**NOS GOVERANCE GROUP Position Statement – Ring-Fenced/Protected Footprint: Social Care sector**

Social Care Sector Overview

The social care sector is overseen by Skills for Care and Development (SFCD) - an alliance of key organisations from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, and Ireland, with varied roles across social care, social work and early years, and with remits across workforce development and regulation. It includes the four care councils: Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC), Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), Social Care Wales (SCW), and Skills for Care in England (SFC). It also includes the Early Years Alliance, Social Work England and CORU (Regulator of Health and Social Care Professional in Ireland). Organisations have standard setting and standards regulation as part of their remit from their respective governments.

Each has a responsibility in statute in relation to promoting and maintaining standards for learning and development for a professional, competent, and confident workforce:

* Health and Personal Social Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2001
* Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022
* Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001
* Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016
* Care Act 2014
* Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005, Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Act 2012, Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014, Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Act 2017, Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Act 2019

National Occupational Standards (NOS) are developed collaboratively by NISCC, SSSC, SFC, and SCW together with social care employers. These are the standards of practice that people must achieve when working in certain social service roles and include knowledge and understanding linked to that role.

Exclusion from the Standards and Frameworks Multi Supplier Framework Agreement

A Multi-Supplier Framework Agreement is in place to provide the development of NOS for the Devolved Governments of Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Specific Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes may fall outside of this Framework Agreement due to regulatory roles and responsibilities in relation to developing standards, qualifications, and apprenticeship frameworks and regulating social work and social care training.

Protected Social Care Sector footprint

In 2016 the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) issued a statement to SFCD to confirm that it was exempt from bidding for standards and framework activities via a supplier framework due to its existing legal duties.

The NOS Governance Group (NOS GG) upholds that position and has ratified the decision to exclude the Social Care sector from the Standards and Frameworks Multi Supplier Framework Agreement. This relates specifically to the SOC2020 Codes/occupations detailed in Table 1 of the Annex, and related NOS.

Financial arrangements

There is no guarantee of public funding for the development/review of standards and frameworks. A sector representative body may “self-fund” NOS activities but must comply with the NOS Quality Criteria.

Due to the regulatory nature of the social care sector, the review, development and Welsh translation of the NOS for the SOC2020 Codes/occupations detailed in Table 1 of the Annex will either be funded via: alliance self-funding, grants provided by one or more separate Government sponsor units, or via alternative procurement channels. For example, third party contracts procured through the Multi Supplier Framework Agreement, or an invitation to quote.

Protocols on NOS review, development, and Welsh translation – Social Care sector

Confirmation has been received from the four Social Care Bodies, and the respective Devolved Government sponsor units that they collectively support SSSC tendering for and leading on NOS related work.

SSSC will liaise with the UK care councils annually to establish need for the review, development, and Welsh translation of NOS.

SSSC will also be invited to submit a demand statement to NOS GG via its managing agent each autumn, to provide an overview of standards and frameworks requirements for the current and future year/s, and to ensure that the necessary quality assurance mechanisms can be put in place for the following financial year.

Where NOS have been identified in need of review, development, and Welsh translation, SSSC will be responsible for ensuring that the UK care councils and other members of the alliance are invited/participate in review/development activity and that all NOS products comply with the existing Quality Criteria to enable the occupational standards to retain the NOS branding.

SSSC will be responsible for maintaining contact with the NOS GG managing agent for the duration of any NOS review, development, and Welsh translation activity to provide updates on progress.

Where the care sector shares an interest in a particular SOC2020 code/occupation, which sits squarely within another sector footprint, the development and review of relevant NOS will be commissioned by the NOS GG via the Standards and Frameworks Multi Supplier Framework Agreement, with the requirement that the successful supplier must seek input from the care sector.

Date 25 September 2024

**ANNEX**

**Table 1 – SOC2020 Codes and Occupations exempt from the Multi Supplier Framework Agreement**

The following social care Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)2020 Codes and related NOS Suites are exempt from the Standards and Frameworks Multi Supplier Framework Agreement, due to existing statutory and regulatory duties undertaken by the care councils in the UK. This list will be reviewed periodically.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2020 Code** | **Occupation/s** |
| 1172 1172 /00 | Social Services Managers and Directors |
| 1232 | Residential, day and domiciliary care managers and proprietors |
| 1232/01 | Day Care Managers |
| 1232/02 | Home Care Managers |
| 1232/03 | Residential Care Managers and proprietors |
| 1232/99 | Residential, day and domiciliary care managers and proprietors n.e.c. |
| 1233 1233/00 | Early education and childcare services proprietors |
| 2461 | Social Workers |
| 2461/01 | Adult Social Workers |
| 2461/02 | Children, Family and School Social Workers |
| 2461/03 | Criminal Justice Social Workers |
| 2461/05 | Homelessness and Housing Social Workers |
| 2461/04 | Mental Health and Healthcare Social Workers |
| 2461/99 | Social Workers n.e.c. |
| 2469/01 | Adoption Officers |
| 2469/02 | Children’s and Family Services Professionals |
| 2482 | Quality assurance and regulatory professionals |
| 2482/01 | Compliance and regulatory professionals |
| 2482/02 | Quality Assurance Professionals |
| 3222/01 | Child Protection Officers |
| 6114 | Childminders |
| 6135 | Care workers and home carers |
| 6136 | Senior care workers |

**Table 2 – SOC2020 Codes and Occupations with shared interest**

A shared interest exists between the care and health sectors for the NOS relating to the following SOC2020 Codes/occupations. The development and review of relevant NOS will be commissioned by the NOS GG via the Standards and Frameworks Multi Supplier Framework Agreement, with the requirement that the successful supplier must seek input from the care sector.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2020 Code** | **Occupation/s** |
| 2222 2222/00 | Occupational therapists |
| 2469/01 | Addiction and substance abuse advice professionals |
| 2469/04 | Community and social development professionals |
| 3229/04 | Mental Health Workers |
| 3232 3232/00 | Early education and childcare practitioners |
| 3581/99 | Inspectors of standards and regulations n.e.c. |

**Table 3 - Examples of NOS Suites and Leads**

The table gives examples of NOS and does not represent a definitive list.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NOS Suite name** | **Number of NOS** | **Lead** |
| Health and Social Care | 140 | Care sector |
| Leadership and Management for Care Services | 45 | Care sector |
| Children’s Care Learning and Development | 57 | Care sector |
| Social Work | 20 | Care sector |
| Learning and Development Support Services | 52 | Care sector |
| Sensory Services | 4 | Care sector |
| Supported Employment | 8 | Care sector |
| Commissioning, Procurement and Contracting for Care Services | 62 | Care sector |
| DANOS (Drugs and Alcohol) | 23 | Health sector |
| Mental Health | 31 | Health sector |