

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 16 AUGUST 2018**

**MANAGING INCIDENTS INVOLVING WEAPONS POLICY**

**REPORT BY PAULINE STEPHEN, CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER**

**ABSTRACT**

This report outlines Angus Council's policy and procedures for managing any incidents in schools involving weapons. This policy has been created to give direction to schools and their communities following consideration of the recommendations from the independent review of the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of Bailey Gwynne at Cults Academy on 28 October 2015.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Approves the policy and procedures, 'Managing Incidents Involving Weapons';
- (ii) Approves a review of Angus Schools and Learning anti-bullying policy.

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

This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The safety of our children, young people and staff is of paramount importance. There are a number of policies and procedures in place to support our schools to promote safety and minimise risk.
- 3.2 An independent review was concluded following the tragic death of Bailey Gwynne, a young man who attended Cults Academy in Aberdeen. The review outlined a number of recommendations for Aberdeen City Council. Angus Council has, with partners, including Police Scotland, considered these recommendations and assessed our practice in the areas raised.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 Angus schools have a number of policies and procedures in place to support schools with the management of behaviour and the avoidance and management of significant incidents. Through our health and wellbeing curriculum, children and young people are supported to develop safe and responsible attitudes, including understanding the risks and dangers that can arise from carrying a weapon and by being encouraged to speak with an adult if they suspect that someone has a weapon. Along with our Police Scotland partners, we have supported the Mentors in Violence programme in some of our secondary schools. In the Autumn we will also welcome, 'No Knives, Better Lives' touring drama to Angus.
- 4.2 All the recommendations given to Aberdeen City Council have been carefully considered by Angus Council. Multi-agency discussions regarding the specific issue of the management of weapons in schools have taken place. Whilst there is no evidence to suggest that this is a particular issue in Angus schools, the good practice that exists in this area has now been formalised into specific policy and procedures (Appendix 1).

- 4.3 Following the publication of the updated guidance, “Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland’s Children and Young People” (2017), it is also planned to review our existing anti-bullying policy in school session 2018/19. In line with national expectations we will also adopt a national approach to the recording and monitoring of bullying incidents using the bullying and equalities module in SEEMIS, the national education management information system.

## **5. PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Managing Incidents Involving Weapons policy and procedures are agreed.
- 5.2 A review of Angus Schools and Learning anti-Bullying policy will take place in school session 2018/19.
- 5.3 A national approach to the recording and monitoring of bullying incidents is planned for and adopted during school session 2018/19.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from consideration of this report.

**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.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Pauline Stephen, Head of Schools and Learning

**EMAIL DETAILS:** [People@angus.gov.uk](mailto:People@angus.gov.uk).

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Managing Incidents Involving Weapons Policy and Procedures