

16th December 2014

Dear Consultee

Draft Social Work Research Strategy
In pursuit of Excellence
**Supporting the profession in relation to social work services in
Northern Ireland**

As Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board I would like to invite you to participate in this public consultation on the *Draft Social Work Research Strategy 2015-2020*. The Health and Social Care Board is leading the public consultation but the development of the strategy reflects joint leadership across the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety and Association of Directors of Social Work.

The Social Work Research Strategy outlines our vision for the future drawing on where we are now and why we feel that a social work research strategy is important. The aim is to build an organisational culture that recognises the value of research and evidence to inform policy, commissioning and practice in the delivery of services and so support both the visibility of the social work profession and better outcomes for service users and carers.

A number of strategic priorities are highlighted with an outline of the expected outcomes on what we hope to achieve.

In its development we have received a wide range of constructive comments. The strategy will remain in draft until the end of this consultation exercise.

The consultation documentation and online response form can be located on the HSCB website:

<http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult/index.html>

The Equality, Good Relations and Human Rights Screening

Template is also available online.

The consultation will last until Wednesday 18th March 2015.

How can I respond?

There are several ways in which you can respond including:

- Online Response Form which can be found at :
 - <http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult/index.html>
 - Email: swresearchconsultation@hscni.net
 - You can also link directly to the consultation pro forma through Survey Monkey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/socialworkresearchstrategy>
- Written: Social Work Research Strategy
Social Care and Children's Directorate
Health and Social Care Board
12-22 Linenhall Street
Belfast, BT2 8BS

Opportunities will also be provided for face to face meetings.

The response forms available at

<http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult/index.html>

can be sent via email or post. Or if you require a printed copy of the consultation documentation or in an alternative format please contact: Telephone: 028 95 363017 or Text phone: 028 95 363017 with prefix 18001.

What happens after the consultation?

Following the end of the consultation period we will revise and launch the final Social Work Research Strategy.

I look forward to your views on this. Thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely



Valerie Watts
Chief Executive

