

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING – 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

**ANGUS INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES CORPORATE PARENTING PROGRESS
REPORT 2017-2021 AND ANGUS PROMISE PLAN 2021-2024**

**REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG, DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ANGUS COUNCIL AND CHAIR
OF ANGUS CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

ABSTRACT

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Part 9, sets out Corporate Parenting responsibilities. Named bodies (of which the Council is one) must establish a plan to deliver supports and services to children and young people who are looked after, or have previously been looked after, and must report on this plan periodically. The Angus Corporate Parenting Board has been established on a multi-agency basis and comprises a wide range of representatives, including a number of individual elected members.

Since 2017, the Corporate Parenting Board has had a joint plan. This report presents for scrutiny and comment, the report on progress made toward delivering the objectives of the 2017 – 2020 Corporate Parenting Plan which was extended to 2021. A refreshed Corporate Parenting Plan (The Angus Promise Plan) for 2021 – 2024, taking account of national developments relating to [The Promise](#), is also presented for scrutiny, comment and approval by members of Children and Learning. This report was presented to Scrutiny and Audit Committee on 24th August 2021. Members are asked to assert their commitment to keeping the Angus Promise.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Review and note the contents of the Angus Corporate Parenting Progress Report 2017-2020 (extended to March 2021);
- (ii) Approve the revised Angus Promise Plan 2021 – 2024;
- (iii) As members, make a commitment to individually and collectively keep the Angus Promise by representing the needs of care experienced children and young people across the full range of work and offer support and challenge where there is a lack understanding or respect of the issues faced by children, young people and families involved with the care system.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1 These reports contribute to the following outcomes contained within Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-2030 and Locality Plans.

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

We want communities to be strong, resilient, and led by citizens

Furthermore, the opportunity to scrutinise these plans enables elected members to exercise their statutory duties as corporate parents.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The [Corporate Parenting Plan 2017 – 2020](#) (extended to March 2021) details six commitments in the action plan that all partners signed up to:

Priority 1 We will listen to what you have to say and ensure you are involved in the decisions that affect your life

Priority 2 We will find the best possible place for you to live that matches what you need and help you to stay in touch with people who are important to you

Priority 3 We will help you to achieve your best at school and in all places where you learn

Priority 4 We will take care of your wellbeing and encourage you to be healthy and active

Priority 5 We will ensure you have a lead professional who visits you regularly and works with you and others to provide you with an assessment of your needs and a clear, up to date plan

Priority 6 We will support you to have a positive transition into adulthood.

- 3.2 Work has been progressed on a multi-agency basis over the 4 years of the plan to progress these commitments whilst recognising that these are stretch aims which will take many years to achieve in full. Angus Corporate Parenting Progress Report 2017-2020 (extended to March 2021) reports on the work undertaken in this period (appendix 1). A summary report for children and young people is also under development with a draft available and included at appendix 2.

- 3.3 In 2016, the First Minister of Scotland announced an independent Review of Care ('the Care Review'). The Care Review was conducted between 2017 and 2020 driven by those with experience of care and culminated in the publication of seven reports including [The Promise](#) which set out what needs to change in the care system to ensure children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected. Reference is made to [Report No 142/21](#) The Promise Plan 21 – 24 and Corporate Parenting in Angus.

- 3.4 The revised Angus Promise Plan 2021-2024: Getting it Right for Care Experienced Children, Young People and their Families (appendix 3) is based on the findings of the Care Review and the voices of our care experienced children and young people.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Many of our care experienced children and young people, in particular care leavers, face difficulties which place them amongst the most disadvantaged in Angus which is why it is so important we provide the care, stability and support they need to help our young people achieve their ambitions. Along with the Scottish Government who are implementing the UNCRC incorporating it into Scots law we want to ensure we recognise, respect and promote children's rights across Angus.

- 4.2 Through individual feedback and collective group participation over the last four years we have improved our understanding of how children and families experience our services and what they feel is necessary to change. It is important to continue our commitment to engaging directly with children and young people and growing the range of opportunities for engagement and participation. Young people have clearly asked us to consider the opportunities we provide, the environment we create and most importantly, to deliver on the promises we make.

- 4.3 There is no doubt that it is challenging to plan and deliver consistently high-quality nurturing and responsive care experiences in all settings for children and their families who have experienced trauma, separation, and loss. There is a high level of commitment demonstrated through the local Corporate Parenting Board to act as good corporate parents to ensure that our decisions and actions improve life experiences and opportunities for children and young people who rely on us to do so.

Summary Report 2017-2020 (extended to 2021)

- 4.4 The Corporate Parenting Progress Report 2017-2020 (extended to March 2021) highlights the work undertaken by corporate parents towards the six priorities in the action plan and the progress made on fulfilling our promises to care experienced children and young people.

- 4.5 Priority 1 We will listen to what you have to say and ensure you are involved in the decisions that affect your life: This has been a key priority over the life of the action plan with several initiative projects taking place to ensure that children are provided with different opportunities to share their views, to ensure they are listened to and their views are acted on, influencing decisions both for individual young people and improvements across children's services.

- 4.6 Priority 2 We will find the best possible place for you to live that matches what you need and help you to stay in touch with people who are important to you: Within children's services a number of changes have been made to increase support children and their families. Recruitment of foster carers and adopters has remained a priority in order to provide good quality care across a variety of household types to better match children's needs.
- 4.7 Priority 3 We will help you to achieve your best at school and in all places where you learn: Within schools and across early years provision a number of developments have taken place to develop support, target interventions and close the attainment gap between care experienced children, young people and their peers. We recognise much more needs to be done in this area with targeted work planned over the course of the new plan.
- 4.8 Priority 4 We will take care of your wellbeing and encourage you to be healthy and active: Provision of improved assessment and support for all children moving into care ensures all medical needs are identified and met early. Partnership working has created some opportunities for physical activity and social interaction. Investment has been made in services which are able to support children's recovery from the trauma they have experienced.
- 4.9 Priority 5 We will ensure you have a lead professional who visits you regularly and works with you and others to provide you with an assessment of your needs and a clear, up to date plan: In order to meet this priority, the importance of relationship based practice informed the restructure of children's service, implemented in April 2019. The change to four locality teams has ensured a greater emphasis on locality working, stronger local connections and central to this relationship based practice. Innovative ways of working have been piloted empowering children and their families promoting their right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- 4.10 Priority 6 We will support you to have a positive transition into adulthood: Services working in partnership with young people have improved the options and support for young people moving into adulthood. A Transitions Group, with representation from Angus Health Social Care Partnership and Children, Families and Justice and other partners, is undertaking work to consider improvements in the transition process for vulnerable young people into adult services.
- 4.11 As detailed above, while progress has been made, the revised three year corporate parenting action plan needs to set out with higher ambitions to create excellence and consistency in the services offered to looked after and care experienced children and young people in Angus.

Angus Promise Plan 2021-2124

- 4.12 The revised plan (appendix 3) has been developed together with partners of the Corporate Parenting Board. It has been heavily influenced by the voices of local young people and the findings of The Promise.
- 4.13 As corporate parents we remain committed through this Promise Plan to continue to work with our partners and to do more to involve those with experience of the care system to ensure we are Getting It Right.
- 4.14 Whilst the Promise requires whole system change and we are working across Angus Community Planning Partnership to ensure the Promise underpins whole service planning and delivery, the Angus Promise Plan focusses on the specific needs of children, young people and families who are on the edges of the care system, in the system or have transitioned out to independence. We need to ensure that these children and young people experience the best support, care and protection so as to minimise any further trauma and ensure we deliver support and environments to offer the best chance of success.
- 4.15 Priorities referenced in the 2017 Corporate Parenting plan have therefore been revised to represent promises to young people and are represented as:

Our Promise to You #AngusPromisePlan

Your Voice

We will listen to you by using the standards you have set us; to create opportunities and environments that encourage you to engage with us, recognising you are individuals; we will work hard to provide different opportunities for you in all matters that affect you.

Your Family and Relationships

We will support you to stay with your family where it is the best place for you recognising where it is safe, your family is the best place. Where you cannot remain with your family we promise to support you to not only keep but develop relationships with people that are important to you.

Your Rights and Opportunities to Learn

We will ensure you get what you need to thrive in learning by understanding and respecting you and your care experiences. We will identify and break down barriers to your learning and inclusion.

Your Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing

We will ensure you have access to a range of different services, so you feel supported to deal with any trauma and loss. We will recognise the importance of one key relationship to support you with your wellbeing.

Your Right to Move on to a Bright Future

We will support you when you are ready to move on from care and ensure we behave like good parents in preparing and supporting your independence.

Work Together

We will support our workforce to understand, care and respect the work with children, young people and families and make sure we are not enforcing inequality with our language or approach. We will plan together to make sure the whole system in Angus works for you and not against you.

- 4.16 Accepting these commitments comes with a responsibility and accountability to use individual and collective influence and power to further opportunities and experiences for care experience children and young people in Angus.

5. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that members take this opportunity to exercise their role as corporate parents by:

- (i) Reviewing and noting the contents of the Angus Corporate Parenting Progress Report 2017-2020 (extended to March 2021)
- (ii) Making a commitment to keep the Promise through the revised Angus Promise Plan 2021-2024: Getting it Right for Care Experienced Children, Young People and their Families.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

8. CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place through both the Angus Corporate Parenting Board and the operational Corporate Parenting Lead Officer Group. The views and feedback of young people and those with care experience have informed the development of the plan and 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.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 Angus Integrated Children's Service Getting it Right for Looked After Children, Young People and Care Leavers in Angus Corporate Parenting Progress Report 2017-2020 (extended to March 2021)

Appendix 2 Summary Report for Children and Young People

Appendix 3 Angus Promise Plan 2021-2024 Getting it Right for Care Experienced Children, Young People and their Families

Appendix 4 - Confidential



Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

Step 1

Name of Proposal Committee reports re: Angus Integrated Children's Service Getting it Right for Looked After Children, Young People and Care Leavers in Angus Corporate Parenting Progress Report 2017-2020 (extended to March 2021) and Angus Promise Plan 2021-2024 Getting it Right for Care Experienced Children, Young People and their Families.

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment

No

(A) If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people

Yes/No

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics

Yes/No

(iii) It is for information only

Yes/No

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year

Yes

(v) It is technical

Yes/No

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

(B) If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment

Yes

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment

No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service:

Children, Families and Justice

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Part 9,

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

Improving outcomes for looked after children, young people and care leavers

(iv)Is it a new proposal? No Please indicate OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function? Yes Please indicate

Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees Yes/No

Job Applicants Yes/No

Service users Yes

Members of the public Yes/No

Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:

Internal data (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

Scottish Government Care Review, Schools and Learning data, social work data on child protection, referrals and looked after children, feedback from care experienced children, young people and care leavers, advocacy representatives etc

Internal consultation (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

Via ongoing consultation with care experienced children and young people including engagement events with participation groups, individual meetings with young people and wider engagements events such as the Integrated Children's Services consultation event in January 2021 which included a wide range of partners including; care experienced young people, community planning reps, third sector reps etc.

External data (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

Tayside Performance Reports for Looked After Children, Child Protection, Child Health, School attainment and attendance.

External consultation (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils.

Angus Integrated Children's Services Group
Who Cares Scotland
Angus Independent Advocacy

Other (general information as appropriate).

Step 6: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold? No

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups? Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.

Age

Impact

Positive as plan covers all children looked after and previously looked after

Disability

Impact

Positive as plan focus on transitions, developmental checks for children and early help and support

Gender reassignment

Impact

Neutral – nothing specific in the plan however support is in place via counselling and mental health services to deal with a range of issues that may impact a young person health and wellbeing.

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact

Neutral

Pregnancy/Maternity

Impact

Positive plan focuses on reducing poverty for those with care experience including pregnant young woman by increasing access to support services including parenting support.

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

Impact

Positive all care experienced children and young people care will be supported to achieve improved outcomes based on individual need and personal circumstances

Religion or Belief

Impact

As above positive all care experienced children and young people care will be supported to achieve improved outcomes based on individual need and personal circumstances including race, religious beliefs sex and sexual orientation.

Sex

Impact

positive all care experienced children and young people care will be supported to achieve improved outcomes based on individual need and personal circumstances including race, religious beliefs sex and sexual orientation.

Sexual orientation

Impact

positive all care experienced children and young people care will be supported to achieve improved outcomes based on individual need and personal circumstances including race, religious beliefs sex and sexual orientation.

Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

Consultation with children, young people and previously looked after young people and adult on individual basis, group advocacy and target consultation events with care experienced children, young people and corporate parents. The learning and views of care experienced children and young people have influenced the development of the plan.

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?

Plan actively addresses negative impacts on care experienced children and young people – monitoring of data measures, benchmarking, pooling of corporate parents resources where this brings added value and with local work continuing via

community planning and other plans such as Angus Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme.

Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.

No potential negative impact identified

Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

As already referenced, the plan focuses on our most vulnerable children, young people and care leavers, ensuring system approaches to early help through to intensive help and protection for care experienced children, young people and adults.

Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?

N/A

Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?

Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.

Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings? Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.

Low and/or No Wealth (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.

Impact

Material Deprivation (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

Impact

Area Deprivation (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport)).

Impact

Socio-economic Background i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

Impact

Other – please indicate

Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.

Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?

Review through the Corporate Parenting Lead Officers group and Corporate Parenting Board.

Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?

Access will be available through Angus Council committee report and published online for public access.

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Kirsty Lee, Service Leader Child Protection and Review, Chair Corporate Parenting Lead Officers Group

Reviewed by: Kathryn Lindsay, Director of Children Families and Justice, Chief Social work Officer

Approved by:

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.
