

ANGUS COUNCIL

FAMILY EDUCATION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE – 30 MAY 2024

ANGUS CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND JUSTICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024-27

REPORT BY KIRSTY LEE, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND JUSTICE

1. ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report presents the Angus Council Children, Families and Justice (CFJ) Improvement Plan for 2024 – 27. This is the first time the CFJ improvement plan has been brought before committee. We welcome committee oversight, comment and approval.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

**The Angus Community Plan 2022-30:**

- Provide the best start in life for children
- Improve physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Create more opportunities for people to live well and achieve their personal goals

**The Council Plan 2023-2028:**

- When children cannot safely live at home, keep our children local in Angus, providing for their education and family needs.

**The Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2023 - 2026**

- Our children having the best start in life in a nurturing environment
- Our children growing up healthy, confident, and resilient with improving physical and mental health and strengthened emotional wellbeing

**Angus Promise Plan (Corporate Parenting Strategy):**

- Keeping children and young people within their local communities where that meets their needs.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) Approve the Angus Children, Families and Justice Improvement Plan 2024-27 (Appendix 1); and
- (ii) Instruct the Interim Director of Children, Families and Justice to report back to Family, Education and Justice Committee with a yearly update on progress.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This report presents the CFJ Improvement plan for 2024 – 2027. This is the first time an improvement plan has been presented to committee with previous improvement plans being monitored internally. We welcome the opportunity to make this available to committee for purposes of transparency and accountability.

The improvement plan is formatted around the five pillars of the Promise, voice, family, care, workforce and scaffolding, to demonstrate how CFJ services will develop and improve our offer to families to contribute to these national outcomes. Delivering the ambition of the Promise is the responsibility of all public sector bodies and third sector partners. This plan maintains a focus on single agency developments. Our contribution to partnership work is reported elsewhere through the Tayside Plan for children, young people and families, Protecting People Annual Reports and the Angus Integrated Children's Services 3-year Promise Report.

- 4.2 An additional section has been added to show improvement actions for Justice Services. Angus Justice Service Annual report was previously submitted to Policy and Resources Committee, Report [341/23](#) and provides a full overview of Justice services.

4.3 All of our improvement actions are informed by national drivers as well as local research into where we need to target our activities to achieve the biggest impact for the children, families and adults that we work with. With the current pressures on capacity, it has been important to carefully target our resources based on evidence. Despite these pressures, there are significant developments being led within the Directorate which if successful, will improve services for people in Angus.

4.4 Some key improvement actions include:

- Improving our co-ordinated approach to service planning through self-evaluation
- Developing and extending approaches to identifying, responding and managing risk to young people ages 12 -18
- Making progress towards Bairns Hoose implementation
- Develop self-directed support approaches
- Increase capacity within our residential estate
- Building capacity in the workforce
- Improving our approaches to bail supervision.

4.5 It is important to note that whilst we target these specific areas, this plan provides an outline of strategic objectives and we will continue to respond to need as it arises.

## **5. CURRENT POSITION**

5.1 Many actions on the improvements are currently under way across the department. We will undertake further work during this first year on refining our ambitions in the performance framework. This year we have stated our intention to increase or reduce performance targets. It is important to establish stretch aims and we will progress work on this, using national policy such as the next iteration of the Promise Plan 2024 – 2030 and analysis of our local performance to include clearly defined stretch aims. These aims will be reported in the first year report.

## **6. PROPOSALS**

6.1 It is proposed that Family, Education and Justice Committee approve the plan and direct annual updates to be presented at the conclusion of each financial year.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

8.1 There are no risks arising directly from this report.

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

## **11. CONSULTATION (IF APPLICABLE)**

11.1 **The** Director of Finance, Director of Legal, Governance and Change and Chief Social Work Officer have been consulted in 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 - Children, Families and Justice Improvement Plan 2024 -2027

Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment