

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	17 December 2014
DIRECTOR	Liz Taylor, Social Care and wellbeing
TITLE OF REPORT	Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report
REPORT NUMBER:	SCW/14/25
CHECKLIST COMPLETE	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents to Members the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2013- 2014. The purpose of the Report is to inform Members of the role and responsibilities exercised by the Chief Social Work (CSWO) Officer; to provide information on statutory decision making in the period 2013-2014; and to give a progress report on key areas of the Social Care and Wellbeing service over the period of the Report.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Council is recommended to

- (i) note the content of the Annual Report attached as Appendix; and
- (ii) offer comment on the format of the Report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this Report.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from the Report.

The Chief Social Work Officer is a statutory post in accordance with the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 as amended by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994. The required qualifications for the CSWO are set down in regulations. In 2009, the Scottish Government published national Guidance on the 'Role of the CSWO: Principles, Requirements and

Guidance'. 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 directly by the local authority or on behalf of the local authority by another agency. It is a recommendation of the Guidance that the CSWO provides an Annual Report to the Council.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

In 2014 the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser to the Scottish Government developed a template for CSWO Annual Reports, and this has been followed. The aim was to bring consistency in reporting across Scotland, to aid information sharing and benchmarking and give an overview as to how social work services are being delivered, the highlights and the challenges. It is the intention of the Chief Social Work Advisor (to receive Annual Reports and compile a national overview report.

6. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 6.1 The report covers the areas of content in the national template. It puts social work into the context of Aberdeen City, describes the service and partnership structures, the landscape of social services, our financial position and the governance and performance reporting arrangements. More specific information is provided on highlights in performance across services; continuous improvement and planning for change; user, carer and stakeholder involvement; workforce planning and development and key challenges for 2014-2015. The activity of the CSWO and other authorised officers in relation to statutory functions is set out.
- 6.2 It is not intended that the Annual Report should be a complete account of social work activity for the year. Business and Service Plans, finance and performance reporting, reports on developments seeking authorisations, and information bulletins provide regular information to committees.
- 6.3 The Annual Report is an opportunity to give an overview of the range of services and initiatives in social care and to highlight key achievements and challenges. In this sense it is selective.

7. IMPACT

There are no EHRIA requirements associated with this Report.

8. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

There are no risks associated directly with this Report. Social Care and Wellbeing maintains a Risk Register and within services, risks are identified and managed.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Scottish Government, 2009, The Role of Chief Social Work Officer: Principles, Requirements and Guidance pursuant to Section 5(1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/03/16113229/0>

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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