

Title of Report	Interim Convener’s Report
Summary/purpose of report	Update on the Interim Convener’s activities since taking up appointment on 1 October 2024.
Recommendations	<p>The Council is asked to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note the summary of recent key issues and activities from the viewpoint of the Interim Convener 2. approve a change to the date of Council budget approval meeting in March 2025.
Author	Peter Murray, Interim Convener
Link to Strategic Plan	<p>The information in this report links to:</p> <p>Outcome 1: Trusted People who use services are protected by a workforce that is fit to practise.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Skilled Our work supports the workforce to deliver high standards of professional practice.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Confident Our work enhances the confidence, competence and wellbeing of the workforce.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Valued The social work, social care and children and young people workforce is valued for the difference it makes to people’s lives.</p>
Link to Risk Register	<p>Risk 1: We fail to ensure that our system of regulation meets the needs of people who use services and workers.</p> <p>Risk 2: We fail to ensure that our workforce development function supports the workforce and employers to achieve the rights standards and qualifications to gain and maintain registration.</p> <p>Risk 3: We fail to meet corporate governance, external scrutiny and legal obligations.</p>

	<p>Risk 4: We fail to provide value to stakeholders and demonstrate our impact.</p> <p>Risk 5: We fail to develop and support SSSC staff appropriately to ensure we have a motivated and skilled workforce.</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>
Impact Assessment	An Impact Assessment (IA) was not required.
Documents attached	None
Background papers	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report covers the Interim Convener's activities since taking up appointment on 1 October 2024.

INTRODUCTION

2. Although officially in post since the 1 October, Sandra kindly allowed me access to her world several weeks before that to ensure a smooth hand over. I am very grateful to the Executive Management Team (EMT) for their generosity of time and the patience to help me settle into this new role.

INTERIM CONVENER – INDUCTION

3. In the later part of September, I have had a number of meetings with Maree and the wider EMT. I was able to hear first hand the work they are involved in their thoughts for the immediate future. These discussions included the fees consultation, the potential extension of the register, new data sources employed by Workforce, Education and Standards (WES) and the beginning of the analysis to be able to develop a 26-29 strategic plan.

MEETINGS WITH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

4. On Friday the 11 October along with Maree I met with Iona Colvin, Chief Social Work Adviser. We picked some of the current issues such as the Notice of Decision, the fees consultation and the National Care Service and the National Social Work Agency. We also covered the issues raised with the Minister.

UPDATE ON MEETING WITH THE MINISTER (10 October 2024)

5. Along with Maree I met the Minister for Children and Young People Natalie Don-Innes on the 10 October. We discussed a range of current issues including the fees consultation, the work WES are doing improving the resources available to support the registered workforce in their role and Future Proofing Programme work.

GENERAL ENGAGEMENTS

6. I attended the Social Work Scotland Conference which was entitled 'Developing Leaders of the Future' There were some very interesting perspectives on leader from the speakers in particular a slightly more controversial pitch from a freelance journalist Penny Taylor who encouraged greater transparency in the media by social workers.

7. I, along with a number of Council colleagues attended the Staff event which was a terrific engagement opportunity with over 230 attending. Some excellent presentations covering a range of topics including collaborative working, volunteering opportunities for staff and some challenges of regulation in remote rural parts of Scotland.

CHANGES IN COUNCIL MEETING DATES

8. I have discussed a proposal from EMT to change the following meeting date. This is to allow more time for receipt of the Scottish Government funding letter and is consistent with Council meeting on Thursdays.
9. I am asking Council to approve the change from Monday 24 March 2025 to Thursday 27 March 2025.

CONCLUSION

10. This has been a pretty fast start to my new role with a range of really interesting new experiences. I look forward to supporting the Council and EMT and in particular new Council Members who need any assistance to allow them to feel comfortable supporting the work of the Council.