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**Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Registrants' Committee
Confirmed Minutes**

**27 October 2009 at 10.30am
In Millennium House, Belfast**

Present

Brian Smyth (Chair) (NIPSA)
Ricky Allen (Student Representative)
Damien Campbell (UNISON)

Geraldine Mullan (NIPSA)
Sam Murphy (NIPSA)
Ciaran Traynor (BASW)

Apologies

Damien Maguire (NIPSA)
Sharon Woods (Deputy Chair) (Unison)

Janette Ferguson (UNISON)

In Attendance

Patricia Higgins (Director of Registration) Andre McKeown (Communications Officer)
Peggy Carlile (Secretary/Administrator) (Note Taker)

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(1) Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The Chair noted apologies from Sharon Woods, Janette Ferguson and Damien Maguire.

(2) Chair's Business

2.1 The Chair noted that Paul O'Donnell has resigned from the Committee, due to lack of time available. He advised that Unison would be nominating a new representative to the Committee.

2.2 The Chair welcomed Ciaran Traynor (BASW) and Ricky Allen (Student Representative) to the Committee. Introductions were made.

(3) Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 03 September 2009

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

(4) Matters Arising

- 4.1 Item 3.1 – Website Statistics – The Communications Officer advised the Committee that interest in the Committee’s webpage has risen over the past couple of months, and tabled a printout of the website statistics for the Committee’s information. The number of visitors to the webpage started low but has now reached nearly 150 for the month of October. She noted that a link to the Committee page was prominently displayed on the NISCC’s homepage, and it was promoted in the latest newsletter. It was suggested that a short article regarding the Committee may be prepared for the next newsletter. As well, Committee Members agreed to promote the link to the webpage in internal Trust newsletters as well as the NIPSA newsletter.

- 4.2 Item 5 – AYE – The Director of Registration introduced the paper which had been tabled for information. She advised that the paper went to the Registration and Regulation of the Workforce Committee on 14 October. She noted that the Standards for Employers would become part of the Departmental Circular, and that the DHSSPS would be looking for compliance to the Standards in the Trusts’ annual returns. The Director of Registration went through the recommendations for the Committee. The Committee briefly discussed the issue of agency staff. It was suggested that 2.5 development days be mentioned in the 50 days minimum for agency staff. It was also suggested that bank/agency staff be referred to as “temporary staff” in the Circular and Guidance. The Director of Registration took note of the suggestions and will discuss with the DHSSPS. The Committee suggested that an “Advice for AYE” section could be added to the Committee webpage. The Committee will liaise with the Communications Officer on this matter.

- 4.3 Item 9 – Role and Boundaries of Council, Committee, Trade Unions and BASW – The Chair gave a brief update. He advised that Irene Hewitt would be facilitating a workshop on 25 November, involving the NISCC, NIPSA, Unison and BASW. The Committee briefly discussed the issue of spokespeople for social work. The Chair advised that he would give an update on the workshop at the next meeting.

CHAIR**(5) Codes of Practice**

- 5.1 The Communications Officer introduced a progress report on Promotion of the Codes of Practice which had been tabled for information and briefly outlined the contents for the Committee. She advised the Committee on the survey which had been included in the

Action

latest newsletter, which includes a web survey. Committee Members were requested to promote the survey in their respective forums. The Communications Officer referred to the last section of the paper, Information Required to Inform Development of the Codes Communications Strategy. She requested that Committee Members please consider the questions and respond before end of November.

Committee Members

5.2 The Committee briefly discussed the document. It was noted that the Codes of Practice may need to be translated as there were larger numbers of ethnic minorities in Northern Ireland. Suggestions were made for the promotion of the Codes of Practice, such as the use of bookmarks, mouse mats or postcard versions of the Codes of Practice.

5.3 The Director of Registration noted that as she has now spoken with both the Registrants' Committee and the Participation Group, work will commence on the Communication Strategy. A draft will be brought to the next meeting, and will include costs.

5.4 The Chair thanked the Communications Officer for the report, and requested all members to respond and to also take soundings from their union and forums.

Committee Members

(6) NISCC Registrants' Roadshow – 19 January 2010

6.1 The Chair noted that the next roadshow will be held on Tuesday 19 January 2009 and the Committee need to agree a location and format for the roadshow. It was noted that the first roadshow was too unstructured. It was agreed the roadshow should be discussed in further detail at the next Committee meeting. Damien Campbell and Sam Murphy are to liaise with Peggy Carlile in relation to the location of the roadshow.

**Damien Campbell/
Sam Murphy**

6.2 The Committee briefly discussed the structure for the day. It was agreed that a presentation on the following topics should start off the roadshow:-

- Who the NISCC is
- What the NISCC does
- The work of the Registrants' Committee
- The Codes of Practice
- The Assessed Year in Employment
- Post Registration Training and Learning
- The Rollout of Compulsion

6.3 The Committee agreed that the theme for the roadshow would revolve around the Codes of Practice; the title of "Making the Codes Real" was suggested. It was agreed that part of the roadshow would consist of small group work with facilitators. As well, a panel should be formed to answer questions. It was suggested and agreed that the panel should be made up of a Registrant, an Employer, a Council Member and a member from SCIE.

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- 6.4 The Director of Registration and the Communications Officer will prepare a draft programme for the next meeting. **Director of Registration / Comms Officer**

(7) Frequency of Meetings

7.1 The Committee discussed this issue and it was agreed that it would meet bi-monthly in the future. It was agreed that sub-groups could be formed if necessary to deal with more urgent issues.

7.2 A sub-group for the Registrants' Roadshow was agreed, to be made up of the Director of Registration, the Communications Officer, Damien Campbell, Geraldine Mullan and Sam Murphy. They agreed to meet on 9 November at 10.00am in Omagh, venue to be confirmed by Damien and Sam. **Damien Campbell/ Sam Murphy**

7.3 Peggy Carlile to liaise with Siobhan Craig regarding meeting dates for 2010 and will circulate these as soon as possible. **Peggy Carlile**

(8) Response to DHSSPS Consultation – “Introduction of Compulsory Registration for Social Care Workers with the NISCC”

8.1 The Director of Registration shared the NISCC response to the DHSSPS Compulsion Consultation with the Committee, and briefly went through the response. It was noted that Trusts are moving towards a 'banking system' for recruitment. The Director of Registration noted that ARCW were not renewing their registration.

(9) Introduction of the Independent Safeguarding Authority

9.1 The Chair advised the Committee that the Vetting and Barring Scheme was introduced on 12 October 2009. The Director of Registration stated that the ISA took over the Vetting and Barring lists from the DHSSPS. She noted that the ISA will start to register those new entrants in July 2010, and then others will be registered in stages.

9.2 The Director of Registration advised that she will be attending an ISA stakeholder event on 11 November, and will report back to the Committee with any further information. She advised the Committee that the NISCC will need to register an interest in each registrant with the ISA to receive any updates on status of each. As well, the NISCC will have a duty to notify the ISA if an ISO has been agreed or prior to Conduct Hearings in relation to specific registrants. She noted that the NISCC was at the beginning stages of understanding this issue and that Alison Kavanagh, Professional Adviser, would be leading on this, in conjunction with the other three Councils. The Director of Registration will keep the Committee informed.

(10) Laming Report & Social Work Task Force Interim Report – Discussion

10.1 The Director of Registration tabled a presentation in relation to the Laming Report and an excerpt from the Social Work Task Force Interim Report for the Committee's information. She noted that the themes in the Social Work Task Force Interim Report are broadly reflective of the Laming Report.

10.2 The Director of Registration went through the presentation with the Committee. She advised that the GSCC were leading on the Codes of Practice for Employers, and were holding a meeting on Thursday 29 October in London. She advised that three employer representatives from Northern Ireland would be in attendance, as well as herself. She will report back to the Committee on this issue at the next meeting.

Director of Registration

10.3 The Director of Registration advised the Committee that BASW was leading on the issue of a College of Social Work, which had been suggested in the Social Work Task Force Interim Report. The Report had noted a lack of national voice or cohesion in the social work workforce. It is proposed that the College of Social Work would:-

- Set standards for training;
- Be a voice for social work;
- Provide a coherent professional voice; and
- Be social worker led.

The Director of Registration would encourage registrants and social workers to look at the proposals and consider what Northern Ireland would want in a college and what should its shape be.

10.4 The Chair thanked the Director of Registration for her insight and summary of the reports.

(11) Any Other Business

11.1 None.

(12) Date and Time of Next Meeting

12.1 The Committee agreed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 1 December 2009 at 10.30am, in Millennium House.

Brian Smyth, Chair of Registrants' Committee
Northern Ireland Social Care Council