



## AGENDA ITEM NO 7

### REPORT NO IJB 61/24

## ANGUS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

30 OCTOBER 2024

### CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT

#### REPORT BY KIRSTY LEE, CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

#### 1 ABSTRACT

This report presents the Angus Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report for 2023 to 2024. The report and its consideration are a requirement to ensure oversight and accountability within Angus Integration Joint Board (AIJB) for adult social work and social care services, including those delegated to AIJB. Following scrutiny and consideration by Committee, the report is required to be submitted to Scottish Government.

#### 2 ALIGNMENT TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

This report aligns with the following priorities within Angus Strategic Commissioning Plan

- Priority 1 - Prevention and Proactive Care
- Priority 2 - Care Closer to Home
- Priority 3 - Mental Health & Wellbeing and Substance Use

The services covered within this report also contribute to several other overarching strategic and partnership plans including the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2023-2026; the Community Justice Partnership Plan and the full range of Protecting People Partnerships and Community Planning Partnership plans.

#### 3 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Angus Integration Joint Board discuss and endorse the contents of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report for 2023-24 [Link to Chief Social Workers Annual Report](#)

#### 4 BACKGROUND

This Annual Chief Social Work Officer Report provides an overview of social work and social care services covering the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

There is a statutory requirement for the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) to prepare and publish an annual report in relation to the CSWO role. The CSWO role was established to ensure the provision of appropriate professional advice in the discharge of a local authority's statutory functions. As a matter of good practice, it is expected that the CSWO will undertake the role across the full range of a local authority's social work functions to provide a focus for professional leadership and governance. The CSWO also has a responsibility to report in respect of any significant, serious, or immediate risk or concern arising from statutory responsibilities within her professional remit.

The presentation of the annual CSWO report offers the opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of social work practices and interventions, identify areas for improvement and strategies to address these and provide assurance there is compliance with legislation in a challenging financial and policy environment.

The CSWO report is not a performance report and specific performance data is reported through Children, Families and Justice Performance Reports and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) Annual Performance Report. The report follows guidance and format issued by the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser in Scottish Government.

## **5 CURRENT POSITION**

The CSWO Annual Report outlines how Angus Council and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership performed in the delivery of a wide range of social work and social care services during 2023-2024. The governance of all social work services in Angus continues to be undertaken by the CSWO, who is also the Interim Director of Children, Families and Justice. The report also relates to the specific areas of decision-making and practice where legislation confers functions directly on the CSWO.

The outcomes of external scrutiny and internal audit and self-evaluation improvement work are highlighted, including:

- Service quality and performance information including delivery of statutory functions.
- Challenges, developments, and improvements.
- Financial resources.
- Workforce including recruitment and retention of staff.

The report highlights the pressure on services with high service demand continuing over this year and the delivery of high-quality services within the budgetary restraints experienced across Angus Council and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership. The CSWO acknowledges the local and national pressures experienced by the citizens of Angus and commends the social work and social care workforce including unpaid carers for their ongoing hard work and commitment to supporting children, young people and adults under difficult circumstances.

## **6 PROPOSALS**

It is proposed that members scrutinise, note and endorse the contents of the Chief Social Work Annual Report for 2023-24 and recommend AJJB note the report prior to its submission to Scottish Government.

## **7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **8 RISK MANAGEMENT**

There are risks associated with the levels of unmet need in Angus. The report highlights mitigating actions and developments AHSCP are taking to address levels of unmet need, however there is a recognition that risk exists and is being managed and recorded via AHSCP Clinical, Care and Professional Governance Group.

## **9 PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

There are public health implications in respect of the challenges associated with levels of unmet need in Angus. Linked to this is the impact on unpaid carers and the role they play in supporting the cared for person when there are levels of need not being met by services.

## **10 CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **11 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY**

A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the following reason: - this is a summary information report.

## 12 COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal, Governance and Change within Angus Council; and Chief Officer, AHSCP have been consulted on the terms of the Report.

The Executive Leadership Team in AHSCP and the Senior Leadership Team in Children, Families and Justice Service, Angus Council were consulted.

## 13 DIRECTIONS

The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans, and this is provided for in Section 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Angus Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Angus Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:	
	No Direction Required	x
	Angus Council	
	NHS Tayside	
	Angus Council and NHS Tayside	

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