



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Date of Meeting	2 November 2021
Report Title	Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2020/21
Report Number	HSCP.21.112
Lead Officer	Sandra Macleod, Chief Officer
Report Author Details	Graeme Simpson, Chief Social Work Officer & Chief Officer – Integrated Family and Childrens Services.
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Appendices	Appendix A – Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2020/21

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To present the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for year 2020/21. The report is to inform the Integration Joint Board (IJB) of the role and responsibilities exercised by the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO); to provide information on statutory decision making in the period; and to give a progress report on key areas of social work provision within Aberdeen City.
- 1.2. This report is on the agendas of the Chief Officers Group (26 October 2021), Public Protection Committee (27 October 2021) and this IJB of 2 November 2021. The report will then be submitted to the Scottish Government.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the IJB:
 - a) Note the content of the CSWO Annual Report 2020/21, as attached at Appendix 1.



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3. Summary of Key Information

- 3.1. The role of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) is a statutory post in accordance with the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, as amended by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994. This requires Local Authorities to appoint a CSWO for the purposes of listed social work functions.
- 3.2. The required qualifications of the CSWO are set out in regulations and the post holder must be able to demonstrate senior strategic and operational experience. National Guidance on the role was published by the Scottish Government in 2009 and was revised in May 2017. It provides an overview of position, outlining the responsibility for values and standards, complex decision making, particularly in relation to deprivation of liberty decisions and professional leadership. The guidance also covers accountability and reporting arrangements.
- 3.3. The CSWO provides advice to the Council on social work matters; undertakes decision making in respect of statutory functions and provides professional governance, leadership and accountability for the delivery of social work and social care services, whether they are provided by the Council or on behalf of the Council by another agency. In its 2016 report on Social Work in Scotland, Audit Scotland outlined the increased complexity of the role: *“With integration and other changes over recent years, the key role of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) has become more complex and challenging. Councils need to ensure that CSWOs have the status and capacity to enable them to fulfil their statutory responsibilities effectively.*
- 3.4. This report is consistent with the content and format guidance laid down by the Chief Social Work Adviser for Scottish Government. The annual report does not provide a complete account of social work activity over the year. Rather, it provides an overview of the range of services and initiatives in social work and social care and to highlight key achievements and challenges.

4. Implications for IJB

- 4.1. **Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality**
There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 4.2. **Financial**
There are no financial implications arising from this report.



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4.3. Workforce

There are no direct implications on the workforce from this report.

4.4. Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

4.5. Covid-19

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

4.6. Unpaid Carers

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5. Links to ACHSCP (Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership) Strategic Plan

5.1. The report aligns to the Strategic Plan

6. Management of Risk

6.1. Identified risks(s) – as identified by the CSWO in the report to ACC committees:

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	None for this report.		
Legal	None for this report		
Employee	This report reflects the impact of social work services delivered by the Council, the IJB and commissioned services. It provides a clear narrative as to the	L	Social work services are subject to the scrutiny of independent inspection via the Care Inspectorate. These inspections provide staff with the opportunity to reflect and learn from



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Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
	critical role social work staff undertake to assess need and manage risk posed to and by vulnerable children and adults.		their practice and the outcomes they deliver.
Customer	This report provides assurance to the citizens of Aberdeen City on the quality of social work services delivered to those who meet the threshold for social work support and intervention.	L	<p>Customers have the opportunity to complain about the quality of services both directly and via the SPSO (Scottish Public Services Ombudsman). A learning approach is actively taken to all complaints.</p> <p>Customers also contribute to inspections via various feedback opportunities enabling them to know that their views and listened to and considered.</p>
Environment	None for this report		
Technology	None for this report		
Reputational	The delivery of effective social work and social care services is critical to the protection and care of vulnerable children and adults. Failure to discharge	L	The public can be assured that the Council ensures compliance with legal requirements and identified areas for improvement are addressed.



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Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
	our statutory responsibilities effectively can bring significant media interest and scrutiny.		

6.2. Link to risks on strategic or operational risk register:

The risks identified above are as per the CSWO report to Aberdeen City Council committees, and link in the main to the ACHSCP Strategic Risk of Reputational Damage. (Risk 6).

6.3. How might the content of this report impact or mitigate these risks:

The production of this annual report provides IJB with assurance on the role and responsibilities of the CSWO and the social work activity during 2020/21.

Approvals	
	Sandra Macleod (Chief Officer)
	Alex Stephen (Chief Finance Officer)