

ANGUS COUNCIL – 26 MARCH 2015

TAYSIDE AREA SUPPORT TEAM

REPORT BY SHEONA HUNTER, HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report updates members on the developments subsequent to consideration of Report No 66/15 on 12 February 2015 of matters in relation to the Tayside Area Support Team.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:-

- (i) notes that a formal letter was written to the Minister for Children and Young People on 25 February 2015 outlining the concerns of Angus Council Officers, Area Support Team members and Panel members relating to the current developments within the Tayside Area Support Team with specific reference to Angus; and
- (ii) notes that a formal complaint was lodged with Children's Hearings Scotland on 6 March 2015.

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

This report contributes to the following Angus Community Plan Outcomes:-

- (i) Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens; and
- (ii) Individuals are involved in their communities and contribute to a number of the priority areas within the Children's and Learning Partnership, including the priorities of Getting it Right in Early Years; Getting it Right for Children and Young People; and Getting it Right for Children with Additional Needs.

3. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to Report No 66/15 considered by Angus Council on 12 February 2015.

Following consideration of that report, members instructed the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Children and Young People outlining members', officers' and volunteers' concerns relating to the manner in which the Tayside Area Support Team was being run, namely that it was not complying with the initial agreement entered into between the three Local Authorities, namely Angus, Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Councils and Children's Hearings Scotland. Members also expressed concerns relating to the loss of the local Angus element in relation to the management of the Tayside Area Support Team.

Members also instructed the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to submit a formal complaint to Children's Hearings Scotland in relation to the Tayside Area Convener's role in the management of the Tayside Area Support Team in relation to Angus.

4. CURRENT POSITION

Members are advised that a letter to the Minister for Children and Learning was sent by the Chief Executive on 25 February 2015 and acknowledged on 6 March 2015. A formal complaint was also submitted by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to Children's Hearings Scotland in terms of their complaints procedure on 6 March and acknowledged on the same date. Children's Hearings Scotland has also confirmed that the complaint will be treated as a stage 2 investigation by Children's Hearings Scotland.

5. CONCLUSION

A further report will be brought back in due course to Council advising members of the outcome of the Children's Hearings Scotland complaints process.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications in connection with this report.

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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 a material extent in preparing the above report.