ABSTRACT
This report advises of progress being made by Social Work and Health in implementing the actions set out in the department’s service plan.

1 RECOMMENDATION
It is recommended that the Committee notes the progress being made in delivering the actions in the Social Work and Health service plan, 2008/09.

2 INTRODUCTION
Scrutiny by elected members of progress made in delivering service plan actions is a vital component of the effective performance management arrangements.

Accordingly the Monitoring Group on 28 May 2008 agreed that mid-year performance reports on progress against actions in departments’ service plans should be submitted to the November/December committee cycle.

Attached to this report is the mid-year report for the Social Work and Health Department setting out the performance status as at four weeks prior to the date of this committee.

The report has been produced from Excelsis, the council’s performance management system.

3 COMMENTARY
There are 22 actions within the Social Work and Health Service Plan 2008/09. Of these 7 have been completed within the agreed timescale, 13 are on target for completion within the agreed timescale and two are overdue.

Many of the completed actions have been the subject of previous reports to committee. Particular note should be taken of the action to develop an office accommodation strategy for Social Work and Health and address office accommodation issues in Forfar. The initial phases of this project were undertaken as planned however, the project has now been overtaken by other developments, specifically the completion of the first asset management plan for Social Work and Health and the establishment of a working group to reinvigorate the corporate position on home working and flexible working arrangements.

The office accommodation requirements for Social Work and Health will be reviewed when the home working group has reported its findings and a corporate policy position has been agreed. The office accommodation situation will also be considered within the overall asset management plan allowing a more informed prioritisation of investment to be made.

Note should also be taken of the move to fully integrate Health Improvement targets and performance indicators in to the Angus Single Outcome Agreement.

Of the 13 actions which are on target there are no issues, at this time, which may result in revised deadlines. It is however pleasing to note that progress with the resettlement of the remaining inpatients from Strathmartine Hospital is almost complete with staff training taking place and tenants due to take up occupancy in November.
As part of the action to produce Information resources on alcohol and the effects of alcohol for the public and partners agencies The Angus Alcohol Information and Services Guide has now been produced and is being distributed across Angus.

Steady progress has been made with the first phase of the Telecare development which allows the use of modern technology to support people at home. Demonstration and training flats are now in full use with the Virtual Sheltered Housing Scheme due to launch in November.

The two actions which are overdue are both progressing and revised timescales are proposed.

Securing the appropriate approval for the Best Value Review of Older Persons Services is expected to be complete very shortly with a revised timescale of April 2009 planned.

Development and implementation of the Healthy Working Lives Strategy is also progressing and a revised timescale of October 2009 will allow the draft strategy, which has been produced, to be considered by Chief Officers. Implementation is dependant on establishing a Healthy Working Lives Development Officer post within Social Work and Health. This is currently in progress.

To date one action has been the subject of a revised date for completion. The enhancement of services for people with dementia cannot be progressed until approval of the Best Value Review of Older Persons Services is secured. A report on the recommendations arising from the Best Value Review will be presented to the Social Work and Health Committee in January. The multi agency task group for older people (mental health) will progress this action once the Best Value Review is published.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the terms of this report.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

7 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Law and Administration and Head of Finance have been consulted on the terms of this report.

Robert Peat
Director of Social Work and Health

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.