

## ANGUS COUNCIL

## CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 11 JANUARY 2022

## OPERATING HOURS AT STRATHMORE CENTRE

**1. BACKGROUND**

Strathmore Centre is a part time residential respite centre for children and young people with complex and profound disabilities. It is part of the wider Children with Disabilities Service. Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic Strathmore Centre usually opened for 5 days every fortnight during term time and tended to close or offer limited outreach/day care support during the period between Christmas and New Year.

Since July 2020 the Centre has been open on a full-time basis in order to provide ongoing, critical care respite to families as part of their self-directed support packages. This support has been vital to allow families to continue in their caring roles and would not have been possible without operating on a full-time basis as a result of the impact of infection control measures.

Committee approval was given on 16 February 2021 that Strathmore Centre can be open on a full-time basis for an indefinite period with the requirement that the Director of Children, Families and Justice keep the opening hours of the provision under review and to vary these in accordance with operational need. The Director of Children, Families and Justice reviews the opening hours of the provision every three months with the latest review taking place on 14 December 2021 and a further three month period has been agreed to 31 March 2022.

**2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION**

There are currently 28 young people accessing Strathmore Centre for respite on a regular basis with allocations ranging from seven overnights per year to 61 overnights per year. This equates to a demand for 539 nights of care during the year. In addition to this, we have four young people who access day care as part of a care package instead of or as well as overnight stays, an additional requirement for 382 hours across of care across the year.

Respite packages for all young people who attend Strathmore Centre have been assessed as essential in order to support families to continue in their caring roles. The impact of being unable to provide these packages is great, and is likely to cause additional pressure on families, with the potential need for future crisis intervention.

**3. IMPACT**

The young people and families who use the Centre are routinely invited to offer feedback on the service. The following is a sample of the feedback received and reflects just how vital the ongoing service is to families:

*'My son loves his nights it's great seeing him come out of his shell after all the lockdowns, thank you'*

*'I like having my say, being heard by staff and having freedom of choice in activities and meals'*

*'I like seeing my friends and not having to bother my Mum'*

*'My son's confidence has grown massively, and he has made new friends, tried new foods, learned how to make things and is gaining more independence. He is also experiencing things I wouldn't be able to do with him'*

*'I like seeing my friends, having fun and getting to know everyone'*

#### **4. FUTURE REPORTING**

The opening hours of Strathmore Centre will continue to be reviewed by the Director of Children, Families and Justice on a three-monthly basis and reported to Committee for information.

Contact for further information:

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List of Appendices: N/A