ABSTRACT
This report provides an update on the transfer of responsibilities and staff from the Forfarshire Society for the Blind to Angus Council Social Work and Health. The transfer has been achieved successfully, with no disruption or diminution of service provision.

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

2 BACKGROUND
Reference is made to article 9 of the minute of the Social Work and Health Committee of 12 November 2009 (committee report 807/09). Following discussions with representatives of the Forfarshire Society for the Blind (the Society), Angus Council agreed that the statutory elements of the service provided would be transferred to Social Work and Health, along with a transfer of the staff employed by the Society to undertake these duties. This situation arose due to concerns that the Society had regarding their financial situation and the view of some its committee members that the management aspects of running the Society were becoming too onerous.

3 CURRENT POSITION
The success criteria for the transfer were that service delivery should be maintained through the transfer process and the cost of the service should be contained within the value of the service level agreement.

The service transferred to Angus Council with effect from 01 April 2010. Careful management oversight has been maintained and there are no indications that the service has reduced in either scope or quality. All staff involved have worked with commitment to ensure that the transition was seamless as far as the service users were concerned. There have been no complaints from service users or carers, and the level of referrals has remained constant.

The staff who transferred from the Society are attached to an existing social work team and have been supported by the manager to settle into their new environment.

All of the statutory functions are being delivered.

The Society has been able to maintain the charitable aspect of its activities and provides introductory packs to new service users, grants where appropriate and maintains the Talking Books service. These additional services, while not a statutory requirement, are highly valued by the people receiving them.
4 RISKS
This report does not require any specific risk issues to be addressed.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
The costs of undertaking the duties formerly provided by Forfarshire Society for the Blind have been contained within the funding previously associated with the service level agreement. Accordingly, there are no financial implications arising from this report.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS
There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

7 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.

8 ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN AND SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT
This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement.

   4 Adults maximise their potential through learning opportunities
   8 We have improved the health and wellbeing of our people and inequalities are reduced.
   9 Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services

9 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.

10 CONCLUSION
The transfer of responsibilities to Angus Council has been achieved with no disruption to services or reduction in service quality.

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.

SW&H/RP/LH