

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Public Protection Committee
<b>DATE</b>	7 October 2020
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2019/20
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	OPE/20/146
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Rob Polkinghorne
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Graeme Simpson
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Graeme Simpson
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.5

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Elected Members the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for year 2019/20. 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. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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 (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*”. The COVID pandemic has brought these challenges into sharp focus.
- 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. 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

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
<b>Financial</b>	None for this report.		
<b>Legal</b>	None for this report		
<b>Employee</b>	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 critical role social work staff undertake to assess and manage risk posed to and	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 their practice and the outcomes they deliver.

	by vulnerable children and adults.		
<b>Customer</b>	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	Customers have the opportunity to complain about the quality of services both directly and via the SPSO. A learning approach is actively taken to all complaints.  Customers also contribute to inspections via various feedback opportunities enabling them to know that their views are listened to and considered.
<b>Environment</b>	None for this report		
<b>Technology</b>	None for this report		
<b>Reputational</b>	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 our statutory responsibilities effectively can bring significant media interest and scrutiny.	L	The public can be assured that the Council ensures compliance with legal requirements and identified areas for improvement are addressed.

## 7. OUTCOMES

<b>Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Prosperous Economy</b>	Not applicable
<b>Prosperous People</b>	Social work services have a significant contribution to make delivering on the LOIP outcomes for Children and Adults – Outcomes 3 to 12.  These outcomes require agencies to work in partnership and the attached report sets out the extent to which social work services delivers on these.

<b>Prosperous Place</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Design Principles of Target Operating Model</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Customer Service Design</b>	None
<b>Organisational Design</b>	None
<b>Governance</b>	<p>There are clear and effective governance structures in place for both adult and children's social work services which ensure the safe delivery of services.</p> <p>Both services are also independently inspected by the Care Inspectorate on a cyclical basis. The care inspectorate has the authority to impose 'requirements' or make 'recommendations' on areas improvement identified during the course of their inspection activity.</p>
<b>Workforce</b>	As an employer of scoail workers the Council/IJB has a statutory duty to provide learning and development opportunities to the workforce to enable them to meet their registration requirements.
<b>Technology</b>	Not applicable
<b>Partnerships and Alliances</b>	Services to children; young people and adults are delivered on a multi-agency basis and the scrutiny, challenge and learning requires all agencies to work in partnership with each other.

## 8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Equality &amp; Human Rights Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty</b>	Not required

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**10. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Chief Social Work Officer Report 2019/20

**11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

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