

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 December 2019
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Chief Social Work Officer Report
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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 2018/2019

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2018/2019 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.

4. CSWO Report

4.1. The report is split into seven sections, a copy of which is attached as an appendix, and a brief summary of each section is 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

4.3.1. Key challenges, developments and improvements during the year - 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.

The details of the CSWO's priorities for the service are confirmed as:

- ◆ Public Protection for Children and Adults
- ◆ Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements
- ◆ Integration Joint Board (IJB) and development meetings for Health and Social Care Integration
- ◆ Social Work Governance Group/Clinical Governance Group
- ◆ Care Facilities Improvement Plans
- ◆ Health and Care Standards
- ◆ Data Protection, GDPR
- ◆ Procurement of Social Care Services
- ◆ Eligibility Criteria/Prioritisation
- ◆ Self-Directed Support (SDS)
- ◆ the implementation of the Community Justice model
- ◆ the requirements of the Children and Young Peoples Act 2014
- ◆ the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
- ◆ announced and unannounced inspections

4.3.2. A brief narrative is provided on the progress of these priorities which highlights key developments and achievements. Examples include the Structured Sentencing Court Pilot (SSCYP) which has undergone midterm evaluation by both the University of the West of Scotland and Community Justice (Scotland). Evaluation reflects that over 80% of young people attending the SSCYP at Hamilton Sheriff Court complied with the requirements of their six month Structured Deferred Sentence and were admonished at the end of this. All the young people reported greater citizenship and as such were more employable at the end of the intervention.

4.4. Partnership Working – Governance and Accountability Arrangements

4.4.1. This section details the vision, values and objectives of South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) and how these link to the work of Social Work Resources (SWR). 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 IJB, 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 SWR 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 and provides examples of the range of methods used to engage with service users and carers. The consultation which was undertaken with carers in relation to the development of the Carers Strategy 2019 to 2022 provides an example. Following wide distribution, 306 carers completed and returned a survey in relation to the services currently available in South Lanarkshire. This was followed by two workshops where thirty six carers had the opportunity to analyse the results and contribute to the design and content of the Strategy.

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 2018/2019.

4.5.2. Illustrated are some of the challenges that require strategic and operational responses including the projected rise in older people's population 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 SWR 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 2018/2019 is also outlined. The net revenue budget of £151.379 million was allocated as follows:

Adult and Older People	£ 111.524m
Children and Families	£ 29.488m
Justice and Substance Misuse	£ 1.102m
Performance and Support	£ 9.265m

4.6.3. Also detailed are some of the financial pressures that SWR has managed over 2018/2019 and the Resources' risks as highlighted in the Resource's 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's 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 responsibility and activity in ensuring that SWR staff and that of external providers adhere to the standards of conduct and practice within the sector and are equipped to support service users.

4.9. Performance, Data and Trends

4.9.1. Some additional information laid out in charts and tables have been incorporated into this 2018/2019 Chief Social Work Officer Report to give an understanding of trends over time across a range of service areas.

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 (Including Environmental and Risk Issues)

- 7.1. There are no risks associated with this report.
- 7.2. There are no sustainable development issues associated with this report.
- 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 is required.
- 8.2. Consultation with carers and service users is referenced in the report.

Val de Souza

Director, Health and Social Care

16 October 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives/Ambitions

- ◆ protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ deliver better health and social care outcomes for all
- ◆ improve later life

Previous References

- ◆ Social Work Resources Committee 28 November 2018

List of Background Papers

Annual Report – Chief Social Work Officer, South Lanarkshire Council 2018/2019

Contact for Further Information

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

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