ABSTRACT

The Scottish Government has provided Angus Council with one off funding of £42,000 to be spent within this financial year to raise and sustain awareness of the local authority’s responsibility as a Corporate Parent for looked after children. This should include building capacity through more effective and better partnership working and commissioning of services.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

I. notes the content of this report;
II. supports the principle of seconding a Project Manager from current services to lead on the development of a Corporate Parenting Strategy for Angus;
III. instructs the Directors of Social Work and Health and Education to bring a Corporate Parenting Strategy to both the Social Work and Health and Education Committees for final authorisation.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Government's paper ‘We Can and Must Do Better’ aims to drive up aspirations and achievements for looked after children. Specifically this means delivering year on year improvements in educational attainment, post education pathways, health and dental outcome and access to sustained, appropriate accommodation.

As the corporate parent for vulnerable children, local authorities and their partners are responsible for ensuring that looked after children achieve the same well-being and success that all parents wish for their children. In achieving this it is paramount that we raise and sustain the awareness of Elected Members, Council staff and partners with regard to their responsibilities as a corporate parent.

The Scottish Government has provided Angus Council with one off funding of £42,000 to be spent within this financial year to raise and sustain awareness of the local authority’s responsibility as a corporate parent for looked after children.

3 PROPOSALS

It is proposed to use the additional funding provided by the Scottish Government to appoint a Project Manager to lead on the development of a corporate parenting Strategy for Angus that will clearly set out the corporate parent function of Angus Council and its partners and how these responsibilities will be met. This project will
concentrate on identifying key national and local outcomes for looked after children and engage stakeholders in taking forward and improving on these.

The aim will be to develop a Corporate Parenting Strategy that will identify key priorities for change with improvement targets from 2008-2011. The Corporate Parenting Strategy will also need to ensure integration with the current development of parenting services across the local authority area and ensure that key outcomes for looked after children are an integral part of the developing Angus Parenting Strategy.

The table below identifies 3 additional proposals for the funding made available to Angus. These have been identified following discussions between Education and Social Work and Health. The proposals reflect the current lack of a clear Corporate Parenting Strategy in Angus, and the need for improvements in our ability to track the attainment of Looked After Children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Aim</th>
<th>Proposed Lead Officer</th>
<th>Proposed Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Second a Project Manager for 4 Months from current services.</td>
<td>To lead on the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy for Angus</td>
<td>Senior Manager Strategic Development and Adult Care Services</td>
<td>£20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Training, leaflets, publicity material</td>
<td>Provide a Working budget for the Project Manager in the delivery of training and the publication of materials.</td>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. To fund additional supply staff to pilot the input of attainment and achievement data for LAC into SEEMIS.</td>
<td>Pilot development within targeted schools for expansion of the monitoring and tracking function of SEEMIS with looked after children.</td>
<td>Principal Officer Management information Services</td>
<td>£7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The development of a raft of awards for looked after children within existing frameworks to recognise/celebrate success in Angus.</td>
<td>To celebrate the success and achievements of looked after children in Angus.</td>
<td>Principal Community Learning and Development Officer</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** | **£42,000** |

4 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The costs for these proposals are being met from the one off funding of £42,000 being provided this financial year by the Scottish Government.

5 **HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Human Rights implications arising as a result of 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.

7 CONCLUSION

The provision of additional funding from the Scottish Government to raise and sustain awareness of the local authority’s responsibility as a Corporate Parent for looked after children allows the opportunity to develop a Corporate Parenting Strategy in Angus that will clearly set out the Corporate Parent function of Angus Council and its partners and how these responsibilities will be met over the life of the Council.

R Peat  J Anderson
Director of Social Work and Health  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.