

# Report

Report to:	<b>Social Work Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>15 November 2017</b>
Report by:	<b>Chief Social Work Officer, Head of Children and Justice Services</b>

Subject:	<b>Chief Social Work Officer Report 2016/2017</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ outline the content of the Chief Social Work Officers' Report 2016/2017

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the Chief Social Work Officers' Report, which will be forwarded to the Chief Social Work Advisor Scotland, be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. There is a statutory requirement for all Local Authorities to appoint a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). He/she must be registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The role of the CSWO is to provide professional advice and guidance to local authorities, elected members and officers in the provision of Social Work Services, whether commissioned or directly provided. The CSWO has a responsibility for overall performance improvement and the identification and management of corporate risk insofar as these relate to Social Work Services.
- 3.2. The CSWO is required to prepare an annual report of activity to the Chief Social Work Advisor for Scotland. The report follows a standardised reporting framework and timeframe to ensure key issues are highlighted and to aid learning and the sharing of information nationally. A summary report is also published annually by the Scottish Government. This will be the fourth CSWO report provided by South Lanarkshire Council.

## 4. CSWO Report

4.1. The report is split into sections which are briefly outlined below:-

### 4.2. Introduction

4.2.1. Introduces the purpose of the report and contextualises the role of the CSWO.

#### 4.3. **CSWO's Summary of Performance – Key challenges, developments and improvements during the year**

- 4.3.1. This section provides the national context in which Social Work Services are being delivered and details the key legislation and strategies which currently frame that delivery.
- 4.3.2. The details of the CSWO's priorities for the service are confirmed as:-
- ◆ Public Protection responsibility for Children, Adults and Multi Agency Public Protection arrangements
  - ◆ Health and Social Care Integration
  - ◆ Self Directed Support
  - ◆ implementation of the requirements of the Children and Young Peoples Act
  - ◆ implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act
  - ◆ continuing to drive forward Community Justice
- 4.3.3. A brief narrative is provided on the progress of these priorities which highlights key developments and achievements, for example, the continued development of service user/carers participation and involvement and the implementation of the Self Directed Support, Outcomes Support Plan.

#### 4.4. **Partnership Working – Governance and Accountability Arrangements**

- 4.4.1. This section details the vision, values and objectives of South Lanarkshire Council and how these link to the work of Social Work Resources. It includes an overview of the role and responsibilities of the CSWO and the systems, structures and reporting arrangements which assure the quality of Social Work Services. Responsibilities are outlined in relation to the Integrated Joint Board, Children's Services, Public Protection, Community Planning and in relation to the corporate responsibilities of the Council.
- 4.4.2. Partnership working forms the foundation of Social Work Resources' approach to supporting and protecting vulnerable adults and children. Significant work has been undertaken to develop a consistent and meaningful approach to service user and carer participation and involvement within Social Work and this is a key responsibility of the CSWO. The report highlights the Resource's Participation and Involvement Strategy built upon the principles of citizen leadership. A range of methods used to aid meaningful participation and involvement are outlined in this section including the use of the video recording device VOXUR. The Resource also has a commitment to provide advocacy.

#### 4.5. **Social Services Delivery Landscape**

- 4.5.1. Within this section, the macro environment is outlined, together with an overview of the services delivered in 2016/2017.
- 4.5.2. Illustrated are some of the challenges that require strategic and operational responses, including the projected rise in older peoples population, the impact of economic downturn and the health of South Lanarkshire's residents (being below the Scottish average as a whole). Against this backdrop, the demand for social care services continues to be high.
- 4.5.3. Also detailed is Social Work Resources' role in service provision including, in addition to in-house services, commissioned and contracted services provided by the independent, voluntary and private sector.

#### **4.6. Resources**

- 4.6.1. This section provides an overview of the resources available to provide social services within South Lanarkshire.
- 4.6.2. The total revenue budget for the delivery of social care services for 2016/2017 is also outlined. The budget of £133,161 million was allocated as follows:-
- |                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Adult and Older People       | £96.674m  |
| Children and Families        | £25.378m  |
| Justice and Substance Misuse | £ 1.070m  |
| Performance and Support      | £ 10.039m |
- 4.6.3. Also detailed are some of the financial pressures that Social Work Resources has managed over 2016/2017 and the Resources' risks as highlighted in the Resources' Risk Register.

#### **4.7. Service Quality and Performance including delivery of statutory functions**

- 4.7.1. Service performance and monitoring are intrinsic to the CSWO's role. The CSWO is active in overseeing the quality of services and is responsible for ensuring that staff are appropriately supported to carry out their professional duties.
- 4.7.2. This section highlights the range of performance measures for which the CSWO has responsibility, for example, taking forward recommendations from inspection reports, Care Inspectorate evaluations, quarterly reporting through the Council's IMPROVe system and case file audit activity.
- 4.7.3. The CSWO is also responsible for the delivery of statutory functions and the range of this responsibility is also included, for example risk management, Guardianship Orders and effective governance arrangements for the management of Adult Support and Protection and Child Protection.

#### **4.8. Workforce**

- 4.8.1. Social Services is a diverse sector in terms of job roles, career pathways and service structures. The CSWO has a key leadership role in relation to workforce planning and development, from both a local authority and partnership perspective.
- 4.8.2. This section details the CSWO's responsibility and activity in ensuring that Social Work Resources' staff and that of external providers adhere to the standards of conduct and practice within the sector and are equipped to support service users.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. There are no employee implications in relation to the report.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no financial implications in relation to the report.

## **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. There are links to the Social Work Risk Register identified within the CSWO Report.
- 7.2. There are no sustainable development issues.
- 7.3. There are no other issues associated with this report.

## **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. The report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment required.
- 8.2. Consultation with carers and service users is referenced in the CSWO report.

**Liam Purdie**  
**Chief Social Work Officer**  
**Head of Children and Justice Services**

5 October 2017

### **Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives**

- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Improve services for older people

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Social Work Resources Committee - 15 June 2016

### **List of Background Papers**

Annual Report – Chief Social Work Officer, South Lanarkshire Council 2016/2017

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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