

SCOTTISH SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Confirmed minutes of the meeting of the Scottish Social Services Council held on Tuesday 13 December 2022 at 10:05 am by online Teams meeting.

Present: Sandra Campbell, Convener
Professor Alan Baird, Council Member
Rona King, Council Member
Linda Lennie, Council Member
Peter Murray, Council Member

In attendance: Lorraine Gray, Chief Executive
Maree Allison, Director of Regulation
Laura Lamb, Acting Director of Workforce Education and Standards
Laura Shepherd, Director of Strategy and Performance
Anne Garness, Head of Legal and Corporate Governance
Audrey Wallace, Corporate Governance Coordinator

Observing: There were no observers

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

- 1.1 Sandra Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting. She commented that a number of apologies for absence had been received. Anne Garness confirmed the meeting was quorate.
- 1.2 Sandra Campbell welcomed Lorraine Gray to her first Council meeting since her return to work.
- 1.3 Apologies were intimated from Theresa Allison, Julie Grace, Lynne Huckerby and Doug Moodie, Council Members and Lynn Murray, Interim Director of Finance and Resources.

2. Declarations of interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. 2021/22 Annual Report and Accounts (ARA)

- 3.1 Lorraine Gray presented report 48/2022 which summarised the various stages and datelines used in preparation and presentation of the ARA for the year to 31 March 2022. Appended to the report were the ARA for the year 2021/22, the external auditor's report for the year ended March 2022 and the Accountable Officer's draft letter of representation to the external auditors.
- 3.2 Lorraine Gray advised on the process which had been followed and the recommendations contained in the report.

- 3.3 Members had no questions on the content of the report or appendices, having had the opportunity to comment at previous Council and Committee meetings.
- 3.4 Sandra Campbell asked if there was any further information about the delay in receipt of the external auditor's report, which had been received after the due date for issuing papers. While there was no detailed explanation, Anne Garness reported that the auditors had advised the Audit and Assurance Committee, on 28 November, that they still had to complete final checks. It was also noted that there was a known resource issue in audit. Anne Garness advised that we have another company appointed to carry out the external audit function from the next financial year.
- 3.5 The Council
1. accepted the assurances from the Audit and Assurance Committee set out in section 9 of this report (report 48/2022)
 2. endorsed the 2021/22 Annual Report and approved the 2021/22 Accounts
 3. noted the positive annual report for 2021/22 to the Council and Auditor General for Scotland from the external auditors
 4. agreed that it is content with the assurances provided by the Accountable Officer in the Letter of Representation to the external auditors.

4. Date of next meeting

- 4.1 The date of the next meeting will be Monday 27 February 2023 at 10 am.

Council 13 December 2022

Start time: 10:05am

Finish time: 10:10am



Signed: _____

**Sandra Campbell
Convener**

17.04.2023

Date: _____