

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**FAMILY, EDUCATION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE – 15 AUGUST 2024**

**INTERIM PERFORMANCE UPDATE – ANGUS ADVOCACY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

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**1. ABSTRACT**

This report provides an update to the Family, Education and Justice Committee on the progress of the Angus Advocacy Strategic Framework.

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

This is aligned to the Angus HSCP Strategic Commissioning Plan (2023-2026) and direction by [The Mental Welfare Commission](#).

**The Framework is aligned to the Angus Community Plan and Angus Council priorities of Caring for our People:**

- We will reduce inequalities in our communities.
- Improve physical, mental health and wellbeing.
- We will protect those in our communities who are at risk of or have experienced significant harm.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Family, Education and Justice Committee

- (i) Acknowledges the progress of the delivery plan within the Angus Advocacy Strategic Framework since its approval in February 2024; and
- (ii) Requests a further update report in 12 months' time.

**4. BACKGROUND**

4.1 As directed by The Mental Welfare Commission, each HSCP and local authority are advised to have a plan outlining the available advocacy services as instructed through several pieces of legislation.

4.2 For example, the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 imposed a duty on local authorities and health boards to collaborate to ensure the availability of independent advocacy services in their area for those with a mental disorder (children, young people and adults). A mental disorder is defined as:

- any mental illness
- personality disorder
- learning disability

4.3 Separate to the requirements introduced by the 2003 Act, the local authority also has a duty as an Education Authority to provide advocacy services available for children subject to discussion in tribunal proceedings under the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009.

4.4 Furthermore, in accordance with article 12 of The United National Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously. This expectation is translated into Getting it Right for Every Child and was given legal effect in relation to the Child's Plan through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 section 33. Independent advocacy is one mechanism through which children and young people (as well as their families) can exercise this right. The

Framework summarises a range of services in place to support children, young people and families in Angus to access the advocacy that is right for them.

4.5 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 requires each local authority to establish and maintain an information and advice service which must provide information and advice in respect of advocacy for carers.

4.6 Work initially began in 2018 to develop an Advocacy Framework for Angus (for children, young people and adults) however progress was delayed due to operational pressures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Progression recommenced in August 2022 and the Angus Advocacy Planning Group was reconvened with refreshed membership from:

- Angus Health and Social Care Partnership
- Children, Families and Justice, Angus Council
- Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Services, AHSCP
- Angus Independent Advocacy
- Angus Carers Centre
- Parent to Parent
- Who Cares? Scotland
- Procurement, Angus Council

4.7 In February 2024, the Angus Advocacy Strategic Framework was approved by both the Angus Council's Family, Education and Justice Committee and the Angus Integration Joint Board (AIJB). It was requested at the Family, Education and Justice Committee that an update on progress be given at a further meeting in August 2024. Thereafter, it was agreed that the same update would be provided to the AIJB and the AIJB Strategic Planning Group.

## 5. CURRENT POSITION

5.1 The Advocacy Planning Group meet every two months. Since the approval of the Framework in February 2024, the Group met in February, April and June. At each meeting, the Group record progress of actions within the delivery plan of the Framework. Progress against the high-level actions through 2023-2026, has been summarised below:

Action	Progress	Status
<p><b>Lived Experience</b></p> <p>People with lived experience have the opportunity to be involved to influence and shape future advocacy service design in equal partnership with the Advocacy Planning Group.</p>	<p>All providers will engage with the following groups at appropriate times to gather feedback from those with lived and living experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angus Voice</li> <li>• Citizens Advocacy Steering Group (AIA)</li> <li>• Collective Advocacy Group (AIA)</li> <li>• Carer Influencer Group (ACC)</li> <li>• See Hear Group</li> </ul> <p>This list is not exhaustive and other identified groups will be added as required.</p>	Complete
	<p>Lived experience workshops have taken place via Protecting People Angus (PPA). Although they had more of a focus on adult protection at a strategic level, there may be learnings from the key recommendations which are focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned community engagement</li> <li>• Meaningful involvement</li> <li>• You said, we did</li> <li>• Person centred and trauma informed approach</li> </ul> <p>The Advocacy Planning Group will liaise with PPA lead for this work moving forward to ensure no duplication.</p>	Complete
	<p>Angus Alcohol and Drugs Partnership have completed a service user survey which included feedback on advocacy services and support.</p>	Complete

	<p>Angus ADP gathered experiential feedback relating to the implementation of the MAT Standards from people accessing substance use services (12), their family, carers and nominated people (14) and staff working in substance use services (10). Feedback was thematically analysed within four categories: access, options and choice around treatment; staying in and being involved in treatment; shared care and advocacy; and mental health and emotional wellbeing. Some respondents were aware of advocacy supports and were engaging with local advocacy services but a small number were unaware of the services and felt they could benefit. Substance use services have updated their assessment paperwork to ensure offering and recording of advocacy discussions is undertaken. Referrals to advocacy services from substance use services is being recorded and monitored and we are required to report on this nationally as part of the annual MAT benchmarking assessment process.</p> <p>Surveys are carried out on annual basis with the next planned for 2025.</p>	
<p><b>Unmet Needs</b></p> <p>Carry out informal advocacy needs assessment across Angus</p>	<p>Community Mental Health Services are setting up a Crisis Centre for Angus. They will be gathering feedback from service users including barriers to accessing independent advocacy.</p> <p>An unmet needs assessment is in progress. Individual meetings have been held with leads from key services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angus Independent Advocacy (core member of Advocacy Planning Group)</li> <li>• Education, Angus Council</li> <li>• Sensory Impairment, See Hear Group</li> <li>• Physical Disabilities, AHSCP</li> <li>• Angus Alcohol and Drug Partnership (core member of Advocacy Planning Group) (MAT Standard)</li> <li>• Health Visitors, NHS Tayside</li> <li>• Citizen's Advice Bureau</li> <li>• Strategic Commissioning Plan strategic needs assessment</li> <li>• Other Health and Social Care Partnerships</li> <li>• Care Opinion</li> <li>• Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA)</li> </ul> <p>Feedback is being collated and will be reviewed by the Advocacy Planning Group.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Performance</b></p> <p>Collect data on referrals across Angus</p>	<p>AIA capture this information as part of their annual grant monitoring with AHSCP and Children, Families and Justice.</p> <p>ACC participate in grant monitoring although advocacy information is not captured as they are not commissioned to provide this support by AHSCP.</p> <p>WCS and P2P grant monitoring information to be reviewed to capture this data.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<b>Outcome Measures</b>  Measure and provide data in line with national outcomes set out in SIAA toolkit	Independent advocacy providers use national / local SIAA tools to capture data.  Due to differences in data captures for children's and adult's services, a standardised tool cannot be put in place.	Complete
<b>Training</b>  Consistent training and professional practice	Professional Practice Award is no longer being delivered. In its place, REACH right-based training approach to MAT standards training is available.  AIA and WCS are exploring opportunities for common training/shared learning. Regular partnership meetings are in place to ensure streamlined advocacy provision for children and young people engaged in Children's Hearings and Child Protection processes.	Complete  Ongoing
<b>Awareness Raising*</b>  Raise awareness of advocacy services available across Angus	Induction pack for AHSCP being refreshed and will include information in relation to advocacy. AHSCP web page is currently under review. It is planned for advocacy information to be published. Action within Strategic Commissioning Plan to have Advocacy Strategic Framework in place. Information in relation to Advocacy has been provided to Locality Improvement Groups. They have been provided with a copy of the Advocacy Strategic Framework. AIA routinely hold public awareness sessions. They have information leaflets readily available. Sessions are being arranged for over the summer.  *any further requirements will be directed by the needs assessment.	Ongoing Ongoing Complete Complete Complete

## 6. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that the Family, Education and Justice Committee:

- 6.1 Acknowledges the progress made to date.
- 6.2 Requests a further update in 12 months' time.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## 8. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

## 9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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

A screening assessment was undertaken, and a full Equality Impact Assessment was completed. This was submitted with the framework for approval in February 2024.

## 11. CONSULTATION

Not applicable

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