

## ANGUS COUNCIL

### CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 25 APRIL 2019 POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 APRIL 2019

#### CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND JUSTICE – REVISED SERVICE MODEL

##### 1 Background

This report provides information to members with regard to services in the Children, Families and Justice Service, albeit that a decision is not required in terms of the current Scheme of Delegation to Officers and the Order of Reference of Committees.

Following the implementation of the corporate managers' review, as detailed in Report 418/17 to Angus Council, a review of the management structure within the Children, Families and Justice Service was initiated. Due to the interlinked managerial and professional decision-making role undertaken throughout the social work line management structure, the re-design of the Children, Families and Justice Service was undertaken with the involvement of all staff and drew directly on feedback from people who use our services and agencies we work with.

The design of the service was shaped by service principles intended to promote relationship-based practice, clarify the routes of access to services within localities and improve the experience of, and outcomes for, people using our services.

We were keen to ensure that the new arrangements reflected our responsibilities as a Scottish Social Services (SSSC) Employer and further enhanced social work practice through the promotion of good quality practice supervision, continuing professional development, and the availability of practice advice and guidance in an increasingly agile working environment.

##### 2 New Service Model

There are four operational service areas within the Children, Families and Justice Service which deliver the Council's statutory responsibilities across the field of children's and criminal justice social work. The following gives an overview of the key elements of the new service:

###### Locality Service

The new structure introduces a Locality Service under the leadership of a single Service Leader to oversee all duty, assessment, case planning and intervention activity in relation to the majority of children referred to the service. This, together with the appointment of a single manager within each locality area, will enable greater clarity and consistency of decision-making and reduce variation across the service.

A single investigations team will be responsible for acting as a central conduit for members of the public and professionals referring children to the service and will discharge the Council's statutory responsibilities relating to joint child protection investigations.

###### Resources Service

The Resources Service has been redesigned to improve professional leadership capacity across our residential and carers' services. Within our existing resources, we have further developed our Kinship Care team to reflect the growing demand for kinship care assessment and support. This is an extension of our ongoing work to support family-based care for children including Children with Disabilities, Foster Care, Kinship Care and Adoptive placements. The service will also focus on improving the timescales for our achievement of permanence for children assessed as requiring permanent alternative care.

###### Justice Service

The Justice Service (previously referred to as the reducing reoffending service), has broadened its remit. Justice will continue to deliver the Council's statutory Criminal Justice Social Work responsibilities and will also lead on the delivery of our Youth Justice responsibilities to reduce reoffending. In addition, reflecting the changes to the age range of eligibility for aftercare services, our Justice Service will lead on our delivery of support for care experienced young people up to the age of 26 years and will continue to improve our approaches to supporting women in need of additional support.

**Child Protection and Review**

The Child Protection and Review Service was fully reviewed as part of the Corporate Manager's Review. There have been no changes to this aspect of the Service which continues to retain responsibility for supporting the Council's Protecting People arrangements, statutory children's planning arrangements and delivering the operational looked after children case review and child protection register functions.

An overview of the revised Children, Families and Justice Service structure is included at Appendix 1.

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List of Appendices:      Appendix 1 - Service Structure, Children, Families and Justice