

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Integration Joint Board	
Held on:	11th December 2024	
Agenda Item:	13	
Title:	Chief Social Work Officer Report	
Summary:		
The purpose of this report is to update Integration Joint Board on the performance of statutory social work services for 2023-2024.		
Author:	Gary Hoey, Chief Social Work Officer	
Recommendations:		
It is recommended that the IJB considers the performance of statutory social work services and pressures outlined.		
Route to meeting:		
Directions:		
1. No Directions Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Implications:		
		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>
	HR	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Equalities	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ICT	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Integration Joint Board on the performance of statutory social work services for 2023-2024.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the IJB considers the performance of statutory social work services and pressures outlined.**

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Every local authority must have a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) as per Section 45 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994. The role of the CSWO is to ensure the provision of appropriate professional advice in the discharge of a local authority's statutory functions as described in Section 5 (1B) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.
- 3.2 The role covers the full range of a local authority's social work functions to provide a focus for professional leadership and governance. The role provides strategic and professional leadership in the delivery of social work services.
- 3.3 The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 provides for the delegation of certain social work functions by a local authority to an integration authority – for example, a Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 3.4 The Scottish Government requires the CSWO to produce an annual report of service quality and performance, key challenges, and for this particular year, the initial impact of COVID-19.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 The CSWO annual report (Appendix 1) highlights areas of performance across statutory Social Work services. The CSWO would wish to draw attention to the following key points within the report:
- 4.1.1 Overall the report highlights an increasing demand on Social Work Services across Child Protection, Adult Support and Protection, Child and Families Services, Justice Services and Adult Services.
- 4.1.2 The transformational work to enable those who use our services choice and control over their care and support to enable to start well, live well and age well specifically in the areas of promotion of power of attorney, supported decision making, self-directed support and 'good conversations.
- 4.1.3 The positive development in relation to the implementation of embedding the recommendations of the Adult Social Work Learning Review / ADP Recovery

is Reality to develop local accessible resources ensuring that we get the right support to our people at the right time.

- 4.1.4 The positive implementation of our Workforce Plan that seeks to address the retention and recruitment and wellbeing issues within the profession.
- 4.1.5 The strong performance in the majority of our own and commissioned care providers and care at home providers supported by our Community Services Oversight Group and Care Home Review Team.
- 4.1.6 The extensive work and commitment towards reducing the level of delayed transfers of care and the positive trajectory achieved by this work.
- 4.2 Alongside these key issues, the CSWO would wish to publicly recognise and acknowledge the skills and compassion shown by our practitioners, managers and partners every day to provide services to our community.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 5.1 Elements of the CSWO Annual Report relate to the following strategic objectives:
 - We help build communities where people are safe
 - We focus on prevention and tackling inequality
 - We are transparent and listen to you
 - We nurture and are part of communities that care for each other
 - We are an ambitious and effective Partnership
 - We make a positive impact beyond the services we deliver
 - We work together to give you the right care in the right place

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

- 6.1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report beyond those contextualised within the body of the annual report.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

- 6.2.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report beyond those contextualised within the body of the annual report.

6.3 Legal Implications

- 6.3.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report beyond those contextualised within the body of the annual report.

6.4 Equalities implications

- 6.4.1 The proposals in this report allow scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery), both new and at review, that affect the Council's communities and employees, therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 The report contains professional assessment of key performance measures and pressures across social work services.

7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7.1 The report draws on local and national data. The portfolio holder and cabinet have been appraised of the content of the reports and approved.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 There are no risks associated with this report beyond those contextualised within the body of the annual report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Chief Social Work Officer Report 2023 – 2024

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

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