



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

7 MAY 2025

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

Report by Chief Executive

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to advise the Comhairle of the appointment by the Chief Executive of Mr Michael Stewart, Criminal Justice Service Manager, as Interim Chief Social Work Officer.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Each local authority in Scotland is required to appoint a Chief Social Work Officer in terms of Section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. Mr Jack Libby previously held the post until leaving the Comhairle's service to take up a new post with The Highland Council. The Chief Social Work Officer must hold one of the prescribed qualifications set out in the Qualifications of Chief Social Work Officers (Scotland) Regulations 1996 and Mr Stewart meets that criterion.
- 2.2 The term of the appointment will be until the recruitment of a permanent Chief Social Work Officer and the recruitment process is currently underway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle note the appointment of Mr Michael Stewart, Criminal Justice Service Manager, as Interim Chief Social Work Officer with effect from 14 April 2025.**

Contact Officer: Derek Mackay, Governance and Elections Manager
Appendix: None
Background Papers: None



IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	None
Legal	The Comhairle is required by law to appoint a Chief Social Work Officer.
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None
Equalities/Child Rights	None
Corporate Strategy	The Comhairle will continue to have in place proper arrangements (known as the Governance Framework) for the governance of the Comhairle's affairs.
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

