

ANGUS COUNCIL

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 22 AUGUST 2023
ANGUS COUNCIL – 7 SETEMBER 2023**

ANNUAL CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER REPORT 2022-2023

REPORT BY KATHRYN LINDSAY, CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

ABSTRACT

This report presents the Angus Council Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report for 2022 to 2023. 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 scrutiny and consideration by relevant Council committees, the report is required to be submitted to Scottish Government.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:

- (i) Scrutinises and comments on the contents of the Annual Chief Social Work Officer Report for 2022-23 (appendix 1).

It is recommended that Angus Council:

- (i) notes and endorse the contents of the Chief Social Work Annual Report for 2022-23 (appendix 1).

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

2.1 This report refers to services which contribute to the following Council Plan priorities:

- Support and deliver programmes that help people into work
- Reduce inequalities in all our communities
- Provide the best start in life for children
- Create more opportunities for people to live well and achieve their personal goals
- Improve physical, mental health and wellbeing
- Enable inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe communities across Angus
- Make our local services accessible

2.2 The services covered within the report also contribute to a wide range of other overarching strategic and partnership plans including the Tayside Children, Young People and Families Plan; the Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan; the Community Justice Partnership Plan and the full range of protecting people partnerships and community planning partnership plans.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 This Annual Chief Social Work Officer Report provides an overview of social work and social care services, including commissioned services delivered during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

3.2 There is a statutory requirement for the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) to produce an annual report giving an overview of social work and social care services in Angus. The CSWO 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 CSWO to fulfil the responsibilities outlined in Section 5 (1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (as amended).

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The report at Appendix 1 outlines how Angus Council performed in the delivery of a wide range of social work and social care services during 2022-2023. It draws on a range of performance information, a proportion of which will have been considered in more depth throughout the year by individual Council Committees and/or the Integration Joint Board. It should be noted that there is also overlap with separate detailed annual reports in relation to both Adult and Child Protection Committees given the significant role that social work holds in these multi-agency systems.
- 4.2 The outcomes of key external and internal evaluation and improvement activities are 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
- 4.3 The report acknowledges the pressures that impact on the delivery of services and the continued increase in service demand this year including the cost-of-living crisis and the budgetary pressures on all local authority and partner services. The CSWO acknowledges the significant impact of the socio-economic and policy climate during the year and commends the workforce, including paid and unpaid carers, for their commitment and dedication to their provision of support to those who need it.
- 4.4 The report summarises key priorities for social work and social care for 2023-24 including work to ensure sufficient provision of local care options for children, young people and adults, continued development of support for carers and whole family support alongside managing the implications emerging from the National Care Service Bill and other significant policy and legislative developments.
- 4.5 The Chief Social Work Officer will continue to discharge her duties in respect of professional oversight of social work practice and delivery and maintain membership of strategic governance groups as described in the report.

5. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that members scrutinise, note and endorse the contents of the Chief Social Work Annual Report for 2022-23 prior to its submission to Scottish Government.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment screening assessment has been carried out, no full EIA is required as this is a summary information 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:

Draft Chief Social Officer Annual Report 2022 to 2023 (Once endorsed by Angus Council it will be published in a PDF format)



Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

Angus Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2022-2023

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

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

Prepared by: Karen Ross - Senior Practitioner, 30/6/2023

Reviewed by: Kathryn Lindsay - Director of Children, Families and Justice 30/6/2023

Approved by: Kathryn Lindsay - Director of Children, Families and Justice 30/6/2023