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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**Council**

**Health and Social Care Partnership**

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER 2015/16**

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### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The report summarises the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report covering the period 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016. Local authorities are required, under Section 3 (1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 as amended, to appoint a Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). The CSWO's responsibilities contained within the Council's Scheme of Delegation and Administration.

Each year CSWO is required to submit a report to Scottish Government to support the Scottish Governments Chief Social Worker Advisor in his role in promoting and reporting on social work matters, and to provide benchmarking and good practice information that could be shared across Scotland. The report is to be submitted to Scottish Government on 31<sup>st</sup> September.

The CSWO report for Argyll & Bute sets out the activity of the social work service, the report is a collaboration between CSWO, Head of Service – Adult Care. The report details all social work, the format has been changed this year to provide more detail, to give elected members and the public more information about social work services. 2015/16 has been a year of unprecedented change for social work, Health & Social Care. Supporting the Health & Social Care Partnership to deliver a 3 year strategic plan will be integral to deliver high quality services for your most vulnerable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- It recommended that the Council approve the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2015/16 prior to submission to Scottish Government on 31<sup>st</sup> September 2016
- Note that new statutory guidance on the role of the Chief Social Work Officer is currently being published by the Scottish Government and arrangements have been made for a members seminar in December.

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

The report summarises the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report covering the period 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016. Local authorities are required, under Section 3 (1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 as amended, to appoint a Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). The CSWO's responsibilities contained within the Council's Scheme of Delegation and Administration.

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2015/16 has seen the most significant change in Social Work in respect of policy and governance since the introduction of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. Despite the considerable changes in governance, structure and organisational arrangements this year to prepare for Health and Social Care integration, staff have continued to work together to deliver improvements. It is indeed credit to our dedicated workforce that they have continued to deliver improvement in a period of considerable change.

The Joint Inspection of Older People's Services took place in 2015 and a positive inspection report was delivered. The partnerships have been working on a series of improvement actions to address eleven recommendations made with areas of strength and improvements identified through grading of seven adequate and two goods.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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- Note that new statutory guidance on the role of the Chief Social Work Officer is currently being published by the Scottish Government and arrangements have been made for a members seminar in December.

## **4.0 DETAIL**

The CSWO is required to ensure the provision of appropriate professional advice in the discharge of local authorities' statutory duties. Overall, the role is to provide professional governance, leadership and accountability for the delivery of Social Work services whether these are provided or purchased from voluntary and private sector. In addition there are a small number of specific duties and final decisions with Adult with Incapacity, Looked after Children and Secure Accommodation which must be made by the CSWO.

In March 2009, the Scottish Government issued national guidance on the role and function of the Chief Social Work Officer (The Role of the Chief Social Work Officer: Principles, Requirements and Guidance pursuant to Section 5 (1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968). This guidance has recently been reviewed and revised statutory guidance has recently been published. This has also been considered in developing a Clinical Care Governance Framework agreed by the Integrated Joint Board. A briefing will be prepared for elected members and a member seminar organised in the autumn.

Over the last 2 years, the Scottish Government's Chief Social Work Adviser (CSWA) developed a template and guidance for the completion of CSWO Annual Reports that was issued in May 2016 to support the production of 2015/16 reports. The intention is to support the CSWA in their role in promoting and reporting on social work matters, and to provide benchmarking and good practice information which could be shared to support practice development across Scotland.

The CSWO Annual Report 2015/16 (Appendix 1) provides an overview of the performance and delivery of social work and social care services in Argyll and Bute. It also provides an overview of the specific activities of the CSWO in respect of professional leadership and decision making.

## **4.1 CONTEXT**

In 2015/16 Argyll and Bute's Integration Joint Board (IJB) formally agreed to adopt the Integration Scheme and the Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership 3 year Strategic Plan. This included delegated powers in relation to all local authority social work services, including children and families, justice and adult services. The early years which had been with children and families social work within the local authority has moved to Education, and is now delivered through the Community Services Directorate.

Integrated Joint Board (IJB) had a shadow period and went live on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016. It is supported by an Audit Committee and Clinical Care Governance Committee. The Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Strategic Plan 2015/16 was approved on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and sets out the key priorities for health and social care in Argyll and Bute. To support these local arrangements early work has been undertaken in defining localities across Argyll and Bute. Eight locality groups have been established to support the delivery through "Locality Planned, Owned and Delivered"

## 4.2 GOVERNANCE

The CSWO is a member of the Health and Social Care Partnership Management Team. In 2015/16 the former social work management team was replaced by a new integrated management team. The CSWO has continued to meet with senior social work qualified staff. There is an emerging gap with all managers with responsibility for delivering health and social care requiring to understand the unique professional issues and challenges within social work and social care. This has led to the development of a Social Work Leadership Forum which has oversight of professional practice, reporting to the Senior Management Team and, where appropriate, the Clinical and Care Governance Group within the Health and Social Care Partnership. A development program with senior managers from HSCP is taking place across 2015/16 to improve confidence and competence within all areas of health and social care.

In respect of public protection, the CSWO has oversight of all public protection matters, enabling advice to be given to the Chief Executive in his role as Chair of the Chief Officer's Public Protection Group. The CSWO attends the Child Protection Committee; Adult Protection Committee; Violence Against Women Partnership; Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group. The arrangements are currently being reviewed to ensure appropriate governance is available to the Chief Executive.

The CSWO is a member of the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) and during the first year of implementation in 2015/16, opportunities have been taken to present reports and to highlight the work taking place across social work and social care. Given that many IJB members and participants stem from health backgrounds, the social work functions relating to adult care and health has been central to consideration of shifting the balance of care. The statutory work relating to children and families and criminal justice social work services is less familiar, and more time is needed to ensure that the holistic nature of social work provision is fully understood and recognised.

The CSWO is a member of Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Clinical and Care Governance Committee and led with the Lead Nurse in the development of Clinical and Care Governance Framework to ensure safe governance accountability and practice in place across the partnership.

Arrangements are in place for designated senior managers with appropriate social work qualification and skills to deputise for the CSWO in her absence, ensuring appropriate cover, while also creating learning and experiential opportunities for senior staff.

The CSWO continues to be responsible for certain statutory decision making relating to vulnerable children and adults. In addition the CSWO is currently also the agency decision maker in respect of adoption and fostering decisions. All aspects of the CSWO role are detailed within the report.

### **4.3 HIGHLIGHTS AND FUTURE PRIORITIES**

The CSWO Annual Report 2015/2016 sets out a summary of the work taking place across social work and social care services in Argyll and Bute. It is comprehensive and captures the significant activity undertaken across social work. This includes:

- Positive Inspection for Joint Older people services
- Improving record of delayed hospital discharges throughout 2015/16
- Improving identification and support to vulnerable adults and children with protection process
- Improvement in finding 'Forever Families' for children unable to stay with their parents
- The service demand was 584K for 2015/16 reducing to 527K 2016/17 onwards for kinship
- 45% reduction in referral from SCRA on youth offending
- Early identification and support to parents through development of local parenting support
- Highly successfully corporate parenting board who have attracted additional funding, supported the building of a new children house, very good grades across all children houses in Argyll and Bute
- 15,452 unpaid work scheme (using the average national wage) this equates to £98,893 of labour

### **4.4 FUTURE PRIORITIES**

- The smooth transition from Criminal Justice Authorities to Community Planning Partners for responsibility for Community Justice
- The implementation of Children and Young People Act and new statutory duties
- The implementation of new Carer Act and new statutory duties
- The revised Autism Strategy and Plan
- The redesign of service to support outcomes with 3 year HSCP strategic plan
- Meeting zero target for delay discharge
- Reshaping service for older people to allow people to stay at home wherever possible

### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

In summary, a range of governance arrangements recognise the role and contribution of the CSWO in Argyll and Bute. In considering existing arrangements against the guidance on the role of the CSWO, and in the context of the new integrated structures, these arrangements will be further strengthened.

The report outlines significant activity of Social Work services across Argyll and Bute, the many successes and the dedicated workforce who continue to deliver services on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Policy: There are no policy implications associated with this report

- 6.2 Financial: There are no financial implications associated with this report
- 6.3 Legal: This report and the attached CSWO Annual Report 2015/16 is evidence of compliance with Section 5 (1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, and the associated guidance (2009) and draft statutory guidance (2016).
- 6.4 HR: There are no human resources implications associated with this report.
- 6.5 Equalities: There are no equality implication associated with this report.
- 6.6 Risk: There are no specific risks associated with this report. The risks presented by the social work service are considered and managed through the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership Risk Register and the Corporate Risk Register
- 6.7 Customer Service: CSWO report to be published on website once agreed

**Head of Children and Families – Louise Long**

15<sup>th</sup> August 2016

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**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Report