

ANGUS COUNCIL

**SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE
5 JUNE 2003**

**REPORT ON THE ANGUS ADOPTION AGENCY AND THE FOSTERING PANEL – ANNUAL
REPORT 2002 TO 2003**

REPORT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

ABSTRACT

This report informs Committee of the production of the Annual Report on the Angus Adoption Agency and the Fostering Panel. [Copies of this report are attached to this committee report.](#)

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:-

- (i) notes the contents of this report;
- (ii) notes the contents of the "Report on the Angus Adoption Agency and the Fostering Panel"

2 INTRODUCTION

Angus Council acquired its statutory duties as an Adoption Agency on 1 April 1996. The agency is responsible for all the Council's functions and duties in respect of adoption and permanence.

Angus Council as a local authority acquired its responsibilities to appoint a fostering panel on 1 April 1996. The Angus Fostering Panel is responsible for the approval and review of all foster carers within Angus Council.

3 KEY ISSUES FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Report on the Angus Adoption Agency and the Fostering Panel has been prepared to provide information for the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003. It provides statistical information for this period as well as an overview of the full seven years the agency and the panels have been in operation.

The report incorporates the Adoption Agency Report, the Adoption and Permanence Panel Report and the Fostering Panel Report.

Key issues from the report include:

- a) the range of national initiatives and legislative changes which the Adoption Agency is affected by and is responding to;
- b) the largely positive feedback to a consultation exercise about the functioning of the Adoption and Fostering panels;
- c) the reduction in business handled by the panel this year caused by a fall in the number of prospective carers approved and of children matched with permanent families;
- d) indications that this fall in numbers will be temporary due to the high number of families currently being assessed and the increased number of children registered for permanence;
- e) the continuing development of resource sharing arrangements with other Councils to increase the choice of permanent placements available to children;
- f) the recruitment of additional adoption counsellors and the provision of adoption counselling training.

The report identifies a number of areas for development in the coming year, particularly:-

- a) to continue implementation of action plans to ensure the Adoption Agency and Fostering Services meet the national care standards established by the Care Commission;
- b) to improve the permanence planning process for children by the employment of a specialist permanence worker and by providing training to Social Work staff;
- c) to continue consultations with other agencies about joint arrangements for improving the range of post adoption services available to adopted children and their families;
- d) to continue consultation with BAAF about the possibility of establishing a recruitment project in the North East of Scotland to supplement the efforts of individual Councils;
- e) to explore options for a new venue for the Adoption and Fostering panels once the current rooms in Whitehills hospital are not available.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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 report on the Angus Adoption Agency and the Fostering Panel provides extensive information on the operation of the agency and the panels. It highlights Angus Council's success over several years in meeting the needs of children who require permanent care and providing an effective service for children, foster carers and adoptive parents.

R Peat
Acting 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.