

**Integration Joint Board**

**Agenda item:**

**Date of Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Title of Report: Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) Annual Report 2018/19**

**Presented by: Alex Taylor CSWO and Head of Service**

**The Integrated Joint Board is asked to:**

- Note and comment on the report

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Chief Social Work Officer Report 2018/19 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

**2. INTRODUCTION**

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. DETAIL**

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 CSWO Annual Report is specified in 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.

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), Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland.

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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

The theme of this year's report is again 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

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.

#### **4. RELEVANT DATA AND INDICATORS**

None.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

The CSWO Annual Report promotes the strategic priorities of the HSCP.

## **6. GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial impact**

None.

### **6.2 Staff Governance**

None.

### **6.3 Clinical Governance**

None.

## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT**

None.

## **9. PUBLIC & USER INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT**

None.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

Social Work service staff, including the staff working for our commissioned external partners 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.

## 11. DIRECTIONS

Directions required to Council, NHS Board or both.	<b>Directions to:</b>	tick
	No Directions required	X
	Argyll & Bute Council	
	NHS Highland Health Board	
	Argyll & Bute Council and NHS Highland Health Board	

## REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTACT

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18<sup>th</sup> October 2019