

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Policy & Resources Committee - 9th May 2005

REPORT ON: The Annual Report and Business Plan of the Dundee Children & Young Persons Protection Committee

REPORT BY: Chief Executive

REPORT NO: 290-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the approval of members to the content of the Annual Report and Business Plan of the Dundee Children & Young Persons Protection Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- 2.1 Note and approve the contents of the Dundee Children & Young Persons Protection Committee Annual Report and Business Plan.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The aim of this report is to improve the quality of child protection services across Dundee, furthering the Council's commitment to protect vulnerable children and young people. The contents of the report are consistent with the Council's objective to ensure that people in Dundee live without fear of personal violence and abuse.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report takes account of the rights and needs of vulnerable children and young people, including those from minority ethnic communities and those with disabilities. The report promotes the principle that child protection services must be provided and developed in ways that promote social inclusion and equality of access to services.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 A copy of the Annual Report and Business Plan has been passed to each group secretary and a copy is also available in the Members Lounge.
- 6.2 National guidance, 'Protecting Child and Young People: Child Protection Committees', published by the Scottish Executive, states that, "Each CPC is required to prepare and submit an annual report and business plan."
The guidance explains that, "CPC annual reports need to fulfil a number of functions. They will:
- provide an account of the year's work against the previous year's plan;
 - provide information on the level and quality of interagency work; and
 - outline a business plan, including a budget for the coming year, in order to:
 - allow some comparison across CPCs and, more importantly, year on year trends for individual CPCs;
 - provide public information, both to staff in partner agencies and the wider public about the activity of the CPC; and
 - inform policy development at local and national level."
- 6.3 The Annual Report and Business Plan fulfils the requirements as set out in the national guidance. It illustrates both the developments to date and the plans for ongoing improvement in child protection services. It therefore builds upon the Statement of Assurance that Scottish Ministers requested from all Child Protection Committees in May 2004. In doing so, it provides relevant information to the citizens of Dundee and to members of staff, from all agencies, who work in the field of child protection in Dundee.
- 6.4 Report number 320 – 2004, adopted by the Committee on 10th May 2004, contained the Statement of Assurance that had been requested by Scottish Ministers.
- 6.5 Feedback on the Statement of Assurance from the Scottish Executive indicated Ministers satisfaction with the developments taking place in Dundee to ensure the quality of services for protecting children and young people. In particular, the Executive noted that:
- The statement provided clear evidence of strategic leadership and vision;
 - There was clear evidence of a great deal of co-ordinated activity;
 - The Committee had reviewed and refocused its work and presented as a coherent unit with a clear strategic visions;
 - There was a very positive approach to the substance misuse agenda;
 - Significant steps had been taken in the development of quality assurance and inspection frameworks;
 - The investment in the capacity of the Committee was clearly paying dividends.
- 6.6 The Annual Report and Business Plan demonstrates that the Children & Young Persons Protection Committee has built upon the work reported in the Statement of Assurance. Examples of this include:
- The Charter for Children and Young People being delivered to and discussed with all children and parents via nursery, primary and secondary schools. Over the course of the next year, via the involvement of the Education Department's Enterprise Co-ordinator and Quality Contact programme, children and young people will be directly engaged in informing the Committee's strategy for consulting and involving them in improving services, and in the development of information;
 - As well as information for children and young people, leaflets giving adults advice on what to do if they have concerns about a child have been distributed in public offices throughout Dundee;
 - The Committee is well aware that people from ethnic minority communities and those affected by disability are under-represented when it comes to accessing child

protection services. Discussions about improving this have been held with representatives of these groups and this will be developed over the next year;

- The Committee has finalised the model and methodology for local, inter-agency inspection of child protection services. During the course of 2005-06, the first in a regular programme of local inspections will be carried out;
- Already, over 100 professionals from all relevant disciplines have taken part in staff development programmes focusing on the needs of children and young people affected by parental substance misuse. During the next year, training programmes will be delivered to another 1050 members of staff.
- During 2005-06, the Committee's new website will be launched. This will be a primary source of information for staff in all the agencies, for children and young people and for other members of the community.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 All Chief Officers have been consulted.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Alex Stephen
Chief Executive

Date: 28th April 2005