

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **FAMILY, EDUCATION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 24 September 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors LYNNE DEVINE, MARTIN SHEPHERD, CHRIS BEATTIE, JULIE BELL, LINDA CLARK, BILL DUFF, IAIN GALL, ROSS GREIG, GEORGE MEECHAN, LLOYD MELVILLE, GAVIN NICOL, LOUISE NICOL, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, LOIS SPEED, DEREK WANN, and DAVID CHEAPE.

Teacher

Representative: Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN and Mrs ANNA CHEYNE.

Councillor DEVINE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Beth Whiteside with Councillor David Cheape substituting. An apology for absence was also intimated on behalf of Mrs Christine Hay, Church Representative.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

Councillor Ross Greig made a statement of transparency in relation to item 4 in that he had a family member who was a teacher at Letham Primary School.

Councillor Louise Nicol made a statement of transparency in relation to item 4 in that she had children who attended Letham Primary School.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 August 2024 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. PRESENTATION BY LETHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL: 'SHOWCASING LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN LETHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL'

The Convener welcomed Mrs Frain, Head Teacher, Mrs Skene, Class Teacher, 3 former pupils and 2 current pupils from Letham Primary School who provided an overview of how they had incorporated sustainability into their learning.

The Head Teacher and pupils advised the Committee of what they had achieved and learnt regarding sustainability, including growing their own vegetables, participating in outdoor learning, facilitating a fair-trade cafe, and how they had integrated sustainability into their curriculum.

Each of the pupils provided details of what they had gained from learning about sustainability both individually and as a school, how they were contributing to the wellbeing of their planet and the importance of becoming sustainable citizens.

Following questions and answers, the Convener and members of the Committee commended the school on their efforts towards learning for sustainability and thanked the pupils, Mrs Frain and Mrs Skene for their presentation and attendance.

5. ANGUS COUNCIL COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROGRESS VISIT REPORT

There was submitted Report No 280/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth updating members of the recent publication of the Education Scotland Progress Visit Report on the delivery of the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan.

The Report advised that the Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 placed duties on education authorities to work with partners and communities to co-produce and secure the delivery of CLD in their area and publish a 3-yearly CLD Plan. Education Scotland HMIE (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education) had conducted a Community Learning and Development Progress Visit of Angus Council in May 2024 and the findings of this visit were published on the Education Scotland Website on 2 July 2024.

The Report detailed several areas of strengths where the leadership of the local authority and their Community Learning and Development partners demonstrated positive progress, including effective leadership in CLD within Angus, and emphasised a clear commitment to improving outcomes through strategic direction, strong partnerships, and targeted community engagement as well as highlighting areas of development.

Following questions and comments from members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the inspection, including strengths and areas for development as detailed within Appendix 2 to the Report;
- (ii) to acknowledge the contribution of the Council's CLD work to improving life chances for people of all ages, through learning, personal development and active citizenship and building stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities;
- (iii) to note the area of highly effective practice; and
- (iv) to request the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to present the new CLD three-year plan to the Family, Education and Justice Committee in November.

6. ANGUS EDUCATION REPORT 2023-24 AND UPDATE OF ANGUS EDUCATION PLAN 2022-27

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 19 September 2023, there was submitted Report No 281/24 by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning presenting the annual education report and updated education plan, summarising the progress made against improvement priorities, outlining improvement priorities for 2023/24, and referencing the stretch aims over the next four years.

The Report provided a review of progress, together with a summary of work carried out in session 2023-2024 and an update to the Angus Education Plan (AEP) 2022 to 2027 against three themes, Angus Cares, Angus Learns and Angus Improves.

The proposed education plan highlighted planned improvement priorities for the period 2023-2024 and referenced the aims over the next four years. The priorities were represented using a 'logic model' and reflected the national and local context.

At this stage in the meeting, the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning advised members that this would be the last Committee meeting that Mr Hammond, Service Leader, would attend prior to him taking on a new role out-with the authority, and paid tribute and appreciation to Mr Hammond for his 30 years' service to Angus Council.

Following questions and comments, and having heard members commend the Report and Mr Hammond for his service, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress summarised in relation to the Angus Education Plan 2023-24 as detailed within Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) having considered the proposed updates to the Angus Education Plan 2022-27 and the Performance Report as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 to the Report, to approve the updates to the Angus Education Plan 2022-2027 and implementation of the plan and priorities, as detailed within Appendix 2 to the Report;
- (iii) to instruct provision of the approved Annual Education Plan, as soon as reasonably practicable, to Scottish Ministers as required in terms of section 3F(2) of the 2000 Act; and

- (vi) to request the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to present an evaluation report on progress with the Angus Education Plan in September 2025.

7. ANGUS ADOPTION AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 1 June 2023, there was submitted Report No 282/24 by the Interim Director of Children, Families and Justice informing members of the Angus Adoption Agency Annual Report for 2023-24.

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

Following questions and comments and having heard members commend the Report, the Committee agreed:-

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

8. ANNUAL CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER REPORT 2023/2024

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 22 August 2023 and Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Angus Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board of 22 October 2023, there was submitted Report No 283/24 by the Chief Social Work Officer presenting the Angus Council Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report for 2023 to 2024.

The Report indicated there was a requirement to ensure oversight and accountability within the local authority for all social work and social care services, including those delegated to the Integration Joint Board.

The Report and Appendix provided an overview of how Angus Council performed in the delivery of a wide range of social work and social care services, including commissioned services during 2023-2024, and highlighted the pressure on services, with high service demand continuing over the year and the delivery of high-quality services within the budgetary restraints experienced across the council and Health and Social Care Partnership.

Following questions and comments from members, the Committee agreed to endorse the Annual Chief Social Work Officer Report for 2023/2024 as outlined in the Appendix to the Report.