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 Our ref: WWC:mm  
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**Draft Reponse by the Chief Social Work Officer West Dunbartonshire Council to  
 Consultation on Guidance on The Role of the Chief Social Work Officer**

Ms. Gwen Smith,  
 Scottish Government,  
 2-C North Victoria Quay,  
 EDINBURGH,  
 EH6 6QQ.

Dear Ms. Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft guidance.

Firstly I'd be pleased if you could convey my thanks to Andrew Lowe and the other members of the Practice Governance change group. It is very helpful to see productive outcomes from the work groups taking forward the implementation of the Changing Lives Review.

The overall shape and content of the draft guidance provides a good framework to develop and deliver accountability for social work and social care services. It has stimulated good debate across our council and services and we've started to address the key question posed. I would change very little in the guidance but have a number of specific points that might be considered.

1. **The Power of Wellbeing**  
 Although the guidance has rightly avoided the trap of the CSWO's role being caught up in future changes for legislation or structural reform, I thought it might be worth resurrecting the local authority "power of wellbeing" as a helpful support to the contribution of social work to the Single Outcome Agreement.

I think the SOA helps us make sense of the potential for local authorities to promote wellbeing. It also re-affirms the lead role of local authorities in this area.

2. **Child Protection**  
 The examples under 13.3(k) omits Child Protection Committees as a source of performance review. If this is done on purpose because they have no statutory basis then we should find another place to emphasise the importance of internal child protection scrutiny. If it's a simple mistake we should add them in.
3. **Leadership Responsibilities**  
 At 13.5(d) there is reference to partnership working "across professions to support the delivery of suitably integrated social work services". I believe it

would be more meaningful to stress partnership working across “agencies” and “boundaries” as well as professions. This would allow CSWOs rightly to influence structural debate and inter-agency collaboration.

4. Resource Allocation and Budgets

There is no explicit reference to the adequacy of resource allocation and budgets as a legitimate concern for the CSWO in judging the effectiveness of social work services. The example set out in 14(a) implies the expectation that the CSWO can influence budget setting.

Please contact me if you need to discuss this response further.

Yours sincerely,

William W. Clark,  
Executive Director of Social Work and Health.