

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE.....30 May 2000
 EDUCATION COMMITTEE.....6 June 2000

Review of Angus Childcare Plan 2000 - 2003

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS
 OF SOCIAL WORK AND EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

This report advises elected members of the first review of the Angus Childcare Plan, 2000-2003, which has been produced by the Angus Childcare Partnership. The report requests formal support for the developments planned in Childcare and Education across Angus over the next three years. A copy of the review is attached for members of the Social Work committee. Further copies have been placed in the members' lounge.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Social Work and Education Committees, for their respective interests:-

- (i) note the contents of this report;
- (ii) support the developments proposed by the Angus Childcare Partnership as contained within the Review of the Childcare Plan.

2 INTRODUCTION

In January 2000 elected members were advised of the revised Guidance to Childcare Partnerships which required Partnerships to produce a review of their Childcare plans and roll forward plans for a further year. (Report no 47/00 refers).

The Angus Childcare Partnership has now undertaken an audit of childcare and education provision, which has informed this review and has planned developments over the next three years accordingly.

The review of the Childcare Plan details achievements to date, reviews objectives and targets and allocates resources for the financial year 2000/2001. In particular the contribution of partner agencies in supporting the establishment and ongoing work of the Angus Childcare Partnership is noted.

The Childcare Partnership has supported a number of initiatives during 1999/2000 and a breakdown of expenditure is detailed as follows:

1.	Infrastructure costs including development of childcare information service	£74,400
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2.	Joint Health and Social work initiative to support parents in managing their childrens' behaviour	£450
3.	Purchase of software to assist in collation of audit of rural transport for pre-school children	£2,750
4.	Resource support to 32 private and voluntary sector partner providers	£38,400
	Total	£116,000

3 PROPOSAL

It is recommended that the review of the Angus Childcare Plan, 2000 –2003, is agreed and given the full support of Angus Council. It is also recommended that the specific developments for 2000/2001 as detailed below are given the full support of Angus Council.

Action	Funding
Financial support to extend European Social Fund project to provide childcare training for rural carers	£13,554 Until December 2000
Commission Scottish Childminding Association to appoint Childminding Development Officer	£15,000 Per year until 2003
Appoint Out of School Care Development Officer, and provide appropriate training for Out of School Care clubs, in conjunction with Scottish Enterprise Tayside	£20,000 + Reviewed Annually
Financial support to assist with increased regulation of childcare provision as a result of the development of the National Childcare Strategy in Angus	£15,000 SET funding £48,300 Until March 2001
Infrastructure costs including the ongoing development of the Childcare Information Service and the establishment of an SVQ assessment Centre in Angus	£117,000
Total	£218,554

The balance of funding allocated will be detailed in the second review of the plan in May 2001.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the above proposals can be met entirely from the specific financial resources provided by the Scottish Executive.

5 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6 CONCLUSION

This report advises members of the review of the Angus Childcare Plan 2000 – 2003 and requests that the developments within the plan are agreed and supported.

The main aim of the Angus Childcare Partnership continues to be the provision of affordable, accessible, flexible, quality childcare and education across Angus for every parent and child who wishes to access it. The partners involved are committed to this aim and seek the support of Angus Council to continue their developments.

A draft copy of this review has been submitted to the Scottish Executive.

W B Robertson
Director of Social Work

J Anderson
Director of Education

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.