

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 9 JANUARY 2018

ANGUS WORKS UPDATE

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Angus Works is a work placement programme currently available to any young person in the senior phase of secondary school. The first cohort was in session 2016-2017. All placements are provided by services across Angus Council. Young people undergo a formal application and assessment centre process in order to gain a placement. They are then supported by a mentor throughout their placement. In addition each young person has the opportunity to study towards the Personal Development Award, Self and Work at SCQF level 4.
- 1.2 When Angus Works was being developed there was agreement that young people who were 'looked after' would be appropriately supported to gain a placement. This aspect of the programme has been less successful. In session 2016-2017 46 young people from seven of the eight secondary schools began the Angus Works Programme. 35 completed both the placement and achieved the SCQF level 4 unit in Personal Development Award. A further three young people completed the placement alone.
- 1.3 An evaluation of year one has resulted in the following changes designed to ensure that the programme becomes an integral part of the senior phase offer in all Angus schools and that placements are matched to the abilities and interests of our young people.

2.0 NEXT STEPS

- 2.1 The promotion of the programme to young people, parents and staff will be enhanced. This will ensure that the opportunity is made available to all young people and that school staff better understand the value of the programme as part of the three year senior phase offer. A detailed timeline is in place to do this. The number of placements will continue to increase as more opportunities are explored across the council. Fundamental to this is that placement descriptors will clearly outline the level of ability ensuring that the placement is suited to the stage in learning of the young person.
- 2.2 All looked after young people and those identified as 'high risk' by Skills Development Scotland will receive targeted support through the application and assessment centre process. Skills Development Scotland will become involved in skills profiling and identifying future pathways with young people during the programme.
- 2.3 The additional qualification previously offered only at SCQF level 4 will now also be offered at SCQF levels 5 and 6. Information about the ability levels and learning needs of the young people will be shared with the mentors as appropriate prior to the placement starting. Information about progress through the programme will be shared with the named person in school. Mentor 'endorsements' will be completed for all young people on successful completion of the programme.