

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES  
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT  
2011/2013**

Organisation Name	LinkLiving
Project	Smartmove
Agreement Dates	1 April 2011 – 31 March 2013
Name of Lead Officer	Elizabeth Hood

## **A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS**

### Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

To deliver Housing Advice Services to Young People in the Falkirk Council area through Peer Educators who have previously experienced homelessness.

### List of Agreed Outcomes

- Work with a total of 20 volunteers
- Develop relations to assist 10 volunteers into training or employment opportunities
- Secondary schools in the Falkirk Council area have had a peer education input delivered by the Smartliving Project
- Secondary Schools in the Falkirk Council area will be aware of the Smartliving Peer Education Project
- Sessions will be delivered to young people who are at the most risk of homelessness
- 95% of evaluation questionnaires are gathered from Peer Education sessions
- Develop a minimum of 5 Peer Education session plans that can be delivered in a variety of environments
- Develop a poster and flyer to assist in the recruitment of volunteers
- Information is delivered to participants in a media that they are familiar with
- Information delivered is current at time of delivery taking into account changes within housing, homelessness and welfare benefit systems.

### Why Service/Project is Funded Externally Rather than by the Council

The project has been developed to provide a peer education service to young people from their peers who engage effectively and relate to young people. They are therefore able to tell their own story about leaving home and what homelessness is like in an effort to prove young people with reality of maintaining their tenancy and ensure that they have the necessary information to make an informed decision.

The project has achieved various awards and accolades over the years in regards to their approach in ensuring that homelessness is prevented amongst young people in the Falkirk Council area.

**B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES**Summary of Key Achievements

In 2011/12 SmartLiving worked with 76 young volunteers who delivered 145 Peer Education sessions to 3398 young people over a total of 4123 hours.

52 volunteers achieved 50 hours Saltire Award, 29 achieved 100 hours and 13 achieved 200 hours. 22 of the projects volunteers moved onto employment, 32 onto other volunteer opportunities and a further 25 moving into further education or training.

In 2012/13, 320 young people received a peer education session and in addition 237 senior pupils received information at a marketplace event. Volunteers have created new material to support delivery of peer education sessions specifically budgeting which has become even more important with the impending introduction of “welfare reform.

Posters have been refreshed and re-distributed and SmartLiving bands are still being distributed at all sessions.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

It is extremely difficult to engage with young people on a meaningful level. The delivery of this project through Peer Educators aims to overcome these hurdles. The project has been working on additional information surrounding the changes to the welfare system and how it will affect young people. This will be invaluable information for young people who are considering leaving home.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

Assisted in the Homeless Strategy aim to prevent homelessness and deliver information about housing options to ensure that young people can make an informed decision about their future.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

None

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Quarterly reviews with Service Development Officer (SDO). SDO also assists with engagement with schools and supported accommodation projects.

**C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**Total Support Provided (Financial & In- Kind Contributions)

£14,114

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

2011/12

Accounts have been reviewed for 2011/12 and there are sufficient reserves for forth coming funding periods.

Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation

The project relies on supplementary funding which remains a risk. They have match funding for 2012/13-2013/14 from the Scottish Governments People and Communities Fund however there are no guarantees that future funding will be achieved. The Homeless Service is considering allocating additional funding from an under spend that will provide security for the project from 2013/14 onwards. In addition to this funding we are looking for the project to assist in developing materials and support for young people to sustain their tenancies.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Low

**D CONCLUSIONS**Summary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year

The project has been successful in engaging with young people both in school settings and in regards to the recruitment of volunteers as the summary of key objectives illustrates.

**E COMPLETED BY**

<u>Name</u>	Joanna Stewart
<u>Designation</u>	Service Development Officer
<u>Date</u>	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2013