

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE23 APRIL 2002
EDUCATION COMMITTEE30 APRIL 2002
POLICY & RESOURCES14 MAY 2002

**BETTER INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES
(DRAFT ANGUS CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN AND
CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICE FUND BIDS)**

**JOINT REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL WORK
AND EDUCATION**

ABSTRACT

This report outlines to the Social Work and the Education Committees the contents of the draft Children's Services Plan 2002 -2004 and the bids to the Changing Children's Services Fund. The report asks the Committees to homologate the bids to the Changing Children's Services Fund and instruct the Directors of Social Work and Education to bring the final Plan and the outcome of the bidding process to a future meeting of their respective Committees. Copies of the draft Children's Services Plan have been placed in the members' lounge.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work, Education and Policy & Resources Committees:

- I. note the contents of the draft Children's Services Plan 2002- 2004 and make comments as appropriate;
- II. note the details of the bids for the Changing Children's Services Fund submitted to the Scottish Executive on 1 April 2002 and homologate the bids to the Changing Children's Services Fund
- III. instruct the Chief Executive, Directors of Social Work and Education to bring the final Plan and the outcome of the bidding process to future meetings of the committees.

2 INTRODUCTION

On 30 October 2001 the Ministers for Health, Education and Social Justice launched the Report and Action Plan 'For Scotland's Children – Better Integrated Children's Services. Alongside this report guidance on the Changing Children's Services Fund and a more integrated approach to children's services planning was announced.

The aim of the Action Plan supported by the resources in the Changing Children's Services Fund and a more integrated approach to planning is to allow delivery of better outcomes for vulnerable and deprived children by providing genuinely integrated services. In Angus the development of an integrated approach to all service provision is the key to our future work with children and young people and their

families and carers. The health, welfare and development of children are placed at the centre of the planning and delivery of services.

The Changing Children's Services fund is seen as a catalyst for change and provides a source of transitional funding for local authorities, health boards and voluntary organisations in delivering better outcomes for the most vulnerable and deprived children through:

- the expansion of good practice in the delivery of well integrated services
- modernisation through the reshaping of existing services to achieve better integrated support
- new and innovative approaches to integrated service delivery

3 CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND BIDS

In December 2001 a range of partners involved in the planning and delivery of Children's Services across Angus came together to discuss the key outcomes outlined by the Scottish Executive. As a result of this meeting priority objectives were identified for children and families in Angus and outline bids invited for the Changing Children's Services Fund. From an original list of 33 bids a prioritisation group comprising Social Work, Education and Health supported by the Joint Children's Services Planning Group refined the bids.

The guidance indicates that the voluntary sector should be a key partner in the planning, preparation and delivery of services and proposals need to show real evidence of participation of key voluntary organisations. Each consolidated proposal should be approved by the local council for Voluntary Service.

Angus Voluntary Sector Children's Forum was established in Angus in 1998 and participates fully, as a partner, in the work of the Joint Children's Services Planning group. In agreement with the local council for Voluntary Service, ie Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations, Angus Voluntary Sector Children's Forum approved the Angus bids, in partnership with Angus Council Chief Executive and the Chief Executive of NHS Tayside, prior to them being presented to the Scottish Executive

The focus of the Angus bids is to improve the effectiveness and integration of mainstream service delivery to all children and families. The main elements of the prioritised proposals address the following:

- A need to co ordinate consultation processes
- An increased demand for respite care for children with special needs
- Improved communication across services
- Preventative work with parents and carers
- Joint assessment
- Improved links between offsite provision and mainstream services.

A summary of the bids is appended to this report.

Agreement of these bids from the Scottish Executive will allow progression of the integration of children's services in line with the needs of Angus communities and will enhance existing services offered to our more vulnerable children and families. It will be noted that these bids, as requested in guidance, were sent to the Scottish Executive for 1 April 2002.

4 DRAFT CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN

The first Children's Services Plan for Angus was produced in 1998 and covered the period 1998 – 2001. The second draft Angus Children's Service Plan is now out for consultation and covers 2002 -2004.

The Plan sets out a range of actions that all partners intend to implement to integrate and improve services. These include:

- How Angus Council plans, with its partners, the future provision of services
- A description of the resources available to provide these services
- Reports on progress made within the Children's Service's Plan 1998 – 2001
- A range of objectives and actions for 2002 -2004
- A focus for those who are involved in delivering services to children, young people and their families and carers
- An information resource for current and potential users of services in Angus

The scope of the plan is wide ranging. It has two main elements which are:

- Promoting the well being of children and young people which covers universal services and issues for all children and young people up to 18 years of age in Angus
- 'Children in Need' which covers services to the much smaller number of children and young people who have a need for care, attention and support due to their individual circumstances. For example children who have a disability or young carers. Some young people will need particular support up to 21 years of age and they are included in this plan.

The Plan describes the proposed integration of planning structures in Angus and how this will enhance services to children and their families beyond 2004.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The indicative allocation for Angus, from the Changing Children's Services Fund, is £538,000 in year 2002/2003 and £728,000 in Year 2003/2004. Angus bids have been based on a full year costs and do not exceed £728,000. All planned developments within the Children's Services Plan will be met within the agreed allocation.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

The Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have all been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 CONCLUSION

The draft Children's Service's Plan is now out for public consultation and will be finalised during May 2002. Future reports to Committee will detail the outcome of the consultation process and the proposed service developments. The Scottish Executive has indicated that the outcome of the Changing Children's Services Fund bids will be known late May/ early June 2002.

AB Watson
Chief Executive

W B Robertson
Director of Social Work

J Anderson
Director of Education

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.