

Title of report	Convener's Report
Summary/purpose of report	Update on the Convener's activity since the last Council meeting on 25 May 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 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</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: Closed.</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 25 May 2023.

INTRODUCTION

2. The summer period would normally be fairly quiet but this year there has been significant behind the scenes activity from the Convener's viewpoint. This included oversight of the planning around visits to services, a long awaited initiative to enable Council Members to gain first-hand knowledge of a range of services. These are now just beginning to get underway thanks to much behind-the-scenes planning. I'm looking forward to some visits myself over the next few months.

MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

3. Our renewed partnership with NES (NHS Education Scotland) is now active, with my first meeting on 5 July 2023. The meetings have been reconfigured to have a more streamlined membership and a more focused agenda.
4. I have continued to attend meetings of the Care Inspectorate. On 10 August 2023 there is a Board meeting including discussion of the Annual Report and also a meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee. There was recent discussion with the Chair about setting up a joint meeting of the Council and Board, given significant strategic developments in the sector and a view that we could usefully share perspectives. A date is to be confirmed.
5. A joint meeting was held on 19 July 2023 for the annual review of our Shared Services agreement. This agreed recommendations which will be discussed at today's meeting.

MEETINGS WITH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

6. Regular meetings have continued with Iona Colvin, the Chief Social Work Adviser. In addition, the recruitment of two Council Members has required several meetings to agree the Person Specification and interview arrangements. The posts have been advertised and the interviews are set for 5 and 6 October 2023.
7. I have continued to request a meeting with the Minister to discuss issues about financial planning for the SSSC but no date has been confirmed as yet.

8. I attended a virtual session of Board Chairs arranged to discuss the Scottish Government's Public Services Reform Programme on 31 May 2023.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

9. On 27 June 2023, we held a Development Session at which the key issue was a briefing on the financial challenges facing SSSC over the next year. We were also updated on findings from the SSSC's extensive database of staffing across the sector in Scotland and considered the potential impact for our organisation.
10. I have been carrying out the annual appraisals of Council Members in recent weeks and also observed a meeting of the Audit and Assurance Committee on 1 August 2023.

CONCLUSION

11. This has been a busy and productive period, albeit much of this focused on internal arrangements. With the forthcoming publication of the Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation the focus will shift to a wider perspective in the next few months and any implications for the SSSC will be clearer. I am confident that we are in a good position to engage positively with the proposals once published.