ABSTRACT
This report informs elected members of the outcome of a partnership project between Social Work and Health Learning Disability Service and Capability Scotland. The project commenced in June 2008 and was completed in March 2011. It was entitled “Shaping the Future” and focussed on improving outcomes for young people with autism in transition from school to adult life. This was a time limited project of 3 years duration and an exit strategy was agreed as part of the project.

1 RECOMMENDATION
It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee notes the content of this report.

2 BACKGROUND
The Scottish Executive national review of Learning Disability Services “The Same As You?” was launched in 2000. This review highlighted the need to have better services and outcomes for people with autism; in particular young people in transition from school to adult life. Angus Council Social Work and Health Learning Disability Service and Capability Scotland embarked on a joint project to assess local services in response to this need. Capability Scotland secured 50% funding from RS McDonal Trust and identified 50% funding from Capability Scotland’s unrestricted funds. These funds were used by Capability Scotland to appoint a transition co-ordinator to co-ordinate the “Shaping the Future” project with the focus on improving the transition from school to adult life for young people with autism. The project set out to identify both the support available to young people with autism in Angus and the gaps in service provision. This project was presented to the Social Work and Health Committee on 10 April 2008 (report no. 372/08).

3 THE PROJECT
The transition co-ordinator worked with 20 young people with autism and their families in Angus, who were at different stages of their transition into adult life. Their views about their experiences and what could be improved to provide better outcomes were obtained. Links were made with a range of relevant professional and local organisations to identify areas of collaborative working. Research into national policy and guidance was undertaken and a mapping exercise identified existing resources and supports. The approaches, practices and services provided by local authorities and other relevant organisations were researched nationally. A report was produced outlining 16 proposals to make services for people with autism in Angus more responsive and effective and this is available in the members’ lounge.
A “Shaping the Future” board was established for the duration of the project. The board met regularly to monitor progress towards the proposals. The transition co-ordinator reported to the board on progress and to agree direction of work and future targets to be achieved. This work of the project is being used to improve young people’s access to existing services and to influence future service change and development. The project has improved outcomes for young people in Angus in transition and has identified areas of collaboration with local agencies. The proposals and progress to date can be viewed in Appendix 1. Several of the initial proposals from the report are now embedded in core practice and service delivery.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications as a result of this report.

6 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.

7 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Single Outcome Agreement for Angus.

- Young people and adults in Angus maximise their potential through learning opportunities
- People using health and community care services are enabled to remain active and independent within their communities.
- People play an active role in how health & community care services are designed and delivered;
- A good quality of life is enjoyed by all in Angus.

8 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.

9 CONCLUSION

This report informs elected members of the outcome of a partnership project between Social Work and Health Learning Disability Service and Capability Scotland. The project has achieved clear and measurable outcomes towards improving the lives of young people with autism in Angus facing transition. The findings from the project will be used to inform future developments such as the redesign of the Learning Disability Service in Angus and the development of a local autism strategy. Capability Scotland would be very keen to continue any development of the current partnership work with Angus Council in the future.

R PEAT
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

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.