

ANGUS COUNCIL

10 SEPTEMBER 2020

ANNUAL CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER REPORT 2019 to 2020

**REPORT BY KATHRYN LINDSAY, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND JUSTICE
SERVICE and CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER**

ABSTRACT

This report presents the Angus Council Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report for 2019 to 2020. The report and its consideration is a requirement to ensure oversight and accountability within the local authority for all social work and social care services, including those delegated to the Integration Joint Board. Following consideration by Council, the report is required to be submitted to Scottish Government.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- (i) Note and endorse the contents of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2019 to 2020 (appended to this report)
- (ii) Acknowledge the significant efforts of social work and social care staff across all sectors, as well as unpaid carers, in continuing to support the people of Angus.
- (iii) Approves the publication of the report
- (iv) Notes that the approved report will be submitted to Scottish Government

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1 This report is related to the following local outcomes as stated in the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-2030 and the Council Plan 2019 to 2024:
 - Local Outcome 4 - The best start in life for children
 - Local Outcome 5 - More opportunities for people to achieve success
 - Local Outcome 6 - Improved physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing
- 2.2 Council priorities:
 - We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities
 - We want our communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report follows the annual report for 2018-2019 and provides a further evaluation report of social work services, including commissioned services delivered during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.
- 3.2 The Chief Social Work Officer has a statutory requirement to produce an annual report to provide an overview of social work services in Angus. The Chief Social Work Officer also has a responsibility to report directly to elected members and the Chief Executive in respect of any significant, serious or immediate risk or concern arising from statutory responsibilities within her professional remit.
- 3.3 The report details arrangements within Angus Council to enable the Chief Social Work Officer to fulfil the responsibilities outlined in Section 5 (1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (as amended)

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The detail in the report outlines how Angus Council performed in the delivery of a wide range of social work and social care services during 2019/2020. It draws on a range of performance information, a proportion of which will have been considered throughout the year by individual Council committees and/or the Integration Joint Board. The outcome of external and internal evaluation and engagement activities are also referenced, including:

- Summary of Performance - key achievements and challenges, developments and improvements during the year
- Service quality and performance including delivery of statutory functions
- Finance
- Workforce
- Early impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19)
- Current priorities for recovery in response to Covid-19

4.2 Throughout 2019/20, we have continued to provide high quality, flexible services to children, young people and adults who need additional support. There are numerous examples of innovative practice and developments to improve outcomes for people using our services. This year's report comes at a very difficult time and reflects the challenges faced by the citizens of Angus and staff across all services as a result of Covid-19.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that members:

- (i) Note and endorse the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2019 to 2020
- (ii) Acknowledge the significant efforts of social work and social care staff across all sectors, as well as unpaid carers, in continuing to support the people of Angus.
- (iii) Approve the submission of the report to Scottish Government

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

Chief Social Work Officer, Draft Chief Social Officer Annual Report 2019 to 2020 (Once approved it will be published in a PDF format)