

## NISCC Functions

- **Set standards of practice** for social care workers and their employers to promote a safe, reliable and competent service
- **Register** the social care workforce. A social care worker registered with the NISCC will be viewed as safe and competent to practice
- **Promote education and training** for all social care staff
- **Regulate social work training** to ensure it prepares staff to do the job expected of them

## Council Membership

Council members and the Chairperson are appointed by the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety. The members represent a wide range of interests in the field of social care. Membership is split equally between:

- **Lay members** – these members have had direct experience of social care e.g. users of services, carers or voluntary workers
- **Stakeholder members** – these members are involved in the social care sector, in areas including service delivery / commissioning, trade unions, education / training, professional bodies, or allied professions
- **Registrant members** – these members are also employed as social care workers

## Contact the NISCC

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## An Introduction to the NISCC

June 2006

The Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC) is the regulatory body for the social care workforce in Northern Ireland. It was established on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2001 as part of the government's quality agenda to raise standards in social care.

### Our Aim

**“To protect the public through improving safeguards for vulnerable people, raising the standards of social care practice and strengthening the professionalism of the workforce.”**

### Our mission:

**“To protect the public by promoting and supporting confidence, competence and credibility in the social care workforce”**

A founding principle is working in partnership with those who use social care services and those who deliver them to ensure that staff and employers meet agreed standards of conduct, practice and training. Similar councils have been established in England, Scotland and Wales.

## Workforce Development & Training

The NISCC is a partner in Skills for Care and Development (SfC&D), a sector skills council responsible for social care and children's services throughout the UK. Sector Skills Councils are independent, UK-wide organisations made up from each of the UK member countries and licensed by the Department for Education & Skills to support training and development of the workforce by employers.

SfC&D is an alliance of five existing organisations: Care Council for Wales, Children's Workforce Development Council, Northern Ireland Social Care Council, Scottish Social Services Council and Skills for Care (formerly TOPSS England).

We need a skilled and flexible workforce to help deliver high quality social care and children's services, now and for the future. This means improving the availability and quality of training for the sector by working with employers, government bodies and training providers. We are working with our partners in Northern Ireland and across the UK, to reduce skills gaps and shortages to help improve standards across the social care and children's services workforce.

## Regulation of Social Work Education & Training

The NISCC has a statutory duty to quality assure and regulate social work education and training at qualifying and post-qualifying levels to ensure they meet NISCC standards.

This work includes setting and reviewing standards, approving and monitoring training courses, promoting social work education and training at qualifying and post-qualifying levels, and promoting best practice through the development of training guidance.

## Workforce Registration & Regulation

The NISCC Social Care Register was opened in April 2003. Eventually all social care workers will be registered with the NISCC. Because this is a massive task, registration is being phased in over the next few years.

The first staff groups to be registered included:

- Social Workers
- Team leaders in residential child care
- Residential child care staff
- Head of residential homes and day centres

The current phase of registration will run from May 2006 to February 2008, and includes:

- Domiciliary care managers
- Adult residential care staff

It is proposed that the final phase of registration will run from 2008 to 2010 and will include social care staff in Day Care, social work assistants and domiciliary care workers.

For more information on the registration process,

- Visit the NISCC website at [www.niscc.info](http://www.niscc.info)
- Telephone the NISCC registration team on 028 9041 7633
- Email [registration@niscc.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:registration@niscc.n-i.nhs.uk)

## Registration & Regulation

**Good for the social care sector • Good for social care workers  
Good for service users • Good for public confidence**