

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

11 JUNE 2002

BETTER INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

**ABSTRACT**

This report seeks Committee approval for the establishment of posts associated with the Changing Children's Services Fund announced by the Scottish Executive in October 2001.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- a) approves the proposals outlined in this report;
- b) subject to the confirmation of funding through the Changing Children's Services Fund, approves the establishment of the following posts:
  - 1 FTE Peripatetic Teacher
  - 2 FTE Support Teachers
  - 1 FTE Support for Learning Assistant
  - 1.2 FTE Educational Psychologists
  - 2 part-time Clerical Assistants (GS1/2, one for 15 hours per week, one for 7½ hours per week)
  - 2 FTE Community Education Workers
- c) instructs me to report to Committee at a future date on progress made within Children's Services and the new developments established as a result of the Changing Children's Services Fund.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Reference is made to the meeting of the Education Committee on 30 April 2002 which outlined proposals for an integrated approach to services for vulnerable children and families in Angus (Item 13 of the minute of the meeting refers).
- 2.2 In order to enhance existing services to children and families the Scottish Executive is making available £33m to local authorities through the Changing Children's Services Fund in the current financial year (2002/2003). £27m is new monies targeted at enhancing existing services to vulnerable children and their families. £6m has already been allocated to the development of drug services.
- 2.3 The total funding being made available to Angus in 2002/2003 is £539,000 and in the financial year 2003/2004 is £728,000. To ensure an integrated approach, levels of funding within this global sum have not been specified for each service. Partners at local level have agreed a package of bids; this report refers only to those bids for funding which will be the principal responsibility of the Education Department.

### **3 CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND BIDS**

- 3.1 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 Education, Social Work and Health supported by the Joint Children's Services Planning Group refined the bids.
- 3.2 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 agreed proposals address the following:
- the co-ordination of consultation processes
  - the increased demand for respite care for children with special needs
  - improving communications across services
  - preventative work with parents and carers
  - joint assessment
  - improving links between off-site provision and mainstream services.

### **4 PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 As part of the proposals for the Changing Children's Services Fund, Angus Council proposes to enhance support to vulnerable children and families by expanding education service teams as follows:
- One full-time peripatetic teacher who would work directly with pupils attending the COMPASS and MAP projects and also offer support and advice to the foster carers of these children.
  - Two support teachers – one to join a central multi-agency planning team with a view to ensuring the co-ordination of all education support staff in the development of council-wide services and the other to provide curriculum enrichment activities for challenging youngsters and also additional cover / support as and when required in off-site educational provision.
  - A Support for Learning Assistant to be engaged to work with children in the MAP/COMPASS projects. The individual would work to support teaching staff in delivering educational programmes to children in off-site locations.
  - 1.2 full-time equivalent Educational Psychologists would be appointed to enhance the provision of psychological services to targeted groups of youngsters – most specifically vulnerable children living in areas of deprivation. The additional staffing component would also allow an enhanced level of service to children currently being educated in off-site provision.
  - 2 part-time clerical assistant posts will require to be established – one to support the work undertaken by educational psychologists and the second to provide clerical service to the new secondary school support project.
  - 2 community education workers to be appointed with a view to establishing a new off-site secondary school support project based in Arbroath. This project would target children who were disaffected with school and would aim to provide an educational programme embracing outdoor education, basic education, communication skills and external awards including ASDAN certification and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The indicative allocation for Angus, from the Changing Children's Services Fund, is £539,000 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. Full costings for these Education posts (£265,000 in a full financial year) can be contained within the bids which have been submitted.

(NB – a decision on the joint submission to the Scottish Executive was expected sometime in early to mid-June).

## **6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance and the Personnel Services Manager have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **8 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The development of an integrated approach to all service provision in Angus is one vital stand in successful work with children, young people, their families and carers. The establishment of these new posts will allow the enhancement of services, in line with the objectives of the Changing Children's Services Fund and ensure the delivery of better outcomes for the most vulnerable and deprived children in Angus.

Jim 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.