

## Consultation

Following a review of the Social Work Research and Continuous Improvement Strategy 2015-2020 the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and partner organisations have been working on the development of a new Strategy for the period 2020-2025. We are now seeking your views on this draft strategy:

### **(Draft) Social Work Research and Continuous Improvement Strategy 2020-2025**

You can respond to this consultation by e-mail or letter.

Before you submit your response, please read Appendix 1 about the effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises. Appendix 2 highlights the principles of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

If you require the documents in another format or language please use the contact details below.

#### **Responses should be sent to:**

E-mail: swresearchconsultation [swresearchconsultation@hscni.net](mailto:swresearchconsultation@hscni.net)

Written: Social Work Research Strategy Consultation  
Social Care and Children Directorate  
Health and Social Care Board

12-22 Linenhall Street  
Belfast BT2 8BS

Email [swresearchconsultation@hscni.net](mailto:swresearchconsultation@hscni.net) or telephone Andriana Alkiviadou  
**028 95363057** if you require a paper copy of the document.

**Responses must be received no later than October 16<sup>th</sup> 2020.**

The questionnaire can be completed by a representative on behalf of an organisation, an individual health or social care professional, stakeholder or member of the public; or it can be completed on behalf of a group or organisation.

Thank you.

# Consultation Response Form

## Your views - The Consultation Response Questionnaire

Please tell us if you are responding on your own behalf or for an organisation by placing a tick in the appropriate box:

I am responding as:    An individual who is a service user or carer  
                                  An individual member of the public  
                                  On behalf of an organisation  
                                  (Please tick a box)

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Details\*

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\*Used only for the purposes of this exercise.

May we contact you should clarification be required on your response?

Yes  or No  (please tick a box)

## 1. Vision, aims and objectives

Section 1 outlines the vision, aims and objectives of the strategy.

Please let us know if you agree with this section?

We would be interested in any additional suggestions.

Yes

No

Please comment

Comment:

PBNI agree with the Vision, although we suggest the length of this section could be reduced to: "People in Northern Ireland who use our services will have confidence that social work and social care policy, practice and outcomes are underpinned by a strong research evidence base."

PBNI are represented at a senior board level with responsibility for driving and reviewing the implementation of this Strategy, which may pose difficulties when we are listed as a "partner" in implementation. As a result AIM 2 could be reworded: 'To increase engagement and involvement between practitioners, other social work employing Departments, researchers, academics and service users and carers increasing mutual knowledge and engagement in co-design and co-production approaches to research social issues.'

Therefore we broadly agree with the 4 aims. If however the vision is that people will have confidence - that requires a significant amount of service user engagement, communication and awareness raising activity - which should be included as an objective.

## 2 Principles and values?

The strategy is built on number principles and values, do you agree with these?

Yes

No

Please comment if you consider that anything should be removed or added.

Comment:

We agree with the principles and values.

### 3. Partnerships

The strategy has been developed on a collaborative, partnership approach. A number of key partners are named.

Please advise if you agree with this list and consider if there are organisations or individuals who should also be invited to collaborate?

Yes  No

Please add suggestions on others who should be invited to collaborate

Comment:

The full title of PBNI is *Probation Board for Northern Ireland*. Can we suggest that social work employers are moved above Academia in the listing.

It might be useful to include academics based in Republic of Ireland.

It would be helpful to include the Open University - we are aware that they are moving into the Social Work learning field in NI.

### 4. Focus areas

**Five focus areas** are presented in the strategy with an outline of what we plan to do.

Please tick if you agree or disagree with these. Please add any additional comments.

Focus area	Agree	Disagree	Comments
1. <b>Building collaborative networks through engagement and involvement</b>	x		PBNI want to reiterate our desire to work in collaboration through this strategy

<b>2. Research Priorities</b>	x		
<b>3. Securing investment</b>	x		
<b>4. Inspiring research leadership, competence and capacity amongst staff and service users and carers</b>	x		
<b>5. Research evidence utilisation and knowledge transfer</b>	x		

If you have suggestions on any other focus areas that you consider important please add here including what you consider we should do to achieve.

N/A

## 5. Equality and human rights

A full copy of the screening exercise is included as part of this consultation. Please let us know if you agree with the content of the screening exercise and outcomes? We would be interested in your reasons for this.

Yes  No

Please comment

Comment:

Do you have any suggestions on how the proposals could better promote equality of opportunity, human rights or good relations please give details?

Yes  No

Please comment

Comment:

PBNI would suggest that the strategy is shared with service user involvement groups for their input.

Do you have any additional evidence to support the equality and human rights screening activity give details below?

Yes  No

Please comment

Comment:

## 6. Style and presentation

In developing this strategy we have used a style and presentation that makes the document easy to read and understand while at the same time capture the complex issues associated with research and evidence. Do you think we have succeeded in this? We would be interested in any comments.

Yes

No

Please comment

Comment:

The style is clear and easy to read. The document could be supplemented with a series of short infographics and promoted on social media. All partners should be asked to help promote the strategy through a joined up social media strategy.



**7. Name of strategy**

In this draft strategy we have retained the name of the previous strategy as the emphasis remains on social work research and continuous improvement.

We will consider additional suggestions.

Suggestions welcome:  
N/a

**8. What will make it work?**

**If you had three suggestions that you consider would contribute to the success of this strategy what would you suggest?**

Suggestions welcome:  
n/a

**Thank you for your comments.**

## Appendix 1

### Freedom of Information Act 2000 – confidentiality of consultations

The Health and Social Care Board will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Health and Social Care Board can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Health and Social Care Board in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Health and Social Care Board cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- the Health and Social care Board should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Health and Social care Board functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- the Health and Social Care Board should not agree to hold information received from third parties “in confidence” which is not confidential in nature;
- acceptance by the Health and Social Care Board of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner’s Office (or see website at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>).