

Chief Social Work Officer – Annual Report 2020 - 2021

Report by Joan Tranent, Chief Social Work Officer

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

Council is asked to:

- Agree the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2020-21; and
- agree that the Chief Social Work Officer should place a copy of the annual report on the Council website.

2 Purpose of Report/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.

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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 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 Report Implications (Resource, Digital, Risk and Equalities)

4.1 Resource

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

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

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

APPENDIX A – Additional 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

A.4 Delivering Best Value

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

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The report highlights the involvement of users of services 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 the areas of work.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not Applicable

APPENDIX B - Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report (Attached).