

## **AGENDA ITEM NO 8**

**REPORT NO 444/14**

### **ANGUS COUNCIL**

#### **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 11 NOVEMBER 2014**

#### **RESPONSE TO THE WOOD COMMISSION REPORT JUNE 2014**

#### **REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PEOPLE**

### **ABSTRACT**

The Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce's Final Report 'Education Working for All' (known as the Wood Commission Report) was published in June 2014. This committee report sets out the progress to date and the work that will be actioned to ensure that Angus Council responds appropriately to the recommendations from the Wood Commission's Report.

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Note the audit completed by the Work Related Learning Steering Group and support the actions agreed through identification of Next Steps.
- (ii) Support the request that all Council Directorates provide assistance and support to work placements and the Modern Apprentice scheme.
- (iii) Support cross-authority working with Dundee City Council and others as part of the Strategic Leadership Development Programme.
- (iv) Approve the proposals outlined in section 5,1 of this report.

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

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- 1 We have a sustainable economy with good employment opportunities
- 2 Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit
- 3 Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens

### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce's Final Report 'Education Working for All' (known as the Wood Commission Report) was published in June 2014. It was set up in response to a national continued high rate of youth unemployment and a need to have a more joined up approach to vocational educational, particularly for those leaving or about to leave school.

3.2 The Wood Commission made 39 recommendations across three broad areas:

- Education & Training
- Involvement of Employers
- Advancing Inequalities

3.3 The full report can be accessed at:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/edandtrainingforyoungple/commissiondevelopingscotlandsyoungworkforce/finalreport>

3.4 The Strategic Leadership Development Programme (SLDP), supported by the Scottish Government and facilitated by the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES), is a national project in its fourth year which aims to respond to the growing need to provide challenging and effective CPD on leadership for our most experienced colleagues and to promote a shared understanding between head teachers and their local authority colleagues of how we can collaborate effectively to lead the necessary improvements in our service. It requires participants to work across authority boundaries on areas of mutual interest. As an Authority we are committed to this programme and we are working with neighbouring authorities to undertake the programme with a focus on the Wood Commission recommendations and implications for schools.

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

4.1 Following the publication of the Wood Commission Report, aspects relating to education and training were considered at Angus Council's Schools and Learning Work Related Learning (WRL) Steering Group in September 2014.

4.2 Prior to this meeting of the group, a draft audit was completed by Schools and Learning officers that identified the 11 most pertinent recommendations from the Report. This audit is attached as Appendix One. At the meeting of 9 September 2014, it was agreed that the WRL Steering Group would focus on the Wood recommendations in 2014/15.

4.3 This work will now be taken forward with input from other Council Directorates and support from Economic Development.

4.4 At the same time, representatives for Schools and Learning along with colleagues from Dundee and Angus College are engaging with a Strategic Leadership Development Programme project, looking at the impact of the Wood Report and its implications for learning in the Senior Phase. The group will link with representatives of Dundee City Council and other authorities in order to share good practice and develop cross-authority approaches to the recommendations.

#### **5. PROPOSALS**

5.1 It is proposed that the WRL Steering continue to develop and implement actions to meet recommendations of the Wood Commission during 2014/15.

5.2 The SLDP group works with other local authorities to ensure common themes are developed and implemented in response to the recommendations.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Funding for implementation of Wood Commission recommendations may be available from the Scottish Government. This will be discussed with the WRL Steering and SLDP groups. Any ongoing work in this area is being funded through the realignment of existing resources. This will be reviewed in the future in light of any specific Scottish Government funding.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed 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.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Angus Council Response to the Commission for Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce