

Title of report	Convener's Report
Summary/purpose of report	Update on the Convener's activity since the Council meeting on 27 February 2023.
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 recommendation 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</p>

	<p>skilled workforce or have insufficient staff resources 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: Closed</p> <p>Risk 8: We fail to have the appropriate measures in place to protect against cyber security attacks.</p> <p>Risk 9: We do not have accommodation in place that meets our business requirements at an acceptable cost.</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 covers the Convener's activities for the period from the last full Council meeting on 27 February 2023.

INTRODUCTION

2. There was a short Council meeting on 27 March 2023 which mainly focused on the formal approval of the budget and audit plan for 2023/24, noting that there were significant challenges for our organisation over the coming year and that the policy environment continues to be uncertain.

MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

3. On 25 April 2023, together with our Acting Chief Executive I met with the chair and Chief Executive of NHS Education Scotland (NES). Until last year there were regular partnership meetings at senior management and chair level, but these have been in abeyance in part due to the ongoing work on the likely shape of the proposed National Care Service and respective roles of our organisations. I am pleased to say that at our meeting we agreed to resume partnership meetings with a revised Memorandum of Understanding.
4. I have continued to attend meetings of the Care Inspectorate, on 30 March 2023 and 11 May 2023. This included two formal Board meetings and a Development Session.

MEETINGS WITH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

5. Regular meetings have continued with Iona Colvin, the Chief Social Work Adviser. We are currently planning another round of recruitment to the Council, the initial tasks being to set a timetable and agree the person specification. We will take into account the skills which we will lose from the Council due to the departure of current Members, along with gaps we continue to have for now, such as a Member who is care experienced, who is a carer themselves and improved representation from minorities.
6. I have requested a meeting with the Minister to discuss issues about financial planning for the SSSC. This has been on hold due to changes in the make-up of the Scottish Government Cabinet. Our Minister is now Ms. Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Criminal Justice.
7. I have also raised with the Chief Social Work Adviser a request to explore the secondment of a temporary Finance Director.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

8. On 27 March 2023 we held a Development Session which covered a review of some challenges upcoming for the SSSC over the next year, and a very useful update on the improvements made in Fitness to Practice. We also heard about the progress on the Future Proofing Programme.
9. As mentioned, there is a need to begin planning for recruitment of two Council Members. Linda Lennie is nearing the end of her second term on the Council on 31 October 2023, and Lynne Huckerby has tendered her resignation with effect from 31 August 2023.
10. Pre-Covid the Council Members identified that visits to some services with registered staff would be invaluable in aiding their understanding of services and the issues facing their staff. This has now been picked up and we are currently planning to go to some of the services which have offered to host a visit. We will discuss the scheduling with Members and the services. We will review whether further visits should be set up as a large number of services offered to host a visit.

CONCLUSION

11. I was very pleased to be able to come to both sessions of the Staff Conference on 27 April 2023 and get the chance to chat to staff. It was very interesting to hear their varying views on how to maintain relationships with colleagues in a flexible working environment. I look forward to hearing more about how the ideas generated are taken forward to build on the obvious energy that the conference showed.