

Title of report	Convener's Report
Summary/purpose of report	Update on the Convener's activity since the Council meeting on 24 August 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 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 24 August 2023.

INTRODUCTION

2. The main activity during this period was the recruitment activity around two new Council Members. These were to replace long-standing and valued Members Linda Lennie and Lynne Huckerby. I'd like to thank them for their contributions over the last few years and to say that on a personal level they will be much missed.

MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

3. I have continued to attend meetings of the Care Inspectorate. During this period there was one Board Development event on 31 August. As mentioned in my last report, we have now agreed a joint Development Session to discuss the Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation and this is arranged for 18 January 2024. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 5 November.

MEETINGS WITH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

4. Regular meetings have continued with Iona Colvin, the Chief Social Work Adviser, along with the planning for recruitment and interview activity for the new Council Members. The interviews took place on 5 and 6 October and I'm pleased to say that we had a very good field of applicants from which two have been put forward for consideration to the Minister for approval.
5. 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.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

6. On 26 September, we held a Development Session at which the key issue was a briefing on the financial challenges facing SSSC over the next financial year. We also received a presentation on the extensive workforce data held by the SSSC and discussed the likely longer-term impact of developing trends, both in relation to the wider workforce and also the impact on the SSSC. We also covered the latest developments around the National Care Service and the Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation. There was also informative feedback from Council Members' visits to services. Most Members had been able to

visit two or three services over the summer and found it really useful in terms of understanding current issues for services. Although this was originally conceived as a one-off exercise it was agreed that more visits could take place next year if there are other services which would be happy to host a visit.

7. Looking ahead, at the end of August next year, Alan Baird and Theresa Allison will come to the end of their second terms as Council Members and they are respectively the Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit and Assurance Committee. This requires forward planning to enable a smooth transition and I have requested a report for today's meeting recommending that from that point the new Chair should be Peter Murray and the Vice Chair, Lindsay MacDonald. I thank them both for agreeing to take on the additional responsibility, given approval by the Council.
8. On 31 October, the meeting took place to approve the Annual Report and Accounts.

CONCLUSION

9. This is my final report for 2023 and reflecting back it has been a busy period for the SSSC. Whilst there are challenges, looking ahead I believe we are in a good position to meet these, and I value the briefings which the Council has received on the wider workforce which will help us to make informed decisions about the key issues for us in the next year.