



Dumfries and Galloway  
Integration Joint Board

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

This Report relates to  
Item 5 on the Agenda

# Chief Social Work Officers Annual Report 2019/2020

*Paper presented by Lillian Cringles, CSWO*

*For Noting*

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<b>Approved for Submission by:</b>	Social Work Services Department, Dumfries and Galloway Council
<b>List of Background Papers:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>Appendix 1</b> – Chief Social Work Officers Annual Report 2019/2020

<b>Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both</b>	<b>Direction to:</b>	
	1. No Direction Required	X
	2. Dumfries and Galloway Council	
	3. NHS Dumfries and Galloway	
	4. Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS Dumfries and Galloway	

1.	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>1.1 The Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) is required to prepare an Annual Report to the Local Authority as required by the National Guidance on the Role of the CSWO.</p>
2.	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>2.1 <b>The Integration Joint Board is asked to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Note the performance of the Social Work Services in respect of key duties and responsibilities for which the Chief Social Work Officer has overall responsibility for as detailed in the Appendix.</b></li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Background and Main Report</b></p> <p>3.1 The requirement for every local authority to appoint a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) is set out in Section 45 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.</p> <p>3.2 The particular qualifications are set down in the regulations. In March 2009, the Scottish Government published national guidance on the 'Role of the CSWO: Principals, Requirements and Guidance'. The role provides professional governance, leadership and accountability for the delivery of social work and social care services, whether they are provided directly by the local authority or purchased from the private or voluntary sectors.</p> <p>3.3 Social Work Services are delivered within a framework of statutory duties and powers imposed on the local authority. Services are also required to meet national standards and to provide best value. A number of duties and decisions which relate, in the main, to public protection and the restriction of an individual's freedom, must by law be made by either the CSWO or a professionally qualified and registered Social Worker who has been given delegated authority by the CSWO. Ultimately the CSWO remains accountable for all decisions. The 2009 guidance requires CSWO to produce an annual report, a copy of which is attached at <b>Appendix 1.</b></p> <p>3.4 The period required to be covered within this report is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The report provides an overview of Social Work service activity and achievements during this period. This has been a challenging time for the service due to the significant reduction in the Social Work budget and the increased demand for services in all three areas; Children and Families, Adult Services and Justice and Covid 19 and how the services has responded to these challenges.</p> <p>3.5 This report provides information on the statutory decisions made by the CSWO on behalf of the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and highlights some key challenges for the service in the forthcoming year. The report if not exhaustive, however, it recognises the significant challenges we face in the year ahead both internally and at a national level.</p> <p>3.6 Note the following areas within the CSWO Report for Dumfries and Galloway and recognised within the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That there is a limited capacity to redesign services and to find continued savings, without that impacting on current service quality for all aspects</li> </ol>

within Social Work Services.

2. Recruitment was the most commonly discussed challenge in workforce planning for all CSWO and there was widespread agreement about the serious challenges faced.
3. The CSWO advisor shared the concerns of CSWOs about the scope for services to absorb further savings.
4. Note the increasing complexity of the Social Work Service environment and the CSWO role.
5. Note the move towards integrated and multi-disciplinary services, and outcome-focused working across the public sector, has increased the legislative obligations related to particular service areas and functions.
6. Note the areas of good practice identified within the report for Dumfries and Galloway.

#### **4. Conclusions**

- 4.1 The IJB are asked to note the performance of Social Work Services in respect of key duties and responsibilities for which the CSWO has overall responsibility for as detailed in Appendix 1.

#### **5. Resource Implications**

- 5.1 There are no resource implications identified as a result of this report.

#### **6. Impact on Integration Joint Board Outcomes, Priorities and Policy**

- 6.1 The work of Social Work Services impacts on the 9 National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes for Health and Social Care.

#### **7. Legal and Risk Implications**

- 7.1 Any legal and or risk implications are identified within the Report and in 4.1

#### **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 This is a procedural report and the appropriate consultation has been undertaken.

#### **9. Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment**

- 9.1 As this report does not propose a change in policy/strategy/plan/project, it is not necessary to complete an Impact Assessment.

#### **10. Glossary**

- 10.1 All acronyms must be set out in full the first time they appear in a paper with the acronym following in brackets.

<b>CSWO</b>	<b>Chief Social Work Officer</b>
<b>HSCP</b>	<b>Health and Social Care Partnership</b>
<b>IJB</b>	<b>Integration Joint Board</b>