

Report of the Chief Social Work Officer 2016-17**Report by Alison White, Chief Social Work Officer****1 Purpose of Report**

To provide Council with the annual report of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) on the statutory work undertaken on the Council's behalf. The report also provides Council with an overview of regulation and inspection, workforce issues and significant social policy themes current over the past year.

2 Background

- 2.1** The requirement that every local authority should have a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer is contained within Section 45 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994. The particular qualifications are set down in regulations. This is one of a number of officers, roles or duties with which local authorities have to comply. The role replaced the requirement in Section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 for each Local Authority to appoint a Director of Social Work.

National guidance on the role of the Chief Social Work Officer was issued in January 2009.

The attached report provides information on activity and performance within the key areas of responsibility of the Chief Social Work Officer.

3 Report Implications**3.1 Resource**

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

3.2 Risk

Following the disaggregation of the Social Work Division arrangements were put in place to ensure that robust mechanisms to enable the CSWO to retain an overview of all social work services undertaken including those outwith the Division in which the postholder is located. This includes membership of the GIRFEC Board, receiving regular performance management reports relating to the delivery of key outcome measures and the provision of advice and professional support to Children's Services Management Team.

Discussions are already underway nationally to ensure that the planned integration of health and social care takes cognisance of the role of the CSWO and that mechanisms are in place to support the discharge of its functions in any new integrated service arrangements.

3.3 Policy

Strategy

This report focuses on the delivery of statutory functions rather than strategic development of social work services. There are, however, clear links to business transformation and partnership arrangements in so much as the integrity of the CSWO has been safeguarded and designed into organisational change.

Consultation

No consultation has been undertaken in the production of this report.

Equalities

This report focuses on performance against statutory functions in 2015/16. As this is reflecting on work already completed which was subject to EQIA at the time of agreeing the work no additional impact assessment is required at this time.

Sustainability

The central issue of sustainability relates to the need to maintain a coherent process of governance by the CSWO.

3.4 IT Issues

There are no specific IT issues arising from this report.

4 Summary

This report explains the background to the accompanying Annual Report by the Chief Social Work Officer.

5 Recommendations

Council is asked to :-

- 1 agree the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2016-17; and
- 2 agree that the Chief Social Work Officer should place a copy of the annual report on the Council website.

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Background Papers: Appendix 1: Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2015-16