

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE - 20 SEPTEMBER 2016

ANGUS AUTISM STRATEGY

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In line with the national Strategy for Autism, a local Angus strategy has been developed to ensure that the needs of those with Autism are met. The strategy seeks to ensure that children, young people, adults with Autism, and their families/carers receive the help they need. The Scottish Strategy for Autism and therefore the Angus Autism Strategy have been developed around the four priority outcomes of:

A Healthy Life: People with Autism enjoy the highest attainable standard of living, health and family life and have timely access to diagnostic assessment and integrated support services.

Choice and Control: People with Autism are treated with dignity and respect and services are able to identify their needs and are responsive to meet those needs.

Independence: People with Autism are able to live independently in the community with equal access to all aspects of society. Services have the capacity and awareness to ensure that people are met with recognition and understanding.

Active Citizenship: People with Autism are able to participate in all aspects of community and society by successfully transitioning from school into meaningful educational or employment opportunities.

- 1.2 The Angus Autism Strategy highlights the supports and services people with Autism and their families' value and wish to be further developed locally. Its plan and vision for the future have been informed by engagement with children, young people and adults who have Autism in Angus and their families.
- 1.3 The Angus Autism Strategy has been approved by the Integrated Children's Service Group and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Planning Group.

2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

- 2.1 The following 8 priority areas for development provide the focus and framework for the Angus Autism Strategy.
1. Improving knowledge and understanding of Autism
 2. Steps to and beyond diagnosis
 3. Support for children, adults and families
 4. Improved information sharing between agencies
 5. Planning for transitions throughout life
 6. Improved learning opportunities for young people and adults
 7. Purposeful occupational opportunities
 8. Supporting adults to live independently
- 2.2 A vision for each priority area was developed and shared with children, young people, and adults with Autism, and their views sought.
- 2.3 Parent/carer engagement events also took place in order to prioritise targets within the strategic plan.
- 2.4 A children's consultation group was also established to gather their views and understanding of the priorities for Angus. The children produced illustrations and quotes for inclusion, along with quotes from adults with Autism, in the final strategy.

- 2.5 The draft strategy was distributed to key personnel within Angus Council, NHS Tayside, the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership and private and voluntary sector organisations for comments and views.
- 2.6 An Angus Autism Strategy Group has been established to ensure that the Strategy is delivered and implemented across Angus, in line with the Scottish Strategy for Autism. Membership of the group is multi-agency and representatives have a mandate to represent their agency and engage with service users and carer groups as part of a wider reference group that will inform decision making.
- 2.7 Four work streams, aligned to the four national strategic outcomes, have been established to progress the implementation of the Angus Autism Strategy.
- 2.8 The Angus Autism Strategy will promote a personalised approach based on increased awareness and understanding of people with Autism. This will be supported by local services working collaboratively with children, young people and adults who have Autism and their families in Angus to improve outcomes.
- 2.9 Feedback from the national lead officers for the Scottish Strategy for Autism has been very positive highlighting how consultation with service users is reflected strongly in our local strategy which helpfully covers the lifespan of individuals with Autism and reflects outcomes sought in relation to the national priorities.

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List of Appendices: The Angus Autism Strategy can be accessed at <http://www.angus.gov.uk/downloads/file/2440/angus>