



Dumfries and Galloway
Integration Joint Board

16th December 2025

This Report relates to
Item 11 on the Agenda

Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report 2024 / 2025

Paper presented by Stephen Morgan

For Noting

Author:	Stephen Morgan, Service Director Social Work Services		
Approved for Submission by:	Stephen Morgan, Service Director Social Work Services		
List of Background Papers:	N/A		
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – CSWO Annual Report 2024 - 2025		
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 Dumfries and Galloway			

1.	<p>Introduction</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>Recommendations</p> <p>2.1 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.	<p>Background and Main Report</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: 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.</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 CSWOs to produce an annual report, a copy of which is attached as an Appendix.</p> <p>3.4 The period required to be covered within this report is 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. This report outlines the continuing challenging context for Social Work Services in Dumfries and Galloway, arising from the growth in demand for services, service complexity, new legislative responsibilities, specific financial and workforce pressures and how the service has responded to these challenges. Against this background, the overall performance of the Social Work Service has improved with identified areas of achievements which are reflected within the Chief Social Work Officers annual report.</p> <p>3.5 This report provides information on the statutory decisions made by the CSWO on behalf of the Council and highlights key challenges for the service. The report is not exhaustive, however, it recognises the significant challenges we face in the year ahead both internal and at a 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 service delivery.</p>

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		
10.1	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>CSWO</td> <td>Chief Social Work Officer</td> </tr> </table>	CSWO	Chief Social Work Officer
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