

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 19 APRIL 2004

REPORT ON: 2003 REVIEW OF DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2002-2004

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 146 - 2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report informs members about the 2003 Review of the Children's Services Plan 2002-2004. The Review provides information on how well objectives are being met by giving details on the progress made in implementing the actions outlined in the Plan. It outlines any new objectives or service developments planned to take place between now and the year 2005.

A copy of the report has been passed to each of the group Secretaries and a copy is available for inspection 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 2003.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of publication and distribution of the Review will be met from the Social Work Department's budget.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The actions outlined in the content of the Children's Services Plan and addressed in this Review will impact positively upon several of the key themes of Agenda 21:

- Resources are used efficiently.
- Needs are met locally.
- Access to facilities, services, goods and people is not achieved at the expense of the environment and are accessible to all.
- Health is protected by creating safe, clean, pleasant environments and health services which emphasise prevention of illness as well as care for the sick.
- Access to the skills, knowledge and information needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society.
- All sections of the community are empowered to participate in decision-making.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Building on the work outlined in the Children's Services Plan 2002-2004 this Review continues to seek to redress possible inequalities of access and opportunities to health, education and other services which 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 others. 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, various voluntary organisations and in consultation with children and families who use services.
- 6.2 The Scottish Executive, in its letter of August 2003, proposed that Councils and their local partners should consider rolling forward Children's Services Plans for 1 further year, so that the new plans can take account of revised guidance on Children's Services Planning due to be issued in early 2004.
- 6.3 This Review does not repeat all the information in the 2002-2004 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 appropriate, especially where there is new information to be included and rolls the Plan forward an additional year to 2005.

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 sector.

The Director of Education, Director of Housing, Communities Department, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Depute Chief Executive (Finance) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

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.

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

Date: 07/04/04