REPORT NO 372/08

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

10 APRIL 2008

PARTNERSHIP WORKING BETWEEN ANGUS COUNCIL SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICE AND CAPABILITY SCOTLAND

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

ABSTRACT

This report advises the Social Work and Health Committee of an initiative in partnership working between the Social Work and Health Learning Disability Service and Capability Scotland. This new initiative will bring resources to Angus to fund a Transition Co-ordinator for young people within the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Range.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee notes the development in partnership working with Capability Scotland.

2 INTRODUCTION

In 2000 the Scottish Executive’s Policy direction “The Same As You” was launched. One of the recommendations in “The Same as You” was that services for people with Autism and Aspergers syndrome should come under the learning disability umbrella. A growing area in particular is one of young adults in transition from school to adult services. A recent report from NHS Tayside in conjunction with the three Local Authorities in Tayside sets out the needs for this client group and over the last six months Angus have worked with Capability Scotland to look at a joint initiative to develop services for young people with Autism who are going through the transition from children’s services to adult services. Capability Scotland has secured £100,000 from the Robertson Trust to take this service forward over the next three years.

3 PROPOSAL

Capability Scotland has secured £100,000 over the next three years to create a post of Transition Co-ordinator for Autistic Spectrum Disorder Range. The post holder will work directly with twenty people at any one point in time who are on the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Range, their families and voluntary and statutory services in order to better co-ordinate their access to existing services with a view to achieving improved outcomes for individuals concerned. The post will also be able to act as a catalyst for change to ensure that services are responsive to the identified needs of such individuals. Any identified impact on services will be fed into the ongoing redesign of community learning disability services in Angus and the Tayside wide redesign of Health learning disability services. An exit strategy for the service will be put in place should funding following the three year period not be secured. Angus Council have already identified twenty young people ranging from some who have not yet left school to some who are up to four years post school leavers.
4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Angus Council Social Work & Health as the £100,000 grant to Capability Scotland will cover the salary and support of one member of staff. The staff member will have access to learning disability establishments within Angus to use for meetings and administrative tasks.

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 Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

R 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.