

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 20 JANUARY 2010

SOCIAL WORK & HEALTH COMMITTEE – 17 FEBRUARY 2011

‘GETTING IT RIGHT FOR YOUNG CARERS –
THE YOUNG CARERS STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND 2010 - 2015’

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
AND THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

ABSTRACT

This report brings to the attention of members of both Committees the publication in October 2010 of a national strategy for young carers in Scotland covering the period 2010 - 2015.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee and the Social Work and Health Committee:
- (a) note the terms of this report;
 - (b) note that this strategy is part of a dual publication along with ‘Caring Together: The Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010 – 2015’;
 - (c) note and approve the actions planned to ensure the implementation of this strategy in support of Angus Young Carers and
 - (d) note that this dual strategy publication is available online at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/319441/0102104.pdf>

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Elected Members will be aware that a revised Angus Carers Strategy covering the period 2009 – 2012 was approved by the Social Work and Health Committee at its meeting on 8 April 2010 (Article 5 refers).
- 2.2 That strategy document recognised the extent to which carers in Angus play a vital part in the design, delivery and development of services, working alongside the voluntary sector, NHS Tayside and Angus Council.
- 2.3 The covering report to the Social Work and Health Committee on 8 April 2010 noted that 230 Angus young people under the age of 16 years have identified themselves as carers.
- 2.4 The 2009 – 2012 Angus strategy highlights major commitments to:
- the identification of and the provision of support to carers, in particular, ‘hidden’ carers
 - provide specific support and training to young carers including carers who care for a sibling
 - procedures for raising awareness about young carers’ issues among school staff including through inputs by a young carer’s worker to secondary school social education classes and to pupil assemblies in secondary schools
 - providing young carers with short breaks and respite provision

- the free use of Angus Council leisure facilities for carers registered with Angus Carers.

- 2.5 It is understood that 'Getting It Right for Young Carers' is the first ever national young carers' strategy published in Europe.
- 2.6 The Scottish Government recognises that many young people benefit from providing care to a relative or friend affected by illness, disability or substance misuse. However, the Government is committed to ensuring that Young Carers are relieved of 'inappropriate caring roles' and are supported to be children and young people first and foremost. The strategy is, therefore, seen to be an important element of the national Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach and indeed of Curriculum for Excellence which has a major focus on health and wellbeing.

3 GETTING IT RIGHT FOR YOUNG CARERS: KEY MESSAGES AND KEY HEADLINE ACTIONS

- 3.1 The national strategy acknowledges the benefits which young carers can derive from caring. However, there is an equal recognition that the demands of caring can be onerous and may have an adverse impact on young carers' health and wellbeing in ways which can compromise their rights as young persons and their safety. In keeping with the essential messages of the GIRFEC approach, the strategy recognises that early intervention on the part of children and young people's agencies and practitioners can relieve young carers of inappropriate caring roles and thereby enhance their capacity to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens, in accordance with the ambitions of Curriculum for Excellence.
- 3.2 The following key 'headline actions' are highlighted in the strategy document as a means of improving outcomes for young carers:
- (i) **Continue the engagement with young carers in order to identify their needs and priorities and inform the development of the policy** – the Scottish Government will fund a fourth Scottish Young Carers Festival in 2011, with the stated aim of seeking feedback from young carers on the implementation and impact of the national strategy and on progress in implementing Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC).
 - (ii) **Adopt measures to help professionals in education and health and social care to identify young carers** – there will be a strong national emphasis on workforce training, given the importance of children and young peoples workers being 'young carer – aware'.
 - (iii) **Introduce a classification of young carers in the 2011 school census** – that census will be expected to report on the numbers of young carers who have been identified in schools; it is intended that this key amendment to the school pupil census procedures will provide a more accurate national picture about the number of young carers, about the impact of caring, and about the nature and levels of support required by young carers.
 - (iv) **Recognise the important role of school staff in identifying and supporting young carers in the context of Curriculum for Excellence** – the Scottish Government will collaborate with the Scottish Young Carers' Services Alliance to produce a practice guide on young carers for teachers and schools.
 - (v) **Improve the provision of information about young carers** – through workforce training and through Scottish Government support for 'NHS Inform' who will be launching a 'young carer's information zone'.
 - (vi) **Enhance the national understanding of the impact of caring on young carers** - by commissioning research into the characteristics of young carers being supported by dedicated young carers' services.
 - (vii) **Provide short breaks or respite** – the Scottish Government intends to consult with a range of partners to promote the further development of flexible and personalised short breaks for young carers.
 - (viii) **Design and develop materials and training programmes to support young carers' services contact with young adult carers** – this work will be undertaken by Skills Development Scotland.

- (ix) **Further encourage young adult carers to plan to achieve their career aspirations** – it is intended that Skills Development Scotland will refresh their published materials for young carers with a view to highlighting specific options and support available to young carers.
- (x) **Implement key actions to improve support to young adult carers** – these actions relate to twelve recommendations produced by a sub-group of the national Young Carers' Strategy Steering Group.

3.3 Specific arrangements to take forward the above headline actions are framed in detail in the action plan set out in Chapter one of the national strategy document.

4 LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS TO TAKE FORWARD THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RELATED ACTIONS OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

4.1 In its continuing management of the GIRFEC agenda in Angus, the Children's and Young People's Services GIRFEC Delivery Group will have a key role in promoting and supporting the implementation of the strategy. Membership of the delivery group is drawn from all the key children's services partners and agencies.

4.2 Given the importance of identifying and supporting young carers as early as possible, arrangements will be made to further develop local information, awareness-raising and training procedures for school staff.

4.3 The education service's Pupil Care and Support Steering Group comprises promoted staff with pupil care responsibilities from each of the eight Angus secondary schools. This group will continue to play a key role in identifying staff support and training needs and in delivering, in partnership with other agencies, training activities likely to enhance staff confidence and competence in providing support to young carers.

4.4 The key recommendations and related action plan of the national strategy will be a focus for regular briefings for primary and secondary Head Teachers at scheduled plenary meetings.

4.5 In view of the Scottish Government's intention to collate statistical information about young carers in the school pupil census 2011, related procedural advice and guidance will be drafted, taking account of national advice, with a view to ensuring that appropriate data is collected in an efficient, effective but sensitive manner.

4.6 The Children's Services Executive Group will have overall strategic responsibility for ensuring the successful implementation of 'Getting It Right for Young Carers' within the context of its continuing leadership of the overall GIRFEC agenda.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 While there are no financial implications arising directly from this report, the foreword to the national strategy document makes it clear that certain elements of the action plan identified within the strategy document are dependent on the outcomes of the recent spending review.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising directly from the recommendations 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](#) is not required.

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.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 This reports describes the main elements of a key national strategy whose purpose is to strengthen, in particular, through the overall adoption of the national GIRFEC approach, provision for a vulnerable cohort of young people whose care and support needs are often difficult to detect.

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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.