

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 29 JANUARY 2019

PREVENTING AND MANAGING SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS IN ANGUS

REPORT BY PAULINE STEPHEN, HEAD OF SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

ABSTRACT

This report outlines Angus Council's policy for Head Teachers on Preventing and Managing School Exclusions. This policy has been revised following the refresh of the national guidance - Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2: Preventing and Managing School Exclusions.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Approves the policy for Head Teachers on Preventing and Managing School Exclusions in Angus (contained at Appendix 1).

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:

- improved physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing
- safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
- the best start in life for children

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Schools and Learning service is committed to working with all parents/carers, children/young people and partner agencies to ensure that all children and young people receive an education that maximises the opportunity to achieve.

3.2 A school's culture, ethos and values are fundamental to promoting positive relationships and behaviour. Schools with a positive ethos promote participation, encourage achievement, celebrate success and have high expectations of every learner. These schools are shown to have lower exclusion rates and experience less disruptive behaviour.

3.3 Existing guidance in Angus is contained in the document "Preventing and Managing School Exclusions in Angus – Guidance for Head Teachers", August 2011. Angus Council Education Committee Report, 543/11 refers. Following the introduction of the previous guidance for managing exclusions in Angus, there was a decrease in exclusions in Angus. Exclusions are carefully monitored and over the last two school sessions there has been an increase in the number of exclusions in our secondary schools, the highest rate being 45 exclusions per 1000 young people in 2017/18. Exclusions in the primary sector are less common and last year the number dropped to 6 exclusions per 1000 children from a high of 9 per 1000 in 2015/16.

3.4 National statistics on exclusions from schools indicate that learners are more likely to be excluded where they:

- Are assessed or declared as having a disability;
- Are looked after;
- Are from the most deprived areas;
- Have an Additional Support Need;

- Have an Additional Support Need that has been identified as social, emotional and behavioural
- 3.5 Staff training on Attachment, Restorative Approaches and Nurturing Approaches has been led and established by the Educational Psychological Service and the Additional Support Needs Service.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Preventing and Managing School Exclusions in Angus policy is designed to ensure a consistent approach across Angus that is in line with the Scottish Government's guidance 'Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2: A Positive Approach to Preventing and Managing School Exclusions (2017)' and relevant legislation.
- 4.2 Our policy states that exclusion from school should only be used as a last resort and must be a proportionate response where there is no alternative. All facts and circumstances should always be considered. Exclusion should not be used as a punitive measure.
- 4.3 It is vital that the purpose of exclusion and the impact on the learner should be taken into consideration, including the long term impact on life chances.
- 4.4 The policy emphasises prevention, early intervention and response to individual need in line with the principles of Getting it Right For Every Child.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Policy for School Leaders on Preventing and Managing School Exclusions in Angus is approved.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Included Engaged and Involved Part 2: A Positive Approach to Preventing and Managing School Exclusion
- 7.2 Schools General (Scotland) Regulations 1975 as amended
- 7.3 Schools General (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 1982
- 7.3 Education (Scotland) Act 1980
- 7.4 Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000.
- 7.5 Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended
- 7.6 Equalities Act 2010
- 7.7 Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Code of Practice
- 7.8 Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- 7.9 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Preventing and Managing School Exclusions in Angus - Policy for School Leaders

Appendix 2 – Attendance Default Policy and Operational Procedures