

Pilot scheme takes off

The PCC has been piloting a new training course aimed at providing people with some practical resources to help them engage with other service users, healthcare professionals, policy and decision makers.

Membership Coordinator Matthew Weatherall said: "We've held a number of these capacity-building courses and had some really positive feedback from our members telling us how useful and relevant the programme is, particularly those who are keen to get more involved in the design and delivery of health and social care services.

"The course offers service users an introduction on how to get involved in shaping our future services. It provides an overview of the Health and Social Care system within Northern Ireland, from the Department of Health down to the Trusts.

"It also familiarises those who have not attended groups or committee meetings on how they are chaired and conducted, and give people an opportunity to rehearse introductions and the issues they wish to bring to the table."

The course is free to attend and open to those in the Patient and Client Council Membership Scheme.

Anyone interested in attending should note that this is a three-hour training session involving group participation. People must register their attendance in advance.

The minimum number required to make each course viable is six people. If there are insufficient numbers, those who have registered will be given fair notice of cancellation, offered the opportunity to join another course in their area or held on a waiting list.

Dates for the next round of capacity-building training courses will be announced in a future edition of Updates.