

Midlothian Integration Joint Board



Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2023-24

Thursday, December 19th 2024, 14:00-16:00

Item number: 5.13

Executive summary

This report provides Council and IJB with the annual report of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). The report offers a high-level overview of activity in each service area and identifies the great work, along with the challenges and changes that have occurred over the past year. This Report has governance at Midlothian Council

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.
- Note the positive work undertaken by social work and social care staff across the many different sectors over the past year.

Midlothian Integration Joint Board

Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2023-24

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides Council and IJB with the annual report of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). The report offers a high-level overview of activity in each service area and identifies the great work, along with the challenges and changes that have occurred over the past year. This Report has governance at Midlothian Council

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 As a result of this report, Members are asked to:
- Note the report.
 - Note the positive work undertaken by social work and social care staff across the many different sectors over the past year.

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 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 within which local authorities have to comply. In Midlothian Council the role of Chief Social Work Officer is held by the Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 This year's report offers a high-level overview of some of the great work undertaken however also highlights some of the challenges and changes faced by each area of social work and social care.
- 3.4 It was very much a shared endeavour by all staff across the council and the health and social care partnership including our third sector partners that prioritising the safety and health and wellbeing of those who were most in need within our communities, remains our main priority.

4 Policy Implications

- 4.1 None.

5 Directions

5.1 No new implications for Directions

6 Equalities Implications

6.1 This report does not recommend any change to policy or practice and therefore does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

7 Resource Implications

7.1 There are no resource implications.

8 Risk

8.1 There are no known risks associated with this report.

9 Involving people

9.1 This report was produced by the outgoing CSWO with assistance from the Head of Adults Services and the Service Managers in the HSCP and Childrens' Services.

10 Background Papers

10.1 None.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1: The Chief Social Work Officer Report 2023/24