

Participant Information Sheet

Social Work Leadership Framework Survey

Summer 2026

Thank you for your interest in this survey for the Social Work Leadership Framework. This information sheet provides further details about the purpose of this initiative, and what is involved. If you have any further questions about the management of the survey, please email andre.mckeown@niscc.hscni.net (NISCC Evaluation Manager)

Please note: by participating in the research, you are agreeing to the terms outlined in this document. Any data collected from you will remain anonymous. No identifiable data will be used in published reports. All information will be held securely in line with GDPR requirements and will be held by the project team until the reports for this initiative are completed (this will not exceed three years).

Why is this survey taking place? The Department of Health (DoH), as part of the *Social Work Strategy*, published the Leadership Framework in April 2022 and asked the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (the Social Care Council) to support its implementation; with the aim of enhancing leadership in the social work profession. In 2024, a survey was issued to the social work workforce to establish a baseline of social workers knowledge and understanding of the Leadership Framework and how it applies throughout their career. See a summary of the survey findings [here](#). The survey findings helped inform a number of activities to raise awareness, understanding and use of the Leadership Framework. However, it is now timely to see how the views of social workers and social work students have changed since then, including to what extent the Leadership Framework has become embedded in practice.

You can read the [Leadership framework here](#), and you can check out the Social Care Council's [Learning Zone](#) which highlights key takeaways for social work practice and learning resources.

It is hoped that responses to this survey will show how the Leadership Framework is being used, and reveal any challenges that can be addressed to support the ongoing use of the Leadership Framework by the profession.

What information will I be asked to provide in the survey? This survey asks about your awareness of and engagement with the Social Work Leadership Framework. The survey is made up of four key areas.:

Section 1: Your social work role, experience and area of practice (this is collected solely to give context to the responses)

Section 2: Awareness and engagement with the Social Work Leadership Framework

Section 3: The four domains in the Social Work Leadership Framework

Section 4: Implementing the Social Work Leadership Framework

Why have I been chosen as a potential participant? You have been chosen as a potential participant as you are a social worker or social work student registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council and someone for whom the Social Work Leadership Framework may be of benefit in their career development.

Do I have to take part? You are under no obligation to take part. Responses entered into the questionnaire will not be saved until the submit button is pressed.

What if I change my mind? Once your questionnaire responses have been submitted, it will not be possible for your data to be removed as it will be anonymised for analysis.

How long will this online survey be available for? The online survey will be live from 19 August – 09 September 2026.

What will I be asked to do, and what data will you collect? You will be asked to complete this online survey, which will take no longer than 20 minutes to complete. The survey contains a series of open and closed response questions.

What will happen to data collected during my involvement? The data collected from you will be anonymous. We will combine your responses with responses from other social workers and social work students from across Northern Ireland, allowing us to identify and report upon significant trends in responses. Individual responses and summary reports will be reviewed by the Social Care Leadership Framework group. All data will be processed in line with GDPR requirements.

Are there any benefits involved in taking part? Your participation will provide valuable insight to help promote engagement with the Social work Leadership Framework.

Are there any risks involved in taking part? There are no risks associated with taking part in this survey.

Your consent By taking part in this survey, you agree to the following:

I consent to my survey responses being analysed, processed, and reported on by the Northern Ireland Social Care Council and the Social Work Leadership Framework implementation group.