
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER
2014**

Report by Chief Social Work Officer

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

20 November 2014

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This is the seventh annual report of on the work undertaken on the behalf of the Council in the statutory role of Chief Social Work Officer.
- 1.2 The report provides the Council with an account of decisions taken by the Chief Social Work Officer in the statutory areas of Fostering and Adoption, Child Protection, Secure Orders, Adult Protection, Adults with Incapacity, Mental Health and Criminal Justice.
- 1.3 It also gives an overview of regulation and inspection, workforce issues and social policy themes over the year April 2013 to March 2014, and highlights some of the key challenges for Social Work for the coming year.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Council approves the report of the Chief Social Work officer attached as Appendix A and in particular notes the elements noted in section 4 of this report.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The requirement that every local authority should have a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer is contained within Section 45 of the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994. This requirement was reinforced by the recommendation contained in the Changing Lives Report published by the 21st Century Social Work Review Group to strengthen the governance and leadership roles of the Chief Social Work Officer.
- 3.2 Until 2013 this role was fulfilled by the Director Of Social Work. Following the review of the Corporate Management structure in Scottish Borders Council during 2014 a specific service director role was created for the Chief Social Work Officer, reporting directly to the Depute Chief Executive for People. In previous years, the format of this report was a matter for individual local authorities. However for 2014 the Scottish Government have published a template and guidance to enable Chief Social Work Officers across Scotland to develop a more consistent approach to the production of their reports and allow summary comparison of the delivery and performance of Social Work across different areas.

4 OVERVIEW AND EVALUATION

- 4.1 2013/14 has been a period of significant change for Social Work in Scottish Borders Council, including the implementation of Self Directed Support and preparations to implement legislation to integrate Health and Social Care Services and the Children and Young People's Bill.
- 4.2 There have been a number of achievements during this period. Improvements in the discharge process have enabled people to move to appropriate care settings in a timely way. The implementation of Getting It Right For Every Child is well under way and the Early Years agenda is well advanced. Processes for Self Directed Support are in place to provide service users and carers greater say in choice and the management of their care arrangements.
- 4.3 Challenges facing Social Work for 2014/15 are identified including ensuring clear and appropriate governance, maintaining the quality of the social care provision, demographic changes and financial constraints. However, we are well placed to face these challenges and continue to deliver high quality services and improve outcomes for all people who access Social Work services.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are no specific concerns that need to be addressed in respect of the recommendations contained in this report.

5.3 Equalities

Social Justice and equality are key values in Social Work and there are no adverse equality implications arising from the work contained in this report.

5.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no anticipated economic, social or environmental effects.

5.5 Carbon Management

There is no impact on the Council's carbon emissions.

5.6 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, Chief Officer Audit and Risk, Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Elaine Torrance
Chief Social Work Officer

Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: None

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Nicola Tait can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Social Work, Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, 01835 825080.

