

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

20 NOVEMBER 2003

FOSTER CARE HANDBOOK – GUIDANCE FOR FOSTER CARERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH LIAISON

**ABSTRACT**

This report informs members of the introduction of a revised Foster Care Handbook, providing updated guidelines for foster carers and social workers.

A copy of the revised handbook is available in the members' lounge.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:

- i) notes the contents of this report;
- ii) agrees to the introduction of the revised and updated handbook.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

The great majority of children in Angus who require care away from their own family are placed with foster carers. The Council currently has 54 foster carers. At any one time approximately 100 children are in foster placements in Angus.

Angus Council is fortunate to have a committed group of foster carers who provide high quality care to some of the most vulnerable children in our community. The Council is committed to providing the support these foster carers require, and to work in partnership with them to meet the needs of children.

The foster care handbook provides advice and guidance to enable the partnership between foster carers and the Council to work effectively.

**3. THE REVISED HANDBOOK**

The foster care handbook has been extensively revised and updated since the last version was produced in 1998. It incorporates changes in both legislation and foster care practice over the last five years. It reflects the fact that fostering has become increasingly professionalised with carers relied on to undertake a wider range of tasks than ever before.

The handbook consolidates information about developments that have individually been considered by the Social Work Committee, including the restructuring of the previous fostercare and mainstay schemes and the establishment of a specialist foster carer scheme as set out and approved by Committee in Report No 637/01.

Following consultation with foster carers, the format and layout of the handbook has been altered to make the information more easily accessible.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications of producing the handbook will be contained within the social work department's revenue budget.

## **5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

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

## **7. CONCLUSION**

The revised foster care handbook provides foster carers and social workers with a valuable resource that will help to ensure that the Council continues to provide a high standard of service to looked after children.

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.