

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

Report to: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 21 October 2002

Report on: CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2002 - 2004

Report by: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Report No. 768 - 2002

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report advises members of the requirements under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, to produce and publish an integrated Children's Services Plan for Dundee.
- 1.2 A copy of the Action Plan and related documents is available for inspection in the members lounge and in addition a copy has been passed to each Group Secretary.

2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee: -

- 2.1 Note the content of the Children's Services Plan 2002 - 2004.
- 2.2 Approves the proposals for the development and delivery of services to children, young people and their families in the city.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The costs of the projects outlined in the Children's Services Plan 2002-2004 will be met from either existing revenue budgets or from other service specific funding sources. The development and implementation of proposals to be funded from the Changing Children's Services Fund (P & R Committee Report No 219-2002) will be dependent on final approval being received from the Scottish Executive.

4 Local Agenda 21 Implications

- 4.1 The local authority has a specific role to empower vulnerable children and young people to participate in decisions that affect them, and to enable them to contribute to an improvement in the quality of their lives.

5 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 5.1 The local authority has a specific responsibility to promote the status of all children and young people, including children in need. It must also ensure that they are treated with equity and fairness and that they are protected from discrimination.

6 Main Text

- 6.1 At the end of October 2001, the then ministers for Education, Health and Social Justice jointly launched a Report and Action Plan entitled "For Scotland's Children". This set out a range of ways in which local agencies, including the voluntary sector, must work together to achieve better integrated children's services.

The report "For Scotland's Children" emphasises the need to plan and develop all services for all children, young people and their families.

In "For Dundee's Children, Dundee City Council's Children's Services Plan (2002-2004)", the local authority and its partners consider how universal services, such as health, education and housing, have a role to play in preventing social exclusion. However, in order to promote social inclusion it is recognised that some children, young people and their families will need additional support. The Children's Services Plan (2002-2004) sets out achievable actions and reasonable outcomes to meet our joint aims, which are;

- To ensure that children and young people in Dundee are active, healthy, happy, safe and are achieving their potential.
- To develop an agenda for joint working between council departments and other statutory and voluntary agencies.
- To promote integrated provision of services.
- To set the future direction of services for all children and young people in Dundee.
- To make the best and cost effective use of available resources; and
- To ensure that the commitments made in the plan are monitored and evaluated.

Included in the Children's Services Plan (2002-2004) are details of the proposals for the Changing Children's Services Fund, which was established by the Scottish Executive in 2001. This fund was introduced as a source of transitional funding for local authorities, health boards and voluntary organisations, and is intended to bring about change in service systems. Its strategic aim is to achieve better outcomes for the most vulnerable and deprived children, young people and families by making more effective and integrated services delivery through;

- Expansion of good practice in the delivery of well integrated services.
- Modernisation to reshape existing services, and
- New and innovative approaches to integrated service delivery.

The local authority and all its planning partners agree that good outcomes for children, young people and their families will only be achieved by continuing to work together. The Children's Services Plan is the way forward in order to meet that aim.

7 Consultation

- 7.1 Consultation has taken place with all relevant partners in the compilation of this report.

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 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 Signatures

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Date

October 2002