

Chief Social Work Officer – Annual Report 2021-2022

Report by Joan Tranent, Chief Social Work Officer

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

Council is asked to:

- Note the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2021-22
- 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 shortened report provides both Council and the IJB with a high level overview of key issues and challenges as a result of Covid-19.

Date: October 2022

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3 Background

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 with which local authorities have to comply. In Midlothian Council the role of Chief Social Work Officer is held by the Chief Officer Children's Service, 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 despite the continued challenges that social work and social care staff faced as Covid-19 remained a very live and current issue.

It was very much a shared endeavour by all staff across the council and the health and social care partnership including our 3rd sector partners that prioritising the safety and health and wellbeing of those who were most in need within our communities was our number one priority.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

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

4.1 Resource

None

4.2 Digital

None

4.3 Risk

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.

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.

4.4 Additional Report Implications

See Appendix A

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 business transformation and partnership arrangements in so much as the integrity of the CSWO has been safeguarded and designed into organisational change.

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 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

[Appendix B – Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report \(2021-22\)](#)