
Integration Joint Board
17th September 2015
Agenda Item No. 4

Subject: **Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2014/15**

Purpose: To provide the report of the Chief Social Work Officer to the Cabinet as required by the Scottish Government's guidance.

Recommendation: That the IJB note the report set out at Appendix 1.

1.	INTRODUCTION
1.1	There is a requirement for every Local Authority to appoint a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) and this is contained within Section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 as amended by section 45 of the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994.
1.2	In line with the legislation and guidance, the CSWO is required to prepare an annual report for the Council, on all statutory, governance and leadership functions of their CSWO role.
1.3	This is the sixth annual report covering the period of April 2014 to March 2015. It is attached as Appendix 1.
2.	CURRENT POSITION
2.1	In 2014 the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser, following consultation with CSWO's across Scotland, SOLACE, the then ADSW and others, identified a more standardised approach to prepare the annual reports.
2.2	This report provides an overview by the CSWO of the partnership structures, robust governance arrangements and the performance of social services in the context of the demographic landscape of North Ayrshire and the delivery market of social services. It looks more closely at the statutory functions of the service and the quality and workforce development within our services.
2.3	The report is also forward looking, reviewing the preparation for key legislative changes that will impact on our delivery and reviewing the key challenges the service will be facing in the forthcoming year.

2.4	<p>The report highlights the range of social work activity throughout the year and places that in the context of the socioeconomic challenges faced locally. Of particular note, the following three areas should be highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most recent SIMD figures (2012) shows a worsening position in North Ayrshire in the domains of Income, Employment, Health and Crime. All of these domains are likely to impact on the demands for social work interventions and this appears to be borne out particularly in relation to increased Adult Protection activity, Mental Health, Disabilities and Destitution presentations. • There has been increased social work focus on prevention and early intervention, funded and supported by Council over the last few years. Many of these programmes (detailed in section 4) involve significant partnership working and appear to be delivering successful outcomes. • The landscape has changed dramatically over 2014/15, with social work services integrating with community health services through a Shadow Year in preparation for full implementation of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. The new Health and Social Care Partnership structures create possibilities to take a whole system approach to delivery of services and the Social Work role and function within this environment will remain a vital one if these possibilities are to be realised.
3.	PROPOSALS
3.1	It is proposed that the Cabinet note and endorse the report set out at Appendix 1.
4.	IMPLICATIONS
4.1	Financial Implications
	There are none.
4.2	Human Resource Implications
	There are none.
4.3	Legal Implications
	There are none.
4.4	Equality Implications
	There are none.
4.5	Environmental and Sustainability Implications
	There are none.
4.6	Implications for Key Priorities
	The report covers matters which contribute to the key priorities of the Single Outcome Agreement, A Working North Ayrshire, A Safer North Ayrshire and A Healthier North Ayrshire.

5.	CONSULTATIONS
5.1	No consultations were required in the preparation of this report.
6.	CONCLUSION
6.1	The CSWO Annual Report sets out for IJB members the extent and delivery of services in North Ayrshire and summarises significant aspects of performance in relation to the statutory interventions carried out by the registered social worker and care services delivered on behalf of the Local Authority.

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