

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 23 FEBRUARY 2016

VALIDATED SELF-EVALUATION (VSE) OF ANGUS COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

1 BACKGROUND

VSE is an evaluative and collaborative activity promoted by Education Scotland to support and challenge the work of Education Authorities including Educational Psychology Services (EPS). In September 2015, Angus Council EPS and Education Scotland jointly undertook VSE. In EPS, the VSE focused on the two key themes of 'Learning and Teaching' and 'Partnership Working'. These reflect the Scottish Government's national priorities and relate to the contributions made by EPS to raising attainment, addressing disadvantage and supporting and implementing *Getting It Right for Every Child* (GIRFEC).

2 CURRENT POSITION

A range of self-evaluation activities took place in Angus during week beginning 21 September 2015 and focused on '*How well is EPS supporting the attainment of children and young people with literacy difficulties in Angus?*' and '*How well is EPS working in partnership to meet the needs of looked after children?*'

This was a very productive and positive week where key strengths were identified across both themed areas. These included effective leadership of activities, both by EPs and by a range of participating partners, as well as a wide range of well-organised self-evaluation activities that facilitated highly co-operative and challenging discussions.

Education Scotland and EPS agreed on the following next steps to further improve the self-evaluation process:

- continue to build capacity in others to deliver key outcomes, building in a needs analysis and clear exit strategy for EPS
- continue to utilise and build upon the psychological knowledge and expertise of the service to make a stronger strategic contribution to local and national policy initiatives and strategic objectives
- further strengthen communication with stakeholders using a range of methods including digital and social media
- extend the role of EPS to impact more widely across all children and young people at a systemic level

It was very positive to note that Education Scotland was confident that Angus EPS has a strong capacity for continuous improvement. It was also noted that the strong leadership, as well as the distributive leadership evident within EPS, has impacted positively on the quality of the service delivered to children, young people and their families. It was recognised that Angus EPS has a clear agenda for change as a result of self-evaluation, which was validated by Education Scotland during this process. An action plan has already been developed to take forward the areas for improvement. This plan can be found at the web link below.

3 SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

The full VSE report on Angus EPS can be found at http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/AngusEPSVSE150116_tcm4-874251.pdf

Further information on Angus EPS' self-evaluation, report and action plan arising from VSE can be found at http://www.angus.gov.uk/downloads/download/312/educational_psychology_service

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