

**ANGUS COUNCIL**  
**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE 19 MAY 2015**  
**SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE 19 MAY 2015**

**SOCIAL SERVICES IN SCOTLAND: A SHARED VISION AND STRATEGY 2015 - 2020**

### **Background**

On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015, World Social Work Day, key stakeholders working in social services across Scotland jointly launched "Social services in Scotland: A shared Vision and Strategy 2015 – 2020" ([Vision and Strategy for Social Services in Scotland](#)).

This national strategy has been developed by the Social Work Services Strategic Forum, chaired by the Minister for Children and Young People with members including Social Work Scotland, SSSC, Cosla, the Care Inspectorate, the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland, Scottish Association of Social Workers, SOLACE, UNISON and the Scottish Government.

The Strategy sets out a shared vision for "*a socially just Scotland with excellent social services delivered by a skilled and valued workforce which works with others to empower, support and protect people, with a focus on prevention, early intervention and enablement.*"

The strategy represents a strong commitment to working in partnership across organisations and with government to deliver this vision for high quality and effective social services. It is also supportive of government policy on having in place a social services workforce which is competent, confident and valued.

The strategy:

- recognises the unique role of social services and the very diverse range of support, services and workforce which comprise this sector;
- reflects on and reinforces the progress and improvement which has been made since *Changing Lives*,
- shares a vision for sustainable social services within the context of current policy drivers and developments and the distinctive Scottish approach to public service reform and transformation; and
- sets out where additional action is needed to ensure that social services continue to be robust partners in the work to empower, support, protect and ensure better outcomes for people and communities.

The strategy also sets out a range of additional actions which partners will take forward to support delivery of our vision. The actions are in cross-cutting areas - relevant to all kinds of social services and the whole social services workforce - where it has been identified that although progress has been made, further specific effort could deliver value. The areas for action are:

- Supporting the Workforce
- Understanding Service Quality and Performance
- Improving Use of Evidence
- Promoting Public Understanding

### **Current Situation**

The actions set out in the strategy are ambitious and can clearly only be delivered in partnership. The Social Work Services Strategic Forum is therefore developing

an Implementation Plan which will set out responsibilities and timescales for progressing the actions contained within the Strategy.

The strategy reflects on and reinforces the progress and improvement in social work services which has been made since Changing Lives. It details a vision for sustainable social services within the context of current policy drivers and developments and the distinctive Scottish approach to public service reform and transformation. The strategy also sets out where additional action is needed to ensure that social services continue to be robust partners in the work to empower, support, protect and ensure better outcomes for people and communities. In this respect the strategy will strength and support the delivery of social work services to the most vulnerable people in Angus. A number of the areas for improvement detailed in the strategy will be dependent on the provision of additional resources if they are to be realised.

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