

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE.....11 AUGUST 2011.**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE.....18 AUGUST 2011**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE.....25 AUGUST 2011**  
**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE.....6 SEPTEMBER 2011**

**ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010/2011 AND  
BUSINESS PLAN 2011/2012**

**JOINT REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL WORK AND  
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**ABSTRACT**

This report advises elected members of the Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report for 2010/2011. The Annual Report sets out the work of the committee during 2010/11 and details priorities for the Committee during 2011/12. A copy of the annual report and business plan is attached to this report.

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the above committees note the content of the Angus Child Protection 2010/2011 Annual Report and 2011/12 Business Plan.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

The Angus Child Protection Committee was formed at local government reorganisation and the attached annual report and business plan is the 15<sup>th</sup> produced. The report follows the format outlined in Scottish Government guidance.

The report is provided to all agencies represented on the committee, to the Scottish Government, to other Child Protection Committees in Scotland and is available to the public via the Angus Child Protection Committee website.

**3 ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11**

The [Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report for 2010/11](#) details the work and activity of the committee and member agencies in the field of child protection over the past year. The report also details the work of the committee's five sub committees, namely the Policy Sub Committee, Practice Sub Committee, Continuous Improvement Sub Committee, Training Sub Committee and Alcohol and Drug Partnership /Child Protection Committee Sub Committee. The Angus Child Protection Committee Business Plan for 2011/12 is contained within the annual report.

**4 KEY POINTS WITHIN THE REPORT**

- The committee's work throughout the past year has in the main been guided by the 2009/10 business plan but has also been actively engaged in the work associated with the HMle Inspection which took place in January 2011 and reported on in April 2011. The findings from the HMle Inspection were positive with Angus receiving ratings of five goods and one very good evaluation. As a result of the effective performance shown by services in the Angus Council, Social Care and Social Work

Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) will make no further visits in connection with this inspection.

- A significant amount of work has also gone into the consideration of four case reviews by the Practice Sub Committee. These cases were rigorously examined and the reports and findings were considered by the full committee and subsequently at the executive group. In all four cases the recommendations were endorsed by the executive group. The learning identified from these cases has been disseminated across key agencies.
- A range of inter-agency policies, procedures and protocols have continued to be developed reviewed and updated by the Policy Sub Committee over the past year, in particular guidance regarding child trafficking, underage sexual activity and the '*Getting it right*' practice model has been incorporated into the Child Protection Committee interagency Guidance.
- The committee has in place a rolling programme of self evaluation against the revised national quality indicators. This self evaluation activity is supported by a programme of multi-agency case file audit. On a quarterly basis the committee also considers a range of trend and other information regarding children subject to child protection processes.
- The work of the Training Sub Committee continues to develop with a significant increase in the volume and scope of training provided. Of specific note is the new training developed in relation to child sexual abuse, child trafficking and working with hostile and/or uncooperative families.
- Over the past year the Child Protection Committee's performance management role has developed to focus more on outcomes for children in need of protection and monitoring the effectiveness of current child protection services. Further work to develop an outcomes-focused approach to service provision to measure the impact and outcomes on children and young people is identified as a key area for development for the committee.
- Consultation with service users, particularly children and young people, continues to be of primary importance for the committee. This is evidenced by the continued commitment to the development and uptake of Viewpoint, a software programme for obtaining young people's views about services they have been in contact with. The findings from Viewpoint are analysed and presented to the committee throughout the year. Further work continues to be undertaken looking at the development of reliable methods for obtaining children and adults views regarding services.
- The committee, in partnership with the Angus Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, has been involved in the Link-Up initiative to promote and encourage the development of closer collaborative working across agencies to better identify, support and protect children affected by parental substance misuse in the Montrose and Brechin areas. This initiative is closely aligned to the development of '*Getting it right*' practice implementation across Angus. An external evaluation of this initiative was published in March 2011 and the learning and findings from this multi-agency initiative is being used to influence the way services work with children and families, in particular those involved with adults.
- The committee has supported the implementation of '*Getting it right*' across Angus by supporting the alignment of existing processes into one common framework of assessing, planning and taking action to ensure that all children in Angus get the help they need when they need it. '*Getting it right*' continues to be rolled out in Angus.
- The committee continues to monitor the work of the multi-agency Early Screening Group (ESG). This group considers child concern reports raised by the police

regarding children and young people. Over the past year the ESG has considered 2153 referrals, an increase of 14% from the previous year, of which 31% have been as a result of domestic abuse incidents. The work of this group has been seen to have a positive effect in terms of identifying the need for early intervention and reducing the number of referrals to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration for consideration of compulsory measures of care. The Committee is currently reviewing whether its remit can be expanded to consider referrals from other agencies and how its work can be integrated with other multi-agency operational groups and the '*Getting it right*' agenda.

- The Angus Child Protection Committee has continued to participate in a number of local events over the past year to promote public awareness about child protection. This work involves members of the Committee and its staff, supplemented at times by other staff, attending various Angus public events throughout the year. Last year these events were undertaken in partnership with the Adult Protection Committee and Angus Violence Against Women Partnership.

## **5 PRIORITY OBJECTIVES**

The range of self evaluation activity undertaken by the Child Protection Committee together with the findings of the HMIE inspection has identified the following priorities for the work of the Committee over the next three years:

- Review the strategic direction and vision for child protection services in Angus;
- Develop an outcomes focused approach to service provision to measure the impact on children and young people;
- Support the full implementation of '*Getting it right*' across Angus;
- Review and revise existing child protection processes and systems against the revised national guidance for child protection;
- Review our local approach to private fostering;
- Strengthen the involvement of children, young people and their families in the planning and development of services;
- Improve arrangements for seeking the views of children and families in decisions which are made about them;
- Improve arrangements for managing and prioritising self-evaluation activities; and
- Further develop systems to record and monitor outcomes.

Members of the Executive Group and the Committee plan to hold a development day to review these priorities and further develop our strategic direction and focus for the next three years.

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Human Rights implications arising as a result of the recommendation contained in this report.

## **8 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An [equalities impact assessment](#) is not required.

## **9 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

National Outcome 8: We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

Local Outcome - Safe: Children and young people in Angus will be protected from abuse, neglect and harm by others at home, at school and in the community.

## **10 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.

## **11 CONCLUSION**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Angus Child Protection Committee details the work the Committee has undertaken throughout 2010/11. The next year will see the Committee continuing to provide a strategic overview of partnership improvement actions and developments aimed at improving the outcomes for the children and young people of Angus. The 2011/12 business plan sets out key priorities and an improvement agenda for the coming year.

**R STIFF  
CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE**

**R PEAT  
DIRECTOR OF  
SOCIAL WORK AND  
HEALTH**

**N LOGUE  
DIRECTOR OF  
EDUCATION**

**R ASHTON  
DIRECTOR OF  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
SERVICES**

**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.

**SW&H/RP/TA**