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East Dunbartonshire Council

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COUNCIL THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

REFERENCE: EDC/005/23/CS

LEAD OFFICER: CHIEF OFFICER (HSCP)

CONTACT OFFICER: CAROLINE SINCLAIR, CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER,

SUBJECT TITLE: CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Report is to present the Chief Social Work Officer's (CSWO) annual report for the period 2022 – 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

2.1 Note the content of this report.

GERRY CORNES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

3.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

3.1 Each year, the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) is required to produce a summary report advising the Council of performance in relation to the discharge of statutory duties and responsibilities, as well as the functions of the CSWO.

3.2 The Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government developed a standardised framework for reporting in order to ensure consistency across Scotland. This report is structured around that framework and provides the annual report for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 (Appendix 1).

3.3 Local Authorities are legally required to appoint a professionally qualified CSWO under section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. The overall objective of the CSWO is to ensure the provision of effective professional advice to Local Authorities and Integration Authorities in relation to the delivery of social work services as outlined in legislation. The statutory guidance states that the CSWO should assist Local Authorities, Integration Authorities and their partners in understanding the complexities and cross cutting nature of social work service delivery, as well as its contribution to local and national outcomes.

- 3.4** Key matters such as child protection, adult protection and the management of high-risk offenders are covered in this report. The report also provides information relating to governance, service quality and performance, challenges and service improvements, resources, and workforce matters.
- 3.5** The information contained within the report reflects the key matters during the year 2022 – 2023, a period in which the covid 19 pandemic, and the recovery journey, continued to influence the context for services, and the people who use them.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

The implications for the Council are as undernoted.

- 4.1** Frontline Service to Customers – This report reflects a summary of performance in relation to front line services to customers.
- 4.2** Workforce (including any significant resource implications) – This report includes reflection on matters relating to the social work and social care workforce and as such is relevant to ongoing workforce planning processes.
- 4.3** Legal Implications – This report relates to the delivery of statutory services.
- 4.4** Financial Implications – The work described in this report is carried out within the financial resources allocated to social work and social care services.
- 4.5** Procurement – None.
- 4.6** ICT – None.
- 4.7** Corporate Assets – None.
- 4.8** Equalities Implications – None.
- 4.9** Corporate Parenting – This report includes reflection on statutory work with children and young people and so is relevant to, and reflects positively on, the Council's engagement with Corporate Parenting duties.
- 4.10** Other – None.

5.0 MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The risks and control measures relating to this Report are as follows: -

- 5.1** There are no risk and control measures relating to this report,

6.0 IMPACT

- 6.1 ECONOMIC GROWTH & RECOVERY** – None.

6.2 EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS – None.

6.3 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE – This report relates to the delivery of statutory duties including duties to children and young people.

6.4 SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES - This report relates to the delivery of statutory duties including duties that promote safer and stronger communities.

6.5 ADULT HEALTH & WELLBEING - This report relates to the delivery of statutory duties including the delivery of services that affect the health and wellbeing of adults.

6.6 OLDER ADULTS, VULNERABLE PEOPLE & CARERS - This report relates to the delivery of statutory duties to older adults, vulnerable people and carers.

6.7 CLIMATE CHANGE – None.

6.8 STATUTORY DUTY – There is a requirement for an annual report as per the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

7.0 POLICY CHECKLIST

7.1 This Report has been assessed against the Policy Development Checklist and has been classified as being an operational report and not a new policy or change to an existing policy document.

8.0 APPENDICES

8.1 Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2022 - 2023