

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Draft Strategic Plan 2023- 2026

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is the regulator for the social work, social care and children and young people workforce in Scotland. Our work means the people of Scotland can count on social services being provided by a trusted, skilled and confident workforce.

We protect the public by registering the social work, social care and children and young people's workforce, setting standards for their practice, conduct, training and education and by supporting their professional development. Where people fall below the standards of practice and conduct we can investigate and take action.

We:

- publish the national codes of practice for people working in social services and their employers
- register people working in social services and make sure they adhere to the SSSC Codes of Practice
- promote and regulate the learning and development of the social service workforce
- are the national lead for workforce development and planning for social services in Scotland
- are an ONS statistics provider.

1. What do you think of 'Our Purpose and Vision'?

We support NES' purpose and vision as set out in the draft strategic plan. The SSSC and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) work closely on several areas and initiatives, such as delivering quality improvement learning to support the workforce through the Scottish Improvement Leader Programme and development of QI resources, supporting delivery of the national leadership development programme 'Leading to Change', the development of an induction framework for adult social care and the development of knowledge and skills frameworks for dementia, end of life and palliative care and equal partners in care. We have worked with NES to publish an annual report on our partnership working. We published our last report in 2021. Our joint approach ensures programmes are evidence based, responsive to identified and emerging needs, add value and generate complementary learning opportunities for the wider health and social care workforce. We therefore welcome the focus your purpose places on collaborative working and our continuing collaboration between our organisations.

The Vision aligns with our strategic vision for 2023-2026 that, social work, social care and children and young people services in Scotland are delivered by a trusted and skilled, confident and valued workforce.

2. What do you think about 'What We Do?'

We welcome the recognition of the current challenges faced by the health, social work, social care and children and young people workforces in Scotland. We welcome the opportunity to continue the close collaboration between our organisations to support the development of our respective workforces.

3. What do you think about 'Our Strategic Approach?'

We welcome the commitment your strategic approach makes to working collaboratively with partners to explore new models for education and training.

We also welcome the focus on digital innovation and the increased role data and intelligence needs to play in the workforce planning, service redesign, models of care and qualifications.

Last year we published our Data and Intelligence strategy 2022-2025 which highlights how important robust data is to carrying out our functions as regulator for the social work, social care and children and young people workforce and as an [Official Statistics provider](#). The strategy sets out how we will use and share the knowledge, data and intelligence we gather to understand and improve the support we offer to the social work, social care and early years workforces. This will inform our workforce development activity, the development of resources to meet emerging skills needs and will inform our review of the national occupational standards. On data and intelligence will continue to inform and support the National Workforce Strategy for Health and Social Care in Scotland by allowing more robust information on how people progress their careers and develop their skill through employment in the social work, social care and children and young people's workforce.

We believe our organisations will be able to support each other in our shared commitments to digital innovation, improved access to learning, education and career opportunities and improved data and intelligence gathering. We also look forward to working closely with NES to achieve the outcomes in the Scottish Government's strategy for data-driven care in the digital age.

4. What do you think about 'Our Focus for 2023-26'?

We support your focus for 2023-26 and will continue to work closely with NES on the scope, design and deliver a programme of workforce development activity to increase the capacity and capability of the social care workforce.

5. What are the implications for your organisation?

As the regulator for the social work, social care and children and young people workforces in Scotland, several of your strategic objectives will have implications for us as an organisation and on the 166,000 workers on our register. We welcome the opportunity to work closely with you on these objectives to ensure the social work, social care and children and young people workforces' needs are fully reflected in the work you do in this area.

6. General Comments

N/A

Scottish Social Services Council

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