



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 6 DECEMBER 2023

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER
2022-2023**

BY: CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1. To inform the Council of the annual report of the Chief Social Work Officer on the statutory work undertaken on the Council's behalf during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 inclusive.
- 1.2. This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section III (A) (4) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to monitoring performance of the services within the Committee's remit in accordance with the Council's performance management framework.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Council consider and note the contents of this report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In compliance with their statutory functions under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, all local authorities have a CSWO. For a number of years CSWOs have produced Annual Reports about social work services which are provided for the Scottish Government, relevant committees, full Council and Integration Joint Boards.
- 3.2 The Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser in the Scottish Government (OCSWA) collates an overview Summary Report based on the key content of the reports from all local authorities in Scotland. This summary would:
 - Be of value to CSWOs and also support the CSWA in their role of raising the profile and highlighting the value and contribution of social work services; and
 - Be a useful addition to the set of information available to aid understanding of quality and performance in social work services across Scotland.
- 3.3 The Council's Social Work Services require to support, protect and uphold the rights of people of all ages as well as contributing to community safety by

having effective justice social work services. Social Work has to manage this together with the implications of significant demographic change and financial constraint whilst fulfilling a widening array of legal obligations and duties.

3.4 The annual report is attached at **APPENDIX 1**.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

This report is in line with Moray 2026 Plan – healthier citizens, ambitious and confident young people, adults living healthier, sustainable independent lives safeguarded from harm and Council priority 4 – More of our children have a better start in life and are ready to succeed.

(b) Policy and Legal

The services referred to in this report fall within the scope of a number of important pieces of legislation including:

- Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968
- The Adult Support & Protection (Scotland) Act 2007
- The Community Care & Health (Scotland) Act 2002
- The Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- The Joint Inspection of Children’s Services & Inspection of Social Work Services (Scotland) Act 2006
- Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007
- Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009
- The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014
- Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

Significant policies and white papers that relate to these services include:

- Changing Lives, the Future of Unpaid Care in Scotland (2006)
- Delivery for Health (2005)
- All our Futures: Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population (2007)
- Better Health, Better Care: Action Plan for a Healthier Scotland (2007)
- Better Outcomes for Older People: Framework for Joint Services (2005)
- The Independent Care Review: The Promise (2020)
- The Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland (2021)
- National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, The Scottish Government (2021)

(c) Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Future priorities will be addressed within the context of the financial planning process.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications associated with or arising from this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications directly relating to this report.

(f) Property

There are no property implications arising from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

There are no issues directly arising from this report.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

There are no issues directly arising from this report.

(i) Consultations

The following have been consulted in the preparation of this report: MIJB Senior Management Team; Legal Services Manager; and Democratic Services Manager, who are in agreement with the content of this report relating to their service area.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 This report provides an update of CSWO oversight and activity.

Author of Report: Tracy Stephen, Chief Social Work Officer/Head of Service
Background Papers: Appendix 1

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