
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

**HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE
PARTNERSHIP**

28 NOVEMBER 2019

CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The 2018/19 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 activity and how the services are working to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable. The report details the expenditure across all social work services, the priorities and the challenges.

1.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council considers the contents of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report and endorses the report prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The 2018/19 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 expenditure across all social work services, the priorities and the challenges.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council considers the contents of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report and endorses the report prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 Each local authority in Scotland has a Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) and each CSWO is required to produce an annual report of local activity. The production and format of the annual CSWO report is specified in the Scottish Government guidance, *Role of the CSWO: Principles, Requirements and Guidance* (revised version issued in 2016). This report covers the delivery of social work services within Argyll and Bute and is intended to support the governance and accountability of the Social Work service.
- 4.2 The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 requires local authorities to appoint a single Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) for the purposes of listed social work functions. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 made provision for the CSWO to undertake this role for all delegated Social Work services within the integration scheme. One of the key duties of the CSWO is to ensure the provision of appropriate professional advice to the Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board (IJB), the Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland.
- 4.3 The Argyll and Bute Social Work service is comprised of Adult Care, Children and Families and Justice Social Work. The Social Work service

sits within the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) which is set out in the integration scheme under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. The integration scheme transferred all the Argyll and Bute Council's Social Work services to the Argyll and Bute HSCP on the 1st April 2016.

- 4.4 The theme of this year's report is change and how the Social Work service has steered its way through the multiple challenges it has faced. Key to the direction of the Social Work service are our core principles which have informed our journey.

These core principles include:

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

- 4.5 These principles run through the report and help evidence that the Argyll and Bute Social Work service continues to meet the needs and expectations of the communities it serves.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Social Work service staff, including the staff working for our commissioned services should be proud of the provision of support, care and protection they have provided to our vulnerable children, young people and adults throughout this past year. As the report has highlighted we are working in challenging times with many challenges still ahead. The increasing demand for services combined with rising public expectations in a context of continued financial constraint will be difficult. The focus will continue to be on ensuring we maintain high standards of service delivery whilst reviewing and redesigning the way we work to make the best use of all the available resources so we can continue to support, care for and protect those in greatest need.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy: The reports sets out the Policy Context within which services are delivered.

- 6.2 Financial: None arising directly from report.
- 6.3 Legal: The report addresses statutory requirements.
- 6.4 HR: The report addresses HR impacts.
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
- 6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics None arising from report
- 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty None arising from report
- 6.5.3 Islands None arising from report
- 6.6. Risk: None arising from report
- 6.7 Customer Service: Report addresses context of customer service delivery.

For further information contact:
Alex Taylor
Chief Social Work Officer
alex.taylor@argyll-bute.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – CSWO Annual Report