

## ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 23 APRIL 2002  
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 MAY 2002

## LOCAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

## JOINT REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

**ABSTRACT**

This report informs elected members of the development of an initial local partnership agreement between social work, health and housing regarding the provision of community care services.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Social Work Committee:

- i) notes the contents of this report;
- ii) endorses the draft initial partnership agreement, appended to this report; and

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:

- i) approves the initial partnership agreement in order that it can be sent to the Scottish Executive.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

The report of the Joint Future Group was published in November 2000 and the Scottish Executive response to the report in January 2001. A key recommendation of the report was the development of Joint Resourcing and Joint Management of Community Care Services. The report recommended that *“Local Authorities (that is social work and housing), Health Boards, NHS trusts and Scottish Homes should draw up local partnership agreements, including a clear programme for local joint resourcing and joint management of community care services collectively or for each care user group individually.”*

The Scottish Executive issued guidance separately on 5<sup>th</sup> September setting out their requirement that initial local partnership agreements should be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 (CCD7/2001). The full partnership agreement should be with the Executive by April 2003.

On 8th March the Executive issued further guidance detailing the “Bottom Line” of what should be included in the local partnership agreement. This initial partnership agreement is between Angus Council and NHS Tayside.

### 3. THE ANGUS LOCAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

A final draft of an initial local partnership agreement for Angus is appended to this report. This agreement sets out the joint vision and direction for Community Care services in Angus. The agreement sets out ways in which the partners aim to work together to improve the delivery of services for the benefit of all the citizens of Angus. The agreement should be seen within the context of the corporate developments relating to healthy, safe and caring communities.

This initial partnership agreement covers the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003. Further work will be undertaken during the coming year with a view to entering into a fuller partnership agreement in April 2003.

This agreement covers all community care services namely: -

- Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities,
- Physical Disability Services (including OT Services and Equipment),
- Services for Older People,
- Mental Health Services for Adults; and
- Services for Older People with Mental Health Issues.

A vision statement is also included within the agreement

*“Our vision is that through increased collaborating and joint working between the partner agencies, we will increase the provision of high quality care and services that will assist more people to remain in their own homes wherever this is feasible, sensible and safe to do so. For people who cannot remain in their own home our aim is to provide a range of alternative provision which addresses the specific needs of these individuals.”*

Also detailed are shared principles and value on which the agreement is based.

The agreement describes how the Angus partners have agreed to adopt a Joint Management Structure that will be part of the proposed corporate planning structure in relation to healthy, caring and safe communities in Angus.

The approach agreed in Angus is to develop aligned budgets rather than pooled budgets. The agreement details resources, which will be covered by the agreement in the first instance. These relate primarily to Older Persons Services and Adult Mental Health Services. Priorities for the future development of joint resource pots are identified as:

- Equipment/adaptation budgets (Health, Social Work and Housing);
- Occupational therapy services;
- Resources for learning disability services.

In order to remain consistent with requirements for accountability and corporate governance the individual partner agencies will maintain their separate financial systems and processes accounting, auditing, VAT and charging.

The approach taken within Angus with regards to joint futures and specifically joint resourcing and joint management is an incremental one based on the identification of areas where joint working will have demonstrable improvements in service provision and in outcomes for the people using the services.

Key priorities for the partnership are detailed in the agreement as:

- the development of a common approach to service design and commissioning of services within a best value framework;
- the development of a common approach to the management of savings and cost pressures.

The agreement also includes a project plan for taking forward the joint future agenda in Angus. Specific targets for service improvements, reflecting both national and local priorities, will be developed and set out within the new 3-year Joint community Care Plan. These will in turn be reflected in SMART targets within the service plans of the partner agencies.

Given that the planning partners in Angus have agreed to adopt the approach of joint management and aligned budgets ultimate accountability will remain with the individual partner agency's decision making mechanisms. However on a day to day basis accountability for joint services will lie through the joint management structure detailed within the agreement.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications that arise directly as a result of this report.

#### **5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **6 CONSULTATION**

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

#### **7 CONCLUSION**

A B Watson  
Chief Executive

W B Robertson  
Director of Social Work

**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.

Appendix