

Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2022/23

Report by: Joan Tranent

Chief Social Work Officer & Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships & Communities

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

- Note the incredible amount of work undertaken by social work and social care staff across the many different sectors over the past year.
- Agree the Chief Social Work Officer should place a copy of the annual report on the Council website.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

This report provides Council and the IJB with the annual report of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). The report offers a high level overview of activity in each service area and identifies the challenges and changes that have occurred over the past year.

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3 Background/Main Body of Report

The requirement that every local authority should have a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer is contained within Section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. The particular qualifications are set down in regulations. This is one of a number of officers, roles or duties within which local authorities have to comply. In Midlothian Council the role of Chief Social Work Officer is held by the Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities.

The annual reports of all CSWO's are submitted to the Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor at the Scottish Government in order that a national overview report can be produced.

This year's report offers a high-level overview of some of the great work undertaken however also highlights some of the challenges and changes faced by each area of social work and social care.

It was very much a shared endeavour by all staff across the council and the health and social care partnership including our third sector partners that prioritising the safety and health and wellbeing of those who were most in need within our communities, remains our main priority.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

This report does not make recommendations which entail the allocation of resources.

4.1 Resource

Not applicable.

4.2 Digital

Not applicable.

4.3 Risk

This report highlights how as CSWO there are well-developed arrangements in place to assess and manage risk both within social work services and in inter-agency contexts.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

This report does not recommend any change to policy or practice and therefore does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Midlothian Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2022/23

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

This report focuses on the delivery of statutory functions rather than strategic development of social work services. There are, however, clear links to the three key priorities within the SMP and the role of the CSWO.

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- ☒ Holistic Working
- ☒ Hub and Spoke
- ☒ Modern
- ☒ Sustainable
- ☐ Transformational
- ☒ Preventative
- ☒ Asset-based
- ☒ Continuous Improvement
- ☐ One size fits one
- ☐ None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- ☐ One Council Working with you, for you
- ☒ Preventative and Sustainable
- ☐ Efficient and Modern
- ☒ Innovative and Ambitious
- ☐ None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

The report highlights the involvement and efforts taken across all areas of social work and social care to deliver best practice.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The report highlights good practice where the involvement of users of services have been sought in the development of services.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The report highlights performance levels across the services and how a commitment to improve outcomes.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

It has been critical to adopt a preventative approach across our services and this report highlights these areas of work.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.