



AGENDA ITEM NO 9

REPORT NO IJB 81/24

ANGUS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

18 DECEMBER 2024

ANGUS INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES – THE 'ANGUS PROMISE' PROGRESS REPORT 2021-2024 AND PROMISE PLAN 2024-2027

REPORT BY KIRSTY LEE, CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

1 ABSTRACT

This report presents an overview of the partnership work by corporate parents from April 2021 to March 2024 to deliver improvements for our looked after children and young people. The overarching plan for 2024 – 2027 is also attached. This presents an opportunity for the Angus IJB to consider its role in respect of the Promise and identify areas where the Promise can influence and drive the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) agenda.

2 ALIGNMENT TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

This report contributes to the following strategic priorities in the AIJB Strategic Commissioning Plan: -

- Prevention and Proactive Care
- Mental Health, Well-being and Substance

The services covered within this report also contribute to several other overarching strategic and partnership plans including the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2023- 2026.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Angus Integration Joint Board:

- (i) Note the content of the Angus Integrated Children's Services – The 'Angus Promise' progress report 2021-2024 and Promise Plan 2024-2027 (Appendix 1); and
- (ii) Consider how the Promise can influence and drive the work of AHSCP, especially regarding the transition of young people who are care leavers transitioning into Adult Services and whole family approach to service provision.

4 BACKGROUND

Commencing in 2018, the Independent Care Review carried out a comprehensive review of the care of children in Scotland over a generation. The Independent Care Review was informed and directed by the experience of infants, children, young people and adults who have lived experience of our care systems and practices in Scotland, many of whom bare the trauma and impacts of their early life experiences. The Independent Care Review published [the Promise](#) 'The Plan 2021-24' and very recently the second plan, [The Plan 2024 - 30](#).

This is an important time for all sectors whose work directly, or indirectly, impacts children and families. The Plan 24-30 builds on the initial plan and sets ambitious targets underpinned by clear foundations that must be built, strengthened and promoted – voice, family, care, people and scaffolding. The Promise has given Scotland a clear and simple directive: where children

are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay – and families must be given support together, to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties they encounter.

The foundations have been translated into 5 areas for change;

- The right to a childhood
- Whole family support
- Supporting the workforce
- Planning
- Building capacity

These areas for change are not specific to one agency, rather they are of direct relevance to all public bodies and third sector organisations across community planning partnerships.

Whilst the Promise relates to all our children, there is clear recognition of continued corporate parenting responsibilities and a need to ensure that particular attention is paid to children who need care and ensuring that children in Scotland's 'care system' feel loved, have their needs met, and their rights are upheld.

Corporate Parenting is defined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 as: *“the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people, and care leavers. A good corporate parent will want the best outcomes for their looked after children, accept responsibility for them, and make their needs a priority”*.

The Angus Promise 2021-2024 was based on the findings of the Care Review and the voices and experiences of our care experienced children and young people and our commitment to uphold the rights of children. The report sets out the work that has been achieved in partnership through the Angus 'Leading the Promise Group' to support improvements for care experienced infants, children and young people.

Our local Promise Plan (appendix 2) continues the work started in 2021 and builds on the work already undertaken. The voice and views of children and young people are heard from a range of sources and have influenced the direction of the plan including through individual and collective advocacy, focussed discussions and consultations in the 'Hangout', the views of young people as expressed for the national '100 voices' campaign on throughcare, complaints, feedback and service questionnaires.

5 CURRENT POSITION

The report at Appendix 1 outlines how Angus Corporate Parents performed in the delivery of the Angus Promise Plan 2021-2024.

The Corporate Parenting Board is an advisory body whose main task is to monitor and ensure the delivery of improved services to our care experienced children and young people across a range of agencies. The Corporate Parenting Board became part of Angus Integrated Children's Services Group (AICSG) in 2021 and rebranded as the Angus 'Leading the Promise' Group. This Group reports directly to AICSG and works together to share information and support changes that will improve the lives of our care experienced children and young people in Angus

Over the course of our plan, we have taken a particular focus on two key areas; voice and relationships. This report presents an overview of the progress made in Angus and importantly identifies where we still have work to do. The report highlights progress in several areas, including:

- Ensuring the voice of children, young people and families are heard and they can influence decisions that impact them.
- Service improvements, developments and challenges.
- Supporting families and relationships
- Workforce including training and support to staff.

The Report highlights the importance of providing early help to support the mental health and wellbeing of our children and young people and the impact of the services targeted at providing early intervention.

Many care leavers face independence feeling alone and isolated, the report details how services in Angus are working together, taking a trauma informed approach, to support this vulnerable group of young adults, and how we can improve the support for care leavers transitioning into Adult Services.

Promise Framework for Scotland currently being drafted reports *“Many care experienced adults experience a cliff-edge of support in later life, being expected to leave their home at an earlier age than the rest of the population, with less preparation and with less support. Difficulties in accessing stable, affordable housing can create the circumstances where multiple disadvantage - which can include substance misuse, mental health problems or offending - is much more likely to occur”*. The Framework will offer guidance for local areas to measure and report on quantitative and qualitative measures to better understand the experience of care experienced adults and provides an opportunity for the IJB to consider the Framework in the current performance framework for Angus. It is envisaged that the Framework will be available early next year and will be considered by Leading the Promise.

Child Care and Justice (Scotland) Act 2024 will bring several changes when it is enacted in 2026 including that are underpinned by the Promise and have significant relevance for local IJBs as well as Children’s services Partnerships;

- The recognition of children as under 18 across a range of childcare and criminal justice legislation
- Raising the age of referral to the Reporter to 18
- Young people who need secure care arising from remand or sentence, will be treated as looked after children and afforded the same aftercare entitlements.
- Ending the placement of children under 18 in prison

For the IJB, this provides an opportunity for joint planning on supports and services for young people aged 17 and 18 and transitioning into adult services. The financial memorandum has yet to be agreed, and it remains unclear how funding will support the anticipated increased demand on children’s services.

Appendix 2 is the Angus Promise Plan 2024-27, an overarching 3-year plan. The plan is a continuation of the good work that has taken place through Angus Leading the Promise multi agency group, since 2021. The plan identifies the key areas for development over the next 3 years to ensure we continue to move forward and keep our promise to the care experienced children, young people, and adults in Angus. The plan mirrors the National Plan 2024 – 2030 and has been developed based on feedback from children, young people and families as expressed through advocacy, direct consultation and wider feedback, the views and experiences of partners and the National Promise Partnership.

6 PROPOSALS

There are no proposal arising from this report.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no direct risks arising from this report.

9 PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct public health implications arising from this report.

10 CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

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

11 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full combined Equality Impact Assessment, is not required for the following reason: - this is a summary information report.

12 COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

The Chief Executive and the Director of Finance, the Director of Legal, Governance and Change and Interim Director of Children, Families and Justice, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning and Angus Integrated Children's Services Group have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

13 DIRECTIONS

The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans, and this is provided for in Section 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Angus Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Angus Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:	
	No Direction Required	X
	Angus Council	
	NHS Tayside	
	Angus Council and NHS Tayside	

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Promise Plan 2021-24

Appendix 2: Angus Promise Plan 2024-27