

ANGUS COUNCIL**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE - 11 AUGUST 2015****ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT****BACKGROUND**

The Angus Child Protection Committee produces an annual report setting out the work of the Committee during 2014/15 and detailing priorities 2015/16. The report is available at <http://www.anguschildprotectioncommittee.org.uk/pdfs/AnnualReport14.pdf>.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2014-15

Audit of Practice; Multi-agency coordinated case file reading – 69 case files have been audited against the Care Inspectorate Case File Reading Framework (2014). We have confidence that children and young people are well protected when child protection concerns are identified. There are effective systems in place to share information and establish protection plans and staff benefit from regular support and supervision. We have identified areas for improvement including early intervention, support for named persons, chronologies and engagement of children and families.

Angus Wellbeing Web – Collaborative Research Project – we have worked with various partners including Edinburgh University in evaluating the use of our outcome tool 'Angus Wellbeing Web'. The tool is now in use in several authorities and partnerships across Scotland. The research highlighted the value for children and young people in using the tool and recommends further awareness raising and training.

Children's Wellbeing Research Project - The Children's Wellbeing Research Project was undertaken in Angus in September 2014. The research involved gathering detailed information about the needs of children and young people drawn from a community survey of a statistically valid sample of local families across Angus. There are three key development outcomes identified as priorities for Angus Community Planning partnership, namely;

- Poor engagement with School (9-16 years)
- Poor Early Social & Emotional Development (0-5 years)
- Early initiation of Substance Use (12-16 years)

These will be taken forward by the Angus Community Planning Partnership and interventions will be targeted to those who need them most. This will help to achieve maximum return on investments in services and better outcomes for children and young people in Angus.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2015-16**Improving Outcomes:**

- Earlier identification/intervention in the lives of children in need of protection;
- Develop joint initiatives to reduce the impact of children affected by domestic abuse;
- Support the development of an early intervention service for children affected by parental substance misuse (CAPSM);
- Develop a coordinated and integrated response to reduce the impact of child neglect;
- Develop a coordinated and integrated response to reduce the impact of child poverty.

Improving Processes:

- Improve responses/quicker decision making for vulnerable children and families;
- Improve systems for measuring and recording the impact of service developments/improvements on outcomes for children and young people;
- Streamline existing child protection processes and systems against the revised National Guidance for Child Protection and GIRFEC;

- Strengthen the engagement and involvement of children, young people and their families in the planning and development of services;
- Improve arrangements for seeking and incorporating the views of children and families in decisions which are made about them;
- Improve arrangements for managing and prioritising self-evaluation activities.

KEY ACTIONS FOR 2015/16

- We will raise the profile of child sexual exploitation by reviewing local systems and practice and by providing training to carers and professionals;
- We will engage with the public on matters of child and adult protection by publicising a 'See Something Say Something' campaign encouraging the public to share concerns about vulnerable people in our communities. We will develop a 'report it' function on Angus Council website to support current ACCESSLINE arrangements;
- We will promote the use of tools to ensure children and families benefit from clear assessment of need and child's plans (chronologies, wellbeing web, core training);
- We will focus on early intervention by developing sustainable programs such as Strengthening Families and by reviewing our Family Support Services;
- Seek the views of staff working in child and adult protection to inform the development of policy, training and support.

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