

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE..... 16 JANUARY 2001  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE ..... 23 JANUARY 2001

ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE –  
ANNUAL REPORT 1999/2000

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK  
AND DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

**ABSTRACT**

This report presents to Committee the Annual Report for 1999/00 of the Angus Child Protection Committee.

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the 1999/00 Annual Report of the Angus Child Protection Committee.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

The Angus Child Protection Committee was formed at local government reorganisation and the attached Annual Report for year 1999/00 is the fourth produced. The report is provided to all agencies represented on the Committee, to the Scottish Executive and to other Child Protection Committees.

**3 THE ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report 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 three sub committees namely; the Policy Sub Committee, the Practice Sub Committee and the Training Sub Committee.

Key points raised within the report include:

- The production and publication in the past year of new Guidance for Inter-Agency Practice;
- The success of the Committee in organising a major conference on neglect in partnership with Dundee and Perth and Kinross Councils and Dundee University;
- The work of the Committee in terms of input into the National Review of Child Protection Committees;
- Improved understanding of and increased importance being given by the Committee to the child protection issues associated with domestic violence;
- Closer working arrangement, including joint training initiatives between the Child Protection Committee and the Angus Sex offenders Monitoring Forum;

- The work of the Committee in terms of responding to a number of national consultation documents; and
- The development of draft police/social work guidelines for interviewing child witnesses. These are still subject to consultation.

The financial position of the Committee was also considered during the course of the year and due to a relatively healthy balance the Committee considered it unnecessary to seek the agreed administrative support costs from the key agencies.

The Report also contains detailed child protection statistics. An examination of these statistics shows an overall reduction in the number of investigations carried out jointly between social work and police during 1999/2000. This is the first time in 6 years that a reduction on the previous year's figures has been reported. A drop is also noted in terms of the number of children and young people on the Angus Child Protection Register.

It is considered that the establishment of the social work Child Protection Team in the spring of 1999 has led to greater consistency about thresholds and a more exacting standard in initial assessment, and provides one explanation for the reduction in the number of formal investigations. It is also considered that the increase in family support services in Angus may have also contributed to the reduction in investigations and children on the child protection register.

### **Priority Objectives**

The Annual Report identifies the following priorities for the Child Protection Committee for the year 2000/2001:

- the development of agency policy and practice in the field of child protection;
- enhancing practice through the provision of interagency training for workers in the field;
- the promotion of children's safety by raising public awareness and the awareness of agencies providing services to children;
- the development of policy and practice to enhance the support provided to children and young people in the child protection process; and
- to enhance the quality of professional intervention with parents and carers of children who have or may have been abused.

An action plan detailing specific objectives in relation to each of the above priorities is outlined within the annual report.

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **5. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

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

W B Robertson  
Director of Social Work

Jim 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.