

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 21 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORK STATISTICS – OVERVIEW REPORT**

**KATHRYN LINDSAY, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES & JUSTICE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report provides members of the Children and Learning Committee an overview of Angus Council performance data relating to annual statutory returns. This is the first overview report of this nature presented by the Children, Families & Justice Directorate.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Notes the overview of Angus statutory performance, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- (ii) Requests that the Director of Children, Families and Justice presents a report of statutory performance annually.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLANS**

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within:

The **Angus Community Plan 2017-30**:

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

The **Council Plan 2019-2024**:

- We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities

The **Tayside Plan** for Children, Young People and Families 2021-23

- Our children having the best start in life in a nurturing environment
- Our children and young people being meaningfully engaged with high quality learning experiences to extend their potential
- Our children growing up healthy, confident and resilient with improving physical and mental health and strengthened emotional wellbeing

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Each year, the Scottish Government collect and publish data on Children Looked After, Child Protection and Eligibility for Aftercare services. The data collection period is for 1 August to 31 July following year.

3.2 Data has been collected at an individual level since 2008 and matched using Scottish Candidate Numbers (SCN). Doing so allows for data to be linked to other data sets such as education outcomes but also to allow for benchmarking between authorities. The purpose of benchmarking is to compare like with like, provide learning opportunities and drive improvements.

## 4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 This report presents an overview of Angus Council performance against the key measures presented in the statutory datasets. The full dataset for Scotland can be accessed online [here](#). The report also outlines how Angus Council compares to other local authorities against a selection of Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) indicators. The full LGBF data set is available [here](#).
- 4.2 All data included within this report is accurate to 31 July 2020 and is based on the national dataset published by Scottish Government on 30 March 2021. Data may be subject to revisions by the Scottish Government during the year. Data to 31 July 2021 will be published in Spring 2022.
- 4.3 The overview report presented at Appendix 1 provides an analysis of Angus Council statutory performance in the areas of:
- Children Looked After
  - Child Protection
  - Local Government Benchmarking Framework

Some analysis is supplemented with locally available data to provide context. Wherever possible, comparison is made to other local authorities in the appropriate comparator groups. Some caution is required when considering and comparing Angus Council performance due to the small numbers of children recorded. Significant percentage changes may relate to only four or five children in real terms.

- 4.4 The Children, Families and Justice Directorate is progressing activities in relation to the Performance Led Council approach. Statutory datasets such as these are a core part of this activity and provide a framework for the development of service plans and priorities.
- 4.5 The data is also routinely used to inform the development of local plans, including across the Integrated Children's Services Partnership and Tayside Collaborative.

## 5. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that the Children and Learning Committee:

- i) Notes the overview of Angus statutory performance, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- ii) Requests that the Director of Children, Families and Justice presents a report of statutory performance annually.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

## 7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

## 8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning has 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.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Overview of Children's Social Work Statistics