

Welcome Letter from Lord Michael Bichard
Current Chair of SCIE

December 2016

Dear applicant,

Chair of the Board for the Social Care Institute for Excellence

I would like to thank you for your interest in succeeding me as the new chair at the Social Care Institute for Excellence. You will lead a high profile Board whose combined experience and enthusiastic input provides well-informed leadership and adds welcomed value to the work of our executive team.

SCIE is an independent charity which delivers highly valued resources and services to support the improvement of social care and support to adults and children. We are a key partner of the Department of Health, work with the Department for Education and provide research, evaluation, improvement consultancy and training throughout England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

SCIE has transformed itself from an almost entirely grant funded organisation in 2012, to a vision and values led not-for-profit business, capable of responding speedily and flexibly to changing sector needs and priorities. SCIE generates significant commercial income and is now much less dependent on grant funding. Our clients include charities such as Friends of the Elderly, national organisations such as the Church of England and JPMorgan Chase Foundation, local authorities including Birmingham and Manchester city councils, and safeguarding boards. Our clients have contributed to our goal of SCIE becoming the improvement body for social care. This transformation has taken place through the development of an open, lively and vibrant culture, supported by a chair whose active challenge is embraced by our chief executive, Tony Hunter, and his management team with whom I am sure that you will enjoy working.

There has arguably never been a more challenging but exciting time to be at the forefront of social care in Britain, working in closer partnership with the NHS and other public organisations to build new and innovative services that will support people in their community and homes.

This will be a demanding but very rewarding position. The chair of SCIE is a high profile public role where your visible leadership, enthusiasm and drive will help us to make a significant impact on the lives of many.

Finally, we are all looking forward to meeting with you during this process, and are excited at the prospect of what the new chair will be able to bring to our organisation.

With kind regards.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Bichard