



REPORT TO: SPECIAL MEETING OF MORAY COUNCIL ON 17 DECEMBER 2019

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER 2018-2019

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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 2018 to 31 March 2019 inclusive.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council in term of Section II (14) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Social Work Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

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

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In compliance with statutory functions under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, all local authorities have a Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). For a number of years CSWOs have produced Annual Reports about social work services which are provided for relevant committees, Council and Integration Joint Boards.
- 3.2 The Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser (OCSWA) in the Scottish Government 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 and protect people of all ages as well as contributing to community safety by reducing offending and managing the risk posed by known offenders. 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)
- National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, The Scottish Government 2014

(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

An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the report is to inform Council on performance.

(h) Consultations

The following have been consulted in the preparation of this report: Corporate Management Team; Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Moray, Morag Smith, Senior Solicitor; Acting Head of Housing & Property; Caroline Howie, Committee Services Officer and Head of Children's Services Social Work, who are in agreement with the content of this report relating to their area.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 This report shows that Social Work in Moray is adapting and developing to meet current circumstances to better meet the needs of the local population.

Author of Report: Jane Mackie, Chief Social Work Officer
Background Papers: with author
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