

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 28TH JANUARY 2013

REPORT ON: SECONDMENT OF DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 60 - 2013

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval of the secondment of the Director of Social Work to the post of Chief Social Work Advisor for the Scottish Government.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- Agrees to the secondment of the Director of Social Work for an initial period of two years to the appointment of Chief Social Work Advisor for the Scottish Government.
- Agrees to second the Director of Social Work on his current terms and conditions as set out in a contract agreement between Dundee City Council and Scottish Government.
- Agrees that the current manager of Strategy, Support and Performance Services, Mrs Jenni Tocher becomes the Acting Director of Social Work and Chief Social Work Officer for the City Council.
- Requires the Acting Director of Social Work to bring a further report on proposals for acting up arrangements within the Social Work Senior and Extended Management Team.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Scottish Government will totally fund the proposed secondment and therefore this proposal will be cost neutral to the City Council.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 The Scottish Government recognises the important contribution social work services make to achieving the 16 National Outcomes through work with children, young people and adults in a range of contexts and settings. It is committed to securing the changes set out in Changing Lives, the 21st Century Social Work Review and to working with employers and others to secure a confidential, competent workforce, capable of working flexibly in a variety of settings including multi agency partnerships.
- 4.2 The Chief Social Work Advisor provides professional advice across Scottish Government on all aspects of Social Work provision and practice and takes lead responsibility on specific policy priorities such as regulation and development of the Social Services Workforce. The Chief Social Work Advisor is a member of the senior management team of the Children and Families Directorate.
- 4.3 In line with the cross-cutting nature of the role the Chief Social Work Advisor will work closely with the Directors of Health and Social Care Integration and Justice.

- 4.4 The current post holder retires on 31 March and the post was advertised in November 2012 with interviews held on 20 December 2012. As a result the Director of Social Work has been offered the post on a secondment period for an initial period of two years. The terms of the secondment is set out in a contract between Dundee City Council and Scottish Government but essentially agrees to the secondment on the Director of Social Work's current terms and conditions.
- 4.5 In the absence of the Director of Social Work, it is proposed the current manager of Strategy, Performance and Support Services, Mrs Jenni Tocher assumes responsibility as Director of Social Work and the Council's Chief Social Work Officer. Mrs Tocher has deputised for the Director during annual leave and absences over the past 8 years.
- 4.6 As a result of Mrs Tocher's new responsibilities, consideration will require to be given to further acting up arrangements. A further report will be submitted to Committee for approval.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

David K Dorward
Chief Executive

DATE: 15/01/2013