

Agenda Item	7
Report No	HCW/18/22

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Date: 9 November 2022

Report Title: Champions for Older People and Children

Report By: Executive Chief Officer - Health and Social Care

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 In August 2021, the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee formally agreed to appoint three nominees into the Children and Young People Champions posts as part of a one-year pilot.

Within the pilot plan each Champion gave a commitment to this role and the service gave a commitment to supporting them in this. Each Champion was to identify an area of particular interest within their role to help define the role remit and any influence they can have.

Subsequently in February 2022, the Committee agreed further to the motion before Council on 8th December 2021, that the Council ought to appoint Older People's Champions with a role and remit to be agreed. It was agreed that these appointments would be made after the local elections in May 2022. Those appointments have now been made. 3 Champions have been appointed for Older People and 3 for children and young people. 2 Trauma champions have also been appointed.

This paper provides an update on the work to date and makes recommendations for the further development of the champions role for both Children and Adults.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. **Note** the contents of this report

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource – Any specific resource issues arising out of the contents of this report will be carefully monitored. The Champions will be elected members and training will be provided in-house by Council employees and involvement of partner agencies. There is a commitment to reviewing and assessing this process to enable consideration of any resource impacts/issues that may arise and identify any implications.
- 3.2 Legal - No arising issues.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)
No arising issues although the appointment of champions will play a role in terms of ongoing engagement with our local communities.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever
No arising issues.
- 3.5 Risk
No arising issues.
- 3.6 Gaelic
No arising issues.

4. Background to Champions Role

Overview

- 4.1 An Older People's Champion is a Councillor who acts as a link between the Council and older people in the local area. Age Scotland and the Scottish Older People's Assembly wanted to see a network of Older People's Champions from across Scotland. This would provide a voice for older people at local and national level, working together on shared challenges and collectively influence for change. The intention was for our area to be represented.
- 4.2 In terms of Champions for Children and Young People, three Champions were provided with the opportunity to undertake the Children and Young Persons Champion role for a period of one year from August 2021. The Champions were identified as individuals who were willing to work together and use their influence to promote the of children and young people.
- 4.3 The report presented the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Committee in August 2021 proposed that three Children and Young People Champions be nominated to take forward this role. The role is to act as role models; be advocates for views and needs of children and young people; provide information and advice to other elected members so that they can support their constituents, recognise and celebrate good practice and challenge poor practice or blocks in the system; and be committed to attending in-house training and educational sessions.
- 4.4 It was noted by Committee in February 2022 that the progress in relation to the development of the role of Children's Champions had been limited and it was agreed that there ought to be further work done to develop that.

- 4.5 To help and support the Champions, it was suggested that the development of both Champions for Children and Young People and those Champions for Adults should be managed in tandem. This is now happening and has been in place since the identification of the champions in August 2022.
- 4.6 The appointment of Trauma Champions followed from full Council on 30th June 2022, where Highland Council members committed to implementing trauma informed practice across all Council services. In terms of the development of this role, it largely aligns with the national Trauma Champion network, supported via NHS Education Scotland.
- 4.7 The role of Champions for both sectors is an ambassadorial role, held by elected Councillors. Their job is to be a link between the Council and “those sectors being championed” in Highland. Within the Council chamber, these Champions will amplify the voices of those they are representing (ie young people and older people).
- 4.8 In terms of the Trauma Champion role, there is a requirement to complete ‘Level 1’ and ‘Level 2’ online training modules as detailed in the [National Trauma Training Programme](#). This builds the foundation required to attend STILT (Scottish Trauma in Leadership training) which is a 3-hour online webinar. Support from Fiona Duncan and Carrie Mclaughlan, Highland Council’s current trauma champions continues to be available to elected members and further liaison around the best way to support engagement with the Trauma Training Programme may be useful.

5. The Role of the Champions - Update

- 5.1 At the Committee meeting in August 2022, it was agreed that in order to progress and enhance the role of the champions during the next year:
1. An officer with responsibility for supporting the champions would be determined by the service.
 2. Regular meetings between Champions and Officers be agreed to ensure that Champions are supported to undertake their role. This would include formal training dates.
 3. Information regarding activities the Champions have been involved in should be summarised to help inform and identify the impact the Champion roles are having.
 4. This role should be formally assessed in July 2023. Any issues can be identified with appropriate improvements put in place to help enhance the role and remit of the Champions.
- 5.2 To date, it can be confirmed that one general meeting was held by officers with all appointed champions. This enabled a preliminary discussion to establish areas of interest and how the role can be supported.
- 5.3 In terms of champions for older people, the Head of Integration (Adult Social Care) has met with the appointed champions to discuss areas of interest and a further meeting has been set up.
- 5.4 The preliminary view is that 5 areas of interest have been identified where the ambassadorial role of the champions might have an impact.

Those areas are as follows:

- Adult Social Care including Adult Protection and the role of carers

- Transport
- Housing
- Money advice and cost of living crisis
- Health

5.5 It is also recognised that there may be a need to consider these issues on an area basis. It is clear that the role could be very significant, and it is also clear that there will be areas of overlap between those issues identified at paragraph 5.4. There is also the probability that there will likely be an interface with the role of Children’s Champions. Consequently, it has been suggested that these issues could form part of the discussion at the forthcoming Committee development workshop on 14th December 2022.

5.6 It should also be noted that those champions in place are already linking in with national forums in order to identify relevant issues. Attendance at the recent Scottish Older People’s Assembly meeting in Perth was made. These links will be important to support the role going forward.

5.7 The Trauma Champions have access to national training and support through NES Scotland’s National Training Trauma Champions. Since the appointment of the 2 Trauma Champions, they have been linked into both local and national networks. The national STILT (Scottish Trauma in Leadership Training) ran on 25th October with one of the Trauma Champions attending.

6. Further Updates

6.1 It remains the intention to formally assess the roles in July 2023. Any issues can be identified with appropriate improvements put in place to help enhance the role and remit of the Champions.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer – Health and Social Care

Date: 26 October 2022

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