



SOCIAL POLICY – POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

REPORT BY CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides the Social Policy PDSP with the opportunity to comment on the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report. This report provides an overview of the statutory work undertaken during the period 2018 -2019.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Panel:

1. note the contents of the Chief Social Work Officer's annual report for 2018 - 2019;
2. note that the report will be submitted to:
 - a) West Lothian Council on 19th November 2019
 - b) West Lothian Integration Joint Board on 21st January 2020
3. note that the final report will be submitted to the Scottish Government Chief Social Work Advisor.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I. Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focusing on our customers' needs• Being honest, open and accountable• Providing equality of opportunity• Developing employees• Making best use of resources• Working in partnership
II. Policy and Legal	No new implications; Equality Impact Assessments will be applied to specific commitments where appropriate.
III. Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV. Impact on performance and performance indicators	All activities and actions have performance indicators and targets applied
V. Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	None
VI. Resources (Financial, Staffing and Property)	All commitments are consistent with the Council's budget decisions.

- | | |
|--|---|
| VII. Consideration at PDSP/Executive Committee required | The report will be considered at the : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full Council• Meeting of the West Lothian Integration Joint Board |
| VIII. Details of consultations | None |

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Background

The legislation governing the delivery of Social Work Services requires the Chief Social Work Officer to exercise a general level of oversight.

The Scottish Government published national guidance for local authorities on the appointment and responsibilities of Chief Social Work Officers, including related reporting arrangements. The arrangements in West Lothian are consistent with this guidance.

Service Overview

The role of the Council's Social Work Services is to support, care for and protect people of all ages, by providing or purchasing services designed to promote their safety, dignity and independence, and to contribute to community safety by reducing offending and managing the risk posed by known offenders.

Services are delivered within a framework of statutory duties and powers imposed on the Council. Services are required to meet national standards and to provide best value. Where possible, services are delivered in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including, most importantly, people who use them.

Chief Social Work Officer Duties

The role of the Chief Social Work Officer is to ensure the provision of appropriate professional advice in the discharge of the local authority's statutory functions and to provide a focus for professional leadership and governance in regard to these functions. In addition, there is a small number of duties and decisions that relate primarily to the curtailment of individual freedom and the protection of both individuals and the public, which must be made either by the Chief Social Work Officer or by a professionally qualified social worker to whom responsibility has been appropriately delegated.

The Council's scheme of delegation provides for senior social work staff to make certain decisions on behalf of the local authority in the following areas:

- Adults with incapacity;
- Mental health;
- Adoption
- Secure accommodation and emergency placement of children.
- Protection and Risk Management:
 - Child Protection
 - Adult Protection
 - MAPPA

Chief Social Work Officer Report

The Chief Social Work Officer Report provides an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Chief Social Work Officer and outlines the governance arrangements that are in place in West Lothian. The report highlights Council's statutory duties, the decisions that are delegated to the Chief Social Work Officer and gives a summary of service performance.

E. CONCLUSION

The delivery of social work services is challenging and in light of the current economic situation the importance of delivering vital services to the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community will test our capacity, creativity and commitment over the forthcoming year. It is essential to continue to develop and improve our services while constantly seeking to become more efficient. Social Policy is well placed to address these challenges and will continue to contribute significantly to the delivery of positive outcomes for the people of West Lothian.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1: Chief Social Work Officer's Report 2018/2019

Contact Person: Jo MacPherson, Chief Social Work Officer, Head of Social Policy

Tel 01506 28190

Jo.macpherson@westlothian.gov.uk

Date: 1st November 2019