

Paper for the

Social Work England Board

Sponsor

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Reviewed by

Colum Conway, Chief Executive

This paper is for

Assurance and Noting

Associated Strategic Objective

N/A

Impact: Risk Type and Appetite

Regulatory functions - Cautious

1. Summary

Each year the professional standards authority for health and social care (the 'authority') assesses the performance of each of the regulators it oversees against the standards of good regulation ('the standards'). This paper provides an update on the authority's review of our performance for 2019/2020 and its current review for 2020/2021.

2. Action required

The Board are invited to note the content of this paper and annexes.

3. Commentary

The authority published its first report of our performance against the standards on 30 September 2021. This report covered the period 2 December 2019 to 30 November 2020. The authority concluded that we met 15 of the 18 standards. Across these standards, the report reflects the good work our teams have done to ensure we effectively established ourselves as the new regulator of social work, as well as our commitment to continuously improve. The authority's report is included in annex A.

The authority concluded that we did not meet 3 of the 18 Standards. We acknowledge the authority's feedback as to why we did not meet these standards in our first year. There were other areas in their report where although we met the standard, the authority indicated that they would be looking to see improvement in their next performance review. The authority's report also included references to some of the actions we had taken in relation to the standards we did not meet during and since the end of the reporting period. As an organisation we are committed to continuing to work hard to improve further in these areas.

Since receiving the report in September, the executive leadership team have reviewed the actions taken to date across the areas referenced in the authority's report. We have also undertaken a piece of work to identify any areas where further action may be required and adjusted our internal audit schedules. As agreed with the board, progress against this action plan will be reported to the Audit Risk and Assurance Committee

The 2020/2021 performance review began on 18 October 2021. This performance review will look at our performance against the standards during the period 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021. Indicative timeframes for this performance review are included in annex B.

We will provide a further update to the Board on the 2020/21 performance review at its meeting on 21 January 2022.

4. Annexes

See annex 04a: Professional Standards authority report - performance review 2019/20
Social Work England

See annex 04b: Performance review – indicative timelines