

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK & HEALTH COMMITTEE	13 AUGUST 2009
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE	20 AUGUST 2009
EDUCATION COMMITTEE	27 AUGUST 2009

ANGUS INTEGRATED PLAN FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES 2009 – 2012

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK & HEALTH,
 THE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
 THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Education, Neighbourhood Services and Social Work & Health Committees of the nature and focus of the Angus Integrated Plan for Children & Young People's Services 2009 – 2012.

1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that each Committee, for its respective interest, should note the summary of Partnership Improvement Actions contained within the Angus Integrated Plan for Children & Young People's Services 2009 – 2012.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Previous Angus Integrated Children's Services plans, produced in 1998, 2002 and 2005, set out a range of priorities which Angus Council and its partners agreed to address in seeking to improve outcomes for Angus children and young people. In line with Scottish Executive advice, the 1998 and 2002 plans focussed upon the needs of vulnerable children, young people and their parents/carers. Following the issue, in November 2004, of revised Scottish Executive guidance to local authorities and NHS boards, the 2005 -2008 plan, '*For the Children of Angus*', outlined improvement objectives and delivery strategies, across universal and targeted services, for all Angus children and young people. That Plan was approved by the Education Committee on 26 May 2005, the Social Work & Health Committee on 31 May 2005 and the Strategic Policy Committee on 21 July 2005.
- 2.2 '*For The Children and Young People of Angus 2009 – 2012*', has been developed within the context of community planning, as set out in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. The plan takes close account of the statutory requirements of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 in relation to the preparation of plans for children's services, as well as more recent advice, issued jointly in March 2008 by the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA). The latter advice locates children's services plans within the context of the Concordat between the Scottish Government and local government. The commitments of the Concordat are underpinned by the terms of the Angus Single Outcome Agreement 2009 – 2012 which outlines seven priority outcomes for all Angus children and young people.

3 FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF ANGUS 2009 – 2012

- 3.1 On 1 April 2008, revised structures associated with the management, delivery, quality improvement and evaluation of children's services and prepared by senior officers of the Council came in to being. This draft Integrated Plan for Children & Young People's Services has been prepared within the new children's services framework. The establishment of four key Joint Action Groups in the areas of **Additional Support Needs, Looked After Children, Early Years and Childcare**, and **Children's Health** is central to ensuring the effective delivery of improvement actions set out in the plan. In addition to the Joint Action Groups, a Children's Services Training Co-ordination Group has been established to support the achievement of agreed priorities through the adoption of a shared approach by children's services to related inter-agency training.
- 3.2 In writing the plan extensive consultation has taken place between key officers within Angus Council, NHS Tayside, the voluntary sector and other statutory agencies represented within the newly formed Angus

Children's Services Quality Improvement and Performance Management Group. The draft plan has recently been endorsed by the Angus Children's Services Executive Group.

- 3.3 *'For The Children and Young People of Angus 2009 – 2012'* sets out the agreed vision of local partners for children and young people's services in Angus. The plan details intended outcomes for children and young people's services, as well as indicating specific actions and performance measures designed to support the achievement of those outcomes. Throughout the plan, clear links are made to local and national outcomes set out in the 2009 – 2012 Single Outcome Agreement.
- 3.4 In building upon the success of earlier plans, and in consolidating the shared commitment of partners to *'getting it right for every child'*, local outcomes have been framed within both of the above documents with reference to the national indicators of wellbeing. A summary of partnership improvement actions contained within the draft plan is attached for information within Appendix 1.
- 3.5 Regular monitoring reports regarding the impact, outcomes and progress with the plan's actions will be prepared by the Children's Services Quality Improvement and Performance Management group for consideration by the Children's Services Executive Group. Update reports, as required, will in turn be provided to the Angus Community Planning Partnership by the Children's Services Executive Group.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Children and young people in Angus are valued members of our community. They are unique individuals who can make important contributions to family and community life. As the citizens of tomorrow they should have the best possible start in life and be assisted, where required, to reach their full potential as they enjoy growing up in Angus. In order to become confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens all Angus children and young people need to be **safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible** and **included**. In building upon the well established practices of partnership working across Angus children's services, 'For The Children and Young People of Angus 2009 – 2012' outlines partners' continued commitment to improve outcomes for all Angus children and young people.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Angus Children's Services Executive Group will ensure that required levels of financial input are put in place to ensure the successful delivery of prescribed actions within this plan. As far as Angus Council is concerned, the cost of those sections of the plan which are rightfully the principal responsibility of Angus Council will be met from the Revenue Budget for Education, or Social Work & Health, or Neighbourhood Services – as appropriate.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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 has been completed.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from the consideration of this report.

8 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 It is concluded that this plan is likely to have no environmental effects and the SEA Gateway have been notified accordingly, as required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The notification will be published by the SEA Gateway on the public register maintained to that end.

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 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 Finance and the Head of Law & Administration.

10 LINKS WITH ANGUS SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

- 10.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Single Outcome Agreement 2009 – 2012:

- young people and adults in Angus maximise their potential through learning opportunities (National Outcome 3)
- children and young people in Angus will have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self esteem to the fullest potential (National Outcome 4)
- children and young people in Angus will live within a supportive family setting with additional assistance if required, or where this is not possible, within another care setting ensuring a positive and rewarding childhood experience (National Outcome 5)
- children and young people in Angus will enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, with access to suitable healthcare and support for safe and healthy lifestyle choices (National Outcome 6)
- children and young people in Angus will be active with opportunities and encouragement to participate in play and recreation, including sport (National Outcome 6)
- children and young people in Angus and their carers will have access to high quality services and be assisted to overcome the social, educational, physical, environmental and economic barriers that create inequality (National Outcome 7)
- children and young people in Angus will be protected from abuse, neglect and harm by others at home, at school, and in the community (National Outcome 8)
- children and young people in Angus will be involved in decisions that affect them, have their voices heard and be encouraged to play an active and responsible role in their communities (National Outcome 11).

NEIL LOGUE
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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.

ANGUS INTEGRATED PLAN FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES 2009 – 2012**SUMMARY OF PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS**

Over the next three years the following actions will be taken by children's services partners to ensure improvements in the wellbeing and outcomes for Angus children and young people.

Safe

S1 - Raise awareness of child protection issues with children, young people and the general public through the provision of information.

S2 - Implement electronic information sharing and communication systems in accordance with existing child protection procedures and Angus GIRFEC developments.

S3 - Improve the way that schools and school staff respond to domestic abuse and to the additional support needs of children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

S4 - Ensure a consistent, holistic approach to children and young people affected by domestic abuse through the development of a skilled workforce and robust interagency working.

S5 - Ensure that community and voluntary organisations providing services to children provide a safe and secure environment.

S6 - Provide opportunities for children and young people out with their formal education to participate in sport, leisure, arts, cultural and youth work activities.

S7 - Implement, within the context of Angus GIRFEC developments, effective interagency mechanisms to identify and support children and young people adversely affected by parental substance misuse.

Nurtured

N1 - Provision of continuing professional development opportunities for early years and childcare staff.

N2 - Successful development and implementation of an Angus Parenting Strategy.

N3 - Provide parent education and community learning opportunities that strengthen parents' and carers' capacity to nurture their children.

N4 - Ensure a holistic, consistent approach to play through the development and implementation of an Angus Play Strategy.

N5 - Ensure the needs of looked after children and young people are identified and met through the implementation of related action plans.

N6 - Successful implementation of the priority actions arising from the Angus Early Years and Childcare Provision Needs Assessment.

Healthy

H1 - Employ a range of strategies across children's services to reduce levels of smoking by young people.

H2 - Provision of health information, advice and support, within school and community settings, for children and young people.

H3 - Deliver child healthy weight intervention programme.

H4 - Development and implementation of a 'Strategic Framework for the Wellbeing and Mental Health of Angus Children and Young People.

H5 - Reduce pregnancies in 13 – 15 year olds.

H6 - Ensure prompt identification of, and provision of appropriate support and management for, children and young people with long term conditions, and their carers.

H7 - Employ a range of strategies to increase the prevalence and duration of exclusive breast feeding.

H8 - Employ a range of strategies to raise the standard of oral health in children and young people.

H9 - Employ a range of strategies to reduce the incidence of risk-taking sexual health behaviours in young people.

H 10 - Employ a range of strategies to reduce the alcohol consumption of children and young people under the age of 18.

Active

Active 1 - Development of enhanced opportunities for children and young people to participate in physical education classes, physical activity, sport, leisure, recreation and play activities.

Achieving

A1 - Recognise, accredit and celebrate young people's achievements, including youth work and youth volunteering, out with their formal education.

A2 - Implement a range of strategies to improve the attainment of looked after children in Angus.

A3 - Increase the proportion of young people leaving school and moving to a positive destination (via On 2 FEET Programme, 16+ Learning Choices, vocational learning and other interventions)

A4 - Contribute to an increase in the average tariff score of the lowest attaining 20% and reduce the gap to the remaining 80% through development of skills for life, skills for work (vocational learning and On 2 FEET)

A5 - Increase number of link places available from Angus College for young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN). This to include placements within vocational centres in schools

Respected & Responsible

R1 - Development and implementation across children's services of a multi-agency youth engagement strategy enabling young people to have an effective voice and influence over policies and services that impact on them.

R2 - Increase the number and enhance the quality of available volunteering opportunities for young people in Angus.

R3 - Increased opportunity for parents, carers and other community members to contribute to the delivery of early year's services, childcare, sport, culture and youth work.

R4 - Implementation of the revised Angus Youth Justice Strategy to reduce the volume of youth offending and disorder in Angus.

Included

I1 - Review Co-ordinated Support Plan procedures and develop guidelines for schools and partner agencies.

I2 - Review of autism provision.

I3 - Implementation of multi-agency Transition Guidelines.

I4 - Establishment of Children's Services Equalities Co-ordination Group.

Generic Priority Actions

G1 – Implementation of Angus GIRFEC priorities as determined by the Children's Services Executive Group.

G2 – To improve the quality of services for children and young people through the adoption of improved approaches to rigorous self-evaluation.