

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 11 September 2000

REPORT ON: 2000 REVIEW OF DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 1998-2001

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 583-2000

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report informs members about the 2000 Review of the Children's Services Plan 1998-2001. The Review provides information on how well objectives are being met by giving details of the progress made in implementing the actions outlined in the Plan and any service developments to take place over the next three years. It also constitutes the final review of the 3 year plan.

Copies of the Draft Review are available in the members' lounge.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy & Resources Committee: -

- 2.1 Note and approve the content of the Children's Services Plan Review (2000).
- 2.2 Instruct the Director of Social Work, in co-operation with the Directors of Education, Housing, Neighbourhood Resources & Development, and Leisure & Parks, the General Manager of Tayside Health Board, the Children's Reporter, the Chief Constable, the Chief Executives of the NHS Trusts and Dundee Local Health Care Co-operative to ensure a wide distribution of the Children's Services Plan Review throughout Dundee and to relevant agencies outside the City.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of publication and distribution of the Review will be met from the Social Work Department's Revenue Budget.
- 3.2 Where appropriate any financial implications of the new service proposals outlined in the Review, will be subject to separate appropriate Committee approval prior to full implementation.

4.0 AGENDA 21

- 4.1 The 2000 Review of the Children's Services Plan 1998 – 2001 promotes the principles and values expressed in the Agenda 21 programme.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

Building on the work outlined in the Children's Services Plan this Review continues to seek to redress possible inequalities of access and opportunities to health, education and other services and enhance the life opportunities for children in need, including those with, and affected by, disabilities.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of the local authority to prepare and review the Children's Services Plan in consultation with partner agencies. This Review has been prepared with the involvement of representatives from a number of Council Departments, Tayside Health Board, the NHS Trusts, Tayside Police, the Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration, the Children's Panel, Dundee Local Health Care Co-operative and various voluntary organisations in consultation with children and families who use services.
- 6.2 This Review does not repeat all the information in the 1998-2001 Plan, which remains in place as the main planning document for services to children in need and their families. The Review updates the existing plan, makes changes where there is new information to be included and rolls the Plan forward an additional year to 2003.
- 6.3 Those involved in planning, developing and delivering services to children in need and their families have agreed a set of core principles which underpin Dundee services. Those core principles, as well as shared aims, are detailed in the 1998-2001 Plan and all the agencies involved are committed to using these as a basis of *Working Together for Dundee's Children in Need*.
- 6.4 In addition to reiterating the strategic statements given in the Children's Services Plan 1998-2001, the Review also :
- describes an overview of progress in implementation;
 - gives details of how well targets have been met;
 - considers the implications of new political, educational, health and social care initiatives, as they affect children and their families;
 - describes new developments in service planning and delivery.
- 6.5 This report highlights some of the significant achievements contained within the Review such as:
- Access to specialist advice and skills of pre-school home visiting staff has been widened resulting in a significant increase in numbers of children and families benefiting from the service.
 - 25% increase in new out of school care places has been achieved.
 - Specialist provision is available for primary school pupils, at the moderate end of the autistic spectrum, at two schools.
 - The Young Carers' Partnership has been fully established and a Co-ordinator and Project Worker are in post.
 - Diversion activities such as "Kick it-Kick off" for young risk takers who misuse substances.
 - A Consultant Paediatrician with responsibility for Child Protection work is now in post.
 - A programme for developing Community Information on Child Protection for school age children has been progressed.
 - Work on the development of the Close Support and Secure Unit has been completed.
 - A base line for the educational attainment of children who are looked after away from home has been established.
 - There has been an increase of eight foster carers and, in addition, four Alternative Community Experience (ACE) carers have been approved.
 - The Family Placement Best Value recommendations have been endorsed.
 - A Youth Housing Strategy group has been established with a strategy approved and implemented.
 - A marketing officer is working on an action plan, to meet the demand for furnished tenancies for young people who have been looked after.
 - Integrated social work / education / family support provision.

6.6 The Plan also details the shift in the balance of services which the planning partners intend to achieve to better meet the needs of children in need and their families. This information is given in the form of strategic statements which also provide the backdrop against which progress on meeting the service objectives are measured in this Review.

The following gives an example of what our intentions are for the coming year:-

- Establish new local early years and childcare networks on an annual basis.
- Revise the criteria for full-time nursery school place allocation, targeting 100% of children in need.
- Establish a quality framework for all pre-school facilities based on the "Child at the Centre" document.
- Review child and adolescent mental health services.
- Develop a joint 'Involvement and Participation Strategy' for children, young people and their families.
- Improve local accessibility to a range of multi-agency services for young people who misuse substances.
- Review child protection training needs of staff.
- Implement a 'Young Offenders Strategy'.
- Develop and implement an action plan based on the 'Corporate Parenting' policy which emphasises the collective responsibility of the local authority to be good parents for the children in its care.
- Develop standards for the provision of throughcare and aftercare services to young people who have been looked after by the local authority.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Review of the Children's Services Plan is the result of a planning process which is based on consultation and involvement of children, young people and their parents and carers, partnership agencies, relevant Council departments, and representatives from the voluntary and independent sectors.

The following chief officers have been consulted in its preparation through their representative membership of the Children's Services Strategic Planning Group: Director of Education, Director of Housing, Director of Neighbourhood Resources, Director of Support Services and the Director of Leisure & Parks. The Director of Finance has also been consulted.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

9.0 SIGNATURE

Director of Social Work

Date