

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 AUGUST 2021**

**ANNUAL CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER REPORT 2020-2021**

**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 2020 to 2021. The report and its consideration are 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 scrutiny and consideration by Council, the report is required to be submitted to Scottish Government.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:

- (i) Scrutinise and comment on the contents of the Annual Chief Social Work Officer Report for 2020-21 (appendix 1).

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN**

- 2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:
  - 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
  - We want Angus Council to be effective and efficient

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The previous Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report covered the period 2019-20 and made some comment on the initial impact of Covid-19 on social work and social care services. This report is the annual evaluation report of social work services, including commissioned services delivered during the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- 3.2 Statutory Guidance issued by the Scottish Government requires the Chief Social Work Officer to produce an annual report that provides 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 contained in the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and the legislation referred to in Section 5 (1B) of that Act..

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The report provides an overview of how Angus Council delivered a wide range of social work and social care services during 2020-2021. It draws on a range of performance information, some of which will have been reported to individual Council Committees and/or the Integration Joint Board throughout the year. The outcome of external and internal evaluation and improvement 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
  - Priorities for recovery in response to Covid-19
- 4.2 The report for 2020-2021 covers a year where the impact of Covid-19 has been felt by all individuals and families throughout Angus. Across the council, partnerships and in communities everyone has been working hard together to provide safe and efficient services to support the citizens of Angus. Social work services in the Children, Families and Justice Service and the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership have continued to deliver support to the most vulnerable individuals and families across our communities. They have been supported in that endeavour by a wide range of colleagues across the Council, an army of unpaid carers, those in the independent and third sectors including community volunteers,

#### **5. PROPOSAL**

Members are asked to scrutinise the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report and to make any comment regarding its contents.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

#### **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

A screening Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

#### **8. CONSULTATION**

All directors of Angus Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report, as has the Chief Integration Officer, the Depute Chief Executive and Chief Executive of Angus Council.

**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:

Appendix 1 - Chief Social Work Officer, Draft Chief Social Officer Annual Report 2020-2021 (Once approved by Angus Council it will be published in a PDF format).



## Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

### Step 1

#### Name of Proposal

ANNUAL CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER REPORT 2020 to 2021

### Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment

Yes

**(A)** If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people

Yes

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics

No

(iii) It is for information only

Yes

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year

Yes

(v) It is technical

No

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

**Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation.** Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Karen Ross, Senior Practitioner, 30/7/2021

Reviewed by: Kirsty Lee, Service Leader, 30.7.2021

Approved by: Kathryn Lindsay, Director of Children Families and Justice/CSWO  
30/7/21