

Chief Social Work Officer – Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Report by Alison White, Chief Social Work Officer

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

Council is asked to:

- 1 agree the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2019-20; and
- 2 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 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.

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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.

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.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital, Risk and Equalities)

4.1 Resource

This report does not make recommendations which entail the allocation of resources. It outlines actions and services which have already been provided.

4.2 Digital

None

4.3 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.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities

This report focuses on performance against statutory functions in 2018/19. 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.

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

Appendices

Appendix A – Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report

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**Background Papers/Resource Links**

None

APPENDIX C**Midlothian's Care for People Report on the Response to Lockdown**