

Midlothian Integration Joint Board



14th October 2021, 14.00

Chief Social Work Officer – Annual Report 2020 - 2021

Item number: 5.10

Executive summary

To provide Council and IJB with the annual report of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). The shortened report provides Council and IJB with a high level overview of key issues and challenges as a result of Covid-19.

Board members are asked to:

- **Note the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2020-21;**

Midlothian Integration Joint Board

Chief Social Work Officer – Annual Report 2020 - 2021

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Council and IJB with the annual report of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). The shortened report provides Council and IJB with a high level overview of key issues and challenges as a result of Covid-19.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 As a result of this report Members are asked to:-

Note the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2020-21

3 Background and main report

- 3.1 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.

The attached report uses the reduced template developed for the 2019-20 report, taking cognizance of the ongoing pressures being experienced across the sector as a result of Covid-19.

4 Policy Implications

- 4.1 None

5 Directions

- 5.1 There are no implications on Directions arising from any decisions made in this report.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 None

7 Resource Implications

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

8 Risk

- 8.1 CSWO's have well-developed arrangements in place to assess and manage risk both within social work services and in inter-agency contexts. This has been particularly prevalent during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic where as CSWO with a children and families background I have had to liaise with colleagues in health and social care to support the roll out of robust governance and oversight around high risk areas such as care at home and residential care homes settings. Having positive professional working relationships with a clear understanding of each other's roles has reduced any potential risk.

9 Involving people

- 9.1 The report highlights the involvement of users of services in the development of services

10 Background Papers

10.1

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| AUTHOR'S NAME | Joan Tranent |
| DESIGNATION | Chief Social Work Officer |
| CONTACT INFO | Joan.tranent@midlothian.gov.uk |
| DATE | 7 th October 2021 |

Appendices: Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report (Attached).