

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.....2 OCTOBER 2003
SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE.....9 OCTOBER 2003
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE.....28 OCTOBER 2003

BETTER INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES
REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2002 – 2003

REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND
THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH LIAISON

ABSTRACT

This report outlines to the Education, Social Work and Health and Strategic Policy Committees the contents of the 2002/03 draft review of the Angus Children's Services Plan 2002 – 2004. Copies of the draft review have been placed in the Members' lounge.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education, Social Work and Health and Strategic Policy Committees:-

- i) notes the contents of the 2002/03 draft review of the Children's Services Plan 2002 – 2004;
- ii) instructs the Chief Executive to forward an agreed final copy of the review to the Scottish Executive.

2 ANGUS CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN DRAFT REVIEW 2002 - 2003

The second Angus Children's Services Plan was produced in April 2002 covering the two year period up to and including March 2004. In line with Scottish Executive guidance issued in January 2003 an annual review of the plan has been undertaken in respect of progress with objectives during 2002 – 2003.

The review follows the format suggested by the Scottish Executive and as required is brief and focused. Key areas addressed in the review are:

- progress with the objectives and actions outlined in the Angus Children's Services Plan 2002 – 2004;
- identification of new objectives including Child Protection, Throughcare and Aftercare and the Disability Access Strategy for Education Premises;
- monitoring of the Changing Children's Services Fund 2002/03 and proposals for 2003/04.

It should be noted that it was intended to produce a new 3 year plan from 2004-2007. However, recent communication from the Scottish Executive, dated 19 August 2003, advises that new guidance has not yet been produced and that the publication of new plans should be delayed for a further year. The 2002 – 2004 Angus Children's

Services Plan will, therefore, be reviewed during 2004 and a new Children's Services Plan produced in April 2005 covering the period 2005 – 2008.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All planned developments within the review of the Children's Services Plan 2002 - 2003 are contained within agreed funding streams.

4 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

5 CONSULTATION

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

6 CONCLUSION

The first draft review of the Angus Children's Services Plan 2002-2003 has been widely distributed for comment and has been endorsed by the Joint Management and Commissioning Group (Children's Services). It should be noted however, that at the time of this report no agreement has yet been forthcoming from the Scottish Executive regarding the outcome of the Changing Children's Services Fund proposals for 2003/04 contained within the review.

A B Watson
Chief Executive

J Anderson
Director of Education

R Peat
Director of Social Work and
Health Liaison

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.

Working Together for Children and Families

Angus Children's Service Plan 2002 - 2004

Review 2002 – 2003

MARCH 2003

FOREWORD

This is the first review of *Working Together for Children and Families-Angus Children's Services Plan 2002 – 2004*. The review is produced as a result of interagency, partnership and corporate working.

The promotion of joint policies and practices in service delivery remain central to the planning of children's services in Angus. We continue to strive to work together to provide services that meet the needs of all children and their families living in Angus.

Many of the objectives within the 2002 - 2004 Children's Services Plan have been progressed within this first year with many on target for completion by March 2004. A second review of the plan will be published in 2004 with a new plan, in line with Scottish Executive Guidance, being published in 2005. We will soon be asking for your views about what our objectives should be for the future.

We are confident that an integrated approach to the planning and delivery of children's services will continue to benefit Angus children and their families for many years to come. We welcome your comments and look forward to working with you to provide quality, choice and accessibility to services for you and your family.

A B Watson
Chief Executive
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Chief Executive
NHS Tayside

Eleanor Mands
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This is the first review of the Angus Children's Services Plan 2002 – 2004. The plan was produced by Angus Council in partnership with NHS Tayside, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Tayside Police, Angus Childcare Partnership and the Angus Voluntary Sector Children's Forum.

The Angus Children's Services Plan is one of a number of plans for Angus produced in partnership with a wide range of agencies and individuals. To ensure all plans link in an integrated way the plans come together within the overarching framework known as the Community Plan.

The aim of community planning is to develop a single, strategic vision for a local area to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of communities. The Angus Community Plan sets a long-term vision for the Angus area with the Children's Services Plan focusing on the delivery of services to children and families within this broad framework.

The 2002 – 2004 plan highlighted a number of national policy initiatives which impact on the development of services in Angus. Implementation of these initiatives continues in a way which is consistent with and reflects the needs of Angus children and their families.

This review aims to:

- Consider the objectives and specific actions outlined in the 2002 – 2004 plan and describe what progress has been made to date
- Detail any new objectives which have been identified as a direct result of joint planning processes and consultation.

The 2002 - 2004 plan referred to the changes being made within the joint planning structure in Angus to work towards a more integrated approach for children's services and community care.

As part of the aim to integrate services an improved approach to the planning of services is now in progress. A new Joint Strategic Support Unit will become operational from 1 April 2003. This unit will bring together staff from a range of agencies to plan services across Angus in an integrated and co located working partnership. The recent appointment of an Education planning officer is the first step in the formation of the children's team within the new structure.

2 ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2002

Achievements since the plan was published are summarised below and updated objectives have been identified where relevant. Any new objectives or planned service developments are noted with resources detailed only where new objectives have been identified.

2.1 Promoting the wellbeing of children and young people in Angus

Action Point	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status March 2003
Review and update practice standards and guidance for Angus Childcare Information service.	Angus Childcare Partnership	2003	Action completed and new standards in place.
Produce a six monthly childcare and education newsletter for distribution across Angus.	Angus Childcare Partnership	Ongoing	Two newsletters produced since April 2002.
Continue to provide relevant childcare and education training for all staff across Angus.	Angus Childcare Partnership Education	2004	Training provided to over 300 staff. Childminders are now being offered vocational training.
Increase number of childminding places across Angus in conjunction with Scottish Childminding Association.	Angus Childcare Partnership SCMA	2004	In line with national trends the number of childminders across Angus continues to drop. Work is continuing to try and increase numbers.
Develop access to toddler provision across Angus in conjunction with Scottish Pre School Play Association.	Angus Childcare Partnership SPPA	2004	3 new Toddler groups have opened and training is now offered on a range of topics to all toddler groups.

Continue to provide support to Out of School Clubs and their parent led committees.	Angus Childcare Partnership	2004	Administrator appointed to support Out of School Clubs with business practices.
Provide support to all registered childcare and education providers to assist with compliance with regulatory standards.	Angus Childcare Partnership	2004	Training sessions provided including presentations from Care Commission.
Support and develop childcare and education services to children with special needs.	Angus Childcare Partnership Education	2004	Pilot holiday scheme for children with special needs planned for July 2003. Support provided to Angus Special Playscheme to further develop infrastructure.
Develop Angus Play Strategy.	Angus Childcare Partnership Leisure and Recreation Services	2004	Funding now allocated to progress this during 2003. Consultants being considered.
Investigate family friendly work practices across Angus and develop appropriate guidance.	Angus Childcare Partnership	2004	Not actioned this year. Work will commence during 2003, in partnership with SET, to identify appropriate business contacts.
Rollout New Community School Initiative to Brechin and Montrose.	Education Social Work NHS Tayside	2004	Brechin and Montrose Community Schools programme now in place.
Reduce the proportion of women who smoke during	NHS Tayside	2005	Action in progress.

pregnancy in line with National targets.			
Reduce the pregnancy rate among 13 -15 year olds in line with National targets.	NHS Tayside	2005	Action in progress.
Increase the number of 5 year olds with no experience of dental disease in line with National Targets.	NHS Tayside	2005	Senior Dental Health Officer and Dental Health Promotion Officer appointed. All 3 and 4 year olds in nurseries being shown how to brush their teeth properly. New Community Schools toothbrushing programme in place.
Increase number of children over 2 years of age who eat a healthy diet.	NHS Tayside	2005	Tayside Nutrition group developing an action plan. Public Health Nutritionist appointed in Arbroath.
Increase the number of mothers breastfeeding their babies at 6 weeks to more than 50%.	NHS Tayside	2005	Tayside breast feeding co - ordinator appointed.
Reduce frequency and level of drinking among 12 -15 year olds in line with National Targets.	NHS Tayside	2005	Alcohol action plan produced.
Increase proportion of 11 – 15 year olds taking regular exercise in line with National targets.	NHS Tayside	2005	Activities in schools developed including exercise referral schemes/physical activity health checks.

Ensure all children receive standard immunization.	NHS Tayside	2005	Publicity considered and improved.
Ensure all children are registered with a GP.	NHS Tayside	2005	Action in progress
Ensure sexual health advice and provision is suitable for young people.	NHS Tayside	2005	Training for trainers course for work with young people with learning difficulties planned. Sexuality and relationships training offered to all teaching staff.
Implement a joint health and local equipment store.	NHS Tayside	2005	Draft protocol produced.
Implement the recommendations of HM Inspectorate report April 2002 for education services.	Angus Council	2003	Action plan now in place and full implementation underway.
Establish a joint strategic support unit which will include the planning and monitoring of children's services.	Angus Council NHS Tayside	2003	Education Planning Officer appointed.

2.2 Children in Need

Action Point	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status – March 2003
Develop access to recreation and out of school activities for children with disabilities.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Pilot programme planned for summer 2003.
Set up a register of children with profound and complex health needs.	NHS Tayside Angus Council	Late 2002	Register now in place.

<p>Identify children on the register who would be transferring to adult services and develop transition plans for these children.</p>	<p>NHS Tayside Angus Council</p>	<p>Spring 2004</p>	<p>Work is now underway and plans being considered for young people transferring in Summer 2003.</p> <p>Discussions are underway to develop plans for children who will transfer in future years.</p>
<p>Meet on an ongoing basis to improve interagency working, develop integrated care plans and make sure that transition arrangements for children moving into adult services begin from their 15th birthday.</p>	<p>NHS Tayside Angus Council</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>Action in progress.</p>
<p>Establish a joint police, social work service that can take principal responsibility for the investigation of allegations of abuse and develop the arrangements for linking this service to other agencies.</p>	<p>Angus Council Tayside Police</p>	<p>Late 2004</p>	<p>Progress made but slippage on original timescale.</p> <p>Difficulties have arisen with regard to premises.</p>
<p>Increase the size of the specialist child protection team to enhance its capacity to carry out detailed assessments of children at risk or identified as being at key transitional stages.</p>	<p>Angus Council</p>	<p>Spring 2003</p>	<p>Changing Children's Services Funding has allowed this action to progress.</p>
<p>Implement the Caldecott Guardians protocol to improve and appropriately regulate the sharing of information between agencies.</p>	<p>Angus Council Tayside Reporter to the Children's Panel</p>	<p>Late 2003</p>	<p>Action on course for completion.</p>

Implement the findings of 'Managing the Risk' working party.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Action on course for completion.
Implement the inter-agency action plan arising from the Hammond inquiry into the death of a child in Dumfries and Galloway.	Angus Council Tayside Police NHS Tayside	Spring 2003	Progress made but slippage on planned timescale.
Implement the findings of the Scottish Executive child protection review.	Angus Council	Late 2003/4	An Angus response and action plan has been developed. Further guidance is awaited from the Scottish Executive.
Implement a protocol for hospital access to the child protection register.	Angus Council NHS Tayside	Late 2003	Action completed.
Develop an Angus multi agency anti-bullying strategy.	Angus Council	Late 2003/4	Action on course for completion.
Establish three local multi-agency resource teams to provide Angus wide early screening and resourcing of young people at risk of offending.	Angus Council	Late 2002	Local Multi agency resource teams in place across three areas of Angus..
Establish an arrest referral system for young people arrested and who have been misusing substances.	Tayside Police Angus Council	Autumn 2002	Action completed.
Introduce a joint police and social work protocol relating to the detention of children and young people.	Tayside Police Angus Council	Late 2002	Action completed.
Establish three local minimum support groups to provide a diversionary service for young people at minimum risk of offending.	Angus Council	Late 2002	Progress made but slippage on planned timescale.

Establish a restorative justice pilot initiative.	Angus Council	Late 2002	Action completed.
Establish a multi-agency protocol on information sharing and confidentiality.	Angus Council	Spring 2003	Progress made but some slippage on planned timescale.
Establish an Angus Youth Justice database.	Angus Council	Late 2002	Progress made but slippage on planned timescale.
Submit proposal to New Opportunities Fund to establish an Integrated Social Education and Sports Team.	Angus Council	Spring 2003	Action completed and outcome awaited.
Establish explicit performance targets relating to aims, objectives and standards for Angus Youth Justice Strategy.	Angus Council	Late 2002	Action on target for completion.
Recruit a volunteer co-ordinator to work with former and current service users of homeless and other support agencies to help them develop their own support networks.	Angus Council	Late 2002	Action completed.
Develop a single shared assessment process to enable a multi agency response to vulnerability and homelessness.	Angus Council Angus LHCC	Spring 2004	Action on course for completion.
Establish a protocol to ensure the successful implementation of the single shared assessment process.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Action on course for completion.
Develop an information strategy for young people moving from local authority accommodation.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Action on course for completion.

Monitor the housing circumstances of young people leaving care on an annual basis.	Angus Council	Late 2003	Action on course for completion.
Consider the provision of support for the prevention of rough sleeping and how this can be linked to universal service provision.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Action on course for completion.
Introduce new professional carers scheme.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Progress made but slippage on planned timescale.
Increase the number of permanent placement options for older children.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Progress made but some slippage on planned timescale.
Develop effective systems for the implementation of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.	Angus Council	Spring 2003	Progress made but some slippage on planned timescale.
Develop systems to ensure work is undertaken with 14 and 15 year olds to fully assess their needs and prepare them for independent living.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Action on course for completion.
Improve systems for monitoring the process and implementation of permanence plans.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Action on course for completion.
Create a specialist permanence worker post.	Angus Council	Spring 2003	Progress made but slippage on planned timescale.
Ensure that a rehabilitation plan is produced for all children who become looked after.	Angus Council	Ongoing	Action on course for completion.
Ensure that plans for looked after children are made and implemented without delay.	Angus Council	Ongoing	Action on course for completion.

Establish plans for permanent placement and implement without delay.	Angus Council	Ongoing	Action on course for completion.
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2.3 Future Action

It can be seen from the action points that significant progress has been made in many areas. Where no action has been taken or action is in progress it is intended that work will continue over the coming year.

It is recognised that new national initiatives will impact on work planned for the year. In the coming year action relating to the Review of Child Protection, the implementation of Direct Payments for children with disabilities and progressing requirements linked to the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001, the Children Leaving Care Act 2000 and the Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc Act 2000 will require to be included along with the actions being progressed from the 2002 – 2004 plan.

It can be difficult to accurately predict timescales for completion of specific pieces of work with many factors influencing effective progress. Staff across Angus are committed to working both within their own agency and with others to ensure that the delivery of services is efficient and responds to local need.

Sections three and four of this review will address some of the planned actions in the coming year. It should be noted that while Changing Children's Services funding is available for many of the developments, some will require to be progressed with limited or no additional funds being made available. This will place significant burdens on already stretched resources.

The Angus Children's Services Plan 2005 – 2008 will address this issue in detail and reflect the likely impact on services for children and families in coming years.

3. CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND - PROGRESS REPORT

- 3.1** 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 aims to support the delivery of 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

In December 2001 a multi agency executive group of the Joint Management and Commissioning Group for Children's Services was delegated to discuss the key outcomes outlined by the Scottish Executive. Priority objectives were identified for children and families in Angus and outline proposals invited for the Changing Children's Services Fund 2002/03. The total funding available to Angus in financial year 2002/03 was £539,000. A list of projects and a breakdown of the spend during 2002/03 can be seen in Appendix 1.

It should be noted that a delay in the allocation of funding from the Scottish Executive during 2002 resulted in the majority of projects encountering delayed starts and as such it has not been possible to report outcomes in this review.

Child Protection and Throughcare and Aftercare have recently been highlighted by the Scottish Executive as areas which require significant resource support and redesign and that the Changing Children's Services Fund should be used as the vehicle to progress this change. The Joint Management and Commissioning Group have agreed the following proposals, which address these two priority areas, should be progressed during 2003/04.

3.2 CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND - PROPOSALS

New Changing Children's Services Fund proposals, to enhance support to vulnerable children and families by enhancing a range of services include:

1. **A Development Manager** as a resource for the local child protection committee located within the Angus Joint Strategic Support Unit (Children's Services.)
2. **A Child Protection Review Officer** who will plan and chair child protection case conferences independent of case line management. This post will have clerical support
3. **A Social worker** with a specialist role in the investigation, assessment risk management and service provision in the area of sexual abuse. This will add value to existing services by improving the quality of service delivery and outcomes for disadvantaged families. It will allow an increase in the quality and quantity of direct work with children in traumatic situations.
4. **A Social worker** dedicated to duty/intake work. Many of the calls received through duty have significant childcare and child protection concerns and lead quickly to situations where children are at risk of accommodation or of becoming the subject of child protection procedures. By improving early intervention and support it is hoped that the quality of life for these children will improve. A family support worker will work with this post holder
5. The establishment of a Throughcare and Aftercare Team, to address recent legislative changes within the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Children Leaving Care Act 2000, seeks to enhance and extend existing services by filling an identified gap. The aim of the team will be to ensure a multi agency assessment is undertaken and a better range of services is provided to vulnerable young people in line with Scottish Executive targets and local need.

The team will comprise of:

- **Team Leader** who will assume principal responsibility for drawing together the multi agency assessments for young people who have been looked after. The team leader will also establish a throughcare and aftercare plan and manage the new financial arrangements to be introduced from April 2004 as laid down by the Children Leaving Care Act 2000.
- **Resource Workers and clerical staff** who will support the team manager in carrying out their duties.

This team will have a key role in supporting the Housing Consortium and will include two fulltime and one part time worker currently based within the Community Resource team.

6. In addition work with partner agencies has resulted in a proposal from **Barnardo's** to enhance the work of the Bridge Project within Angus.

This project provides assessment, consultation and direct work with young people who display sexually harmful or concerning behaviour. Many of the requests concern children and young people accommodated in foster or residential care. Additional funding will allow a staff team to respond quickly to crisis referrals, provide intensive support to carers, staff and the child while developing the confidence of carers to accept placements of such challenging young people.

Barnardo's will work closely with other staff across Angus in a range of settings to ensure a consistent approach to the needs of this group of troubled young people.

7. A need has also been identified within Angus for services to work together specifically in relation to vulnerable children being exposed to the Health Service. Within community settings the health visitor has a central role in the identification and supervision of vulnerable children. They work closely with a range of agencies. By contrast in hospital settings this is much less focused and good communications are more difficult to maintain.

A designated child protection nurse will facilitate change within the acute sector and ensure that robust arrangements are in place to identify vulnerable children. This post holder will support and co-ordinate the care of the child while in hospital and contribute to improved communication between agencies allowing effective discharge and follow up arrangements to be developed.

The total cost of these new proposals for a full year will be approximately £363,958 and will be funded from under spend from 2002/03 and an additional allocation of £100,000 announced by the Scottish Executive in January 2003. It is intended that these proposals and the original proposals outlined in the 2002 – 2004 plan will be rolled forward to subsequent years pending satisfactory outcomes being achieved.

4 PLANNING TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES

To ensure that Angus Council can address and meet its legal obligations, in particular, under the Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc Act 2000 (Section 15) and Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 – Schools, an accessibility strategy has been developed.

The strategy takes full account of the two key duties placed upon Local Authorities:

- **Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably; and**
- **To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage.**

The three specific aspects of improvements which disability strategies must address, and which are included in this strategy, are:

- **Access to the curriculum**
- **Access to the physical environment of schools**
- **Improving communication and the delivery of school information.**

The time period covered in this strategy relates to 1 April 2003 - 31 March 2006 although particular attention is given to the period 1 April 2003 – 31 March 2004.

4.1 Approach to developing the strategy

Since 1996, strenuous efforts have been made to develop provision for children with additional support needs (ASN) within Angus. In order to develop appropriate support mechanisms for individual children the council has adopted a staged intervention approach to procedures for supporting children with ASN.

- Children with additional support needs are supported in their local primary school wherever possible. Occasionally, this may mean carrying out some minor adaptations or employing an ancillary member of staff (Support for Learning Assistant).
- For those pupils with particular needs which cannot be met in their local school, there is the option of attendance at another primary school in Angus - a 'resourced school' - where additional resources are available. All secondary schools are designated as resourced schools.
- For the very small percentage of pupils who require highly specialised provision which is only available outwith Angus, Angus Council,

working with the pupils' parents, arranges for attendance at an appropriate establishment elsewhere. This provision includes Kingspark School, Camphill-Steiner Schools, The Royal School for the Blind and Donaldson's College for the Deaf.

Planning for children with significant additional support needs is greatly assisted by the work of the pre-school co-ordinating team chaired by a senior clinical medical officer. The discussions in this multi-agency team ensure the appropriate placement of children and the matching of resources to their needs. In addition, there is close co-operation with members of staff in NHS Tayside, particularly Occupational Therapy services.

4.2 Progress to date

- The development of a resource base for primary-aged children with autism.
- The development of two pre-school nursery classes for children with special educational needs.
- The development of a multi-sensory suite in Lochside Primary School. This facility is shortly to be upgraded and two more multi-sensory bases are to be established – one in Langlands Primary School and one in Grange Primary School.
- Provision of a resource base for primary-aged children who are deaf or who have significant hearing impairment.
- The development of two secondary school bases for children who are unable to access mainstream secondary curricula.
- The development of five secondary support bases (two others are currently at the planning stage).
- The development of a CD-ROM dealing with the subject of dyslexia. This activity has involved close collaboration with staff, children, young people and their parents.
- Support from the Angus Childcare Partnership to provide sports activities for children with special educational needs during holiday periods.
- Joint training arrangements for staff working with pupils with special educational needs e.g. Makaton, Moving and Handling.
- Multi-agency working within the New Community Schools projects.

4.3 Summary of consultation/audits carried out in developing the strategy and determining priorities

There have been three key factors which have been helpful in focusing the development of an accessibility strategy.

- **Corporate Plan.** The formulation of a corporate ten-year plan to improve access to all public buildings (including schools) in Angus. This plan embraces all Council services.
- **Estates Survey/Asset Management Planning.** Each school in Angus has had an individual asset management plan drawn up. As a result of changes in legislation, the standard template for the asset management plan has been adapted to incorporate a preliminary access audit.
- **Best Value (BV) Service Reviews (Pre-school, Primary, Secondary and SEN)**
In each Best Value Service Review, views were invited on the quality, range and type of services on offer. Opportunities were included for individuals to comment on all aspects of provision, including accessibility.

Angus Council is a rural authority and services face great challenges in terms of medium-term strategic planning. There are 60 primary schools in Angus, some of which are single teacher rural schools. It is not envisaged that each primary school will be fully accessible.

In addition to these in-house audit exercises, a commercial survey was undertaken on one secondary school. It is anticipated that a similar exercise will be carried out on another secondary school with different design features in order to further inform the development of the accessibility strategy.

4.4 Summary of key areas of accessibility/schools where improvements are needed

In line with a commitment to developing localised services for children, discussions have taken place between Health and Education with a view to determining the likely areas of need in the short-medium term. This has, for example, led to the development of a resource base for children with significant hearing impairments in the south-east of Angus.

Similarly, discussions are currently underway with a view to developing further provision for children on the Autistic Spectrum.

At this stage, all costs incurred in these partnership developments have been borne by Angus Council.

It is the intention of the Council to ensure that all secondary schools are fully wheelchair accessible. Learning and teaching areas will be adapted to allow for the inclusion of virtually all pupils. This will include, for example, adaptations to desks, workbenches, ICT provision and other aids.

In line with the existing policy of developing resourced schools across Angus, each burgh will have at least one resourced primary school in

which particular forms of support will be provided. Within the current range of resourced schools, there is provision for children who are globally developmentally delayed, children who have physical disabilities, children who have communication difficulties and children with very significant behavioural difficulties. Work will continue to be undertaken in further rolling out this programme of localised service provision jointly with Health, Property Services and Social Work.

4.5 Access to the Curriculum

A wide range of training courses and staff development opportunities has been provided for both teaching and non-teaching staff working with children who have additional support needs in areas ranging from autism to manual handling and alternative forms of communication.

All of these staff development activities have been designed to support staff in enabling pupils to have access to a full curriculum. This has included the provision of specially adapted transport to enable disabled pupils to participate in out-of-school activities and trips.

The provision of auxiliary aids has been a key element of this approach and, wherever required, such provision has been made available for schools.

4.6 Access to the Physical Environment

As part of an ongoing commitment to the management of the education department's estates and the Council's corporate approach to accessibility to public buildings, it is envisaged that the asset management plan for each school will be revised to take account of access issues and a rolling programme of upgrading will be developed.

Any new buildings or refurbishment to existing buildings have been designed to ensure that they are fully accessible. Equipment has been installed to ensure that children can access sports facilities (e.g. pool hoists in school pools). Therapy rooms have been included to help maintain the mobility of physically disabled pupils.

4.7 Improving Communication

Consideration has been given to developing appropriate information leaflets for pupils and parents and work undertaken in this regard will be reviewed and updated to ensure that, in addition to standard printed leaflets, alternative forms of these documents are available for pupils with visual impairments, hearing impairments and learning difficulties.

4.8 Other Projects

The children's services planning structure has been a key driver in taking forward developments across all children's services. The Planning and Review Group for Children with Special Educational Needs, a sub-group of the Joint Commissioning Group, is tasked with developing services in this area.

The education department's improvement plan has incorporated inclusion as a key issue and much has been done to ensure that children with a range of support needs can have these addressed in their local schools. Particular attention has been given to physical access to provision. Individual school development plans closely reflect these priorities with

Head Teachers recognising the importance of the drive for inclusion.

Angus Council is establishing a Joint Strategic Support Unit which will consist of officers from a range of services - Education, Social Work, Housing and Health. The officers in this unit will be highly experienced, senior staff and the potential for effective joined-up, multi-agency work is significant.

4.9 Conclusions and Action Plan

Angus Council's existing policy on the education of children with Special Educational Needs (Additional Support Needs) and the work undertaken to date in the construction of the Estates Survey and individual Asset Management Plans place Education in a strong position to develop and implement a comprehensive accessibility strategy.

This action plan provides a description of how the strategy will be taken forward between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2004 and signals plans for developments in the subsequent two years.

4.10 Action Plan

Priority objectives / actions	Lead responsibility	Target date for completion	Future Developments
Access to the curriculum			
Ensure new Angus "Additional Support Needs" policy emphasises pupils' needs and entitlement to access a full curriculum.	Policy Review Group	June 2003	Develop supplementary guidance on supporting pupils with identified need.
Review procedures for staff and resource allocations to support access to curriculum.	Principal Officer Support for Learning(SFL) / Assistant to the Principal Officer SFL	March 2004	Audit training needs in light of developing provision in Angus.
Review support arrangements for pupils not able to attend school through illness.	Principal Officer SFL	April 2004	Develop support mechanisms to ensure pupils continued access to mainstream curriculum.
Review provision for pupils with	Principal Officer SFL	May 2004	Develop local resources to reduce

low incidence disabilities.			number of pupils being educated outwith Angus.
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Priority objectives / actions	Lead responsibility	Target date for completion	Future Developments
Access to the physical environment of schools			
Carry out interim access audits for primary schools where particular problems have been identified and develop an initial improvement plan with indicative costings.	Head of Services (Education) Head of Services (Property)	September 2003	Develop and extend the skills of existing staff through training programmes to enabling to carry out a comprehensive audit of all school buildings to comply with the relevant legislation.
Carry out interim access audits of specialised units within mainstream schools -- hearing impairment, visual impairment, autistic provision and the development interim improvement plan with indicative costings.	Head of Services (Education) Head of Services (Property)	December 2003	Carry out comprehensive accessibility audits of all school buildings and develop detailed improvement plans with detailed costings.
Carry out interim access audits to all eight secondary schools highlighting for each school which parts of the curriculum cannot be reached and prepare an interim improvement plan to develop access.	Head of Services (Education) Head of Services (Property)	October 2003	Carry out an evaluation exercise on the effectiveness of the first stage of these developments.

<p>Consider with various stakeholders (and for quality assurance purposes, an external specialist) an interim improvement plan in the light of the budget allocation and prioritise the programme of works targeting the areas of greatest need.</p>	<p>Head of Services (Education) Head of Services (Property)</p>	<p>February 2004</p>	<p>Consult with all relevant stakeholders on the proposed plans.</p>
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Priority objectives / actions	Lead responsibility	Target date for completion	Future Developments
Improving communication and the delivery of school information			
Review all existing information available to parents and pupils and develop an interim improvement plan with indicative costings.	Joint Strategic Support Unit	March 2004	Undertake a full consultation exercise with staff, pupils and parents to ensure future information is accessible and relevant.
Undertake disability awareness raising sessions with all school staff.	Joint Strategic Support Unit	March 2004	Continue to update staff as required.
Review communications strategies across all schools and develop an interim improvement plan with indicative costings.	Joint Strategic Support Unit	March 2004	Undertake a full consultation exercise with staff, pupils and parents to ensure effective means of communication, which address the needs of all pupils can be provided.
Where required consider commissioning specialist services to provide accessible information in a variety of formats.	Joint Strategic Support Unit	March 2004	Review findings of communication consultation exercise and progress discussions with specialist services as required.

Appendix 1

CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND (MAIN FUND) MONITORING REPORT 2002-03 AND (UPDATED) PROPOSALS FOR 2003-04

This form should be completed and signed by the lead officer with the council and the Chief Finance Officer. Please return to the Scottish Executive with your Children's Services Plan annual update, at the address noted below as soon as possible, and no later than 1 April 2003.

Local Authority area :-Angus.....

Allocation 2002-03 :-£539,000.....

Section A. Summary to 31/03/03

Projected Spend to 31 March

2003

Start-up Costs	£ 47,463
Staff Costs	£ 218,354
Other Operating Costs	£ 22,361
TOTAL	£ 288,178

Please list separate elements of your proposal below.

Element	Projected Spend to 31 March 2003
1. Development of offsite provision	Nil
2. Resource Worker(Community Support)	£ 21,611
3. Social Worker - Permanence	£ 4,300
4. Family Support officer – Child Protection	£ 8,527
5. Services to Vulnerable children and YP	£ 58,509
6. Family Based respite	£ 14,581
7. Education Planning Officer	Nil
8. Barnardo's Polepark (SW)	£ 8,000
9. Barnardo's Bridge (SW)	£ 8,000
10. Barnardo's Hopscotch (SW)	£ 12,000
11. Specialist Health Visitor	£ 6,431
12. Parenting Skills	£ 9,780
13(a). Primary Mental Health Workers	£ 20,000
13(b). Day Centre for 5 – 14's	Nil

14.PAMs services	£ 1,680
15.New Community Schools	£ 60,560
16.Educational Psychologists	Nil
17.3S's project	£ 54,199
TOTAL	£ 288,178

