

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 10 NOVEMBER 2015

EARLY YEARS COLLABORATIVE

1. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to report number 162/13 considered by the Education and Social Work and Health Committees on 7th March and 4 April 2013 respectively.

The Early Years Collaborative (EYC) was established nationally in January 2013. It is the world's first national multi-agency quality improvement programme. The EYC is a coalition of Community Planning Partners - including social services, health, education, police and third sector professionals.

The overall ambition of the EYC is to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up in by improving outcomes and reducing inequalities for all babies, children, mothers, fathers and families to ensure that all children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.

The objective of the EYC is to accelerate the high level principles set out in GIRFEC and the Early Years Framework to:

- Deliver tangible improvement in outcomes and reduce inequalities for Scotland's vulnerable children.
- To shift the balance of public services towards early intervention and prevention by 2016 and sustain this change to 2018 and beyond.

Detailed information about the national EYC can be found at: <http://www.earlyyearscolloborative.co.uk>

In Angus, the Service Manager, Early Years is the designated EYC Champion and a part time Programme Manager post is now in place.

2. Progress to Date

The Early Years Collaborative (EYC) facilitates multi-agency working to deliver improvement through small tests of change at grass roots level across Angus. It focuses on what already works well and what needs to happen to develop more effective improvement.

2.1 National Priorities and Local Progress

The national focus is currently on identifying projects across Scotland that will demonstrate impact towards the set national stretch aims. National priorities have recently been revised as:

1. **Early support for pregnancy and beyond** - In Angus this has been progressed through the Pioneer Site, "Bumps and Beyond" project. This pioneer site has been shared at the National EYC Learning Session. It has been a very successful initiative, led by the Child Protection Team which is beginning to be spread to a second Children & Families Team.
2. **Attachment, child development and learning** - In Angus we have led multi-agency training and established 30 Nurture Settings across Schools, nurseries and Child & Family Centres.
3. **Continuity of care in transitions between services** – A test of change is being taken forward in Carnoustie developing flexible models of early learning and childcare across local authority, private and third sector provision that ensures continuity of care for the child.

4. **27-30 month Child Health Review** - There is test of change currently ongoing in Arbroath seeking to improve data sharing between health services and early learning and child care settings.
5. **Parenting skills and family engagement to support learning** - An Angus Parenting Strategy is under development.
6. **Addressing child poverty (income maximisation)** – This is being address though the expansion of early learning and child care to targeted 2 year olds and the expansion of free school meals to children in early learning and child care.
7. **Play** - A pan-directorate play strategy is being developed.
8. **Health & Wellbeing** – This is being progressed through tests of change around Healthy Start Vouchers and child vitamin distribution initiatives.

National learning sessions bring EYC's together from across Scotland. Angus EYC has submitted nominations of the projects listed above for showcase at future learning sessions.

The EYC work in Angus reflects the priorities of Angus Community Planning Partnership as well as national priorities. The Children's Wellbeing Research Project has identified 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 priorities are reflected in the work of the Councils Early Years' service whose overarching themes are:

- a. Attachment, Nurture & Child Development,
- b. Developing parent skills/ family engagement to support learning
- c. Early intervention and prevention
- d. Raising Attainment

Priorities for the Early Years Collaborative in Angus over the next year are:

- To progress the tests of change set out in the EYC work plan and to raise the profile of the EYC.
- To prioritise and focus improvement efforts on local priorities which have the greatest chance of demonstrating impact towards the national stretch aim achievement and directorate priorities as set out above.
- To build capacity and capability in the improvement methodology across partners.
- To work in partnership with Tayside Centre of Organisational Effectiveness to support the progress of projects across partners. 6 projects are being supported on this programme between August and December 2015. These projects include Early Literacy/Bookbug; Flexible ELCC delivery in Carnoustie, Midwifery support, early identification and intervention for children with specific needs and healthy cooking with dads.
- To learn from and share good practice with other authorities. Good links exist with colleagues in Dundee and Perth & Kinross Councils.
- To facilitate an EYC celebrating success event in the spring of 2016.
- To create opportunities for the EYC & RAFA to work together in a more integrated collaborative way. Local events are taking place shortly which will bring the two together. The model for improvement is also used within the Raising Attainment For All Agenda (RAFA).

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