Institute of Technology Sligo
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA SLIGEACH

NON MAJOR PANEL VALIDATION REPORT

Date of Evaluation: **31st May 2021**

Programmes Title(s) Evaluated: Certificate in Social Prescribing Level 6 20 ECTS

Award titles: Certificate in Social Prescribing

**Unique Programme
Reference Number PRN:**   SG_GSOCI_S06

Panel of Assessors:

Name & title	Job title & place of work	Role on panel
Prof Frances Lucy,	Head of Department of Environmental Science, Institute of Technology, Sligo, Member of the Planning and Co-ordination Committee.	Chairperson
Mr Niall McEvoy	Head of Innovation, Institute of Technology, Sligo	Panel member
Dr David Robinson,	Co-Chair of The Social Prescribing Network Ireland, Consultant Geriatrician (St James's Hospital), James's Street, Dublin	External Panel Member
Dr Aodhmar Cadogan,	Assistant Registrar, Institute of Technology Sligo.	Secretary to the Panel

Declaration Regarding Any Conflicts of Interest: The members of the Panel signed a form confirming that they did not have any conflict of interest.

Meeting groups

Persons met by validation panel

Name & title	Role in Institute	Rationale for presence at validation.
Dr Breda McTaggart	Head of Department	Institute Management
Dr Natalie Delimata	Lecturer	Programme Team / Programme Development

Validation criteria	Sufficient evidence / Insufficient evidence
Rationale for the programme • Philosophy underpinning the programme e.g. market for programme in the region and its relevance to the region • Graduate profile and employment opportunities for graduates • Rationale for the programme e.g. School's/Institute's strengths/opportunities • Programme Aims and Objectives • Expected intellectual development and Programme learning outcomes • Related existing programmes.	Sufficient evidence provided by the panel. SláinteCare programme recognises the need for social prescribing and this course would fill the gap to provide education for social prescribers and link workers.
Commendation: None **Condition:** None **Recommendation 1:** In the Entry Requirements and Access routes in AMM, include working with elderly people as one of the target student types.	
Programme structure • Delivery type (semesterised or stage-based) • Proposed mode of delivery (i.e. in-class, on-line, blended, full time and/or part time) • Planned intake numbers (over the full duration of the programme) • Role of placement	Sufficient evidence provided, content is appropriate and covers all the relevant areas.
Commendation: None	

Condition 1 Correct the programme schedule in AMM so that the contact hours (2) and the independent learning hours (5) are clear to an incoming student (volume 2 of the documentation) in line with the Institute recommended weekly hours of 7 for 5ECTS. **Recommendation:** None	
Resources (over the full duration of the programme) • Facilities and human and material resources available to mount the programme • Clarification of any staffing requirements • Location of the delivery • Specific s requirements: lecture rooms, laboratories, library, Information technology and other student supports • Confirmation regarding any new facilities and staffing requirements • Special requirements (e.g. remote access for distance learners)	Sufficient evidence provided. Resources are sufficient within the school to deliver the programme.
Commendation 1: The panel commends the intended us of guest speakers especially those from a medical background to add to the depth and diversity of the programme for students. **Condition:** None **Recommendation:** None	
Access, Transfer and Progression Criteria • Student admission requirements • Progression criteria from one stage to the next and to higher levels on the NFQ • Non-standard entry (e.g. mature candidates and candidates with experiential learning) • Transfer policy into the programme and onto other programmes	Sufficient evidence provided. This certificate could be a precursor for those who are not sure of their choice for further education, an introduction to those with no formal third level education who are currently working in the community or those who wish to develop in this area and build on their existing qualification in Drama, Art, Social Care etc. The course would appeal to a diverse range of people working as Volunteers, community workers, or those in community development, horticulture or social justice.
Commendation: None **Condition:** None **Recommendation 2 :** The panel recommended that the claim of being the first course in UK be removed, as there are some courses in the UK, albeit not on the NFQ framework currently.	
Curriculum	Sufficient evidence provided.

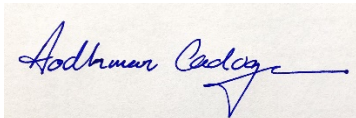|	
- A matrix exhibiting the academic pathway and the relationship between modules - The consistency between the programme content, teaching methods and the programme learning outcomes - Balance between the depth and breadth of the programme - Rigour of the academic standard in the final stage of the programme - Student workload - Practice: the role and management of placement or work-based projects.	
Commendation: None. **Condition:** None **Recommendation 3:** The learning outcome in module CARE06030 are very generic, consider rephrasing to make more specific to this module. Correct minor errors as indicated by the panel e.g. MODULE CARE 06027	
Assessment - The appropriateness of the modes of assessment to be used - The balance between the marks awarded for different assessment modes (e.g. continuous assessment, projects, reports, sit-down examination) - Confirmation that all of the programme learning outcomes are appropriately and adequately assessed within the set of module assessments.	Sufficient evidence provided. The panel reviewed the assessment matrix and would recommend that some of the assessment would be Team / Group Based.
Commendation: None **Condition:** None **Recommendation4** Consider including a component of group work within or as a component of the assessment on one or more modules.	
Staffing - Quality and specialities of staff available to support the programme - Technical and administrative support - Staff development	Sufficient evidence provided.

• Industrial/commercial profile of staff • Research and publications	
Commendation: **Condition:** **Recommendation 5:** While the panel commends the knowledge and enthusiasm of the Programme lead in the development of the programme they recommend that at least one other lecturer is involved in the delivery of the programme.	
Programme Administration and Quality Assurance • Procedure for managing programme • Student support student counselling and tutorial arrangements • Aspects of programme which highlight and foster study skills, independent learning and the inculcation of individual responsibility in students • EU and international aspects if appropriate • Feedback mechanisms e.g. use of surveys, focus groups and follow-up actions.	Current arrangement in place for other programmes are considered sufficient.
Commendation: None **Condition:** None **Recommendation** None	

Overall decision of the panel	
The panel agreed to recommend to the Academic council the approval of the following programme: Certificate in Social Prescribing	

Chairperson: Prof Frances Lucy

_____   Date _____

Secretary: Dr Aodhmar Cadogan

31/05/2021

_____   Date: _____

Appendix 1

Programme Schedule

SG_GSOCI_S06

Module Code	Module Title	Stage	Semester	M/E	PT Hours	Credits	FO %	CA %	PF %	EXAM %	PROJ %	PRAC %
CARE06027	Social Prescribing 1: Introduction to Theory, Policy & Practice	Stage 1	Semester 1	Mandatory	2	5	0	0	0	0	100	0
CARE06030	Social Prescribing 2: Community Resources & Creative Communication	Stage 1	Semester 1	Mandatory	2	5	0	0	0	0	100	0
CARE06029	Social Prescribing 3: Social Inclusion & Effective Communication	Stage 1	Semester 2	Mandatory	2	5	0	0	0	0	100	0
CARE06028	Social Prescribing 4: Evidence Informed Practice	Stage 1	Semester 2	Mandatory	2	5	0	0	0	0	100	0