Assurance Committee
Number of meetings:		
Council Member	Attended	Attended
Sandra Campbell (Convener)	6	1
Theresa Allison*	4	5
Professor Alan Baird*	6	5
Paul Edie (Chair, Care Inspectorate)	5	0
Julie Grace	6	0
Lynne Huckerby	5	0
Rona King*	4	5
Linda Lennie	5	2
Peter Murray*	6	5
Russell Pettigrew*	6	5

* Denotes member of the Audit and Assurance Committee

Audit and Assurance Committee

The Audit and Assurance Committee makes recommendations to the Council and Accountable Officer on risk, control and corporate governance including the mechanisms for measuring performance towards achieving strategic goals. We submit an assurance report to each committee meeting which provides performance, financial and risk information. This allows Members to assess delivery of our strategy, highlights areas of concern and identifies required corrective action. The Committee also receives reports from internal and external audit and the auditors can contact the Chair directly about any concerns they have during their audit work. The Committee submitted a draft Annual Report summarising the work of the Committee over the year 2021/22 and giving its opinion on the assurance that this work provides to Council for approval in May 2022.

In 2021/22 the Audit and Assurance Committee approved a template Assurance Map. They will approve the map on an annual basis. The map will set out the key aspects of our internal control framework and help us ensure we have assurances to meet all the requirements placed on the SSSC. The Committee will consider the finalised plan in May 2022.

Accountable Officer

The Accountable Officer is personally responsible to Scottish Ministers, who are ultimately accountable to the Scottish Parliament, for securing propriety and regularity in the management of public funds and for the day-to-day operations and management of the SSSC.

The detailed responsibilities of the Accountable Officer for a public body are set out in a Memorandum from the Principal Accountable Officer of the Scottish Administration which is issued to the Chief Executive on appointment and updated where required.

Executive Management Team (EMT)

The EMT supports the Chief Executive in her Accountable Officer role through the formal Scheme of Delegation. The EMT comprises the Director of Regulation, the Director of Development and Innovation, Director of Strategy and Performance and Interim Director of Finance and Resources. The Interim Director of Finance and Resources also has responsibility for overseeing the operation of shared services with the Care Inspectorate. The Director of Development and Innovation took up a secondment post with Scottish Government in January 2021 and the SSSC appointed the Head of Learning and Development and the Head of Workforce Development as joint acting Director of Development and Innovation for the period of secondment. In September 2021, the Head of Learning and Development became the sole acting Director of Development and Innovation.

Each of the directors has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment within their own areas of control.

External audit appointment

The Auditor General appoints our independent auditors under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. Audit Scotland appointed Grant Thornton UK LLP as our independent external auditors for a five-year period from 1 April 2016. Scottish Government extended the contract to 31 March 2022 due to the impact of COVID-19.

Internal audit

The SSSC has contracted out its internal audit function to Henderson Loggie for a three-year period to 31 March 2023. Internal audit forms an integral part of our internal control and governance arrangements. The internal audit service operates in accordance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and undertakes an annual programme of work approved by the Audit and Assurance Committee. This annual programme is based on a formal risk assessment process which we update on an on-going basis to reflect evolving risks and changes. The Audit and Assurance Committee reviews and approves the three-year Strategic Internal Audit Plan on an annual basis. We have an effective and productive relationship with our internal auditors.

Each year our internal auditors provide the Audit and Assurance Committee with assurance on the whole system of internal control. In assessing the level of assurance to be given for 2021/22, our internal auditors take into account:

- all reviews undertaken as part of the 2021/22 internal audit plan
- any scope limitations imposed by management
- matters arising from previous reviews and the extent of follow-up action taken, including in year audits
- expectations of senior management, the Council and other stakeholders
- the extent to which internal controls address the SSSC's risk management/control framework
- the effect of any significant changes in the SSSC's objectives or systems

- the proportion of the SSSC's internal audit coverage achieved to date.

The internal auditor's overall opinion for 2021/22 was: 'the SSSC has adequate and effective arrangements for risk management, control and governance. Proper arrangements are in place to promote and secure Value for Money.'

Risk management

The SSSC has a Risk Policy. The main priorities of this policy are to identify, evaluate and control risks which threaten our ability to deliver our objectives. The policy provides direction on a consistent, organised and systematic approach to identifying risks, the control measures that are already in place, the residual risk, the risk appetite and action that is necessary to further mitigate against risks.

We identify and maintain risks on a Strategic Risk Register and address them in the preparation of the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan shows clear links between risks identified on the Risk Register and our strategic objectives. As a result, the risks identified become embedded in managers' work plans for the year. We also have a Risk Appetite Statement to underpin our approach to risk management and control. Council reviews the Strategic Risk Register and risk appetite statement on an annual basis. We also have a Risk Management Procedure which sets out how we will implement and monitor risk across the organisation.

Work is continuing to embed risk management throughout the organisation by developing operational risk registers and understanding the links between strategic and operational risk. We reviewed the risk management framework during 2020/21.

System of internal financial control

Within our overall governance framework specific arrangements are in place as part of the system of internal financial control. These arrangements make sure that we have reasonable assurances that we safeguard assets, authorise transactions and these are properly recorded, and material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period.

The SSSC's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of financial regulations, regular management information, administrative procedures (including segregation of duties), management supervision and a system of delegation and accountability. Development and maintenance of the system is the responsibility of managers within the SSSC. The system includes:

- Financial Regulations and Standing Orders
- comprehensive budgeting systems
- regular reviews of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecast
- a comprehensive set of control reconciliations performed regularly
- regular compliance testing
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined capital expenditure guidelines
- a scheme of delegation.

Corporate governance

Our strategy is set out in a three-year strategic plan supported by annual business plans. We report on our financial position, strategic performance and key risks in our assurance report which is scrutinised every quarter by the Audit and Assurance Committee and recommendations made to the Council from the Committee on the assurances that the Council can take.

We review the effectiveness of those arrangements on an annual basis with the last review taking place in January 2022.

We reviewed our corporate governance framework in 2021/22 including the Financial Regulations, Code of Corporate Governance and Scheme of Delegation. We agreed a new Executive Framework with the Scottish Government.

Individual policies and procedures that contribute towards the overall governance framework are also subject to periodic review. For this review we take account of:

- the views of Audit and Assurance Committee on the assurance arrangements
- the opinions of internal and external audit on the quality of the systems of governance, management and risk control
- 'Certificates of Assurance' supplied by EMT members to the Accountable Officer following a review of the governance arrangements within their specific areas of responsibility
- feedback from managers and staff on our performance, use of resources, responses to risks and the extent to which we have met in-year budgets and other performance targets.

Quality assurance

We continue to use the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) model to drive improvement within SSSC. We are members of EFQM Scotland, who provide us with advice, training and networking opportunities. We have an ongoing programme of self-evaluation which began in 2021/22 and will continue throughout 2022/23.

Shared services

In collaboration with the Care Inspectorate we reviewed and strengthened our joint shared services strategy and revised the governance arrangements, management agreement and service specifications. Our internal auditors reviewed the new arrangements and gave them an overall satisfactory level of assurance. The internal auditors will carry out a full internal audit of shared services in 2022/23.

Information governance

We have information governance policies and procedures in place to make sure we handle data responsibly and comply with data protection and freedom of information laws. We self-reported one incident to the ICO during 2021/22. The ICO has concluded their investigation and taken no further action.

We reviewed our Data Protection and Records Management policies in 2021. Our internal auditors reviewed our data protection controls in March 2022 and gave them a good level of assurance.

Response to COVID-19

In line with Scottish Government guidance, the directors' annual review asked them about arrangements put in place in response to COVID-19. The directors were able to provide the necessary assurances. We have provided information regularly to Council Members.

Areas identified by the directors' review

As part of the directors' annual review and the Certificate of Assurance process we identified the areas below for further development or attention.

- Develop the Business Continuity Management arrangements including Business Continuity Policy, incident management plans and testing.
- Carry out additional fraud training and raise awareness among staff.
- Training for Information Asset Owners and review of Information Asset Registers.
- Develop workforce plans in departments.
- Review risk management training.
- Continue to improve on our approach to equality and diversity.

Significant issues

There are no significant issues to report.

Certification

Our governance framework has been in place for the year ended 31 March 2022 and up to the date of signing of the Accounts. It is my opinion that we can place reasonable assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the SSSC's systems of governance. Although we have identified areas for further improvement the annual review has provided sufficient evidence that the SSSC's governance arrangements have operated effectively and that the SSSC complies with all relevant guidance and generally accepted best practice in all significant respects.

Remuneration and staff report

Remuneration report

UNAUDITED INFORMATION

Introduction

This report provides information on the remuneration of SSSC Council Members and senior managers in 2021/22. Senior managers are members of the Executive Management Team (EMT).

The EMT is the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and Resources, the Director of Strategy and Performance, the Director of Regulation and the Director of Development and Innovation. The Director of Development and Innovation is currently seconded to Scottish Government (full year 2021/22) and his duties are being carried out by the Acting Director of Development and Innovation (Learning and Development). The Director of Finance and Resources post is filled on an interim basis from 1 June 2020 to 31 March 2023.

The remuneration report contains both audited information and information which is not specifically subject to audit.

Remuneration policy

Members

The remuneration of Council Members is determined by Scottish Ministers. There is no performance element to Members' remuneration.

Executive Management Team

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive's remuneration is determined by the Senior Salaries Review Body. Performance is assessed through an annual appraisal performed by the Convener and this appraisal is submitted to the Scottish Government to allow the Chief Executive's remuneration to be agreed.

Senior managers

Our directors are on a salary scale of £66.2k to £74.8k with the exception of the Interim Director of Finance and Resources, who is on a salary scale of £76.2k to £83.7k.

Incremental progression to the maximum of the scale is determined by performance. Performance is assessed by development discussions and progression is subject to agreement by the Chief Executive. The SSSC's pay strategy must be approved by the Scottish Government. Subject to that approval, a pay award package is negotiated with the trade union. When the pay award package has been agreed, it is applied to the remuneration of senior managers and the main body of SSSC staff.

Notice periods - Members

Council Members are appointed for a period determined by Scottish Ministers. Council Members are eligible to be re-appointed following the end of a period of Council membership. Either party may terminate early by giving notice.

Normally there is no payment available in the event of early termination of the contract. However, where special circumstances exist, Scottish Ministers may determine that compensation for early termination is appropriate and instruct the SSSC to make a payment. The value of the payment would also be determined by Scottish Ministers.

Details of the service contracts for Council Members serving during the year are detailed below:

Council Member	Current term	Date of initial appointment	Date of re-appointment	Date appointment terminates
Sandra Campbell, Convener	1 st	01 Sept 2019	-	31 Aug 2022
Theresa Allison	2 nd	01 Sept 2018	1 Sept 2021	31 Aug 2024
Professor Alan Baird	2 nd	01 Sept 2018	1 Sept 2021	31 Aug 2024
Paul Edie*	5 th	15 April 2013	1 Sept 2021	31 Aug 2022
Julie Grace	1 st	01 Sept 2019	-	31 Aug 2022
Lynne Huckerby	1 st	01 Sept 2019	-	31 Aug 2022
Rona King	1 st	01 Sept 2019	-	31 Aug 2022
Linda Lennie	2 nd	01 Nov 2017	01 Nov 2020	31 Oct 2023
Peter Murray	1 st	01 Sept 2019	-	31 Aug 2022
Russell Pettigrew	1 st	01 Sept 2019	-	31 Aug 2022

* Paul Edie is the Chair of the Care Inspectorate. There is a reciprocal arrangement where the Convener of the SSSC is a Board Member of the Care Inspectorate and the Chair of the Care Inspectorate is a Council Member. Paul Edie is in his fifth term of office due to a series of short appointments.

Chief Executive

Lorraine Gray was appointed Chief Executive on 20 August 2018. Termination of the contract requires a notice period of six months by either party.

There are no compensation payments specified in the Chief Executive's contract in the event of early termination.

Senior managers

The SSSC has four permanent director posts:

- Director of Regulation
- Director of Development and Innovation (currently on secondment)
- Director of Strategy and Performance
- Director of Finance and Resources.

All directors have permanent contracts, except the Interim Director of Finance and Resources, whose temporary contract is scheduled to expire on 31 March 2023. The outward secondment of the Director of Development and Innovation is covered by a temporary arrangement where his duties are allocated to the Acting Director of Development and Innovation. This temporary arrangement is expected to continue until 4 January 2023 (the end of the Director of Development and Innovation's secondment period).

Termination of the Director's contracts require a notice period of three months by either party. Termination of the Interim Director of Finance and Resources temporary contract requires a notice period of one week by either party.

There are no compensation payments specified in the Director's contracts in the event of early termination.

Discretionary benefits policy

The Chief Executive and senior managers do not have any contractual rights to early termination compensation payments, but the SSSC operates a discretionary benefits policy that is applicable to all staff (excluding Council Members).

This policy allows additional years of pensionable service to be awarded to those members of the pension scheme who have more than five years pensionable service. The award of additional pensionable service is limited to a maximum of six and two thirds years in a redundancy situation and 10 years if early termination is in the interests of the efficiency of the service. Alternatively, pension scheme members with more than two years pensionable service may be paid compensation of up to 104 weeks' pay.

The number of years added or the amount of compensation paid, if any, is determined on the basis of individual circumstances and the employee's age and length of service. All awards of additional service and compensation for early termination are subject to a three year payback period and must be approved by the Council.

AUDITED INFORMATION

Remuneration – SSSC Council Members

Salary 2020/21 £000		Salary 2021/22 £000
20 – 25	Sandra Campbell – Convener	15 – 20
5 – 10	Theresa Allison	0 – 5
0 – 5	Professor Alan Baird	0 – 5
0 – 5	Julie Grace	0 – 5
0 – 5	Lynne Huckerby	0 – 5
0 – 5	Rona King	0 – 5
0 – 5	Linda Lennie	0 – 5
0 – 5	Peter Murray	0 – 5
0 – 5	Russell Pettigrew	0 – 5

Paul Edie, Chair of the Care Inspectorate Board is a member of the Council but receives no remuneration from the SSSC. There is a reciprocal arrangement in place whereby the Convener of the SSSC is a member of the Board of the Care Inspectorate and receives no remuneration from the Care Inspectorate.

Council Members are not eligible to join the pension scheme available to SSSC employees.

Remuneration – Executive Management Team

The salaries and pension entitlements of the Chief Executive and senior managers are as follows.

	Single total figure of remuneration							
	Salary		Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)		Pension benefits*		Total	
	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £00	2020/21 £00	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Lorraine Gray Chief Executive	90 - 95	85 - 90	0	0	22	27	110 - 115	115 - 120
Maree Allison Director of Regulation	70 - 75	70 - 75	0	0	17	15	90 - 95	85 - 90
Phillip Gillespie Director of Development and Innovation (seconded out from 5 Jan 2021)	70 - 75	65 - 70	0	0	82	29	150 - 155	95 - 100
Laura Shepherd Director of Strategy and Performance	65 - 70	65 - 70	0	0	20	26	85 - 90	90 - 95
Lynn Murray ** Interim Director of Finance and Resources (from 1 June 2020)	75 - 80	60 - 65	0	0	24	20	100 - 105	80 - 85
Laura Lamb *** Acting Director of Development and Innovation (Learning and Development) (from 1 Feb 2021)	60 - 65	55 - 60	0	0	33	n/a	90 - 95	55 - 60
Cheryl Glen **** Acting Director of Development and Innovation (Workforce Planning) (from 1 Feb 2021 to 12 September 2021)	40 - 45	50 - 55	0	0	n/a	n/a	40 - 45	50 - 55

*The value of pension benefits accrued during the year is calculated as (the real increase in pension multiplied by 20) plus (the real increase in lump sum) less (the contributions made by the individual). The real increases exclude increases due to inflation or any increases or decreases due to transfer of pension rights.

** Lynn Murray's figures for 2020/21 are part year as she commenced employment with the SSSC on 1 June 2020.

***The Acting Director of Development and Innovation (Learning and Development) provided full time cover for the Director of Development and Innovation from December 2021, when the Acting Director of Development and Innovation (Workforce Planning) left.

*** There are no pension benefit figures for Cheryl Glen as she served on EMT for only part of the year in both 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Phillip Gillespie, the substantive Director of Development and Innovation was seconded to the Scottish Government (from 5 January 2021).

Salary

Salary includes gross salary; overtime; recruitment and retention allowances and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation. This report is based on accrued payments made by the SSSC as recorded in the Annual Accounts.

Benefits in kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the SSSC and treated by HM Revenue and Customs as a taxable emolument. No benefits in kind were paid during 2021/22 or 2020/21.

Fair pay disclosure (audited)

We are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest paid director in the SSSC and the lower quartile, median and upper quartile remuneration of our workforce.

Total remuneration includes salary, overtime, other taxable allowances and benefits in kind. It does not include severance payments, employer pension contributions or the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.

The median pay ratio for 2021/22 is consistent with the pay reward and progression policies for the SSSC's employees as a whole.

	2021/22	2020/21
Remuneration banding of highest paid director	£90,000 - £95,000	£90,000 - £95,000
Percentage change from previous financial year for highest paid director	0.00%	5.71%
Average percentage change from previous financial year for employees	4.90%	6.01%
Lower quartile remuneration	£23,592	£22,915
Lower quartile ratio	3.92%	4.04%
Median remuneration	£35,025	£33,041
Median ratio	2.64%	2.80%
Upper quartile remuneration	£42,954	£42,361
Upper quartile ratio	2.15%	2.18%
Remuneration range	£19,515 - £118,334*	£18,795 - £90,290

There was one agency staff member (*) who earned more than the highest paid director in the year. The agency appointment was only for part of the year, but for the purposes of disclosure, payments have been grossed up to provide an annual value. The agency staff member is a highly skilled digital specialist, who demand higher salaries due to the scarcity of the resource.

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

Details of the LGPS and the SSSC's status as an admitted body to Tayside Superannuation Fund are contained in note 5 of the Annual Accounts. The Chief Executive and Directors are all members of the LGPS.

	As at 31 March 2022				Cash Equivalent Transfer Values (CETVs)		
	Accrued pension at age 65 £000	Related lump sum £000	Real increase in pension at age 65 £000	Real increase in related lump sum at age 65 £000	As at 31 March 2022 £000	As at 31 March 2021 £000	Real increase £000
Lorraine Gray Chief Executive	35 - 40	0 - 5	(2.5) - 0	(2.5) - 0	358	308	41
Maree Allison Director of Regulation	40 - 45	-	(2.5) - 0	-	188	160	23
Phillip Gillespie Director of Development and Innovation (seconded out from 5 Jan 2021)	40 - 45	25 - 30	5 - 10	2.5 - 5	362	274	80

Laura Shepherd Director of Strategy and Performance	45 – 50	-	(2.5) – 0	-	131	108	19
Lynn Murray Interim Director of Finance and Resources (from 1 June 2020)	15 – 20	-	0 – 2.5	-	38	16	22
Laura Lamb Acting Director of Development and Innovation (From 1 Feb 2021)	40 – 45	0 – 5	2.5 – 5	0 – 2.5	152	121	28
Cheryl Glen * Acting Director of Development and Innovation (Workforce Planning) (from 1 Feb 2021 to 12 Sept 2021)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* Cheryl Glen left SSSC employment on 17 December 2021 and therefore there are no projected pension figures available.

Cash Equivalent Transfer Values

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies.

The figures include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the member has transferred to the LGPS. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their buying additional pension benefits at their own cost. CETVs are worked out in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV that is funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or

arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Payment of compensation for loss of office

No Council Members, senior managers or other employees received any payment or other compensation for loss of office.

Staff report

AUDITED INFORMATION

Staff numbers, permanent and other

The tables below provide analysis of permanent and non-permanent staff engaged to work for the SSSC during 2021/22 and related costs. Staff numbers are expressed as average full time equivalents (FTE) employed in the year.

	2021/22		
	Permanently employed FTE	Others FTE	Total FTE
Senior managers	4	1	5
Other employees	269	28	297
Agency workers	0	2	2
Secondments inward	0	2	2
Total staff engaged	273	33	306
Secondments outward	(3)	0	(3)
Net staff engaged on SSSC activity	270	33	303

	2021/22		
	Permanently employed £000	Others £000	Total £000
Senior manager salaries	371	104	475
Other employee salaries	9,125	704	9,829
Social security costs	990	80	1,070
Pension service costs	4,871	131	5,002
Total cost directly employed staff	15,357	1,019	16,376
Council members (i)	0	36	36
Fitness to Practise Panel Members (ii)	0	522	522
External Assessors (ii)	0	4	4
Agency workers	0	199	199
Secondments inward	0	103	103
Total cost of people engaged	15,357	1,883	17,240
Severance costs	0	0	0
Other staff costs	205	0	205
Staff costs (SCNE)	15,562	1,883	17,445
Secondments outward	(250)	0	(250)
Net staff costs	15,312	1,883	17,195

There was a Convener and nine Council Members during the year. Council Members are office holders and are not included in the staff numbers.

Other staff costs include the cost of Fitness to Practise Panel Members who take part in hearings and make decisions about workers' fitness to practise. We engaged 67 panel members in 2021/22 for an average of 17 days. External assessors review overseas qualifications for registration purposes. We engaged three external assessors during 2021/22.

2020/21 comparative information

	2020/21		
	Permanently employed FTE	Others FTE	Total FTE
Senior managers	4	1	5
Other employees	254	27	281
Agency workers	0	2	2
Secondments inward	0	1	1
Total staff engaged	258	31	289
Secondments outward	(1)	0	(1)
Net staff engaged on SSSC activity	257	31	288

	2020/21		
	Permanently employed £000	Others £000	Total £000
Senior manager salaries	298	64	362
Other employee salaries	8,383	789	9,172
Social security costs	900	83	983
Pension service costs	2,725	142	2,867
Total cost directly employed staff	12,306	1,078	13,384
Council members (i)	0	49	49
Fitness to Practise Panel Members (ii)	0	692	692
External Assessors (ii)	0	4	4
Agency workers	0	86	86
Secondments inward	0	45	45
Total cost of people engaged	12,306	1,954	14,260
Severance costs	0	8	8
Other staff costs	128	0	128
Staff costs (SCNE)	12,434	1,962	14,396
Secondments outward	(98)	0	(98)
Net staff costs	12,336	1,962	14,298

There was a Convener and nine Council Members during the year. Council Members are office holders and are not included in the staff numbers.

Other staff costs include the cost of Fitness to Practise Panel Members who take part in hearings and make decisions about workers' fitness to practise. We engaged 64 panel members in 2020/21 for an average of 22.5 days. External assessors review overseas qualifications for registration purposes. We engaged four external assessors during 2020/21.

Details of the pension arrangements for the SSSC are contained in note 5 of the accounts. It should be noted that the pension service costs in the table above include adjustments for International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19) 'Employee Benefits' pension valuations. The difference between the employer contributions actually paid and the pension cost figure adjusted for IAS19 is detailed in note 3b of the accounts.

Exit packages (voluntary early severance/voluntary early retirement scheme/settlement agreements)

No staff members left the SSSC with a voluntary severance package during the 2021/22 financial year. (Two staff members left in 2020/21).

Exit costs include:

- compensation for reduced notice
- redundancy payments
- employer costs of providing early unreduced access to pension (strain on fund).

The table below shows the number of departures and associated costs:

Exit package cost band	2021/22		2020/21	
	Number of departures	Total cost £000	Number of departures	Total cost £000
Up to £25,000	0	0	2	8

No settlement agreements were paid during 2021/22 or 2020/21.

Exit costs are accounted for in full when the decision to grant compensation cannot be withdrawn. Redundancy and other departure costs have been paid in accordance with the SSSC's Retirement and Redundancy Policy and the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations for Scotland. Where the SSSC has agreed early retirements, the strain on fund costs are met by the SSSC and not the Local Government Pension Scheme.

UNAUDITED INFORMATION

Staff composition by gender

The table below provides a gender breakdown of directly employed staff at 31 March 2022. Staff numbers are provided on a head count basis.

Role	Permanent		Other staff		Total	
	male	female	male	female	male	female
Executive Management Team	1	5	0	1	1	6
Other staff	77	227	8	12	85	239
Total	78	232	8	13	86	245

Sickness absence

We lost 3.5% of working time to sickness absence during 2021/22 which is an increase on last year's figure of 2.7%. XpertHR cite the public sector average as 3.6% (2021).

	2021/22 %	2020/21 %	2019/20 %
Percentage of working time lost to sickness absence	3.5	2.7	5.1

Staff turnover data

The SSSC's voluntary staff turnover was 4.4% in 2021/22. This is similar to 4.3% in 2020/21. XpertHR (2021) median rate for voluntary turnover for all employers was 10.3%.

Policies in relation to disabled people

The SSSC is committed to mainstreaming all three strands of the general equality duty throughout our organisation – eliminating discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010. We seek to make sure that the duty is implemented as part of our human resources policy and practice. For example, we make adjustments for people with disabilities, regularly review our human resources policies, and deliver training and workshops to raise awareness of issues affecting people with protected characteristics. We also have an equality working group. There are plans to provide further training for staff on how to undertake equality impact assessments.

The SSSC operates a Guaranteed Job Interview Scheme as part of our selection process. The scheme guarantees candidates who consider themselves to have a disability, to be shortlisted for posts they meet the essential criteria for.

The SSSC's Maximising Attendance Policy provides guidance and advice on how to support an employee who becomes disabled while employed by the SSSC.

Expenditure on consultancy

	2021/22	2020/21
	£000	£000
Research to inform strategy development	32	0
Scoping rewards review, analysis of reward practices and structure	31	0
Evaluation advance placement skills education modules	22	4
Research on Impact of COVID-19 on Newly Qualified Social Workers	15	15
Job evaluation	14	0
Newly qualified social workers research study	8	17
Tax services	4	1
Development of assurance mapping	1	0
Scoping a pay and grading review	0	9
Shared services future strategy - implementation assistance	0	5
Total consultancy	127	51

FACILITY TIME STATEMENT

The Value of Facility Time

Facility Time generates benefits for employees, managers and the wider community from effective joint working between union representatives and employers.

A number of studies have shown that union workplaces tend to be safer and that trade unions help to promote skills and training in workplace. The Scottish Government recognises this through our support for trade union learning and equality initiatives including Scottish Union Learning, Close the Gap, Fair Work Convention, Partnership Working in the NHS and revised governance arrangements for Higher Education.

The NatCen study¹ highlighted four main benefits from the use of Facility Time:

'Provision of a ready-made structure for meaningful consultation and negotiation saves money and reassures members that their views are valued in decision making. Facilitation of partnership working with trade unions improves workplace relations and the reputation of an employer as 'a good place to work'.

'Earlier intervention in relation to complaints, grievances and disciplinary action prevents escalation into more serious problems and saves organisations (and taxpayers) money by reducing the impact on staff time and possible legal costs. Better communication during restructuring and redundancy processes improves understanding of decisions, minimises negative impacts and reduces the number of working days lost through industrial action.'

The Fair Work Convention² highlights these points through its 'Effective voice' principle. As they state: 'It is clear from international evidence that employees and workers want a voice, not only to resolve problems and conflicts (which is important) but also to engage and participate constructively in organisations.'

On organisational change, they say: 'There are many examples in Scotland and elsewhere of how collective voice through trade unions working with employers has addressed a wide range of organisational challenges and contributed to organisational improvements.'

It is the view of the Scottish Social Services Council that Facility Time data legally required by the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, should be set in the context of the vast benefits that Facility Time brings to the workforce and to the employer, as set out above. This is supported by the Scottish Government, the STUC and our affiliated trade unions.

Lorraine Gray
Chief Executive

Fiona Birkin
Branch Secretary, UNISON SRC branch
Joint Chair (Staffside) SSSC Partnership Forum

1 <http://www.natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/the-value-of-trade-union-facility-time/>

2 <http://www.fairworkconvention.scot/>

Trade Union Facility Time

The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 came into force on 1 April 2017. The regulations require public sector employers to publish specific information related to Facility Time provided to trade union officials. The information for 2021/22 follows.

Table 1

Relevant union officials

The table below details number of employees who were relevant union officials during 2021/22.

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
4	3.5*

* In December 2021 four union officials reduced to two

Table 2

Percentage of time spent on Facility Time

The table below provides details of the Facility Time spent by employees who were relevant union officials during 2021/22.

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	0
1-50%	4
51%-99%	0
100%	0

* In December 2021 four union officials reduced to two

Table 3

Percentage of pay bill spent on Facility Time

The tables below give details of the percentage of time spent on Facility Time as a percentage of our pay bill.

Total cost of Facility Time	£4,534
Total pay bill	£16,375,873
Facility Time as a percentage of total pay bill	0.028%

Table 4

Paid trade union activities

The table below provides hours spent by employees who were relevant union officials during the 2021/22 financial year as a percentage of total paid Facility Time hours.

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid Facility Time hours.	27.4%
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Parliamentary accountability report

Losses and special payments

There were no reportable losses or special payments in the year to 31 March 2022 (nil for the year to 31 March 2021).

Fees and charges

The SSSC charges fees to individual social service workers applying to join the Register. Once registered an annual continuation of registration fee is charged and following a set number of years (currently either three or five years, dependent on the part of Register) a renewal of registration fee is charged.

Under section 57 of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001, the SSSC can set reasonable fees through changes to our registration rules. This requires the consent of Scottish Ministers. We carried out a review of fees and consultation with stakeholders during 2016/17 and a fee increase applied from 1 September 2017. We are planning a fee consultation during 2022/23.

Our budget is funded mainly by a mixture of grant in aid from the Scottish Government, specific grants (mainly from the Scottish Government) and fees paid by registrants. The 2021/22 budget was based on funding of 64% from grant in aid, 23% from fees charged to applicants and registrants, 9% from our general reserve and 4% from specific grants (2020/21: 67% grant in aid, 26% fees and 7% specific grants).

Income collected from fees charged to applicants to register and registrants is shown in the table below.

	2021/22			2020/21		
	Budget £000	Actual £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Actual £000	Variance £000
Registration fees	5,644	5,951	(307)	5,965	5,675	290

Lorraine Gray
Chief Executive and Accountable Officer
13 December 2022

Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the members of the Scottish Social Services Council, the Auditor General for Scotland and the Scottish Parliament

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements in the annual report and accounts of the Scottish Social Services Council for the year ended 31 March 2022 under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows, the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the 2021/22 Government Financial Reporting Manual (the 2021/22 FReM).

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers of the state of the body's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its net expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the 2021/22 FReM; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](#) approved by the Auditor General for Scotland. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We were appointed by the Auditor General on 31 May 2016. The period of total uninterrupted appointment is six years. We are independent of the body in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the body. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

We have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the body's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

These conclusions are not intended to, nor do they, provide assurance on the body's current or future financial sustainability. However, we report on the body's arrangements for financial sustainability in a separate Annual Audit Report available from the [Audit Scotland website](#).

Risks of material misstatement

We have reported in a separate Annual Audit Report, the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that we identified and our conclusions thereon.

Responsibilities of the Accountable Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Accountable Officer Responsibilities, the Accountable Officer is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Accountable Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Accountable Officer is responsible for assessing the body's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to discontinue the body's operations.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- obtaining an understanding of the applicable legal and regulatory framework and how the body is complying with that framework;
- identifying which laws and regulations are significant in the context of the body;
- assessing the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the body's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on regularity of expenditure and income

Opinion on regularity

In our opinion in all material respects the expenditure and income in the financial statements was incurred or applied in accordance with any applicable enactments and guidance issued by the Scottish Ministers.

Responsibilities for regularity

The Accountable Officer is responsible for ensuring the regularity of expenditure and income. In addition to our responsibilities in respect of irregularities explained in the audit of the financial statements section of our report, we are responsible for expressing an opinion on the regularity of expenditure and income in accordance with the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000.

Reporting on other requirements

Opinions prescribed by the Auditor General for Scotland on audited part of the Remuneration and Staff Report

We have audited the parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report as audited. In our opinion, the audited part of the Remuneration and Staff Report has been properly prepared in accordance with the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers.

Other Information

The Accountable Officer is responsible for the other information in the annual report and accounts. The other information comprises the Performance Report and the Accountability Report excluding the audited part of the Remuneration and Staff Report.

Our responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Performance Report and Governance Statement to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinions prescribed by the Auditor General for Scotland.

Opinions prescribed by the Auditor General for Scotland on Performance Report and Governance Statement

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Performance Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers; and
- the information given in the Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We are required by the Auditor General for Scotland to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or

- the financial statements and the audited part of the Remuneration and Staff Report are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities

In addition to our responsibilities for the annual report and accounts, our conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice are set out in our Annual Audit Report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice, we do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Sophia Brown, (for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP),

110 Queen Street

Glasgow

G1 3BX

13 December 2022

Annual Accounts

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE NET EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

		Ref/ note	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Income				
Registration fees	2a		(5,951)	(5,675)
Other operating income	2b		(555)	(339)
			<u>(6,506)</u>	<u>(6,014)</u>
Expenditure				
Staff costs	3a		17,445	14,396
Operating expenditure	6a		3,377	4,191
Disbursements	6b		6,810	5,329
			<u>27,632</u>	<u>23,916</u>
<i>Net operating cost on ordinary activities before interest and (return)/cost on pension scheme assets and liabilities</i>				
			21,126	17,902
Bank charges			34	34
Net interest on defined pension (asset)/liability	5b		215	156
			<u>21,375</u>	<u>18,092</u>
<i>Net operating cost on ordinary activities after interest and net interest on pension scheme net liabilities</i>				
			21,375	18,092
Total actuarial re-measurements on defined pensions (asset)/liability	5b		(5,446)	2,754
Total comprehensive net expenditure before Government funding			<u>15,929</u>	<u>20,846</u>

All operations are continuing.

The notes on pages 72 to 93 form an integral part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**

	Ref/ note	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	14	15
Prepayments - greater than one year	8	4	3
Total non-current assets		<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	8	1,347	1,968
Cash and cash equivalents	9	7,303	5,960
Total current assets		<u>8,650</u>	<u>7,928</u>
Total assets		8,668	7,946
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	(5,800)	(4,652)
Total current liabilities		<u>(5,800)</u>	<u>(4,652)</u>
Assets plus current liabilities		2,868	3,294
Non-current liabilities			
Pension (liabilities)/assets	5a	(9,681)	(11,604)
Other provisions	15	(466)	(466)
Total non-current liabilities		<u>(10,147)</u>	<u>(12,070)</u>
Net (liabilities)/assets		<u>(7,279)</u>	<u>(8,776)</u>
Taxpayers' equity			
Pensions reserve	SCTE	(9,681)	(11,604)
General reserve	11	2,402	2,828
		<u>(7,279)</u>	<u>(8,776)</u>

All operations are continuing.

The notes on pages 72 to 93 form an integral part of these accounts.

Lorraine Gray
Chief Executive and Accountable Officer

The Accountable Officer authorised these financial statements for issue on 13 December 2022.

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Ref/ note	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net operating cost before Government funding	SCNE	(15,929)	(20,846)
Adjustments for non-cash items:			
Pension adjustments and re-measurements	5b, table 2	(1,923)	4,227
Depreciation and amortisation	7	1	2
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	8a	620	(584)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	10a	1,148	(1,108)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	15	0	466
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(16,083)	(17,843)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	7	0	0
Net cash outflow from investing activities		0	0
Cash flows from financing activities			
Funding from Government	12a	17,426	17,847
Net financing		17,426	17,847
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period	9	1,343	4
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	9	5,960	5,956
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	9	7,303	5,960
		1,343	4

The notes on pages 72 to 93 form an integral part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN TAXPAYERS' EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

		Pension reserve £000	General reserve £000	Total reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2020		(7,377)	1,600	(5,777)
Changes in taxpayers' equity for 2020/21				
Pensions adjustment and re-measurement	5b table 2	(4,227)	4,227	0
Total comprehensive net expenditure	SCNE	0	(20,846)	(20,846)
Total recognised income and expense for 2020/21		(4,227)	(16,619)	(20,846)
Funding from Government	12a	0	17,847	17,847
Balance at 31 March 2021		(11,604)	2,828	(8,776)
Changes in taxpayers' equity for 2021/22				
Pensions adjustment and re-measurement	5b table 2	1,923	(1,923)	0
Total comprehensive net expenditure	SCNE	0	(15,929)	(15,929)
Total recognised income and expense for 2021/22		1,923	(17,852)	(15,929)
Funding from Government	12a	0	17,426	17,426
Balance at 31 March 2022		(9,681)	2,402	(7,279)

The notes on pages 72 to 93 form an integral part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

1 Statement of accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts Direction issued by the Scottish Ministers. The Accounts Direction (reproduced at appendix 1) requires compliance with the Government's Financial Reporting Manual (FRoM) which follows International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the United Kingdom, International Financial Reporting Interpretation Committee (IFRIC) interpretations and the Companies Act 2006 to the extent that they are meaningful and appropriate to the public sector. The particular accounting policies adopted by the SSSC are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items considered material in relation to the accounts.

The accounts are prepared using accounting policies and, where necessary, estimation techniques, which are selected as the most appropriate for the purpose of giving a true and fair view in accordance with the principles set out in International Accounting Standard 8: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors.

1.2 Accounting standards issued but not yet effective

In accordance with IAS 8, changes to IFRS that have been issued but not yet effective have been reviewed for impact on the financial statements in the period of initial application. There is one standard not yet effective that will have an impact on the SSSC's accounts which is IFRS 16 Leases. This standard requires all significant leases to be recognised in the Statement of Financial Position.

The effective date of IFRS 16 Leases in the public sector has been delayed until 1 April 2022. This is to recognise that bodies' preparations are being adversely affected by dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. The SSSC has leases relating to office space. These leases will require an adjustment to the Statement of Financial Position for the recognition of a right of use asset and a liability for future lease commitments. We have disclosed the SSSC's share of future minimum lease costs in Note 14 based on the SSSC's share of the Scottish Ministers lease.

1.3 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for pensions that have been measured at fair value as determined by the relevant accounting standard.

1.4 **Going concern**

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis, which provides that the entity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Further explanation of the adoption of the going concern basis is contained in the Financial Performance section (pages 18 to 21).

1.5 **Property, plant and equipment**

1.5.1 **Capitalisation**

The capitalisation threshold for individual assets is £10,000. This applies to all asset categories.

1.5.2 **Valuation**

Property, plant and equipment assets are carried at cost, less accumulated depreciation and any recognised impairment value. The SSSC does not have any assets held under finance leases.

Depreciated historic cost has been used as a proxy for the current value. All property, plant and equipment have low values and short useful economic lives which realistically reflect the life of the asset, and a depreciation charge which provides a realistic reflection of consumption.

1.5.3 **Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on property, plant and equipment on a straight-line basis using the expected economic life of the asset. Leasehold improvements are depreciated at the lower of expected useful economic life and lease term. A full year's depreciation is charged in the year the asset is first brought in to use and no depreciation is charged in the year of disposal. The economic life of an asset is determined on an individual asset basis.

1.6 **Intangible assets**

Acquired intangible assets are measured initially at cost and are amortised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. Acquired intangible assets tend to be software and the useful lives are typically four to six years and are determined on an individual basis.

1.7 **Impairment of tangible and intangible assets**

All tangible and intangible non-current assets are reviewed for impairment when there are indications that the carrying value may not be recoverable. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any.

The recoverable amount is the higher of fair value, less costs to sell and value in use. If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised as an expense immediately. Where

an impairment loss subsequently reverses this is recognised as income immediately.

1.8 Government grants receivable

Grants and grant in aid in respect of revenue and capital expenditure are treated as a source of financing and are credited to the general reserve.

1.9 Disbursement grants and bursaries payable

This expenditure is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure in the period in which the recipient carries out the specific activity, which forms the basis of entitlement to grant, or otherwise meets the grant entitlement criteria.

1.10 Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases. The SSSC currently only holds operating leases.

The SSSC as a lessee

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged to the operating cost statement on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. The SSSC has shared service arrangements with the Care Inspectorate and charges in respect of Compass House are disclosed as lease payments. Charges from Scottish Ministers in respect of Quadrant House are also disclosed as lease payments. Costs for operating leases to the value of £0.809m have been recognised in the SCNE (note 14).

1.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position consist of cash at bank and cash in hand.

1.12 Pensions

The SSSC accounts for pensions under the IAS 19 'Employee Benefits' standard as adapted to the public sector.

The SSSC is an admitted body to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and this is a defined benefit scheme. Obligations are measured at discounted present value whilst scheme assets are recorded at fair value. The operating and financing costs of such schemes are recognised separately in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure. Service costs are spread systematically over the expected service lives of employees. Financing costs and actuarial gains and losses are recognised in the period in which they arise.

The SSSC's funding rules require the general reserve balance to be charged with the amount payable by the SSSC to the pension scheme and not the amount calculated according to the application of IAS 19. Therefore, there are

appropriations to/from the pensions reserve shown in the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity to reverse the impact of the IAS 19 entries included in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure to ensure the general reserve balance is charged with the amount payable by the SSSC.

1.13 Short term employee benefits

The SSSC permits the carry forward of unused annual leave entitlement and accumulated flexible working hours scheme balances. Entitlement to annual leave and flexible working hours are recognised in the accounts at the time the employee renders the service and not when the annual leave and accumulated hours balances are actually used.

1.14 Shared services

The SSSC shares its headquarters and some services with the Care Inspectorate. The Care Inspectorate charges the SSSC for property, finance, procurement and human resource services provided, based on a Service Level Agreement (SLA). The SLA contains arrangements akin to an operating lease for accommodation.

1.15 Value Added Tax (VAT)

The SSSC can recover only a nominal value of VAT incurred on purchases, with irrecoverable VAT being charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

1.16 Revenue and capital transactions

Revenue and capital transactions are recognised in accordance with IFRS 15, so they are recorded in the accounts on an income and expenditure basis, meaning they are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid. All specific and material sums payable to and due by the SSSC as at 31 March 2022 have been brought into account. Similarly, capital transactions are recognised as they are agreed or incurred, not as money received or paid.

1.17 Financial instruments

The SSSC does not hold any complex financial instruments. As the cash requirements of the SSSC are met through grant in aid provided by the Children and Families Directorate of the Scottish Government, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating and managing risk than would apply to a non-public sector body. Most financial instruments relate to contracts to buy non-financial items in line with our expected purchase and usage requirements and the SSSC is therefore exposed to little credit, liquidity or market risk.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised on the Statement of Financial Position when the SSSC becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The SSSC's financial instruments comprise trade and other receivables, trade and other payables, and cash and liquid resources.

Trade receivables

Trade receivables are non-interest bearing and are recognised at fair value, reduced by appropriate allowances for estimated irrecoverable amounts.

Trade payables

Trade payables are non-interest bearing and are stated at fair value.

1.18 Changes in accounting policy

There have been no changes in accounting policy during the year.

1.19 Operating segments

Financial reporting to senior decision makers is at organisation wide level and therefore segmental reporting under IFRS 8 is not required.

1.20 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and liabilities are disclosed in accordance with IAS 37. There is one contingent liability at 31 March 2022 (note 16).

1.21 Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

The SSSC does not have any uncertainties that would have a material effect except for the provision for dilapidations (note 15).

2. Operating income

2a Registration fee income

	2021/22	2020/21
	£000	£000
Registration fees	5,951	5,675

2b Other operating income

	2021/22	2020/21
	£000	£000
Modern apprenticeship fees	280	197
Recharges for seconded staff	250	98
Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) fee recovery	5	4
Other income	20	40
	555	339

3. **Staff numbers and costs**

- 3a An analysis of staff numbers and costs is disclosed in the Staff Report (staff numbers by permanent and other) on pages 55 to 56 of this report. A summary of cost is provided in the table below.

Staff cost summary	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Directly employed staff	16,376	13,384
Other people engaged	864	876
Other staff costs	205	136
Total staff costs	17,445	14,396

3b **Analysis of impact of actuarial pension valuation adjustments (note 5)**

The table below provides details of the difference between the employer contributions we actually paid to the pension scheme administrator and the service cost disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts. Our budget is based on employer contributions payable. Service cost is a figure derived from actuarial analysis in accordance with IAS19.

Analysis of impact of actuarial pension valuation adjustments - staff costs (note 5)	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Actual payments		
Employer pension contributions actually paid	1,693	1,541
Unfunded pension payments actually paid	22	22
Total pension related payments actually paid	1,715	1,563
Accounting entries (IAS 19 note 5)		
Service costs included in staff costs (SCNE)	5,002	2,867
Variance between actual costs and accounting basis	3,287	1,304

4. **Severance and settlement costs**

There were no exit packages or settlement agreements in 2021/22. (2020/21 £8k). Details of exit packages are disclosed on page 57 (exit packages) of this report.

5. **Post-employment benefits: pensions**

International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS 19) 'Employee Benefits' sets out the accounting treatment to be followed when accounting for the costs of providing a pension scheme.

Tayside Superannuation Fund

The Tayside Superannuation Fund is a multi-employer scheme which includes local authorities and admitted bodies.

The fund is administered by Dundee City Council and the pension scheme is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). It is a defined benefit scheme, which means that the benefits to which members and their spouses are entitled are determined by pensionable pay and length of service.

Employer contributions are set every three years as a result of an actuarial valuation of the fund required by the Regulations. The most recent actuarial valuation of the fund was carried out as at 31 March 2020. This set the contribution rate at 17% for 2021/22 to 2023/24. The next valuation of the fund will be carried out based on scheme data as at 31 March 2023. There are no minimum funding requirements in the LGPS but the contributions are generally set to target a funding level of 100% using the actuarial valuation assumptions.

The contributions paid by the SSSC for the year to 31 March 2022 were £1,693k representing 17.0% of pensionable pay (2020/21: £1,541k representing 17.0% of pensionable pay). The employer's contribution rate for the year to 31 March 2022 will remain at 17%. Employee contribution rates were in the range 5.5% to 9.4% based on earnings bands.

Participating in a defined benefit pension scheme exposes the SSSC to the following risks.

- **Investment risk:** The fund may hold investment in asset classes, such as equities, which have volatile market values and while these assets are expected to provide real returns over the long-term, the short-term volatility can cause additional funding to be required if a deficit emerges.
- **Interest rate risk:** The fund's liabilities are assessed using market yields on high quality corporate bonds to discount future liability cashflows. As the fund holds assets such as equities the value of the assets and liabilities may not move in the same way.
- **Inflation risk:** All of the benefits under the fund are linked to inflation and so deficits may emerge to the extent that the assets are not linked to inflation.
- **Longevity risk:** In the event that the members live longer than assumed a deficit will emerge in the fund. This may be mitigated by a longevity insurance contract held by the fund. There are also other demographic risks.

- **Regulatory risk:** Regulatory uncertainties could result in benefit changes to past or future benefits which could result in additional costs.
- **Orphan risk:** As many unrelated employers participate in each fund, there is an orphan liability risk where employers leave the fund but with insufficient assets to cover their pension obligations so that the difference may fall on the remaining employers in that fund.

All of the risks above may also benefit the employer, for example higher than expected investment returns or employers leaving the fund with excess assets which will eventually get inherited by the remaining employers.

There are currently uncertainties in relation to LGPS benefits due to the McCloud and Sargeant judgements. Remedial regulations are expected in 2022 and uncertainty over the benefit changes proposed for the LGPS will remain until these have been finalised.

The pension disclosure notes include the actuarial assessment of the impact on the SSSC's share of the fund.

5a **Employee benefits – Statement of Financial Position**

	As at 31 March 2022 £000	As at 31 March 2021 £000
Present value of funded obligation	(67,231)	(64,455)
Fair value of scheme assets (bid value)	57,934	53,257
Net liability	(9,297)	(11,198)
Present value of unfunded obligation	(384)	(406)
Net liability in Statement of Financial Position	(9,681)	(11,604)

5b **Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure costs for the year to 31 March 2022**

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure are as follows.

Table 1:	Year to 31 March 2022		Year to 31 March 2021	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Service costs		5,002		2,867
Administration expenses		21		13
Net interest on defined liability/(asset)		215		156
Difference between actual employer's contributions plus unfunded payments and actuarial assumptions	(0)		21	
Return on assets less interest	(1,896)		(10,915)	
Other actuarial (gains)/losses on assets	0		(5,012)	
Change in financial assumptions	(3,707)		17,223	
Change in demographic assumptions	0		(968)	
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	157		2,405	
Total re-measurements		(5,446)		2,754
Total		(208)		5,790
Actual return on scheme assets		(2,978)		(11,762)

The SSSC recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported operating cost when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge required to be made under the SSSC's funding rules is based on the cash payable in the year. This requires the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits to be reversed out of the general reserve via the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity.

The following transactions have been applied to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure and the general reserve via the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity during the year.

Table 2:		2021/22	2020/21
Actuarial adjustments are made for:	note	£000	£000
Staff costs	3b	3,287	1,304
Administration expenses	5b table 1	21	13
Net interest on defined liability/(asset)	5b table 1	215	156
Total re-measurements	5b table 1	(5,446)	2,754
Total actuarial adjustments		(1,923)	4,227

5c **Benefit obligation reconciliation - year to 31 March 2022**

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligations are as follows.

	Year to 31 March 2022		Year to 31 March 2021	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening defined benefit obligation		64,861		42,973
Current service costs		5,002		2,867
Interest costs		1,297		1,003
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(617)		(1,190)	
Contributions by scheme participants	644		572	
Unfunded pension payments	(22)		(24)	
Total scheme transactions		5		(642)
Change in financial assumptions	(3,707)		17,223	
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	157		2,405	
Change in demographic assumptions	-		(968)	
Total actuarial (gains)/losses		(3,550)		18,660
Closing defined benefit obligation		67,615		64,861

5d **Fair value of fund assets reconciliation for the year to 31 March 2022**

Changes in the fair value of fund assets are as follows.

	Year to 31 March 2022		Year to 31 March 2021	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening fair value of fund assets		53,257		35,596
Interest on assets		1,082		847
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(639)		(1,214)	
Contributions by employer including unfunded	1,715		1,542	
Contributions by scheme participants	644		572	
Total scheme transactions		1,720		900
Return on assets less interest		1,896		10,915
Other actuarial gains/(losses)		-		5,012
Administration expenses		(21)		(13)
Closing fair value of fund assets		57,934		53,257

5e **Projected pension expense for the year to 31 March 2023**

	Year to 31 March 2023 £000
Projected pension expense	
Service cost	4,411
Net interest on the defined liability	230
Administration expenses	22
Total	4,663
Employer contributions	1,693

Note that these figures exclude the capitalised cost of any early retirements or augmentations which may occur after 31 March 2022.

5f **SSSC fund assets**

The table below provides details of the estimated asset allocation of the fund for the SSSC.

Asset share – bid value	31 March 2022		31 March 2021	
	£000	%	£000	%
Equities	41,025	71%	38,134	72%
Gilts	2,728	5%	2,106	4%
Other bonds	6,916	12%	6,951	13%
Property	6,318	11%	4,868	9%
Cash	889	1%	1,122	2%
Alternatives	58	0%	76	0%
Total	57,934	100%	53,257	100%

The SSSC's share of the assets of the fund is approximately 1.14%. The return on the fund (on a bid to value basis) for the year to 31 March is estimated to be 5.51%.

Tayside Superannuation Fund has relied on valuations provided by its advisors for its property holdings, which have been reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty'. Given the unknown future impact that COVID-19 might have on the real estate market, the fund is keeping the valuation of its property portfolio under frequent review.

Ukraine crisis – impact on approach

As a result of this crisis, many equity markets across the globe have witnessed significant falls, but so far, the impact has been felt most prominently in equities with a close link to Russian markets, ie Russian equities themselves and in European tilted funds. Beyond equity markets, there has been volatility in government bond and credit markets. However, there has been no large directional move to date. The expected longer-term impact on gilt yields will largely depend on how these developments affect inflation (for example, through disruption to the supply of energy and commodities), and how central banks react to this. From an accounting perspective, the actuaries are comfortable that

their current methodology in deriving assumptions continues to be appropriate with the current uncertainties in the market.

5g **Financial assumptions as at 31 March 2022**

The financial assumptions used for IAS 19 calculations are below. These assumptions are set with reference to market conditions at 31 March 2022.

Assumptions at:	31 March 2022 % pa	31 March 2021 % pa	31 March 2020 % pa
Discount rates	2.60%	2.00%	2.35%
Pensions increases	3.20%	2.80%	1.85%
Salary increases	4.20%	3.80%	2.85%

The standard approach taken to derive the appropriate discount rate is known as the Single Equivalent Discount Rate (SEDR) methodology. Sample cashflows at each duration year (from 2 to 30 years) are used to derive the single discount rate which results in the same liability value as that which would be determined using a full yield curve valuation (essentially each year's cashflows has a different discount rate). In carrying out this derivation the annualised Merrill Lynch AA rated corporate bond yield curve is used and assumes the curve is flat beyond the 30-year point. The estimated duration of the SSSC's past service liabilities is 18 years. This is consistent with the approach used at the last accounting date.

Retail Prices Index (RPI) assumption

Similar to the approach used to derive the discount rate, the Retail Prices Index (RPI) assumption is set using a Single Equivalent Inflation Rate (SEIR) approach, using the estimated cashflows described above. The SEIR derived is that which gives the same net present value of the cashflows, discounted using the annualised Merrill Lynch AA rated corporate bond yield curve, as applying the BoE implied inflation curve. As above, the Merrill Lynch AA rated corporate bond spot curve is assumed to be flat beyond the 30-year point and the BoE implied inflation spot curve is assumed to be flat beyond the 40-year point. This is consistent with the approach used at the previous accounting date.

Following a recent review of the market, and in particular noting the muted market reaction to the likely alignment of RPI with CPIH (Consumer Prices Index with Housing) from 2030, the actuary's view is that gilt-implied inflation rates are currently distorted by supply and demand factors at medium and longer terms. They have therefore allowed for an Inflation Risk Premium (IRP) of 0.4% at medium and longer terms (from 10 years). This results in an overall IRP of between 0.0% p.a. and 0.3% p.a. depending on the term of the liabilities (for terms ranging from 2 years up to 30 years).

Consistent with the SEDR approach, assumptions are rounded to the nearest 0.05% and the assumptions are derived using the same estimated cashflows as noted above.

Consumer Prices Index (CPI) assumption

As future pension increases are expected to be based on the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rather than RPI, the actuary has made a further assumption about CPI which is that it will be 1.0% below RPI for each year prior to 2030 and will be in line with RPI thereafter. The actuary believes this is a reasonable estimate for the future differences in the indices, based on the different calculation methods, recent independent forecasts and the duration of the SSSC's liabilities. This is consistent with the approach used at the last accounting date.

Salary increases are assumed to be 1.0% above CPI. This is consistent with the approach at the previous accounting date. However, in line with the latest fund valuation as at 31 March 2020 any allowance for promotional salary increases has been removed.

5h Demographic/statistical assumptions

The CMI made a material change to CMI_2020 in 2021 (compared to previous versions) due to the impact of abnormal mortality data in 2020. This change introduced a '2020 weight parameter' for the mortality data in 2020 so that the exceptional mortality experienced due to the coronavirus pandemic can be incorporated without having a disproportionate impact on results.

The post retirement mortality tables used were the S3PA_H tables with a multiplier of 110%. These base tables are then projected using the CMI_2020 Model, allowing for a long-term improvement of 1.25% per annum with a smoothing parameter of 7.5, an initial addition to improvements of 0.0% per annum and a 2020 weighting of 25%. This is consistent with the assumptions adopted last year.

The assumed life expectations from age 65 are shown below.

Life expectancy from age 65 (years)		31 March 2022	31 March 2021	31 March 2020 (consistent with 2020 valuation and before CMI_2020 update)
Retiring today	Males	18.9	18.9	19.2
	Females	22.3	22.2	22.5
Retiring in 20 years	Males	20.3	20.2	20.7
	Females	23.9	23.8	24.0

5i Sensitivity analysis

The following table sets out the impact of a change of a +/- 0.1% change to key assumptions and a +/- one year age rating adjustment to the mortality assumption.

	£000	£000	£000
Adjustment to discount rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	66,037	67,615	69,231
Projected service cost	4,245	4,411	4,583
Adjustment to long term salary increase	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	67,776	67,615	67,455
Projected service cost	4,414	4,411	4,409
Adjustment to pension increases and deferred revaluation	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	69,059	67,615	66,205
Projected service cost	4,581	4,411	4,246
Adjustment to life expectancy assumptions	+1 year	None	-1 year
Present value of total obligation	70,560	67,615	64,795
Projected service cost	4,614	4,411	4,216

5j Remeasurements in other comprehensive income

The following table sets out the remeasurement of the net assets /(defined liability).

	As at 31 March 2022 £000	As at 31 March 2021 £000
Return on fund assets in excess of interest	1,896	10,915
Other actuarial gains/(losses) on assets	-	5,012
Change in financial assumptions	3,707	(17,223)
Change in demographic assumptions	-	968
Experience loss on defined benefit obligation	(157)	(2,405)
Remeasurement of net assets/(defined liability)	5,446	(2,733)

6a Operating expenditure

	2021/22	2020/21
Operating expenditure	£000	£000
Supplies and services	1,453	1,569
Administration costs	1,139	1,390
Property costs	752	739
Provision for dilapidations	0	466
Transport costs	7	9
Pension administration costs (IAS 19)	21	13
Depreciation of assets	1	2
Changes in debt impairment allowance	4	3
	3,377	4,191

The above total includes £21.1k (2020/21 £20.3k) for external auditor's remuneration paid to Audit Scotland. Grant Thornton UK LLP (appointed auditors) did not receive any fees in relation to non-audit work.

6b Analysis of disbursements

	2021/22	2020/21
Disbursements	£000	£000
Postgraduate bursaries:		
Tuition fees paid to universities	988	1,000
Bursaries paid to students	1,622	1,570
Total bursary disbursement	2,610	2,570
Other disbursements:		
Practice learning fees	2,776	1,434
Voluntary Sector Development Fund - training support	1,074	1,148
Workforce planning and development	350	177
Total disbursements	6,810	5,329

7 Property, plant and equipment

	Furniture & fittings £000
Cost or valuation:	
At 1 April 2021	27
Additions	0
Disposal/de-recognition	0
At 31 March 2022	27
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2021	12
Charged in year	1
Disposal/de-recognition	0
At 31 March 2022	13
Net book value:	
At 31 March 2022	14
At 31 March 2021	15

	Furniture & fittings £000
Cost or valuation:	
At 1 April 2020	154
Additions	0
Disposal/de-recognition	(127)
At 31 March 2021	27
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2020	137
Charged in year	2
Disposal/de-recognition	(127)
At 31 March 2021	12
Net book value:	
At 31 March 2021	15
At 31 March 2020	17

All assets are owned.

8 Trade and other receivables

8a Summary of trade and other receivables

Summary of trade and other receivables	2021/22		2020/21	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Amounts falling due within one year				
Prepayments and accrued income		865		1,478
Trade receivables	440		465	
Other receivables	42		25	
Total trade and other receivables		482		490
		1,347		1,968
Amounts falling due after more than one year				
Prepayments		4		3
Total trade and other receivables		1,351		1,971

Trade and other receivables are non-interest bearing. Credit terms are generally 30 days. Trade and other receivables are recorded at fair value, reduced by appropriate allowances for estimated irrecoverable amounts.

Prepayments for 2020/21 include a sum of £531k paid to universities to fund practice learning opportunities for social work students. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, practice placements were suspended. With agreement from our Scottish Government Sponsor this funding was used by the universities during 2021/22 to fund resumed placements.

8b Provision for impairment of receivables

Provision for impairment of receivables	2021/22	2020/21
	£000	£000
As at 1 April	(38)	(35)
Charge for the year	(464)	(467)
Unused amounts reversed	7	2
Uncollectable amounts written off	453	462
As at 31 March	(42)	(38)

As at 31 March 2022, trade and other receivables of £42k (2020/21: £38k) were past due and impaired. The amount of the provision is £42k (2020/21: £38k). The ageing analysis of these receivables is as follows.

Aged analysis of past due and impaired receivables	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Up to 3 months past due	11	6
3 to 6 months past due	5	10
6 to 12 months past due	6	7
Over 12 months past due	20	15
	42	38

As at 31 March 2022, trade and other receivables of £468k (2020/21: £490k) were due but not impaired. The ageing analysis of these receivables is as follows.

Aged analysis of unimpaired receivables due	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Not yet due	357	338
Up to 3 months past due	84	80
3 to 6 months past due	5	21
6 to 12 months past due	9	23
Over 12 months past due	13	28
	468	490

8c **Analysis of trade and other receivables**

Analysis of trade and other receivables	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Amounts falling due within one year		
Bodies external to Government	1,176	1,819
Other Government bodies	169	141
Local authorities	2	5
NHS Bodies	0	3
	1,347	1,968
Amounts falling due after more than one year		
Bodies external to Government	2	3
Other Government bodies	2	0
	4	3
Total trade and other receivables	1,351	1,971

9 Cash and cash equivalents

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Balance as at 1 April	5,960	5,956
Net change in cash and cash equivalent balances	1,343	4
Balance as at 31 March	7,303	5,960
The following balances as at 31 March were held at:		
Government banking service	7,244	5,752
Commercial banks and cash in hand	59	208
Balance as at 31 March	7,303	5,960

10 Trade and other payables

10a Summary of trade and other payables

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Summary of trade and other payables		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade payables	405	248
Accruals and deferred income	4,916	3,950
Other payables	204	190
Other taxation and social security	275	253
VAT	0	11
Total trade and other payables	5,800	4,652

10b Analysis of trade and other payables

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Analysis of trade and other payables		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Bodies external to Government	3,625	4,035
Higher education institutes (HEIs)	1,402	78
Other Government bodies	492	307
Local authorities	275	232
NHS bodies	6	0
Total trade and other payables	5,800	4,652

11 Sources of financing

2020/21		2021/22			
Total	Ref/	Revenue	Capital	Total	
£000	note	£000	£000	£000	
1,600		2,813	15	2,828	
Opening balance					
(20,846)	SCNE	(15,927)	(2)	(15,929)	
(deficit) for the year					
4,227	5b	(1,923)	0	(1,923)	
Pension adjustments and re-measurements					
17,847	13a	17,426	0	17,426	
Grants and grant in aid					
2,828		2,389	13	2,402	
Closing balance					

12 Government funding

12a Grants and grant in aid

	2021/22	2020/21
Grants and grant in aid	£000	£000
Grant in aid	16,217	16,035
Voluntary Sector Development Fund	1,097	1,117
Workforce development grant	112	486
Recruitment marketing campaign	0	120
Cyber resilience	0	56
Self-directed support grant	0	33
Total funding from Government	17,426	17,847

All grant conditions have been met. The amounts in the table reflect grants drawn down, net of any repayments. Therefore, as at 31 March 2022 no grants are due for repayment.

12b Grant in aid analysis

	2021/22	2020/21
Grant in aid analysis	£000	£000
Approved grant in aid from Scottish Government	16,035	15,724
Additional grant in aid paid during the year	182	311
Total approved grant in aid	16,217	16,035
Grant drawdown during the year	16,217	16,035
	0	0

13 Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 31 March 2022.

14 Commitments under leases

14a Operating leases

Commitments under operating leases to pay rentals during the year following the year of these accounts are given in the table below, analysed according to the period in which the lease expires.

	2021/22	2020/21
Obligations under operating leases comprise:	£000	£000
Buildings:		
within 1 year	809	792
within 2 to 5 years	42	833
beyond 5 years	0	0
	851	1,625

14b Finance leases

There are no obligations or commitments under finance leases.

15 Other provisions

Other provisions comprise property dilapidations in respect of lease obligations.

	2021/22
	£000
Balance at 1 April 2021	466
Provided in year	0
Balance at 31 March 2022	466

16 Contingent liabilities

There is a contingent liability at 31 March 2022, which was first disclosed in the 2020/21 Annual Accounts.

There was an ongoing court case involving action taken against the Nursing and Midwifery Council on the employment status of panel members. Appeals have now been exhausted and the status of panel members has been confirmed as 'workers'. This means that we are now legally obliged to pay Fitness to Practise panel members holiday pay and pension contributions. We are waiting for the outcome of a remedies court hearing in early 2023 when the extent of the claim will be decided and whether, and to what extent, backdating will apply.

17 **Related party transactions**

The SSSC is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored by the Scottish Government Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser of the Children and Families Directorate. The SSSC has shared service arrangements with the Care Inspectorate in 2021/22 totalling £728k (2020/21 £676k). Both Scottish Government and the Care Inspectorate are regarded as related parties with which the SSSC has had various material transactions during the year.

A Register of Interests is maintained and updated annually. No Council Members, key managerial staff or other related parties have undertaken material transactions with the SSSC during the year.

18 **Post Statement of Financial Position events**

There were no events after the Statement of Financial Position date relating to the 2021/22 financial year.

SCOTTISH SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL



DIRECTION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS

1. The Scottish Ministers, in pursuance of paragraph 9(1) of Schedule 2 to the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001, hereby give the following direction.
2. The statement of accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2006, and subsequent years, shall comply with the accounting principles and disclosure requirements of the edition of the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) which is in force for the year for which the statement of accounts are prepared.
3. The accounts shall be prepared so as to give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year, and of the state of affairs as at the end of the financial year.
4. This direction shall be reproduced as an appendix to the statement of accounts. The direction given on 25 November 2001 is hereby revoked.

Kate Vincent

Signed by the authority of the Scottish Ministers

Dated: 16 January 2006

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please contact the SSSC on 0345 60 30 891

We promote equality by removing unlawful and unfair
treatment on the grounds of any protected characteristic
wherever possible.