



Northern Ireland Social Care Council
7th Floor, Millennium House
19-25 Great Victoria Street
Belfast BT2 7AQ

Tel: 028 9041 7600
Fax: 028 9041 7601
Textphone: 028 9023 9340

Web: www.niscc.info

**Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Participation Group Meeting**

**Monday 7 September 2009
In Millennium House, Belfast**

Present

Geraldine Campbell
Miriam Karp
Mark Bradley
Jackie Ogilvie

Chair - NISCC Council Member
NISCC Council Member
NISCC Director of Corporate Services
NISCC – Admin Support - Note taker

Sharon Doherty
Rosemary McGarry
Emma McDowell
Maria Somerville
Uel McIlveen
Alicia Toal

ACTION

1. Introduction and Apologies

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.2 The Chair asked Members to note that Item 5, Equality Training Session, on the Agenda will have to be postponed to a future meeting. Two new items will now be covered at the meeting:

- Development and Principles
- Draft Corporate Plan

ACTION

2. Chair's Business

2.1 The Chair congratulated Maria on her nomination to the Conduct Committee, and to Uel, on his proposed nomination to the Mental Health Board of Management.

2.2 The Chair also advised Members that the closing date for attendance at the NISCC Conference on 23 September had now closed. Three members expressed interest in attending but Mark advised that it may now be too late as the conference had been oversubscribed and that there were no places left. He would certainly put their names forward, but there was no guarantee of places.

Mark

2.3 The Chair confirmed that 1-2-1s in relation to the group's six monthly review have almost been completed and comments received from members had been very positive.

2.4 The Chair suggested that at the start of future meetings, five minutes be allocated to the previous meetings agenda.

3. Review of Minutes dated 3 August 2009

3.1 Members were informed that there will be no meetings during the Summer, as it is very difficult to get full attendance during the holiday period.

3.2 It was also agreed that Gerry Cunningham is invited back to a future meeting of the group to give an update on qualifications. Members felt that the session with Gerry and Lorraine Simmons at the last meeting was very useful.

3.3 It was agreed by Members that future meetings of the group will take place on Tuesdays, although the next meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 21 October. Future meetings will start at 10.30 and finish at 1.00pm.

3.4 *Item 4.6*

Emma would like to contribute to the Physical Disability Qualifications and Mark and Miriam agreed to speak with Gerry Cunningham in relation to this.

Mark/Miriam

3.5 The Minutes of 3rd August 2009 were agreed.

3.6 Rosemary circulated a report on Long Term Conditions Alliance Northern Ireland and gave members a short report on the contents of the document. Jackie was asked to ensure that a copy of this goes into the NISCC Library and that staff are made aware that publications are located there.

Jackie

4. Response to consultation on compulsion.

The Chair circulated a copy of the Consultation Document and the Consultation Response Document to the group and asked for comments.

Comments were made as follows:

Question 1:

No definition of who these people are. It was agreed that work needs to be done in relation to the NISCC developing awareness to both the public and social care sector of their existence.

Question 3

Members did not agree with the proposal of a 'grace period' of six months. It was felt that this was too long and various issues in relation to commencement of employment were discussed.

Question 4

Members agreed with Option 3. It was felt that this Option gave the best protection and that it is up to the Employer to ensure that people are registered.

Question 5

Members discussed this issue and felt that 'reasonable excuse' should be defined. They felt that each case should be judged on its own merit and that clear and precise reasons should be given.

Question 6

Members agreed that registrants should be required to renew their registration every three years.

A discussion took place around this and on registrants being required to undertake a minimum of 15 days post-registration training and learning during each period of registration. One Member felt that perhaps Question 6 should be re-worded to "Training associated with person in post".

Question 7

Members agreed that the length of the registration period for social care workers who occupy management posts should remain at 3 years.

Human Rights and Equality Implications

A short discussion took place around this issue and it was felt that implications could arise around migrant care workers.

5. Corporate Plan 2010 - 2013

5.1 Mark gave Members a brief overview of the Draft Corporate Plan.

5.2 Members made the following comments on the Plan:

- On first sight, good visual impact.
- Under Mission Statement, accountability is not mentioned
- 'Protecting the Public' should be more visible, perhaps on front cover.
- Under Our Principles, Service User and Carer Involvement should be moved up to first bullet point.
- Could Objectives be redone in a more user friendly lay out. Mark advised that any changes have to be agreed with the Department.
- Under Our Purpose, Improved public confidence, should be shown as a header.

- Under Objective 3, Mark will arrange for a Service User quote to be inserted.

Mark asked Members to look at the Plan again in greater detail and if they have any further comments to make, to email these to Jackie before the next meeting of the Group.

6. AOB

- 6.1 The Chair advised that due to shortage of time, the Development and Principles item will be deferred to the next meeting.

7. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 21 October 2009 from 10.30am to 1.00pm. Lunch will be provided.

Please let Jackie know if you will be attending the meeting.

Geraldine Campbell
Chair
Participation Group