

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

Organisation Name	Barnardo's
Project	AXIS Service
Agreement Dates	2014-15
Name of Lead Officer	Matthew Davies

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

The Axis Service aims to reduce the risk and harm to young people, families and communities in the Falkirk area by providing support to young people up to the age of 19 who are experiencing a range of difficulties related to alcohol or substance misuse. The range of interventions include a Core Service, (medium to long term support for young people experiencing significant difficulties), and an Early Doors service, (an early intervention service consisting of approximately six to eight focused individual sessions, advice/information and group work sessions to existing groups focusing on awareness raising).

List of Agreed Outcomes

Progress is monitored through the Forth Valley Outcomes Framework and through the Barnardo's Outcomes Framework. The Barnardo's Outcomes Framework focuses on a range of desired outcomes based on SHANARRI indicators and tracks progress made over a sequence of reviews with approximately twelve weeks between reviews. Each young person has an agreed set of outcomes based around need which determines the focus of support. The level of need is given a scoring between 1 to 5 based on the level of need with 5 being the greatest level of need or concern, and 1 being a measure that the need has been met.

The Service aims to provide support to 15 to 18 young people at any one time through Early Doors and 10 to 12 young people at any one time through the Core Service. The Service also aims to provide awareness raising sessions to young people and community groups (target of 200 referrals).

Axis also provides support to young people in relation to employability and training opportunities.

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

Axis has developed significant expertise relating to working with vulnerable young people with problematic substance misuse issues. The Service shares its Management Structure with Barnardo's Cluaran Service and consequently receives some funding from Barnardo's.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBEJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

Core Service: During the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 **thirty** young people received a programme of support from the Service. The nature of the Core Young People means that the work will be long-term and intensive, with a low turnover rate.

Twenty seven Young People have had outcomes measures set, of the three young people with no outcomes, two were in Aftercare during this period and their outcomes predated the time frame with the remaining one being a new case with no outcomes set as yet.

In addition, the outcomes shown below include on-going work with Young People where often arresting risk and maintaining stability can be considered progress.

Outcomes achieved through the Core Service.

	Improvement	Maintained Same Level	Deterioration
1.1.01 Receives necessary health care	3	1	0
1.2.01 Enhanced parent/carer/adult - child relationships	1	0	0
1.2.13 Improved mental health & well-being	7	3	3
1.3.02 Knowledge of sexual health strategies	3	2	1
1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	12	6	4
1.5.04 Knowledge of alcohol/drug misuse risks	10	4	0
2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	11	8	3
4.1.15 Access to information on housing, health, benefits, rights or support needs	0	1	1
5.2.01 Satisfactory school/college attendance	1	0	0
6.1.04 Positive socialisation with peers	6	2	1
6.1.05 Increased choice of activities/opportunities	1	0	0
8.1.03 Reduction in anti-social behaviour	3	0	2
9.1.02 Access to employment, education or training	4	3	3

Outcomes for Young people receiving an early doors service.

During the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 **sixty-eight** young people received or are still receiving a service from Early Doors. Of these young people twenty seven received information and advice only, twenty five have completed full programmes; ten are currently engaged in programmes or at the early stages of assessment and six remain on Maintenance Monitoring. Seventeen young people decided against working with the Service, two referrals were withdrawn and three referrals were signposted.

For young people participating in the Early Doors programmes, outcomes are agreed at the beginning and the end of the programme, therefore young people at the early stages of their programme will not be included in the outcome reporting. Given that the Early Doors Programme is early intervention, the range of desired outcomes is usually narrower than the Core Service, focussing on: reduced consumption; reduced risk of harm and increased knowledge outcomes.

Outcomes achieved through the Early Doors programme.

Outcome	Improvement	Maintained Same Level	Deterioration
1.2.13 Improved mental health & well-being	1	0	0
1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	18	5	0
1.5.04 Knowledge of alcohol/drug misuse risks	17	6	0
2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	19	4	0
8.1.03 Reduction in anti-social behaviour	6	0	0
9.1.02 Access to employment, education or training	4	0	1

Employability support:

Of the **fourteen** young people receiving support in this area, the majority have shown progress either in relation to engagement with education, employment/training or have shown an improvement in their attitude to, and readiness for, employment. This progress has usually come about as a result of greater stability in their lives due to a reduced/safer consumption of substances and a reduction in the level of risk or harm. At this stage, as well as helping them maintain stability, as part of their recovery the Service then provided support to engage with other services aimed at employment or training. One young person has recently obtained a permanent job as a trainee chef in the kitchens at Gleneagles Hotel after working successfully with Axis over a period of two years. The following sets of outcomes are a sample of five young people evidencing their progress whilst being supported by Axis in the area of employability.

Case ID	Outcome	First score	Last score	Change
1	1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	2	1	1
	1.5.04 Knowledge of alcohol/drug misuse risks	1	1	0
	2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	1	1	0
	9.1.02 Access to employment, education or training	3	2	1
2	1.1.01 Receives necessary health care	3	3	0
	1.2.13 Improved mental health & well-being	4	3	1
	1.3.02 Knowledge of sexual health strategies	5	3	2
	1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	5	3	2
	2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	4	3	1
	4.1.15 Access to information on housing, health, benefits, rights or support needs	3	3	0
	6.1.04 Positive socialisation with peers	5	3	2
	8.1.03 Reduction in anti-social behaviour	2	3	-1
	9.1.02 Access to employment, education or training	4	4	0
3	1.1.01 Receives necessary health care	3	1	2
	1.2.13 Improved mental health & well-being	4	2	2
	1.3.02 Knowledge of sexual health strategies	3	2	1
	1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	4	2	2
	1.5.04 Knowledge of alcohol/drug misuse risks	3	2	1
	2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	4	2	2
	6.1.04 Positive socialisation with peers	4	2	2
	6.1.05 Increased choice of activities/opportunities	5	3	2

	9.1.02 Access to employment, education or training	4	3	1	
4	1.2.13 Improved mental health & well-being	3	3	0	
	1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	3	3	0	
	2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	3	3	0	
	9.1.02 Access to employment, education or training	3	3	0	
5	1.2.13 Improved mental health & well-being	4	4	0	
	1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	4	3	1	
	1.5.04 Knowledge of alcohol/drug misuse risks	5	4	1	
	2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	5	3	2	
	9.1.02 Access to employment, education or training	3	3	0	

It should be noted that for all young people completing programmes, both in Early Doors and Core, the service will contact them three months after closure to ensure progress has been sustained. Should there have been a relapse then the Service would offer to re-engage with the young person. This part of the service is called Maintenance Monitoring. Young people at this stage are not included in measurement of Service Capacity.

As stated above, in addition to providing programmes of support to individuals the Service has a remit to raise awareness of alcohol and drug related issues to local Community Groups. The information below highlights some of our work in this area:

- Axis has attended CLD and Falkirk Trust events for young people as part of their summer programme in Airth, Larbert, Camelon and Tamfourhill
- Axis provided an input to a group of Young Carers as part of a summer programme at Falkirk Stadium.
- Axis continues to develop links across schools in Falkirk. The service is currently developing a peer mentoring programme in partnership with Graeme High School.
- Axis has been able to link up with Police Scotland in Falkirk who have agreed to provide Axis information to young people arrested and in cells. Signpost have agreed to formalise links with Axis to ensure their arrest referral service signposts young people to Axis appropriately.
- Axis is working closely with Falkirk and Forth Valley ADP and Falkirk Council to embed Social Influencing in Falkirk High schools. The project is currently underway in Falkirk High School and will be rolled out to Grangemouth High in 2016/17.

Axis has taken a lead in raising awareness and supporting Falkirk Council Services following the increase in use of “legal highs” or New Psychoactive Substances. Axis has worked with many of Falkirk Council’s Children’s Services teams across both Education and Social Work, including FK1 LGBT Youth Project, Tremanna Residential Unit and the Community Wardens. Axis is also active in working alongside other Alcohol and Drug Partnership services in Forth Valley to identify more effective ways to tackle this concerning issue.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

The Axis Service is funded on a year to year basis. This impacts upon long term planning and staff recruitment and retention. Two years consecutive 3% reduction in funding followed by a standstill budget in 2013/14 has resulted in a review of the management and support functions within the Service. Continued budget cuts or a standstill budget will impact on service delivery with consequences for this vulnerable group of children.

With the loss of £33,724 Corporate and Neighbourhood funding for employability from April 2016, this will have an impact in the longer-term on Service Delivery. In the short-term, this will be mitigated and the Service has been enhanced by 2 year funding secured from Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership from April 2015 - March 2017. This secures the Early Doors Early Intervention Service Delivery and enhances the Service with a post specifically to support the most vulnerable young people in Falkirk, who are or have been Looked After.

How has the Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities:

The Service forms part of the tiered approach to Substance Misuse Service Delivery and is represented at Falkirk's Alcohol and Drug Partnership. The Service sits on the Youth Justice Referral Group and delivers Services to Children and Young People coming to the attention of that Group as a result of substance related offending behaviour. The Service is aligned to Falkirk Council's goals of "Continuing to improve the Health, Safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities".

The Service delivers interventions which are consistent with the Children and Families Social Work goals of providing support to "Children in Need", dealing with young offending and anti-social behaviour", and providing support for children and young people affected by drug or alcohol misuse".

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

None.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Six monthly

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Total Support Provided (Financial & In- Kind Contributions)

The total Falkirk Council contribution to Axis in 2014-15 was £144,676, £110,952 from Social Work Services and £33,724 from Corporate and Neighbourhood Services.

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

2014-15

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

Risk to operational delivery of services resulting from potential further 15% reduction in budget.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Medium

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year

The Axis Service continues to perform well and in line with its Service Specification. The Service is able to provide detailed outcomes information in relation to individual Service Users using its developed Outcomes Framework. These demonstrate positive outcomes for the

majority of its Service Users. Continued cuts in funding will impact on service delivery however.

E COMPLETED BY

Name

Matthew Davies

Designation

Children's Services Manager

Date

21 September 2015