

AC40. Accounts Commission Report – Social Work in Scotland

The committee considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer presenting the findings of the Accounts Commission's report on "Social Work in Scotland" together with a response to the findings.

The Accounts Commission published its national report on "Social Work in Scotland" in September 2016. The report set out 22 recommendations for Councils covering social work strategy and service planning, governance and scrutiny arrangements, workforce and service efficiency and effectiveness. The recommendations were set out together with Council's response to these.

The Chief Executive and Chief Social Work Officer responded to a question in regard to the recommendation that elected members should "assure themselves that the quality of social work service is being maintained and Councils are managing the risks effectively". The Chief Social Work Officer summarised the processes for measuring people's satisfaction with these services following a question and set out the processes for benchmarking with other Councils.

The committee discussed at length the significant financial challenges which face social work services and the factors, such as "real term reduction" in Council spending and the changing demographic landscape.

Decision

The committee noted:-

- (1) the content of the Accounts Commission's national report "Social Work in Scotland", attached at appendix 1 to the report, and in particular the key messages and recommendations; and**
- (2) that the Chief Social Work Officer had provided a detailed response, attached at appendix 2 of the report, which addressed each of the recommendations made by the Accounts Commission.**