

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE - 16 FEBRUARY 2021

REMOTE LEARNING GUIDANCE - JANUARY 2021

REPORT BY KELLY MCINTOSH, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

ABSTRACT

On 19 December 2020 the First Minister announced that most school pupils would learn remotely, rather than in school, until Monday 18 January 2021. On 4 January 2021 the First Minister confirmed that the Scottish Government had decided to extend this date and keep school buildings closed to the majority of pupils until 1 February 2021. On 19th January 2021 the First Minister announced that these arrangements would continue until mid-February. A further announcement on 2 February indicated, depending on levels of transmission, a full-time return for all children from early years to primary 3 and a part-time return on a very limited basis for young people in the senior phase from 22 February. Since Wednesday 6 January only the children of key workers and those identified by Head Teachers have been attending school, all other learning has been delivered 'remotely'. This has applied to Early Learning and Childcare provision, as well as primary and secondary schools. In response Angus Council produced remote learning guidance, in line with [national guidance](#).

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Reviews the Angus Council Remote Learning Guidance (appendix 1);
- (ii) Approves Angus Council Remote Learning Guidance;
- (iii) Notes that the Angus Council Remote Learning Guidance outlines key expectations for the duration of the school closure period; and
- (iv) Requests that the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning undertakes an evaluation of remote learning and presents a report of findings once schools have reopened.

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

2.1 This report is related to the following local outcomes as stated in the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-2030 and the Council Plan 2019 to 2024:

- 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 Council priorities:

- We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Angus Council Remote Learning guidance has been provided to support schools in making arrangements that ensure a level of consistency in the experience for all learners. The guidance accepts that each school context is unique in terms of the demand for key worker places and in-school learning, staff availability and digital expertise. The guidance has links to enable staff to access online support with the delivery of remote learning. A [home learning portal](#) has also been developed for parents.

3.2 Remote learning across Angus should be delivered in a variety of ways. It may include reading, doing, creating and inventing, playing, problem solving, observing and investigating at times not requiring technology at all, although in the current context, digital and online approaches

will be commonly used. Learners will not be required to engage in online learning for the entirety of the school day.

- 3.3 Angus schools aim to provide remote learning opportunities which reflect the principles of Curriculum for Excellence, allowing learners to develop their knowledge, skills and attributes in a variety of relevant contexts and across curriculum areas. Schools will apply the key expectations from the guidance to ensure that all children and young people have access to:
- appropriate physical resources where needed – this might include learning materials, textbooks and / or digital devices
 - regular high-quality interactive learning and teaching using technology or other remote methods
 - a balance of live learning and independent activity
 - ongoing dialogue, reflection and feedback with practitioners in relation to their learning and well-being
 - daily registration/check in for every learner, recognising that the format for this may vary depending on the age and stage of learners.
- 3.4 School leaders are responsible for ensuring that all children and young people experience high quality learning and teaching and for tracking the engagement with remote learning.
- 3.5 There is currently no national requirement for remote ELC learning opportunities to be provided however, within Angus, a remote learning offer is in place for all children accessing funded ELC provision.
- 3.6 Officers from Angus Virtual School will develop a programme of engagement with schools to facilitate our evaluation of remote learning. AVS will produce an overall summary of the quality of provision.
- 3.7 Head Teachers will also participate in the national external evaluation of remote learning being carried out by HMIE.
- 3.8 The successful implementation of the Angus Council Remote Learning Guidance is reliant upon the on-going support provided to both school staff and parents by our Digital Learning officers. Report 179/20 approved the use of TRIC funding to enable the creation of these posts.
- 3.9 Scottish Government funding was used to provide in the region of 1900 devices to children and young people, enabling them to better engage in remote learning. This second phase of remote learning has seen an increased level of expectation and engagement and so increased use of digital technology.

On Wednesday 13 January 2021 Scottish Government announced further funding. Approximately 850 devices have been ordered.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

[CERG-Remote learning guidance-January 2021](#)

[Educational Continuity \(No.7\) Direction](#)

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List of Appendices:

Appendix A – Remote Learning Guidance