



Paper No. SET/38/18	
	Tick One ✓
For action	
For discussion	
For information/noting	✓

Date of Trust Board Meeting: 21st June 2018

Confidential or Public Agenda: Public

Agenda item number and title: Annual report on the discharge of delegated statutory functions for regional emergency social work service

1.0 Introduction

The Regional Emergency Social Work Service commenced on 29th May 2013. The Service provides an out of hours emergency social work response across all five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland and across all of social care, including Family and Child Care, Learning Disability, Mental Health, Physical Health and Disability and Older Peoples Services.

2.0 Background information

The service is provided by Belfast Trust on behalf of the Trust. There is a regional consortium that oversees it which ensures accountability back to Brendan Whittle as Executive Director of Social Work.

3.0 Brief summary of key points contained in the paper/s

This is the fourth annual report for the Regional Emergency Social Work Service covering the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. It provides an overview of the on-going development of the service, its staffing levels and activity levels by Trust, as well as activity levels in relation to the NIHE. In this reporting period the service has been able to report on the source of referrals, visits undertaken and more detailed ASW statistical. The overall number of referrals during the year has remained consistent with the previous years.

During 2016/2017 the service has continued to consolidate the model of service, reviewing and updating some of the protocols and procedures and develop new policies, such as lone working and supervision. The service has also continued to review and develop many areas of service provision including, an audit framework for the service, governance arrangements, the role of locum shift managers, IT provision, training pathways, full induction programme and processes for incident reporting.

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority completed an inspection of the service in July 2016 and published their report in January 2017. The report was very positive and reflected the significant developments made in the service since its inception in May 2013. A Service Action Plan is in place to review and develop

these recommendations. This work will be completed in the first part of 2017/2018.

4.0 Recommendation/s for the Trust Board

For Approval

Lead Director: Mr Brendan Whittle

Designation: Director of Childrens Services & Executive Director of Social Worker

Date: 11th June 2018