

Title of report	Convener's report
Public/confidential	Public
Action	For information
Summary/purpose of report	This report provides Council Members with an update on engagements carried out by the Convener on behalf of the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The report usually summarises discussion at the Policy Forum but Members will be aware the Policy Forum on 13 December 2017 was cancelled. The report however provides an update on discussion at the Council Member's Away days on 7 and 8 December 2017.
Recommendations	The Council is asked to note the information contained in this report.
Link to Strategic Plan	The information in this report links to Outcome 4 of the Strategic Plan, that our stakeholders value our work.
Link to the Risk Register	This report links to the Strategic Risk Register in that it aims to contribute to open, transparent and informed governance arrangements.
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Documents attached	None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the stakeholder engagement which has been carried out by the Convener on the SSSC's behalf and also summaries the discussion at the recent Council Members' away-days.

2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Date	Meeting
26 October 2017	Social Security Committee, Scottish Parliament
30 October 2017	10 th Annual Regulation Conference
6 November 2017	SSSC Apprenticeship Research Steering Group
16 November 2017	Scottish Government Board Mentoring Project
17 November 2017	Transitional Oversight Group (Iriss)
20 November 2017	Disability and Carers Benefits Expert Group Scrutiny Workshop
22 November	Workforce Planning in Health & Social Care Seminar, Holyrood Events
30 November 2017	Disability and Carers Benefits Expert Group Scrutiny Workshop
4 December 2017	SCRA Chair shortlist meeting, Public Appointments
5 December 2017	NHS Education for Scotland Board Member shortlist meeting, Public Appointments
13 December 2017	Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care
14 December 2017	Transitional Oversight Group (Iriss)
18 December 2017	SCRA Chair interviews, Public Appointments
9 and 10 January 2018	NHS Education for Scotland Board Member appointment interviews, Public Appointments

3. DISCUSSION AT THE COUNCIL MEMBER'S AWAY DAYS (7 AND 8 DECEMBER 2017)

- 3.1 Previous reports have referred to discussions at the Policy Forum. On this occasion, the Policy Forum was replaced by away-days on 7 and 8 December 2017. The following is a summary of those discussions.
- 3.2 Council Members discussed how the SSSC could support the social service workforce to build capacity to engage in and drive improvement and innovation, supporting the workforce to develop skills and understanding of improvement methodologies. We will submit a proposal to the Chief Social Work Adviser, and officers are in discussion with the Care Inspectorate about opportunities to work together on aspects of this agenda.

- 3.3 Council Members discussed the proposal to create a new Education Workforce Council contained in the Scottish Government's Empowering Schools Consultation. That is covered elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.4 Council Members discussed the potential for an organisational re-structure. A formal proposal will be considered at a future meeting of the Resources Committee.
- 3.5 The Chief Social Work Adviser attended for part of the first day and set out her vision for the future of social services and the SSSC's role in supporting that.
- 3.6 Council Members asked the Chief Executive to remind SSSC staff of the whistle-blowing procedure and of Andy Rome's availability as the point of contact on Council.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 7.1 Internal stakeholders have contributed to this report and the report aims to include a regular update on the Convener's engagement activities with our external stakeholders.

8. IMPACT ON USERS AND CARERS

- 8.1 There is no direct impact on people who use services or their carers.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 This report summarises recent engagements undertaken by the Convener on behalf of the SSSC. It also sets out the items which were discussed at the recent Policy Forum and will now be considered by Council.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

