

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 10 NOVEMBER 2015**

**STATEMENT OF AMBITION FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF ANGUS**

**REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR**

**ABSTRACT**

This report presents a draft statement of ambition for the young people of Angus, which will govern decision-making and service planning within the relevant services of the People Directorate.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee approves the statement of ambition for young people in Angus.

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

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

Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens

Individuals and families are involved in decisions which affect them

We have improved the health and wellbeing of our people and inequalities are reduced

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Since the inception of the People Directorate we have been working with staff to establish an agreed set of values, aims and ambitions to underpin and inform our work, and to ensure that our activities align with the Council's overall vision:

Angus is a place where a first class quality of life can be enjoyed by all.

3.2 In recent months we have been able to focus this work on our services to children and young people, given the increasing clarity about Health and Social Care Integration.

3.3 As we have worked through a variety of options and approaches, a common theme emerged. We recognised that we were developing a set of commitments with the children and young people of Angus, our staff, each other and the wider community. The four commitments (which are expanded in section 4 below) are:

- Commitment to the young people of Angus
- Commitment to improve
- Commitment to staff
- Commitment to values

3.4 In our view, combining these commitments creates an overall statement of ambition for our young people and our services. We want this statement to be widely available across the relevant sections of the People Directorate and to become part of our everyday conversations and thought process. Future service improvement plans will be prepared on the basis of this statement, and we will hold each other accountable for decision-making based on it (especially the commitment to young people).

- 3.5 The commitment to the young people of Angus and the commitment to improve reflect a Council-wide ambition, which includes our role as corporate parents. The commitment to staff and commitment to values are intended to summarise ways of working within the People Directorate.
- 3.6 The draft commitments described below have been prepared following extensive consultation and engagement with staff across the People Directorate. We have had initial engagement with trade unions and to some extent with the wider public through our blog. We have also used the output from the Wellbeing Research (Dartington) and the recent Investors in People report.
- 3.7 In preparing this statement of ambition we have adopted the metaphor of the four points of a compass. This is intended to make the statement accessible and to facilitate the production of visual material to promote it.

#### 4. THE STATEMENT OF AMBITION

##### 4.1 Commitment to young people

This will be the north point of our compass as it is the overarching commitment that we will fulfil.

*Our job is to help you grow safely and happily.  
We will listen to you and hear what you have to say.  
If things go wrong, we will help you.  
We will support you to make a difference.*

##### 4.2 Commitment to improve (south point)

These stretch aims are intended to align to the Council's local outcomes. They will form the basis for the Directorate's medium-term improvement planning.

- 1 *We will increase the number of our children and young people who are positively engaged with school (STRETCH AIM by April 2019 - from 60% to 80%)*
- 2 *We will increase the number of our children meeting their developmental milestones before they start school (STRETCH AIM – 9 out of 10 children)*
- 3 *We will reduce the number of our young people engaged in substance misuse (STRETCH AIM: from 33% to 25%)*
- 4 *We will increase the number of our young people who leave school for sustained positive school destinations (STRETCH AIM: from 93% to 95%)*
- 5 *We will surpass the national attainment targets set for the broad general education to ensure our children and young people meet and succeed at every curriculum level. (STRETCH AIM: 90%)*

##### 4.3 Commitment to staff (west point)

The statements in this section have been drawn from a cross-Directorate group of staff who worked with the Strategic Director to develop an action plan for Investors in People.

- 1 *We will engage with staff openly and consistently.*
- 2 *We will consult with staff on matters that will affect them.*
- 3 *We will support professional learning and career development.*
- 4 *We will recognise and celebrate success.*

##### 4.4 Commitment to values (east point)

In preparing these values we have taken account of the Council's stated values, but have adapted them for the specific context of our services to children and young people and to reflect the views of staff within the Directorate.

- 1 *We will continuously seek to improve our services.*
- 2 *We will act with honesty and integrity at all times.*
- 3 *We will act responsibly and will be accountable for our actions.*
- 4 *We will do what we say and do it well.*
- 5 *We will acknowledge when we get things wrong.*
- 6 *We will promote equity and tackle discrimination and disadvantage.*

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There will be some costs associated with preparing publicity material to distribute and display. We do not anticipate that these costs will be significant and they will be contained within the Directorate's revenue budget.

**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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