

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	10 October 2018
REPORT TITLE	Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/18/164
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
REPORT AUTHOR	Graeme Simpson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents to Elected Members the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2017/18 financial year. The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the role and responsibilities exercised by the Chief Social Work Officer; 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.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the content of the Annual Report, as attached at Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The required qualifications of the Chief Social Work Officer 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 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”.

- 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 is an opportunity to provide an overview of the range of services and initiatives in social care and to highlight key achievements and challenges.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	There are no financial implications.	L	None
Legal	There are no legal implications.	L	None
Employee	There are no Employee implications.	L	None
Customer	There are no customer implications.	L	None
Environment	There are no environment implications.	L	None
Technology	There are no technology implications.	L	None
Reputational	This report contributes to a Scotland wide report prepared by the Chief Social Work Adviser. It	L	None

	will also form part of the submission to the Care Inspectorate.		
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7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	Effective social work provision across children's and adult's social work improves the life chances of those it impacts. It increases the potential for people to become active economic citizens and to determine their own future.
Prosperous People	<p>There is evidence across Aberdeen City of social work services supporting young people and adults to live independently, but more work is required to ensure our Looked After Children have improved educational and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Social work is a targeted, statutory service with clear thresholds for intervening in people's lives. This is important, because state intervention of this nature must be applied responsibly, proportionately and in line with peoples' rights to liberty, privacy, and a family life. Good social work services are easy to access, responsive, treat people with dignity and respect and, where possible, are delivered in partnership with those requiring or requesting them.</p>

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	No Impact.
Organisational Design	No Impact.
Governance	No Impact.
Workforce	This report reflects the work delivered by the social work and social care workforce of Aberdeen City Council/Integrated Joint Board.
Process Design	No impact.
Partnerships and Alliances	As noted this report draws work of social work staff in Aberdeen City Council and the Integrated Joint Board.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Not applicable.
Privacy Impact Assessment	Not applicable.
Children's Rights Impact Assessment/Duty of Due Regard	Not applicable.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Chief Social Work Officer's Report 2017-18

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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