

Project name	Future proofing programme	Project/programme team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead • Sponsor • PMO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah Coleman • Maree Allison • Graeme Henderson
PWA reference	SSSC02	Author	Graeme Henderson
		Date completed and version number	29/10/2024 V1.0

1. Business need

1.1 Executive summary

Since opening the Register to social workers in 2003, we gradually introduced registration to other categories of the workforce including people working in early years and children's, adult and older people's social care services. We now have more than 177,000 people on our register.

We knew from feedback from employers and registrants that the structure of the Register was confusing.

Additionally, as social work, social care and early years services and the way people access and use them have changed over the past 20 years, we recognised the need to review qualifications and skills so that the workforce can continue to deliver the kind of high-quality care we want for Scotland.

Council approved the future proofing programme in May 2021. This included three interconnected projects to review:

- the Register
- qualifications and skills
- the Codes of Practice.

In March 2023, the future proofing sponsor group approved scoping work for new groups to be brought into programme scope, following a request from Scottish Government that we undertake this work.

2. Scope and deliverables

2.1 Key deliverables

Goods or service produced by the project	Proposed date	Actual date
Consultation and review on register and qualifications and skills	April 2022	December 2021 to March 2022
Revised register structure proposal to Scottish Government	November 2022	November 2022
Codes of practice consultation	April 2023	April 2023 to July 2023
CPL/RTP consultations	November 2023	September 2023 to November 2023
Scoping paper for new groups to Scottish Government	January 2024	29 January 2024
Legislative and rule changes	May 2024	27 May 2024
Launch of revised codes	May 2024	1 May 2024
Register redesign and launch	June 2024	3 June 2024
Revised qualifications launch	June 2024	3 June 2024

2.2 Milestones

Key event in project plan	Proposed date	Actual date
Sponsor group approval to consult on register and qualifications and skills	13/12/2021	13/12/2021
Register and qualification and skills consultation runs	20/12/2021 – 14/03/2022	20/12/2021 – 28/03/2022
Codes of practice consultation scoping complete	25/04/2022	01/08/2022
Proposal for revised register and qualifications and skills approved by council	24/11/2022	24/11/2022
Sponsor group approval to consult on codes of practice	07/12/2022	15/03/2023
Systems discovery phase complete	19/12/2022	19/12/2022
Systems dev wave 1 complete	31/03/2023	31/03/2023
Codes of practice consultation runs	14/04/2023 – 06/07/2023	14/04/2023 – 06/07/2023

Systems dev wave 2 complete	08/08/2023	08/08/2023
CPL consultation runs	September 2023 – October 2023	25/09/2023 – 03/11/2023
RTP consultation runs	September 2023 – October 2023	25/09/2023 – 03/11/2023
Systems dev wave 3 complete	December 2023	12/12/2023
New Register groups scoping report sent to OCSWA	31/01/2024	29/01/2024
Proposal for revised codes approved by council	February 2024	26/02/2024
Systems dev wave 4 complete	April 2024	05/04/2024
Legislative changes associated with register and qualifications and skills changes completed	May 2024	27/05/2024
Launch revised codes of practice	01/05/2024	01/05/2024
Ministerial launch of revised codes	07/05/2024	07/05/2024
D365, My SSSC, website changes ready for go live	30/05/2024	30/05/2024
Systems downtime for go-live	29/05/2024 – 02/06/2024	28/05/2024 – 02/06/2024
Complete review and rewrite website content – all departments	03/06/2024	03/06/2024
Complete full review and rewrite of documentation – all departments	03/06/2024	03/06/2024
Launch revised register	03/06/2024	03/06/2024
Launch revised qualifications and skills	03/06/2024	03/06/2024
Systems dev hypercare complete	14/06/2024	14/06/2024

2.3. Project Plan

<https://ssscdundee.sharepoint.com/sites/pwa/Future%20Proofing/default.aspx>

3. Risks and benefits

3.1 Lessons Learned Summary

Lessons learned have been held with stakeholders across the organisation and externally. A full report is at agenda item 4. This will go to Council in February 2025.

3.2 Outstanding Risks

Ref (from RAID log)	Description	Score	Action	New owner
No risks outstanding.				

3.3 Outstanding issues

Ref (from RAID log)	Description	Priority	Action	New owner
29	A number of email and SMS notifications relating to annual declarations, including Notices of Decision, were not received by workers/employers. We have displayed workers as being removed from the PFR in error.	High	We are awaiting legal advice on next steps which we will receive w/c 04/11/24. Thereafter we will convene Council for decision on our approach later in November	Hannah Coleman, Acting Director of Regulation

3.4 Benefits realisation

What agreed benefits have been realised to date?

Staff, customer, or financial benefit?	Aim	Benefit	Measure	Source	Baseline	Target	Expected date	Measure frequency
Customer	Increased accuracy of the register	Increased self-service for customers around payment information	Proportion of customers with access to self-service for payment information	D365	0	100%	June 2024	Once
Customer	Employers and public can find FTP information more easily	Reduced number of searches required to find information	Number of searches required to find information	PFR	2	1	June 2024	Once
Customer	Being registered is simple and easy to understand	Increase in understanding what it means to be registered	Number of people on more than one part	D365	55,910 (at 22/11/23)	5,000	August 2024	Once

Customer	Improved career pathways	Reduced number of qualifications needed for a registrant to change roles from adult to child service/child to adult service	Number of qualifications needed to change roles from adult to child service/child to adult service	D365	2 (ie 1 for adults, 1 for children)	1 (as they will be transfer rable)	August 2024	Once
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What agreed benefits are not yet due to be realised?								
Staff, customer, or financial benefit?	Aim	Benefit	Measure	Source	Baseline	Target	Expected date	Measure frequency
Customer	Improve the processes for applying and maintaining registration	The register is more up to date as registrants find it quicker and easier to apply for and maintain registration	Number of calls (proportionate to the numbers on the register) about application form	Five9	4,653 calls received about the application form in 2022/23 FY (6.4% of 72,579 calls)	5% of all calls received	June 2025	Every 6 months
			Number of calls (proportionate to the numbers on the register) about change of details	Five9	10,075 calls received about change of details in 2022/23 FY (13.9% of 72,579 calls)	10% of all calls received	June 2025	Every 6 months
			Registrants and employers report that the process of registering	Registrant survey question "On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is	Registrants – 65.0% (5,015) providing a	70% of registrants and 55% of employers	2025/26 survey cycle	Every 6 months



			with the SSSC is easy	<p>'very difficult' and 5 is 'very easy', how easy or difficult do you find the process of registering with the SSSC?"</p> <p>Employer survey question "On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'very difficult' and 5 is 'very easy', how easy or difficult do your staff find the process of registering with the SSSC?"</p>	<p>response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)</p> <p>Employer survey – 49.5% (55) providing a response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)</p>	report that the process of registering with the SSSC is easy (a score of 4 or 5)		
Customer	Increased accuracy of the register	Reduction in workers being removed for non-renewal who have paid fee	Number of people removed for not completing renewal app	D365	970	0	December 2025	Once
		Reduction in time people could	Number of annual declarations	D365	3/5 years maximum	1 year maximum	December 2025	Once

		potentially be incorrectly registered			based on register part			
		Increase in change of details (personal details, reg part changes, condition updates)	Annual dec/CODs	D365	74,000 (Average number of CODs processed over the last five years)	81,400 (10% increase)	February 2026	Once
Customer	To ensure our register reflects and supports the way care is delivered both now and in the future	Registrants find it quicker and easier to register	Number of registrants on multiple parts	D365	30,610 total registrants registered on multiple parts (19 July 2022; 18.5% of total unique individuals)	10% of register on multiple parts	June 2025	Every 6 months
Customer	To improve public protection by reducing the time it takes to assess a	Workers are registered more quickly	Average time to process an application (app started to app registered, excluding green channel)	D365	34.5 days to process an application (app started to app registered, excluding	10% reduction in time from application processing started to registered	June 2025	Every 6 months



	registrant's fitness to practise				green channel) in 2022/23 FY	(excluding green channel)		
		Reduction in average time from application to registration	Average proportion of applications that go through green channel	D365	31.0% of applications went through green channel in 2022/23 FY	33% of applications through green channel by April 2025	June 2025	Every 6 months
		Reduction in time from employment to application	Average time taken from employment to registration (weeks)	Assurance Report item number 2.1	24 weeks in 2022/23	40% reduction in time taken from employment to registration (weeks)	June 2025	Every 6 months
Customer	To improve public protection by reducing the number of workers who become unregistered when moving roles	Increased public protection	Number of registered workers who are removed as ineligible when telling us about a change of role within the same register part	D365	16,767 (unique individuals)	0	June 2025	Once

Customer	Our register reflects the professional identity of the workforce	Workers feel that they are recognised as professionals	Number of registrants who report that being registered with the SSSC makes them feel recognised as a professional	Question "On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'not at all' and 5 is 'very much', how much do you feel that being registered with the SSSC makes you feel recognised as a professional?"	Registrants – 55.4% (4,263) providing a response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)	60% of registrants report that being registered with the SSSC makes them feel they are recognised as professionals (a score of 4 or 5)	2025/26 survey cycle	Annually
Customer	Our public facing register (PFR) provides key registrant information	Employers and stakeholders find information on the PFR useful.	Number of employers and stakeholders who report that information on our PFR is useful	Question on PFR webpage: "How useful was the information on this page?" Employer questions: "Have you used the PFR in the last 6 months" If Yes – "How useful was the information held on the PFR?"	Website survey - 56.3% answered 5 or 4 for how useful the info is (1003) Employer survey - 34.2% used the PFR in last 6 months (38). Of those,	10% increase in employers and stakeholders who report that information is useful	2025/26 survey cycle	Annually

					37.8% (14) providing a response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)			
Customer	Improved public access to information on qualifications held	Increase in number of social workers listed with specialist qualifications on PFR	Number of social workers recorded as holding a specialist award on PFR	D365	0	100% increase	December 2025	Once
Customer Customer	Being registered is simple and easy to understand	More flexibility for people changing employment	Total number of applications and removals as ineligible	D365	27,932 removals as ineligible; 44,000 applications (2022/23)	16,759 removals as ineligible (40% reduction); 39,600 applications (10% reduction)	December 2025	Once
		Decrease in support needed	Reduction in enquiries (calls/emails/chats) around application/CODs	D365	15,175 contacts (11,860 calls, 717 emails, 2598 chats) about application	12,899 contacts about application form/progress (15% reduction)	December 2025	Once

					form/progress 14,080 contacts (10,581 calls, 2631 emails, 838 chats) about CODs	11,968 contacts about CODs (15% reduction)		
Customer	To have a qualified workforce with the right skills	Through CPL we are responsive to emerging skills needs	Number of employers who report that the SSSC is effective in responding to emerging skills needs	Question "How effective is the SSSC in responding to emerging skills needs"	Employer survey – 31.8% (28) providing a response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)	40% of employers report that SSSC is effective in responding to emerging skills needs	June 2025	Every 6 months
		The workforce have the right skills and qualifications to deliver better outcomes for people	Average length of time from registration start date to qualification condition met date (not including removals within 3 months of gaining)	D365	3.4 years (2022/23)	3 years	June 2027	Annually

		using services	Number of registrants who tell us they have met a qualification condition since registering	D365	7,766 unique individuals (2022/23)	10% increase in number of registrants who tell us they have met a qualification condition since registering	June 2027	Annually
			Number of employers who report that the codes support the workforce to deliver high quality care and better outcomes for people who use services.	Question "How effective are the Codes of Practise for workers in supporting the workforce to use professional judgement to deliver high quality care and better outcomes for people who use services?"	Employer survey – 68.8% (55) providing a response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)	74% of employers report that the codes for workers support workers to deliver high quality care and better outcomes	2025/26 survey cycle	Annually
				Question "How effective are the Codes of Practise for employers in supporting the workforce to use	Employer survey – 74.4% (58) providing a response of 4 or 5	79% of employers report that the codes for employers	2025/26 survey cycle	

				professional judgement to deliver high quality care and better outcomes for people who use services?"	(2022/23 survey)	support workers to deliver high quality care and better outcomes		
			Number of registrants reporting that they have met mandatory CPL requirements	D365 Open badges	95.9% (2022/23)	Maintain existing level of number of registrants meeting CPL requirement (as we will be increasing frequency and focus)	June 2025	Every 6 months
Customer	Make qualifications more flexible so that people can move more easily to work in different	Increased flexibility through new qualifications and career pathways	Number of employers who report that qualifications are flexible in allowing them to access roles in other services	Employer survey question "On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'not at all flexible' and 5 is 'very flexible', to what extent are qualifications	Employer survey – 37.9% (33) providing a response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)	48% of employers report that their staff have increased access to roles in	June 2025	Annually

	kinds of services			flexible enough in allowing staff to access roles in other services?"		other services		
		Better transferability of existing skills to support career pathways	Number of registrants reporting that SSSC was flexible in accepting SVQ units for other roles	Registrant survey question "On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'very inflexible' and 5 is 'very flexible', how flexible was the SSSC in accepting SVQ units gained for registration when you moved roles?"	56.3% (357) providing a response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)	66% of registrants report that the SSSC was flexible in accepting SVQ units for other roles (a score of 4 or 5)	2025/26 survey cycle	Annually
		Improved continuity of care for service users transitioning from children's to adult services	Number of employers reporting an improvement in continuity of care for service users moving from children's to adult services	Employer survey Question "On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'not at all flexible' and 5 is 'very flexible', to what extent does the qualification structure help	Employer survey – 23.2% (19) providing a response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)	28% of employers reporting an improvement in continuity of care	2025/26 survey cycle	Once

				support continuity of care for service users moving from children's to adult services?"				
		Increased flexibility through new qualifications and career pathways	Number of registrants on multiple parts with multiple qualification conditions	D365	31,326 total registrants on multiple register parts with multiple conditions as of 18/08/22	0	June 2025	Annually
Customer	People using services are better protected	The workforce are qualified quicker	How quickly the workforce are qualified (average)	D365	Average time between registration date to condition met date. FY 2021/22- 29.1 months FY 2022/23 – 34.6 months FY 2023/24 YTD – 39.9 months	36 months (10% reduction)	June 2029	Once
Customer	Workers are in the right role and get the	People will be registered for the right	Number of people on the new part	D365	0 – the part does not yet exist.	12,951	December 2025	Once



	right recognition	part equivalent to what their role is						
Customer	Workers are more confident and competent in their roles, having the right skills and knowledges at the right points in their careers.	We know workers will have completed the required CPL on an annual basis	The number of workers that tell us that they have met CPL requirements	D365	95.9% (16,867 of 17,587) (FY 2022/23)	Maintain at 95.9% (as we will ask all on the register to provide as part of annual declaration)	December 2025	Annually
		Increase in number of people using our resources	Number of people telling us they are using the resources	D365	3708 (45.95%) answering 'Yes' to 'Have you used any of the SSSC learning resources as part of your continuous professional learning (CPL)?' (22/23 Registrant survey)	15% increase	December 2025	Once

Customer	Those returning to practice will be fit to practice	People are protected because SWs are fit to practice	Number of people returning to SW register after 2 years	D365	0	100%	June 2025	Annually
Customer	Our Codes of Practice reflect the expectations of us as a regulator, the workforce, employers and people who use services	Our Codes reflect current best practice and lead to better outcomes for people who use services	Number of registrants and stakeholders who report that the codes support best practice	<p>Registrant survey question "On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'not effectively' and 5 is 'very effectively', how effectively do the Codes of Practice (the Codes) reflect current best practice?"</p> <p>Stakeholder survey question "On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate how well the codes reflect current best practice?"</p>	<p>Registrant survey – 70.4% (513) providing a response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)</p> <p>Stakeholder survey – 72.8% (217) providing a response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)</p>	75% of registrants and 78% of stakeholders report that the codes support best practice (a score of 4 or 5)	2025/26 survey cycle	Annually

Customer	Our Codes of Practice support risk enablement and improve professional judgement	Better outcomes for people who use services	Number of registrants and employers who report that the codes support them/the workforce to deliver high quality care and better outcomes for people who use services	<p>Registrant survey questions "How effectively do the Codes support taking proportionate risks?"; "How effectively do the Codes support you in using your professional judgement?"</p> <p>Employer survey question "How effective are the Codes of Practice for workers/employers in supporting the workforce to use professional judgement to deliver high quality care and better outcomes for people who use services?"</p>	<p>Registrant survey – 59.7% (430) providing a response of 4 or 5 (2022/23 survey)</p> <p>Employer survey – 68.8% (55) providing a response of 4 or 5 for workers; 74.4% (58) providing a response of 4 or 5 for employers (2022/23 survey)</p>	<p>Registrant survey: 65% of registrants and 74% of employers report that the codes support taking proportionate risks and that the codes are effective in supporting use of professional judgement (a score of 4 or 5) ; Employer survey 79%</p>	2025/26 survey cycle	Annually
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Customer	Our Codes of Practice align with the health and social care standards and other regulators	Our Codes of Practice are consistent with national standards and wider regulatory requirements	Number of employers reporting that having Codes of Practice aligned with other national standards and requirements has led to a clearer regulatory landscape	<p>Employer survey</p> <p>Question "On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'not at all well' and 5 is 'very well', how well do the Codes of Practice for workers/employers align with other national standards and requirements?"</p> <p>"On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'not at all helpful' and 5 is 'very helpful', how helpful are the aligned Codes of Practice for workers/employers in supporting a clearer regulatory landscape?"</p>	<p>72.5% (58) providing a response of 4 or 5 for workers; 75.9% (60) for employers (2022/23 survey)</p> <p>61.3% (49) providing a response of 4 or 5 for workers; 66.3% (53) for employers (2022/23 survey)</p>	<p>77% of employers reporting that having Codes of Practice aligned with other national standards and requirements has led to a clearer regulatory landscape (81%, 66%, 71% for others)</p>	2025/26 survey cycle	Annually
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Financial		Less staff time required to process change of details due to increased automation	Number of change of details requests going through green channel (auto updated) (Cost per call/email/chat (average staff cost x number of contacts))	D365, Five9, Finance resource model	26,192 (23%) (2022/23)	30% saving	Once	December 2025
		Reduction in resource needed	Number of people in roles/teams	Registration /Finance establishment	RA - 15.5 FTE, £31,619 avg cost. TA - 7.6 FTE, £35,198 avg cost.	RA - 7.0 FTE reduction, £141k saving in 2024/25, £234k saving 2025/26 annually onwards TA - 5.6 FTE reduction, £157k saving 2024/25; £205k saving	Once	December 2024

						2025/26 annually onwards		
						Total saving: £298k 2024/25; £439k thereafter		

If any, what agreed benefits are not currently on track to be realised? Provide any mitigation you have in place?

Staff, customer, or financial benefit?	Aim	Benefit	Measure	Source	Baseline	Target	Expected date	Measure frequency	Mitigation
All benefits are currently on track.									

Are there any additional benefits (not initially identified) that are expected to be achieved as a result of this project?

Staff, customer, or financial benefit?	Aim	Benefit	Measure	Source	Baseline	Target	Expected date	Measure frequency
Customer	Employers, workers and representative bodies can help inform the creation, delivery and/or improvement of products, processes or services	Increased direct engagement with a defined group of stakeholders	Increased engagement with stakeholders	SAG meetings	0 - no group existed at beginning of programme	Quarterly SAG meetings	November 2024	Once

4. Costs

4.1 Project budgets

What was the budget for the project?	£884,700 (FY 2022/23) £1,091,800 (FY 2023/24) £302,600 (FY 2024/25 includes approved carry forward of £203,000 from 2023/24) Total £2,076,100
What was the final budget spent on the project and what is the final budget position?	£2,070,300
Have all invoices been paid?	Yes
Have all ongoing costs been identified, agreed and handed over to BAU?	Yes

5. Stakeholder engagement

5.1 User and stakeholder engagement plan

We have communicated project closure plans with internal stakeholders via programme board and sponsor group meetings, and regular updates via the Teams channel and at weekly project leads meetings. We will seek formal approval from the sponsor group at their meeting on 20 November 2024.

The external Stakeholder Advisory Group have similarly been updated throughout and have been directly involved in discussions about the future of that group post-programme. The final meeting of the group is on 12 November 2024.

5.2 Service Design

Throughout the programme a service design approach was taken.

Examples of this include:

Workshops with stakeholders during the formal consultation period, and thereafter held follow-up workshops (in person and online) to help shape the proposals to Council members in November 2022.

We developed a CPL website in direct collaboration with a group of volunteer stakeholders who would be using the service.

6. Handover to operational management

6.1 Ongoing maintenance and support

Who is the new owner? (Job role not name of person)	Acting Director of Regulation Acting Director of Workforce, Education and Standards
What support plans have been put in place?	None required
Who trains BAU staff? (Job role not name of person)	No further BAU training required
Has all training and knowledge been delivered to staff?	Yes

6.2 Contract management

Confirm operation management has taken ownership of any contracts associated with the new output/product. If 'no' or 'n/a' please provide reasoning.	N/A - no new contracts arising as a result of this work.
Confirm that ongoing contract management is now in place. If 'no' or 'n/a' please provide reasoning.	N/A - as above.
Confirm that a copy of the contract has been sent to the legal team and procurement team if required. If 'no' or 'n/a' please provide reasoning.	N/A - as above. New CPL website did not involve a new contract, however the approved proposal was provided to procurement in November 2023.

6.3 Outstanding actions

Ref (from RAID log)	Action	Deadline	New owner
478	Update joint SSSC/CI registration guidance doc	15/11/24	Acting Director of Regulation
517	Provide statistics on the number of workers utilising the new transferability of adult and children's qualifications and what regions are affected most by this.	12/11/24	Acting Head of Registration



525	Prepare communications lines regarding Issue 29 regarding registrants showing as removed from the PFR and send to NG	15/12/24	Acting Director of Regulation; Head of Communications and Policy
527	Receive revised quote regarding CPL sampling requirements from TT	08/11/24	Systems Development Manager
530	Control of refunds should be managed within D365, with workflows developed to allow refund requests to be raised and approved in D365 and appropriate segregation controls developed. Details of approved refunds should then be issued to Finance for processing and confirmation notification written back to D365 confirming when and how the refunds have been issued.	31/03/25	Acting Director of Regulation

6.4 Location of project documentation

Future Proofing Programme - Sharepoint

Document revision history

Version	Reason	By	Date
V1.0	First draft	GH	29/10/2024