



Emergency Weather Arrangements and Unforeseen Conditions

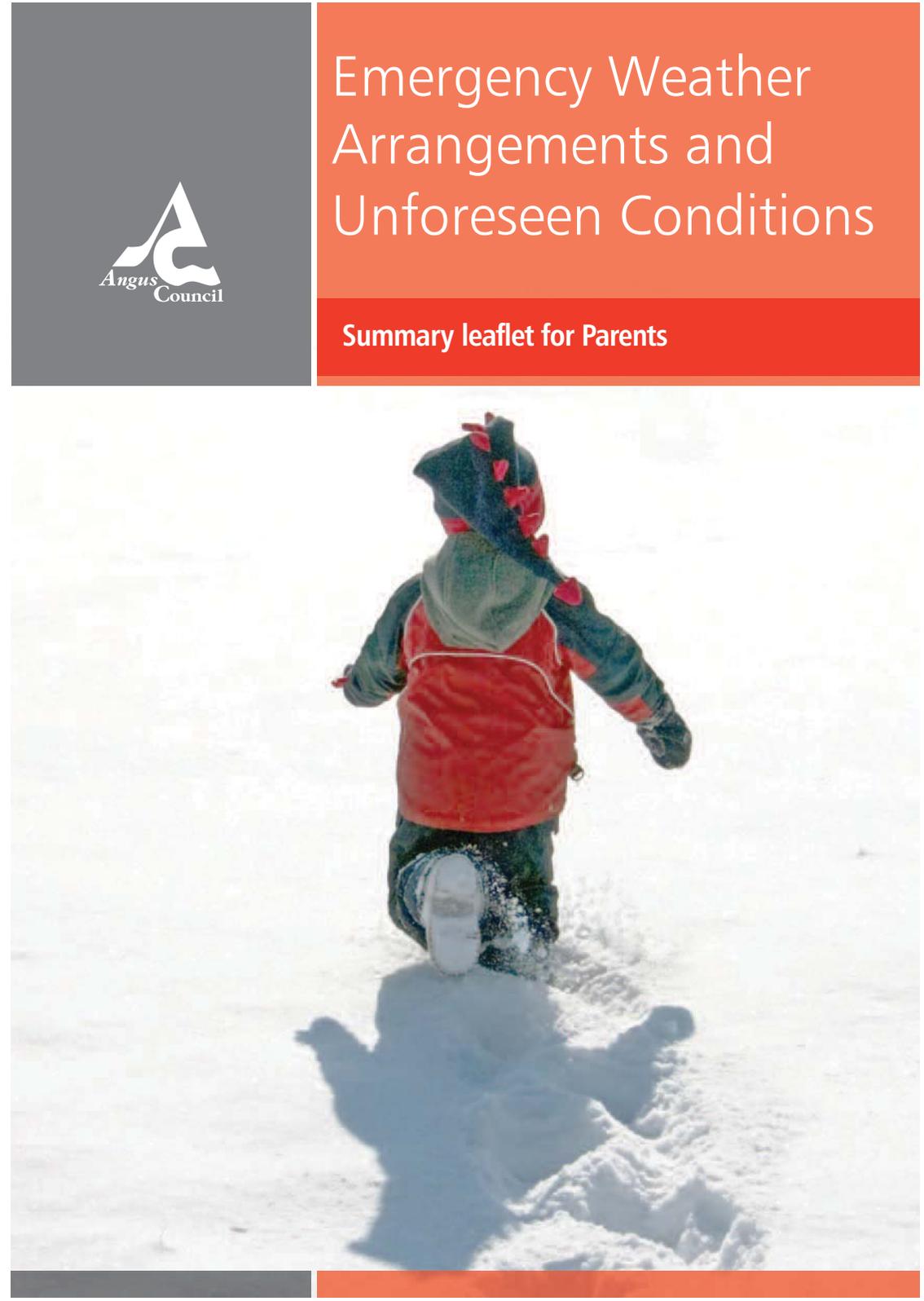
Summary leaflet for Parents



Towards A Shared Vision

We are committed to realising the potential of all children, young people, communities and staff by:

- putting people at the heart of all we do
- nurturing an ethos of achievement
- striving for sustainable improvement
- working co-operatively



Underlying Principles

The safety and well-being of children and staff is of paramount importance.

Mutual trust between parents and schools should be nurtured so that emergency situations can be tackled in partnership.

Although every effort will be made to ensure that an effective communications network with parents is maintained, the understanding of parents is sought in the context of the unusual and irregular difficulties which emergency situations invariably brings.

If any pupils can travel to and from their schools safely, there is an expectation that the education authority will try to make meaningful educational provision for these pupils.

It is important to reiterate that, even if a school is open during severe weather conditions, parents are entitled to keep their children at home, if they have any safety concerns whatsoever.

Specific Arrangements

Detailed arrangements may vary from school to school, but parents should be updated about these by the school on an annual basis.

In the event of similar weather conditions of a serious nature prevailing across the County, a blanket decision on school closures may be possible. However, the geographical make-up of Angus means that different weather conditions quite frequently prevail in different parts of the County; in these

circumstances blanket decisions on school closures/openings will not normally be made for Angus as a whole, although blanket decisions for an individual burgh continue to be seen as essential.

The situation of each rural school is unique, and Head Teachers of individual rural schools are given discretion about when closure is appropriate due to severe weather.

Within each burgh, there is an expectation that consultation between Head Teachers of all schools in the burgh (primary and secondary) will take place prior to any decision being taken which will normally apply to all schools in the burgh.

Decisions to close or keep open individual schools prior to the start of the school day will be posted to the Angus Council web site (www.angus.gov.uk) on the "School Status" page.

If a decision has been taken the previous day, information will also be available on from Angus Council's ACCESSline (03452 777 778) and will also be broadcast on Radio Tay (Tay AM MW 1161/1584 KHz or Tay FM 102.8/96.4 MHz) when available. Information will also be updated via Twitter @anguscouncil or Facebook at facebook.com/anguscouncil.

Decisions to close individual schools during the course of the day will be conveyed directly to parents if at all possible (with highest priority being given to the youngest children). In these circumstances, schools are expected to invoke established procedures to ensure that those children who are being sent home have safe access to their homes.

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