

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	14 th December 2016
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/16/083
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report presents to Elected Members, the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2015/16 financial year. The purpose of the report is to inform members of the role of 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 and social care provision within Aberdeen City.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that members of the Council:

- (i) Note the content of the Annual Report, as attached at Appendix 1 and;
- (ii) Offer comment and observations on the content.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no other implications arising from this report, as it offers observation on social work activity in the preceding year.

5. **BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

The role of 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. This requires Local Authorities to appoint a single CSWO for the purposes of listed social work functions.

The required qualifications of the CSWO are set out in regulations. National Guidance on the role of the CSWO was published by the Scottish Government in 2009 and was revised in July 2016. The guidance provides an overview of the Chief Social Work Officer's role, outlining the responsibility for values and standards, decision making and leadership. The guidance also covers accountability and reporting arrangements. For members' interest, the guidance is attached as Appendix 2.

The Chief Social Work Officer 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. *Social Work in Scotland*, an Audit Scotland Report published in September 2016 outlined the increased complexity of the role as follows: "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".

This report is consistent with the guidance laid down by the Chief Social Work Adviser, with regard to the content and format of Chief Social Work Officers' annual reports. The annual report does not provide a complete account of social work activity over the year. Rather it is an opportunity to provide an overview of the range of services and initiatives in social care and to highlight key achievements and challenges.

6. **IMPACT**

Improving Customer Experience – there is no direct impact on the customer experience as this report provides a historical overview of social work activity during the 2015/16 financial year. However, the report does contain key actions to be delivered during the present financial year, which are designed to improve the social work services we deliver and commission.

Improving Staff Experience – there is no direct impact for staff, as the report provides a historical overview of social work activity during the 2015/16 financial year. The major developments contained within the report, such as Health and Social Care Integration and Reclaiming Social Work impact upon staff and will be reported on and monitored through reports to the relevant committees, within the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership.

Improving our use of Resources – there is no direct impact on the use of resources, as the report provides a historical overview of social work activity during the 2015/16 financial year. The impacts of major developments, such as the going live of the Health and Social Care Integration and the implementation of Reclaiming Social Work are reported on and monitored through reports to the relevant committees.

Corporate - the report provides a historical overview of social work activity. As it is written to a standard template, there are no direct links expressed within it to key Corporate priorities. However, the report and the developments within it are consistent with Corporate priorities.

Public – it is unlikely that this report will be of significant interest to the public. An EHRIA and a PIA have not been completed, as the report covers historical activity.


7. **MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

There is no risk associated with this paper, as it presents a historical review of activity. There are risk registers in place within the Education and Children’s Services Directorate and for the Health and Social Care Partnership.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The report is based on information provided by officers both within the Council and from partner agencies, information available on the Council website and statistical information provided from the Council’s management information systems.

9. **REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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