

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 8 NOVEMBER 2016

SECONDARY SCHOOL WEEK

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At full Council on 16 June 2016, elected members approved report 204/16 to make changes to the secondary school week in Angus schools from August 2017. The week is to comprise one shorter day. The decision about which day was the most appropriate was delegated to the Strategic Director – Children & Learning. See minute of Council: Item 4 (ii) (f).
- 1.2 *With the consent of Councillor Welsh, as mover of the motion, the terms of her motion were revised so that there could be flexibility with regard to what day the shorter four period day fell on (and as such, delegated to the Strategic Director – Children and Learning)*
- 1.3 In accordance with Council's decision this information report confirms the decision **or the shorter day to take place on a Friday**. The rationale for the decision is outlined below.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 Since 16 June Children & Learning Directorate has been engaging with a number of stakeholders including the eight headteachers of Angus Secondary Schools re the preferable option for the shorter day. The feedback from headteachers was mixed regarding which was the preferred shorter day. This was based on what they considered best for continuous professional development and what they considered best for the young people. All, however, recognised the need to acknowledge and respect the survey carried out and its findings.

In June 2017 a report will be presented to Children & Learning Committee outlining a programme of activity that will be on offer across Angus for our young people on Friday afternoon, should they wish to participate. For now, the following outlines why Friday is the preferred model and outlines some of the possibilities based on current discussions.

- 2.2 It was necessary to take full account of the lengthy consultation that took place and involved 3138 pupil, staff and parent responses. The most popular option with pupils, parents and staff was the model of four longer days and a half day on a Friday. Detailed responses can be found in Report 2014/16).
- 2.3 Trade Unions expressed a preference for the shorter day to be Friday on the full understanding that teachers' statutory contact time will be completed within the four and a half day structure.

- 2.4 Dundee & Angus College had no real preference for which day but is willing to move academic and/or vocational courses to Fridays. The details of this will be scoped over the coming months and full consideration given to what enhances the current offer as a result of the shorter school day.
- 2.5 Angus Alive is considering discounted offers to our young people for Friday afternoons across a range of sports and leisure facilities. It is working on possibilities of seasonal outdoor activities and vocational work experiences. More details of this will be available in the June report.
- 2.6 Angus Works is presently running throughout Angus Council. Consideration will be given to focusing all experience on Fridays, causing minimum disruption to other areas of the curriculum.
- 2.7 Voluntary Action Angus are willing to work with us to support and grow our young volunteers. Consideration is being given to what can be offered on Friday afternoons to enhance young people's experiences and cvs.
- 2.8 Employers – Some employers are able to offer work experience on Friday afternoons; others expressed a preference for a different day.
- 2.9 Links Park Community Trust intend offering performance football, an advanced training programme for those that demonstrate potential and/or high levels of achievement/performance and school of sport, an opportunity for secondary school pupils to work with them to accrue recognised leadership qualifications and meaningful work placement opportunities in their (and partner Community Sports Hub) programmes. More work will be carried out with sports clubs over the coming months and reported back to Committee in June.
- 2.10 Hospitalfield currently work closely in partnership with a number of Arbroath schools. In general terms they are interested to consider what possibilities a change in the school week might present.

The Children & Learning Committee in June 2017 will detail the opportunities available from August 2017 for our young people in full.

Contact for further information:

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