

**ANGUS COUNCIL**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**2 JUNE 2011**  
**'a RIGHT blether'**  
**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**ABSTRACT**

This report seeks to advise members of the Education Committee about the outcome of the national consultation undertaken by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People (SCCYP) in 2010.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:
- (i) note the terms of this report
  - (ii) note the high percentage of young people who cast their votes in the 'Big Vote' exercise undertaken in November 2010
  - (iii) note the priority issues which young people in Angus and young people across Scotland wish to be addressed to improve their lives as young citizens
  - (iv) note that the full SCCYP report on the Angus vote is available electronically at:  
[http://www.sccyp.org.uk/downloads/Adult%20Reports/a-right-blether/angus\\_revised.pdf](http://www.sccyp.org.uk/downloads/Adult%20Reports/a-right-blether/angus_revised.pdf)

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 20 October 2010 (Article 11 refers), members of the Education Committee were informed about arrangements being made by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People to undertake a major national consultation exercise, in particular, through the operation of a 'Big Vote' in November 2010.
- 2.2 The SCCYP wrote to all local authorities on 9 May 2011, advising them of the number of votes cast by young people within their area expressed as a percentage of pupils in local authority schools. Information provided by the Commissioner about the 'Big Vote' exercise includes a brief summary of priority issues which children and young people believe require to be addressed in order to improve their lives as young citizens.
- 2.3 Children and young people participating in the 'Big Vote' voted online or at voting centres in schools, in local organisations and in community learning and development bases or centres. Votes cast reflected issues which children and young people thought were important to them in the following categories:
- **In the home**
  - **Where we learn**
  - **In the community**
  - **In Scotland**
- 2.4 There were a further two questions to determine how much young people in Scotland knew about the role of Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People and about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

2.5 The outcomes of the 'Big Vote' have been collated and analysed by age and local authority area. National results can be found at [www.sccyp.org.uk](http://www.sccyp.org.uk)

### 3 A RIGHT BLETHER – BIG VOTE: LOCAL AREA COMPARISONS

3.1 The table in the appendix represents the votes cast in each Scottish local authority as a percentage of the number of children and young people in public funded schools.

3.2 Relative to other local authorities, a pleasingly high proportion of Angus pupils took part in this important national exercise. Of the 32 councils, Angus participation ranks 4<sup>th</sup> highest. In Angus 30.7% of pupils took part, compared with 10.9% of pupils nationally.

3.3 That level of involvement reflects the extensive advice, information and support provided to pupils and young people by colleagues within the Community Learning and Development Service, colleagues within the Educational Development Service and teaching staff across participating schools.

### 4 SUMMARY OF PRIORITY ISSUES IDENTIFIED THROUGH THIS NATIONAL CONSULTATION EXERCISE AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ACTION

4.1 As indicated in 2.3 above, young people were asked to express their views in relation to their aspirations in four categories.

4.2 The Angus vote in the **In the home** category indicates that children and young people wish, as a priority, that public service *'help them to be safe and secure in their home'*.

4.3 The Angus vote in the **Where we learn** category indicates that children and young people wish, as a priority, that public services *'help them have the same chances, no matter how much money their families have'*.

4.4 The Angus vote in the **In the community** category indicates that young people wish, as a priority, that public services *'help them feel safe and respected'*.

4.5 The Angus vote in the **In Scotland** category indicates that children and young people wish, as a priority, that public services *'help everyone to include each other, no matter how different they all are'*.

4.6 With respect to the final two questions covered by the 'Big Vote', 81% of Angus voters indicated that, prior to the 'Big Vote', they had not heard of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, compared to a national response of 76%.

4.7 The Angus vote indicates that, prior to the 'Big Vote', 66% of voters had not heard about the United Nations Convention on the Rights for the Child (UNCRC), compared to a national response of 56%.

4.8 Arrangements have been made to consider the Angus outcomes of the 'Big Vote' with Head Teachers and with Community Learning and Development workers. Following those deliberations, staff will explore appropriately with children and young people in schools and, as appropriate, in community settings the main issues covered within the Big Vote and, in particular, issues which Angus young people wish to be addressed to improve their lives.

4.9 The Commissioner for Children and Young People is making arrangements to meet with senior officers in local authorities to consider the implications of the national and local votes.

### 5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the terms of this report.

### 6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

### 7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 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 undertaken.

## **8 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

8.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Single Outcome Agreement:

- 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 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)

## **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.

NEIL LOGUE  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

## **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.

Pupils in publicly funded schools 2009*	Number of school pupils	No of votes	Number of votes as percentage of pupils in each local authority
Aberdeen City	21558	633	2.9
Aberdeenshire	34304	1636	4.8
<b>Angus</b>	<b>15510</b>	<b>4764</b>	<b>30.7</b>
Argyll & Bute	11503	1139	9.9
Clackmannanshire	6733	305	4.5
Dumfries & Galloway	19775	1474	7.5
Dundee City	17409	1299	7.5
East Ayrshire	16434	1197	7.3
East Dunbartonshire	16083	1287	8.0
East Lothian	13200	2564	19.4
East Renfrewshire	16249	2053	12.6
Edinburgh City	44258	3024	6.8
Falkirk	20517	420	2.0
Fife	47769	13715	28.7
Glasgow City	65290	4934	7.6
Highland	31699	533	1.7
Inverclyde	10654	1424	13.4
Midlothian	11688	1260	10.8
Moray	12331	965	7.8
North Ayrshire	18737	6469	34.5
North Lanarkshire	48752	2566	5.3
Orkney Islands	2767	899	32.5
Perth & Kinross	17524	6152	35.1
Renfrewshire	23791	2031	8.5
Scottish Borders	15137	1790	11.8
Shetland Islands	3342	747	22.4
South Ayrshire	14632	226	1.5
South Lanarkshire	43307	1549	3.6
Stirling	12521	362	2.9
West Dunbartonshire	12555	1526	12.2
West Lothian	25707	2194	8.5
Western Isles	3674	292	7.9
	(675410)	(71429)	
Grant aided	1330		
<i>Other votes (area not known)</i>		2630	
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>676740</b>	<b>74059</b>	<b>10.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Pupils in Scotland, 2009, Statistical Bulletin Education Series ISSN 1479-7569