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| Title of report | Convener's Report |
| Public/Confidential | Public |
| Summary/purpose of report | Update on Convener's activity since last full Council meeting on 24 November 2022. |
| Recommendations | The Council is asked to note the summary of recent key issues and activities from the viewpoint of the Convener. |
| Author | Sandra Campbell, Convener |
| Responsible Officer | Lorraine Gray, Chief Executive |
| Link to Strategic Plan | <p>The information in this report links to:</p> <p>Outcome 1: People who use services are protected by ensuring the regulated workforce is fit to practise.</p> <p>Outcome 2: The SSSC supports and enhances the development of the registered workforce to deliver high standards of practice and drive improvement.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Our workforce planning activities support employers, commissioners and policy makers to deliver a sustainable, integrated and innovative workforce.</p> <p>Outcome 4: The social work, social care and early years workforce is recognised as professional and regulated and valued for the difference it makes to people's lives.</p> |
| Link to Risk Register | <p>Risk 1: We fail to ensure that our system of regulation meets the needs of people who use services and workers.</p> <p>Risk 2: We fail to ensure that our workforce development function supports the workforce and employers to achieve the rights standards and qualifications to gain and maintain registration.</p> <p>Risk 3: We fail to meet corporate governance, external scrutiny and legal obligations.</p> |

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report summarises the activity of the Convener from 24 November 2022 to date, although it should be noted that a formal meeting of the Council took place on 13 December 2022 to approve the Annual Report and Accounts.

INTRODUCTION

2. First of all, I would like to note and welcome the return of Lorraine Gray to her post as Chief Executive and to thank Maree Allison for her sterling service in acting-up during the period of Lorraine's absence.
3. The SSSC continues to operate in a changing strategic environment, where the longer-term shape of regulated services is subject to review. In the interim period the biggest challenge for us relates to the constraints around public service financing and our ability to plan ahead for more than one financial year. Despite this we continue to focus on our Strategic Plan and Futureproofing agenda. The Rewards Review remains on our agenda and of course is linked to the strategic financial environment.

MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

4. As an ex-officio member of the board of the Care Inspectorate I attended a board meeting via Teams on 15 December 2022 and an in-person meeting on 26 January 2023, which was a combination of formal Board meeting and Board Development Event. On 9 February 2023 another Board meeting and Board Development Event takes place and it should be noted of course that in the wider context of consideration of both the organisation of the delivery of services, and of the future provision of scrutiny and inspection, it is clear that there are issues of common interest to both the SSSC and the Care Inspectorate and I'm aware that Doug Moodie, Chair, is reviewing whether there may be merit in holding a joint Care Inspectorate Board/SSSC Council meeting on an informal basis.

MEETINGS WITH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

5. I have continued to have regular meetings with Iona Colvin, the Chief Social Work Adviser and my key link with our Sponsor. These have been helpful as always, and on the date of the last Council meeting on 24 November 2022, a short meeting was facilitated with Ms Clare Haughey, Minister Children and Young People.
6. I'm pleased to be able to confirm the successful recruitment of a new Council Member following interviews held in December at our offices.

Lindsay MacDonald, joins us at today's meeting and will take up a role in the Audit and Assurance Committee, given his experience and qualifications.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

7. The Council Members had our Annual Away days on 28/29 November 2022, aiming to avoid the bad weather experienced normally in January. We held the meeting in the SSSC office this year and the view of Members was that this worked well and agreed that will be the format from now on. We covered a wide range of topics, together with SSSC senior officers, including how senior officers and Members work collaboratively, the draft Strategic Plan and the challenges facing our organisation. We also discussed how to take forward our long-standing ambition for Council Members to gain a better understanding of registered services. It was agreed that small-scale visit to services would be helpful and that the best way to organise this would be to ask services if they would like to host a visit.
8. There was also a Development Session on 16 January 2023 where the topics covered included the Risk Register and risk appetite for the organisation, the Financial Strategy linked to the Strategic Plan and a session covering how the Council can contribute to the SSSC being a Trauma Informed organisation.

CONCLUSION

9. In conclusion, I would like to end on a positive note: the SSSC has made a very significant contribution to the social work and social care workforce, notably so during the turbulent times of COVID and since. I am confident that we can continue to do so, together with our partners in the coming years, despite the current financial constraints and I would like to thank all of our hard-working staff for their continued contributions.