

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE.....5 JUNE 2003
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.....29 MAY 2003

SURESTART (SCOTLAND)

JOINT REPORT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK,
THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & THE PERSONNEL SERVICES MANAGER

ABSTRACT

This report outlines the progress of the Surestart (Scotland) initiative in Angus and recommends further developments in 2003/2004 with the additional funding provided by the Scottish Executive.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- i) approves the further development of Surestart Scotland as described in this report;
- ii) approves the establishment of the following posts:-
 - 1 x Family Support Team Manager (AP6)
 - 1 x Family Support Team Worker – (SCP 27 – 35)

It is recommended that the Education Committee:-

- i) approves the further development of Surestart (Scotland) as described in this report.

2. INTRODUCTION

Committee is referred to the Angus Children's Services Plan agreed by the Social Work and Education Committee on 20 August, 2002 and 27 August, 2002 respectively and the committee reports 757/99, 428/00 and 640/01 outlining previous Surestart developments. The Angus Children's Services Plan outlines developments in Childcare and pre-school education in Angus. It is recognised that good quality Childcare and pre-school education are central to the plans of tackling social exclusion in Scotland. They contribute in a number of ways by assisting a child's social and education development with particular benefit to those children and families in need.

Year one of Sure Start (99/00) concentrated on developing services in the Forfar/Kirriemuir and South West Angus areas; year two (00/01) in Montrose/Brechin and North Angus, and year three expanded the staff based in Arbroath Child and Family Centre with the intention of supporting vulnerable families in the Carnoustie/Monifieth areas.

These developments have been successful, and have been in accord with a recent Scottish Executive Consultation Paper on the “ Integrated Strategy for Early Years.”

3. PROPOSAL TO FURTHER DEVELOP EARLY YEARS SERVICES

It is proposed that a small team dedicated to providing a service in the Carnoustie/Monifieth area be developed. This team will organise and deliver parent support and education and also flexible day care for children in need through commissioning community childminding places.

Appropriate accommodation to deliver services in this area has proved problematic, hence the proposal to support the minor modifications to the Philip Hall in Carnoustie which would then be rented to run groups for children and parents on a weekly basis. Discussions have taken place with a representative of the church and the Council's Property Services Department to ensure that the building will comply with the Council's safety standards and to make the facilities suitable for infants and toddlers.

In addition there is a proposal to support the voluntary organisation, Home Start in some of their costs in running groups in Arbroath. These proposals are detailed in Appendix 1.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Allowance has been made in the Social Work Department's revenue budget for this development, using money allocated by the Scottish Executive as part of the comprehensive spending review.

These developments will be phased in during the financial year 2003/2004, the full year costs are contained in Appendix 1.

The Scottish Executive has indicated that there will be further additional funding in years 2004/2005 and 2005/2006, and it is proposed to bring a further committee report with proposals outlining developments in the Early Years Services in Angus.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 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.

The Personnel Services Manager has been consulted, and is in agreement with, the staffing proposals contained in this report.

7. CONCLUSION

Developments in Childcare in Angus are outlined in the Angus Children's Services Plan 2002 - 2004. The establishment of early intervention and family support services underpins the development of the National Childcare and Social Inclusion strategies.

The developments outlined in this report of a family support nature will ensure a degree of equity of services for children in need and family support services across Angus.

R Peat
Acting Director of Social Work

J Anderson
Director of Education

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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

CHILDCARE	2003/04 (6 mths) £	2004/05 (Full) £
Child Community		
<u>Family Support Team Carnoustie/ Monifieth</u>		
Staff Costs:		
- 1 Manager (SCP 35-38)	15,638	32,176
- 1 Team Worker (SCP 27-35)	13,693	28,201
Property Costs	5,000	10,000
Travel and Subsistence	3,500	7,000
Supplies and Services	2,500	5,000
Third Party Payments	4,600	8,000
Income		
Sub Total	44,931	90,377
One-off Set Up Costs (modifications to the Philip Hall)	2,500	
Total	<u>47,431</u>	<u>90,377</u>
Funding:		
Scottish Executive Surestart Funding	<u>58,000</u>	<u>228,000</u>
Potential surplus	<u>10,569</u>	<u>137,623</u>

Assumptions

It is assumed that the additional funding for 2004/05 is to be £228,000. There will be a further committee report with proposals outlining further developments in the Early Years Services in Angus.