

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

22 AUGUST 2000

STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN THE ANGUS EDUCATION SERVICE 1999-2000

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

This report draws the attention of the Education Committee to the finalisation of the first Standards and Quality Report on the Angus Education Service.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee notes that a report has now been finalised on Standards and Quality within the Angus Education Service (a copy of this report is being provided for each member of the Education Committee).

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 For some time now, Angus schools have been evaluating their own performance on a regular basis, using the national framework outlined in the HMI publication "How Good is Our School."
- 2.2 Since 1998, all Angus schools have been preparing annual Standards and Quality statements on a range of aspects of their performance, with a view to producing a triennial Standards and Quality report covering all aspects of their performance. All Angus schools have now compiled their first Standards and Quality Reports, and any member of the Education Committee can obtain a copy of the report on any particular school either by contacting the head teacher of that school directly or by contacting me.
- 2.3 The work of all 71 schools in Angus is the most important part of the Angus education service, but does not quite provide the whole picture. There are a number of support services and headquarters teams who make significant contributions, and any comprehensive system of public reporting on the education service requires to include reference to the work of these staff as well as to the work of schools.
- 2.4 In recognition of the need for education authorities to monitor their overall quality assurance and improvement arrangements, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools – in collaboration with senior managers of education departments of local authorities and the Accounts Commission for Scotland (now Audit Scotland) – prepared a draft guide to and quality indicators for self evaluation of quality assurance and improvement ("Quality Management in Education"). That draft guide was the subject of consultation and reference is made to the response to that consultation made by the Education Committee of this Council at its meeting on 23 November 1999 (Article 6 of the minute of the meeting refers).
- 2.5 On the basis of the earlier consultation exercise, further work has been led by HMI to refine the draft Quality Management in Education framework. As that work has been taken forward, so too has the Standards in Scotland's Schools Bill been progressing through the parliamentary process. That Bill (now formally an Act) makes provision for

each education authority to be the subject of a public inspection once every five years – planned and carried out by HM Inspectors of Schools in partnership with Audit Scotland.

- 2.6 Since reviewing the draft Quality Management in Education framework last October, work has been taking place to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the education service here in Angus within the parameters set out by that framework. It is hoped that self evaluation activities of this type will be helpful in preparing for the inspection of the education service whenever that inspection takes place. It is also hoped that by preparing a public report on that self evaluation (combined with the preparation of reports by all Angus schools), the Council will be providing Angus residents with a full and honest account of its current performance as an education authority.
- 2.7 The report itself is being made available to all Angus educational establishments so that staff can have access to it. It is also being distributed to School Boards, and will be available to any parent or pupil who wishes to peruse it.

3 CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council, this report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and the Director of Law & Administration.

Jim Anderson
Director of Education

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.

JAA/CJ