



Integration Joint Board

1st February 2018

This Report relates to
Item 6 on the Agenda

Chief Social Work Officers Annual Report 2016-17

*(Paper presented by Lillian Cringles, Chief Social Work
Officer)*

For Noting

Approved for Submission by	Social Work Services, Dumfries and Galloway Council
Author	Lillian Cringles, CSWO
List of Background Papers	Not Applicable
Appendices	Appendix 1 Chief Social Work Officers Annual Report

SECTION 1: REPORT CONTENT

Title/Subject: Chief Social Work Officers Annual Report 2016-17

Meeting: Integration Joint Board

Date: 1st February 2018

Submitted By: Lillian Cringles, CSWO

Action: For Noting

1. Introduction

- 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.
- 1.2 As outlined in Section 5.13 of the Integration Scheme it states that the CSWO Annual Report will also be presented to the Integration Joint Board on an annual basis.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **The Integration Joint Board is asked to:**
 - **Note the Performance of Social Work Services in respect of key duties and responsibilities for which the Chief Social Work Officer has overall responsibility for as detailed in Appendix 1**

3. Background

- 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.
- 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: Principles, 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.

4. Main Body of the Report

- 4.1 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's to produce an annual report, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The period required to be covered within this Report is 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. 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.
- 4.3 This Report provides information on the statutory decisions made by the Chief Social Work Officer on behalf of the Council and highlights some key challenges for the service in the forthcoming year. The Report is not exhaustive, however, it recognises the significant challenges we face in the year ahead both internally and at national level. The Service will require to be robust in its prioritisation of the workloads and will require the support of the Social Work Services Committee as we move towards further changes in our services delivery.

SECTION 2: COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

5. Resource Implications

5.1. Not Applicable

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

6.1. Not Applicable

7. Legal & Risk Implications

7.1. As outlined in Section 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. CSWO Chief Social Work Officer