



Working Together for Children and Families

Angus Children's Services Plan 2002 - 2004

Review 2003 - 2004

Foreword

This is the second review of Working Together for Children and Families - Angus Children's Services Plan 2002 – 2004. The review is produced as a result of interagency, partnership and corporate working and meets our statutory duty to produce a Children's Services plan and subsequent reviews.

The Scottish Executive informed all planning partners in October 2003 that new plans for 2004 should be delayed for one further year and that current plans should be rolled forward into 2004/2005.

Revised guidance will be issued shortly which will allow the planning process for a new three year children's services plan, from 2005 – 2008, to progress.

This review does not repeat all the information in our two year plan but updates the actions within the plan and outlines any new initiatives or planned service developments.

We are progressing an integrated approach to the planning and delivery of children's services across Angus. You will see from this review that we have moved forward in the two years since the Children's Services Plan was produced but recognise that many developments are still in the early stages. We welcome your comments and look forward to working with you to provide quality, choice and accessible to services for you and your family.




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1. Introduction

This is the second review of the Angus Children's Services Plan 2002 - 2004. The plan was produced by Angus Council in partnership with NHS Tayside, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Tayside Police, Angus Childcare Partnership and the Angus Voluntary Sector Children's Forum.

The Angus Children's Services Plan is one of a number of plans within Angus produced in partnership with a wide range of agencies and individuals. To ensure all plans are integrated they are brought together within the overarching framework known as the Community Plan.

The aim of community planning is to develop a single, strategic vision for a local area to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of communities. The Angus Community Plan sets a long-term vision for the Angus area with the Children's Services Plan focusing on the delivery of services to children and families.

The Joint Management and Commissioning Group for Children's Services co-ordinates and monitors the implementation of services to children and their families.

The production of the 2002 - 2004 Children's Services plan was only the first stage in the process of improving childcare services across Angus. This review presents an update on objectives and specific actions contained within the plan and identifies new objectives which will be progressed during 2004.

In the 2003 review of the Children's Services Plan, the formation of the Joint Strategic Support Unit was highlighted. This Unit is now fully functional with five teams working together to plan and develop a range of services across Angus.

The Children's Team is based at County Buildings, Forfar and has staff from Education, Social Work and Health working together to ensure the services for children and families are planned in an integrated and effective way.

The Children's Team comprises:-

Principal Planning Officer

Assistant Principal Officer - Social Work

Assistant Principal Officer - Social Work

Child Protection Development Manager

Education Planning Officer (Integrated Community Schools)

Education Planning Officer

Childcare Partnership Officer

Public Health Practitioner/LHCC Children's Planning Officer (2 days per week)

Discussions are now taking place to consider how housing staff, working with children and families can work as part of the team. It is also hoped to appoint an administration assistant whose remit will be to support the team with the gathering of data and the presentation of performance monitoring information to senior managers across childcare agencies.

Over the next year the children's team will progress the production of a new 3 year Children's Services Plan which will include objectives relating to early years, child health, child protection, youth justice, children with additional support needs, children affected by substance misuse, looked after and accommodated children and young carers.

Consultation with a wide range of service providers, children and their families will be undertaken in order to ensure the new plan reflects the needs of all Angus children and their families.

2. Achievements since 2003

Achievements since the 2002/03 review was published are summarised below. Updated objectives have been identified where relevant. Any new objectives or planned service developments are noted with resources detailed only where new objectives have been identified.

2.1 Promoting the wellbeing of children and young people in Angus

Action Point	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status March 2004
Review and update practice standards and guidance for Angus Childcare Information service.	Angus Childcare Partnership	2003	Childcare Information Service enquiries for 2003 were 827 showing an increase from previous years. <i>104 monitoring forms distributed during November 2003. 34 returns, 31 indicated good/very good.</i>
Produce a six monthly childcare and education newsletter for distribution across Angus.	Angus Childcare Partnership	Ongoing	Third edition distributed end of March 2004.
Continue to provide relevant childcare and education training for all staff across Angus.	Angus Childcare Partnership Education	2004	46 staff undertaking SVQ 2 and 3 280 staff have attended training since September 2003 177 registered for training up to June 2004 14 completed accredited crèche workers course.
Increase number of child minding places across Angus in conjunction with Scottish Childminding Association.	Angus Childcare Partnership SCMA	2004	183 registered child minders as at January 2004. This indicates a reduction since August 2003 (199) 12 new child minders have registered since April 2003. This appears to follow the national trend.
Develop access to toddler provision across Angus in conjunction with Scottish Pre School Play Association.	Angus Childcare Partnership SPPA	2004	Appointed SPPA development worker to work with toddler groups Increase in Toddler groups from 38 to 41.
Continue to provide support to Out of School Clubs and their parent led committees.	Angus Childcare Partnership	2004	Appointment of Support Worker and Admin/clerical support. Training developed in conjunction with Scottish Out of School Care Network.
Provide support to all registered childcare and education providers to assist with compliance with regulatory standards.	Angus Childcare Partnership	2004	Strategies in place to support childcare settings pre and post inspection. Regular meetings with Care Commission Officers, issues identified and appropriate action taken.
Support and develop childcare and education services to children with special needs.	Angus Childcare Partnership Education	2004	Funding approved for Development Officer for Children with Additional Support Needs. Training for staff established.

Working Together for Children and Families in Angus 2002 - 2004

Action Point	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status March 2004
Develop Angus Play Strategy.	Angus Childcare Partnership Leisure and Recreation Services	2004	Discussions between interested parties ongoing.
Investigate family friendly work practices across Angus and develop appropriate guidance.	Angus Childcare Partnership	2004	Training delivered by ACAS open to all providers.
Rollout Intergrated Community School Initiative to Brechin and Montrose.	Education Social Work NHS Tayside	2004	Achieved on time. Currently being refocused as a result of staff turnover. Further rollout planned for Forfar/Kirriemuir August 2004
Reduce the proportion of women who smoke during pregnancy in line with national targets.	NHS Tayside	2005	A pilot study in Dundee is revisiting the smoking and pregnancy protocols and best practice. This is likely to have implications for Angus in 2005
Reduce the pregnancy rate among 13 -15 year olds in line with national targets.	NHS Tayside	2005	A local Sexual Health strategy led by NHS Tayside is expected in June 2004 and will provide evidence based recommendations to improve sexual well being in Angus
Increase the number of 5 year olds with no experience of dental disease in line with national targets.	NHS Tayside	2005	NHS Tayside Oral Health Strategy currently being implemented
Increase the number of children over 2 years of age who eat a healthy diet.	NHS Tayside	2005	Specialist Health Promotion Service working with Angus LHCC to develop healthy eating initiatives e.g. Health Promoting Schools Award Scheme
Increase the number of mothers breastfeeding their babies at 6 weeks to more than 50%.	NHS Tayside	2005	Tayside Child and Family Centre workshops to encourage breast feeding. Increase number of breast feeding friendly premises. 6 breastfeeding support groups established in Angus.
Reduce frequency and level of drinking among 12-15 year olds in line with national targets.	NHS Tayside	2005	Work ongoing in conjunction with Angus DAAT
Increase proportion of 11-15 year olds taking regular exercise in line with national targets.	NHS Tayside	2005	Specialist Health promotion service working with Angus Education Department to develop physical activity initiatives for young people. E.g. Health Promoting Schools Award Scheme
Ensure all children receive standard immunisation.	NHS Tayside	2005	The national targets for primary immunization are 95% uptake of all vaccines by age 2 years Uptake has consistently reached or exceeded this target for Tayside and Angus for all vaccines except MMR. This has been as direct result of adverse publicity, however uptake levels are now showing a slow recovery The uptake of MMR continues to be promoted among health professionals

Action Point	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status March 2004
Ensure all children are registered with a GP.	NHS Tayside	2005	Ongoing annually
Ensure sexual health advice and provision of services is suitable for young people.	NHS Tayside	2005	This will be addressed in the local Sexual Health Strategy
Implement a joint health and local equipment store.	NHS Tayside	2005	Work is ongoing to develop a joint health and local authority protocol on the provision of communication aids. Progress is being made but some slippage on planned timescale
Implement the recommendations of HM Inspectorate report April 2002 for education services.	Angus Council	2003	Achieved
Establish a joint strategic support unit which will include the planning and monitoring of children's services.	Angus Council NHS Tayside	2003	This Unit is now established and includes a multi agency children's planning team

2.2 Children in Need

Action Point	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status March 2004
Develop access to recreation and out of school activities for children with disabilities.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Work has commenced to provide holiday activities for children with significant disabilities. Development worker to be appointed to further promote and extend this service - target August 2004
Set up a register of children with profound and complex health needs.	NHS Tayside Angus Council	Late 2002	Register now in place
Identify children on the register who would be transferring to adult services and develop transition plans for these children.	NHS Tayside Angus Council	Spring 2004	Infrastructure is now in place to support transition. Children have been identified for 2003 - 2004; this is on-going as new groups of children are identified.
Meet on an ongoing basis to improve interagency working, develop integrated care plans and make sure that transition arrangements for children moving into adult services begin from their 15th birthday.	NHS Tayside Angus Council	Ongoing	This is being taken forward by the Children with Complex Needs Sub-Group which meets on an 8-weekly basis and includes representatives from Health and L.A's.
Establish a joint police and social work service that can take principal responsibility for the investigation of allegations of abuse and develop the arrangements for linking this service to other agencies.	Angus Council Tayside Police	Late 2004	The service is in place although difficulties with co-location are preventing this service becoming fully integrated
Increase the size of the specialist child protection team to enhance its capacity to carry out detailed assessments of children at risk or identified as being at key transitional stages.	Angus Council	Spring 2003	Team increased through CCSF however recruitment difficulties are again hampering the effectiveness of this service

Working Together for Children and Families in Angus 2002 - 2004

Action Point	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status March 2004
Implement the Caldecott Guardians protocol to improve and appropriately regulate the sharing of information between agencies.	Angus Council Tayside Reporter to the Children's Panel	Late 2003	Achieved
Implement the findings of 'Managing the Risk' working party.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Achieved
Implement the inter-agency action plan arising from the Hammond inquiry into the death of a child in Dumfries and Galloway.	Angus Council Tayside Police NHS Tayside	Spring 2003	Inter-agency contacts have been established with Health for advice, guidance and case discussion on Child Protection issues. For example, through the Child Protection Action Group which is currently addressing issues of accountability, roles/responsibilities and resource capacity. Angus Child Protection Committee has progressed this objective.
Implement the findings of the Scottish Executive child protection review.	Angus Council	Late 2003/4	Actions are being progressed through the Angus Child Protection Committee
Implement a protocol for hospital access to the child protection register.	Angus Council NHS Tayside	Late 2003	A protocol for secondary care users to have access to the three child protection registers across Tayside is up and running
Develop an Angus multi agency anti-bullying strategy.	Angus Council	Late 2003/4	Achieved
Establish three local multi- agency resource teams to provide Angus wide early screening and provision of resources to young people at risk of offending.	Angus Council	Late 2002	Achieved. Teams now established and taking referrals
Establish an arrest referral system for young people who have been arrested and who have been misusing substances.	Tayside Police Angus Council	Autumn 2002	Achieved through Criminal Justice Service
Introduce a joint police and social work protocol relating to the detention of children and young people.	Tayside Police Angus Council	Late 2002	Work in progress
Establish three local minimum support groups to provide a diversionary service for young people at minimum risk of offending.	Angus Council	Late 2002	Further evaluation has led to the decision to replace this model with an issue based group work agenda with partners.
Establish a restorative justice pilot initiative.	Angus Council	Late 2002	Achieved. Now at the end of its second year this initiative is subject to an independent audit.
Establish a multi-agency protocol on information sharing and confidentiality.	Angus Council	Spring 2003	Achieved and operational practice within Local Multi Agency Resource Teams
Establish an Angus Youth Justice database	Angus Council	Late 2002	Achieved for service standards. Database for measuring offending rates not yet achieved
Submit proposal to New Opportunities Fund to establish an Integrated Social Education and Sports Team.	Angus Council	Spring 2003	Achieved. 3 staff in post from November 2003

Action Point	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status March 2004
Establish explicit performance targets relating to aims, objectives and standards for Angus Youth Justice Strategy.	Angus Council	Late 2002	Youth Justice Team has service standards in place. Review of these currently being undertaken against National Standards with a view to establishing standards against all partners.
Recruit a volunteer co-ordinator to work with former and current service users of homeless and other support agencies to help them develop their own support networks.	Angus Council	Late 2002	Achieved
Develop a single shared assessment process to enable a multi agency response to vulnerability and homelessness.	Angus Council Angus LHCC	Spring 2004	Work in progress
Establish a protocol to ensure the successful implementation of the single shared assessment process.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Work in progress
Develop an information strategy for young people moving from local authority accommodation.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Achieved
Monitor, on an annual basis, the housing circumstances of young people leaving care.	Angus Council	Late 2003	Achieved. Dataset under review with housing to achieve tracking standards for Scottish Executive
Consider the provision of support for the prevention of rough sleeping and how this can be linked to universal service provision.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Achieved
Introduce new professional carers scheme.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Scheme is in place however there are difficulties recruiting carers
Increase the number of permanent placement options for older children.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Work in progress
Develop effective systems for the implementation of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.	Angus Council	Spring 2003	Implementation delayed until April 2004. Systems nearing completion
Develop systems to ensure work is undertaken with 14 and 15 year olds to fully assess their needs and prepare them for independent living.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Achieved. Pathway Assessment protocols agreed and to be adopted in Angus
Improve systems for monitoring the process and implementation of permanence plans.	Angus Council	Spring 2004	Achieved
Create a specialist permanence worker post.	Angus Council	Spring 2003	Achieved through Changing Childrens Services Fund
Ensure that a rehabilitation plan is produced for all children who become looked after.	Angus Council	Ongoing	Work in progress
Ensure that plans for looked after children are made and implemented without delay.	Angus Council	Ongoing	Educational plans are developed in collaboration with schools and the link teacher for looked after children. Progress is monitored, noted and evaluated
Establish plans for permanent placement and implement without delay.	Angus Council	Ongoing	Work in progress

2.3 Future Action

It can be seen from the action points that significant progress has been made in many areas. Where no action has been taken or action is in progress it is intended that work will continue over the coming year. Action in some areas has been severely restricted as a result of difficulties recruiting staff. In particular this has had an impact on many of the social work and health activities. This is a national issue which the Scottish Executive has addressed with national television and radio advertising.

Locally, links have been made with universities and colleges to encourage students to consider careers in Angus. This has proved to be successful although a lack of suitably qualified staff still remains an issue.

A number of new national initiatives have been progressed during this year. In particular:

- The Review of Child Protection has resulted in an action plan being developed across all agencies.
- The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 has involved many agencies in the registration of their services for the first time.
- The Children Leaving Care Act 2000 has seen the development of protocols and procedures to support young people leaving care.

There are many initiatives in the coming year which will involve staff in consultation and implementation plans. These include a review of the Children's Hearings System, the Draft Education (Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Bill) and the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004.

The coming year will see staff continuing to work together across agencies to ensure that services are effective and accessible to those who need them. Many of the new initiatives planned for this year will require funding from existing resources as additional funds have not been made available for their implementation.

Discussions within the Joint Management and Commissioning Group will focus on the effectiveness of existing services and the use of resources. Service redesign will be considered where it can be evidenced that change will benefit service users.

3. Changing Children's Services Fund

3.1 Progress Report

The Changing Children's Services Fund is seen as a catalyst for change and aims to support the delivery of better outcomes for the most vulnerable and deprived children through:

- the expansion of good practice in the delivery of well integrated services
- modernisation through the re-shaping of existing services to achieve better integrated support; and
- new and innovative approaches to integrated service delivery

In 2002/03 Child Protection and Throughcare and Aftercare were highlighted by the Scottish Executive as areas which required significant resource support and re-design and that the Changing Children's Services Fund should be used as the vehicle to progress this change.

The Angus Joint Management and Commissioning Group agreed to progress work in both of these areas and allocate funds accordingly. Progress on these posts can be seen in the monitoring report on the Changing Children's Services Fund 2003-2004. (Section 3.2)

Difficulties recruiting staff has led to delays in filling many of the posts. As a result it has not been possible to use the entire budget allocated for 2003/04. It has been agreed by the Joint Management and Commissioning Group that no additional initiatives should be progressed at this stage but that underspend should be put towards the development of a Joint Child Protection facility.

This proposal will allow staff from Tayside Police and Angus Council Social Work and Health to be co-located and will enhance the established good working relationships between two of the key agencies involved in the protection of our most vulnerable children. It is hoped that the Scottish Executive will endorse the use of funding in this way and that a start can be made to this project during autumn 2004. The financial report at section 3.2 has now been endorsed by the relevant agencies and forwarded to the Scottish Executive for their approval and agreement to progress this new proposal

Other Changing Children's Services Fund initiatives will continue until 2006 when a full review of the funding will take place in line with Scottish Executive Guidance.

3.2 Changing Children's Services Fund Monitoring Report 2003-04

Financial Summary Information

Allocation 2003-04 (A)	£828,000
Carry forward from 2002-03 (if appropriate) (B)	£252,907
Total Budget 2003-04 (A+B)	£1,080,907
Total Spend 2003-04 (C)	£751,126
Anticipated under spend (A+B) - C	£329,781

Changing Children's Services Fund - Monitoring Report 2003-04

Element Summary

Element Title/ Description	Budget 2003-04 (Allocation plus carry forward) £	Spend 2003-04		Outcomes against Targets for each Element - including any changes to original proposal	Partners involved in element
		From 2003-04 allocation £	From 2002-03 carry forward £		
Offsite Education	80,000	71,059	0	This project continues to progress towards its original stated objectives. Difficulties in the recruitment of specialist carers has meant a greater emphasis being placed on supporting looked after and accommodated children in offsite provision and schools. This has resulted in closer monitoring of provision and attainment as recommended in Learning with Care report. In particular tuition has been provided in Language and Mathematics at standard Grade/Access 3 level	Angus Council
Resource Worker	30,900	34,035	0	The late issue of Throughcare/Aftercare guidelines significantly impacted on timescales related to the delivery of the enhanced service. Development and delivery mechanisms as well as customer consultation has progressed well. A wider skills knowledge has been brought to the team particularly round the area of the impact of sexualised behaviour and its consequences. Gender issues within the support of young people have been improved through a balancing of the gender profile of the team. The views of young people are being promoted through the further development of consultation and feedback opportunities. This is also being progressed using IT.	Angus Council
Permanence worker	30,900	18,774	0	Many of the targets for this post have been achieved and work is progressing to develop the skills and knowledge of fieldwork staff. The quality of service to this group of children is greatly improved and there are positive signs that communications between agencies are improving	Angus Council NHS Tayside Tayside Police Barnardo's
Family Support Worker - Child Protection	19,000	20,527	0	The provision of parenting advice has been a key element of this project and has contributed to maintaining children's safety at home and preventing the recurrence of child protection incidents. The family support worker has contributed to ensuring consistent provision of services from other agencies through advocacy and liaison and has worked directly with children to help them understand their experience of abuse.	Angus Council NHS Tayside Tayside Police Barnardo's

Element Title/ Description	Budget 2003-04 (Allocation plus carry forward) £	Spend 2003-04		Outcomes against Targets for each Element - including any changes to original proposal	Partners involved in element
		From 2003-04 allocation £	From 2002-03 carry forward £		
Social Worker x 3	90,000	73,044	0	<p>One of the workers has been placed within the child protection team resulting in an improved quality of risk assessment work. There has also been the opportunity to provide improved quality care and safety packages targeted at abused children and those at risk of abuse. The direct result of this is evident in Angus Council's figures for the amount of time spent, by children, on the CP register reducing against previous years.</p> <p>The other two workers have been based with social work childcare teams and have focussed their work on providing improved quality rehabilitation packages for children and young people who are accommodated. This has led to an increase in the number of children rehabilitated home against previous years.</p>	Angus Council NHS Tayside Tayside Police Barnardo's
Social Worker and Clerical Support - Children with disabilities	35,000	20,049	0	Two potential carers undertook initial training. Staffing issues have led to this not being progressed. However, it is hoped to recruit an additional four carers over the next two years.	Angus Council
Education Planning Officer	35,000	42,521	0	An Officer was appointed in March 2003 to work within the recently established Joint Strategic Support Unit. This officer has taken forward the education departments strategic developments over the last year and has ensured that they are fully integrated within the planning for children's services within Angus.	Angus Council
Barnardo's Polepark Social Worker	28,700	25,586	0	This project has proved very successful and has resulted in enhanced liaison between and within other agencies and has allowed families to feel empowered by the knowledge and understanding that they have some choice and control in the assessment process. Families are encouraged to participate in the assessment process and their views are actively sought.	Barnardo's Angus Council
Barnardo's Bridge Social Worker	31,900	25,502	0	In the year to January 2003 7 children under the age of 7 years who showed sexually harmful or concerning behaviour were dealt with, 3 of them via intensive direct work. Work with these young children is now more focussed on attachment, resilience and emotional development. There is also greater focus on family involvement and empowerment. Waiting times for the service have been reduced and younger children given priority. There are currently no children on the waiting list	Barnardo's Angus Council
Barnardo's Hopscotch Senior Practitioner	35,850	35,850	0	There are currently three families engaged in active family work relating to alcohol and its effect on the family. 5 Children are engaged in individual therapeutic work and a further 4 are engaged at an initial level.	Barnardo's Angus Council

Working Together for Children and Families in Angus 2002 - 2004

Element Title/ Description	Budget 2003-04 (Allocation plus carry forward) £	Spend 2003-04		Outcomes against Targets for each Element - including any changes to original proposal	Partners involved in element
		From 2003-04 allocation £	From 2002-03 carry forward £		
Complex Needs Co - ordinator	39,000	39,000	0	Links have been established with a range of agencies and the logistics around an early referral system are being explored. This will be further progressed during the next two years. The post holder has been involved in the review of current service delivery and is exploring potential changes. Gaps in service delivery are now being highlighted and will provide the focus for the Angus Children's Services Plan 2005 for this group of children.	Angus LHCC Angus Council Voluntary Sector Tayside Primary care Trust Tayside University Hospital's Trust
Parenting Skills Worker	13,318	13,318	0	The original proposal focused on delivering courses for parents at home. Several factors have resulted in the main emphasis now being on group work. Reasons for this include the desire of parents to meet in groups and the willingness of other professionals to become involved in running group work sessions. This method has shown that parents are gaining a lot from sharing their experiences with others. Ongoing support before and after group sessions continues to be offered.	Parent to Parent Angus Council Tayside Primary Care Trust
Primary Mental health Workers	54,000	38,024		This area of work has not progressed as hoped due to difficulties in staff recruitment and retention. One worker had an extended wait for a satisfactory disclosure which severely hampered progress in this area. Consultation and support to staff in North Angus has now begun but South Angus has not yet been targeted. It is hoped to have this service fully operational within the next year.	Tayside Primary Care Trust Angus Council
Day Centre for 5- 14 year olds	32,700	19,710	0	Because of lack of investment in service and a national shortage of CAMHS nursing staff there has been a delay in filling posts. There is still no post holder within the 0.5 psychology post. The provision of the day service is almost complete with parenting groups and staff training being undertaken as staff time allows.	Tayside Primary Care Trust Angus Council Dundee City Council Perth and Kinross Council
New Community Schools Manager and clerical	50,000	60,408	0	The original targets for this post have developed year on year. It has become apparent that a redesign of the service is required in order to meet the objectives and overcome difficulties associated with staff recruitment and retention. The post holder will work with a range of agencies, over the next two years, to ensure effective integration across the existing community schools and support new schools coming on stream up to 2006	Angus Council

Element Title/ Description	Budget 2003-04 (Allocation plus carry forward) £	Spend 2003-04		Outcomes against Targets for each Element - including any changes to original proposal	Partners involved in element
		From 2003-04 allocation £	From 2002-03 carry forward £		
Provision of AHP services	22,000	22,481	0	<p>Due to the delay in receiving initial funding the start date for this post was delayed. Once staff were in post initial training and job shadowing had to be undertaken before staff were able to work alone in schools. This was a necessary route to ensure that qualified staff could be satisfied that treatment programmes were being carried out safely and expertly by the technical instructors. As a result not all children with complex needs have received this enhanced service however it is anticipated that full roll out will be complete by March 2006.</p> <p>Those who have received the service have been enabled to maximise their functional abilities through the provision of wheelchair practice, self care programmes, walking practice and the use of specialist equipment. Parents have obtained practical skills and knowledge which has enabled them to have increased confidence and competence in the physical management of their children. The provision of Technical Instructors has instigated an innovative way of delivering therapy services. Through service redesign and skill mix, time has been freed up for qualified therapy staff. There is now a more co-ordinated approach to the care and education of this client group.</p>	Tayside Primary Care Trust Angus Council Parents/ Carers
Educational Psychology Services	42,000	31,824	0	<p>This project has not progressed due to difficulties in recruiting staff. As this may not be resolved in the short term it has been agreed to use this funding to support an Interagency Assessment Service for Children with Visual Impairment. The key objectives of the service will be to ensure that all children with visual impairment in Angus are identified and that best practice guidelines for collaborative inter agency management of children with visual impairment are established and implemented.</p>	NHS Tayside Angus Council
3 S's Project	58,000	61,829	0	<p>5 young people are currently involved with this project and are being supported back into school. Most are now in school on a part time basis. These young people are showing an increase in self esteem and confidence and attendance levels have increased by 80%. Four young people have been supported back into community activities with an evident improvement in their personal development.</p>	Angus Council Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme PAL's Project
CP Development manager	39,910	0	9,414	<p>Staff member not appointed until 1 March 2004. No progress to date.</p>	Angus Council
CP Review Officer + clerical	46,558	0	10,270	<p>Both staff were appointed in November 2003 however the Reviewing Officer has been on unexpected long term sick leave and this has severely restricted the progress of this work.</p>	Angus Council
Sexual Abuse Social Worker	32,180	0	3,527	<p>Worker not appointed until January 2004. No progress to date</p>	Angus Council NHS Tayside Tayside Police Barnardo's

Working Together for Children and Families in Angus 2002 - 2004

Element Title/ Description	Budget 2003-04 (Allocation plus carry forward) £	Spend 2003-04		Outcomes against Targets for each Element - including any changes to original proposal	Partners involved in element
		From 2003-04 allocation £	From 2002-03 carry forward £		
Intake Social Worker + Family Support Worker	50,936	0	19,672	Post holders in post since August 2003 therefore conclusions are tentative. Indicators are positive with more families being provided with dedicated early intervention. There is clear evidence of improved links between the duty team and the child protection team.	Angus Council NHS Tayside Tayside Police Barnardo's
Throughcare and Aftercare Team	122,722	0	33,117	The gender balance within the team has been rebalanced to meet the needs of service users. Training provision has widened to enhance the information output to carers and service users. The introduction of Pathway Plans has enabled greater input from service users and increased ownership of their Personal Living Plans. This has also enabled continuous feedback from young people and their families. A consultative process has been put in place at the point when young people have left Local Authority accommodation. This has assisted the development of service delivery through enhanced communication capacity. Full monitoring/outcome information will be available for 2004/05 as statutory duties became effective from 1 April 2004.	Angus Council
Barnardo's Bridge project	64,372	0	12,000	Due to difficulties finding office space in Angus recruitment has not progressed on schedule. Staff will be in post late April 2004.	Barnardo's Angus Council
Child Protection Nurse	10,586	0	0	This post has not been filled as it is a Tayside wide post and was dependent upon other authorities agreeing funding. This is now confirmed and post has been advertised.	Tayside University Hospital's Trust
Wheelchair and Seating	42,546	0	6,000*	Funding for this project was not confirmed until December 2003. Basic equipment to conduct the project such as assessment equipment and technician tools is now available as is the conducting of a base line survey to ensure the service is responsive to children and carers needs.	Tayside University Hospital's Trust Angus Council
Peer Support	3,885	0	3,885	A trainee Educational Psychologist has now been identified to lead this project along with a school for the pilot. The programme will be offered within this school during the spring term. A steering group is to be established later this year to roll the programme out across Angus	Parent to Parent Angus Council
Totals	1,141,963	653,241	97,885		

4. Improving Access to Education for Pupils with Disabilities

4.1 Progress to Date

To ensure that Angus Council can address and meet its legal obligations, in particular, under the Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc Act 2000 (Section 15) and Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 - Schools, an accessibility strategy has been developed.

The strategy takes full account of the two key duties placed upon Local Authorities:

- Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably; and
- To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage.

The three specific aspects of improvements which disability strategies must address, and which are included in this strategy, are:

- Access to the curriculum;
- Access to the physical environment of schools; and
- Improving communication and the delivery of school information.

An Angus approach to developing this strategy was detailed in the 2002-2003 Review of the Children's Services plan.

Within the last year progress has been made in many areas of the strategy in particular with regard to buildings. It is not possible in this review to give an update on the action plan as many of the actions are long term and require consultation with a number of agencies, parents and children over many months. A full update of the action plan will be available in the Children's Services Plan 2005-2008.

5 Childcare Survey 2003/2004

5.1 You and Your Childcare

In January 2004 a random, sample survey was sent out to 3,895 homes throughout Angus to seek parent’s views on their current childcare arrangements. In addition 3,055 questionnaires for children were included where families had children in P1-S2 (5-14 yrs). The sample was determined using SPPA toddler group contact and school records for 3-14’s

The aim of the survey was to provide a detailed assessment of issues relating to parents access to childcare and to compare and contrast these with the results of the previous survey carried out in January 2000. It was also used to assess differences in the use of and demand for childcare for different target groups such as single parents, student parents, parents and families on low incomes, parents and families living in rural areas, parents of children with special needs and parents of children with special educational needs. Views were obtained from parents about the quality and level of childcare provision they required and identified current gaps in service provision. A total of 983 parental questionnaires were returned. (see Fig.1)

Fig 1: Percentage Response Rate

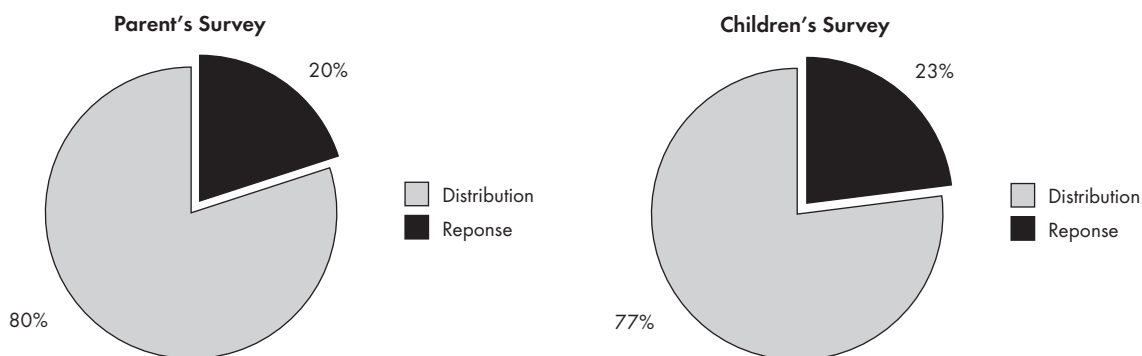


Fig 2: Responses by Area

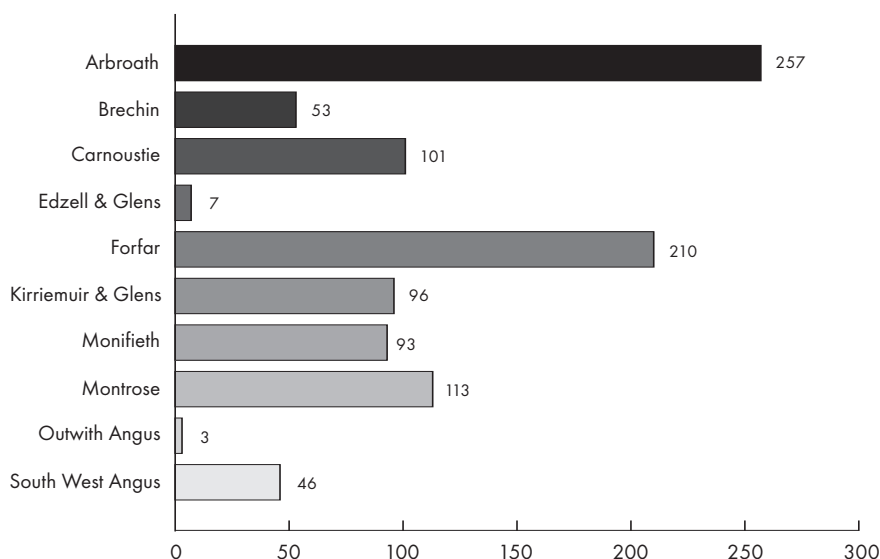
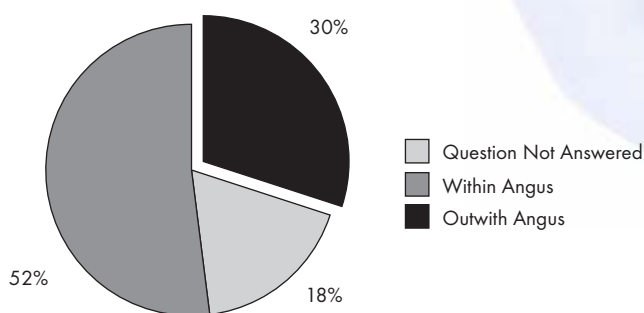


Fig 3: Areas of Work/Study



The returns indicated that nearly 30% of the respondents work/study outwith Angus. This is a significant increase since the survey of 1999-2000 where indications were that 16% of respondents worked or studied outwith the area.

5.2 Family Structures

The survey asked how many adults were in the household and how many adults worked full time or part time. This allowed us to determine the number of lone parent families (see Fig 4) who took part in the survey.

Fig 4: Family Make Up/Working

Single Parent/Two Parent Family		%
Number of two parent families:	816	83
Number of Single Parent Families	128	13
Number of Non-Responses	39	4

Fig 5: Adult Female Working Pattern

Number of Female Adults in area.	936	%
Number of Female Adults working Part Time	500	53.4
Number of Female Adults working Full Time	272	29.1
Number of Female Adults Not Working/Did Not Reply	164	17.5

Fig 6: Adult Male Working Pattern

Number of Male Adults in area.	865	%
Number of Male Adults working Part Time	24	2.8
Number of Male Adults working Full Time	775	89.6
Number of Male Adults Not Working /Did Not Repl	66	7.6

The response indicated that 82% of females are working but over 50% of them are in part-time employment. Only 2.8% of males are working part-time (see Figs 5 & 6)

These figures indicate a slightly raised but similar pattern to the previous survey.

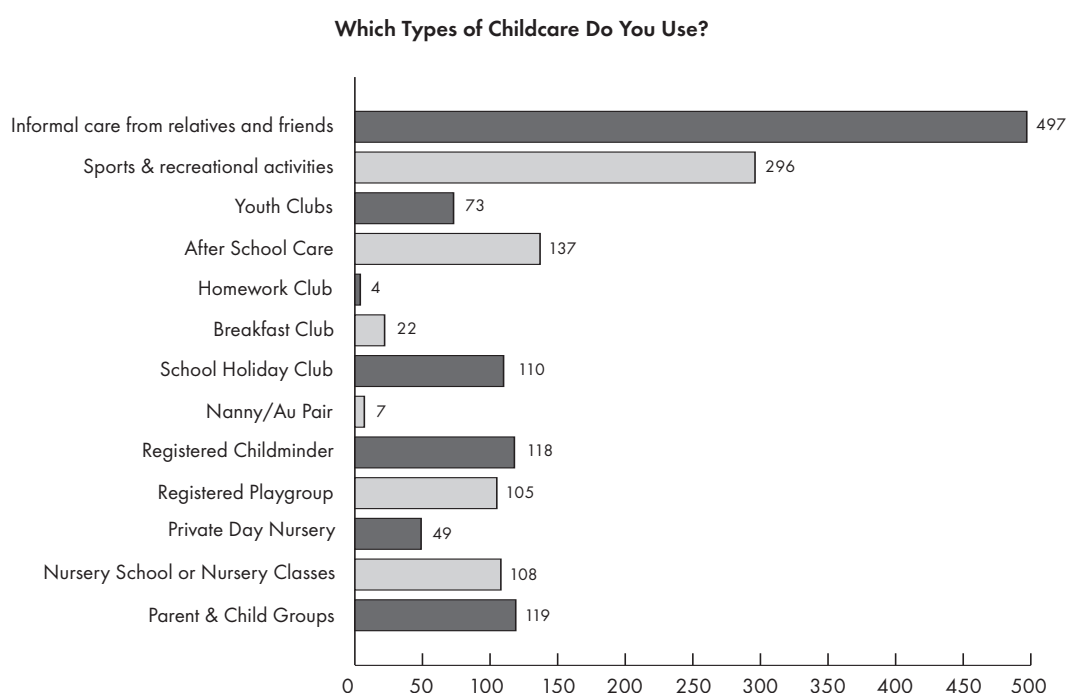
5.3 Use of Childcare Services

Respondents were asked to indicate their current childcare arrangements and give an indication of what type of childcare they and their children preferred.

The outcome of the survey shows that 57% of parents, using any form of childcare, used informal care from relatives and friends to meet their childcare needs. (see Fig 7).

300 parents and 279 children indicated a preference for this type of care.

Fig 7: Types of Childcare Used



When asked what childcare services parents and children would like to use the following were all popular suggestions:

- activity type holiday care;
- more flexible care offering longer opening times and weekend hours for shift workers;
- full-time day care;
- after school care for older children; and
- crèche facilities.

49% of parents had no childcare at the weekends.

On determining patterns of childcare use the survey indicated that the majority of childcare is part time.

- 35% of parents preferred their children to have access to small group childcare, 2% preferred large group and 44% had no preference.(See Fig 8)
- 90% of parents use childcare near their home with 92% having a preference for this. Only 8% of parents would prefer to have childcare near their place of work. (see Fig. 9)

Fig 8: Preferred Size of Group Childcare

Do you have a preference for small group childcare or large group childcare

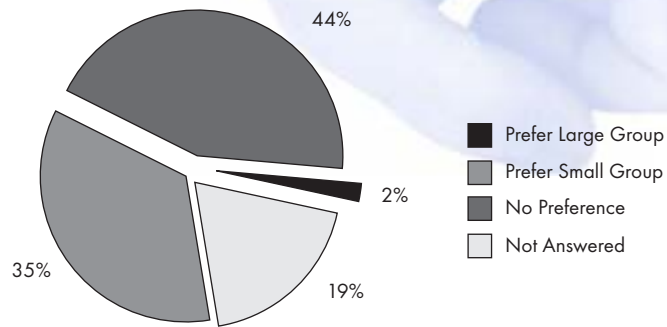


Fig 9: Preferred Location of Childcare (1)

Would you prefer to have childcare located near your home or work?

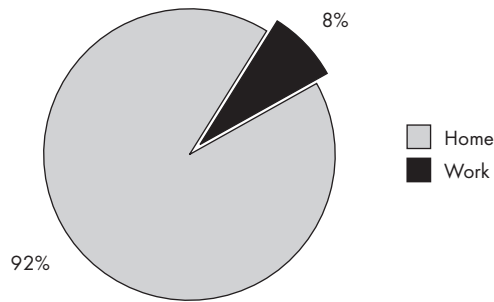


Fig 10: Preferred Location of Childcare (2)

Is Your Childcare Near Your Home or Your Work?

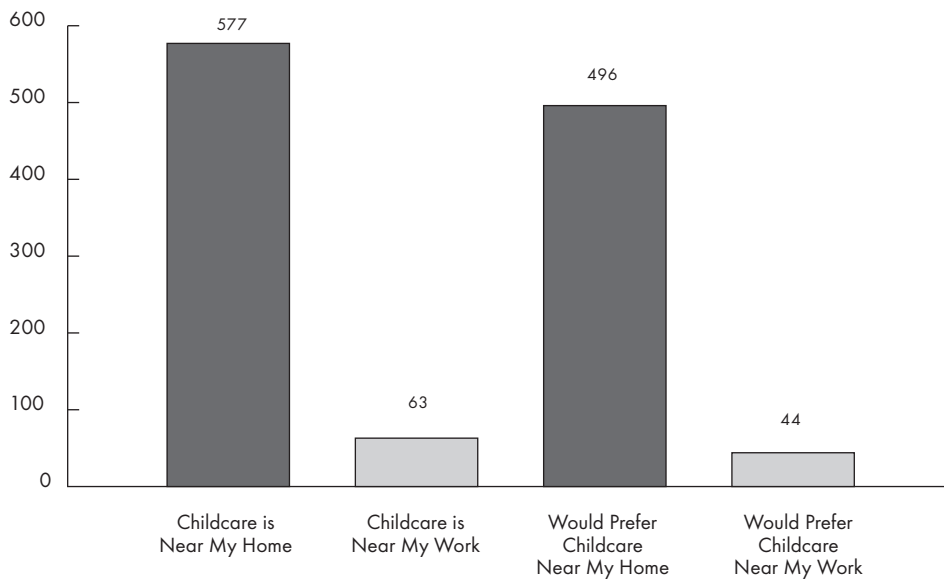
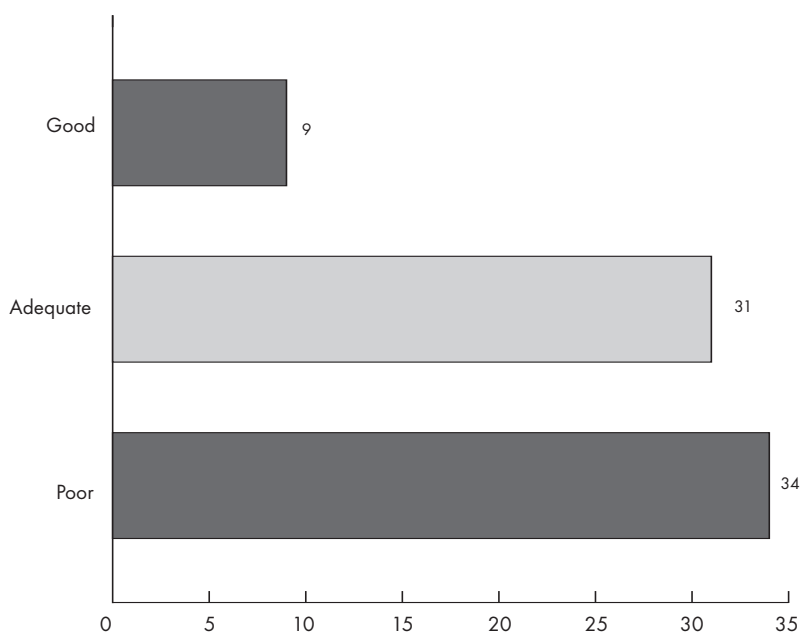


Fig 11: Types of Childcare Used

	Current Use	%	Parent Prefer	%	Child Prefer	%
Parent & child groups	119	12.1	52	5.3	38	3.9
Nursery school/class	108	11.0	78	7.9	57	5.8
Private day nursery	49	5.0	30	3.1	22	2.2
Registered playgroup	105	10.7	62	6.3	50	5.1
Registered childminder	118	12.0	69	7.0	53	5.4
Nanny/Au-Pair	7	0.7	11	1.1	5	0.5
School holiday clubs	110	11.2	105	10.7	92	9.4
Breakfast clubs	22	2.2	37	3.8	22	2.2
Homework clubs	4	0.4	32	3.3	7	0.7
After school care	137	13.9	115	11.7	78	7.9
Youth clubs	73	7.4	53	5.4	68	6.9
Sport & Recreation	296	30.1	167	17.0	186	18.9
Relatives/friends	497	50.6	300	30.5	279	28.4

Fig 12: Use of Public Transport

If you use public transport to take children to childcare services, is this service...



Only 7% of respondents indicated that they use public transport to access childcare however only 1% of these indicated that the service was good.

The other 6% thought the service was poor or adequate. Most dissatisfied were those who lived in rural areas with either no service available or a sparse service which was badly timed with regard to childcare services.

Fig 13: Work, Training and Education

	Yes	%	No	%	No Reply
Further Education	130	13	404	41	449
Training	93	9	387	39	503
Seeking Work	160	16	389	40	434

Out of the total sample, 38% stated that a lack of suitable childcare deterred them from seeking work, training or further education. In total this applied to 383 people.

19 children from this sample have specialist requirements, of whom 11 have access requirements and 11 have sensory requirements. The range of need was wide and spanned all areas from global development delay and special needs to special dietary requirements.

8 families indicated a preference for a second language to be used by their childcare provider. These were Gaelic, Norwegian, Flemish, Dutch, Chinese, Arabic, Albanian and Afrikaans.

5.4 Money and Your Childcare

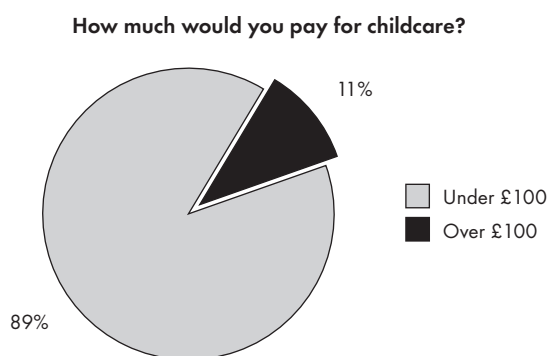
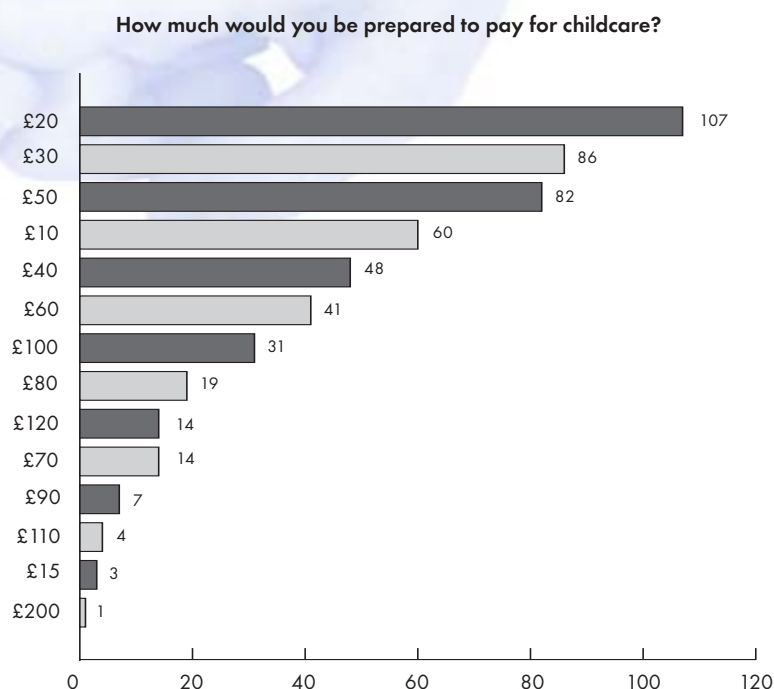


Fig 14: Financing Childcare (1)

From a total of 983 questionnaires returned, 549 chose not to answer the questions regarding cost of childcare. Of those who did respond only 11% were prepared to pay over £100 a week with the rest prepared to pay under £100 a week. (see Fig 14)

Of the 549 respondents to the previous question, 32 chose not to state the maximum they would be prepared to pay for childcare. The spread of those who did is shown in Fig 15.

Fig 15: Financing Childcare (2)



5.5 Childcare Choice

Pre school education is now available to all children in Angus in the term following their third birthday. 84% of respondents indicated that they would take advantage of this provision.

Almost 84% of respondents indicated that they would continue to use their current provider, the other 16% would change for a variety of reasons including children getting older, no childcare available for over 12's, children moving into full-time education and informal care arrangements breaking down.

Identifying where parents find out what is available in the way of childcare and education in their area, 31% of respondents found out through leaflets, with 29% finding out through friends. The least effective way appeared to be through doctors' surgeries (see Fig 16)

Fig 16: What Childcare is Available

How do you find out what is available...	%
Leaflets	31
Friends	29
School	16
Family	16
Newspapers	5
Advertisements in Local Shops	2
Doctors' Surgery	1

The responses to a question about choice of childcare varied depending on area. Highly populated areas reflected that families in Arbroath, Monifieth, Carnoustie and Forfar felt they had a choice. In more rural settings parents expressed that they had little or no choice (see Fig.17)

Fig 17: Childcare Choice

Area	%
Inverarity	67
Glenisla	67
Birkhill	40
Finavon	33

When asked to expand on any desired improvements the responses in Fig 18 indicated the need for Out of School Care as significant.

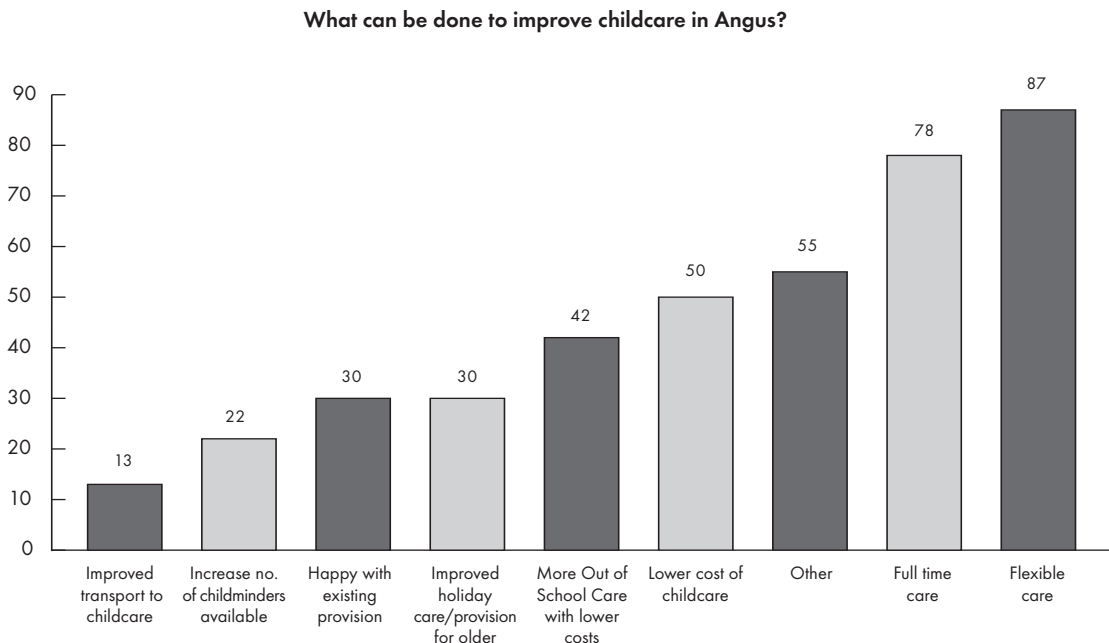
Fig 18: Gaps in Childcare

What is needed...?	%
After School Care	31
All Day Care (pre-school)	17
Flexible/Weekend Care	21
Childminders	12
Others	18

What do you feel needs to be done to improve childcare provision in Angus as a whole?

Respondents gave a variety of responses to this question. Indications are that flexible childcare and full time day care are regarded ways of improving services. More childminders and Out of School Care clubs are requested.

Fig 19: Improvements in Childcare



What is the most important consideration for you when looking for childcare?

This response mirrored that of the previous survey and indicates that the safety, happiness and security of children are of prime importance to parents when looking for childcare. (see Fig 20)

Fig 20: Quality Childcare

Response	%
Not Answered	25
Happiness, Safety & Security	31
Staff, Quality of Service	24
Cost/Location	9
Other	10

5.6 Conclusions

This survey highlighted some changes since the survey undertaken during 2000 but still reflects a growing need for more flexible, affordable, quality childcare across Angus.

- Just over half of the parents and children surveyed use informal care from relatives and friends
- Of those who used this informal arrangement 60% preferred it.
- Parents preferred to use registered childcare arrangements if they did not use informal arrangements.
- A significant number of parents requested more out of school clubs and holiday care.
- Children preferred more informal activities such as sports clubs and leisure.
- 90% of parents used childcare near their home. This was their preference.
- The use of public transport to access childcare is very low.
- Those who do use public transport find the service inadequate
- Rural areas and areas more than three miles from a main town are most affected by inadequate transport particularly when access to pre-school and ante pre-school provision is required.
- Childcare requires to be more flexible with opening hours taking account of evening and weekend working.
- The employment rate is quite high. 82% for females and 89.9% for males. Over 50% of females work part time in comparison to 2.8% of males.
- 383 people stated that the lack of suitable childcare deterred them from seeking work, training or further education.
- More than half of those surveyed did not answer questions relating to the cost of childcare. Of those who did, only 11% were prepared to pay over £100 a week with the rest prepared to pay under £100. The response rate is very similar to the survey of 1999 which indicated that 14% were prepared to pay over £100 a week.
- Pre school education is now available to all children in the term following their third birthday. 84% of parents indicated that they would take advantage of this provision.
- A change in provider would usually be as a result of children moving from pre school to school and from primary to secondary. A number of parents highlighted the lack of provision for 11 – 14 year olds.
- 60% of parents found out about available childcare in their area by leaflet and word of mouth.

- Where choice was lacking parents requested more out of school and flexible or weekend care.
- The two most popular suggestions to improve childcare in Angus are flexible care and full time day care. The cost of childcare is also an issue.
- Most parents are looking for childcare arrangements where their child is happy, safe and secure. The training and quality of staff is also important .
- The number of children from this sample who have special needs is very low therefore it is not possible to form any conclusion about their childcare needs.
- 13% of those who responded to the survey were lone parents.

Recommendations

Angus Childcare Partnership will now consider the development of a range of childcare services across Angus in response to the findings of this survey. Key objectives and an action plan will be drawn up and reported in the Children's Services Plan 2005-2008.

- Develop flexible provision to include weekend and evening childcare.
- Encourage private providers to develop quality full time day care across Angus.
- Promote the extension of pre school and ante pre school hours available to parents.
- Increase number of childminders
- Continue to develop the Childcare Information Service to ensure that all parents have access to relevant and up to date information from a range of sources.
- Develop links between sport and leisure providers and day care providers to ensure children have access to a range of activities especially in Out of School Care clubs.
- Encourage use of existing Out of School care clubs.



Tell us what you think

We welcome your comments on services for children in Angus.
Should you wish to comment on this review or wish us to consider actions for
inclusion in the Children's Services Plan 2005-2008

Please forward your comments/suggestions in writing to:

Evelyn Allardyce - Principal Planning Officer
Angus Council
Joint Strategic Support Unit
County Buildings
Market Street
Forfar
DD8 3WS

