

INTEGRATED JOINT BOARD

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 25 November 2020

Title of Report: Annual Chief Social Work Officer Report 2019/2020

Agenda item:

Presented by: Julie Lusk, Head of Adult Services and Chief Social Work Officer

The Integrated Joint Board is asked to:

- Note and endorse the contents of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report for 2019 to 2020.
- Acknowledge the efforts of social work and social care staff across all sectors, as well as unpaid carers in continuing to support the people of Argyll and Bute.
- Note that the approved report will be forwarded to the Scottish Government.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents the Argyll and Bute Chief Social Work Officer report for the period 1st April 2019 until 31st March 2020. The report provides oversight and accountability within the local authority for all social work and social care services, delegated to the Integrated Joint Board. Following consideration of the report it will be submitted to Scottish Government.

Social work and social care services are key to delivering the Strategic Plan.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Chief Social Work Officer has a statutory requirement to produce an annual report providing an overview of social work services for Argyll and Bute. The Chief Social Work Officer also has a responsibility to report directly to elected members, Chief Officer and Chief Executive in respect of any significant, serious or immediate risk or concern arising from statutory responsibilities within her professional remit.

For the purposes of this report it should be noted that for the reporting period 2019 to 2020 the Chief Social Work Officer was Alex Taylor who has since retired.

Key highlights of service achievements for the reporting year 2020 – 2021 will also be included.

The report details arrangements within Argyll and Bute Council to enable the Chief Social Work Officer to fulfil the responsibilities outlined in Section 5 (1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (as amended).

3. DETAIL OF REPORT

The report highlights the progress of the delivery and performance of social work services during 2019 – 2020. The report highlights performance information and also challenges for the year and provides highlights and areas for development for the forthcoming year.

The report provides acknowledgement to the early stages of the Coronavirus pandemic and this will be feature more prominently in next year's annual report. It should be noted that the Scottish Government agreed to a shorter report for 2019 - 2020 given the ongoing impact of Coronavirus and the changes that this has required to service delivery. Current priorities for recovery in response to Coronavirus are included and remain a prominent feature moving forward in line with the changing directions in relation to policy and legislation as this arises.

4. RELEVANT DATA AND INDICATORS

Throughout 2019/20, our workforce have continued to deliver and provide high quality, flexible services to children, young people and adults who need additional support. Examples of innovative practice and developments to improve outcomes for people using our services are highlighted in the report. As mentioned earlier this year's report comes at a very difficult time and reflects the challenges faced by the citizens of Argyll and Bute and also our staff as a result of working through the pandemic. Performance data is provided and reflects the close partnership working with our performance team who support the delivery of this report.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The report links in to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Strategic plan. The report further links to the policies and legislation that surround children's, adults, justice, learning disability, mental health and older adults care. These priorities further include the underpinning human rights principles across all services. Our priorities also include maximising inclusion and reducing inequalities and empowering people to be part of communities that are strong, resilient and citizen led.

6. GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

6.2 Staff Governance

There are no staff governance issues arising directly from this report.

6.3 Clinical Governance

Issues of risk in relation to services and/or service delivery will be raised through the Clinical and Care Governance Committee and any other forums as required.

7. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no equality and diversity implications/

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

No risk assessment required

9. PUBLIC & USER INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable for this report.

10. CONCLUSIONS

The members of the Integrated Joint Board are asked to note and acknowledge the work undertaken by social work services delegated to the IJB and the content of the report. It will subsequently be presented to the full Argyll & Bute council for approval and submission to the Scottish Government.