

EXECUTIVE

14th September 2023

Report Title	The Chief Principal Social Worker's Annual Report
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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 2022/23, her reflections on this and the priorities for her work in 2023/24.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Chief Principal Social Worker's Annual Report covers the work she has undertaken with colleagues over the year of 2022/23.
- 2.2. The report details the Chief Principal Social Worker's work in supporting the learning and development of social workers and social care workers; across a

variety of accredited courses, those provided in-house and bite sized learning provided by the Chief Principal Social Worker. The report describes support provided to social care workers by the Chief Principal Social Worker and the outcomes of the LGA Social Care Annual Health Check, which saw an improvement in social workers' reporting of how well they feel the Council meets the standards for social work employers. The Chief Principal Social Worker has worked with colleagues across the East Midlands and then across Adult Social Care to agree and launch a Practice Framework, which details how we work for the people of North Northants, how we know we're doing a good job and how we're supported to do so.

- 2.3. The report considers the Chief Principal Social Worker's progress on the priorities that were identified for 2022/23 and then sets out the priorities for 2023/24. These are: assurance and preparation for CQC assessment; growing our pool of practice educators and practice assessors to support student social workers and newly qualified social workers (and in doing so improving recruitment and retention); and co-production.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Executive accepts and notes the Chief Principal Social Worker's Annual Report and agrees the priorities for the forthcoming year.
- 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 an annual report from a postholder within a role which sits within 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. As this is an annual report to detail work undertaken during the preceding year, there are no choices at this stage.

6. Next Steps

6.1. To receive and consider the Chief Principal Social Worker's Annual Report for 2023/24.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

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

7.2. Legal and Governance

7.2.1. Any work undertaken over the forthcoming year will consider the legal and governance implications of this work.

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. Any work undertaken over the next year will include an assessment of risk and the steps required to mitigate these risks.

7.5. Consultation

7.5.1. One of Adult Social Care's priorities for this year is co-production and any work undertaken will include consideration of how we co-produce, engage or consult with the people or colleagues impacted upon by that work.

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. All work undertaken will include the consideration of its impact on all areas of our communities.

7.9. Climate and Environment 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. There are no crime and disorder impacts arising from this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1. Not applicable