

Report To: Health & Social Care Committee **Date:** 29th August 2013

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SW/05/2013/HW

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Subject: SOLACE Benchmarking Report

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the Committee with an overview of social work indicators included in the recently published SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) benchmarking data, which considers the financial years 2010/11 and 2011/12. The data show Inverclyde's ranking in relation to other areas in Scotland on a number of key indicators that have been identified as priority areas for action by the Scottish Government.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Each Scottish local authority is required to submit performance information to the Scottish Government on a regular basis to evidence a focus on delivering social care policy. The selected indicators for the published report relate to children who are looked after; homecare; self directed support, and service-user satisfaction.
- 2.2 Whilst these indicators are high level, they help to provide an overview of Inverclyde's performance comparative to other Scottish local authorities.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report.

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4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Each Scottish local authority is required to submit performance information to the Scottish Government on a regular basis to evidence a focus on delivering social care policy. SOLACE has agreed that selected indicators should be published to provide performance rankings that allow comparison between local authorities, taking account of variations in the population sizes of each Council area.
- 4.2 The attached report includes selected indicators from the latest SOLACE report, relate to children who are looked after; homecare; self directed support, and service-user satisfaction, for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 reporting years.
- 4.3 The report shows that for 2011/12, the costs per child for children looked after in residential based services, whilst below the national average, still rank at 21 out of the 32 local authorities, meaning that 20 other Council areas are paying less per child. The 2011/12 rank represents a slight improvement on the 2010/11 rank (22), due to a 1.4% reduction in costs. It is important to note that the rankings only take account of costs, and do not allow for variation in levels of need or quality of provision.
- 4.4 Inverclyde's costs of looking after children community settings rank 3rd in Scotland, meaning that only two other councils are providing this service at a lower cost per child. We are achieving high-quality community-based services at half the national average cost, and evidence shows that looking after children in community-based settings delivers better outcomes for the children concerned than residential-based models.
- 4.5 Based on costs and outcomes, it is preferable to look after children in community-based services rather than in residential care, however based on needs and circumstances, this is not always possible. Of those children who need to be looked after, in Inverclyde 90.3% were able to remain in the community, whilst 9.7% had to be cared for in residential settings. This is just above the national average of 89.4% and ranks us at 16 out of the 32 local authorities.
- 4.6 The homecare indicators show that our hourly costs are below the national average, ranking us at number 11 in 2011/12, which is an improvement from our rank of 13th in 2010/11. Our ranking for supporting people aged 65 or over with intensive homecare needs was 17th for 2011/12, representing a fall from 10th in 2010/11. During this same period there has been significant focus on older people's services through the Change Fund. Delayed hospital discharge performance has been consistently strong and we have focused on reablement, meaning that older people's independence is encouraged and supported.
- 4.7 With regard to self directed support (SDS), the selected indicator considers SDS spend as a proportion of overall spend on adult social work services. Our ranking for 2011/12 was 24th, reflecting that we are still developing our SDS infrastructure. However SDS is central to the CHCP Commissioning Strategy.
- 4.8 Service user satisfaction is reported based on data gathered from the Scottish Household Survey and Inverclyde ranked 10th at the last survey. It is recognised that there are issues about the robustness of these data in that it is not always advisable to extrapolate general population reporting to specific services, however as a very general measure, the survey allows us to compare ourselves with other areas as the survey questions and sampling methods are the same across Scotland.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The report shows that Inverclyde, in general, compares relatively well with other local authorities on the selected indicators. Whilst the indicators are high level, they provide a means of comparing our performance, and highlight areas where we could improve. The online report can also be interrogated to ascertain which areas are performing in the top quartiles, so there is potential opportunity to learn from good practice elsewhere.

6.0 PROPOSALS

6.1 Committee Members are asked to review the report and comment as appropriate to the CHCP Corporate Director.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Legal: There are no legal implications in respect of this report.

7.2 Finance: There are no financial implications in respect of this report.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments

7.3 Personnel: There are no personnel implications in respect of this report.

7.4 Equalities: There are no equalities implications in respect of this report.

7.5 Repopulation: There are no repopulation implications in respect of this report.

Appendix 1

Inverclyde CHCP: SOLACE Indicators Analysis

2010-11 - 2011-12

SOLACE : CHCP	Ranking (2011-12)	Quartile
Indicator CHN8a: The gross cost of 'children looked after' in residential based services per child per week	21 *	3
Indicator CHN8b: The gross cost of 'children looked after' in a community setting per child per week	3 *	1
Indicator CHN 9: The % of children looked after cared for in the community	16 **	3
INDICATOR SW 1: Home Care Costs per Hour (65 and over)	11 *	2
INDICATOR SW2: Self Directed Support Spending on Adults 18+ as a % of total SW spend on adults 18+	24 **	3
INDICATOR SW 3: % people 65+ with intensive needs receiving care at home	17 **	3
SW4: % adults satisfied with social care of social work services	10 **	2

* Costs rank 1 means lowest cost and rank 32 highest costs

**rank=1 highest

Children and Families

There are several indicators that relate to looked after children that can be considered together:

Indicator CHN8a: The gross cost of 'children looked after' in residential based services per child per week

Indicator CHN8a: The gross cost of 'children looked after' in residential based services per children per week							
Inverclyde 2011/12	Ranking	National Mean	Median	LA Quartile	2010/11	2010/11 Ranking	Change in Rank
£3064	21st	£3276	£2776	3rd	£3109	22nd	1

- Cost reduced in 2011-12 by -1.4% placing Inverclyde in ranking place 21 from 22 the previous year and LA Quartile 3rd.

Indicator CHN8b: The gross cost of 'children looked after' in a community setting per child per week

Indicator CHN8b: The gross cost of 'children looked after' in community based services per child per week							
Inverclyde 2011/12	Ranking	National Mean	Median	LA Quartile	2010/11	2010/11 Ranking	Change in Rank
£101	3rd	£ 209	£211.2	1st	£93.88	3rd	0

- Costs increased in 2011-12 by 7.6% however ranking remains in 3rd place and LA Quartile 1st

Indicator CHN 9: The % of children looked after cared for in the community

Indicator CHN8b: The gross cost of 'children looked after' in community based services per child per week							
Inverclyde 2011/12	Ranking	National Mean	Median	LA Quartile	2010/11	2010/11 Ranking	Change in Rank
90.3%	16 th	89.4%	89.9%	3 rd	89.1%	17 th	1

- A slight increase to 90.3% in 2011-12 brings Inverclyde into 16th ranking place and above the national median percentage rate for the balance of care.

What the Data Tells Us

The data shows that costs for children looked after in a residential setting are above the national median, however Inverclyde's costs are significantly lower than other authorities when it comes to children that are looked after in a community based setting. The percentage of children looked after /cared for in the community fell marginally below the average and median in 2010-11 but shifted a ranking point in 2011-12 increasing to 90.3%

Social Work

INDICATOR SW 1: Home Care Costs per Hour (65 and over)

Performance Data:

Indicator SW1: Home Care Costs per Hr (65 and over)							
Inverclyde 2011/12	Ranking	National Mean	Median	LA Quartile	2010/11	2010/11 Ranking	Change in Rank
£16.35	11 th	£18.80	£19.46	2 nd	£19.37	13 th	2

What the Data Tells Us

The data shows that Inverclyde's homecare costs for those aged over 65 fell slightly in 2011/12, leading to an improvement in ranking relative to other authorities. Inverclyde's costs are also lower than the national average and median.

INDICATOR SW2: Self Directed Support Spending on Adults 18+ as a % of total SW spend on adults 18+

Performance Data:

Indicator SW2: Self Directed Support spending on adults 18+ as a % of total SW spend on adults 18+							
Inverclyde 2011/12	Ranking	National Mean	Median	LA Quartile	2010/11	2010/11 Ranking	Change in Rank
0.8%	24 th	2.6	1.6	3 rd	0.6%	25 th	1

What the Data Tells Us

The data for the above indicators shows that Inverclyde's SDS costs increased slightly from 2010/11 to 2011/12. The costs vary widely between councils from 18% in Eilean Siar to 0.1% in West Dunbartonshire (2011/12 figures). Inverclyde's costs are well below the Scottish average and median.

INDICATOR SW 3: % people 65+ with intensive needs receiving care at home

Performance Data:

Indicator SW3: % of people with 65+ with intensive needs receiving care at home							
Inverclyde 2011/12	Ranking	National Mean	Median	LA Quartile	2010/11	2010/11 Ranking	Change in Rank
35.6%	17 th	33.3%	36.2%	3 rd	37.9%	10 th	-7

What the Data Tells Us

The data shows that there has been a slight fall in the number and % of people aged 65+ with intensive needs receiving care at home, although the percentage is higher than in Inverclyde than the national average, however it is slightly lower than the Scottish median.

INDICATOR SW4: % adults satisfied with social care of social work services

Performance Data:

Indicator SW4: % adults satisfied with social care of social work services				
Inverclyde %	Ranking	National Mean	Median	Quartile
67.6%	10 th	63%	62.8%	2 nd

What the Data Tells Us

There are concerns about the robustness of data extracted from the Scottish Household Survey, particularly for smaller Councils. This has been recognised by SOLACE and the Improvement Service and the use of SHS survey data is a short term measure.