

ANGUS COUNCIL

8 DECEMBER 2016

**JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE
ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP (ACPP)**

REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND LEARNING

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to inform the council of the outcomes of the joint inspection of services for children and young people in Angus. The inspection of all children's services in the Angus Community Planning partnership took place between 16 May 2016 and 24 June 2016 and involved Care Inspectorate, Education Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) scrutinise the inspection findings
- (ii) acknowledges the strengths of the multi-agency partnership in Angus
- (iii) request the Strategic Director to present a multi-agency action plan to address the areas for improvement to the Children and Learning Committee in February 2017

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens
- Individuals and families are involved in decisions which affect them
- We have improved the health and well-being of our people and inequalities are reduced

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 All 32 authorities are regularly inspected for their services to children. These inspections look at the difference services are making to the lives of children, young people and families. They take account of the full range of work with children, young people and families within a community planning partnership area.

3.2 The inspection team looked at how well services across the ACPP were working together to improve outcomes for children and young people. Inspectors interviewed staff, senior officers and young people. They visited services and carried out structured reviews of individual young people's care files across all agencies.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The final inspection report was published on the Care Inspectorate website on 29 November 2016.

<http://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/search-publi?q=angus>

4.2 The report is positive and highlights a number of areas of particular strengths:

- Performance in improving outcomes for children and young people was very good
- There were improving trends in the wellbeing of many aspects of the lives of vulnerable children and young people
- Children and young people's voices were generally listened to and acted on.
- Many parents were more resilient and confident as a result of services received from a range of sources, including midwives, health visitors, family nurses and social workers, psychologists, and third sector organisations such as Barnardo's
- Staff were skilful at recognising when children, young people and families were in need of additional help
- There was a strong commitment across agencies to provide children and young people, families and carers with a wide range of opportunities and mechanisms to express their views and provide feedback
- Effective use of research to inform planning to improve outcomes for our children and young people and communities
- The commitment of all partners to their corporate parenting responsibilities which is improving outcomes for children and young people who are looked after
- Flexible working between staff who work directly with children and young people is improving outcomes for children, young people and families

4.3 The report also highlights examples of good practice which will be of interest to community planning partnerships across Scotland. Three examples of good practice are included in the Angus report:

- The parental self-help network known as the Strathie Café at Strathmore Primary School
- The Partnership's use of supportive interventions for parents to improve outcomes for babies affected by maternal substance misuse
- The housing options protocol which is in place to support young people leaving a care placement

4.4 The report identifies three areas for improvement:

- Improve the quality of risk assessment and chronologies for individual children and young people
- Ensure children's plans consider all aspects of children's well-being. Plans should be specific about the outcomes to be achieved
- Strengthen arrangements for risk assessment and review of planned changes to services or systems

4.5 The ACPP is preparing an action plan in response to the areas for improvement.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that the council considers the findings from the inspection.

5.2 It is proposed that a further report is taken to the Children and Learning Committee with the action plan to address areas for improvement from the inspection.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Services for children and young people in Angus November 2016 Report of a joint inspection.

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