

CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The 2014/15 Chief Social Work Officer Report provides an overview of social work activity undertaken across Argyll and Bute during the year. It outlines the statutory functions of the social work services, demonstrating the levels of activities and how the services are working to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable.

The report details the priorities and the challenges for the social work service.

1.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council notes the contents of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report before submission to the Scottish Government by 30th September 2015.

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CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The 2014/15 Chief Social Work Officer Report provides an overview of social work activity undertaken across Argyll and Bute during the year. It outlines the statutory functions of the social work services, demonstrating the levels of activities and how the service is working to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable. The report details the spend across all social work services, the priorities and the challenges.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council notes the contents of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report before submission to the Scottish Government by 30th September 2015.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The annual Chief Social Work Officer report (CSWO) is for the year 2014/15. The report from former CSWO, James Robb is designed to give an overview of social work activity undertaken by the authority. The role of the CSWO is to report to the Scottish Government about how Argyll and Bute is undertaking its statutory duty outlined in legislation.

- 4.2 Key principles that drive the Social Work service include;

- involving service users/ carers and the wider public in the development of quality care services
- ensuring safe and effective services; appropriate staff support and training.
- striving for continuous improvement with effective policies and processes in place
- ensuring accountability and management of risk

These principles provide the core of the report and provide evidence to the Council that the Social Work service in Argyll and Bute continues to develop as required to meet the expectations of the communities it serves.

- 4.3 This is a time of considerable change across all council services including social

work. There are significant budget challenges to be met and services will continue to have to reshape and modernise as they strive to meet the expectations of service users at a time of restricted budgets and increasing demand. The demographic profile shows while the population of Argyll and Bute is reducing the proportions of older people is increasing placing increased demands on services.

- 4.4 The report details the financial spend and the legislation impacting on social work services. The successes and challenges for each of the social work services are contained within the report.
- 4.5 The integration of Health and Social Care is an opportunity to redesign and shape services for the future. Appropriate planning and development of services will be essential. Argyll and Bute are awaiting the findings of a Joint inspection of Older People's Services, it is expected that the Care Inspectorate will report areas of strength and areas for improvement. There is currently a national review underway of Criminal Justice which will have a significant impact on the Criminal Justice partnership. Argyll and Bute's Criminal Justice Service will need to redesign and develop to ensure it meets local needs.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The period of 2014/15 has seen the social work service continue to be subject to change and review in order to meet the challenges of service improvement and re-design, demographic change, joint inspection, legislative changes and organisational change presented by the integration agenda.
- 5.2 During this period the service has continued to develop its approach to meeting the needs of the communities within Argyll and Bute with notable achievements being the continued increase in family based placements for looked after children and the maintenance of low numbers of patients affected by delayed discharge and continued promotion of care at home where safe and sustainable.
- 5.3 These achievements have been underpinned by our approach to service improvement which brings together the key aspects of this: outcome performance; staff and service user feedback, and auditing finance and management information to create a comprehensive approach to improvement.
- 5.4 There are further challenges ahead which will require an on-going commitment to review and re-design that will result in a fundamental reconsideration of how we deliver services in all aspects of our business. Work is already well underway in many of these areas with significant review activity having taken place across the range of services including elderly services and learning disability in adult care, and in children affected by disability and children with emotional and mental health needs within children's services. This activity is a core part of the council's modernisation programme and social work is well placed to help the council continue to develop in the years ahead.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy - None
- 6.2 Financial - None
- 6.3 Legal - None
- 6.4 HR - None
- 6.5 Equalities - None
- 6.6 Risk - None
- 6.7 Customer Service - None

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – CSWO Annual Report