

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 13 FEBRUARY 2006**

**REPORT ON: "A PLAN FOR DUNDEE'S CHILDREN, 2005-2008"**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**REPORT NO: 51- 2006**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This Report seeks approval to publish and circulate the integrated children's services plan, "A Plan for Dundee's Children, 2005-2008". A copy of the Plan has been passed to each of the Group Secretaries and is available for inspection in the members lounge.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:

- i agree to the publication and circulation of "A Plan for Dundee's Children, 2005-2008"
- ii remit the Children's Services Executive Group to provide an update on progress by October 2006

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The Plan will be delivered within existing resources

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 These proposals will enrich and enhance the wellbeing, development and learning of children and young people in Dundee and will enable them and their families to play a full part in society.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 These proposals will contribute towards ensuring that all children, young people and their families are included in service planning, development and delivery.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

6.1 In November 2004, the Scottish Executive published guidance to local authorities to support the production and publication of integrated children's services plans. The Guidance called on Local Authorities to deliver a plan that would achieve the vision that *"all our children and young people are safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, included, respected and responsible"*.

6.2 The production and implementation of integrated children's services plans is seen as crucial to achieving the vision.

*"In order to achieve that vision and deliver these commitments we need to work together to ensure vulnerable children and their families get the help they need when they need it; provide*

*high quality health, education and other services to children, closing the opportunity gaps that exist in all of these services; and empower children, their families and their communities."*

Integrated Children's Services Planning, 2005-2008, Guidance, Scottish Executive, November 2004

6.3 A Children's Services Executive Planning Group was established to deliver and implement Dundee's first integrated children's services plan for all children. This built on a solid foundation of work already undertaken within Dundee to deliver and implement better integrated planning and delivery of services for children. The Children's Services Executive Planning Group has senior representation from all key agencies and departments involved in the planning and delivery of services for children, young people and families. Current membership includes: Directors of Education, Social Work, Leisure and Communities and senior officers from those departments, the Children's Reporter, the Child Health Commissioner and senior representatives from NHS Tayside, senior representatives from Dundee Voluntary Action and from Tayside Police.

6.4 The new plan seeks to include all services and strategies for children. It recognises that children and young people's lives need to be viewed in the context of their families, local communities and society as a whole. Therefore, considerable work in Dundee continues to focus on empowering families, building on the strengths and expertise of parents and extended family members and supporting them to fulfil their vital and influential role.

6.5 A Plan for Dundee's Children and Young People, 2005-8, is the first integrated and universal plan that has looked at the needs of all children and young people whilst keeping a clear focus on those children and young people who face particular challenges in their lives.

## **7.0 PROPOSAL**

7.1 It is proposed that A Plan for Dundee's Children, 2005-2008 be published and circulated to all key stakeholders. It is intended to involve children and young people in developing a version of the Plan for circulation to their peers. In addition a summary version will be produced for widespread circulation including to parents and carers.

7.2 The Children's Services Executive Planning Group will develop an implementation framework to ensure that all groups involved in the planning and development of services are working to a clear and common agenda.

7.3 The Scottish Executive will publish further guidance on integrated children's services planning and will require a review of progress in Dundee and the rest of Scotland in 2006. "A Plan for Dundee's Children, 2005-2008" is an important step in delivering improved outcomes for children, young people and their families. The Plan is not however an end in itself and it is anticipated that shared working practices and approaches to joint service delivery will continue to be strengthened by implementation of the Plan.

## **8.0 CONSULTATION**

8.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Director of Social Work and Director of Leisure and Communities.

## **9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**ALEX STEPHEN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**27 JANUARY 2006**