

## **REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD 11 OCTOBER 2023**

### **CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023**

#### **1 Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB):**

- 1.1 Consider and comment on the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report for the 2022/2023 financial year in relation to Children and Adult Social Work Services (Appendix 1);**
- 1.2 Acknowledge the level of investment in Children and Adult Social Work Services for the residents of Aberdeenshire; and**
- 1.3 Acknowledge the commitment of social work staff in the consistent delivery of high performing services.**

#### **2 Directions**

- 2.1 No direction requires to be issued to Aberdeenshire Council or NHS Grampian as a result of this report.**

#### **3 Risk**

- 3.1 IJB Risk 1589 (Risk of failure to deliver standards of care expected by the people of Aberdeenshire in the right place at the right time)**

#### **4 Background**

- 4.1 Social Work and social care services span a wide range of responsibilities concerned with protecting, supporting, and caring for some of the most vulnerable people in the community. The service spans all ages from pre-birth to end of life and has a strong professional focus on diversity and equality.**
- 4.2 Social Work and Social Care Services provide support and offer protection to some of the most vulnerable groups in society. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many aspects of day-to-day work, it is testament to the resilience of social work and social care staff that the needs of so many people across Aberdeenshire have been met during this pandemic.**
- 4.3 The role of the Chief Social Work Officer covers all aspects of social work, however it predominately centres on the statutory responsibilities placed on Aberdeenshire Council and those involved in discharging duties laid out within a range of distinct legislation. However, oversight is not limited to these**



specific functions and the role of the CSWO has a wider remit in terms of monitoring performance across all areas captured within the terms “social work” and “social care”.

- 4.4 The Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2022/23 describes services which are performing well with many areas evidencing innovative practice; both inspired by the creativity of teams with the aim of improving service delivery, or in direct response to existing or predicted challenges.
- 4.5 Social work and social care services are delivered by a substantial number of staff from statutory, third and independent sector organisations. Across all sectors involved in the delivery of social work and social care services, workforce remains a key focus, both in terms of recruitment and retention. In addition, the annual report highlights the challenges associated with maintaining sufficient investment of resources to allow for the proper discharge of statutory responsibilities and those more widely associated with supporting and caring for people.

## **5 Summary**

- 5.1 The CSWO report describes services which are performing well in most of the key areas upon which the report is focussed.
- 5.2 In those areas where improvement was required, timely and effective remedial measures have been put in place.
- 5.3 Currently there are no specific areas that require additional scrutiny beyond that provided by existing processes.
- 5.4 The Chief Officer, along with the Chief Finance Officer and the Legal Monitoring Officers within Business Services of the Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments have been incorporated within the report.

## **6 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications**

- 6.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required for the annual report as its purpose is to report on social work and social care provision over the most recent financial year. There will be no differential impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics.

***Leigh Jolly, Chief Social Work Officer***  
**Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership**

Report prepared by Leigh Jolly  
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