

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the appointment of David Gibson, Head of Children, Families and Justice to the statutory role of Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) with effect from 1st November 2021.
- 1.2 This appointment has arisen following notification of the current CSWO's, Julie Lusk, appointment to a seconded post within Scottish Government Mental Health Division with effect from 1st November.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Council is invited to:

Note the appointment of David Gibson, Head of Children, Families and Justice to the statutory role of Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) with effect from 1st November 2021.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The role of Chief Social Work Officer was established by The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 which placed a legislative duty on all Scottish Local Authorities to appoint a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer and was also made statutory by the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994. Councils are required to appoint a Chief Social Work Officer to provide elected members and senior officers with effective, professional advice about the delivery of social work services. It is the responsibility of this officer to highlight where a council policy may endanger lives or welfare and to ensure that elected members and officers are provided with professional advice in relation to social work and social care services. The role requires the chief social work officer to maintain a governance, quality and professional leadership role for all social work services, both in the HSCP and in the council.

- 3.2 The CSWO undertakes the role across the full range of local authority social work functions, irrespective of the range of operational management responsibilities within their job description.
- 3.3 The current CSWO, Julie Lusk, is leaving the organisation on 1st November 2021 to take up a seconded post within the Scottish Government Mental Health Division.
- 3.4 The council constitution provides for a delegation to the Chief Executive to appoint a suitably qualified officer to the role of CSWO and to advise the Council on any such appointments made.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The Chief Executive has approved the appointment of David Gibson, Head of Children, Families and Justice to the statutory role of Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) with effect from 1st November 2021.

The Council is invited to note the appointment.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - This role is critical to the provision of professional and independent advice with regards to social work policies.
- 5.2 Financial – no additional costs.
- 5.3 Legal – Addresses statutory requirements.
- 5.4 HR - None
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: None
 - 5.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics – None
 - 5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - None
 - 5.5.3 Islands - none
- 5.6 Risk – none
- 5.7 Customer Service - none

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