

AC10. Social Work in Scotland - Impact Report

The committee considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer providing an update on the content and recommendations from the Accounts Commission impact report on Social Work in Scotland.

The Accounts Commission published its national report “Social Work in Scotland” on 22 September 2016 which highlighted that Councils in Scotland spent £3.1 billion on Social Work services, and that current approaches to providing services would not be sustainable in the longer term.

The report contained 22 recommendations and sub-recommendations for Councils and Integration Joint Boards, as follows:-

- a) Instigate a frank and wide-ranging debate with their communities about the longterm future for Social Work and social care in their area to meet statutory responsibilities, given the funding available and the future challenges.
- b) Work with the Scottish Government, their representative organisation (the Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) or the Scottish Local Government Partnership (SLGP), Social Work Scotland and other stakeholders to review how to provide Social Work services for the future and future funding arrangements.
- c) Develop long-term strategies for the services funded by Social Work by:-
 - carrying out a detailed analysis of demographic change and the contribution preventative approaches can make to reduce demand for services;
 - developing long-term financial and workforce plans;
 - working with people who use services, carers and service providers to design and provide services around the needs of individuals;
 - working more closely with local communities to build their capacity so they can better support local people who may be at risk of needing to use services;
 - consider examples of innovative practice from across Scotland and beyond; and
 - working with the NHS and Scottish Government to review how to better synchronise partners’ budget setting arrangements to support these strategies.

Within the impact report there was a progress update provided in relation to the implementation of all recommendations within the 2016 report. This was a national progress update and largely presented a view that some progress was evident but there was more to do across all recommendations. This was reflective of the position locally in Falkirk. The committee was invited to consider

whether to undertake a local position and evaluate progress against the recommendations.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the Account's Commission's impact report "Social Work" in Scotland, attached as appendix 1 to the report and in particular the key messages and recommendations, and**
- (2) agreed that it would benefit from a self-assessment of local progress against the recommendations and requested that this was presented to a future meeting.**