

***Integration Joint Board***

**Date of Meeting: Wednesday 23 November 2022**

**Title of Report: Chief Social Work Officer Report 2021/2022**

**Presented by: David Gibson**

**The IJB is asked to:**

- Note the content of the CSWO Report 2021/2022

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) for each of Scotland's 32 local authorities provides an annual report for Scottish Government. It is due in the autumn and relates to the previous financial year.

The full CSWO report is attached.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

The requirement for every local authority in Scotland to appoint a professionally qualified CSWO is set out in Section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

In Argyll & Bute the role of CSWO is held by the Head of Children, Families & Justice.

There is a requirement to send a CSWO Report to Scottish Government each autumn covering the previous financial year.

Attached in the CSWO Report for the financial year 2021/2022. It is important to note that the report relates to that time frame with only minimum reference to the period since. It is acknowledged that there have been significant changes since the period relevant to the report, most saliently the 'cost of living crisis'.

**3. DETAIL OF REPORT**

The full CSWO Report 2021/2022 is attached.

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

Contained within the attached report.

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

Social Work is key to a significant number of strategic priorities. Reference to these are contained in the attached report

#### **6. GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **6.1 Financial Impact**

It is clear from the attached report that maintaining social work services during a period of stretched and constricting finances is becoming increasingly more difficult. The full impact of the 'cost of living crisis' and higher inflationary pressures is predicted to increase these difficulties however is out with the timescales of this report.

##### **6.2 Staff Governance**

The full report sets out significant staffing challenges. This is beyond problems with recruitment and retention. For example in the case of social workers it is recognised there are simply not enough qualified social workers nationally and all local authorities are vying to recruit from an insufficient pool of potential employees. One or two authorities are dealing with this by increasing wages which worsens the situation for other areas.

##### **6.3 Clinical and Care Governance**

The CSWO Report is a key element of Clinical and Care Governance at both local and national level.

#### **7. PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY**

The CSWO is the main professional advisor to the local authority on all social work matters. Through the scheme of delegation, is also the main social work advisor to the IJB.

#### **8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **9. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES COMPLIANCE**

None

#### **10. RISK ASSESSMENT**

None

## 11. PUBLIC & USER INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT

There is no public or user involvement as such in the compilation of the CSWO, however the report does evidence significant involvement and engagement activity throughout social work and social care.

## 12. CONCLUSIONS

The IJB is asked to:

- Note the key activities outlined in the CSWO Report.
- Acknowledge the commitment of social work and social care staff throughout the period of the pandemic.
- Note the report will be submitted to the Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor

## 13. 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

David Gibson  
[david.gibson@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:david.gibson@argyll-bute.gov.uk)