

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 24 SEPTEMBER 2009  
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE - 8 OCTOBER 2009  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 21 OCTOBER 2009  
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE - 27 OCTOBER 2009**

**ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT AND  
BUSINESS PLAN 2008/2009**

**JOINT REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND  
HEALTH, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND THE DIRECTOR OF  
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**ABSTRACT**

This report presents the Annual Report for 2008/2009 of the Angus Child Protection Committee. It sets out the work of the Committee during 2008/09 and details priorities for 2009/2010 of the Business Plan. A copy of the Annual Report and Business Plan is attached to this report.

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the respective Committees note the content of the 2008/2009 Annual Report and Business Plan of the Angus Child Protection Committee.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

The Angus Child Protection Committee was formed at local government reorganisation and the attached Annual Report and Business Plan is the 13<sup>th</sup> produced. The Report follows the format outlined in Scottish Government guidance.

The Report is provided to all agencies represented on the committee, to the Scottish Government, to other child protection committees in Scotland and is available to the public via the Angus Child Protection website.

**3 ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09**

The Angus [Child Protection Committee Annual Report](#) for 2008/09 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 four sub committees, namely the Policy sub committee, Practice sub committee, Continuous Improvement sub committee and the Training sub committee. The Angus Child Protection Committee Business Plan for 2009/2010 is contained within the Report.

**4 KEY POINTS WITHIN THE REPORT**

Key points within the report include:

- In October 2008, the Angus area underwent a joint follow-through inspection of services to protect children and young people by the Services for Children Unit located within Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). The report regarding the follow-through inspection was published in February 2009. The findings from the HMIE inspection were that of the four actions requiring attention from the 2007 inspection, two issues were gauged as having made very good progress with the

remainder having made good progress. The Inspectors intimated that consequently there would be no further visits in relation to the 2007 inspection.

- A significant amount of work also went into consideration of two cases under the significant case review procedure. These cases were rigorously examined and reported on by the Practice sub committee and the report and findings were considered by the full committee and subsequently at the executive group. In both cases the recommendations made by the main committee were accepted and endorsed by the executive group and learning events looking at the lessons identified from the cases were delivered to staff within the key agencies involved.
- An audit programme was undertaken by the Continuous Improvement sub committee using HMLe Quality Standards. This work continues to have significant importance for the committee's responsibility for promoting service improvement and delivery as well as providing evidence of the good quality of local services.

The work of the Training sub committee and the committee's training co-ordinator continues to develop with a significant increase in the volume and scope of training evident, relative to previous years. Two planned future training developments are worthy of note. Firstly, planning is underway to develop a systematic process to evaluate the impact of training on service delivery by systematically seeking the views of managers of staff who have undergone committee training to evaluate what changes and improvements in practice can be evidenced. Secondly, as a result of the committee and executive group's consideration of the Haringey reports, it was agreed that child protection awareness training should be offered to local elected members and members of public agency boards such as Police boards and Health boards. Proposals will be presented to the committee and executive group in autumn 2009 and subsequently a draft programme will be submitted to local elected members for their consideration.

- The number of children on the Angus Child Protection Register at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 was 30% down on the previous year's figure of 117. This figure over the years has proved to be volatile and as stated in the report can fluctuate significantly where families with large numbers of children are registered or de-registered during the course of the year.
- Over the last year the committee and Angus Partnership on Domestic Abuse have worked together to develop improved interagency working for children affected by domestic abuse. In conjunction with this the committee has been looking at implementing a protocol to identify and respond to children about whom there are concerns as a result of police responding to incidents. The result of this has been the development of an Inter-agency Early Screening Group. This group consists of representatives from police, social work and health, NHS Tayside, education and housing who meet on a fortnightly basis to evaluate concerns and take any action deemed appropriate. This new initiative has facilitated greater inter-agency communication and information sharing about children in need of protection, and identification of early intervention and services delivered on an inter-agency basis. The work of this group, currently chaired by Tayside Police, is at an early stage but already seems to be having a positive effect in identifying cases for early intervention thus reducing the number of referrals to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration for consideration of compulsory measures of care.
- The committee, in partnership with the Angus Alcohol and Drug Partnership, formerly the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), was pleased to jointly promote and encourage the development of closer collaborative working across agencies working with children and families in Montrose where substance misuse is a concern. This initiative, named Link-Up, was formally launched by the council's Depute Chief Executive in early 2009 and will form the basis of a learning model for the future development of collaborative services across Angus. Link-Up is closely aligned to the development of Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) practice implementation across Angus and is to be evaluated and supported by an external consultant funded by the Scottish Government.

- Consultation with service users, particularly children and young people, continues to be of primary importance for the committee and this is evidenced by the continued commitment to the development and uptake of Viewpoint, a software programme for obtaining young people's views about services they have been in contact with. The findings from Viewpoint have been analysed by council officers and presented to the committee throughout the year. Further work has been undertaken looking at the development of reliable methods for obtaining adults' views regarding services.
- The committee has continued to produce public information to ensure members of the public know who to contact if they have a concern about a child. Information has also been inserted into the school planners for all primary 7 and secondary school pupils and the Angus parenting handbooks have been distributed to all new S1 and P1 school pupils during the year. The leaflet advising the public what to do if they have a concern about a child has been further distributed.
- The committee has devised and implemented a range of interagency policies and procedures in the last year including a policy on the identification and joint working in respect of unborn infants who may be at risk of abuse or neglect at birth, a protocol regarding children and young people who exhibit sexually harmful behaviour and a protocol for conducting significant case reviews as required by Scottish Government guidance.
- The Angus Child Protection Committee (CPC) has continued to participate in a number of local events over the past year to promote awareness about the protection of children to members of the public and professionals.

## **5 PRIORITY OBJECTIVES**

The Angus CPC business plan identifies the following priorities for Angus Child Protection Committee for the year 2009/2010:

- To continue to raise awareness of child protection issues within communities and with the general public, including children and young people;
- Ongoing provision of information to members of the public including children and young people to ensure they know where to get help if they have a concern about a child;
- As part of the information strategy include how the public can be made aware of how referrals are treated and dealt with;
- To develop a systematic process to evaluate the impact of training on service delivery by systematically seeking the views of managers of staff who have undergone committee training to evaluate what changes and improvements in practice can be evidenced;
- Develop and jointly deliver a briefing session on interagency working in the protection of children to local elected members and members of public agency boards such as Police boards and Health boards;
- To continue to deliver interagency child protection training;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the interagency Early Screening Group and the impact on children and their families on early intervention;
- Evaluate and review the Pre-Birth Resource Allocation Meeting and its impact on outcome for children and families;
- Explore the possibility of expanding the use of e-Care/Child Protection Messaging facility to implement an on-line child protection register;
- Strategically review the use and success of "Viewpoint" with children and young people and identification on how "Viewpoint" can be expanded and developed;

- Support continuous improvement within the context of interagency provision using the national performance framework to evaluate the quality of services to protect children and young people;
- New members of the CPC will receive induction regarding their responsibility on the CPC.

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Human Rights implications arising as a result of the recommendation contained in this report.

## **8 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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.

## **9 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

National Outcome 8 – We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

Local Outcome - Safe: Children and young people in Angus will be protected from abuse, neglect and harm by others at home, at school and in the community.

## **10 CONSULTATION**

The Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **11 CONCLUSION**

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual report of the Angus Child Protection Committee details the work the Committee has undertaken throughout 2008/09. The next year will see the committee continuing to provide a strategic overview of partnership improvement actions and developments aimed at improving the outcomes for the children and young people of Angus through the 2009/10 business plan which sets out our key priorities and improvement agenda for the coming year.

D SAWERS  
CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE

R PEAT  
DIRECTOR OF  
SOCIAL WORK  
AND HEALTH

N LOGUE  
ACTING DIRECTOR  
OF EDUCATION

R ASHTON  
DIRECTOR OF  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
SERVICES

**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.

## EQUALITY SCREENING

### Policy Control Document

**Name of Policy, Procedure or Report** The Annual report for 2008/2009 of the Angus Child Protection Committee

**Lead Department/Service** Social Work and Health

What is the aim of the policy, procedure or report?

Sets out the work of the Committee during 2008/2009 and details priorities for 2009/2010 of the Business Plan

Is this a new or a review of an existing policy, procedure or report?

New

#### Screening Process

Has the policy, procedure or report already been assessed for its impact on people from different racial backgrounds, people of different genders and people with disabilities.

Yes  No

**If Yes**, unless there have been significant changes, no further action is required. Please sign and date immediately below and retain for reference.

**If No**, does the policy, procedure or report involve or have consequences for the people the council serves or employs?

Yes  No

**If yes, proceed to Step 1 of the Full Impact Assessment on page 2.**

If no, please state why not

**If no, The policy, procedure or report is not relevant and no further action is required.**

Please sign and date immediately and keep for reference

**Name:** Sharon Robertson

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 02/09/09

## FULL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Step 1

Are there any statutory legal requirements affecting this policy, procedure or report? If so please describe.

### Step 2

What data/research is available to assess the likely impact of the policy, procedure or report.

### Step 3

Is there any reason to believe the policy, procedure or report could affect people differently due to their race or disability or gender? If so how?

Race

  

Disability

  

Gender

### Step 4

Is there evidence to suggest that any part of the policy, procedure or report could unlawfully discriminate against people? If so, how?

### Step 5

Can the policy, procedure or report be seen to favour one section of the community

Yes  No

or deny opportunities to another?

Yes  No

If yes, please give details.

**Step 6**

Does the policy, procedure or report advance equality?

Yes  No

Or restrict equality?

Yes  No

If yes, give details

**Step 7**

Are there any other actions which could have been taken to enhance equality of opportunity?

If so please state

**Step 8**

Based on the work you have done, rate the level of relevance being allocated to this policy, procedure or report.

High  Medium  Low  Unknown

**Step 9**

If during **Steps 3 - 6** there has been an adverse impact identified, consider if any adverse impact can be justified.

Yes  No

If yes please give details.

If no, consider alternative ways of delivering the policy, procedure or report to minimise negative impact or eliminate unlawful discrimination. Give details of the changes to be made to the policy, procedure or report.

**Step 10**

Do you need to carry out a further impact assessment?

Yes  No

If yes, what actions do you need to take

---

**Step 11**

Make arrangements to monitor and review the impact assessment.

- i) Who will be responsible for monitoring?
  
  - ii) How will it be monitored and analysed?
  
  - iii) How often will the policy, procedure or report be reviewed and by whom?

**Step 12**

Publish results of the Impact Assessment.

How will the results be recorded and reported?

**Completion of impact assessment:**

Please sign and date immediately and forward to your designated Policy Impact Assessment Co-ordinator.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For additional information and advice please contact:**  
the Equalities Officer - Tel: 01307 476058 or E-mail: [Equalities@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Equalities@angus.gov.uk)