

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held remotely on Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors LYNNE DEVINE, MARTIN SHEPHERD, CHRIS BEATTIE, JULIE BELL, LINDA CLARK, IAIN GALL, ROSS GRIEG, MARK McDONALD, GEORGE MEECHAN, LLOYD MELVILLE, TOMMY STEWART, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, LOIS SPEED, DEREK WANN and BETH WHITESIDE.

Councillor DEVINE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Gavin Nicol and Louise Nicol, with Councillor Tommy Stewart substituting for Councillor Louise Nicol. Apologies for absence were also intimated on behalf of Mrs Jackie Wilson, Church Representative and Mrs Anna Cheyne, Teacher Representative.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 June 2022 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. ANGUS EDUCATION REPORT 2021-22 AND ANGUS EDUCATION PLAN 2022-27

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 November 2021, there was submitted Report No 325/22 by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning presenting the annual education report and plan, summarising the progress made with regard to the education plan, and setting out the new plan for 2022-2027.

The Report provided a review of progress, together with a summary of work carried out in session 2021-2022 against three themes, Angus Cares, Angus Learns and Angus Improves.

The proposed education plan highlighted planned improvement priorities for the period 2022-2027 and referenced the aims over the next five years. The five-year plan aligned with the Angus Council planning cycle, allowing the Directorate to coordinate improvement with colleagues across the council, partners and third sector organisations. The priorities were drawn from the council plan and the national, regional and local context.

Across each of the three themes, the use of the 'logic model' illustrated how national and local data had been used to inform the improvement priorities for 2022-2023. Some of the priorities would span across the following years where appropriate, other priorities may arise based on the national and local context, or may change as the directorate conduct evaluation activity. The inclusion of stretch aims showed what the Council intended to achieve in the longer term.

The Convener welcomed the excellent progress made as highlighted in the Report, particularly as the work had been carried out at the end of the pandemic and throughout the very difficult recovery period. She referred to a number of the initiatives and priorities that she was pleased to see come forward and, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Auchterhouse Primary School on receiving the first Gold Award in Angus for the Rights Respecting Schools.

Thereafter, following a number of questions from members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress summarised in relation to the Annual Education Plan 2021-2022, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;

- (ii) to approve the Annual Education Plan 2022-2027, and implementation of the plan and its priorities, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Report;
- (iii) to instruct provision of the approved Plan to Scottish Ministers, as required in Section 3F(2) of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000; and
- (iv) to instruct the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning to present an evaluation Report on progress with the Annual Education Plan to a meeting of this Committee in September 2023.

5. ANGUS ADOPTION AGENCY AND FOSTERING PANEL – ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 August 2021, there was submitted Report No 326/22 by the Director of Children, Families and Justice advising members of the production of the Angus Adoption Agency and Fostering Panel Annual Report.

The Report highlighted the Council's ability to provide an effective service for children, foster carers, kinship carers and adoptive parents and noted the demand on the resources, as well as services provided.

The Convener, on behalf of the Committee expressed her gratitude to all foster carers, kinship carers, adoptive parents and panel members. Thereafter, having heard a number of members seek clarification on matters relative to the process, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the Angus Adoption Agency and Fostering Panel Annual Report, as appended to the Report; and
- (iii) to note that the Report would be made publicly available on the Council's website.