

CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This paper sets out the role of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) within Argyll and Bute Council and confirms the appointment of Louise Long, Head of Children and Families as the interim CSWO for the Council.
- 1.2 This appointment will terminate upon the appointment of the Integrated Head of Children and Families under the Health & Social Care Partnership.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:
 - a) note the interim appointment of Louise Long, Head of Children & Families as CSWO for the Council

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 places a legislative duty on all Scottish Local Authorities to appoint a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO).
- 3.2 The departure of Jim Robb, Head of Adult Services and CSWO requires the Council to appoint an interim CSWO.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council

- a note the interim appointment of Louise Long, Head of Children & Families as CSWO for the Council

5.0 DETAIL

- 5.1 The overall objective of the CSWO role is to ensure the provision of effective, professional advice to local authorities, elected members and officers, in the discharge of local authorities' statutory social work duties. The CSWO should assist authorities in understanding the complexities of social work service delivery, in particular issues such as mental health services, health and social care integration, corporate parenting, child protection, adult protection and the management of high risk offenders.
- 5.2 The CSWO has a role to play in overall performance improvement and identification and management of corporate risk insofar as they relate to social work services.
- 5.3 The role of the CSWO has been permanently included in the job description of the Integrated Head of Children and Families under the Argyll & Bute Health and Social Care Partnership. This interim appointment will terminate once the permanent appointment to the Integrated Head of Children and Families is made.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 The legislative duty placed on Scottish Local Authorities under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 requires the appointment of a professionally qualified CSWO. In light of the departure of Jim Robb, former Head of Adult Services, Louise Long has been appointed as interim CSWO.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1	Policy	None
5.2	Financial	None
5.3	Legal	The confirmation of a CSWO is in full compliance with the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968
5.4	HR	None
5.5	Equalities	None
5.6	Risk	None
5.7	Customer Service	None

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28 May 2015

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