

EXECUTIVE

13th October 2022

Report Title	The Chief Principal Social Worker's Annual Report
Report Author	David Watts, Executive Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing david.watts@northnorthants.gov.uk Sarah Morris, Chief Principal Social Worker sarah.morris@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Helen Harrison, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – The Chief Principal Social Worker's Annual Report

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide the Executive with a report of the work undertaken by the Chief Principal Social Worker during 2021/22, her reflections on this and the priorities for her work in 2022/23.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Chief Principal Social Worker joined the Council in August 2021; the Council had not had anyone in that post prior to that. Therefore, the report relates to work completed between August 2021 and March 2022.

- 2.2. The work completed by the Chief Principal Social Worker during 2021/22 includes a review of our Strengths-Based working, a review of policies, procedures and guidance, the draft of a practice audit, and chairing of a practitioner forum. The Chief Principal Social Worker has been very involved in work on Workforce Retention and Recognition and is the lead for Social Worker development, supporting numbers of workers to undertake a variety of professional training. The Chief Principal Social Worker is the Council's representative on the Teaching Partnership's Operational Group, and she has facilitated social worker peer group sessions.
- 2.3. Priorities for 2022/23 as laid out in the report are preparing for the Care Quality Commission's inspections which will begin in 2023; this will entail ensuring that Adult Social Care has assurance processes in place. Co-production work needs to be developed so that the Council understands what the people of North Northamptonshire need and want, and that future services are developed in partnership with them. This includes ensuring that there is an understanding of the diverse makeup of the people of North Northamptonshire and the staff of Adult Social Care, and that the Council supports all these people appropriately. Adult Social Care needs to prepare for the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards, new legislation which will change the way the Council works with people who lack capacity. The Workforce Retention and Recognition work is vital in preparing for this, making sure that the Council has and can retain and develop the numbers of registered workers required to deliver future legislation.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Executive note the contents of this report and the priorities for 2022/23.
- 3.2. Reasons for Recommendation- These priorities are ones which have been identified through the Chief Principal Social Worker's work, through work with the Senior Leadership Team and with front line workers, and they align with Adult Social Care's priorities to provide an excellent service for the people of North Northamptonshire.
- 3.3. Further priorities may be identified during the year and work picked up. The Chief Principal Social Worker's work includes wider themes and priorities will continuously be monitored and reviewed.
- 3.4. Alternative Options Considered: The Chief Principal Social Worker is responsible for completing an annual report to highlight work undertaken, priorities for the forthcoming year and the Chief PSW's view of the Council's Adult Social Care Services. As such it is important the Executive is provided with the same report that has been presented to Corporate Leadership Team; not to do so would leave Executive without information that has been presented to CLT and that is provided within a report that sits within Social Care statute.

4. Report Background

- 4.1. There is a requirement, under the Care Act Guidance for Local Authorities to have a qualified and registered social work professional practice lead in post, to lead and oversee social work practice and development.
- 4.2. The Principal Social Worker's Annual Report is an opportunity for the Chief Principal Social Worker to report on work undertaken during the preceding year, her reflections on Adult Social Care and her priorities for the coming year.
- 4.3. Please see the report attached as **Appendix A**.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1. N/A

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. N/A

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1. There are no resources or financial implications arising from the report. Any future work will consider resources or financial implications.

7.2. Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1. There are no legal implications arising from this report. Any future work undertaken will consider the legal and governance issues.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1. The work of the Chief Principal Social Worker progresses the priorities of Adult Social Care as detailed in the Service Plans for Adult Services; Safeguarding, Wellbeing and Providers; and Commissioning and Performance. These identify how Adult Social Care's work aligns with and promotes North Northamptonshire Council's priorities.

7.4. Risk

- 7.4.1. There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report. Any work undertaken will consider risks and mitigations required.

7.5. Consultation

7.5.1. Not applicable.

7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1. Not applicable.

7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1. Not applicable.

7.8. Equality Implications

7.8.1. Equality implications will be considered in any work undertaken.

7.9. Climate Impact

7.9.1. None identified. Climate impact implications will be considered within any specific pieces of work undertaken.

7.10. Community Impact

7.10.1. All work undertaken will include the consideration of its impact on specific communities.

7.11. Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1. None identified.

8. Background Papers

8.1. Not applicable.