

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 17 SEPTEMBER 2019

ANGUS COUNCIL ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT AND PLAN

REPORT BY PAULINE STEPHEN, CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

ABSTRACT

The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 ("the 2000 Act"), as amended placed three new requirements on Education Authorities:

- When making a decision of a strategic nature about the carrying out of its functions relating to school education or considering what steps to take to implement such a decision, to have due regard to the need to carry out functions relating to school education in a way designed to reduce inequalities of outcome for pupils who experience those inequalities of outcome as a result of socio-economic disadvantage or otherwise.
- In discharging their duty under section 3(2) of the 2000 Act (to secure improvement in the quality of school education) to do so with a view to achieving the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework.
- The introduction of new annual planning and reporting duties; and annual school improvement planning.

The first annual education plan under this new requirement was agreed by Committee on 17th August 2017 and the second plan was agreed in September 2018 (report 278/18). This report summarises the progress made with the plan agreed in September last year and sets out the new annual education plan for school session 2019 to 2020. A copy of the 2019 to 2020 Plan, if approved, will be sent to Scottish Ministers in line with statutory requirements.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- i. Reviews the progress summarised in relation to Angus Annual Education Plan 2018/19 ("Angus Annual Education Report", appendix 1, section 1);
- ii. Approves Angus Council's Annual Education Plan 2019/20, requests implementation of the plan and priorities (appendix 1, section 2), and instructs provision of the approved Annual Education Plan as soon as reasonably practicable to Scottish Ministers as required in terms of section 3F(2) of the 2000 Act;
- iii. Notes that Angus Council's Annual Education Plan outlines improvement activity for the period 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020;
- iv. Requests the Chief Education Officer to ensure that an evaluation report on progress with Angus Council's Annual Education Plan, is presented to committee in September 2020;
- v. Requests the Chief Education Officer to ensure that an information report on interim progress with Angus Council's Annual Education Plan, is presented to committee in January 2020.

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

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans: A skilled and adaptable workforce Attractive employment opportunities The best start in life for children More opportunities for people to achieve success Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Report 190/17, considered at Children and Learning Committee in June 2016, outlined new requirements for Education Authorities following amendments to the 2000 Act. There were three main new duties:

- Section 3B of the 2000 Act imposes duties on education authorities which are designed to promote a reduction in inequalities of educational outcome experienced by pupils as a result of socio-economic disadvantage or otherwise.
- Section 3D of the 2000 Act imposes a duty on education authorities, in discharging their duty under section 3(2) of the 2000 Act (to secure improvement in the quality of school education) to do so with a view to achieving the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework.
- Sections 3F, 3H and 6 of the 2000 Act impose duties on education authorities in relation to annual planning and reporting and annual school improvement planning.

3.2 The improvement activity of Angus schools and the Schools and Learning service is rooted in the strategic priorities outlined in the National Improvement Framework. These four strategic priorities are:

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people

3.3 The Angus Annual Education Plan must set out for the planning period:

- Steps proposed to reduce inequalities of outcome experienced by pupils as a result of socioeconomic disadvantage or otherwise.
- The ways in which the education authority will seek and have regard to the views of the persons listed below and to provide any advice and support the authority thinks appropriate to those persons in relation to its consideration of decisions of a strategic nature about the carrying out of its school education functions. In terms of the legislation the following persons are specified:
 - (a) Head teachers
 - (b) Pupils
 - (c) Parents
 - (d) Trade unions representing teaching staff
 - (e) Voluntary organisations
 - (f) Any other persons as the Authority thinks appropriate
- Steps to be taken in pursuance of the four priorities contained within the National Improvement Framework.
- Any educational benefits for pupils that the authority considers will result from taking all of these steps

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The final review of actions set out in the Angus Annual Education Plan 18/19 is set out in appendix 1, section 1. The majority of actions have been completed or overtaken. Progress

with this plan has been considered in conjunction with the range of evidence that indicates how well Angus' schools and the Schools and Learning service is performing. This includes:

- A range of performance information relating to attainment, exclusions, attendance, etc.
- The outcomes of Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate inspections
- Our validated self-evaluation (VSE) of the school improvement planning process
- Formal evaluations of aspects of service provision such as Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

4.2 The analysis of our current performance indicates that we have made good progress in meeting the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework. Our well-developed self-evaluation processes however highlight where more or different work is needed. Some of our improvement activity will be progressed on a regional basis through our collaborative partnership working with Dundee, Perth and Kinross Councils, NHS Tayside and other partners. The educational improvement activity that relates to Angus specifically is outlined in our new Angus Annual Education Plan for school session 2019/20, outlined in appendix 1, section 2.

5. PROPOSALS

A report on progress in relation to the Angus Annual Education Plan and the strategic priorities in relation to the National Improvement Framework, as required by legislative amendment, is set out in appendix 1, section 1. The Plan for session 2019/20, highlights planned educational improvement activity for the period 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020. It is proposed that this Plan is considered and approved by Children and Learning Committee and an evaluation report on progress with the Plan is brought before Committee in September 2020.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 Angus Annual Education Report and Plan