

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 10 JANUARY 2017

ANGUS CHILDREN AND LEARNING FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 28TH and 29TH 2016

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Angus Children and Learning Festival was held on the 28th and 29th November at Brechin Community Campus. The event showcased some of the great work and emerging practice going on across Angus to support the achievement of our children and young people. The Festival was attended by parents, teachers, social workers, youth workers, support staff, NHS Tayside colleagues and third sector representatives. The Festival explored three main themes which support the achievement of all our children and young people:

1. Getting it right Pre-Birth and in the Early Years
2. Getting it Right for Children and Young People
3. Getting it Right into Adulthood

2.0 FESTIVAL FORMAT

The Festival programme included different components. Participants chose from a selection of keynotes, workshops and creative conversations. A Festival marketplace also provided a more informal way for Festival participants to learn about a range of services and practice.

The scene for the Festival was set by a number of keynote speakers:

Margo Williamson, Strategic Director of Children & Learning, Angus Council

Grant Ritchie, Principal, Dundee and Angus College

Felicia Wood, Training Director, Kate Cairns Associates

James Nottingham, Executive Director of Challenging Learning

The full Festival programme can be found in Appendix 1.

'The Angus Way' was also launched at the Festival. This poster highlights the essential features of an Angus classroom and can be found in Appendix 2.

3.0 FESTIVAL EVALUATION

At the 2016 Festival, those participants who had attended the 2015 programme (mainly teachers) were reminded of the individual commitment they made last year and reported on their progress. Attendance during the full day Festival event reached over 700 people. The Monday evening programme was not well attended. Those that came along to the mainly parent focused programme were hugely enthusiastic and engaged in the programme but we will reflect on the suitability of this timing. Social media coverage was also monitored using the hashtag #ACLF2016. Here are some reflections from participants:

Fantastic day at the @AngusCouncil Children and Learning Festival. Huge thanks to all facilitators - job well done 😊👍#ACLF16

An opportunity to comment on what matters to you about supporting mental health in Angus #ACLF16

Fantastic performance from street cones as part of the @AngusCouncil children and learning festival #ACLF16

And we are off! @MargoWilliamson presenting with @Grant_Principal. Getting it right into adulthood. #ACLF16 @AngusCouncil

Our practitioner-led workshops are packed out @AngusCouncil #ACLF16

Fantastic event today - thank you so much to you and all involved! #ALF2016

Many thanks to everyone connected with making #ACLF2016 such a huge success-organisers, helpers delegates & presenters Learned so much today

Really enjoyed your presentation today Chris. Fascinating and provided much food for thought on how to tackle issues in class

Thanks to everyone who came to #Alftm teachmeet tonight. Great sharing! #acif

Every school needs a @JamesNottingham in it at all times.. very inspiring.. can't wait to take VL to the next level with my class ☐ #ACLF2016

Inspiring discussion at Angus Learning Festival #showuswhatwegotAngus

Delegates were also asked to leave feedback. The majority of the feedback highlighted the important contribution the Festival had made in helping colleagues reflect on practice and learn new ideas. Connections had been established and strengthened. Some aspects of the feedback will be useful in considering the planning for a future Festival. That is, some colleagues were unable to attend all the workshops they wanted to. The following quotes reflect spontaneous feedback sent after the event:

"The sessions have prompted such quality professional discussions with staff. As well as being thought-provoking, staff have then gone off to look up different aspects discussed this morning connected to our school improvement plans."

"Teaching and support staff, got a huge amount from today. We particularly enjoyed the two sessions with James Nottingham."

Appendix 1: Angus Children and Learning Festival 2016 Programme

Appendix 2: The Angus Way

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