

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**FAMILIES, EDUCATION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE – 25 MARCH 2025**

**ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2024**

**REPORT BY KATHRYN LINDSAY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE ANGUS COUNCIL AND MEMBER OF  
ANGUS CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP**

**1. ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report presents the Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Angus Child Protection Committee (ACPC) is the local strategic planning partnership responsible for developing and implementing child protection strategy, policy and guidance across and between agencies, bodies and the local community in Angus. The report provides an overview of multi-agency child protection work and offers assurance that operational systems and processes are effective in identifying and supporting children at risk of harm; and that there is effective leadership through the Committee to bring innovative developments to improve child protection practice in an ongoing way.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 2.1 This report aligns to the following strategic priorities identified within the **Angus Council Plan 2023-2028**:
- Caring for our People**
- Reduce inequalities in all our communities
  - Create more opportunities for people to live well and achieve their personal goals
  - Improve physical, mental health and wellbeing

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Family, Education and Justice Committee:-
- (i) considers and notes the Angus Child Protection Committee (ACPC) Annual Report 2023 to 2024 (appended to this report);
  - (ii) considers and notes the key trends and areas for development emerging from the report;
  - (iii) recognises the ongoing multi-agency endeavours to keep children within Angus safe; and
  - (iv) notes the timeline for upcoming reports to Committee as detailed in Section 6 below.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 This Annual Report of ACPC for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 presents the work undertaken across Angus by individual agencies and in partnership to deliver national, Tayside-wide, and local child protection outcomes to improve the lives of children at risk of harm.
- 4.2 Up until April 2024, the ACPC was chaired by an Independent Chair who offered leadership, direction, scrutiny and challenge to all members of the ACPC. The ACPC met minimally 4 times per year with an expectation that ACPC members ensure a high level of attendance either in person or by an appropriate delegate. Attendance at ACPC was reported to Angus Chief Officers Group (COG) as part of routine reporting of the ACPC Risk Register. There were no exceptional or unmanaged risks highlighted in the annual report.

**5. CURRENT POSITION**

- 5.1 ACPC have continued to work together to improve child protection practice in Angus throughout the reporting period.

5.2 Of note during the reporting period are:-

- Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 there were **146** child protection investigations involving **182** children, where **8** children had more than one investigation.
- Domestic abuse is a significant risk factor affecting children in Angus and continues to feature as at least one risk factor for around **75%** of child protection registrations.
- The statistics of particular note are the number of Child Protection Orders (CPOs) granted (23) which although lower than the previous year (26) means that our use of emergency protection orders remains higher than comparator local authorities
- Tayside progressed the implementation of Bairns Hoose as part of the pathfinder project. The 2023/24 funding was used to improve the physical space at Bellevue House, joint child protection unit so it is trauma informed and more accessible to children and young people;
- Work around 'Involving Dads' is progressing to improve fathers' involvement in their child's life ensuring important family relationships are maintained for children and young people
- PREpare continues to be successful - a film and information card were made for children, families and the workforce to support understanding of the process
- We have embedded the new joint guidance with Dundee for Learning Reviews
- Care and Risk Management (CARM) project continues to progress well. A film and card were developed by the project to support young people, families and staff involved with the CARM process.

5.3 This year's report coincides with the introduction and beginning of our integrated protection model Protecting People Angus Strategic Committee (PPASC). It is the vision of PPASC member organisations that using our combined resources across agendas will allow for some of the wider challenges to be addressed.

5.4 We are currently subject to a Joint Inspection of Children at Risk of Harm which is being undertaken by the Care Inspectorate. This will scrutinise our joint arrangements of policy and practice over the past 2 years and will be reported as per the timeline set out at section 6.3.

## 6. PROPOSALS

6.1 The Family, Education and Justice Committee considers and notes the content of the ACPC Annual Report April 2023 to March 2024 and considers the key trends and areas for improvement arising from the report.

6.2 The Family, Education and Justice Committee recognises the ongoing multi-agency endeavours to keep children within Angus safe.

6.3 The Family, Education and Justice Committee note the timeline for upcoming reports to committee:

6.3.1 **May 2025** - Presentation of Children at Risk of Harm Joint Inspection Report for Angus to Family, Education and Justice Committee;

6.3.2 **September 2025** - Presentation of PPASC Annual Report for 2024/2025

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## 8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 The ACPC risk register is considered regularly as part of committee business and there are no current risks identified which are unmanaged.

## 9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## 10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

10.1 A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the following reason(s): - no full EIA is required as this is a report for information and

scrutiny.

## **11. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

11.1 A Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been undertaken and a full assessment is not required as the "General Principles" do not apply to this proposal.

## **12. CONSULTATION**

12.1 The Director of Finance, Acting Director of Legal, Governance and Change and the Chief Social Work Officer have been consulted on the contents 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: ACPC Annual Report 2023/24