

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND (FPP): MARGINALISED GROUPS
Meeting: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date: 31 OCTOBER 2014
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the work of the external organisations who receive funding, in whole or in part, from Corporate & Neighbourhood Services, with a focus on marginalised groups and who fall within the 'Following the Public Pound' (FPP) reporting and monitoring arrangements. External organisations are often voluntary or charitable organisations and generally will be able to provide a better range or quality of service, or provide services that would not otherwise be provided. The common purpose is usually to offer a wider range of services, often in conjunction with other public organisations and to provide joined-up services.
- 1.2 This report seeks to provide Members with information on the funding agreements Corporate & Neighbourhood Services had with external organisations during the period 1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014, in line with the FPP and Council procedures. Separate reports on the Falkirk Community Trust and on Community Safety have been provided for Member's consideration.

2. CONTRIBUTION TO OUTCOMES

- 2.1 A number of these organisations make a significant contribution to our local outcomes, as outlined in our Single Outcome Agreement, and to key commitments within the Corporate Plan.
- 2.2 One of the key areas these organisations make a significant contribution towards is our Poverty Strategy – Towards a Fairer Falkirk. The strategy aims to reduce poverty and its impacts on individuals and communities across our area. This is so that everyone living in each of our communities has the same opportunity to reach their full potential and access all the services our public agencies provide to support daily life. We aim to help those who may experience disadvantage through disability, socio-economic status, ill health etc. to fully participate in community life. The strategy seeks to:
- Maximise the number of people in better paid, secure employment
 - Reduce levels of debt across the population and maximise the income of households who rely on benefits
 - Increase the financial choices available to our population and increase people's understanding of the consequences of financial choices.

2.3 The strategy seeks to support some of the most marginalised groups in society. Marginalised groups often consist of the most vulnerable and at risk individuals who can feel excluded, insignificant or peripheral to decision making. This might include people who are economically excluded because of poverty, socially excluded because of disability or other health issues; or culturally excluded because of ethnicity or religion. Examples of some of the marginalised or hard to reach groups that we work with can include people reliant on benefits for income, lone parents, elderly, disabled and people from black and ethnic minority groups. The groups the poverty strategy specifically targets include:

- Lone parents with dependent children;
- Single working age people without children, who are either in receipt of benefits or in low paid work;
- Single pensioners
- Households with younger children and with more than 2 children, who are either in receipt of benefits or in low-paid work;
- Households affected by disability, including those with mental health problems;
- Looked after children and care leavers;
- Households affected by homelessness;
- Households affected by drug and alcohol use; and
- Offenders and ex-offenders and their families.

2.4 Some of the work undertaken by these organisations also makes a direct contribution to our aspirations on equality and diversity. This work facilitates citizens having equality of opportunity, equity of access to services, and being able to play an equal part in all aspects of community life. We are particularly keen to address circumstances where any group may feel marginalised or excluded, perhaps influenced by factors such as education, economic, environmental or social circumstances.

3. OVERVIEW OF ORGANISATIONS WHO RECEIVED FUNDING

3.1 The table below shows the 5 external organisations, supporting marginalised groups that received Council support during 2013/14, either via 'in kind' support or by direct financial support, for which Corporate & Neighbourhood Service was the lead monitoring Service. It should be noted that some external organisations received more than one source of support from Falkirk Council and where this is the case, it is noted within individual reports.

| Appendix | Organisation | Report Year | Funding Purpose | Total Support Received 13/14 |
|----------|--|-------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1 | The Action Group | 13/14 | Real Jobs Falkirk | £90,000 |
| 2 | Linkliving | 13/14 | Smartliving | £14,114 |
| 3 | Salvation Army | 13/14 | Soup Kitchen | £10,475 |
| 4 | Central Scotland Regional Equality Council | 13/14 | Central Scotland Regional Equality Council | £15,200 |
| 5 | Falkirk Community Trust | 13/14 | Sport 4 Youth | |
| | Total Funding | | | £168,426 |

4. ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATIONS PERFORMANCE

- 4.1 An individual report is attached for all of the external organisations shown above. Each report provides an overview of the service provided, the agreed objectives or outcomes, performance information during the reporting period and a financial overview based on audited accounts or where these have not yet been published for 2013/2014, financial monitoring arrangements that are in place.
- 4.2 As part of the support allocation assessment process, external organisations are allocated a risk rating based on governance arrangements, financial management and past performance. The ratings are low, medium or high and provide Monitoring Officers with an indication of the minimum level of monitoring and support which should be established. External organisations deemed as low risk, are monitored at least annually, medium risk external organisations should be monitored at least quarterly and high risk, at least monthly. Monitoring is recommended to take the form of regular reports, which measure performance against outcomes and/or objectives and provide financial monitoring information. Monitoring officers are also required to hold meetings with the external organisation throughout the year.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report demonstrates the continuing contribution which external organisations make towards our local outcomes. Members are therefore invited to consider each organisation's report and select from the following options for each external organisation:
- A. Approve report and acknowledge progress by the external organisation in meeting Council priorities;
 - B. Request further information on specific aspects of the service provided; or
 - C. Request action with follow-up for subsequent Scrutiny Committee consideration.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- 6.1 **Consider individual reports for external organisations and select an option from those presented in 4.1; and**
- 6.2 **Note the comments on future funding for the Central Scotland Regional Equality Council and that these are considered when decisions are taken about the level of funding for the organisation in 2015/16.**

.....

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 07 October 2014

Ref: ABC1014AW – FPP Report – Marginalised Groups

Contact Name: Fiona Campbell

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506004 and ask for Fiona Campbell.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2013/14**

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Organisation Name | The Action Group |
| Project | Real Jobs Falkirk |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 13 to 31 March 14 |
| Name of Lead Officer | Linda Scott |

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

The aims of The Action Group are to provide a service which will assist disabled young people, especially those attending Carrongrange School, to choose their post-school direction and to make a successful transition into sustainable employment, voluntary work placements, training or further education.

List of Agreed Outcomes

2013/14 outcomes

| Output | Annual Target | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| No. young people completing vocational profile | 17 | 3 | 9 | 5 | | 17 |
| No. taking part in work experience or voluntary work | 24 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 12 | 32 |
| No. undertaking supported work experience at Steadings Cafe | 40 | 17 | 12 | 17 | 21 | 67 |
| No. supported into employment | 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| No. supported into employment (sustained for 3 months) | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| No. supported into employment (sustained for 6 months) | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| No. supported into education or training (sustained for 3 months) | 18 | 3 | 19 | 8 | 3 | 33 |
| No. achieving work-related qualification | 10 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 |
| No. households with raised income | 10 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 12 |

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

This project focuses on young people with a range of disabilities who are often hard to access and who find it difficult to use mainstream services. Young people with learning disabilities and other support needs attending Carrongrange school often feel excluded by the actions of others and self select not to participate. Project workers are skilled at working with these groups and have established effective partnerships across the council area. The project works with ETU and a member of ETU attends monitoring meetings to ensure that relevant links are made between young people involved in the project and the employability skills pipeline. The project also benefits from attracting additional funds through the fundraising activities of The Action Group and through Lottery funding.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

Positive progress has been maintained in the final quarter with targets generally exceeded, with the exception the number of young people moving into employment. However the potential for the next twelve months looks more encouraging as the project currently has service users on placements where subsequent movement to a paid job status is likely.

Work experience placements at Muiravonside continue to be very positive and provide work experience for transitional pupils at Carrongrange, Grangemouth, Denny and Braes high schools and the training unit at Asset. Takings from the Muiravonside café enabled the project to open the Tryst café on a pilot basis to provide further work related learning and accreditation opportunities.

Four pupils this year have successfully participated in a pilot work experience project with SERCO and the Larbert Hospital where they have gained knowledge and skills in portering, domestic and catering work.

The project's Welfare Rights Service (funded by Big Lottery Young Start until August 14) has had a successful year and there has been demand for the service from service user families. Notable successes in moving service users from Job Seekers Allowance to Employment Support Allowance has allowed them greater opportunities to enter the job market and there have been significant immediate financial benefit to others ranging from £70 to £6,000.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

Staffing and Funding issues remain but the project is hopeful that providing these areas remain relatively stable that it should be in position to cope with increasing demand.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The project has contributed to the Council's Poverty Strategy outcomes in:

- Employment: by increasing the number of young people participating in post 16 learning; and by increasing the proportion of school leavers entering a positive destination.
- Financial Security: By maximising the income of households that rely on benefits.

25% of the projects service users reside in SIMD areas.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

No. supported into employment: target 9, achieved 2

No. supported into employment (sustained for 3 months): target 5, achieved 1

No. supported into employment (sustained for 6 months): target 5, achieved 1

We understand the difficulties in achieving these outcomes in the current economic climate but we are confident that project team is working to improve these outcomes in the current year.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Six monthly.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Total Support Provided (Financial & In- Kind Contributions)

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| £50,000 | Big Lottery Funding |
| £90,000 | Falkirk Council Contribution |
| £5,000 | Carrongrange School |
| £145,000 | Total Funding |

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 – no qualifications/issues. Audited accounts for 2013/14 are not yet available. The project submits quarterly monitoring reports and no financial issues have been identified for the current financial year.

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

Lack of continued funding from the Council and other sources would risk the ongoing delivery of the project.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Low

D CONCLUSIONSSummary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year

The project is effective in carrying out the type of work that bridges the transition from school to employment for young people with learning disabilities and other support needs, including those leaving care, from an ethnic minority background or with a background of offending behaviour.

To date the project has successfully met targets with the exception of those few, detailed above, and has the support of parents, teachers and employers.

E COMPLETED BYName

Linda Scott

Designation

Policy Officer

Date

10.9.14

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2014/15

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Organisation Name | LinkLiving |
| Project | Smartliving |
| Agreement Dates | 2013/14 |
| Name of Lead Officer | Joanna Stewart |

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

The Smartliving project was established in 2006 after Falkirk Council was approached by Link Living for match funding for a recently established project which engaged with young people in secondary schools to dispel the myths of homelessness and aiming to prevent young people from becoming homeless by informing them of the housing choices available to them.

The project aims each year to recruit new peer educators who will deliver housing advice to other young people across the Council area. They work in partnership with other agencies in the area such as Housing, Social Work Services, Falkirk Community Trust, Education Services and other housing support and voluntary services to assist them in the delivery of the project.

Since the project began it has evolved and adapted to a changing environment and a number of external factors which includes changes to the delivery of education services through Curriculum for Excellence and the more recently the changes to Welfare Reform. Peer Education is an effective means of information-sharing between young people, recognising the importance young people themselves give to learning from and being influenced by their peer group. All of the Peer Educators recruited to the project have expertise and knowledge as a result of their own experience of homelessness or housing problems and Smart Living trains and supports them to deliver key messages in a way that encourages their target audience to both learn and empathise.

The service is also required to complete a continuous evaluation of their activities and performance which will inform further service delivery. This involves collating and assessing client feedback to help identify issues that need to be addressed in the monitoring of the Falkirk Local Housing Strategy, evaluate the service offered and assess this information to improve the delivery of services and identify needs.

List of Agreed Outcomes

The following outcomes were agreed with the project for delivery in 2013/14

- To recruit peer educators who will delivered housing advice to other young people across the Council area
- To work in partnership with other agencies in the area such as Housing, Social Work Services, Falkirk Community Trust, Education Services and other housing support services
- To raise awareness of the issues of youth homelessness
- To liaise with other relevant voluntary organisations

- To collate client feedback and assess this information to help identify issues that need to be addressed in the monitoring of the Falkirk Local Housing Strategy
- To evaluate the service offered and assess this information to improve the delivery of services and identify needs

The project delivers services under the following Corporate Plan goals:

- Continuing to improve the health, safety and well being of our citizens and communities;
- Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination; and
- Enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live, work and visit.

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

Initially the project was established by Link Living with Voluntary Action Funding. When this funding came to an end they approached Falkirk Council for match funding for the project. The project was considered a good model for homeless prevention for young people and therefore match funding was granted.

Presently the project is a part funded through People with Communities funding and Falkirk Council. If Falkirk Council were to fully fund the project we would need to resource the full project to an amount to the value of £48,547. This is currently not feasible within the Housing Service Budget. In addition to this the project is facilitated across two local authorities (Fife and Falkirk) therefore there are cost savings in terms of staff costs and overheads which benefit both authorities.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

A total of 23 young people engaged with Smart Living throughout the year, delivering sessions to 1909 young people in Larbert High, Graeme High, Forth Valley College (7 peer education sessions were delivered at Forth Valley College in January to young people with learning and physical disabilities), CVS and Falkirk Young Carers.

Of the young people that volunteered with the Smart Living project, 23 have successfully engaged with employability programmes resulting in 8 achieving employment, 3 moving into further education, 3 continuing to carry out volunteer work and 7 about to commence voluntary work experience placements across the Falkirk area. In addition to those that delivered the peer education sessions a total of 43 young people also attended the project and engaged in 4 employability programmes throughout the year, with a total of 13 moving into sustainable employment, 6 progressing onto further education, 5 sign posted to continue their development with other organisations and 3 are continuing to volunteer on another SmartLiving intergenerational project within Link Housing's sheltered housing complex.

The project aims to continually promote its service to raise awareness and recruit new volunteers. Posters and flyers were distributed to Job Centre Plus, Forth Valley College, Citizens Advice Bureau, Garry Place and handed out to young people in town centre by SmartLiving Volunteers. Peer educator opportunities have been advertised with CVS and Volunteer Scotland. Articles have also been printed in Falkirk Herald promoting SmartLiving services.

The project along with its sister project in the Fife area has recently developed an employability website called 'Ask Joe' (Jobs Opportunities Employment) which was successfully launched at

this years Forth Valley College's Careers event and has generated an online social media following and is promoted to schools in the Falkirk area interested in using it as a resource. A session has been organised with Falkirk High combining Ask Joe and peer education work around independent living.

The project has also recruited a young person on a paid 6 month Community Jobs Fund placement. One of their responsibilities is to update the Ask Joe website and post information on the Facebook page and Twitter. The young person has experience of the care system and homelessness which has helped to pull together the information that young need to know. The placement is also working with volunteers to develop new sessions for the project which take account of changes to welfare reform including under occupancy tax and future payments of housing benefit and changes to social fund.

Each SmartLiving session is evaluated before and after the session. Before the sessions 29% did not know where to go if they became homeless, after this session this decreased to 5%. They were also asked if it was helpful that the sessions were delivered by Peer educators. 62% agreed that this was helpful and 75% said that their view of homeless people had changed following the sessions. In addition to the ongoing evaluation of the project staff have also been asked to deliver a session at Forth Valley College around volunteering and to evaluate the impact of previous sessions on independent living.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

To deliver the project successfully it requires constant review to ensure that it is up to date with legislative and local changes as well as looking at methods of delivery. Ensuring that young people interact with the sessions is the biggest challenge. Using multi media and varying methods of delivery ensure that both the participants and young volunteers continue to engage.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The Smartliving project assists in the continuing improvement of the health, safety and well being of our citizens and communities by teaching young people the importance of keeping a home safe and secure whilst teaching them about the responsibilities of having a home of their own.

Through participation in volunteering and access to employability programmes the project is increasing Falkirk Council's efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination. This also assists in enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live, work and visit.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

The project has successfully engaged with 1909 young people throughout 2013/14 through various venues and groups. Unfortunately they have not been able to deliver sessions in all the High Schools in the district despite several sessions with the school leads for Personal and Social Education (PSE) to inform them of the project and how it can assist in the delivery of vital housing information and fulfil the needs for the curriculum for excellence. It will continue to work with education services to ensure that this situation is improved and progress on this has been made for the 2014/15 sessions.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Quarterly Review meetings are held with the Lead Officer to discuss the projects quarterly performance report submissions based on their set objectives. An annual report is also compiled summarising performance.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

Falkirk Council contributes £14,114 of funding to the project which amounts to 29% of their overall project budget (£50,000). Additional funding is currently received from the Scottish Government's People and Communities funding to the amount of £14,433 for 2014/15. Linkgroup contribute any shortfall which amounts to around £20,000. The People with Communities funding stream will expire on 31st March 2015. The project will be looking to submit an application for 2015/16 however the application process is not open yet.

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

2012/2013

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

The ongoing funding will be a future risk for the project. As mentioned Falkirk Council contribute 29% of the overall funding to this project. Additional funds are sought currently from the Scottish Government People and Communities and Linkgroup. The People with Communities funding will expire in March 2015. Additional funding will need to be sought for the project to continue.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Low

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year

To run the current project amounts to around £48,500.

E COMPLETED BY

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>Name</u> | Joanna Stewart |
| <u>Designation</u> | Senior Service Development Officer |
| <u>Date</u> | September 2014 |

**FALKIRK COUNCIL XX SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2014/15**

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Organisation Name | Salvation Army |
| Project | Drop in Service (Soup Kitchen) |
| Agreement Dates | 2013/14 |
| Name of Lead Officer | Joanna Stewart |

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

The Falkirk Drop in service has been running for a number of years now with one full time Drop in Coordinator and relying on a number of volunteers. The project has the following core objectives to;

- provide a Place of Safety
- keep the ethos of a Healthy person at the project core
- ensure the Welfare of clients
- develop the service to ensure that it meets the changing needs of the client

The drop in service provides a nutritious meal Monday to Friday as well as food parcels and hygiene packs for those in emergent need, showering and washing facilities, but fundamentally the project provides signposting and support to help the most vulnerable individuals in the Falkirk area access services that will address their needs. Service users come from a variety of backgrounds from those who have been affected by recent benefits cuts, to those with enduring mental health needs to those with addictions.

The project delivers services under the following Corporate Plan goals:

- Continuing to improve the health, safety and well being of our citizens and communities;
- Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination; and
- Enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live, work and visit

List of Agreed Outcomes

The following are the list of agreed outcomes for the project

- To provide the service as needed to individuals annually through professional paid staff and volunteers
- Staff and volunteers receive support, training and preparation for their roles
- To provide accessible information about the service
- To gather and report customer service feedback to assist in the development of the service
- To evaluate the service on a yearly basis to assist in service improvements

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

The project is a jointly funded initiative through Falkirk Council and NHS Forth Valley. The project relies on and thrives on the volunteers and the donations that it receives. It requires dedicated individuals who build relations and rapport with service users and agencies to ensure that service users can access the services they require.

Originally soup kitchens were set up by voluntary organisations, usually churches, taking food to the needy in inner cities. This model had changed significantly over the years and now looks at not just providing one healthy meal a day but also providing additional health services and signposting to appropriate services encouraging people to move away from dependency on social services and address their housing and health issues. To this extent soup kitchens need to be flexible and have a multi disciplinary approach to meet the varying needs of service users.

This approach can often require a substantial amount of investment in building relationships with service users the often local authority officers do not have the luxury of due to time restraints but also because service users often see them as an authority figure and will sometimes fail to engage. To this extent a voluntary organisation provides a more flexible and less authoritarian approach for service users to effectively engage with.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

During 2013/2014 the Salvation Army provided 12,476 meals during which is an average of 239 meals per week and an additional 844 food parcels. This is an increase of 3,877 meals from 2012/2013.

As well as providing the core meals at the drop in service those attending have also been assisted with harm reduction, accessing employability programmes and Keep Well projects.

A recent survey of those attending the drop in service revealed that:

- The main reason for attending the drop in service was for a meal but some also attended to see the support worker;
- The majority of those attending were males aged 31-40;
- Over half came every day;
- Just over half claimed that they came to the drop in service because they did not have any money for food;
- Just over half said that their income had reduced with recent changes to the benefits system, with 57.1% noting that their Employment Support Allowance had reduced, 28.6% were affected by benefit sanctions and 14.3% were affected by the under occupancy rule.

It is clear that in the current climate that the drop in service provides services to those who may otherwise have gone hungry, have accumulated more debt and perhaps turned to crime to feed themselves. In addition to this many service users are effectively engaging in the services and are for example accessing addictions service to address their needs. An outcome of this is that several service users have returned to the project as volunteers or on employability placements acknowledging the importance that the Salvation Army drop-in service has had on their life.

The project relies greatly on the food donations from local business and the volunteers that help run the service. In addition to this other agencies such as Sign Post, NHS Forth Valley, Falkirk Councils Rough Sleepers worker, the Debt and Welfare Team and Women's Aid all assist in supporting clients that attend the service.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

Over the last three years the numbers of meals served in the soup kitchen have increased significantly (by 63% in the last 4 years). There is an ongoing challenge for the Salvation Army to cope with these numbers.

One of the key challenges in 2014/15 will be for the Salvation Army to actively address a cohort of clients who have a dependency on the service. If this is not addressed then there will be a significant pressure on the service.

As with all organisations continuous funding is an issue. If donations and funding from NHS Forth Valley were to be dropped or cut it would have a substantial impact on the project. Falkirk Council are working with the organisation to see if additional funding can be sought to help establish and deliver discrete activity programmes that will complement the current project and address some of the issues identified above.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The project contributes to the ongoing welfare mitigation and resilience services to assist those who have been affected by the changes in the welfare reform system.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

There have been no issues in regards to a shortfall in performance. The project is currently performing above capacity however there are a number of areas that can be improved to assist with client dependency on the service.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

The lead officer meets quarterly with the project and holds an annual review meeting to discuss the next years priorities.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

The organisation is currently in a comfortable financial situation. Its overall budget of £46,328.00 was overspent by £939.46 in 2012/13 however this is only 2% of their overall project budget.

The majority of funding comes from funding from Falkirk Council (£10,475) and NHS Forth Valley (£27,000). Any additional funding for the project comes from donations (approximately £9,361, this includes donations from the general public, trust income and legacies). The soup kitchen management costs come from national funding, although this is not specified within the project running costs. The community café which is based within same facility has a source of

income and this likely covers the running of the community café and any deficits from the soup kitchen.

Falkirk Council funding contributes to 22% of the soup kitchens overall funding.

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

2012/13

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

As described above the organisation has financial risks in terms of drops in donations and core funding from Falkirk Council and NHS Forth Valley.

The service is also currently delivering the largest amounts of meals that it ever has. If numbers continue to increase then the project may struggle to provide a service to all those approaching the soup kitchen. This however can be tackled by addressing a cohort of clients who many have become dependant on the service. This will free up some capacity within the service. Sourcing additional funding will assist with developing parts of the service to address issues surrounding the cohort of dependant service users.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Risk rating was assessed as low for the grant funding however there is a financial risk with the level of overspend by the project to maintain the levels of service users attending which has increased over the last few years.

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year

The development session was held in partnership with NHS Forth Valley in February 2013 focused on the key aims and objectives for the service in 2013-14. This allowed the project to refocus in advance of key changes in the welfare reform that may impact on the demands for the service. This is now being used to shape and deliver services in 2014/15.

During 2013-14 the service saw its highest demand on services since the establishment of the drop-in service. The project has coped well with this increasing demand by ensuring there are sufficient volunteers and donations to support the delivery of the project. It has also worked well in establishing contacts with other agencies which they refer onto to assist clients to resolve their crisis as well as sourcing funding for specialist posts to deal the alcohol misuse and debt and welfare issues. Falkirk Council is working closely with the drop in service to evaluate the clients attending the service and look at additional and alternative ways of delivering the service to ensure that a dependence culture does not emerge. Colleagues within the health service are also providing assistance to ensure that clients have healthy and nutritious meals and have access to education about how to cook healthy meals themselves.

The project will need to monitor closely, along with the council, the demands on the service to ensure that capacity is not overstretched and that the service can meet the needs of its clients. This will be a difficult balancing act as numbers continue to increase however clear planning will

ensure that the best is made of the resources available and thereby utilising other services in the area to assist in the delivery of the service.

E COMPLETED BY

Name

Joanna Stewart

Designation

Senior Service Development Officer

Date

September 2014

**FALKIRK COUNCIL XX SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2013/14**

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Organisation Name | Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC) |
| Project | Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC) |
| Agreement Dates | April 2014 – March 2015 |
| Name of Lead Officer | Celia Sweeney |

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

- To promote equality of opportunities for all through various projects and outreach work
- To support victims of discrimination and harassment by the provision of advocacy, representation, information and advice.
- To encourage community cohesion and good relations through community development and projects designed to promote active, participative citizenship among diverse communities, thus enabling them to contribute fully to community planning and other consultations.
- To acquaint organisations and employers of any discrimination experienced by any group in any field, but especially in social welfare, housing, employment, education and health care.
- To provide programmes of public education and information, through seminars, forums and other means.
- To maintain a local library service for school pupils, students, teachers, voluntary organisations and other agencies, providing a comprehensive source of information for the purposes of anti-discrimination and harassment education.
- To achieve the objectives set out in appendix 1 of this schedule and to demonstrate performance of these objectives. These will be revised on a half yearly basis as part of the review process.

List of Agreed Outcomes

- Develop an annual work plan which will be approved by the CSRECL Board
- Demonstrate increased Director involvement in the strategic management of CSRECL by:
 - Developing the knowledge and understanding of the Board of Directors in relation to their roles and responsibilities
 - Expanding the expertise, experience and skills of the Board in areas identified as 'protected characteristics' within the terms of the Equality Act 2010
- Demonstrate organisation management by:
 - Ensuring that all Board papers are ready in good time prior to the Board meeting.
 - Ensuring that relevant financial reports are available to aid Director decision making
- Conduct a review of current staffing structure against agreed service delivery
- To explore the feasibility of extending current projects into Stirling

- To develop a relevant equality service across the Council areas
- Recruit and appoint staff and volunteers to deliver against the work plan where funding has been secured.
 - To establish a system of staff performance appraisal
- To develop a communication strategy with a focus on:
 - Quarterly newsletter
 - Website development
- CSRECL will continue to develop a client support service by:
 - Signposting individuals to the appropriate advice and representation where this is provided by other agencies.
 - Providing a direct advice service where this is appropriate and within the current knowledge base
 - Exploring the feasibility of expansion into Stirling
- Keeping accurate records of all complaints dealt with and their outcomes and publish statistics on an annual basis. This will include establishing and implementing case study reviews e.g.: Providing quantitative data and qualitative information to demonstrate numbers and results
- Refer to, and work closely with, other relevant agencies such as MAHRS partners providing statistical reports to contribute to the capture and analysis of discrimination / harassment related incidents and crime.
- CSRECL will conduct an annual user survey and provide information to the Councils on the results.
- Liaise with the three nominated officers within local authorities to identify and contribute to education, awareness and promotion activities.

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

SCREC is a very long standing voluntary organisation initially supported by the Equality & Human Rights Commission and is evolving from a Race Equality Council to a Regional Equality Council with a wider focus across the whole equality spectrum and all of the protected characteristics.

The role and function of SCREC does not come within the statutory service remit of the Council however the Council is expected to demonstrate how it meets the general equality duty which includes evidence of work to: eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. In this capacity the funding support to SCREC would act as evidence in this regard.

As an external voluntary organisation CSREC is able to draw down funds (Voluntary Action Fund; Awards for All etc) which is funding Council's would not be able to do. The total amount of external funding in place up to March 2015 is in the region of £159k which will result in the creation of jobs as well as activity to address e.g. sectarianism; cultural diversity etc.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMESSummary of Key Achievements

- Develop an annual work plan which will be approved by the CSRECL Board
Completed.
- Demonstrate increased Director involvement in the strategic management of CSRECL by:
 - Developing the knowledge and understanding of the Board of Directors in relation to their roles and responsibilities
Board Member training delivered. Continuing development
 - Expanding the expertise, experience and skills of the Board in areas identified as ‘protected characteristics’ within the terms of the Equality Act 2010
Invitations to co-optees with knowledge / skill in different equality areas. Limited involvement to date; continuing development.
- Demonstrate organisation management by:
 - Ensuring that all Board papers are ready in good time prior to the Board meeting
 - Ensuring that relevant financial reports are available to aid Director decision making
Some finance information accompanies the project performance reports. For the past few meetings written CSRECL finance reports have been absent.
- Conduct a review of current staffing structure against agreed service delivery
Appointment of a part-time manager (post vacant since last incumbent left)
- To explore the feasibility of extending current projects into Stirling & Clacks.
In development – likely to be subject to successful funding bids.
- To develop a relevant equality service across the funding Councils’ service and geographic areas
In development
- Recruit and appoint staff and volunteers to deliver against the work plan.
- To establish a system of staff performance appraisal
In progress
- To develop a communication strategy with a focus on:
 - Quarterly newsletter
 - Website development
In progress and communications around 30th anniversary taking place
- CSRECL will continue to develop a client support service by:
 - Signposting individuals to the appropriate advice and representation where this is provided by other agencies.
- Providing a direct advice service where this is appropriate and within the current knowledge base
- Exploring the feasibility of expansion into Stirling

In progress and developing

- Keeping accurate records of all complaints dealt with and their outcomes and publish statistics on an annual basis. This will include establishing and implementing case study reviews e.g.: Providing quantitative data and qualitative information to demonstrate numbers and results
All projects producing quarterly performance reports on progress for the Board quarterly meetings.
- Refer to, and work closely with, other relevant agencies such as MAHRS partners providing statistical reports to contribute to the capture and analysis of discrimination / harassment related incidents and crime.
In place and on-going.
- CSRECL will conduct an annual user survey and provide information to the Councils on the results.
Some preparatory work is underway on this objective.
- Liaise with the three nominated officers within local authorities to identify and contribute to education, awareness and promotion activities.
Monthly meeting with Chairperson / New Manager
Quarterly Board attendance
Quarterly Council officer meetings re JWA.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

The leadership issues and governance challenges reported to the last Scrutiny panel remain. Board members have attended training which was delivered by an external consultant. Observations suggest that there is still patchy understanding and engagement with the various projects for which they are accountable.

In the previous report it was mentioned that the Board recognised that there was not the wide range of equality skill and knowledge given CSREC's aspiration to provide support across the whole equality protected characteristic spectrum. To support this gap effort was made by the Chairperson to co-opt people with this additional knowledge and expertise. Since my last report more is required to develop this initiative.

CSREC receives core funding from Falkirk (£15200), Stirling (£9306) and Clackmannanshire (£3629.16) Councils totalling £28,135.16. Clackmannanshire Council conducted a funding review last year and has now stopped funding CSREC effective from October 2014 which leaves Falkirk and Stirling funding in place up to March 2015.

Income generation possibilities are being explored in terms of developing training packages however this is in the developmental stage.

The challenge for CSREC is that there is a limited financial cushion resulting in a great deal of energy going into funding search.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The Council is expected to demonstrate how it meets the general equality duty which includes evidence of work to: eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

CSREC has contributed to this by acting as co-ordinator of racial incident reports and production of quarterly reports for the MAHRS group.

Developing a complainant aid service and liaising where appropriate with relevant Council Services.

Working in tandem with Council Services e.g. Education / CLD to deliver activities as part of externally funded project objectives around anti – sectarian work, cultural diversity and an emerging Equality Forum.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

Encouraging co-optees with wider equality knowledge / skill / expertise on to the Board.

Finance reports being ready in time for Board quarterly meetings

Developing work across Stirling and Clackmannanshire

Developing a source of equality community contacts

Annual user survey

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Monthly with the Chairperson; this will now continue with the newly appointed Manager.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

Falkirk Council funds CSREC on an annual basis:

Falkirk Council contribution - £15,200

Accommodation is also provided by Falkirk Council in kind, with an estimated value of £10,000.

The total funding (financial and in kind) for the past 3 years has been: **£75,000**

Future funding is agreed on an annual basis subject to a Joint Working Agreement. Funding based on the above estimating continuance at current levels: £30,200 + £20,000 (in kind) over the next 2 years totalling = **£50,200**

Falkirk Council funding expressed as a percentage of CSREC's **total** funding over the financial year 2013/14 = 10.6%. This calculation has been worked out against all of the funding received including that from external sources and not just the 3 local Councils.

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

2012 / 2013

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

Structural:

The leadership issues, governance challenges as well as knowledge and skills gap across the wider equality agenda reported to the last Scrutiny panel remain. Board members have attended training which was delivered by an external consultant. Attempts at improving the Board membership through co-optees have also yet to be realised.

While CSREC has been successful attracting external funding it is unclear if the search for funding is within an overall operational strategy. The risk is that energy and effort is put into chasing funding without having a sense of how this is contributing to CSREC vision and plan.

Operational:

SCREC has been successful in drawing down **external funding** totalling £159k. The previous report outlined the work being carried out by the externally funded projects

Anti-Sectarian Project (funded up to March 2015 by Voluntary Action Fund) was able to demonstrate an impact through its work with schools and engaging a significant number of primary and high schools pupils in discussion and activity.

The Good Relations Project (funding from Voluntary Action Fund ended May 2014) with its focus on cultural diversity and good community relations was also able to demonstrate an impact through its work with after school clubs and engaging young people in dance, drumming and story-telling.

The Climate Change – Eco Friendly Falkirk (funded up to July 2014 by Climate Challenge

Fund) has now ended and at the time of writing the final report is not yet available.

The Mainstreaming Equality Project (funded up to March 2015 by Scottish Government) had been without a member of staff for some months.

The new Manager has a dual role in that he is responsible for the delivery of the mainstreaming project and has produced a short term work plan for the remaining funding period which has as its focus the establishment of a central regional equality forum. The contacts and discussions thus far (supported by a positive working relationship with CLD staff) suggest that this has the potential to engage new people from the various diverse communities across Falkirk.

Core funding project work: Advice and Support Service (local authority funding) confirmed up to March 2015. This project is being re-established and while the numbers were small over 2013/14 (36 clients) this is being monitored over the current financial reporting year. A **Part – time Manager** (local authority funding contribution) confirmed up to March 2015. This is a position which has recently been created to fill the void arising from the resignation of the previous post holder.

Financial:

External funding ends in March 2015. Continued efforts are being made to identify funding beyond this timeframe.

The following funding bids have been submitted and await decision:

- *A funding bid has been made to the Big Lottery fund (£10k up to July 2015) to support a research project on BME engagement in work in the Stirling area.*
- *Funding bid (£10k) has gone to the Scottish Government (voluntary action fund) to extend the anti-sectarian project in the Clacks. area, if successful this would operate until **October / November 2015**.*
- *CEMVO will fund 2 short term internships for a period of 13 weeks (**December 2014**) who will focus on CSREC website development. (£6K).*

The total funding received from Stirling, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Council's is **£28,135.16 (£10k in kind)** up to March 2015.

Clackmannanshire Council has provided 50% of previous years funding up to September 2014 and will not be offering funding beyond this date.

Stirling Council is conducting an external funding review the outcome of which is unknown.

This money has been used to lever in external funding however given the current actual reduction and future uncertainty it is unknown how this leverage can / will continue.

A further contributory factor is the lack of clarity at the moment from funders which includes Scottish Government and large voluntary sector funds about how much money will be available for next year. The climate around the referendum being quoted as contributing to this situation.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

The risk is being assessed across the following areas:

Leadership and governance – Knowledge and expertise skills gap across the equality protected characteristics

Funding:

- External funding comes to an end March 2015

- Clackmannanshire Council funding has stopped as at September 2014
- Stirling Council is conducting a funding review (potentially an area of risk)

For these reasons and at this point in time the overall risk rating is considered to be **High**. This is a change from the previous assessment (medium) and has been purely based on the changing and fragile funding position at this time.

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year

There is no doubt that the successful bids for external funding have allowed CSREC to develop local projects dealing with a range of issues and which in terms of the external funder assessment have been successful. The external funding has also encouraged links with Council Services e.g. youth service; schools and community learning and development. The main geographic beneficiary being Falkirk district.

Project sustainability is a key concern and one which the voluntary sector in general struggles with; where seeking funding to survive can come at the expense of ongoing impact and community sustainability.

Sustainability without the funding from Clackmannanshire and outcome of the Stirling funding review could potentially further restrict operations as a viable Central Scotland project. It is suggested that a reduction in funding of £5,000 is considered when decisions are being taken on 2015/16 funding in order that Falkirk Council's contribution is more in line with the other key lenders.

E COMPLETED BY

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Name</u> | Celia Sweeney |
| <u>Designation</u> | Corporate Policy Officer - Equalities |
| <u>Date</u> | 9 th September 2014 |

| FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2013/14 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|
| Organisation Name | Falkirk Community Trust | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project | Sport 4 Youth | | | | | | | | | | |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 13 to 31 March 14 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name of Lead Officer | Linda Scott | | | | | | | | | | |
| A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Summary of Key Aims & Objectives</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>The project is delivered by the Trust and supports a diverse population of young people through a sports activity outreach programme across the Falkirk Council area although the project specifically targets young people in the SIMD 15% category areas. The aim of the project is to introduce sport and physical activity to young people, steering them towards regular participation at centres, clubs, etc. The project aims to create an alternative route for young people to become involved in sport, contributing to their health and well-being and diverting them from the risk of being involved in anti-social behaviour or crime and, therefore, contributing towards a settled community. The project seeks to maintain an infrastructure which promotes a long-term engagement in sports activities and ultimately enhance individuals' self-esteem, self awareness and overall well-being.</p> <p>The benefits gained can then have an indirect effect on their employability. The process of skills acquisition, working together in a team & levels of commitment are all transferable social & life skills. These are important elements of personal growth which can contribute to & help gain employment, demonstrating to potential employers the acquisition of necessary life skills.</p> <p>These skills can also be developed within the sporting activity & lead into opportunities of training to coach or lead activities & thus open up the prospect of work within sport or leisure. This could take the form of Sports Leaders Award or Early Touches course.</p> <p>The project provided classes in football, basketball, badminton, hockey, tennis, volleyball, cricket, rounders, dodgeball, rugby, lacrosse, Boxercise, and fitness circuits. These were delivered at: Dawson centre astro; Tryst Community Centre, Camelon Education sports hall; Falkirk stadium astro pitch (Westfield); and Bo'ness Town hall.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>List of Agreed Outcomes</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Output</th><th>Target</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No. of sites/sessions running</td><td>8 weekly</td></tr> <tr> <td>No. of young people involved</td><td>160 average /wk</td></tr> <tr> <td>No. of training courses for young people</td><td>3 per year</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> | | Output | Target | No. of sites/sessions running | 8 weekly | No. of young people involved | 160 average /wk | No. of training courses for young people | 3 per year | | |
| Output | Target | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of sites/sessions running | 8 weekly | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of young people involved | 160 average /wk | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of training courses for young people | 3 per year | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

The service provided by this project is not a statutory one.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

A number of the project outcomes detailed in section A are not tangible so are difficult to evidence or measure. However, the aim of the project to introduce sport & physical activity, & engendering continued involvement, will be a conclusion or movement on for the participants. Steering participants towards regular participation at centre, club, league or other activity provision will be a natural end in itself. Some success has been achieved with informal self-determined groups or clubs starting up & this opportunity can only help to develop the work to formalise such groups.

There are core groups at both Dawson and Westfield who have been attending sessions regularly since the beginning. The programme has been an extremely positive part of the young peoples' lives and achieving the project's intended goals. The project has numerous benefits including health, fitness and socialising and the young people are all involved in their local communities.

| Sport 4 Youth - Total No. of Participants in 2013-14 | |
|---|-------|
| 1 st Quarter (Apr-June) | 1,447 |
| 2 nd Quarter (July- Sept) | 489 |
| 3 rd Quarter (Oct-Dec) | 1269 |
| 4 th Quarter (Jan-Mar) | 609 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| 2013-14 Performance | |
| No. of sites/sessions running | 8 per week |
| No. of young people involved | 3814 / 120avg/wk |
| No. of training courses for young people | 0 |

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

The provision of classes in some areas has now changed with a few sessions no longer continuing due to lack of attendance and youth clubs no longer requiring support from the project. The project relies on joint working with the Youth Workers from CLD so if there are changes to that provision at either of the venues this can affect the programme. Youth clubs close over the school holidays so sessions can only really be provided during term time.

The Trust made a decision to continue the programme only for those sessions that were in demand and had a high level of attendance, concentrating on the most popular sessions or those that actively requested support.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The project focuses on engaging young people in deprived communities and helps to achieve the Council's Poverty strategy aims by:

- Increasing the number of young people participating in post 16 learning
- Increasing skills and qualification of the workforce within the Falkirk Council area
- Promoting health and wellbeing across our communities
- Increasing young people's confidence and self esteem; and
- Reducing the potential for our young people to develop harmful lifestyles.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

The project has fallen short of achieving its targets both in terms of the number of sessions and the number of youths participating for the reasons outlined at the issues/challenges section above.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Annual meetings but quarterly monitoring reports are submitted. The project is also monitored by the Trust as part of its overall activities.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Total Support Provided (Financial & In- Kind Contributions)

£38,637

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

The finances are part of the Falkirk Community Trust, which is part of wider financial monitoring arrangements.

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

The project would plan a fundamental review of the programme to establish whether it was sustainable to continue with the sessions as they are currently delivered.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Low/medium

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year

The project has achieved a number of successes and has experienced challenges as well that it is working to overcome. Less tangible but equally important as a measure of success is the added benefits of taking such an outreach programme to youths and breaking down barriers for those young people who traditionally have not engaged with more formal types of activity. The young people involved can gain a sense of achievement at being involved in some constructive activity. The wider benefits of involvement include an indirect effect on employability because of participating in the process and acquiring skills such as team working and social and life skills. The project could also lead to young people developing a career in training or coaching.

E COMPLETED BY

Name

Linda Scott

Designation

Policy Officer

Date

20 October 2014