

Responding to the SWIA Overview Report and the Scottish Government Statistical Release
the Association of Directors of Social Work's President, Harriet L Dempster said:

"There are clear messages for social work in both the Scottish Government Statistical Release and the SWIA Overview Report and social work as a profession welcomes these insights and findings. ADSW will be interested in setting the information in this report against other evidence to get a clear picture of how social work operates and needs to operate across Scotland to deliver the very best it can for the people and communities of Scotland.

"We recognise that it is very unlikely that there would be a direct relationship between spend and performance as this is rarely found in any field because of the other factors at play. All factors need to be taken into account, for example the impact of deprivation, or the amount of family and community support to a person, before any conclusions are drawn.

"The focus on leadership is welcome as it has proven crucial in the positive development of other public services including education and health. ADSW will be interested to study the report in detail to understand which key elements of leadership are important particularly the effects of political, corporate and cultural leadership on the ability of social work to deliver excellent services.

"It is interesting that the impact on performance of how rural services are has been considered, but that there seems little consideration of super sparsity. This is where the challenges of delivering specialist services to people are felt most acutely.

"Changing lives indicated that getting the best outcomes for people is not just dependent upon what social work does or spends, but needs to be seen alongside the actions of other public services such as the NHS; and ADSW is pleased that a number of Scottish local authorities are working with the NHS and the Scottish Government to look at the bigger picture".

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