

<b>Title of Report</b>	Interim Convener's Report
<b>Summary/purpose of report</b>	Update on the Interim Convener's activities since the last Council meeting on 21 November 2024
<b>Recommendations</b>	The Council is asked to note the summary of recent key issues and activities from the viewpoint of the Interim Convener
<b>Author</b>	Peter Murray, Interim Convener
<b>Link to Strategic Plan</b>	<p>The information in this report links to:</p> <p>Outcome 1: <b>Trusted</b> People who use services are protected by a workforce that is fit to practise.</p> <p>Outcome 2: <b>Skilled</b> Our work supports the workforce to deliver high standards of professional practice.</p> <p>Outcome 3: <b>Confident</b> Our work enhances the confidence, competence and wellbeing of the workforce.</p> <p>Outcome 4: <b>Valued</b> The social work, social care and children and young people workforce is valued for the difference it makes to people's lives.</p>
<b>Link to Risk Register</b>	<p>Risk 1: We fail to ensure that our system of regulation meets the needs of people who use services and workers.</p> <p>Risk 2: We fail to ensure that our workforce development function supports the workforce and employers to achieve the rights standards and qualifications to gain and maintain registration.</p> <p>Risk 3: We fail to meet corporate governance, external scrutiny and legal obligations.</p>

	<p>Risk 4: We fail to provide value to stakeholders and demonstrate our impact.</p> <p>Risk 5: We fail to develop and support SSSC staff appropriately to ensure we have a motivated and skilled workforce.</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: Closed.</p> <p>Risk 8: We fail to have the appropriate measures in place to protect against cyber security attacks.</p> <p>Risk 9: Closed.</p>
<b>Impact Assessment</b>	An Impact Assessment (IA) was not required.
<b>Documents attached</b>	None
<b>Background papers</b>	None

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report covers the Interim Convener's activities for the period from the last full Council meeting on 21 November 2024.

## **INTRODUCTION**

2. Even with the Christmas break in the middle of the period since my last report much has been happening in SSSC. In particular the conclusion of the fees increases consultation and the launch of the potential new registrant's consultation. I would like to thank everyone involved in both these pieces of work and those who have responded. We have a paper at today's meeting which will allow Council consideration of the response to the fees increase consultation.
3. I have been very impressed how quickly our new Members have assimilated into their new role as Council Members. There is clearly considerable experience and enthusiasm to continue to support SSSC's ambition.

## **ENGAGEMENTS**

4. I was interviewed as part of the Investors in People reaccreditation and was delighted to hear subsequently that the Gold award status had been maintained. Well done to all staff for their contribution in ensuring such high standards throughout the organisation.
5. The two development days in both December and January covered a range of topics including several aspects of good governance. In January we were pleased to welcome the Minister for Young People and Children, Natalie Don-Innes.
6. In the January development day, a focus on the registration fees increase consultation allowed Council colleagues to informally discuss the feedback received.
7. Council colleagues raised questions with the Minister on our budget and how a more sustainable position can be reached. They also asked about the difficulty of sustaining an adult social care workforce against significant challenges of more attractive employment opportunities, including in other parts of the health and social care sector. The wider question of Public Sector Reform was raised with a request to the Minister to assist in cross department coordination at Scottish Government level where that can help SSSC achieve better outcomes.
8. We also heard about the outcome of a registrant survey and developments in the National Occupational Standards.

## **MEETINGS WITH PARTNERS**

9. Maree and I have met several times with both NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and the Care Inspectorate. Following feedback from Council colleagues I have spoken with Maree about the best way to ensure that our partner engagements have a strategic focus and can identify how the partnerships achieve positive outcomes for all partners. Our most recent meeting with both partners allowed us to consider how this can be best achieved. More detail on this will be provided in due course.

## **CONCLUSION**

10. There is much to be proud of for those working across all departments of SSSC. The successful launch of the Future Proofing Programme is testament to the forward-looking perspective the SSSC takes. We look forward to exploring how both internally and externally working with others we can continue to grow, become more sustainable and connect to registrants in a way that ensures their registration fee is not only a sign of their level of professionalism but value for money.