

## AGENDA ITEM NO 4

REPORT NO 1/16

SCHEDULE 3

### ANGUS COUNCIL

#### CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE - 12 JANUARY 2016

#### OPENING OF THE BRAMBLE COTTAGES

#### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Angus Council has a statutory duty to provide care for children and young people in need of compulsory measures of care. The majority of children and young people who cannot safely remain at home are cared for in alternative family placements such as kinship care, foster care or permanent adoptive placements. There are however a small number of young people whose needs cannot be met within a family setting and who require residential care. The table below details the number of looked after children and young people in Angus at 31 March 2015 and 31 March 2014:

	31 Mar 15	31 Mar 14
Total No of LAC	255	257
Home	82	73
Friends/Relatives	32	33
Foster Care	115	122
Adoption	13	9
Residential	13	20

- 1.2 Where a child or young person requires residential care the Council either provides it directly or purchases a placement from an external provider. Angus Council currently operates one residential care facility for children and young people. Kinnaird Street young person unit historically provided for a maximum of 6 young people but due to the complex nature of the children needs frequently only operated with 4 young people at any one time. The physical design and location of the facility did not lend itself to providing quality care for the children and young people and thus the decision to develop a new facility taken in 2014.

#### 2. BRAMBLE COTTAGES

- 2.1 Bramble Cottages was formally opened by the Deputy Provost on the 17<sup>th</sup> December. Bramble Cottages comprises two units, each of which has been specifically designed to provide places for 4 young people. The new facility will in effect increase in-house residential care capacity from 4 to 8. The facility has been designed to the highest standards with the young people actively involved in the design process. The new facility will be an invaluable resource in meeting the needs of some of the most vulnerable young people in Angus.

- 2.2 Specifically the new facility will offer:

- The opportunity to undertake short term rehabilitation work with individual young people and their families.
- The opportunity to better match placements to the young people's needs
- The opportunity to ensure the provision of education to young people who are not attending school.
- Support more young people in Angus and avoid the need to use externally commissioned placements.
- Better support young people as they move on from care to live on their own.
- Provide short term respite placements to support young people at home.

2.3 A poster display of the opening of the unit is available for members to peruse at Committee.

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