



Dumfries and Galloway
Integration Joint Board

17th December 2024

This Report relates to
Item 11 on the Agenda

Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report 2023 / 2024

Paper presented by Charles Rocks, Head of Children and Families

For Noting

Author:	Stephen Morgan, Service Director
Approved for Submission by:	Stephen Morgan, Service Director
List of Background Papers:	N/A
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – CSWO Annual Report 2023-2024

Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	Title	Reference Number
	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	X
	2. Dumfries and Galloway Council	
	3. NHS Dumfries and Galloway	
	4. Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS	

1.	Introduction
1.1	The Chief Social Work Officer is required to prepare an Annual Report to the Local Authority as required by the National Guidance on the Role of the CSWO.
2.	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Integration Joint Board is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the performance of the Social Work Services in respect of key duties and responsibilities for which the CSWO has overall responsibility for as detailed in the Appendix.
3.	Background and Main Report
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.
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 CSWOs to produce an annual report, a copy of which is attached as an Appendix .
3.4	The period required to be covered within this report is 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. 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 how the service has responded to these challenges.
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 is not exhaustive, however, it recognises the significant challenges we face in the year ahead both internal and at a national level.
3.6	Note the following areas both within the CSWO report for Dumfries and Galloway and recognised within the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government:-
	1. That there is a limited capacity to redesign services and to find continued

	<p>savings, without that impacting on current service quality for all aspect within the Social Work Service.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 shares the concern 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	IJB are asked to note the performance of the Social Work Service in respect of key duties and responsibilities for which the Chief Social Work Officer has overall responsibility for as detailed in the Appendix .				
5.	Resource Implications				
5.1	Not applicable.				
6.	Impact on Integration Joint Board Outcomes, Priorities and Policy				
6.1	Not applicable.				
7.	Legal and Risk Implications				
7.1	As per 3.3.				
8.	Consultation				
8.1	This is a procedural report and the appropriate consultation has been undertaken.				
9.	Equality 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				
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