

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 20 JANUARY 2011

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE – 17 FEBRUARY 2011

CONSULTATION ON SCOTLAND'S COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
- DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2011 - 2015

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

ABSTRACT

This report describes arrangements which Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People has made to consult on his draft Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and advises members of the terms of an official response to the consultation exercise.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Education and Social Work and Health Committees:
- (i) note the terms of this report
 - (ii) note the contents of the Angus Council response to the national consultation ([Appendix 1](#))

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The draft Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015 was published on 1 December 2010 following its introduction at the Scottish Government's Education, Lifelong Learning and Cultural Committee on 24 November 2010.
- 2.2 Responses to the consultation are to be made by Monday 31 January 2011. An officer response has been drafted to comply with this deadline.
- 2.3 Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People has also been consulting with Children and Young People through a different consultation exercise known as 'a **RIGHT blether**'. (Education Committee Report Number 753/10).

3 OVERVIEW OF THE DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

- 3.1 The draft Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015 sets out the strategic aims, objectives, actions and associated performance measures that will provide the framework for the Commissioner's time in office, between April 2011 and March 2015
- 3.2 The vision of the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People is a Scotland where all children and young people understand their rights, experience their rights and exercise their rights, every day of their lives.
- 3.3 Child poverty, early years and public sector funding are three key issues in improving the lives of children and young people in Scotland and are woven throughout the four strategic aims outlined within the document:

The 4 strategic aims set out in the draft plan are:

- to maximize the impact of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Scotland
- to influence and promote the effective and sustainable involvement and widespread participation of children and young people in Scotland's society
- to promote and safeguard the rights of children and young people, particularly the rights of vulnerable groups, through policy scrutiny and by supporting good practice
- to ensure that the office of the Commissioner is efficient, effective and fit for purpose

3.4 The vision statement of the Angus education service is wholly in accord with the ambitions of the Commissioner's draft strategic plan. That vision statement highlights Angus Council's commitment to realising the potential of all children and young people by:

- Putting people at the heart of all we do
- Nurturing an ethos of achievement
- Striving for sustainable improvement
- Working co-operatively

3.5 The Commissioner's Strategic plan will clearly contribute to the following National Outcomes:

- **National Outcome 4:** Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
- **National Outcome 5:** Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
- **National Outcome 7:** We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society
- **National Outcome 8:** We have improved the life chances of children, young people and families at risk
- **National Outcome 15:** Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

4 THE ANGUS RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

4.1 The response, set out in Appendix 1, was drafted by officers in the Education service in consultation with colleagues in Social Work and Health and the Third Sector.

4.2 Overall, the Draft Strategic Plan provides a sound framework to support the implementation of the Commissioner's aims for promoting and safeguarding the rights of children and young people of Scotland.

In particular, we welcome:

- the inclusion of early years and child poverty as key themes
- the promotion of learning methods on the engagement of young people
- the awareness of the impact on children and young people of possible service reductions in the current economic crisis
- the increased use of 21st century technologies as a means of communication and engagement
- the use of audit reports to inform continuous improvement and best practice

4.3 However, there is some anxiety that there is not enough emphasis within the strategic plan on the need to ensure that, in seeking to secure the health and wellbeing of children in Scotland, professional bodies and agencies fully understand the links between the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

4.4 The attached officer response will be submitted to comply with the consultation deadline of Monday 31 January 2011

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Commissioner's draft Strategic Plan 2011-2015 is likely to reinforce Angus Council's commitments to safeguard and protect children's rights.

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.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Children and young people deserve to be valued members of our community. Every child has the capacity to contribute to family and community life. Angus Council commends the Commissioner for his continuing efforts to promote the rights of children and young people and will actively support the implementation of the Commissioner's Strategic Plan.

NEIL LOGUE
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ROBERT PEAT
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

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.