

ANGUS COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
25 JANUARY 2000
TOWARDS A SHARED VISION
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

This report describes progress to date in developing a shared vision for the education service in Angus.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- a) notes the steps taken in recent months to develop an updated vision for the education service in Angus - a vision shared by all key stakeholders;
- b) notes in particular the draft overarching statement (Appendix 1) and draft critical success factors (Appendix 2) on which wider consultation is now being initiated.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Reference is made to the meeting of the Education Committee on 9 March 1999 (Agenda item no 7) when I was authorised to undertake a widely based consultation exercise based on a discussion paper. That discussion paper provided an outline background and proposed discussion on:

- the level of support for developing an updated shared vision
- the content of such a statement.

3 DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS TO DATE

3.1 One of the very strong suggestions arising from preliminary discussions within the JCC (Teachers) was that a shared vision would be much more meaningful if its development had as wide an ownership as possible.

3.2 Accordingly four separate groups of key stakeholders (three staff groups and one consumer group consisting of, parents, young people and community education participants) were brought together to take part firstly in a brainstorming session and secondly - some months later - in a group discussion which addressed the outcomes of the initial sessions.

3.3 All the groups worked within the framework of the Council's Key Themes and took the TRC statement of Operating Principles and Values as an initial point of reference.

3.4 Feedback from those who participated in the exercise to date has been very positive. It seems clear that there is considerable potential for an exercise of this type to engage people in a debate which they find stimulating, particularly when there is an expectation of a meaningful outcome.

3.5 The deliberations of the four groups have been distilled into:

- a brief overarching statement which attempts to encapsulate the core values and aims of the education service in Angus (Appendix 1)
- a series of critical success factors which underpin the overarching statement. (Appendix 2)

4 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The attached documents (Appendices 1 and 2) have been sent to all schools, support services, School Boards, trade unions and Curricular Advisory Groups with a request that a similar exercise to that described above should now be undertaken by all key stakeholders. The need to extend ownership of the process of developing a shared vision is seen to be as important as the documentation of that vision.
- 4.2 It is hoped that this wider consultation exercise can be completed by 29 March 2000. Thereafter the feedback will be analysed, with a view to making amendments to the attached consultative drafts in April/May 2000.
- 4.3 Once the initial process of developing a widely supported shared vision is completed it will be vital to build on that by promoting the shared vision in a range of different ways, including annual reporting (through the service planning process) on how well the vision is being realised.

5 CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council, this report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and the Director of Law & Administration.

JIM ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

APPENDICES 2

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.

JAA/RB

ANGUS COUNCIL - EDUCATION SERVICE

TOWARDS A SHARED VISION

We are committed to realising the potential of children, young people, communities and staff by:

- nurturing an ethos of achievement
- striving continuously for sustainable improvement
- putting people at the heart of all our activities
- working co-operatively

ANGUS COUNCIL - EDUCATION SERVICE
TOWARDS A SHARED VISION

Critical Success Factors identified by Preliminary Consultation with Key Stakeholders

To be successful in **nurturing an ethos of achievement** our education service should:

- provide access to quality learning and teaching for all
- provide an education appropriate to each individual's needs
- value the potential of all learners
- celebrate the achievements of individuals and groups
- develop high aspirations for children, young people, communities and staff
- work effectively with learners to agree suitably stretching goals and short term targets, and demonstrate success in meeting these goals and targets

To be successful in **striving continuously for sustainable improvement** our education service should:

- have a clear sense of purpose
- operate an open and honest system of communications
- be proactive in adopting new technology
- demonstrate a willingness to consider new ideas and to implement them when appropriate
- be outward looking in its approach and enthusiastic in identifying and embracing best practice wherever it can be found
- encourage staff to be reflective practitioners - individually and collectively
- actively seek ways of providing a better quality of service within the financial envelope of likely resources
- embrace enthusiastically the concept of public accountability and the need to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of customers/citizens
- evaluate all our activities on a regular and frequent basis
- demonstrate improvements in service on a regular and frequent basis

TSV 2(a)
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January 2000

To be successful in **putting people at the heart of all our activities** our education service should:

- develop relationships between staff based on mutual respect and trust
- develop relationships between learners and staff based on mutual respect and trust
- provide a supportive environment for staff which offers them meaningful challenges
- provide a supportive environment for learners which offers them meaningful challenges
- ensure that learners feel valued as individuals
- ensure that staff feel valued as individuals
- empower learners and staff to be self motivated and to enjoy the learning process
- encourage a strong sense of ownership of the learning process among learners and staff

To be successful in **working co-operatively** our education service should:

- nurture a sense of team-work in all its activities
- share information and opinions freely and supportively between staff
- share information and opinions freely and supportively between learners and staff
- seek to work in partnership with a wide range of other agencies
- promote effective partnerships between each school and its parents

TSV 2(b)
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