

CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER REPORT 2020 - 2021

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report presents the Argyll and Bute Chief Social Work Officer report for the period 1st April 2020 until 31st March 2021. The report provides oversight and accountability within the local authority for all social work and social care services, delegated to the Integrated Joint Board (IJB). Following consideration of the report by the IJB and the Council it will be submitted to Scottish Government. Social work and social care services are key to delivering the Strategic Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is invited to

- I. Note, comment and approve the contents of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report for 2020 to 2021.
- II. 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, particularly as we continue to work within a Pandemic situation.
- III. Approve the publication of this report
- IV. Note that once approved, the report will be forwarded to the Scottish Government.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 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, HSCP Chief Officer and Chief Executive in respect of any significant, serious or immediate risk or concern arising from statutory responsibilities within her professional remit.
- 3.2 The report details arrangements within Argyll and Bute Council to enable the Chief Social Work Officer to fulfil the responsibilities. For the purposes of this report it should be noted that we are still following the advice from the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser in relation to the report contents, given the ongoing Pandemic.
- 3.3 The report highlights the progress of the delivery and performance of social work services during 2020 – 2021. The report highlights performance

information and also challenges for the year and provides highlights and areas for development for the forthcoming year.

- 3.4 The report provides acknowledgement of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. It should be noted that the Scottish Government agreed to a shorter report again for 2020 - 2021 given the ongoing impact of Coronavirus and the changes that this has required to service delivery. Current priorities for recovery in response to Coronavirus remain a priority going forward, in line with the changing directions in relation to policy and legislation as this arises.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 Throughout 2020/21, 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. Once again 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.

4.2 The members of the Council are asked to note the content of the report and approve the contents. Once approved the report will be forwarded to the Scottish Government.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy – no policy implications as retrospective report. Information presented may have a bearing on future policy recommendations

5.2 Financial - none

5.3 Legal – 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).

5.4 HR - none for this report

5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: – none specific outwith national legislation and policy guidelines

5.5.1 Equalities -

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

5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – none specific outwith national legislation and policy guidelines

5.5.3 Islands – none specific outwith national legislation and policy guidelines

5.6. Risk – none for this report

5.7 Customer Service – none for this report

For further information contact:

Julie Lusk

Chief Social Work Officer & Head of Adult Services

julie.lusk@argyll-bute.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Chief Social Work Officers Report 2020-21
