

Title of report	Convener's Report
Public/confidential	Public
Action	For information
Purpose of report	To provide a summary of the activities of the Council and Convener since the last Council meeting.
Recommendations	The Council is asked to: 1. note the summary of recent key issues and activities from the viewpoint of the Convener.
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Link to Strategic Plan	Outcome 4: Our stakeholders' value our work Priority 6: High standards of governance
Link to the Risk Register	Risk 2: The SSSC is not able to demonstrate to our stakeholders (including SG) that its operational activity is fulfilling its strategic outcomes. Risk 3: Ineffective working relationships with partner bodies impact significantly on our ability to deliver our strategic outcomes.
Documents attached	N/A

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In accordance with the Executive Framework Document, the Convener is accountable for the overall strategic performance of the SSSC, oversight of governance and performance of the Council. Therefore, this report highlights important information and events which have arisen since the last scheduled Council meeting on 14 May 2020.

2. DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

- 2.1 A development session followed on from the Council meeting on 14 May, covering the subject of Corporate Parenting. This featured input from Who Cares? Scotland and helped us to reflect on the need to update the Corporate Parenting plan and to consider implications for the review of the Codes of Practice.
- 2.2 Another development session was held on 9 July, with two sessions. The first had input from Phillip Gillespie on the subject of workforce planning and the profile of the social services workforce. This was requested by Members, some of whom have no prior experience of working in the services regulated by the SSSC and Phillip provided an informative session, answering many queries from Members. The second session focused on Fairness for All: creating an equal and inclusive organisation for all staff and stakeholders. This was facilitated by external consultant Jamie Spurway, who encouraged us to reflect on the wider equalities' implications for the SSSC, including the registered workforce, the Council and our own staff. One feature of the session was the identification of the additional multiplying impact of inequalities together with COVID-19.
- 2.3 Holding development sessions on a virtual basis has not been straightforward. For those who are used to the normal training approach of small group discussion and feedback, it is difficult to replicate this virtually. It's also more difficult for the trainer to get a feel for the group dynamics and to encourage cross-discussion. All of this makes the sessions more tiring and the Council has agreed to separate the dates of development days from the formal Council meeting dates, therefore. We have also prioritised the topics for the rest of this calendar year. By common consensus, Members agreed that whilst formal Council meetings work effectively on a virtual basis, the less formal development sessions are less successful, and we hope eventually to be able to build in some face-to-face time when it's safe to do so.

3. CONVENER ACTIVITIES

- 3.1 There was an additional Council meeting added to the diary on 23 June, with two main items: the first focussing on the impact of COVID-19 on the SSSC to date and taking a forward look. The second item was a confidential paper on the development of Shared Services with the Care Inspectorate. This followed a joint meeting with the Chair and Chief Executive of the Care Inspectorate on 18 June. After the Council meeting on 23 June, I'm pleased to report that agreement was confirmed on a joint basis to develop a revised timescale and plan for delivery of this key service.

- 3.2 On 14 May I took part in a meeting, together with our Chief Executive, with the UK regulators. It was interesting to hear of issues around the UK and to note the commonality and differences. There was agreement that the experiences of the impact of COVID-19 afforded an opportunity to collectively highlight, in a public campaign, the contribution of social care workers, and our Chief Executive has been progressing this joint work since the meeting.
- 3.3 I attended a board meeting of the Care Inspectorate on 18 June. It's clear that there will be a public and Scottish Government focus on care homes for some time and this does identify areas of common interest between the Care Inspectorate and the SSSC, in particular around the impact on the workforce but also on the potential for re-thinking of the model of delivery of care in future.
- 3.4 I have become a member of two Scottish Government Ministerial groups, based on the impact COVID-19. The first of these is the Special Boards Chairs meeting with Mr. Joe Fitzpatrick, Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing, mentioned in my last report. This has continued to date but has moved from weekly to fortnightly as the impact of COVID-19 moves into a recovery phase.
- 3.5 The second group is the Mobilisation Recovery Group chaired by Ms Jeane Freeman, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport. This is a large group with broad multi-agency representation across health and social care. It meets every two weeks and is anticipated to continue for 12 months, the purpose being as follows:
- "To provide advice on health and social care policy and delivery in the context of the response to the COVID-19 epidemic. The Group will seek to drive forward activity on a whole system basis in line with the above-mentioned Framework and will address the issues that are impacting on health and social care services in Scotland as a result of the pandemic. The Group's immediate focus will be to generate system wide input into decisions around resuming paused services and supporting continuing services for which activity has been intense, such as care homes and care at home services for older people throughout the pandemic. "
- 3.6 There was a meeting with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) on 21 July, at which a potential joint role for NES and the SSSC was discussed in terms of informing the mobilisation agenda regarding integrated health and social care from a workforce perspective.
- 3.7 I have been active over the last period in carrying out annual appraisals of Council Members. This has been a very useful tool for reflecting generally on the development of the Council since last September.
- 3.8 Finally, I have begun to make short broadcasts to staff following each of the Council meetings. I hope these make some of our activity more accessible to staff, especially during this period when meetings are held on a virtual basis. And I was persuaded to set up a Twitter account, and much to my surprise, have found this to be both a good source of information and also entertainment value. You can find me here @Sandra.Sssc.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Internal stakeholders have contributed to this report and the report aims to include a regular update to external stakeholders of matters of relevance to the SSSC.

8. IMPACT ON USERS AND CARERS

8.1 There is no direct impact on people who use services or their carers.

9. SUSTAINABILITY

9.1 There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Note the summary of the Council Member Development sessions.

10.2 Note the summary of activities by the Convener.