ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval of a proposal to extend the existing two year contract in place with Angus College for the delivery of SVQ qualifications in Children’s Care, Learning and Development.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee and the Social Work & Health Committee, each for its respective interests, should:

a) note the contents of this report
b) agree to the extension of the existing SVQ contract with Angus College for a further year

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 In April 2006, Angus Council undertook a tender process to appoint a provider for the delivery of a ‘Children’s Care, Learning and Development’ SVQ qualification to private and voluntary sector daycare and education providers. The proposal to award the contract to Angus College, with effect from 1 June 2006 for a period of two years, was approved by the Education Committee at its meeting on 25 May 2006 (article 11 refers) and by the Social Work & Health Committee at its meeting on 30 May 2006 (article 19 refers)

2.2 The contract documentation includes an option to extend the contract by a further year.

3 PROPOSAL

3.1 The arrangements made by Angus College to deliver the SVQ qualification have been the subject of favourable monitoring reports by the Early Years Team and have attracted positive feedback from participants.

3.2 It is now proposed to extend the existing contract with Angus College by a further period of one year to 1 June 2009.

3.3 The extension will allow existing candidates to continue with their studies.

3.4 In accordance with financial regulations, any extension beyond the one additional year would be subject to a re-tendering process.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The estimated cost of extending this contract to 1 June 2009 will be £20,000. (The precise cost will be dependent on student numbers.) There is provision for this expenditure within the Childcare Partnership budget.

CONCLUSION

5.1 Angus Council is committed to supporting the childcare workforce by ensuring the availability of high quality professional development opportunities for staff. Developing the workforce is critical to ensuring that we have the right staff, with the right skills, in the right place at the right time.

5.2 The Scottish Social Services Council has recently introduced registration requirements for the childcare and early years workforce. It will, therefore, continue to be important to ensure that childcare staff have access to appropriate professional training.

5.3 The extension of the SVQ contract with Angus College will ensure that the local childcare and early years workforce have opportunities to enhance their skills and their professional practice.

CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council, this report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Law & Administration and the Head of Finance.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

JIM ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

DR ROBERT PEAT
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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.