
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

8 December 2021

North Ayrshire Council

Title: Appointment of Statutory Officer- Chief Social Work Officer

Purpose: To advise of the appointment of the Chief Social Work Officer.

Recommendation: To note the appointment of Scott Hunter as the Council's Chief Social Work Officer in terms of section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Council is obliged by section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1988 to appoint a Chief Social Work Officer. Following the retirement of the previous postholder, this post was filled on an interim basis. An appointment to the permanent role has been made by the Staffing and Recruitment Committee following interviews held on 22 October 2022.

2. Background

2.1 The role of Chief Social Work Officer is a statutory appointment in terms of section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1988. The duties of this post are set out in Section 13 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

2.2 The Chief Social Work Officer is appointed for the purposes of the Council's functions under the 1968 Act and under those other enactments listed in Section 5(1B) of that Act. In broad terms, those functions cover all social work and social care services whether provided directly by the Council, are delegated to the North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board, are delivered by North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership or another Health and Social Care Partnership on a Lead basis, in partnership with other agencies, or procured by the Council and provided by others on its behalf. Those functions are referred to in the Scheme of Delegation to Officers as "social work services".

2.3 The qualifications required for the post are set out in the Qualifications of Chief Social Work Officers (Scotland) Regulations 1996 (S.I. 1996/515 (1996/49)).

2.4 The Chief Social Work Officer is a "proper officer" of the Council in relation to its social work functions. By virtue of section 2(1)(b) and (6)(c) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the post is designated as a politically restricted post, and accordingly, is included in the list of such posts required to be maintained by the Council.

2.5 Previously this post was held by David MacRitchie. On his retirement, the role was filled on an interim basis.

2.6 At its meeting on 22 October 2021, the Staffing and Recruitment Committee conducted interviews for the post of Chief Social Work Officer, agreeing to appoint Scott Hunter (currently CSWO with South Ayrshire Council) to the role. The appointment will take effect from 22 December 2021. The Chief Social Work Officer role is a stand-alone Chief Officer position working collaboratively across all social care services with a focus on professional practice and standards and with accountability for providing professional social work advice and support to the Council.

3. Proposals

3.1 To note the appointment of Scott Hunter as the Council's Chief Social Work Officer in terms of section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty.

Financial

4.1 None arising from this report.

Human Resources

4.2 The appointment removes the need for interim arrangements to cover the functions relating to the role of Chief Social Work Officer.

Legal

4.3 The Council has a statutory duty to appoint a Chief Social Work Officer in terms of section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 None arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 None arising from this report.

Key Priorities

4.6 None arising from this report.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 None arising from this report.

5. Consultation

5.1 None required in the preparation of this report.

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For further information please contact Aileen Craig, **Head of Democratic Services**, on **01294 324125**.

Background Papers

1- Scheme of Delegation to Officers