

ANGUS COUNCIL

ANGUS COUNCIL – 5 SEPTEMBER 2019

ANGUS INTEGRATED CHILDREN’S SERVICES CORPORATE PARENTING REPORT 2019

REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG, DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ANGUS COUNCIL

ABSTRACT

This report presents an overview of the partnership work by corporate parents from April 2017 to March 2019 to deliver improvements for our looked after children and young people in line with the vision for our young people as laid out in our corporate parenting pledge and Corporate Parenting Plan 2017 – 2020.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Angus Council:

- (i) note the contents of Angus Corporate Parenting Report 2019 and the work taking place to improve opportunities and outcomes for looked after children and young people.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:

- Local Outcome 4 The best start in life for children
- Local Outcome 5 More opportunities for people to achieve success
- Local Outcome 6 Improved physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing

2.2 This report also contributes to the council priorities as outlined in the Angus Council Plan 2019-2024

- Help our young people go to positive destinations and sustain them when they leave school
- Provide education and social experiences that stretch and challenge our young people
- Intervene early to keep children and young people safe

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Corporate Parenting is defined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 as: “the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers”.

3.2 We have an additional and specific statutory duty under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in our care.

4. CURRENT POSITION

Angus Integrated Children’s Service Corporate Parenting Plan 2017 – 2020 was launched in 2017. To ensure collaborative work towards reaching the ambition of the plan, a Corporate Parenting Lead Officer Group (CPLO Group) was established and is chaired by a Service Leader from Angus Council. The CPLO Group has wide representation from Angus Council,

Police, SCRA, NHS Tayside, Angus Alive, Skills Development Scotland and Third Sector. CPLO Group report on a quarterly basis to the Angus Corporate Parenting Board.

One of the priorities for the Corporate Parenting Board has been to revise and refresh our approaches to engaging with, hearing and acting on the views of young people with experience of being looked after. Angus previously operated a young person led 'corporate parenting board'. This was disbanded in 2016 as the model was not as effective as we would like for young people who felt that one approach was not working well for them and limited the numbers of young people participating.

Since 2017, Who Cares? Scotland have supported a group advocacy model and we have undertaken significant consultation with range of young people. Our current approach is to provide opportunities for young people and Board members to come together on activities that are young person led, are held in venues that are less corporate and more relaxed and for us to offer a range of different opportunities to meet and hear from young people including 1-1 interviews. This mixed model has been more successful in working in partnership with our young people in progressing the range of work as outlined in the report.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Angus Council notes the contents of Angus Integrated Children's Services Corporate Parenting Update Report 2019.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Procurement & Commissioning Manager, Director of Children, Families and Justice, Director of Schools and Learning and Angus Corporate Parenting Board have been consulted in the preparation 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: Mark Armstrong, Depute Chief Executive and Chair of Angus Corporate Parenting Board

EMAIL DETAILS: People@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices: Angus Integrated Children's Service Corporate Parenting Plan 2017 – 2020
https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/agenda_item_13_report_no_35917_angus_integrated_childrens_services_corporate_parenting_plan_0