

Title of report	Convener's Report
Public/Confidential	Public
Summary/purpose of report	Update on the Convener's activity since the last full Council meeting on 25 August 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	Maree Allison, Acting 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>

	<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 (BCP) 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 25 August 2022 to date.

INTRODUCTION

2. This report covers the period from my last report for the meeting of 25 August 2022 during which time significant Scottish Government initiatives have continued in respect of both the workforce regulated by the SSSC and the future organisation of regulation of services. These Scottish Government initiatives will be ongoing for some time, and I am aware that our Acting Chief Executive has been keeping staff up to date with any developments which could affect the SSSC although it will be some time before the various reviews are completed. I have mentioned some recent relevant meetings in this report as we continue to be consulted and involved.

MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

3. As an ex-officio member of the board of the Care Inspectorate I attended a board meeting on 29 September 2022, with the newly appointed Chair, Doug Moodie, and Chief Executive, Jackie Irvine. Doug, of course, is now also a Member of our SSSC Council and we have had early discussions about how our organisations can work together most effectively.

MEETINGS WITH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

4. 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, with one key issue being the recruitment of a Council Member.
5. Iona Colvin also supported a meeting for Acting Chief Executive Maree Allison and I with Mr Kevin Stewart, Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care on 27 October 2022. This was specifically to discuss the Independent Review of Regulatory Services and provided useful insights into the backdrop to the Review.

MEETINGS REGARDING CURRENT REVIEWS

6. On 20 October 2022 Maree Allison, Laura Lamb and I held a meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair of the current Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation, Dame Sue Bruce, and Stuart Currie. The Review will look at how social care services are regulated and inspected across social care support services in Scotland, ensure a human rights and person-centred approach is central to the inspection and regulation of

social care and consider how regulation and inspection of social care and related services can deliver improved outcomes for people within a regulatory framework that meets the needs of the planned National Care Service (NCS).

7. This was a very useful and engaging meeting with Dame Sue welcoming our input, particularly with our wealth of workforce data.
8. On 11 October 2022 Maree Allison and I also met with Professor Brigid Daniel, Chair of the Children's Reform Services Research Steering Group. The purpose of the steering group is to provide independent direction and oversight to the Children's Services Research, which will be used to inform Ministerial decision making regarding potential inclusion of children's services in the National Care Service. This was also a very interesting meeting with Professor Daniel offering to keep in touch with the SSSC to continue discussions through the course of the Review.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

9. I have been fully involved in the recruitment process to identify a new Council Member, with the closing date set for 15 November 2022 and the date for interviews planned for 12 December 2022 in Dundee.
10. The development session for Council Members on 13 October 2022, whilst not as well attended as I would have liked, was nevertheless a useful and interesting session. We continued with our programme of hearing from partner agencies in the sector, to gain a deeper understanding of current issues. On this date we heard from Dr Hannah Tweed, Senior Policy Officer, the Health and Social Care ALLIANCE Scotland (the ALLIANCE) and from Shubhanna Hussain-Ahmed, Partnership Development Officer, Coalition of Carers in Scotland. I would like to thank our partners for continuing to take time to meet with us as we look to gain an improved understanding of the current issues in the sector.
11. The other item on this agenda was a briefing on our Future Proofing Programme, pending a formal report to today's Council meeting.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

12. The Social Work Scotland Annual Conference was held in Crieff on 5 October 2022, the first in-person meeting since COVID. I attended this along with Council Member Lynne Huckerby and several SSSC representatives. This was, as always, an opportunity to link up with others in the sector and to hear from a range of speakers, including Iona Colvin and Minister Kevin Stewart.
13. I also attended for the first time the Professional Regulators conference in Edinburgh on 24 October 2022, at which Maree Allison, Hannah Coleman

and Chris Weir represented our organisation, with considerable interest shown in our opt-in hearings and online hearings initiatives. This was a chance to hear about challenges and changes across health and social care regulation in the UK.

14. I will be attending a Board Chair event on 8 November 2022 which has been convened to discuss Scottish Government relationships with public body Boards and Chairs, which I hope will be interesting and potentially lead to improved links with other Chairs.

CONCLUSION

15. In conclusion, I would like to thank, once again, Maree Allison for her support as Acting Chief Executive during this period, and to note that I hope to welcome back Lorraine Gray to her post in December.