

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **FAMILY, EDUCATION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 14 January 2025 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors LYNNE DEVINE, LLOYD MELVILLE, JULIE BELL, LINDA CLARK, HEATHER DORAN, IAIN GALL, ROSS GREIG, GEORGE MEECHAN, GAVIN NICOL, LOUISE NICOL, IAN McLAREN, JILL SCOTT, MARTIN SHEPHERD, LOIS SPEED, DEREK WANN, and KENNY BRAES.

Teacher

Representative: Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN .

Church

Representative: CANNON TOM SHEILDS.

Councillor DEVINE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ronnie Proctor and Beth Whiteside, with Councillors Ian McLaren and Kenny Braes substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

There were no declarations of interest or statements of transparency made.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 November 2024 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. ADULT PROTECTION BIENNIAL REPORT APRIL 2022 – MARCH 2024

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 9 March 2023, there was submitted Report No 6/25 by the Chief Executive presenting the Adult Protection Biennial Report for 2022 to 2024.

The Report advised that the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 had established multi-agency Adult Protection Committees (APCs) in every council area. APCs were responsible for monitoring and advising on adult protection procedures and practice, for ensuring appropriate cooperation between agencies and for improving the skills and knowledge of those with a responsibility for the protection of adults at risk.

The Biennial Report for the period April 2022 to March 2024, as detailed within Appendix 1 to the Report, presented the work undertaken across Angus by individual agencies and in partnership to deliver national, Tayside-wide, and local adult protection outcomes to improve the lives of adults at risk of harm.

Mr Ewen West, Independent Chairperson of the Angus Adult Protection Committee, provided an overview of the key areas of the Report and thereafter responded to members questions.

Following comments, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the content of the Angus Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2022 to 2024 attached at Appendix 1;
- (ii) to approve the submission of the Angus Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2022 to 2024 to Scottish Ministers; and
- (iii) to note the Council's cross departmental responsibilities in relation to Adult Protection.

5. ARBROATH ACADEMY FURTHER INSPECTION REPORT

There was submitted Report No 7/25 by the Acting Director of Education and Lifelong Learning updating the Committee on the recent further inspection of Arbroath Academy, which was published by Education Scotland in October 2024.

The Report advised that Arbroath Academy had been inspected in April 2023 and areas of improvement had been identified, details of which were contained within Appendix 1. His Majesty's Inspectors confirmed that they would return to carry out a further inspection of Arbroath Academy, the visit of which took place the week of 20 May 2024 and the findings were published on 1 October 2024, which noted that Arbroath Academy evidenced progress in all areas identified in the previous inspection.

The Acting Director of Education and Lifelong Learning introduced the Report and thereafter the headteacher from Arbroath Academy answered members' questions.

Following comments, and having heard members commend the headteacher, staff and the wider school community on their continued progress and achievements, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the further inspection, as detailed at Appendix 2; and
- (ii) to request the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning submit a copy of the further report, which would be submitted to Education Scotland in 2025, to this Committee.

6. ANGUS CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROJECT

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 6 December 2022, there was submitted Report No 8/25 by the Interim Director of Children, Families and Justice updating the Committee on the progress of the development of a new children's residential house.

The Report advised that a property in Brechin had been secured in April 2024. The new children's house would accommodate up to 4 children aged 12 years and over, providing high quality relationship-based care, which would be trauma responsive and focus on children's strengths and talents. The establishment of this home would help deliver 'The Promise,' with the best outcomes for children and young people, in the most cost-effective way.

Whilst efforts continued towards the completion of works and entry to the new house by the start of April 2025, the service had not looked to initiate the next phase of the project of progressing the acquisition of a second new house until they had reviewed its wider strategic priorities.

The Interim Director of Children, Families and Justice introduced the Report and thereafter officers responded to members' questions.

At this stage in the meeting, Councillor Grieg gave notice of an amendment which sought the Interim Director of Children, Families and Justice to submit a Report on progress to this Committee in August 2025.

The Committee agreed to adjourn for 20 minute to allow the Convener to take advice from Officers.

The meeting resumed at 3.22pm.

The Convener advised the Committee that the timetable of meetings for August 2025 – June 2026 had yet not been agreed by Angus Council and therefore it was not possible to set a definitive date for a progress Report to be submitted, however proposed that a Report on progress could be submitted to a meeting of this Committee around September 2025, subject to the timetable of meetings being agreed by Angus Council.

The Committee unanimously agreed to the provision of a further progress Report around September 2025.

Following questions and comments, the Committee therefore agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress to date regarding the development of the new residential children's house;
- (ii) to approve that the Children, Families & Justice Service pause the development of a further residential children's house until the completion of a review of the wider strategic priorities for the service; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Children, Families and Justice to submit a Report on progress to this Committee around September 2025, subject to the timetable of meetings for August 2025 – June 2026 being agreed by Angus Council.

7. ANGUS JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 5 December 2023, there was submitted Report No 9/25 by the Interim Director of Children, Families and Justice which provided a detailed overview of the Council's statutory Criminal Justice Social Work service provision during 2023/2024.

The Report advised that the Statutory Criminal Justice Social Work Services were embedded within the Angus Justice Service, with a range of teams delivering social work services to people who had committed offences and were involved in the justice, court and/or prison system. The wider service also included provision for young people who were care experienced; unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people; and bespoke support services for women.

The Report highlighted volume, trend and performance information across the range of interventions being delivered to young people and adults, together with the Tayside Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements annual report for the same period 2023/2024.

The Interim Director of Children, Families and Justice introduced the Report with officers responding to members questions thereafter.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Angus Justice Service Annual Report 2023/2024 as detailed at Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to note the content of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Annual Report 2023/24 as detailed at Appendix 2 to the Report.

8. ANGUS COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2024

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 August 2024, there was submitted Report No 10/25 by the Chief Executive which presented the Angus Community Justice Partnership Local Area Report for April 2023 to March 2024 which had been approved by the Angus Community Justice Partnership on 19 November 2024 and the Community Planning Partnership on 4 December 2024.

The Annual Report presented the work undertaken across Angus by individual agencies and in partnership to deliver national, Tayside-wide, and local Community Justice outcomes to improve the lives of those living and working within the Angus community.

Ms Baker, Chair of Angus Community Justice Partnership, introduced the Report and gave an overview of the work which was being undertaken.

Following a number of questions and comments, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Angus Community Justice Partnership Annual Report 2023 to 2024 as detailed in Appendix 1; and
- (ii) to note the Council's cross departmental responsibilities in relation to Community Justice.

9. CARE INSPECTORATE INSPECTION OF HOUSING SUPPORT, CARE LEAVERS

There was submitted Report No 11/25 by the Interim Director of Children, Families and Justice which provided a summary of the inspection of the Social Work Housing Support Services to Care Leavers which was completed on 8 August 2024 and reported on 13 December 2024 by the Care Inspectorate.

The Report provided an overview of the findings of the Care Inspectorate in respect of wellbeing, leadership and staff, highlighting the areas for improvement that were required and the work which was being implemented to progress these. Details of the Care Inspectorate findings were contained within the Appendix to the Report.

The Interim Director of Children, Families and Justice introduced the Report and provided an overview of the key aspects of the inspection findings and advised members that the improvement plan had been submitted to, and accepted by, the Care Inspectorate.

Thereafter, officers responded to a question from Councillor Speed.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the inspection findings, the associated grading and requirements as detailed within the Appendix to the Report; and
- (ii) that the Director of Children, Families and Justice have oversight of the improvement plan and submits the necessary updates to assure the Care Inspectorate that progress was being made.