
Report To:	Health & Social Care Committee	Date:	6 January 2022
Report By:	Allen Stevenson Interim Corporate Director (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership	Report No:	SW/02/2022/SMcA
Contact Officer:	Sharon McAlees Head of Children & Criminal Justice Services	Contact No:	715282
Subject:	Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2020/21		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise the Health & Social Care Committee of the content of the Inverclyde Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) Report for 2020/21.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 There is a requirement on each Local Authority to submit an annual Chief Social Work Officer Report to the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government.
- 2.2 The reports provided by all CSWO across the country allows the Chief Social Work Advisor to present a national picture of the social work profession and practice which in turn influences the development of social work practice and delivery.
- 2.3 The report follows the same format of that in previous years and seeks to provide an overview of the delivery of social work services in the Inverclyde context, outlining the particular challenges and opportunities over the past year.
- 2.4 The report highlights the challenges facing the most vulnerable members of our communities and the action taken by social work services to address these challenges. As with previous years the 2020/21 CSWO report seeks to highlight the positive work undertaken and the continued strong track record of participation and consultation with the community.
- 2.5 This year's report is inevitably set within the context of the global pandemic. Reference is made to the pandemic throughout the report and an additional section has been added that looks at some of the key adaptations and activities that were necessary throughout the year.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Health & Social Care Committee are asked to note and make comment on the content of the Chief Social Work Officer Report.

**Allen Stevenson
Interim Chief Officer
Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 sets out a requirement for all Scottish Local Authorities to submit reports on an annual basis from their Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO).
- 4.2 Each CSWO report is required to set out the local context within which social work services are delivered and give consideration to the following specific areas:
- opportunities and challenges
 - governance arrangements
 - partnerships
 - service quality and performance
 - resourcing
 - workforce planning
- 4.3 It is a responsibility of the role of Chief Social Work Officer to bring focus to the needs and circumstances of the most vulnerable members of our community and indeed to those individuals who rely on services at times of vulnerability or crisis. Given the demographic profile of Inverclyde the report highlights the very many areas of challenge our community's experience and for this particular year reflects these challenges in the context of the pandemic.
- 4.4 The annual CSWO report provides an opportunity to reflect on, to recognise and to appreciate the work of social work and social care staff. This is an opportunity that is very much welcomed and valued by Council and HSCP and provides members the opportunity to express their appreciation of the commitment, quality and life changing outcomes that our staff contribute to the residents of Inverclyde. 2020/21 was unprecedented all of the same complex and challenging issues that affect Inverclyde continued as before, however staff required to respond to these within the complexity of an unfolding global pandemic. Not only did staff rise to the challenge of responding to the pandemic, in many instances they delivered business as usual at times exceeding service delivery in preceding years and responding with incredible creativity and often courageously.
- 4.5 At the time of writing this report our attention is focused on recovery even as we lean into and make plans for what will be a challenging winter. Our recovery plans and actions are based on reflecting on what we have learned over the past year, what has worked well and what we can improve upon. Our approach however will remain consistent and that is based on a clear ambition to deliver the best possible outcomes for the citizens of Inverclyde.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 N/A

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

6.2 N/A

6.3 Human Resources

N/A

Equalities

6.4 Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
✓	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
✓	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
✓	NO

Repopulation

6.5 N/A

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The report has been prepared by the Chief Social Work Officer and after due consideration with relevant senior officers in the HSCP.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Chief Social Work Officers Report



CSWO Report
2021.docx