

# Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

March 2021

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## 1. Executive Summary

The joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) provides a summary of information and data relevant to Falkirk Community Planning Partnership. The information relates to Covid-19 and non-pandemic times, and has identified the following emerging issues:

- Inequality is widening in Falkirk and has been further exacerbated by Covid-19 and potentially by Brexit. People of ethnic minority backgrounds experience significant inequality, but only a small number are accessing support and services. Data is limited on which groups are accessing support.
- Healthy life expectancy for women has decreased.
- There is a bigger gap in achievement in Falkirk between those living in the most and least deprived areas for both literacy and numeracy than Scotland.
- Poverty is increasing in Falkirk including child poverty; 5 of our 9 ward areas have higher poverty rates than Scotland.
- Cross-sector homeless prevention duty is to be made law and CPP's will be required to have support in place for when emergency eviction provisions are lifted in March 2021.
- Mental health needs are increasing in children's and adults' services. Waiting times for CAMHS and psychological therapies are increasing. Suicide rates in Falkirk are considerably higher than the Scottish rates. Loneliness increased during the pandemic and continues to be a concern. It is also affecting some groups of people more; carers, parents of children with a disability, older people. Data is limited outwith NHS clinical data.
- Drug deaths are increasing in Falkirk but in different age groups than Scottish trends. Drug-related hospital stays are also increasing.
- Domestic abuse is considerably higher than the Scottish rate. Although reported incidents have reduced in 2020, this could be a reflection of increased difficulty for victims to report as a result of lockdown, and not a reduction of incidents. This needs further review following a lifting of lockdown restrictions.
- In December 2020, Falkirk's rate of child protection registration was 43.4 per 10,000 population, compared to Scotland's rate of 24.2 per 10,000
- Unemployment is rising and is a particular concern for young people. Falkirk has more manufacturing jobs, a sector that has been impacted more by Covid-19, and is likely to be impacted by Brexit. People living in Falkirk have lower qualification levels than the Scottish average. All of these are risk factors for the economy and unemployment.
- Many aspects of life have moved online; education, shopping, social contact, working and getting information about Covid-19. Barriers to access for priority groups needs to be considered.

## Recent Engagement Findings

The national Lockdown Lowdown May 2020 and Community Learning and Development Service's Lockdown Lowdown August 2020, told us that priorities for young people in Falkirk during 2020 are:

- Their future
- Mental health
- Social relationships
- Exams and school
- Physical health and wellbeing
- School/ college/ university closures

Falkirk Council Covid-19 Community Engagement with adults in Falkirk told us that their concerns are:

- Wellbeing and mental health concerns
- Worrying about their own or others' futures
- How to support family or friends
- Social isolation/ loneliness
- Stress of working/ learning from home
- Worrying about health treatments needed and not getting these
- Job security/ furlough

## 2. Introduction

### The Community Planning Partnership (CPP)

The CPP is the name given to services that work together with communities to develop the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP), currently known as The Falkirk Plan. The plan is a requirement of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Act places a legal duty on community planning partners to use their collective resources to work together with communities to tackle inequalities via the LOIP and Locality Plans for specific areas facing particular inequality.

The Falkirk Plan replaces the Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan (SOLD) which was in place from 2016 to 2020. The new plan will be submitted to the Scottish Government as well as published for local communities once it has been developed alongside these communities.

In Falkirk, Community Planning Partners include:

- CVS Falkirk and District
- Falkirk Community Trust
- Falkirk Council
- Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership
- Forth Valley College
- NatureScot
- NHS Forth Valley
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Enterprise
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Skills Development Scotland

### Why do a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment?

This joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) uses local and national data and information to look at current needs of the Falkirk population. It will support the CPP to develop the Falkirk Plan. It can be used for other strategic plans across the partnership and individual services. Some themes will need to be looked at in closer detail and CPP planning groups, existing or new, will be responsible for improving emerging issues.

The JSNA has been written by the Community Planning Improvement Group with input from multi-agency partners and several community planning and service delivery groups. It will be monitored and updated annually by the Community Planning Improvement Group as part of ongoing processes to work together to identify needs and plan improvements. Consideration should be given as to how the JSNA and other needs assessments align e.g. from the Health and Social Care Partnership and the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, and how engagement with communities can be coordinated.

The JSNA will be used to inform conversations with communities across Falkirk and District to jointly identify priorities and develop action plans, such as locality/ area specific plans and thematic plans. This engagement with, and participation from, communities will allow us to agree shared outcomes and plan future service delivery for those who need it most.

The data reflects needs before and during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the early implications of both Covid-19 and leaving the European Union. Data will need to be monitored across the partnership to assess the impact of both the pandemic and Brexit. Outwith the pandemic there are delays in getting data from national sources such as Public Health Scotland (formerly ISD) and Scottish Government annual reports. Data lags have been exacerbated by Covid-19 so the data presented for some themes may be from 2018/19 as national records haven't been updated. We are keen to develop



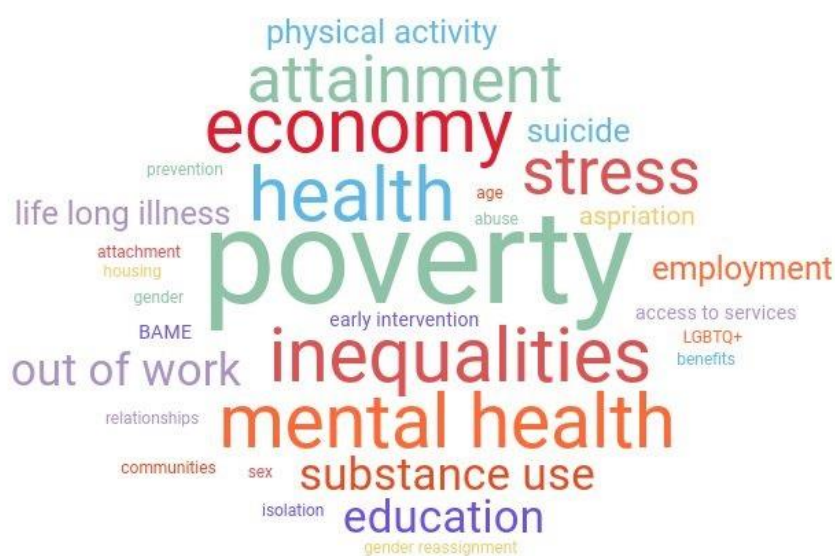
more real time capture of data locally to be able to respond to changes or emerging needs more quickly.

### Timescales

The Plan will be a 10-year plan with 3 yearly cycles. Annual performance reviews will be submitted to the Community Planning Board and Government to demonstrate progress made on improving the identified outcomes in the plan. These will be shared with communities.

### Interdependencies

Communities do not experience the effects of inequalities in isolation. All of these themes are interconnected, and improvement in one can lead to improvement in others. Below are some of the themes highlighted in this joint strategic needs assessment.



This document is a live document. If partners have additional information or queries that may be relevant to this document, please contact the Community Planning Team, at [communityplanning@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@falkirk.gov.uk)

### 3. Falkirk Population and Demographics

#### Population by Age and Gender

In 2019, it was estimated that 160,890 people lived in the Falkirk Community Planning Partnership area.

#### Population Projections

It is estimated that the population of Falkirk will grow by 3.7% to 166,216 by 2029-30. Currently Falkirk North has the highest proportion of the population with 13.9% of Falkirk's population, followed by Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst with 13.5%. By 2029-30, Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst will have the highest proportion of the population with 14.8%. Grangemouth currently has 10% of the population, but this is expected to drop to 8.3% due to a decrease in population.

The population of Falkirk is expected to increase by 3.7% from 2018-19 to 2029-30. Lower Braes is expected to grow the most by 20.9%, followed by Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst by 15.1%. Three wards are expected to decrease in population; Grangemouth is expected to decrease by 14.8%; Falkirk South by 3.4% and Bo'ness and Blackness by 0.1%.

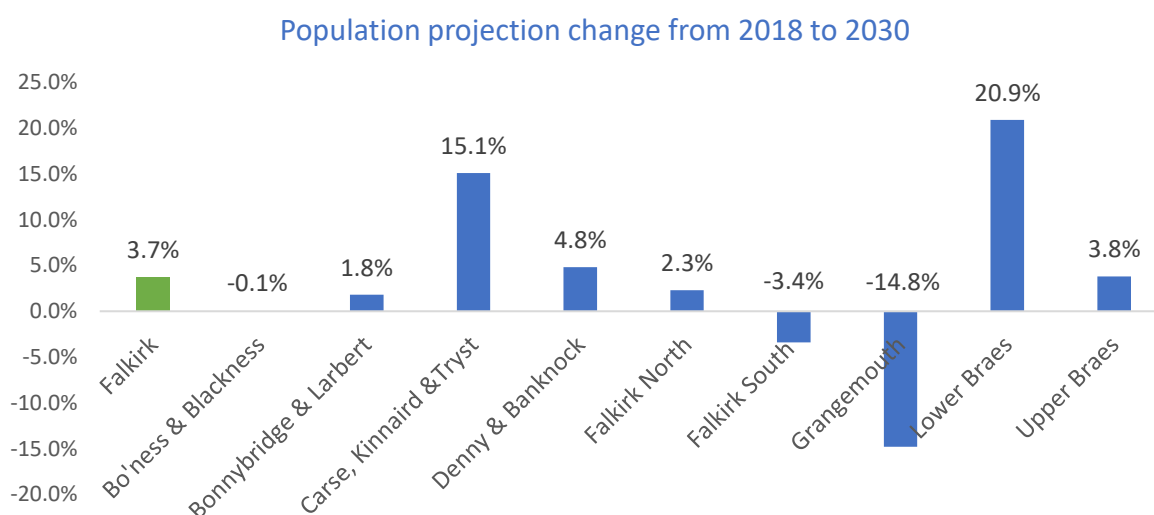


Figure 1: Population projection change from 2018 to 2030, NRS

#### Population Growth

The population of Falkirk is expected to continue growing and increasing life expectancy is likely to have an impact on services provided by partners in several areas. The under 5 age group has shown a decrease since 2013, while those aged 5-11 have increased since 2013. This will lead to a greater demand for school places in the future. There is an increase in elderly population which will impact on services, particularly health and social care.

#### Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy

Life expectancy (LE) is an estimate of how many years a person might be expected to live. Healthy life expectancy (HLE) is an estimate of how many years they might live in a 'healthy' state. In Scotland, males are expected to live both shorter lives, and shorter healthier lives compared with females. Within the Scottish population healthy life expectancy at birth was 62.3 years for males and 62.6 years for females born in 2015-2017.

There is a difference between areas of deprivation with those in the most deprived areas having both a lower life and healthy life expectancy. There is a larger difference between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy for females than for males.

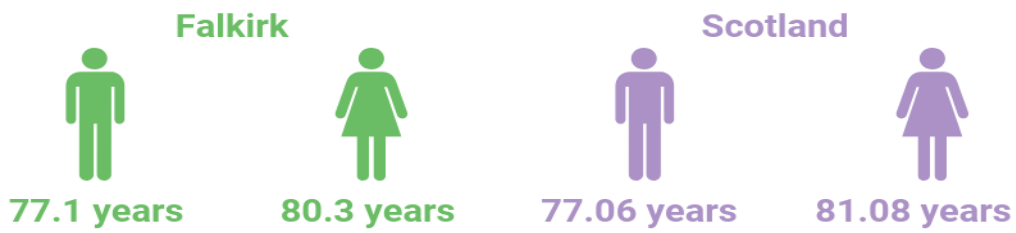


Figure 2: Life expectancy, NRS

Life expectancy of males in Falkirk is similar to the Scottish average while life expectancy of females in Falkirk is less than the Scottish average. From 2002 to 2013, female life expectancy increased year on year, from 78.57 years in 2002 to 81 years in 2013. Since 2013 female life expectancy in Falkirk has decreased year on year, lowering female life expectancy by 0.7 years over a five-year period. This indicates that females' health is declining in Falkirk.

### Female Life Expectancy 2017



### Male Life Expectancy 2017



Figure 3: Life expectancy, NRS

Male and Female life expectancy at birth is similar for Falkirk and Scotland.

Life expectancy at birth for Falkirk males and females living in the most deprived areas, is higher than the Scottish average.

Estimates suggest a 6.4 year difference of life expectancy at birth for men living in Falkirk's most deprived areas.

For females living in the most deprived areas in Falkirk, the difference is 2.3 years difference in life expectancy at birth.

### Race and Ethnicity

Falkirk is less diverse than other areas of Scotland. Minority ethnic groups account for 4% of Scotland's population compared to 1.9% of Falkirk's population. Although small in number, these groups experience significant inequality in Falkirk.

Ethnicity Census 2011

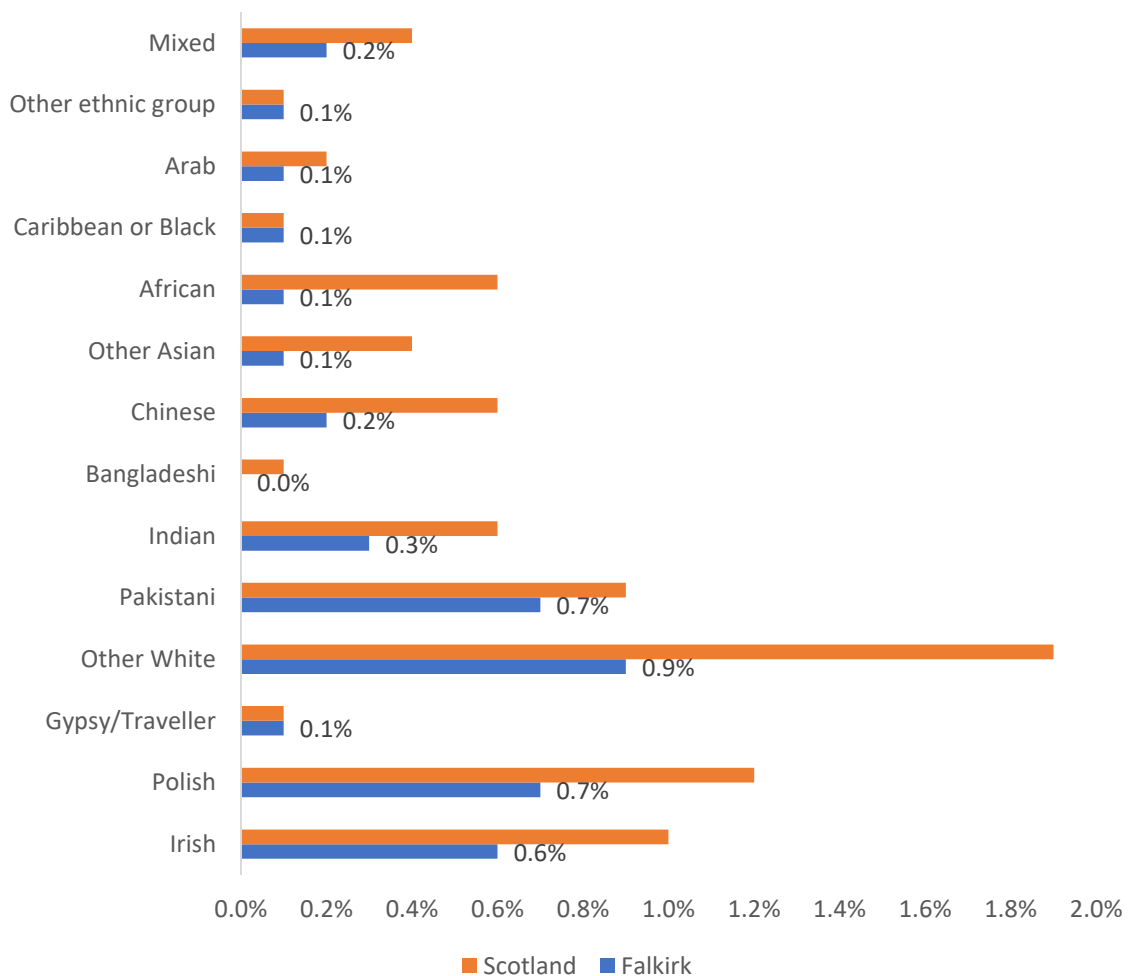


Figure 4: Ethnicity, Census 2011

The Census is the most reliable source of data on ethnicity available, however it was last recorded in 2011 so is likely to have changed. Office for National Statistics 2019 data estimates that 9,000

people in Falkirk are 'non-UK born', 6% of the population. It is also estimated that 7,000 (4%) of Falkirk's population are 'non-British'. There were 192 births to non-UK Born mothers in 2019, 13.2% of births in that year.

## 4. Equalities

### Race and Ethnicity

Covid-19 has highlighted the poor quality of ethnicity data across Scotland. Local consideration needs to be given as to how services record and measure access to services and outcomes for different groups. 'The role of Health and Social Care Partnerships in reducing health inequalities' resource can be used as a framework to inform strategic and local governance. The CPP should consider using this document as part of equality and poverty impact assessments to identify gaps.

### All-Cause Mortality

All-cause mortality among 15-44 year olds, is defined by the number of deaths from all causes of people between 15 and 44 years of age. In Falkirk, all-cause mortality rates have increased between the years 2002 to 2004 and 2014 to 2016 for the most deprived area (SIMD 1). Whereas, the least deprived areas (SIMD 5) rate has been declining for the same time period. While in Scotland on the whole the 15-44 all-cause mortality has been reduced since 2002-2004 for both the most deprived and least deprived population. This is significant for Falkirk as it not only shows that health inequalities exist but they are also widening.

### Disability and Long-Term Health Conditions

Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) 2018 needs assessment predicts that Falkirk's cared for population will grow. People are living longer and older people are often those with physical disabilities. Dementia, diabetes, ischaemic heart disease, and stroke are predicted to increase as are the number of people living with multiple conditions.

The 2011 Census states 30.1% of Falkirk's population were living with one or more long-term conditions. The Scottish rate was 29.9%. Some people may have more than one condition.

## Long-term health conditions 2011

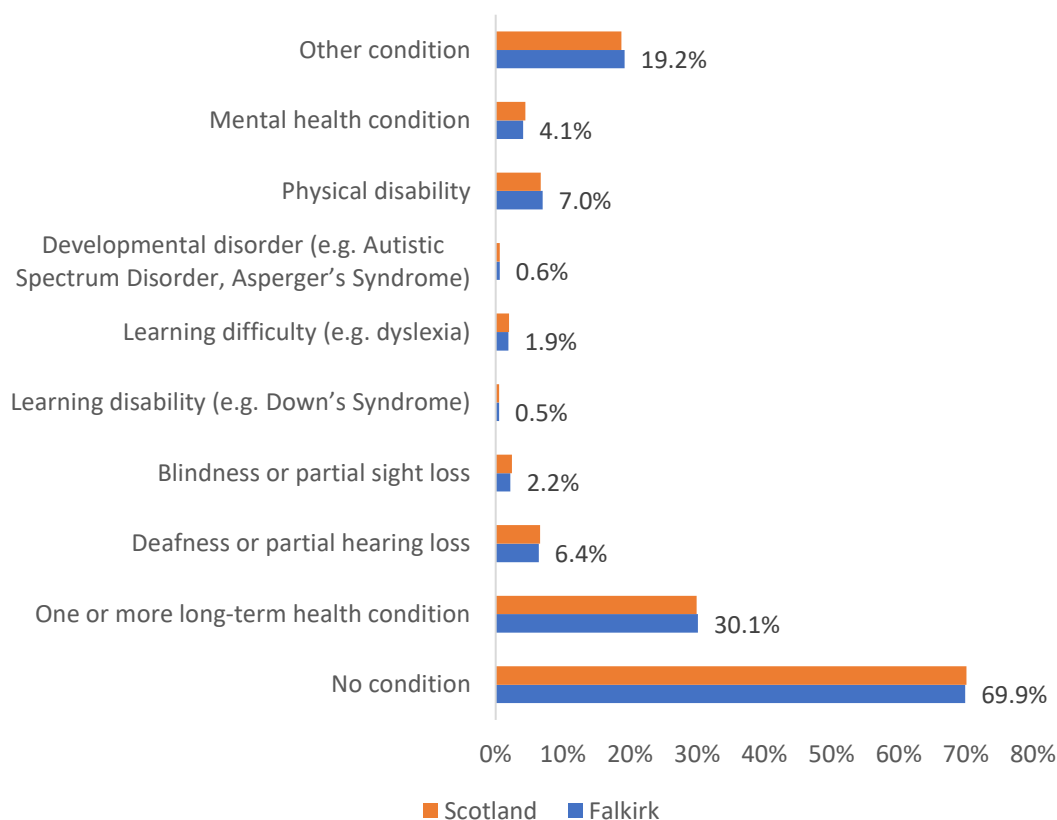


Figure 5: Long-term health conditions, Census 2011

Forecasting disease prevalence can provide information regarding where resources might be needed in the future or where preventative interventions could reduce disease. There are a range of factors which influence the prevalence of disease. These are: Age, genetics, environment, deprivation, health related behaviours, underlying mental wellbeing/ resilience/ self-efficacy/ confidence/ motivation, personal wellbeing, options for intervention and organisation of this.

The estimated number of people within Falkirk with 4 or more multiple conditions (2015), is estimated to be about 2000. Multiple conditions significantly increase from the age of 45 (Source: The Challenge of Multimorbidity in Scotland, Professor Stewart Mercer applied to NRS population estimates for Falkirk).

There are multiple factors in the development of disease. Early interventions to promote positive health behaviours and reduce inequalities should be considered by the CPP.

## Sexual Orientation

LGBT people are not easily identified in routinely available information sources. There is no reliable data on the number of transgender people living in Scotland

The Scottish Surveys Core Questions 2018 found that, in Scotland, around 3% of adults self-identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other. 95% of adults self-identified as straight or heterosexual.

- Half of those identifying as LGB and Other were under 35. While 10% of the LGB and Other group were aged 65 and over, compared with over one quarter of those identifying as heterosexual.
- 6.6% of people aged 16-24 identify as LGB and other.
- 4.3% of people aged 25-34 identify as LGB and other.

LGBTQ+ Youth Scotland conducts a survey every five years of 'Life in Scotland' for LGBTQ+ young people aged 13-25. The latest report in 2017 found:

46% of LGBTQ+ young people rated their school experience as 'bad'.

71% of LGBTQ+ young people experienced bullying in school on the grounds of their sexuality. This has increased from 60% in 2007 and 69% in 2012.

9% of LGBTQ+ young people left education as a result of homo/bi/transphobia.

Stonewall Scotland – Your Services, Your Say Report (2014) found:

31% of LGBTQ+ people reported housing staff made incorrect assumptions about their sexual orientation or gender identity.

40% of LGBTQ+ people felt that housing services do not provide enough information that is relevant to LGBT issues.

27% of LGBTQ+ felt that that would expect to face discrimination from a housing officer.

32% of LGBTQ+ people feel uncomfortable with disclosing their sexual orientation or gender identity to housing services



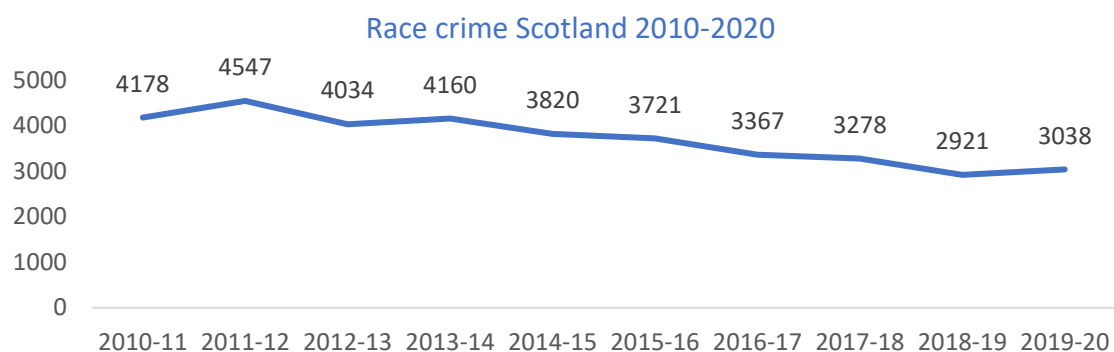
## Hate Crime

Police Scotland provide numbers of hate crime at a national level only.

There are 5 categories of Hate crime:

- Race
- Religious
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender

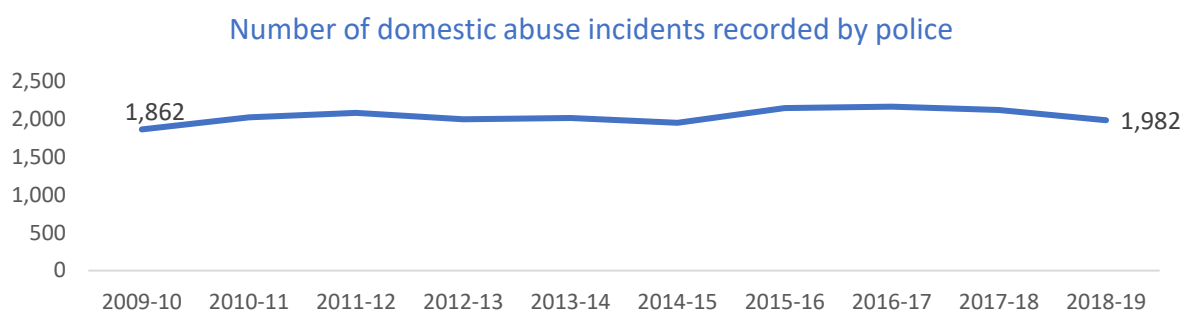
Disability, sexual orientation, and transgender identity crimes have rising trends. Religious and race crimes had been decreasing but increased in 2020. Race crime is thought to have increased due to Covid-19.



**Figure 6: Hate Crime in Scotland 2019-20, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, June 2020**

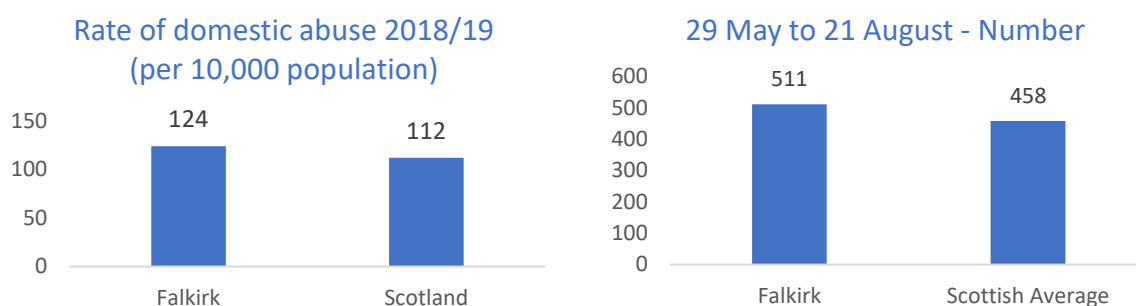
## Domestic Abuse

The number of domestic abuse incidents reported to police has stayed about the same level over the last decade.



**Figure 7: Domestic Abuse Incidents, Police Scotland 2020**

Falkirk has a higher rate of recorded domestic abuse when compared to Scotland.



**Figure 8: Domestic Abuse rates, Police Scotland 2020**

From 29<sup>th</sup> May to 21 August 2020, Police Scotland recorded 511 domestic abuse incidents in Falkirk. This compares to a national average of 458 during the same time.

At the beginning of lockdown it was anticipated there would be an increase in crimes of domestic abuse due to several factors including victims having to spend more time with their abusers during periods of lockdown, abuse intensifying due to families experiencing increased financial hardship, lack of interaction with friends and family etc. However, despite an increase in May, figures for Falkirk have remained below those experienced in the same months last year and both the numbers of repeat victims and 'new' victims have been lower than have been seen in previous years.

**Table 1: Domestic Abuse reported 2019/2020, Police Scotland 2020**

Created Year	2019	2020	Change (%)
Domestic Incident	1891	1805	-4.5%
Reported Victims	725	706	-2.6%
Victims having not reported previously	448 (61.7%)	414 (59%)	-7.5%

The number of victims who reported domestic abuse within 2019 and 2020 was 113, compared to 124 who reported in both 2018 and 2019, showing a slight decrease in 2020.

Table 2: Domestic Abuse repeat victims, 2016- 2020, Police Scotland 2020

Domestic Abuse Reported Crime				
Year	2016 into 2017	2017 into 2018	2018 into 2019	2019 into 2020
Number of victims who reported domestic abuse within the 2 years	121	126	124	113

Although data shows a slight reduction on reported domestic incidents, the situation regarding domestic abuse is complicated, particularly during the times we have experienced within the past year. Victims may find it more difficult to report incidents of abuse during periods of lockdown to police due to being confined at home with their partner and fear of repercussions. It may be that as lockdown is gradually eased and people are permitted to leave their homes, they may have more opportunity to disclose what is happening and seek help; numbers in reporting may increase.

#### Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children

Safe at Home in Scotland Thematic Briefing 5/6, October 2020, highlights that Covid-19 has had an impact on children and young people in Scotland living with/ recovering from domestic abuse.

##### Isolation and wellbeing:

- Children miss face to face support and counselling services
- Lack of safe meeting spaces / opportunities to meet children on their own
- No respite from tense home environments
- Digital exclusion falling behind in education and social life
- Lack of support for schoolwork due to family crises
- No support from extended families
- Compounded isolation for some children in Minority Ethnic families
- Different schools policies on allowing meetings and one to one support
- Difficult to access local mental health support
- Uncertainty and disruption of routines and activities

##### Unsafe child contact arrangements

- Confusion over what contact is allowed
- Social Work less available to guide and oversee contact
- Supervised contact completely stopped
- Delays to court proceedings
- Lack of safe space for contact
- Perpetrator behaviour
- Increased pressure for contact
- Pressure for long 'Zoom' sessions
- Claiming symptoms/shielding to keep children or change arrangements

Workers highlighted children and young people need:

- Safe spaces: schools open later for activities, public spaces to meet, e.g. library, safe digital spaces, premises for safe supervised child contact
- Funding; workers, easy access services, CEDAR project, hire safe spaces, legal support, to buy technology
- Child-centred guidelines;
- No school closures
- Schools allow visits for domestic abuse support
- Minimal disruption to extended family contact

Research shows that children who live in domestic abuse households have poorer outcomes than their peers. Domestic abuse is higher in Falkirk and needs to be considered by the CPP and in the Integrated Children's Services Plan to improve outcomes for this group of children and young people.

### Adult Protection

From 1 May to 21<sup>st</sup> August, 181 adults at risk/adult protection referrals were received, in 2019 for the same period, there were 186.

From 1 May to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020, 760 adult concerns from Police Scotland were received, compared to 650 in 2019 (an increase of 16.9%).

## Impact of Covid-19 and Brexit on Inequality

### Covid-19

The Scottish Government's 'The impacts of Covid-19 on equality in Scotland' 2020 report highlights that the direct and indirect effects of contracting the illness, as well as the lockdown measures put in place to control spread of the virus, are significant and unequal.

Covid-19 has increased existing inequalities.

Some groups are disproportionately infected with the virus and will experience poorer health outcomes. Some groups have experienced higher death rates.

Widening economic inequalities are visible as some groups have been more affected by unemployment and reduced income.

Future life chances will be impacted including in employment, future career prospects, educational opportunities, social outcomes and health and wellbeing.

Without significant intervention from Government and Local Authorities, inequalities may widen further.

### Brexit

The UK will leave the EU on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. For groups already experiencing inequalities, the impacts of Covid-19 and Brexit are likely to compound these.

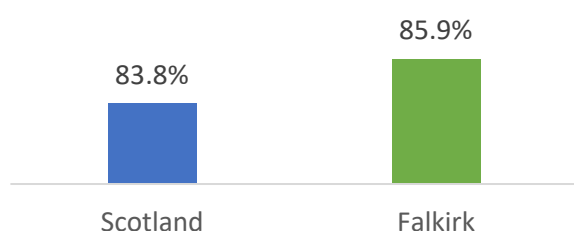
Groups most affected	Potential Issues
Socio-economically disadvantaged	Mental health and wellbeing
Children and young people	Death from Covid-19
Older people	Access to services, equipment and medicine
Disabled people	Child poverty
People of minority ethnicities	Poor attainment
Women	Homelessness and housing cost arrears
Lone parents	Financial hardship
Men	More debt
	Unemployment and job losses
	Sector shutdown
	Economic crisis

Figure 9: Groups most likely to be disadvantaged by the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit, Anticipated Impact of Covid-19 and Brexit – Groups and Issues, Scottish Government October 2020

## 5. Children and Young People

### Health

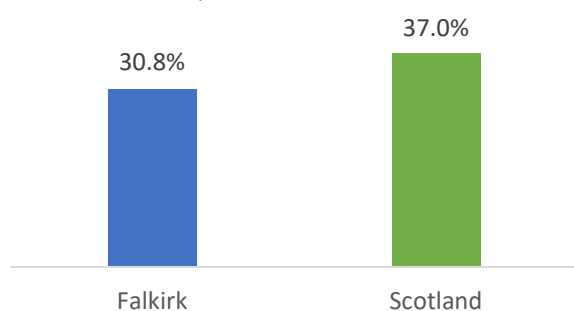
#### Healthy Birth Weight 2018/19



Falkirk has a slightly higher percentage of babies born with a healthy birth weight compared to Scotland.

Figure 10: Healthy Birth Weight, Public Health Scotland, 2019

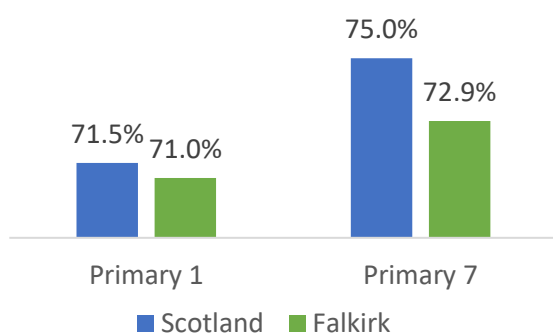
#### Babies exclusively breastfed March 2020



Slightly over 30% of babies in Falkirk were exclusively breastfed compared to Scotland, where 37% were exclusively breastfed.

Figure 11: Babies exclusively breastfed, Public Health Scotland, 2019

#### Child Dental Health – P1 and P7 2018/19



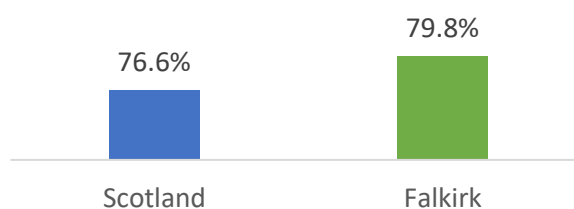
Good dental health amongst primary 1 children is similar in Falkirk (71%) and Scotland (71.5%).

However, by primary 7, the percentage of children with good dental health has increased slightly to 72.9%, but this is lower than the dental health of primary 7s in Scotland with 75%.

With dentists being closed, dental health will need to be closely monitored.

Figure 12: Child Dental Health, Public Health Scotland 2019

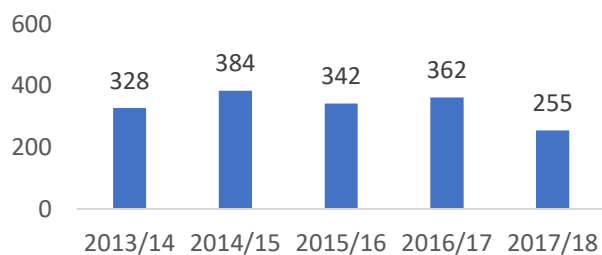
#### Child Healthy Weight 2018/19



Falkirk has a higher rate of primary 1 children with a healthy weight with 79.8%, compared to 76.9% in Scotland

Figure 13: Child healthy weight, Public Health Scotland 2019

## Number of children with concerns at 27–30-month Assessment



The 27–30-month assessment data is one of the first indications we have about children’s needs. This accounts for 72% of children of this age.

Figure 14: Number of children with concerns at assessment, Public Health Scotland, 2019

## Mental Health

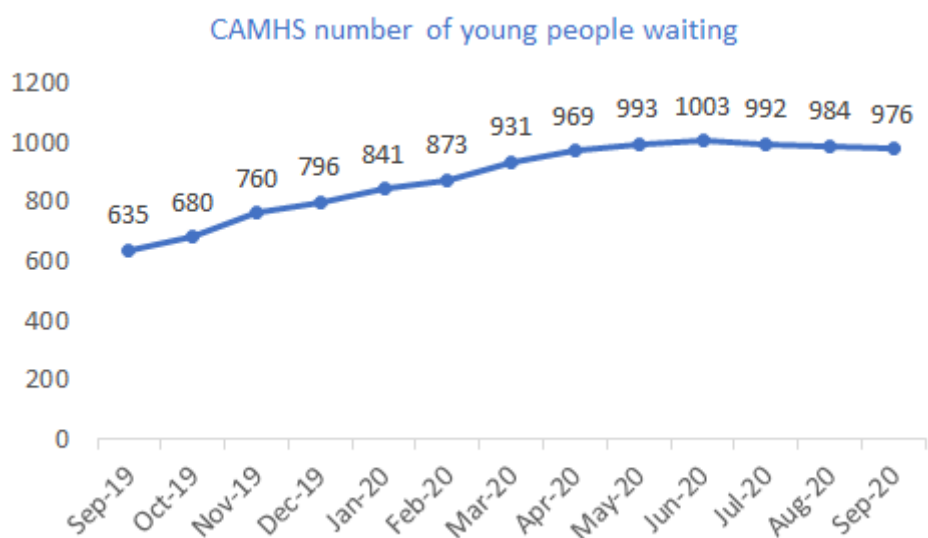
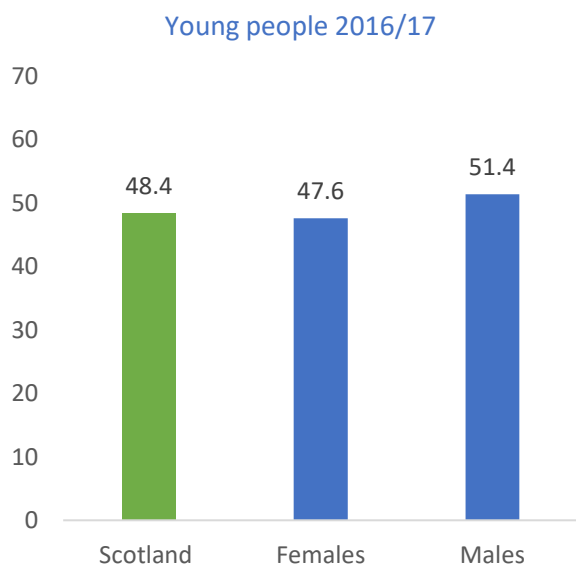


Figure 15: Public Health Scotland, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, 2019

CAMHS referrals continued to increase during the first lockdown. Local CAMHS audit data indicates that the largest number of referrals to CAMHS are in the 6-12 age group, followed by 13-16 years. Anxiety, low mood, behaviour and bullying/ social issues are frequent reasons for referrals to CAMHS.

## Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS)



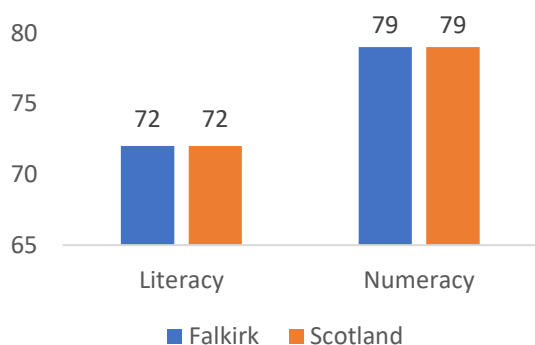
In 2016/17 Falkirk Re-aligning Children's Services survey found a considerable gap between S4 pupils and male and female wellbeing scores. Males had a higher wellbeing score of 51.4, about the Scottish average of 48.4 for teenagers, while females in Falkirk had a score of 47.6, lower than Falkirk males and Scotland.

Falkirk's Re-aligning Children's Services Data from 2016/17 found that children who felt they could not talk to family had the most concerning WEMWBS score, 40.6. Wellbeing was also lower by: deprivation, make up of family, ASN, receiving a service, receiving free school meals.

Figure 16: Young people's Wellbeing scores 2016/17, Falkirk Realigning Children's Services Data, 2017

## Primary Education – Attainment

P1, P4, P7 achieving expected CFE level 2018/19



Attainment gap (P1, 4, 7 combined) between most and least deprived pupils

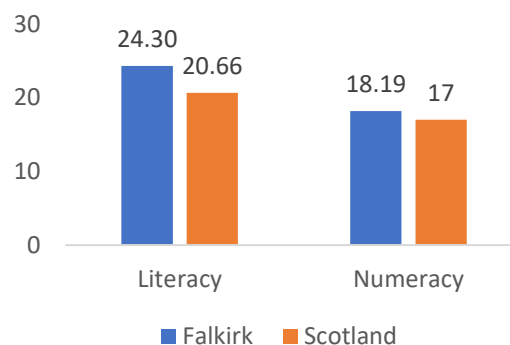


Figure 17: Primary School Pupils Attainment in literacy and numeracy, Falkirk School Pupil Census, 2019

Falkirk has the same percentage of primary children achieving levels of literacy and numeracy. However, in Falkirk, there is a bigger gap in achievement between those living in the most and least deprived areas for both literacy and numeracy.

## Secondary Education - Attainment

The average tariff score for pupils in Falkirk has increased from 709 in 2011-12 to 951 in 2018-19. The average tariff score for pupils in Scotland is 892. However, there is a significant gap in attainment between the most deprived (703) and least deprived (1,172).



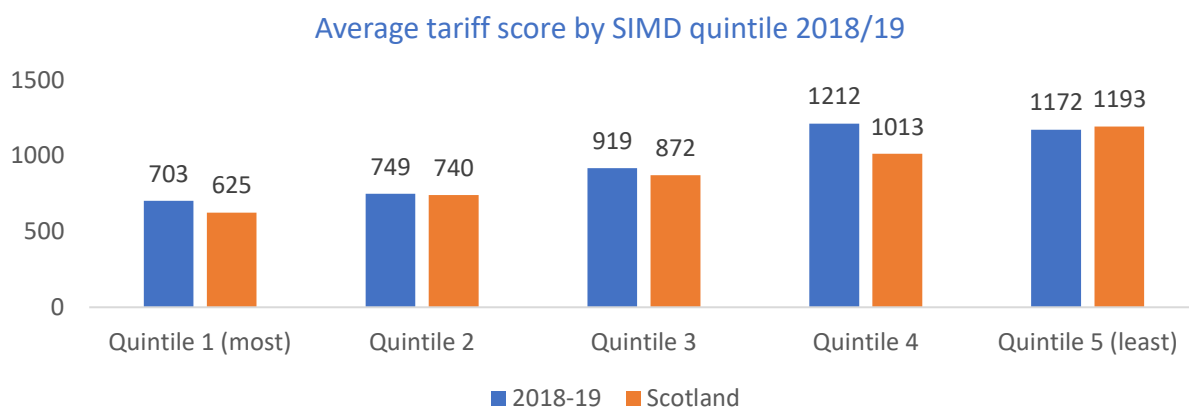


Figure 18: Average tariff score by SIMD quintile 2018/19, Falkirk School Pupil Census, 2019

### Employment and Training Unit

Lockdown Lowdown data tells us that Falkirk young people are worried about their future. Numbers reported for 2020 do not include starts within the Jan-March 2021 period and it is anticipated these will rise in line with Christmas school leavers. Young people are anticipated to be provided with key working support for longer period to support complex needs and because of the impact of the pandemic on the local labour market.

Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit continue to work with schools, SDS and the wider Employability Partnership to support young people through the current digital offer and the implementation of the Scottish Government Young Persons Guarantee locally. The commitment to support all young people to secure education, training, employment, or work placements within the next two years needs to be considered further and within a whole systems approach to ensure young people can access appropriate support and opportunities for their future.

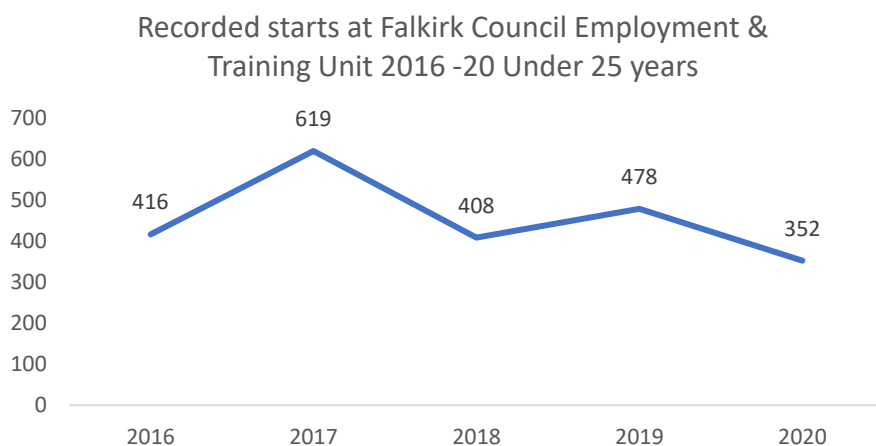


Figure 19: Recorded starts at Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit 2016 -20 Under 25 years, Falkirk Council, 2020

### Forth Valley College – Falkirk Enrolment

The following tables show information about enrolment in Forth Valley College from Falkirk schools, or from the Falkirk area.

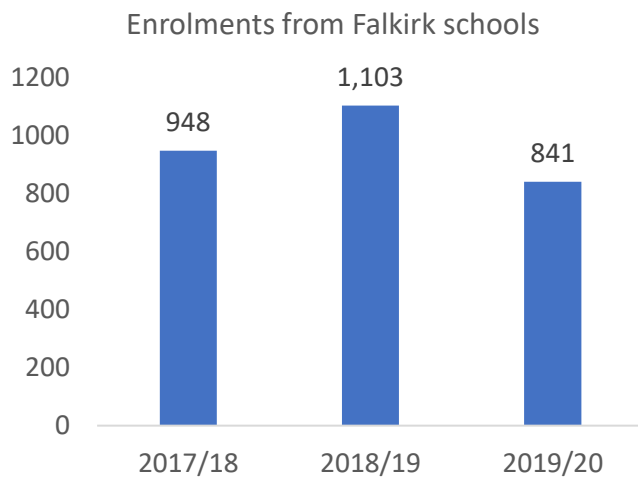


Figure 20: Enrolment by pupils who also attend a Falkirk school, Forth Valley College 2021

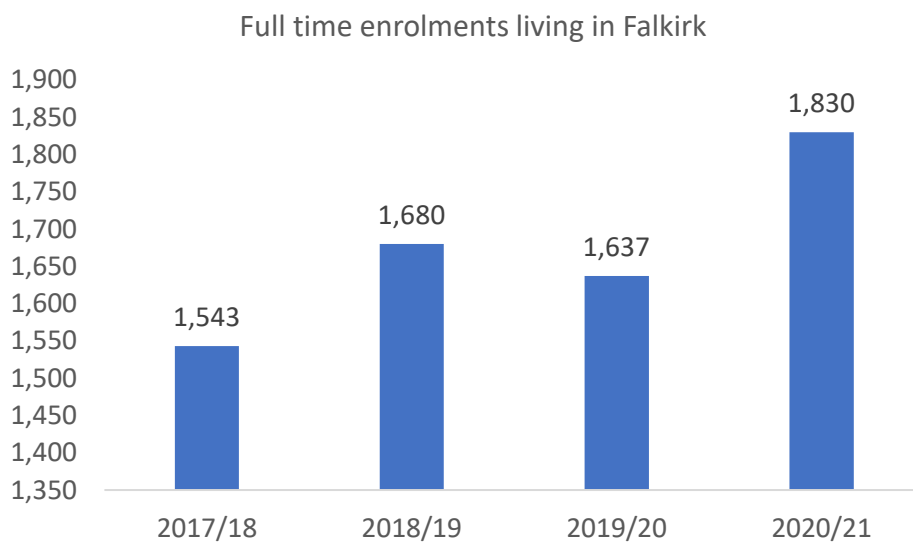


Figure 21: Number of students studying on a full time basis who live in Falkirk, Forth Valley College 2021

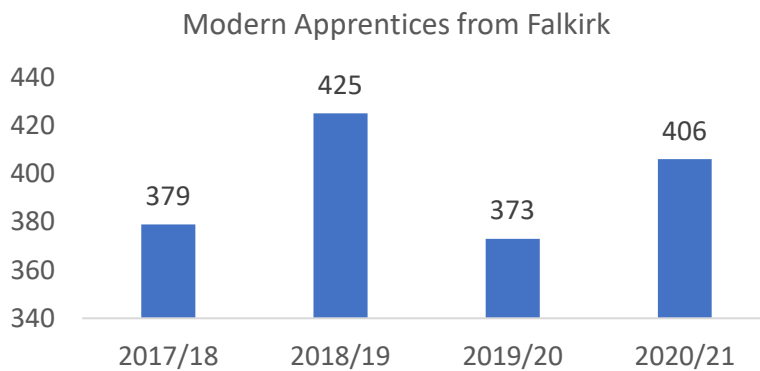
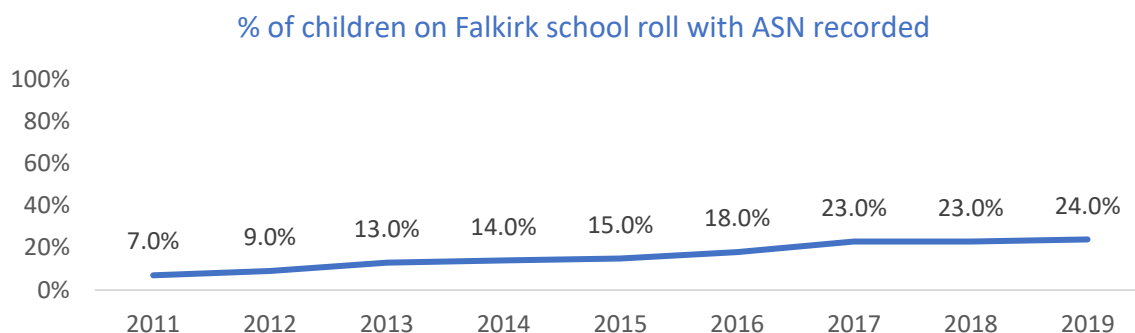


Figure 22: Number of Modern Apprentices studying at Forth Valley College who live in Falkirk, Forth Valley College 2021

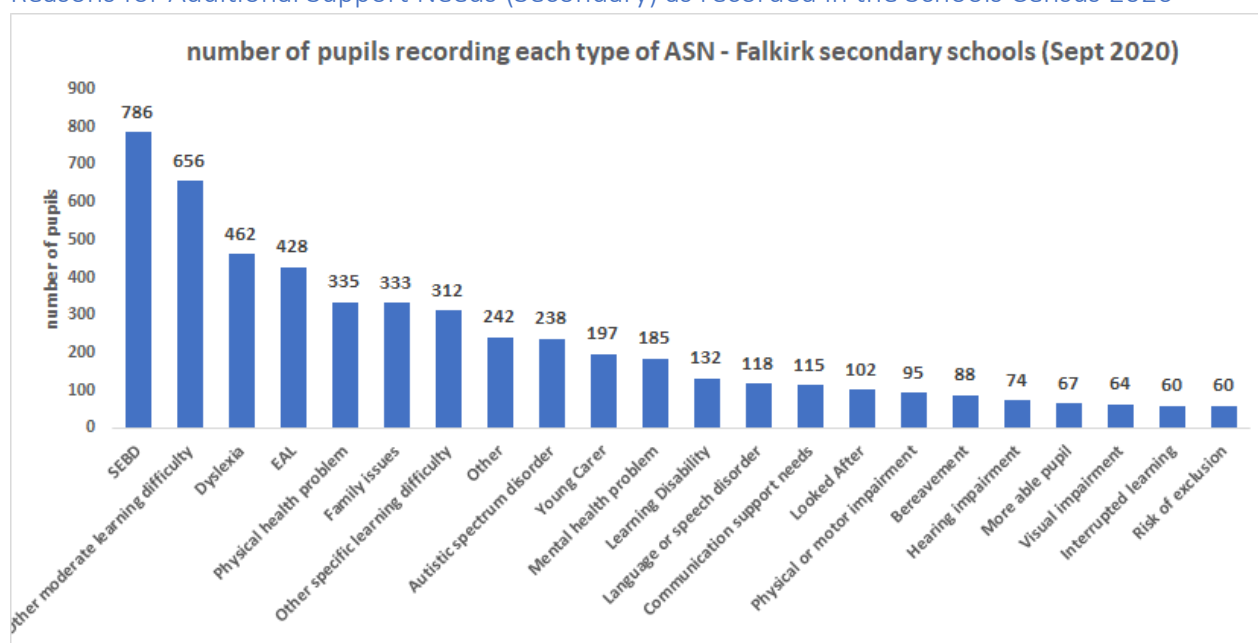
## Additional Support Needs (ASN)

The number of children and young people with additional support needs is increasing across primary and secondary mainstream schools. We have a duty to ensure all these children are receiving the support they require from the partnership and individual services.



**Figure 23: Children with recorded additional support need, Falkirk School Pupil Census, 2019**

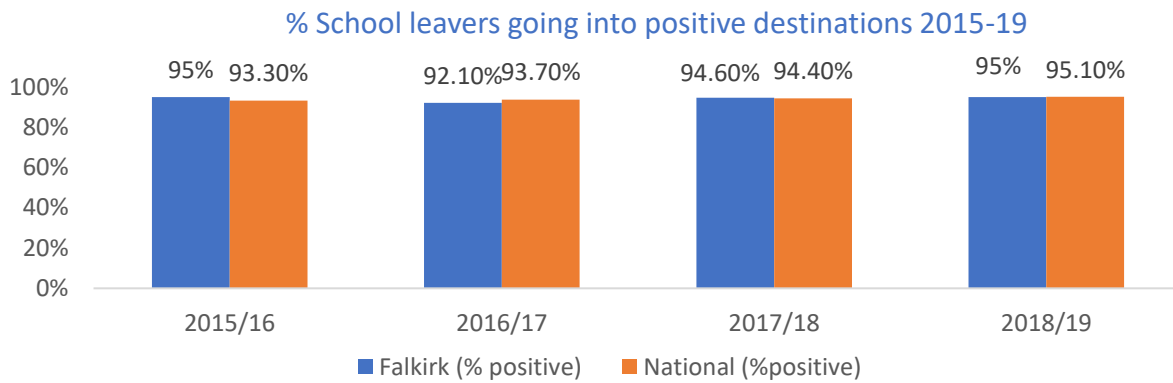
Reasons for Additional Support Needs (Secondary) as recorded in the Schools Census 2020



**Figure 24: Number of pupils reporting different additional support needs, Falkirk School Pupil Census, 2020**

## School Leaver Destinations

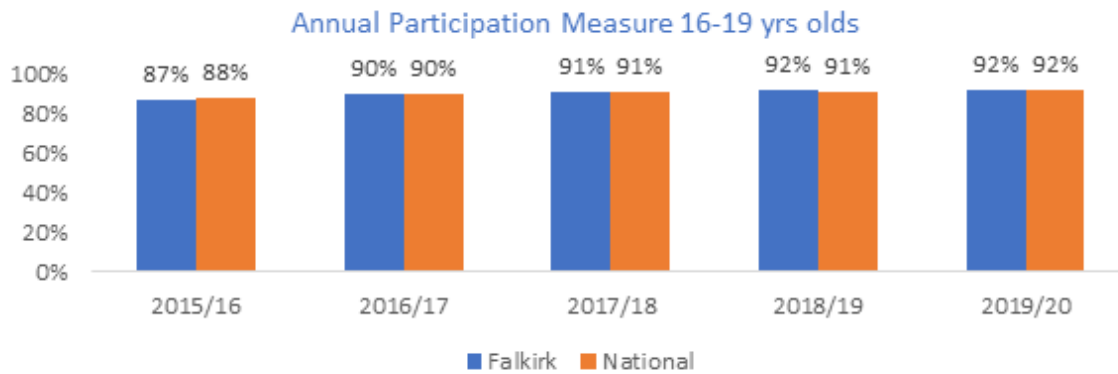
School Leaver data is a one-day snapshot recorded by schools and reported by Skills Development Scotland. Falkirk is increasing the number of children in a positive destination once leaving school.



**Figure 25: School leavers going into positive destinations 2015-19, Skills Development Scotland 2019**

### Annual Participation Measure

The annual participation measure is the number of 16-19 year old’s who have been participating in employment, training, or further education over the course of a year. In 2020 the percentage in Falkirk had dropped pre-Covid by 0.4%



**Figure 26: Annual Participation Measure of 16-19 year olds, Skills Development Scotland, 2019**

### Child Protection

Falkirk’s Child Protection register numbers had started to increase significantly before the health pandemic and has continued to rise. As of 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020 there were 122 children on the register in Falkirk. Some children may be registered under more than one reason.

#### Reason for Registration

**Table 3: Recorded reason for Child Protection Register, Falkirk Council Looked After Children Data 2020**

Reason for registration	% (rounded)
Emotional abuse	80%
Domestic abuse	59%
Physical abuse	51%
Parental mental health problems	48%
Parental drug misuse	42%
Non-engaging family	40%
Neglect	40%
Other concerns	33%

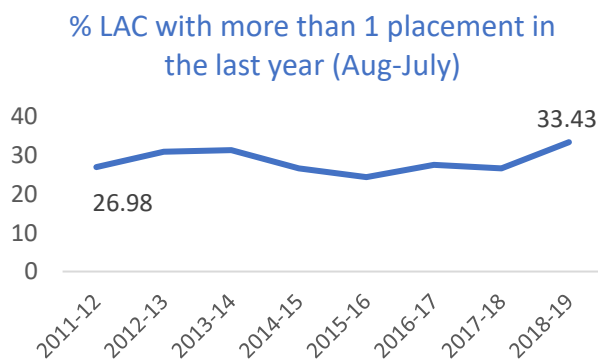
Parental alcohol misuse	30%
Sexual abuse	8%
Children placing themselves at risk	4%
Child sexual exploitation	0%
Forced or dangerous labour	0%
Trafficking * we do have YP but don't have CP Plan.	0%

At December 2020, Falkirk's rate of child protection registration was 43.4 per 10,000 population, compared to Scotland's rate of 24.2 per 10,000.

Our evaluation shows services are identifying abuse and neglect and the children who have a child protection plan primarily live at home and are in need of community-based supports. A higher number puts more demands on multi-agency practitioners and processes. More children on the child protection register under the category of neglect, live in SIMD 1 areas. 'The Independent Care Review' and 'The Promise' tell us that children growing up in poverty are over-represented on the child protection register and are more likely to be removed from their families.

The number of children subject to pre-birth child protection plans in May to July 2020 was higher than at any point in the past 3 years. The new Forth Valley Pre-Birth Planning Pathway will strengthen services working early in pregnancy and working jointly to identify risks.

### Looked After Children

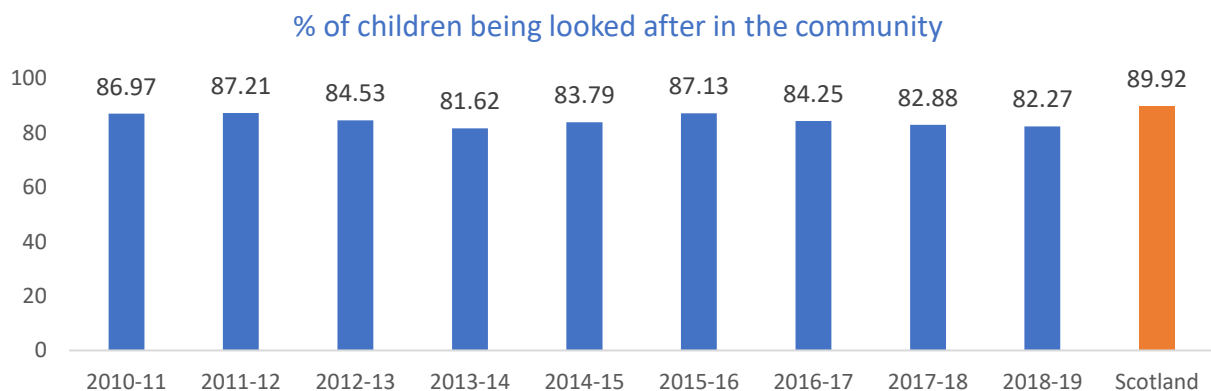


The percentage of children with more than one placement in the last year has increased from 2011-12 to 2018-19.

Often this is due to a movement from temporary or emergency care into more permanent care.

Falkirk has a slightly lower percentage of children being looked after in the community (in foster or kinship placements) than the rest of Scotland.

**Figure 27: Looked After Children with more than one placement in the last year, Falkirk Council Looked After Children Data 2020**



**Figure 28: Children being looked after in the community, Falkirk Council Looked After Children Data 2020**

## 6. Poverty

### Relative and Absolute Poverty

Relative Poverty is when a household has an income below 60% of median incomes in that year.

Absolute Poverty is when a household has an income below 60% of median incomes in a base year (2011).

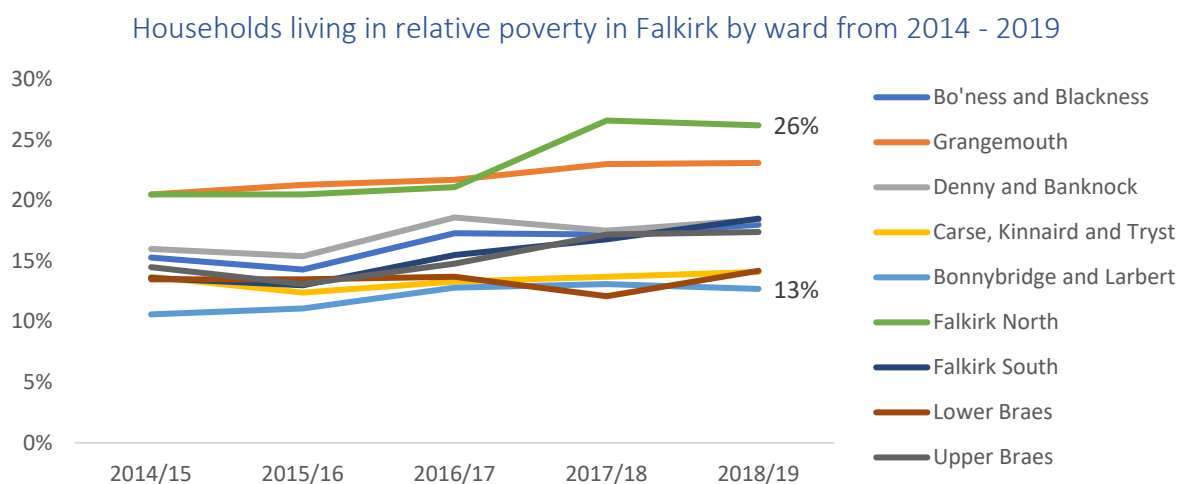


Figure 29: Households living in relative poverty in Falkirk by ward from 2014 – 2019, [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Falkirk North and Grangemouth have the highest levels of relative poverty from 2014-2019

Falkirk North had a large increase between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

All wards have rising numbers of relative poverty, except for Bonnybridge and Larbert which had a slight decline in 2018-19.

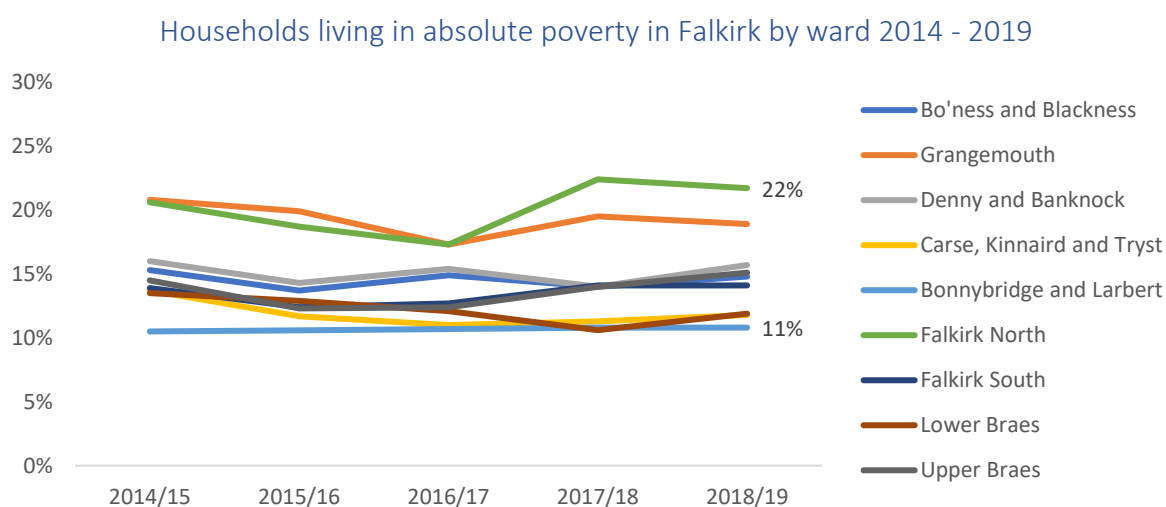


Figure 30: Households living in absolute poverty in Falkirk by ward 2014 – 2019, [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Falkirk North and Grangemouth have the highest levels of absolute poverty from 2014-2019.

Falkirk North had a large increase between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Wards with increased absolute poverty levels since 2018: Denny & Banknock, Bo'ness and Blackness, Carse, Kinnaird & Tryst, Lower Braes, Upper Braes.

Wards where absolute poverty remained the same: Bonnybridge and Larbert, Falkirk North, Falkirk South.

Grangemouth is the only ward to have a slight decrease in absolute poverty.

### Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 (SIMD)

The SIMD is a tool to identify the areas of multiple deprivation in Scotland, consisting of income, employment, health, education, access to services, crime, and housing. Areas that fall in the 20% most deprived areas should be areas in which resources are targeted.

15% (24,575) Falkirk residents live in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland.

Table 4: Most deprived areas of Falkirk, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2020

	Datazone	Area	Rank in Scotland
0-5%	S01009126	Falkirk - Bainsford and Langlees	41
	S01009128	Falkirk - Bainsford and Langlees	179
	S01009159	Falkirk - Camelon East	191
	S01009053	Dunipace	290
	S01009240	Grangemouth - Bowhouse	327
6-10%	S01009203	Maddiston and Rumford	350
	S01009228	Grangemouth - Town Centre	357
	S01009127	Falkirk - Bainsford and Langlees	396
	S01009150	Falkirk - Town Centre and Callendar Park	407
	S01009143	Falkirk - Middlefield	452
	S01009232	Grangemouth - Kersiebank	454
	S01009234	Grangemouth - Kersiebank	557
	S01009129	Falkirk - Bainsford and Langlees	633
S01009241	Grangemouth - Bowhouse	693	

11-15%	S01009178	Hallglen and Glen Village	703
	S01009133	Falkirk - Merchiston and New Carron Village	761
	S01009141	Falkirk - Grahamston	780
	S01009161	Falkirk - Camelon East	788
	S01009166	Falkirk - Camelon West	808
	S01009102	Stenhousemuir West	836
	S01009217	Laurieston and Westquarter	875
	S01009057	Fankerton, Stoneywood and Denny Town	906
	S01009142	Falkirk - Grahamston	920
	S01009065	Denny - Nethermains	1030
16-20%	S01009162	Falkirk - Camelon East	1058
	S01009184	Braes Villages	1098
	S01009169	Falkirk - Tamfourhill	1128
	S01009147	Falkirk - Middlefield	1129
	S01009177	Hallglen and Glen Village	1162
	S01009167	Falkirk - Camelon West	1188
	S01009079	Bonnybridge	1242
	S01009160	Falkirk - Camelon East	1280
	S01009254	Bo'ness - Kinneil	1322
	S01009139	Falkirk - Grahamston	1324
S01009180	Hallglen and Glen Village	1351	

## Income

### Household Income

The Scottish Household Survey 2018 found that 10% Falkirk households have an annual income of £10,000 or less and 29% have an income of between £10,001 and £20,000.

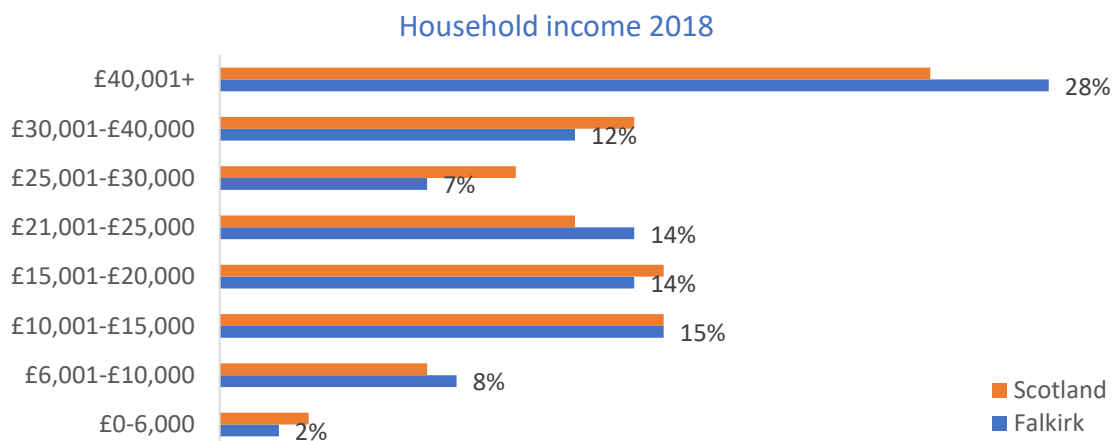


Figure 31: Total household income 2018, Scottish Household Survey, 2018



### Universal Credit Claimants

Universal Credit is available to people who are on a low income, out of work or unable to work. It replaces Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance and Working Tax Credit. The chart below shows that Grangemouth and Falkirk North have the highest rates of claimants in the Falkirk area, while Bonnybridge and Larbert, Lower Braes, and Upper Braes have the lowest claimant rates.

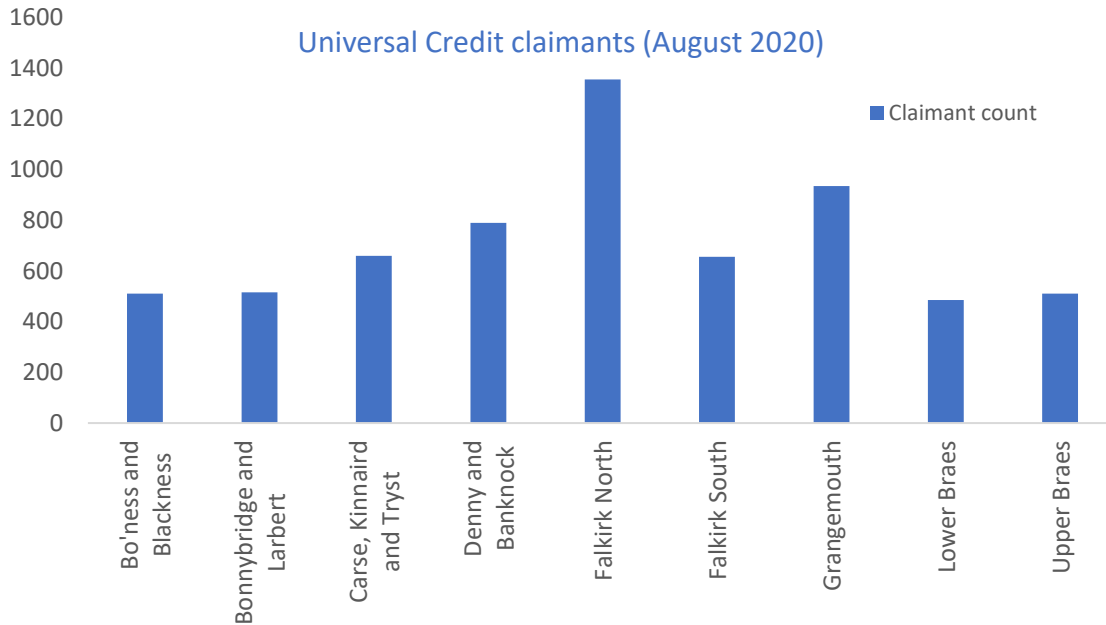


Figure 32: Universal Credit Claimants by ward in August 2020, NOMIS 2020

Uncertainty around Furlough continuing is predicted to increase pressure on businesses and could potentially result in further redundancies, increasing claims to universal credit.

### Fuel Poverty

23% of households in Falkirk are Fuel Poor compared to 25% in Scotland.

### Fuel Poverty by Tenure 2016-2018

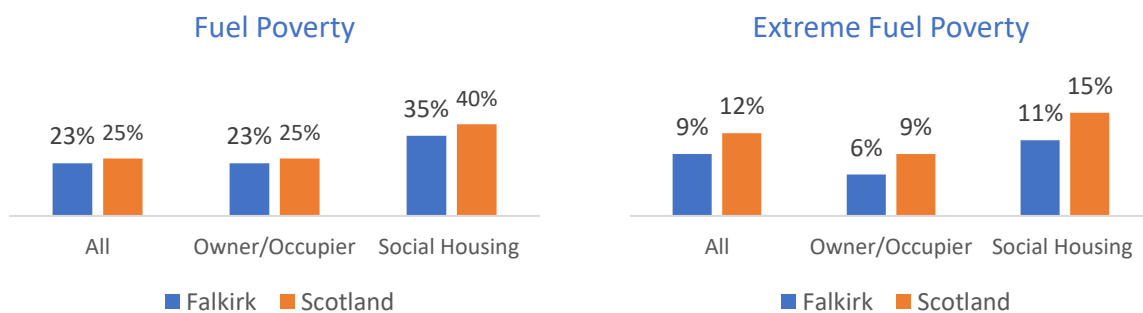


Figure 33: Fuel Poverty by tenure 2016-2018, Scottish House Condition Survey, 2019

Fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty is more prevalent in social housing than in owner/occupier properties. However, rates of fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty are lower in Falkirk than nationally.

## Fuel Poverty by Household Type 2016-2018

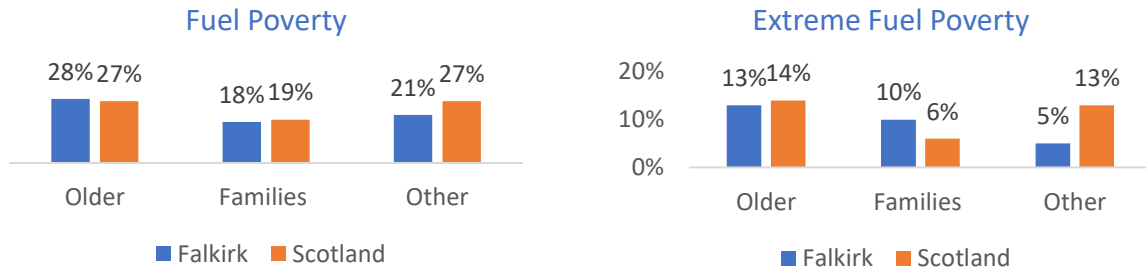


Figure 34: Fuel Poverty by household type 2016-2018, Scottish House Condition Survey, 2019

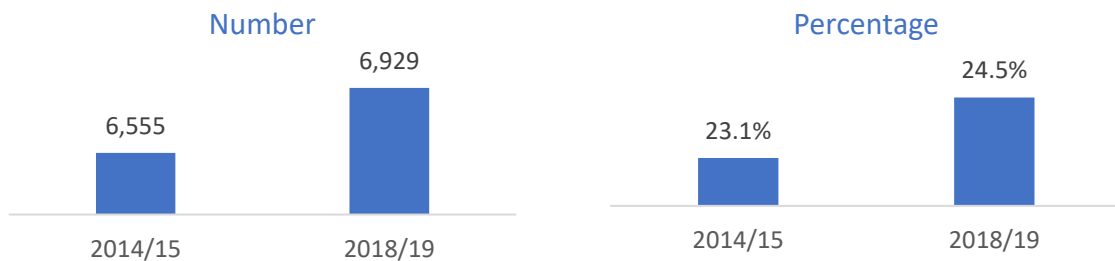
Older households are more likely to experience fuel poverty than families and 'other' household types. 28% of older households in Falkirk are in fuel poverty, slightly higher than the national rate of 27%, this is over a quarter of older households. Almost a fifth of families (18%) and 'other' (21%) live in fuel poverty in Falkirk.

## Child Poverty

End Child Poverty data after housing costs is used below as it is more accurate than looking at income alone. After housing costs is the income available to a household once rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, buildings insurance payments and ground rent and service charges are paid.

Almost 1 in 4 children in Falkirk live in poverty  
6,929 children in Falkirk live in poverty

## Children in Poverty in Falkirk



From 2014/15 to 2018/19 the percentage of children living in poverty in Falkirk increased from 23.1%, to 24.5% and above the Scottish rate of 24%. Within Falkirk, five wards have higher rates of child poverty than the Falkirk average and Scottish average.

Figure 35: Child Poverty in Falkirk, End Child Poverty, 2020

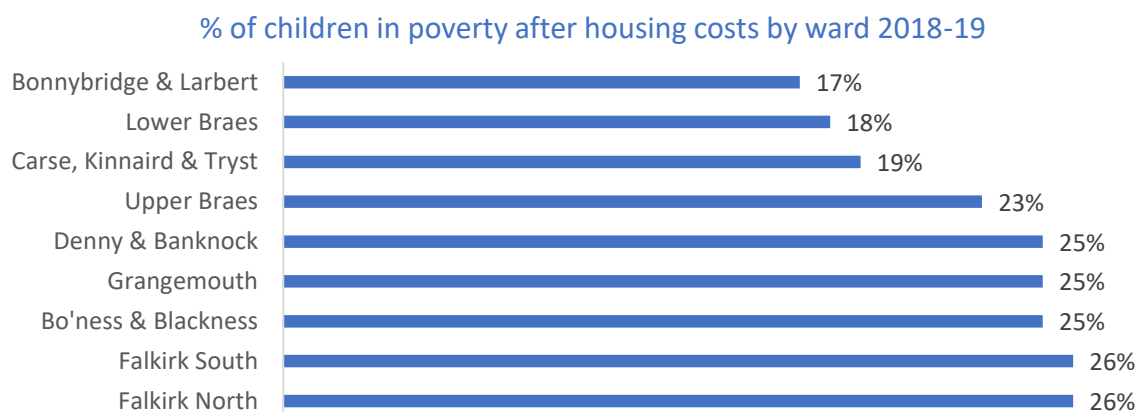


Figure 36: Children living in poverty after housing costs by Ward 2018-19, End Child Poverty 2020

### Priority Groups

The table below shows that ethnic minority households are most likely to experience relative and absolute poverty, while lone parents are most likely to experience low income and material deprivation.

Table 5: Children living in poverty after housing costs, Local Child Poverty Indicators Report, End Child Poverty 2020

Percentage of children living in poverty after housing costs (2016-2019)

Household	Relative poverty	Absolute poverty	Low income and material deprivation
Disabled person	30%	27%	20%
3+ children	31%	28%	18%
Baby aged under 1	32%	30%	13%
Minority ethnic	44%	41%	23%
Lone parent	39%	34%	27%
All children	24%	21%	12%

### Falkirk Community Advice Services Data 2019

Community advice services provide help with benefits, housing, money, and debt advice. Data captured from 2019 shows that attendance varies by ward and by priority group.

#### % Attendance to Advice and Support Hubs by priority group

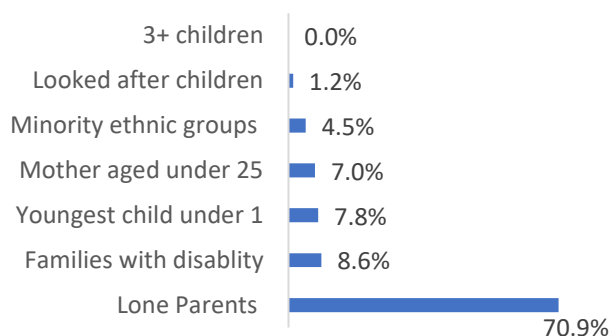


Figure 37: Attendance to Advice and Support Hubs by priority group, Falkirk Advice and Support Hubs, 2019

In 2019 lone parents accounted for 70.9% of people attending the service in Falkirk. Minority ethnic households are more likely to experience relative and absolute poverty, but only account for 4.5% of attendances. This groups had the highest housing costs, debts, transport costs and childcare costs for those presenting. The data shows that current services are not accessible or meeting the needs of all priority groups.

The table below shows the average costs and debts for lone parents presenting to the Community Advice Service.

**Table 6: Average lone parent costs and debts, Falkirk Advice and Support Hubs 2019**

<u>Average Client Debts</u>	
Debts	£9,466
Rent Arrears	£806
<u>Average Client Costs</u>	
Monthly Housing Costs	£142
Other costs of living	£410
Monthly Transport costs	<u>£66</u>
Total	£619
Monthly childcare costs	£156

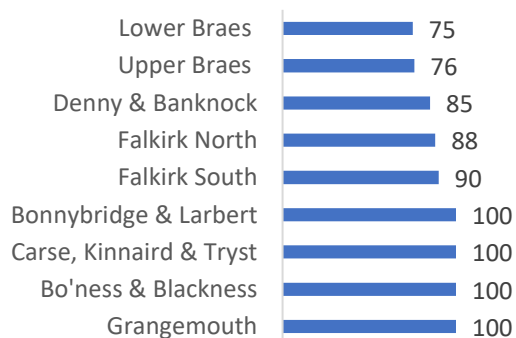
### Uptake of Additional Benefits

Families entitled to particular benefits are eligible for free nursery places, free school meals and school clothing grants. Young people living in families receiving these benefits are also entitled to Education Maintenance Allowance. Increasing income is a key driver to reduce poverty. We want all children and their families to have access to the benefits they are entitled to.

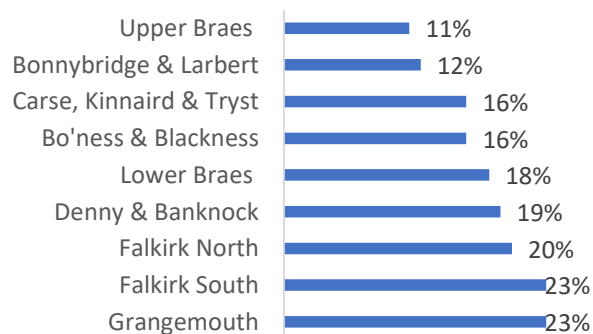
### Childcare for 2 Year Old's

Parents entitled to certain benefits can be entitled to free childcare for two years old's which continues until the child starts primary school.

#### Uptake of eligible 2's places (number)



#### % receiving free school meals



**Figure 38: Uptake of eligible 2's places and free school meals, Falkirk Council**

## Free School Meals

Free School Meals are available to all Primary 1-3 pupils and from p3 and above to those with parents on lower incomes or certain benefits, or 16-18 year old's receiving these benefits. There is considerable range amongst the different council wards, with 11% of pupils in Upper Braes receiving free school meals, compared to 23% in Falkirk South and Grangemouth. The new Low Incomes Family Tracker tool will allow us to know eligibility versus uptake for the first time and help us to target families who are entitled and not receiving.

## Clothing Grants

Clothing Grants provide £120 per child each year towards the cost of school clothing and footwear. Around a quarter of pupils in Lower Braes, Denny and Banknock, and Falkirk South and almost a third (31%) in Grangemouth receive Clothing Grants.

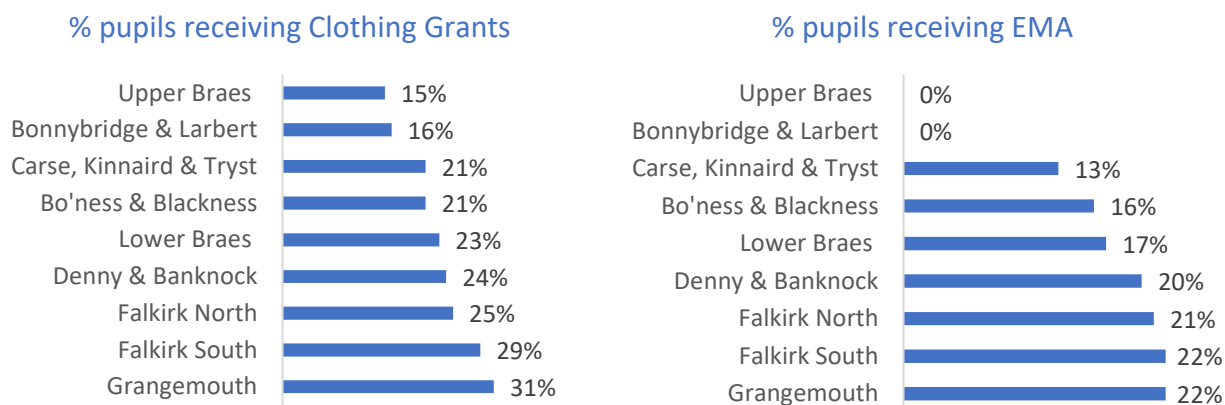


Figure 39: Pupils in receipt of clothing grants and education maintenance allowance, Falkirk Council

## Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

EMA is a weekly allowance of £30 for pupils aged 16-19 who want to continue learning and their parents are on low incomes. Denny and Banknock, Falkirk North, Falkirk South and Grangemouth have the highest rates of pupils receiving EMA. Upper Braes and Bonnybridge and Larbert have none. Further analysis of this data is required to ensure all young people are accessing the money they are entitled to.

## 7. Health and Wellbeing

### Smoking

Smoking prevalence in Falkirk

Although overall smoking within the adult population of Falkirk is less than the Scottish and Forth Valley averages there are substantial differences between SIMD areas in Falkirk which demonstrates substantial health inequalities.

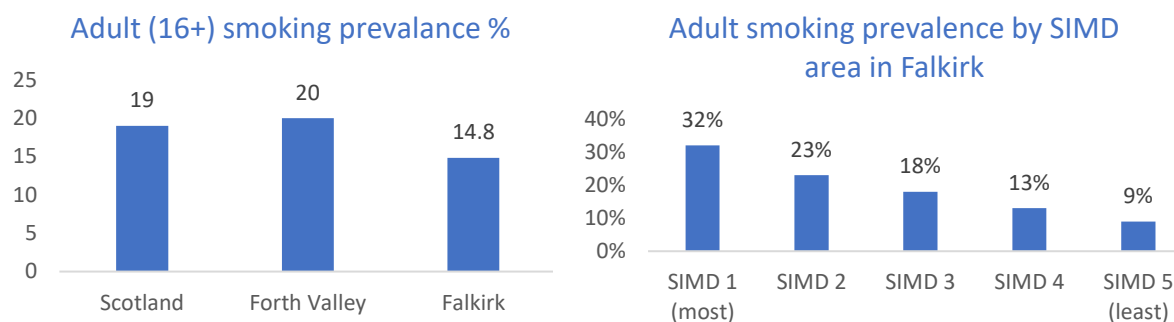
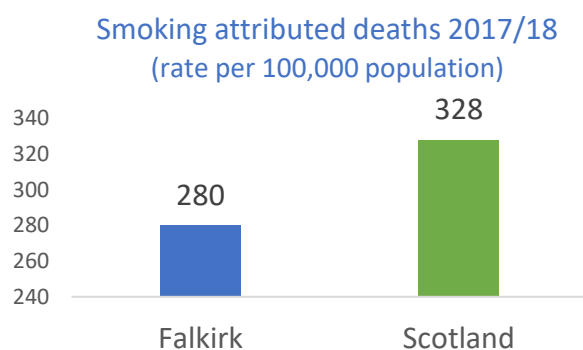


Figure 40: Adult smoking prevalence, and prevalence by SIMD area, ScotPho 2019

Deaths due to smoking



Falkirk has a lower percentage of the population who smoke, which is evident in the rate of smoking attributed deaths. Falkirk has a lower rate of deaths attributed to smoking than Scotland.

Figure 41: Smoking attributed deaths, ScotPho 2018

Smoking and Pregnancy

Falkirk rates of maternal smoking is higher than Scottish average for current smokers. There is also a significant range in rates of maternal smoking in the most deprived areas to the least deprived areas where 26.6% of women smoke while pregnant compared to 3.3%.

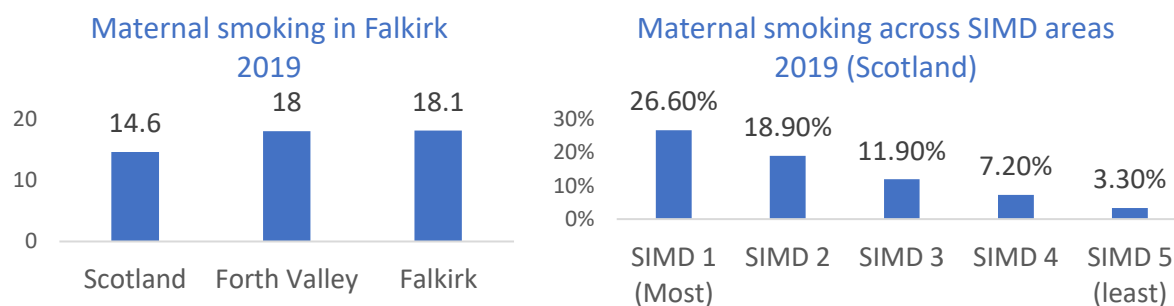
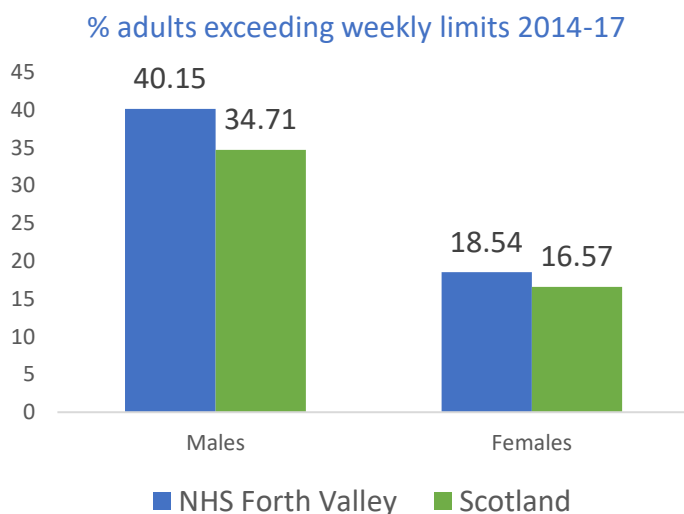


Figure 42: Maternal smoking in Falkirk, ScotPho 2019

## Substance Use - Alcohol

### Alcohol Consumption



The Scottish Government recommend no more than 14 units of alcohol per week for males and females.

Forth Valley has the highest weekly alcohol consumption for all health boards in Scotland at 14.9 units per week. Scottish data from the survey in 2019 tells us that those aged 35-74 are drinking between 16-19 units per week.

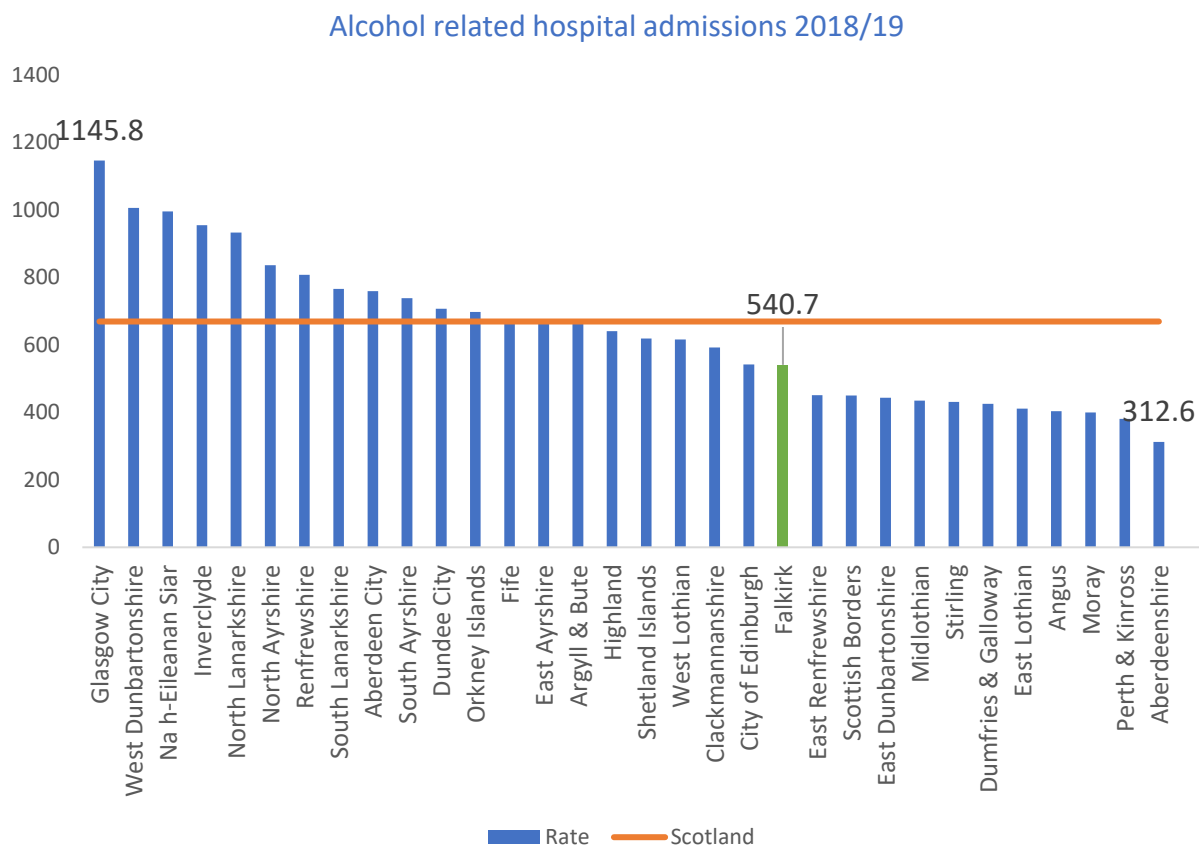
Figure 43: Adults exceeding recommended weekly alcohol consumption 2014-17, ScotPho 2018

### Alcohol Consumption During Pregnancy

Growing Up in Scotland (GUS) research undertaken in 2013 highlights that alcohol intake in pregnancy increases with income and social class, being of a white ethnicity, and living in a rural environment.

Alcohol Focus Scotland highlights that 3-5% of the population experience Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. The syndrome can lead to difficulties with behaviour and learning, as well as physical symptoms including organ damage and poor growth.

## Alcohol Related Hospital Admissions



**Figure 44: Alcohol related hospital admissions by Local Authority 2018/19, ScotPho 2019**

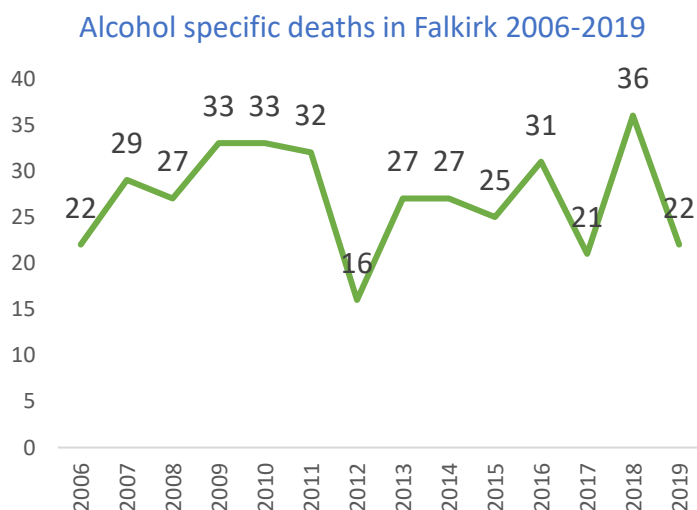
Alcohol related hospital admissions includes general acute inpatient and day case stays where there is a diagnosis of alcohol misuse. Despite having higher weekly alcohol consumption, Falkirk is below national average for alcohol related hospital admissions at 540.7 admissions per 100,000 population compared to 669.13 in Scotland.

## Alcohol Specific Deaths

The number of alcohol specific deaths in Falkirk has fluctuated in recent years.

The average age of an alcohol-related death in Scotland has risen over this time from 55.7 to 59.3.

**Figure 45: Alcohol specific deaths in Falkirk 2006-2019, ScotPho 2019**





### Alcohol specific deaths, rate per 100,000 population 2014-2018

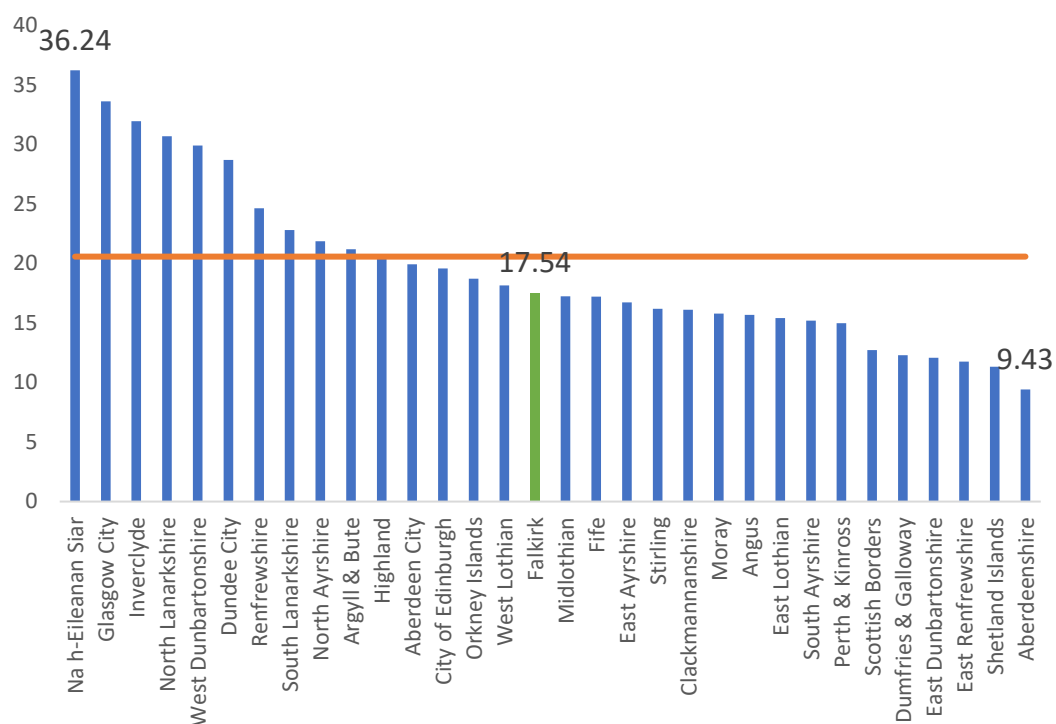


Figure 46: Alcohol specific deaths, rate per 100,000 population 2014-2018, ScotPho 2019

Falkirk has a rate of 17.54 alcohol specific deaths per 100,000 population, slightly below the Scottish rate of 20.59.

## Substance Use - Drugs

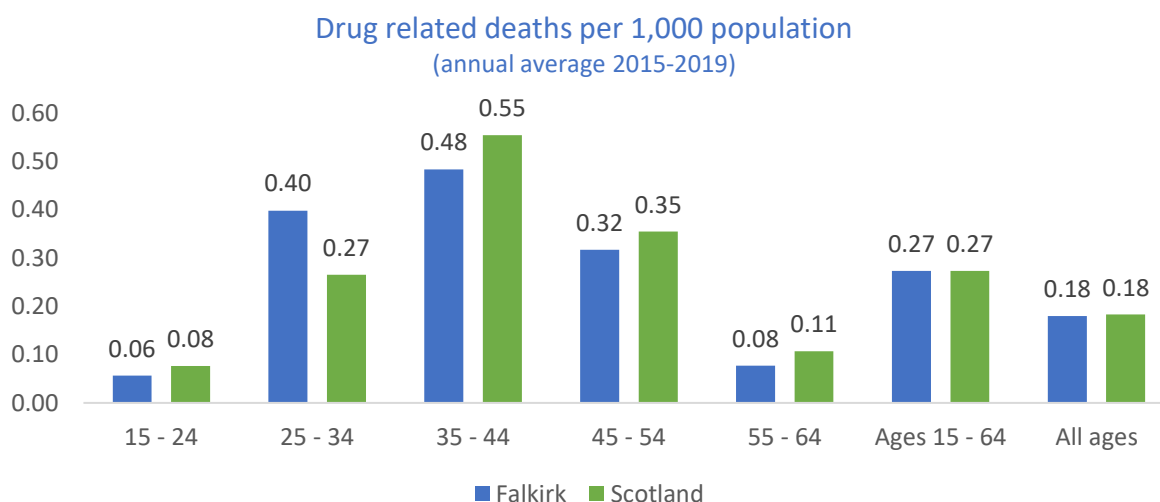
### Falkirk Drug Related Deaths

Drug related deaths are rising significantly from 5 in 2009 to 41 in 2019.



**Figure 47: Drug related deaths in Falkirk 2009-2019, ScotPho 2021**

Falkirk and Scotland have the same rate of drug related deaths for all ages (0.18). In Falkirk and Scotland, the age group with the highest rate is 35-44 year olds (0.48 and 0.55 per 1,000 population). In Falkirk, the rate of drug related deaths amongst 25-34 year olds is considerably higher than the rate in Scotland (0.40 per 1,000 population compared to 0.27).



**Figure 48: Drug related deaths per 1,000 population, ScotPho 2021**

For most cases of drug related deaths, more than one drug is reported per death. Falkirk data is below:

**Table 7: Drug related deaths in Falkirk by substance, ScotPho 2021**

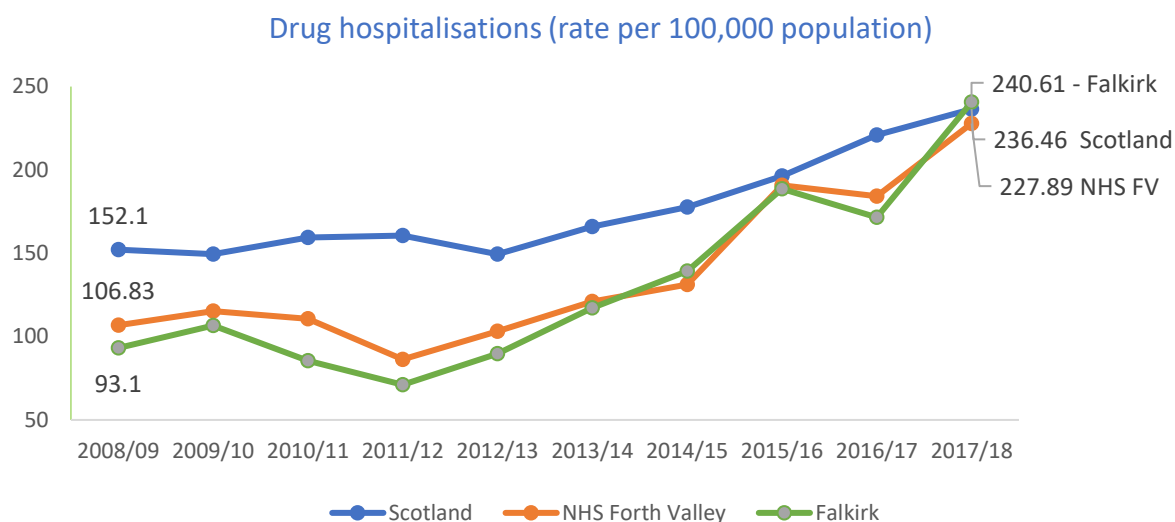
Drug	% deaths drug was reported 2018	% deaths drug was reported 2019
Opiate or Opioid	86%	90%
Heroin/ Morphine, Methadone or Buprenorphine	77%	85%
Benzo-diazepine	64%	85%

A considerable number of people who die due to drugs are parents. The partnership needs to improve bereavement support available to families when a parent dies as a result of substance use.

### Drug Related Hospital Stays

Drug related hospital stays records all general acute inpatient and day case stays with diagnosis of problem drug use in any position, this includes general acute and psychiatric stays.

Nationally there is a rising trend in the number of drug related hospital stays. In Falkirk, this rate is rising at a faster rate than the Scottish rate. Both Forth Valley and Falkirk were below the Scottish rate from 2008/09 to 2014/15. In 2017/18 Falkirk surpassed both the Forth Valley rate of 227.89 and Scotland 236.46 with a rate of 240.61 hospital admissions per 100,000 population.



**Figure 49: Drug hospitalisations, ScotPho 2019**

### Drug Users

Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership estimate there are 1,200 users aged 16-64 in Falkirk, based on the number of drug deaths.

Estimated 1,200 drug users in Falkirk

### Young People and Substance Use

Data from the 2017 Falkirk Realigning Children’s Services Survey told us that 18% of young people in S4 had ever taken drugs. While we cannot determine how many of these young people will become substance users, we do have an opportunity to educate young people. Nationally and locally, the curriculum is being reviewed to ensure our approach to prevention and education is evidence based and up to date.

### Referrals to Young People’s Substance Service

Barnardos provide the Axis service to support young people aged 11 to 25 years. There are a higher number of males than females referred, and the largest age group is 15-16 year olds (46%). Most referrals come from health and social work. 29% of those referred are care experienced. The main substances reported to be used are alcohol and cannabis. A smaller number reported that they regularly used cocaine, ecstasy/ MDMA and benzodiazepines.

In 2019-20, 138 young people were supported by the service.

#### Impact of Parental Substance Use

The impact on wellbeing outcomes for children and young people living with a drug using parent is well documented. We need to review the support available to families where substance use is impacting on parental capacity. The partnership also needs to consider the impact of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on children's development, and ensure services are available to support these children and young people.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

Despite mental health being a national and local priority, availability of non-hospital mental health data is poor. The partnership should highlight this at national forums to influence the breadth and quality of national data available, as well as agree local data to be captured related to identified improvement aims.

### Self-Reported Wellbeing Scores

The Scottish Household Survey includes the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) was developed to measure mental wellbeing amongst people to improve mental health. The WEMWBS scale runs from 14 (the lowest level of wellbeing) to 70 (the highest level of wellbeing) with teens and adults 16+.

In 2018, Scotland’s average adult score was 49.4. Females in Falkirk were slightly below this with 49.1 and Falkirk males slightly below this with a score of 48.9.

WEMWBS Falkirk mean score adults 2018

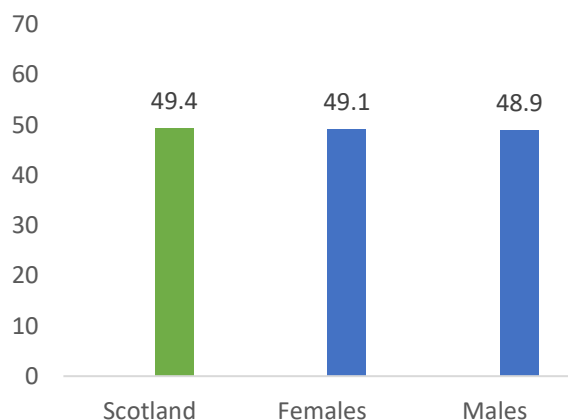


Figure 50: Warwick Edinburgh Mental Health and Wellbeing score, Scottish Household Survey 2019

### Referrals to Falkirk District Association for Mental Health (FDAMH)

FDAMH is one service supporting adults and young people with mental health and wellbeing needs and is often the first service people contact for support with most people self-referring or referred by their GP. FDAMH data gives us a snapshot of referrals and earlier intervention needs out with Tier 3/4 NHS Mental Health Services.

A sample of cases for young people aged between 14 and 21 in April 2020, found that 65% of referrals to FDAMH were female and 35% were male.

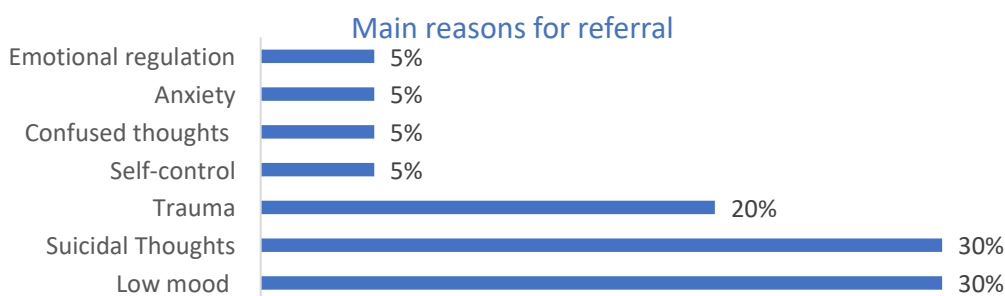


Figure 51: Referrals to FDAMH, 2020

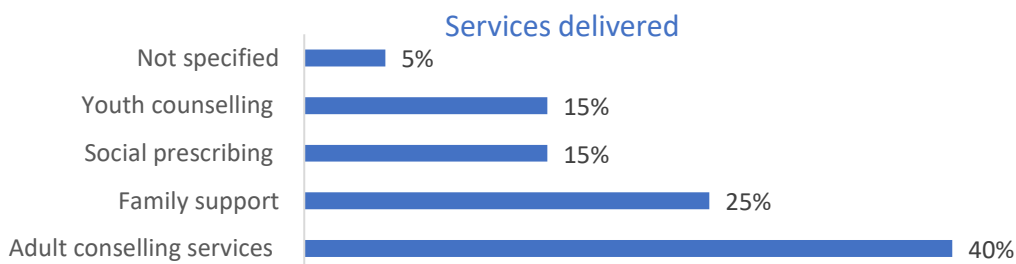


Figure 52: Services delivered by FDAMH, 2020

### Sources of referrals to FDAMH

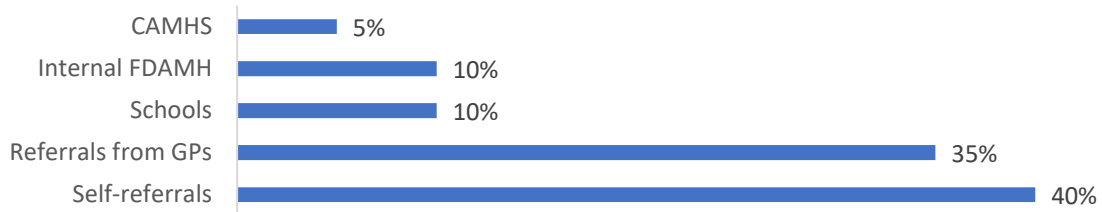


Figure 53: Referrals to FDAMH, 2020

### Prescriptions for Anxiety, Depression, Psychosis and Psychiatric Hospitalisations

Although drug prescription rates are not significantly different in Falkirk when compared to Scotland, the rate of psychiatric hospitalisation is significantly higher in Falkirk compared to Scotland.

### Suicide

#### Death by Suicide Numbers in Falkirk 2011-2019

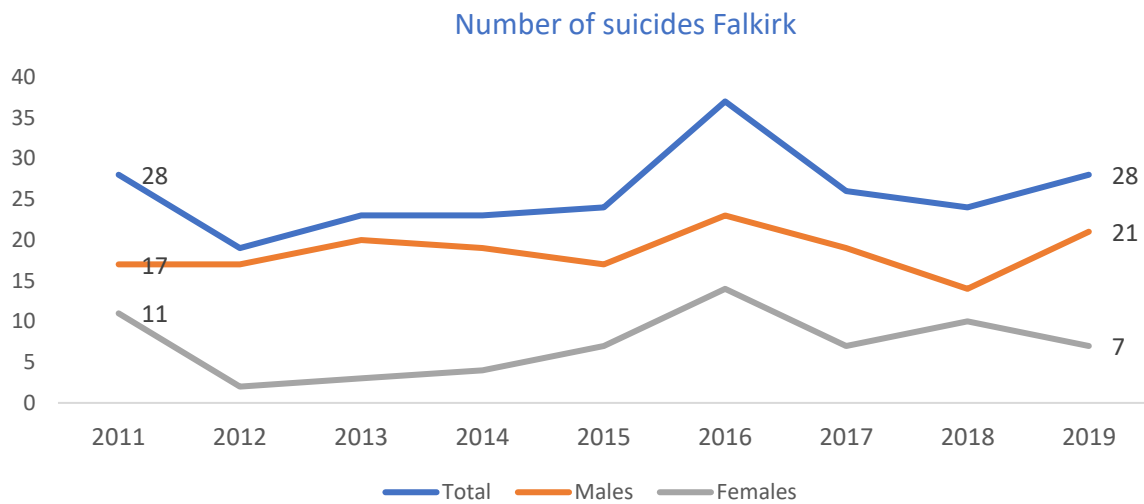
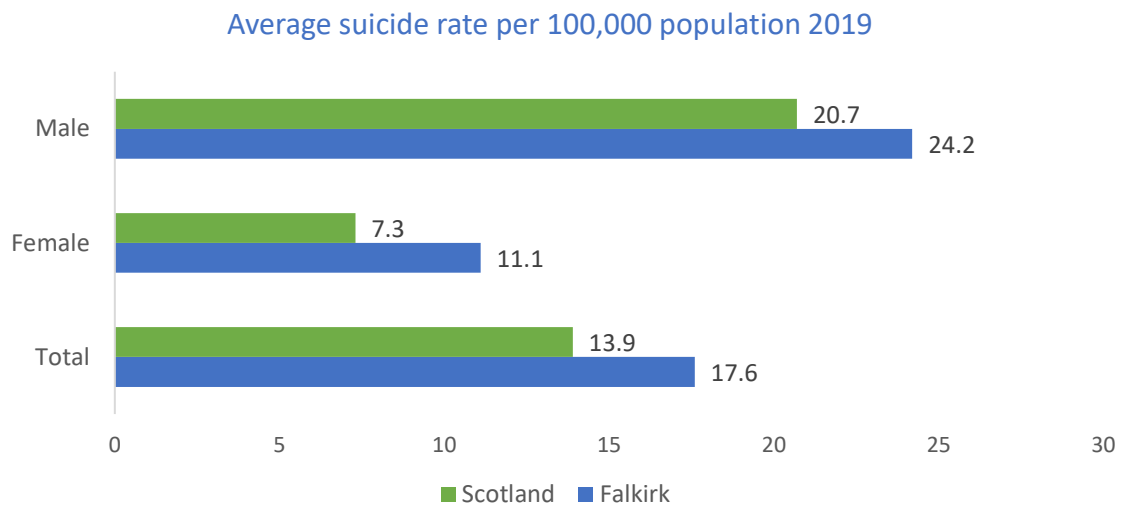


Figure 54: Death by Suicide Numbers in Falkirk 2011-2019, NRS 2021

The total number of suicides for 2011 and 2019 is 28, with some fluctuation during this period. There are more male suicides than females. Falkirk has the 9<sup>th</sup> highest number of suicides in Scotland.



**Figure 55: Average suicide rate per 100,000 population 2019, NRS 2021**

Falkirk is one of 14 areas showing higher suicide rates than Scottish average.

Falkirk has higher rates of male suicide than the Scottish average.

Falkirk has a higher rate of female suicide than the Scottish average.

## Impact of Covid-19 on mental health and wellbeing

Key Findings from Covid-19 Scotland Wave Study (Mental Health Foundation Scotland 2020)

**Inequality groups are at greater risk of experiencing poor, and in some cases, deteriorating mental health. Most negative emotions are starting to drop, and people have become more hopeful, though loneliness figures are not dropping as fast as others.**

A higher proportion of people with long-term health conditions (59%), single parents (63%), those aged 25-34 (65%), and women (63%) reported having been anxious/worried compared to the overall adult population (54%).

Higher proportions of young people aged 18-24 (41%) and single parents (33%) report having been lonely in the previous two weeks than the adult population overall (26%).

Higher proportions of young people aged 18-24 (26%), age 25-34 (27%), and single parents (24%) report feeling hopeless in the previous two weeks than the overall adult population (17%).

A higher proportion of people with a mental health diagnosis (27%), a long-term health condition (25%) and unemployed people (23%) are not coping well compared to the population overall (13%).



## 8. Digital Inequality

Lockdown has shown the importance of being digitally connected. For many people, lots of tasks have moved online: education, food shopping, social contact with family and friends, working, getting information about Covid-19.

However, rural areas and societal inequalities mean that people in our communities do not have equal access to digital resources. This lack of access exacerbates existing inequalities in many communities; gypsy travellers are one example.

The number of non-internet users has declined from 2011 to 2018, from 20.3% to 5.3% (UK, Labour Force Survey, ONS).

We know that internet use decreases with age. However, among working age adults, a higher proportion of the economically inactive are non-internet users. 22.3% of those economically inactive due to long term sickness or disability are non-internet users. This compares to 1.7% who are employees, 3.0% self-employed and 2.7% unemployed. Men are more likely to use the internet than women, but this gap is closing.

The ethnicity gap of internet usage has narrowed over time as the proportion of internet non-users has declined.

88% of households in Falkirk have internet access

### Non-internet users by age

- 55% of those aged 75+
- 24% of 65-74 year olds
- 12% of 55-64 year olds
- 1% of 16-34 year olds

### Non-internet users by ethnicity

- 8.2% Black, African, Caribbean & Black British
- 8.0% Bangladeshi
- 7.2% Indian
- 5.2% Pakistani
- 2.9% Other Asian background
- 1.8% Mixed and multiple ethnic background
- 10.6% White

Income influences internet-usage, with households below the average income less likely to have internet connection. Living alone also has an impact, with 41% of lone adults aged 65+ and 9% of lone adults aged 16-49 with no internet connection. 13% of households with two adults (1 at least 65+) have no internet connection.

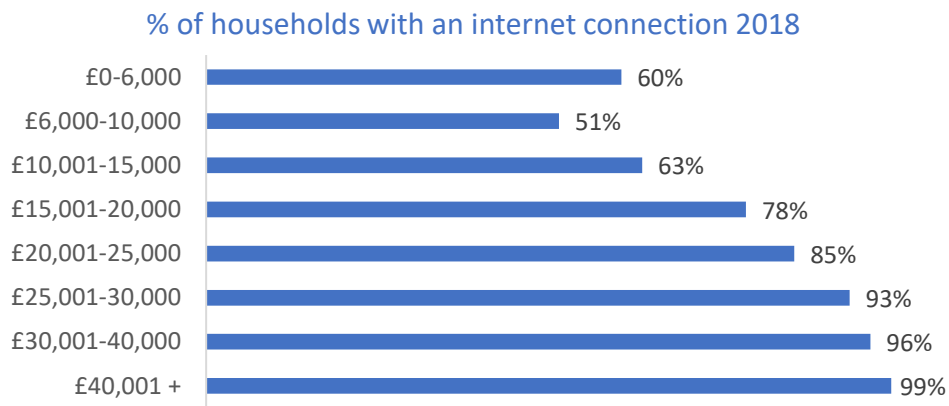


Figure 56: Households with an internet connection by income bracket 2018, Scottish Household Survey, 2019

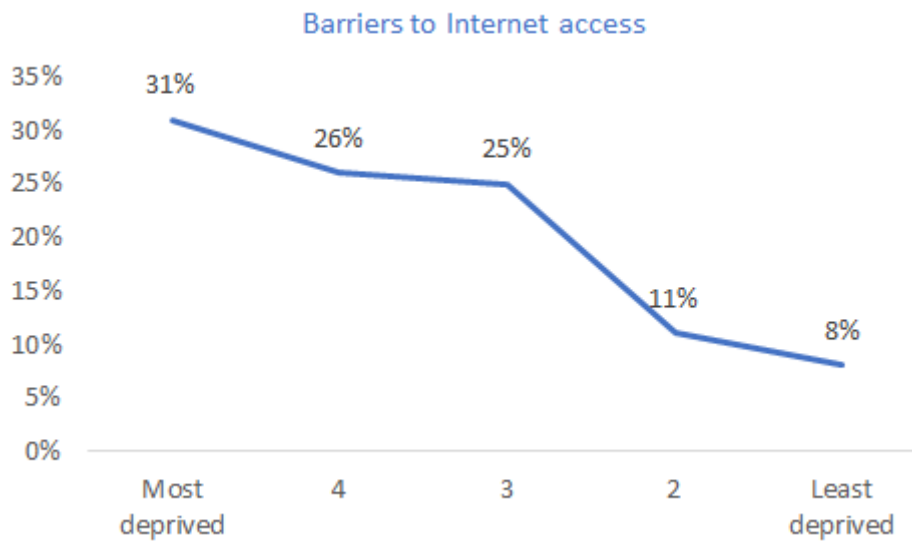


Figure 57: Barriers to Internet access, Scottish Household Survey 2018

Barriers to internet access include; place/ where you live, lack of skills, ability to access the internet elsewhere, difficulty affording equipment or broadband, security/privacy concerns, and physical or sensory disability.

Lockdown Lowdown December 2020 surveyed 576 young people in Falkirk in the second national survey. 38% of respondents were from SIMD 5 areas – which are the most deprived. The survey highlighted that 97% have access to a phone, tablet, or laptop with reliable and sufficient broadband; 3% do not.

#### Groups most likely to face digital inequality

Socially isolated groups tend to have more limited access to the internet, devices and online services. The economically disadvantaged also have limited access but are more likely to try and seek out access in places like libraries. Those who fall under both categories suffer most disadvantage and have little or no use at all. Studies show that overall non-users are increasingly older, less educated, more likely to be unemployed, disabled, or socially isolated (Iriss, 2020).

## 9. The Environment and Climate Change

The Council researched climate change impacts on Falkirk District in 2020. This provides an insight into how climate change impacts the Falkirk area.

### Changes to the climate

Global warming has intensified in recent years with the warmest five years in over a century in the UK all having occurred since 2006, as shown below.

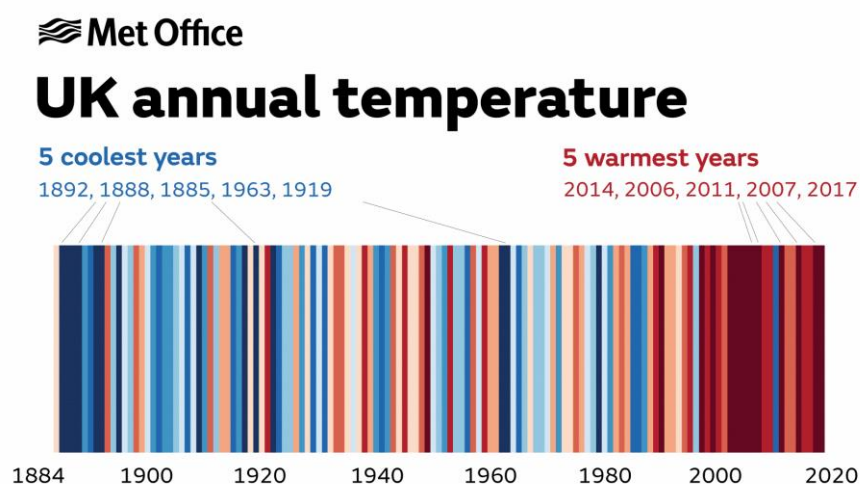


Figure 58: UK annual temperature 1884-2020, Met Office, 2020

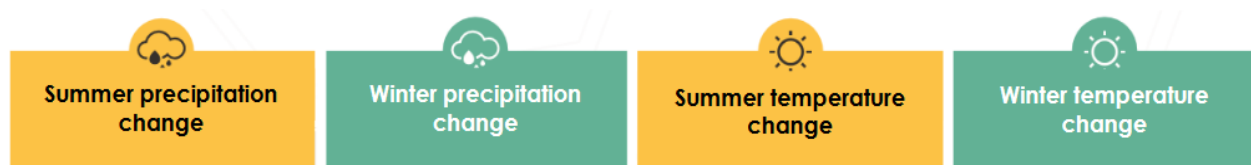
Average temperatures in Falkirk District have been increasing in all seasons and projected to increase further. Similarly, summer heatwaves have been getting hotter and cold snaps in winter becoming less cold, and these trends are projected to continue.

Average precipitation levels in Falkirk District have fluctuated in recent decades, with winters tending to get wetter. Winters are projected to continue to get wetter and summers are projected to get drier on average. When it rains it is expected to be in increasingly intense bursts, especially during summers.

Sea levels are projected to rise in the Firth of Forth by 8-90 cm by the year 2100.

The table below summarises the range of projected changes to the climate in Falkirk District depending on global greenhouse gas emissions (more change can be expected with higher emissions and less change can be expected if global carbon reduction targets are met):

Table 8: Projected Climate trends in Falkirk, Met Office 2020



	Mean (% change*)	1 day max (mm)	Mean (% change*)	1-day max (mm)	Mean (+°C change )	Max (+°C change*)	Mean (+°C change )	Min (+°C change*)
<b>2020s</b>	4 % drier	68	4 % wetter	42-43	1- 1.1	1.6	0.8	0.6- 0.7
<b>2040s</b>	6-7 % drier	68-69	8-10 % wetter	43-44	1.5- 1.6	1.9- 2.3	1.1- 1.5	0.9- 1.2
<b>2060s</b>	16-23 % drier	68-71	12-18 % wetter	43-47	1.4- 2.6	1.6- 3.2	1.1- 2.2	1- 2
<b>2080s</b>	16-26 % drier	69-72	12-26 % wetter	43-50	1.6- 4.2	2.1- 4.8	1.2- 3.2	1.2- 2.7

\*change from 1981-2000 baseline

Met Office 'UKCP18' projections for Falkirk District based on RCP 8.5 (high emissions Scenario) and RCP 2.6 (scenario where emissions are low enough to keep global warming is below 2°C increase from pre-industrial levels, as per the Paris Agreement)

### Effects of Climate change

- Flooding related issues will become increasingly frequent and severe
  - Over winters, rainfall is expected to both increase overall and to happen in more intense bursts.
  - While summers are expected to get drier overall when it does rain in summers it is projected to be in increasingly intense bursts (more intense than at any other time of year). Coupled with drier ground conditions which reduce the speed at which water is absorbed, we may experience more 'flash flooding' over summers.
  - As sea level rises, we will have to contend with more issues around coastal flooding
- Milder winters will on average might mean less frequent and severe impacts from snow, ice and cold weather, however severe winter weather is still likely to occur from time to time
- Hotter, drier summers will have both negative and positive impacts. For example, we tend to spend more time outside being active when the weather is hot and sunny, however hotter weather can cause buildings and vehicles to overheat or roads to become damaged. The UK does not have the infrastructure to deal with hotter weather that typically hot countries tend to have
- The Council's research found that transport disruption accounted for 56% of all reports of weather impacting on Falkirk between 2010 and 2019. How much weather-related transport

disruption there is in the future will partly depend on how well the impacts of weather are managed so that routes are kept clear and how much the need for travel can be avoided.

- Climate change is affecting the natural environment. As well as being an issue for plants and animals themselves, we are affected by the impact this has on things like agriculture, forestry, and the green spaces we enjoy spending time in.

## Environmental Inequalities

### Food and fuel poverty

Adaptation Scotland highlight the relevance of climate change to 'The security of our food supply' with implications in terms of the cost of food.

The negative impacts of weather disproportionately affect some groups more than others, particularly with those less affluent being more affected; this is seen particularly in issues around families living in fuel poverty and lack of weather-appropriate clothing owned by school-age children.

### Access to open space

The availability of quality open space has become more important with the lockdown guidance during the Covid-19 pandemic. The ability to access open spaces during lockdown has helped people's physical and mental health.

In 2013 Falkirk Council carried out an audit of open space across Falkirk which included 632 parks and other open spaces. The quantity standard in Falkirk is there should be 5 hectares of open space per 1,000 people, which Avonbridge, California, Dunmore, Shieldhill and Skinflats fall below. Grangemouth is close to this standard with 5.8 hectares per 1,000 people and only 33 open spaces, which is quite low compared to the other larger towns in the area.

The rural North has low access to good quality open space, with 21 spaces in total which is the lowest settlement categorised. It scores above average in the fitness for purpose assessment (2.83 where the average for Falkirk is 2.5), and the percentage of the total number of open spaces which scored 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment (35% where the average for Falkirk is 27.6%). However, the total area that scores 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment is only 5.1%, where the average is 64%, and the next lowest is Larbert and Stenhousemuir with 40.5%.

This audit shows that the settlement with the most open space by both number (124) and area (795 hectares) is Falkirk, but because it is more densely populated, the most hectares per 1,000 people is within the Rural South of the district with 63.9 hectares per 1,000 people.

### Vacant and Derelict Land

In Scotland, 28.4% of the population is estimated to live within 500 metres of a derelict site; in Falkirk this is slightly lower at 26%. A further 24.0% of Scotland are estimated to live between 500 metres and 1,000 metres of a derelict site compared to Falkirk with 36.7%; with the remaining 47.6% in Scotland living at least 1,000 metres from a derelict site compared to 37.3%

This proportion has increased in Falkirk over recent years with the percentage of people living within 500m of a derelict site increasing from 11.3% in 2013 to 26% in 2019.

## 10. Housing

### Tenure Change

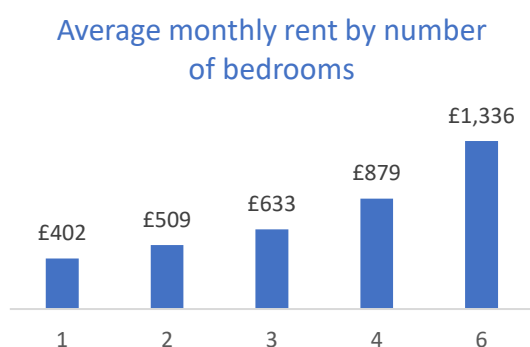
There have been major changes in tenure locally and nationally between 1991 and 2011 as can be seen in below table. The social rented sector in Falkirk has reduced by 23%, due to the impact of the “Right to Buy” resulting in a loss of around 17,000 social housing dwellings.

### House Prices and Deposits

The average house cost in Falkirk was £147,869 in March 2020 an increase of 12.9% from 2019. The average house price for Scotland was £174,790 which was a 0.8% increase in 2019.

The median house price for Falkirk in 2017 was £125,000. This compares to the median gross income of full-time workers of £27,859.20. A first-time buyer looking to buy a property at the median price would need a deposit of £24,707 and borrowing up to 3.6 times of the average income. If saving £200 a month, it would take over 10 years to save the deposit. This timescale is likely to be longer now in 2020.

### Private Rents



There has been a 5% increase in the number of people living in private rented sector in the last ten years. There are estimated 6,500 private rented sector properties in Falkirk.

The highest average rents are to be found in Polmont and Rural South, Stenhousemuir and Larbert and Rural North. The lowest average rents are to be found in Denny and Bonnybridge and Grangemouth.

Figure 59: Average monthly rent in Falkirk by number of bedrooms, Falkirk Council 2020

### Waiting List

In March 2020 there were 13,264 households on Falkirk’s Choice Based Lettings Register. Less than a third of the applicants have a housing need, 78% have not bid in the last 2 years, 66% do not currently hold a council tenancy and 5% of the waiting list are homeless. Some Housing Association let through the Council and are reflected in these numbers; some associations have their own waiting lists.

### Housing Need and Demand Assessment

The Falkirk Housing Need and Demand Assessment estimates additional new properties required to meet existing and future need.

The Housing Need and Demand Assessment recommends:

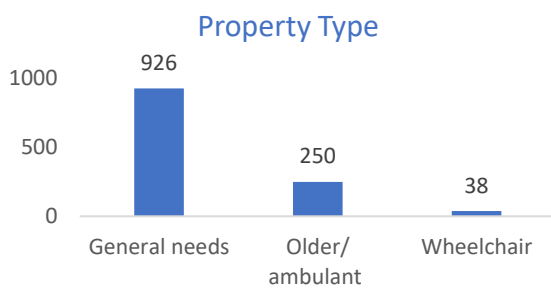
2,956 additional households are needed 2016-20 with 219 additional social rented units needed annually.

8,369 households are needed from 2020-2040

766 households are in 'existing need', 312 of these were homeless.

There are around 700 empty private properties in Falkirk; reducing this number is needed to ensure needs and demands can be met.

#### Priorities for New Affordable Housing



Falkirk Council priorities for affordable housing are set out in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP 2021-22).

This has determined that 1,214 affordable houses are needed. 21% of these for older/ambulant households and 3% wheelchair accessible.

Figure 60: Affordable Housing need by property type, Falkirk Council, 2020

#### Homelessness

There has been a decrease in the number of homeless applications in Falkirk from 2010/11 to 2018/19, however, there was a slight increase in 2019/20.

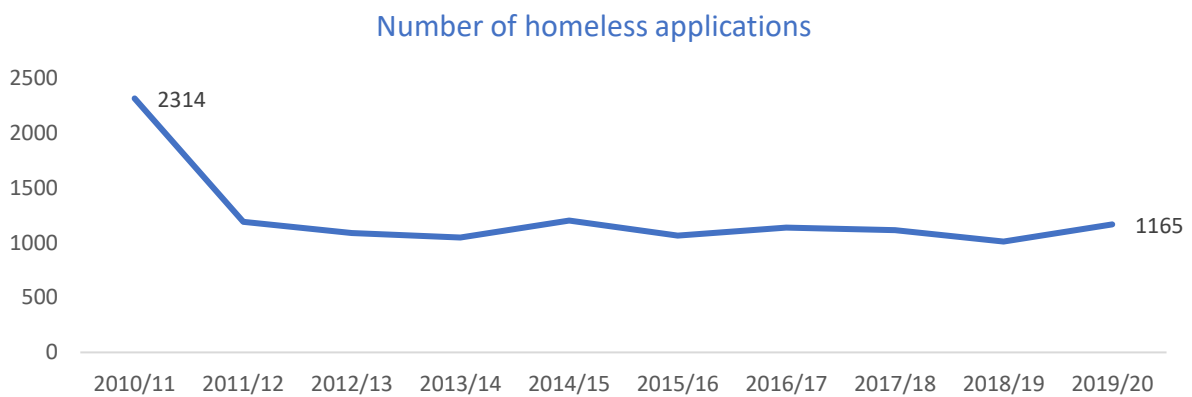
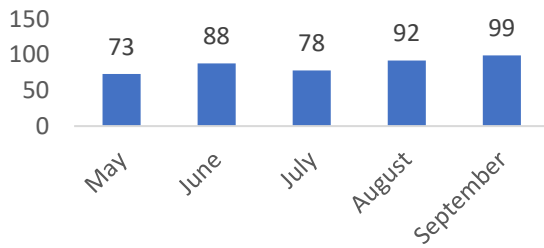


Figure 61: Number of housing applications in Falkirk, Falkirk Council 2020

Number of homeless applications received each month May - September 2020



During the pandemic Falkirk’s overall homeless applications fell by 10%, partly due to this emergency legislation.

Emergency provisions for evictions from mortgaged and rental properties, was introduced in March 2020. These provisions have temporarily been extended to March 2021. It is predicted that there will be a marked increase in homeless applications unless partnership supports are established to prevent homelessness.

Figure 62: Homeless applications received, Falkirk Council 2020

### Reasons for Homeless Application

The main reasons given for homelessness at initial application stage was “asked to leave” (33%) and “Dispute with household: violent or abusive” (26%). Domestic abuse is a significant factor in homelessness. It is considered in more detail in Section 4. Inequalities.

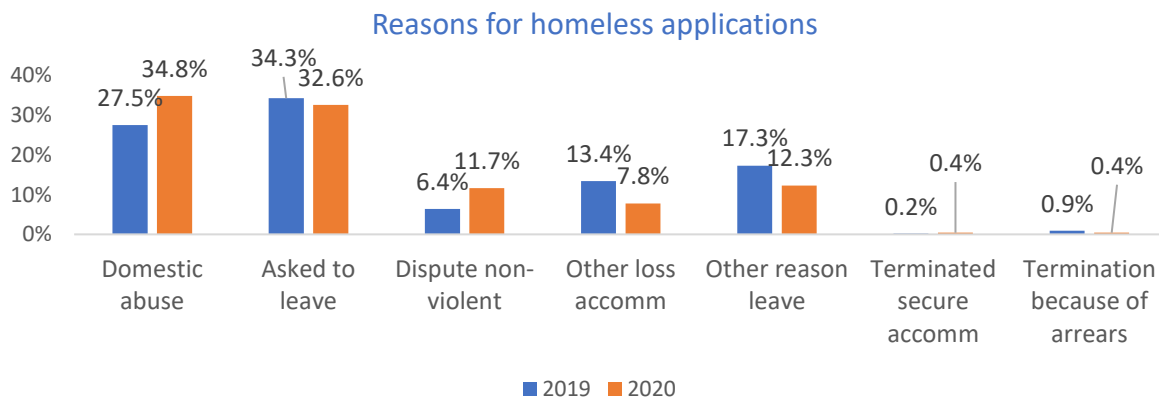
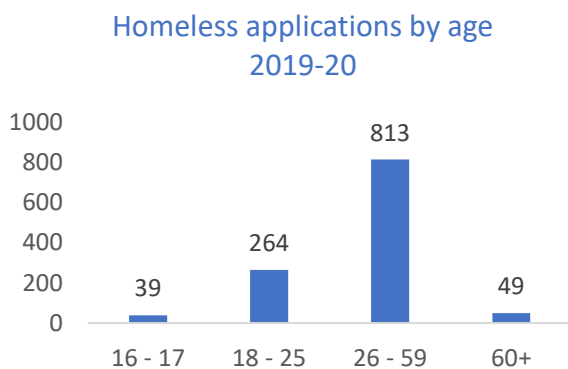


Figure 63: Reasons for homeless applications, Falkirk Council 2020

In 2019-20 there has been an increase the number of repeat homelessness applications with people presenting under the same circumstances. 22% of repeat applications are due to domestic abuse.

### Age of homeless applicants



Applicants in their 20-30s make up the biggest proportion of homeless applicants. This reflects the struggle some younger people have establishing stable accommodation solutions.

Low income is clearly a factor in this as set out below. This suggests younger people in Falkirk have few viable opportunities to achieve independent living, other than applying to the Council.

Figure 64: Homeless applications by age 2019-2020, Scottish Government Homeless Statistics 2021



## Household type of homeless applicants

In 2019-2020, single applicants remain the biggest group presenting as homeless at 67%, with 44% of all applicants being single males. This (with childless couples bringing the combined to 71%) places a high demand on suitable permanent housing solutions, particularly as there is a shortage of one-bedroom properties in Falkirk.

## Homelessness - severe and multiple disadvantage

People who experience homelessness often experience severe and multiple disadvantage (SMD). These people require support packages that address employment, housing, substance use, mental health, offending and any other needs.

It is estimated that 7% of homeless applicants in the Falkirk area meet the SMD definition. It is estimated that 206 SMD cases in the area over the period of 4 years. It has been recognised that there would therefore be around 51 cases each year would be ideal candidates for a Housing First model.

## 11. Economic Recovery and Employment

### Impact on the Economy - Covid-19

KPMG released forecasts for the UK economy in September 2020, and predicts the following, assuming a vaccine is approved in January for Covid-19, and the UK agrees a Brexit deal.

Table 9: Projected changes to UK Economy, KPMG 2020

	2019	2020	2021
GDP	1.5	-10.3	8.4
Consumer Spending	1.0	-12.9	8.4
Investment	0.7	-15.7	7.8
Unemployment Rate	3.8	5.9	8.2
Inflation	1.8	1.0	1.1
Base Interest Rate	0.75	0.1	0.1

The Falkirk economy is predicted to suffer more severely than the Scottish and UK economies:

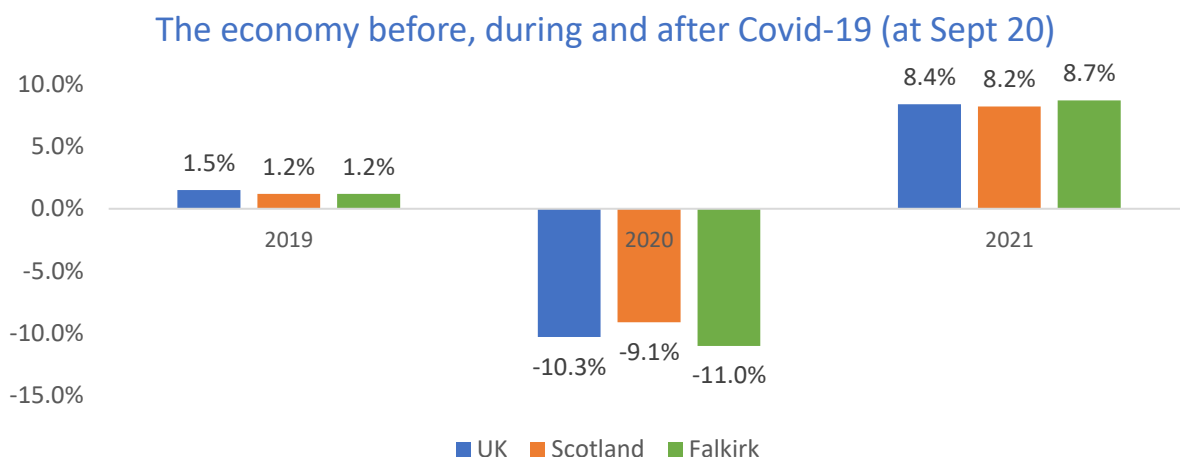


Figure 65: Projected changes to local and national economies, KPMG 2020

### Support During Covid-19

During lockdown, the UK government and Scottish government provided support to employees and businesses through a number of measures to reduce the impact on the economy.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS or Furlough) allows employers to retain employees through funding from UK Government.

23,000 People were furloughed in Falkirk.  
Falkirk had a take up rate of 31% (September 2020)

Four in every five hospitality workers are estimated to be on furlough, two in every three in the creative industries and one in every five construction workers. The percentage of construction workers furloughed in Scotland could be higher than the UK due to the closure of non-essential sites.

The graph below shows the percentage of employees furloughed between 24th August and 6th September 2020 in each industry.

## UK employees furloughed or off sick due to Covid-19

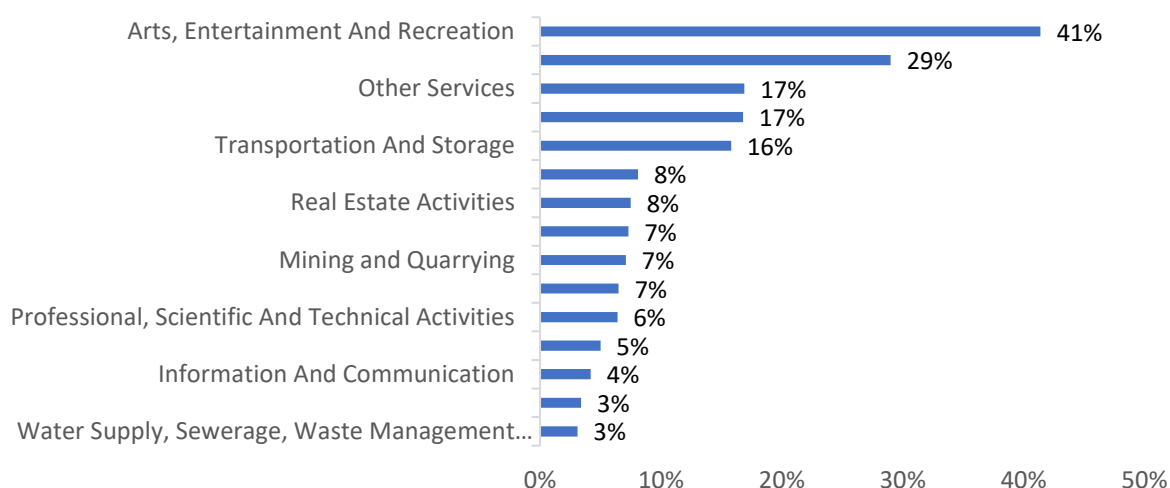


Figure 66: UK employees furloughed or off sick by industry, [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) 2020

During lockdown 1, the accommodation and food sector had the highest proportion of employees furloughed. These sectors account for around 3% of total Scottish GDP and employ about 6% of the total workforce.

Households with a family member in this sector have an income around 15% lower than the Scottish average, and 28% are in poverty which is 9% higher than the Scottish average. For children living in these households, 41% live in poverty compared to the Scottish average of 24%. This could have a greater impact on women, of whom there are more in this sector than men.

The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) supports people who are self-employed or a member of a partnership whose business has been adversely affected due to coronavirus.

### SEISS in Falkirk

5,300 people claimed the first grant. A take up rate of 76% (June 2020)

3,900 people claimed the second grant. A take up rate of 72% (October 2020)

### The Business Support Fund

The fund has been made available to non-domestic ratepayers, and Small Business Grants are also available.

2,155 Business Support Fund Grants awarded in Falkirk  
£24,146,250 total value given

### Business Start-Ups

Data tells us that on average, business start-ups are down 33% in 2020 than in 2019.

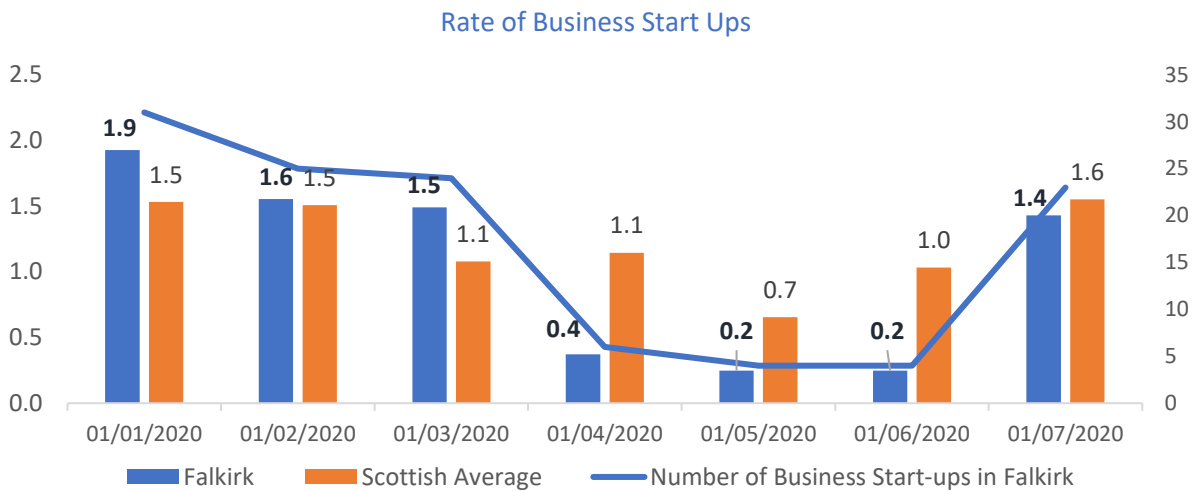


Figure 67: Rate of new business start-ups during 2020, Falkirk Council 2020

### Employment and Total Claimant Count

In March 2020 unemployment in Falkirk was 3.3%, which increased to 6.3% in July and August from 3,325 people to 6,420 people: an increase of almost 99%. By November, the number of claimants has decreased to 5,940. The Scottish Government forecast that unemployment could rise from around 4% to anywhere between 10% to 15% taking one to three years to recover to pre-pandemic rates.

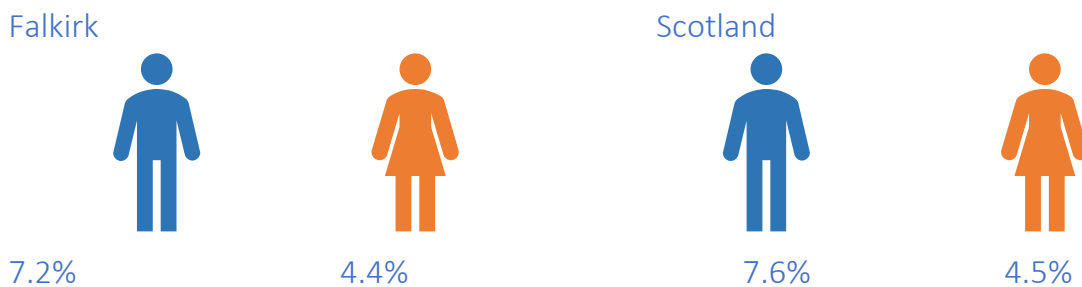


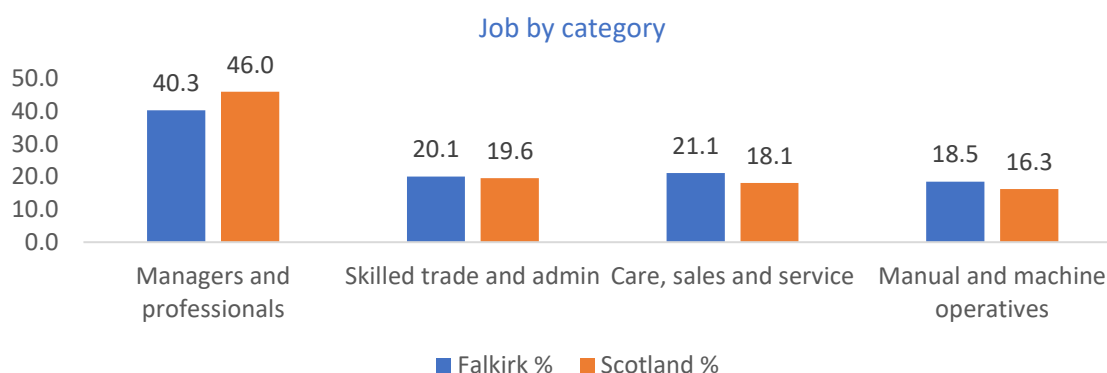
Figure 68: Unemployment by gender, NOMIS 2020

The chart above shows that Falkirk has lower unemployment for both male and female than the Scottish rate but demonstrates a clear difference by gender.

### Labour Market

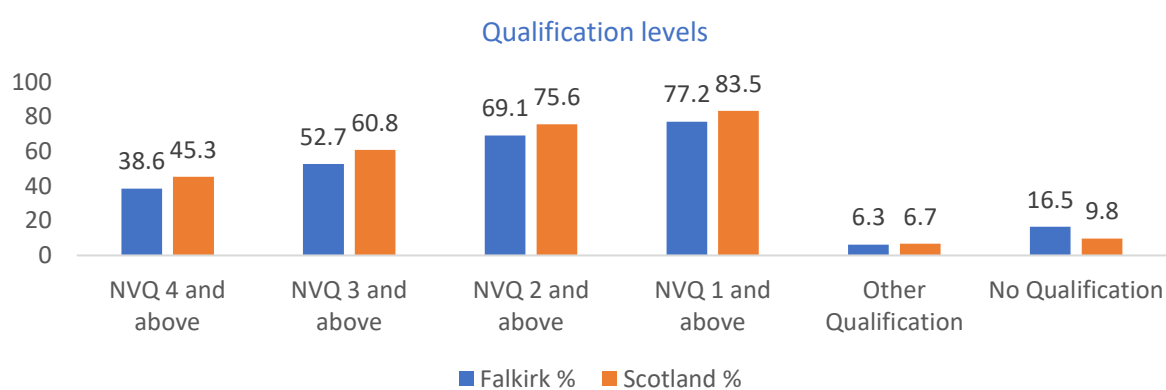
In 2019, levels of economic activity and inactivity were similar in Falkirk to the Scottish rate, however there was a higher proportion of workless households in Falkirk than Scotland; 20.3% to 17.7%, respectively.

There are differences in the skill level of occupations in Falkirk compared to Scotland, with fewer managerial and professional occupations, and more mid-range and manual occupations:



**Figure 69: Available jobs by category, NOMIS 2020**

The Falkirk population has lower qualification levels than the rest of Scotland. Notably, Falkirk has a significantly higher percentage of people with no qualifications.



**Figure 70: Qualification levels in adults, NOMIS 2020**

Groups most affected by economic impacts of Covid-19

Women

In Falkirk prior to lockdown restrictions, female workers earned more than male workers, which is contrary to Scotland and the wider UK. Female workers also earned above the Scottish average, and males earned less:

**Table 10: Resident average weekly earnings, NOMIS 2020**

	Falkirk (£)	Scotland (£)	Great Britain (£)
<b>Gross Weekly Pay</b>			
All full-time workers	559.9	577.7	587.0
Male full-time workers	581.8	623.7	632.0
Female full time Workers	540.7	527.3	528.9
<b>Hourly pay (Excluding Overtime)</b>			
Full time workers	14.17	14.86	14.88
Male full-time workers	14.13	15.33	15.44
Female full-time workers	14.18	14.18	13.99

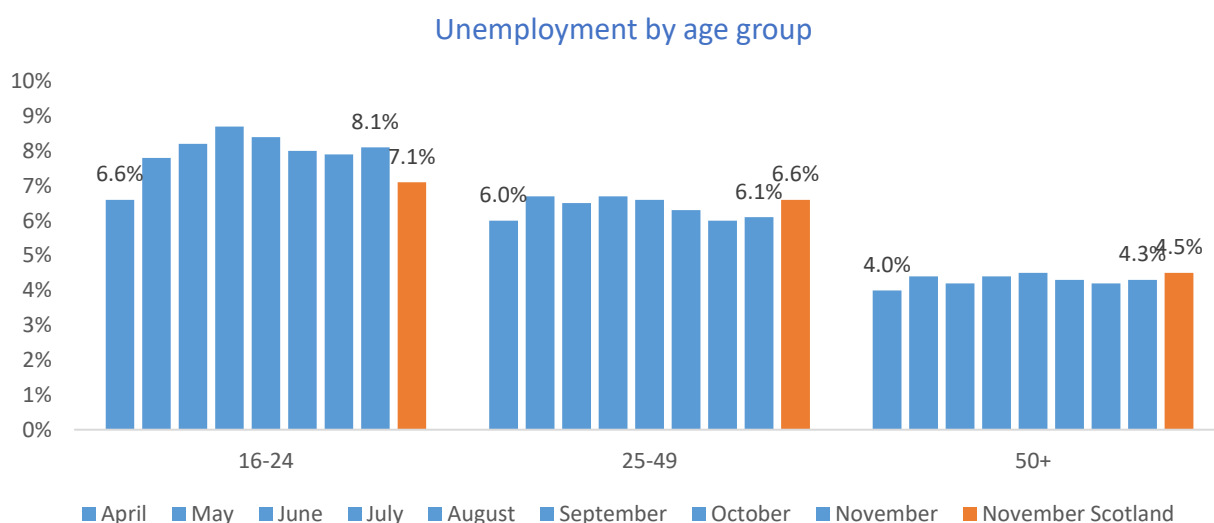
Although data tells us women are earning more than men in Falkirk, research shows that female workers are more likely to be negatively affected by the impacts from Covid-19:

- Women are disproportionately likely to work in the sectors that have been hit hardest by the lockdown.
- Previous pandemics suggest women and girls could experience more negative and long-lasting impacts than men (World Bank, 2020).
- 33% of workplaces where women work closed compared to 25 per cent of men; More women than men are likely to have been furloughed, made redundant, work in sectors that are closed, or had to stop working.
- Where women are working during the lockdown, they are spending fewer hours doing paid work than men and more hours on childcare and housework.

### Young People

In March 2020, there were 675 young people aged 16-25 unemployed. By August 2020, this had risen to 1,345, an increase of 99.4%. Youth unemployment has significant long-term impacts on outcomes for those who experience it. By November, the percentage of unemployed is higher than the Scottish average and increasing.

The chart below show that youth unemployment was higher than other age groups and has been hit harder by the pandemic.



**Figure 71: Falkirk unemployment by age group, NOMIS 2020**

- 30% of people under the age of 25 work in a sector most affected by social distancing including retail, hospitality, travel, compared to 13% of those 25 and over.
- 36% of young women and 25% of young men work in sectors that were closed during lockdown including restaurants, shops, leisure facilities and travel and tourism. Overall, 17% of women and 13% of men work in these sectors.

### Low income workers

- Low-paid workers are seven times as likely to work in a sector that has been shut down
- For lower earners, 33% work in a sector that has been shut down due to Covid-19.
- Earners in the highest earning brackets have only seen 5% of their sector shut down.
- Lower earners are likely to be at higher risk of not returning from furlough or reduced hours during and after the pandemic.
- Pre- lockdown, 31% of Falkirk employment was in 'lower paid' occupations, compared to 29% of Scotland.

### Older People (Adults over 50)

- Unemployment amongst over 50s is typically low at 2.5% compared to 4% for all age groups.
- Older workers that do become unemployed experience more long-term unemployment. 32.4 per cent of people over 50 are unable to find a job for more than 12 months, in comparison to the UK's average of 19.7 per cent.
- The move to remote working could disproportionately affect older workers who are less likely to have the digital skills to work from home. Of those aged 55-64, 8% do not use the internet compared to just 1.4% of those aged 35-44.

### Impact on the Economy - Brexit

The Scottish Government published 'Brexit: Sectoral Economic Impact Analysis' in February 2019. It has found since the Brexit vote, Scotland's GDP has reduced by an estimated 2.82%.

The study highlighted that regions who rely on manufacturing have been most severely impacted, as have areas with a higher proportion of residents with lower educational attainment. Falkirk falls into both categories.

12.3% of Falkirk jobs are manufacturing, compared to 7.2% in Scotland

The study highlights that Brexit is likely to have a greater impact on sectors already impacted by furlough. Falkirk already has a higher rate of furlough than the Scottish average, so is at increased risk following Brexit.

Scottish Government data shows construction, transport and storage, and health and social work will be affected more in Scotland by Brexit than the rest of the UK. Falkirk has a higher percentage of jobs in these sectors than the rest of Scotland.

## 12. Community Safety

### Perception of our Neighbourhoods

96% of Falkirk residents surveyed in the Scottish Household Survey 2019 thought Falkirk was a very good or fairly good place to live, which is slightly higher than the 94% in Scotland.

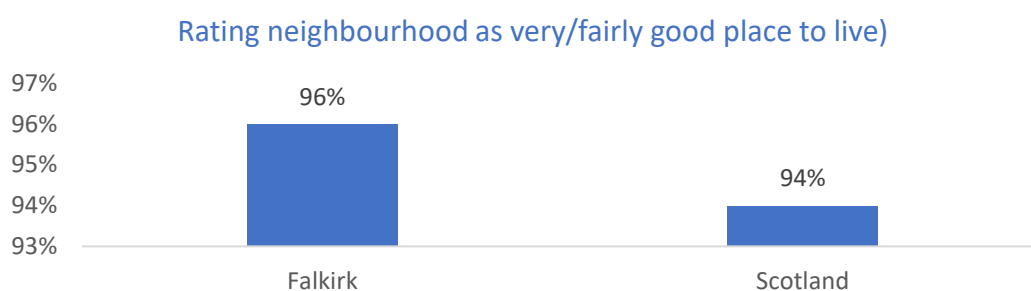


Figure 72: Residents rating their neighbourhood as very/ fairly good, Scottish Household Survey 2019

### Crime in Falkirk

During lockdown behaviours changed which is reflected in Falkirk's crime figures. Overall, the total number of crimes committed in Falkirk from August 2019 to August 2020 was down by 10%.

#### UP

Driving under the influence + 37%

Dangerous and careless driving + 47%

Fraud + 156%

#### DOWN

Housebreaking – 47%

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct – 50%



Table 11: Falkirk Crimes recorded, Police Scotland 2020

Crime group	Aug 2019	Aug 2020	% Change since
Total crimes <sup>1</sup>	612	551	-10%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	18	26	44%
Homicide etc.	0	0	n/r
Attempted murder & serious assault	12	9	-25%
Robbery	3	5	n/r
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	2	5	n/r
Other violence	1	7	n/r
Sexual crimes	36	24	-33%
Rape & attempted rape	6	4	n/r
Sexual assault	10	6	-40%
Crimes associated with prostitution	0	0	n/r
Other sexual crimes	20	14	-30%
Crimes of dishonesty	222	197	-11%
Housebreaking	32	17	-47%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	9	2	n/r
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	8	0	n/r
Theft of a motor vehicle	7	13	n/r
Shoplifting	67	56	-16%
Other theft	77	60	-22%
Fraud	16	41	156%
Other dishonesty	6	8	n/r
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	134	101	-25%
Fire-raising	6	7	n/r
Vandalism etc.	128	94	-27%
Other crimes	202	203	0%
Crimes against public justice	57	75	32%
Handling offensive weapons	23	15	-35%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	10	4	-60%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	13	11	-15%
Drugs	121	113	-7%
Other	1	0	n/r

Table 12: Falkirk Offences recorded, Police Scotland 2020

Crime group	Aug 2019	Aug2020	% Change since
Total offences <sup>1</sup>	651	710	9%
Miscellaneous offences	421	375	-11%
Common assault	177	165	-7%
Breach of the peace etc.	201	157	-22%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	12	6	-50%
Urinating etc.	3	4	n/r
Other miscellaneous offences	28	43	54%
Motor vehicle offences	230	335	46%
Dangerous and careless driving	19	28	47%
Driving under the influence	19	26	37%
Speeding	67	83	24%
Unlawful use of vehicle	78	92	18%
Vehicle defect offences	5	22	n/r
Seat belt offences	5	9	n/r
Mobile phone offences	2	5	n/r

## Domestic Abuse

While domestic abuse is a crime, the impact that it has on the lives of children and families is far wider reaching than a criminal conviction for perpetrators. This is explored in the inequalities section of this document.

## 13. Appendices

Infographics of key themes

- [Poverty](#)
- [Economy](#)
- [Employability](#)
- [Suicide](#)
- [Drug related deaths](#)
- [Domestic abuse](#)

Profiles for Council Wards

Profiles for each Council ward provide information on population, households, dwellings, benefits, unemployment and deprivation.

[Statistics & census - Ward maps & profiles | Falkirk Council](#)

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