

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK & HEALTH COMMITTEE – 13 NOVEMBER 2008

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 27 NOVEMBER 2008

SERVICE REVIEW: JOINT WORKING BETWEEN EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK & HEALTH

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK & HEALTH

**ABSTRACT**

This report draws the attention of the Education Committee and the Social Work & Health Committee to a recent review of joint working

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee and the Social Work & Health Committee, each for its respective interests should note the contents of the recently undertaken review (Appendix).

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Reference is made to the meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee on 30 October 2007 when the Committee noted a number of Service Reviews which were about to be undertaken (Article 13 of the minute of the meeting refers).
- 2.2 One of the Service Reviews flagged up for the Strategic Policy Committee in October 2007 was:

*Further development of joint working between Social Work, Education and other agencies to ensure that there is real improvement to multi-agency working for the benefit of school pupils and families.*

**3 CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 In recent years, significant efforts have been made to ensure that effective partnership working takes place. Our efforts to date have been taken forward very much under the auspices of the Angus Community Planning Partnership, specifically the Healthy, Safe & Caring Communities Partnership which is one of the main sub-groups which feeds into the overarching Community Partnership.
- 3.2 The range of activities which can legitimately be subsumed under the banner of joint working is wide and varied. The attached Review (Appendix) may not necessarily capture each and every one of these activities in detail but it is intended to highlight the main areas which have been the subject of review over the last 18 months or so.

**4 NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 A number of areas of work are flagged up in the attached report for continuing commitment.

**5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the consideration of this report. However, members will be aware that there is a considerable financial commitment to the Council's joint work with children in all its guises. There are, for example, specific issues about funding provision for residential schools. However, any specific issues of this type will be highlighted separately for the respective Committees in due course.

**6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no statutory Human Rights implications arising from the consideration of this report.

**7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

**8 CONSULTATION**

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

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DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

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DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK & HEALTH

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**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.

Appendix

## SERVICE REVIEW – JOINT WORKING

### 1 ANGUS CHILDREN'S SERVICES – REVISED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- 1.1 Following a period of extensive multi-agency consultation, revised structures associated with the management, delivery, quality improvement and evaluation of children's services were adopted on 1 April 2008. The revised structures are intended to further enhance the effectiveness of partnership working, improve the immediacy of joint decision making, establish clearer reporting arrangements and, above all else, improve outcomes for children and young people. The embedding of the multi-agency Angus Integrated Community School Partnerships within the revised strategic framework is considered central to the delivery of such improved outcomes.
- 1.2 A number of extant multi agency groups, embraced within the new arrangements, continue to make significant contributions to the lives of children, young people and families. Recent early intervention and prevention initiatives by such groups include the on-going work by the Angus Child Protection Committee in relation to electronic child protection messaging and the development of routine screening procedures for domestic abuse within hospital minor injury and illness units overseen by the Angus Partnership on Domestic Abuse and the Angus Community Health Partnership.
- 1.3 The Angus Childcare Partnership has recently been more closely incorporated into the wider planning and development of children's services. Work is also ongoing to develop a corporate parenting strategy.
- 1.4 Outwith the direct auspices of children's services, recent developments by a number of other multi-agency groups are beginning to have a positive impact upon the lives of children, young people and families. Such work includes the establishment of a multi agency Intensive Support & Monitoring Group (ISMS) to consider how Children's Hearing alternatives to secure accommodation orders can be met in Angus. This particular development is believed to be amongst the first of its kind in Scotland.
- 1.5 Although in its infancy, the recently formed Community Safety Tactical Assessment Group is beginning to establish improved procedures for the tactical assessment and planned multi-agency response, including the realignment of resources, to anti-social behaviour, including that attributed to young people. To date the work of this group has been successful in enhancing the provision of appropriate diversionary activities for young people in identified areas of need.
- 1.6 **Next Steps**
- 1.6.1 Following direction from the Children's Services Quality Improvement & Performance Management Group, work is currently underway within the JSSU Children's Team in writing the next Angus Integrated Children's Services Plan 2009 – 2012. Inaugural meetings of the four Joint Action Groups and Training Co-ordination Group have now been completed. It is expected that the Equalities Co-ordination Group will be established in November 2008 .
- 1.6.2 Discussions regarding the establishment of a multi-agency Initial Screening Group concerning Police Child Concern reports submitted to the Family Protection Unit are currently in progress.

### 2 POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS

- 2.1 A number of established joint policies, procedures and protocols are firmly embedded within the joint operational practices of a number of agencies including Education and Social Work. Such practice includes the joint Education and Social Work Practice Procedures for Inter Departmental Liaison (Staged Intervention Process).
- 2.2 **Next Steps**
- 2.2.1 A review of the Practice Procedures for Inter Departmental Liaison is to be undertaken to ensure consistency with the revised Education Department Support for Learners Policy.
- 2.2.2 Development and clarification of the role of health service providers within the Staged Intervention Process is being discussed at present.

- 2.2.3 The development of appropriate referral pathways for young people with mental health needs, within the existing Staged Intervention Process, will shortly be taken forward.
- 2.2.4 The establishment of an agreed protocol between Education, Social Work & Health and the NHS with respect to the placement and funding of children in residential accommodation is currently being considered.
- 2.2.5 An Integrated Assessment Framework and Single Multi-agency Plan for all Angus children remains one of our aspirational goals.

### **3 MULTI-AGENCY PROJECTS/INITIATIVES**

- 3.1 In its third stage of development, the Angus Focus on Alcohol Project (FOA) continues to make a significant contribution towards positively influencing the knowledge and understanding, behaviour and attitudes of children, young people and families towards alcohol consumption. FOA partnership work with the police through 'Operation Dry Up' and the recent multi-agency development of Friday evening diversionary activities for young people within the Arbroath area are but two examples of effective partnership work resulting in improved outcomes. In session 2007-2008 DAAT/FOA funding supported FOA projects within seven of the Angus secondary schools.
- 3.2 Under the combined auspices of the Angus Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and Child Protection Committee (CPC), the Montrose Demonstration Project is a new initiative aimed at improving multi-agency procedures to identify and support children and families adversely affected by parental substance misuse. A proposal from the project to support the establishment of a flexible out of office hours support service will shortly be considered by the Angus DAAT. A support resource developed by the Education Department, aimed at raising the awareness of children's services staff to the 'hidden harm' agenda, will shortly be piloted with the Montrose cluster of schools. The Montrose project has recently been embraced within the Scottish Government's 'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC) Learning Partner initiative.

### **4 MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING**

- 4.1 In recent years the Angus Child Protection Committee and the Angus Partnership on Domestic Abuse have both been successful in the management and delivery of multi agency training. Since 2006 over one thousand professional staff have been trained in aspects of child protection including assessment/decision making, information sharing/communication, case conference training, and roles/responsibilities.
- 4.2 **Next Steps**
  - 4.2.1 It is anticipated that the recently formed Children's Services Training Co-ordination Group will continue to build on existing practice in its efforts to identify and respond to further synergies of training need across a range of services.
  - 4.2.2 The continued development of multi-agency training associated with the introduction of the Additional Support for Learning Act will provide an additional effective model for further multi-agency training to support the revision of the Practice Procedures for Inter Departmental Liaison.
  - 4.2.3 A further dimension to DAAT/CPC training concerning inter-agency child protection protocols will be added this year with the inclusion, by APODA, of related domestic abuse issues.
  - 4.2.4 New CPC training initiatives scheduled for 2008-09 include child protection and children with disabilities, conveying, chairing and participating in network meetings, and the role of the Children's Reporter.

### **5 MULTI-AGENCY REVIEWS OF SERVICE PROVISION**

- 5.1 A number of multi-agency reviews have been embarked upon over the last 18 months, including a Joint Strategic Review of Behaviour Support, a Needs Assessment & Mapping Exercise into the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Angus Children 5 – 18 and a review of the Angus Integrated Community School Partnerships. The outcomes and recommendations from each of these reviews will inform the development and, where required, redesign of related aspects of service provision and associated multi-agency training needs.

- 5.2 The membership of the Resource Management Team (Stage 4 in the Staged Intervention process) was expanded in August 2007 to include two headteachers, two senior Social Workers and from March 2008, the Looked After Children's Nurse. Individual children are referred to the Team as part of the education and social work joint protocol of staged intervention. This Team seeks to establish support for troubled young people in education with a growing emphasis on joint planning with their school to facilitate joint support and reintegration as appropriate.
- 5.3 Education and Social Work are leading on a Review of Behaviour Support in Angus, scheduled to report in December 2008. Membership of this group is drawn from a wide range of partner agencies. Proposals for development of off-site provision in Angus are being considered within this review.
- 5.4 The 3Ss Project was relocated from premises in Addison Place Arbroath to the former Panbride Primary School by Carnoustie. This property is more suited to the work of the provision and also offers capacity for future expansion. A Resource Worker post has recently been filled funded by the Department of Social Work & Health. A Support for Learning Assistant post will be filled in the near future.
- 5.5 In the course of 2008 a new agreement was entered into with Careers Scotland which has resulted in every pupil in off-site provision receiving an enhanced level of support through a guaranteed careers interview and the development of an age and stage appropriate Career Plan which will inform subsequent personal learning planning.

#### 5.6 **Next Steps**

- 5.6.1 A detailed review of off-site provision is planned in order to develop the issues raised in the Joint Review of Behaviour Support. This could lead to an increase in the range of support offered by a wide range of partners, including mainstream schools. It is anticipated this increased range of support will in turn increase the capacity of the existing provisions. A flexible model of support would introduce young people to the wide range of services which would remain available to them beyond their school years eg Careers Scotland, Angus College and Community Learning and Development.

### 6 **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

#### 6.1 **Recent Developments**

Since March 2008 meetings have been held between the Education Support Officer (Additional Support Needs, the Senior CAROs (Community Assessment and Review Officers), Social Work & Health and the Link Teachers. These meetings have been jointly chaired by the Education Support Officer (Additional Support Needs) and the Senior CAROs, who have discussed issues regarding meeting the educational needs of looked after children, and how these can best be addressed. The head of the LAC Health Team also attends these meetings.

- 6.2 A senior representative of the Education Department now attends all meetings of the Foster Carers Consultative Group which is chaired by Social Work staff.

#### 6.3 **Next Steps**

- 6.3.1 The meetings of the LAC link teachers will increasingly focus on the nature and purpose of the link teacher service and provide an important opportunity to review its effectiveness.
- 6.3.2 A number of education issues have been identified at the Foster Carers Group which have been shared with relevant education staff and feedback provided. This group also provides a valuable forum for constructive dialogue between the education service and the carers of looked after children.
- 6.3.3 Through the continuing development of good communications and professional relationships between the departments of Education and Social Work & Health, it is expected that the outcomes for looked after children in Angus will continue to improve.

### 7 **AUTISM PROVISION**

- 7.1 The Respite Panel, established in April 2008, draws its membership from Education, Social Work and a wide range of partners from the health services and other groups. This Panel is increasingly receiving requests for respite from the parents of children on the Autism Spectrum.

- 7.2 The Angus Autism Networking Group, established in August 2007, includes representatives from Education, Social Work, Health, Parent to Parent, Future Needs Team, and Angus College.
- 7.3 The *I CAN* initiative (May 2007) was developed by colleagues from Education, Health and Social Work. Early years education staff have developed a partnership with Speech and Language Therapy colleagues and the voluntary organisation *I CAN*, to provide accredited training to early years practitioners in identifying and assisting with communication difficulties in small children.
- 7.4 The post of Development Worker, Additional Support Needs (established March 2007), has increased opportunities for multi agency working in a number of new ways including The *Voice of the Child* project (which used a range of means and media to gather the views of children with complex needs) involved collaboration with "Parent to Parent" and the *Include Me* scheme involved collaboration with Out Of School Care, Education, Health and Social Work colleagues in supporting the inclusion of children with complex needs in Out of School Care. Both the above included a high number of children on the Autism Spectrum.
- 7.5 **Next Steps**
- 7.5.1 A review of services for Angus children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is about to be undertaken. This will include close engagement with the department of Social Work & Health as well as a wide number of other partner agencies and the voluntary sector.(from August 2008). It is anticipated that the Development Worker, Additional Support Needs will play a central role in this process.
- 7.5.2 It is intended that the above initiatives will increase the capacity of operational staff, within the statutory and voluntary sectors as well as the staff of private providers, to better understand the nature of Autism Spectrum Disorder and to enhance their confidence in supporting such children and contributing to the process of early identification and referral as appropriate.
- 7.5.3 Through the establishment of improved channels of communication and innovative collaborative practices, it is expected that children and young people with ASD will be better supported within their local schools and local community leading to a reduction in the numbers of parents seeking residential provision outwith their community.

## **8 TRANSITIONS**

- 8.1 The Transition Planning Group, comprising partners from ASN Team, Educational Psychology Service, Social Work & Health, Allied Health Professionals, Paediatricians, and the principal teachers of each of the secondary schools in Angus has met on three occasions (first meeting April 2007) to create a new transition process following the demise of Records of Needs and the subsequent introduction of the Additional Support for Learning Act.
- 8.2 **Next Steps**
- 8.2.1 The outcome of the above multi-agency planning meetings has been the establishment of agreed transition procedures. As a result, Transition Planning Meetings have been hosted by each of the eight secondary schools throughout September 2008 and have engaged appropriate representatives of all relevant agencies to plan for the transition of children and young people with severe and complex additional support needs to support beyond school as appropriate. A further meeting took place in Angus House to plan for those children and young people not currently being educated within their local secondary school.
- 8.2.2 The effectiveness of the above meetings will be reviewed at a recall meeting for the Planning Group scheduled for November 2008. It is anticipated that required modifications will be discussed and agreed at that meeting.