ABSTRACT

This report informs Committee of the production of an interactive DVD about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [UNCRC]. This DVD was created by local children and young people for children and young people. Copies of the DVD have been placed in the Members’ Lounge.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

i) notes the contents of the DVD on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

ii) approves the distribution of the DVD

2 BACKGROUND

Angus was the first local authority in Scotland to adopt the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in May 1996 (Refer to joint Report No 418/96 to the Social Work and Education Committees which was considered on 28 May 2006).

The focus of this adoption was two fold. First, to inform all children and young people of their rights. This approach is supported by the experience of children in Scandinavian countries who from an early age are taught about their rights. It has been the experience in these countries that due to this learning children have also become more attuned about their responsibilities. This approach contributes to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people of today and in turn contributes to the wellbeing of future generations.

Secondly, adopting the UNCRC allowed a framework on which to base the inter-agency planning, review and coordination of services for children, young people and their families and thereby helps ensure that the Council meets its statutory responsibilities arising out of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. (Refer to joint Report No. 659/96 to the Social Work, Education and Housing Committees which was considered on 20 August 1996, 27 August 1996 and 24 September).

Between 1996 and 1999 efforts were made to ensure that the UNCRC was made known to as many children and young people in Angus as possible. A series of presentations, displays, discussions and participation forums were facilitated for children and young people of all ages to learn about the principles of the UNCRC.
In order to reach young children unable to read, as well as children with visual impairments and impediments, the children and young people in Angus, proposed that the Angus version of the UNCRC should be produced as an audio tape.

This proposal was supported by social work, health and education services and in 1999 the first United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child audio tape and poster, also designed by children in Angus for children, was launched.

3 TECHNOLOGY UPDATING REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Due to advances in information and communications technology audio tapes are no longer widely in use.

During 2007 various means of updating the UNCRC audio tape were explored. Discussions were held with children and young people as well as professionals and recommended experts in the field of audio and visual imaging including organisations such as Radio Tay and Angus Digital Media Centre.

In January 2007 Radio Tay facilitated their recording studios for two young people from Angus to re-record the updated child friendly version of the UNCRC, free of charge. Radio Tay has also offered to promote the UNCRC once the Angus DVD is completed.

Between January 2007 and November 2007 consultation with children, young people with the support of their families and professionals took place to discuss the type and contents of material to be included in an interactive DVD about the UNCRC. This work resulted in the DVD being produced by the Angus Digital Media Centre.

4 CONCLUSION

During the past 12 years the UNCRC has been made widely known to children and young people throughout Angus. It is estimated that around 4,000 audio tapes of the UNCRC and 1000 posters have been distributed to children and young people.

The production of the interactive DVD will help Angus Council to meet its commitment of supporting more children and young people to become aware of their rights and responsibilities as outlined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and therefore promote their safety and wellbeing.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report. The cost of producing the DVD has been met by Quality of Life funding from the 2007/08 Revenue Budget.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

7 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: The undernoted 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 a material extent in preparing the above report.

REFERENCES

1 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child