

homes for falkirk's bairns

A Housing Strategy for Falkirk's Young People

homes for falkirk's bairns is the housing strategy for young people aged under 26 and sets out how, over the next five years, we will put in place a network of services to help **young people in the Falkirk Council area get access to good quality affordable homes that meet their needs**. This is an ambitious aim and it is closely linked with other local strategies including the:

- **Local Housing Strategy:** its aim is to provide enough good quality affordable homes in the places that people want to live,
- **Homelessness Strategy:** that will ensure that everyone can access the right type of housing to meet their needs,
- **Supporting People Strategy:** that will provide housing support services for vulnerable people who need help to sustain their tenancies,
- **Integrated Children's Service Plan (for falkirk's bairns):** its aim is to provide services which help children and young people achieve their personal goals.

homes for falkirk's bairns has been prepared as an integral part of our Homelessness Strategy. It is focused on the particular housing needs of young people. We have involved young people in the development of **homes for falkirk's bairns** and we have listened to their views on how the strategy should be presented. For this reason, **homes for falkirk's bairns** is deliberately short and concise. It is presented as a 'statement of intent' which tells our young people what we will do to help them find a home and how we will do it. It is action-oriented and involves young people in evaluating whether it is effective.

Why do we need homes for falkirk's bairns?

At 16, young people can leave home without their parents' permission.

Last year:

- 31% of all new housing applications were from people aged under 26,
- 753 young people aged under 26 applied to the Council as homeless,
- 14 young people who had been looked after by the Council left care and needed to be housed,
- 22% of the housing waiting list is made up of young people under 26,
- Compared to the rest of the population, the level of tenancy breakdown amongst young people is high.

For many young people, leaving home and finding somewhere in an area that they want to live in can be really difficult and they can find it very hard to keep a tenancy going. If things go wrong, there can be long term effects such as homelessness, debt and loss of self esteem. It can take time for people to get back on the right track and the costs can be high both for the young person and for the wider community.

homes for falkirk's bairns aims to help young people get the housing most appropriate to their needs and to provide them with tenancy support if they require it.

How will we achieve this?

Housing Options Interviews

Every young person in the Falkirk Council area who is looking for a home will be able to have a Housing Options Interview with a specialist Housing Options Officer, either at the Accommodation Resource Centre (ARC) or at one of our One Stop Shops/Neighbourhood Offices.

Housing and Support Needs Assessment

At the Housing Options Interview, we will carry out a full assessment of the young person's housing and support needs and we will provide them with the fullest information on all the housing options available in the Falkirk Council area. Any special needs that a young person may have will be considered as part of this assessment and we will be able to refer young people to other agencies that can give help and assistance.

Temporary Accommodation

If the young person is homeless, we will give them temporary accommodation and work with them to resolve their housing crisis.

Family Mediation

If a young person has become homeless because they have fallen out with their family or the friends they have been living with, we will offer "family mediation". We will only do this if there is no risk of violence or abuse to the young person if they return home. While family mediation is taking place, we will give the young person temporary accommodation.

Housing Support

If a young person needs housing support, either in temporary or permanent accommodation, we will arrange this through one of the specialist housing support providers working in this area. The length of time that housing support is provided will vary depending on the needs of the young person.

Information

We will advertise our services in ways that will encourage young people to use them by:

- maximising the use of the internet to provide information about housing options for young people,
- exploring the use of text messaging to keep in touch with them once they have told us what they need,
- ensuring that there are links from other suitable websites used by young people to the Falkirk Housing Options Guide,
- providing leaflets and posters about our services in the places used by young people for those who do not have internet access,
- continuing to develop our housing education programme, *House About Me?* and extending its use from Falkirk's secondary schools into other places where young people meet such as the Street Sport Initiative, Forth Valley College, Community Education and youth organisations.

Participation

It is vital that we know what young people need to help them make the move from living with their family or friends to living on their own successfully. We will ask every young person who contacts us to give us feedback on the services we have been able to offer them and the accommodation and support we have provided. We will also invite young people to take part in focus groups where they will meet informally with other young people to discuss issues such as the quality of our temporary accommodation, the specialist housing support provided or the information we make available. Over time, this active participation will help us improve our housing and support services for young people.

What about looked-after children?

Many young people who have been looked-after by the local authority face particular problems when they start to live on their own because they are generally younger than the average first-time tenant and they may not have the family support networks that other young people can call on in times of trouble.

We will make sure that young people who are moving on from care have a Personal Housing Plan that will be developed by them in partnership with their Key Worker and a dedicated Housing Options Officer. The Housing Options Officer will be involved as soon as planning begins for the young person to leave care and will stay involved until suitable housing has been found and arrangements have been made for furniture and any support that is needed.

After this, the housing support provider will have regular contact with the young person by the housing support provider and the housing support package will be reviewed regularly by one of our Review Officers who will work closely with the young person's Key Worker.

What else can we offer?

It is widely accepted that people are more successful in maintaining their accommodation if they have a job or take part in education or training. At our housing and support needs assessment we will identify whether a young person might need help to find a job or education/training opportunities and we will work to ensure that suitable referrals are made to the agencies that might be able to help such as Careers Scotland, the Council's Employment and Training Unit, The Big Plus or The Chance.

How can I get a house that meets my needs?

Contact us – we'll talk with you, find out what you need and provide advice and information on the best housing options for you!

Local Neighbourhood Offices/One Stop Shops

Bo'ness One-Stop-Shop,

24 East Pier Street, Bo'ness, EH51 9AB

☎ 01506 778899

Camelon One-Stop-Shop

308 Main Street, Camelon, FK1 4DY

☎ 01324 503640

Falkirk One-Stop-Shop

Unit MSU1 Callendar Square, Falkirk, FK1 1ZF

☎ 01324 506868

Denny One-Stop-Shop

Carronmank House, Denny, FK6 6GA

☎ 01324 504050

Grangemouth One-Stop-Shop

5 York lane, Grangemouth, FK3 8BD

☎ 01324 504550

Stenhousemuir One-Stop-Shop

398 Main Street, Stenhousemuir, FK5 3JR

☎ 01324 503340

Dawson Centre

David's Loan, Falkirk, FK2 7RG

☎ 01234 501450

Accommodation Resource Centre,

23– 25 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES

☎ 01324 503600

☎ 0800 587 4440 (freephone)

✉ arc@falkirk.gov.uk

Other useful contacts

Shelter Housing Aid Centre

1 Courthouse Square, Dundee, DN1 1NH

☎ 08445152528

☎ 08088004444 (out of hours)

W www.Shelter.org.uk

Scottish Council for Single Homelessness

Wellgate House, 200 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1NQ

☎ 0131 226 4382

W www.scsh.org.uk

Stonewall

9 Howe Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6TE

☎ 0131 557 3679

✉ info@stonewallscotland.org.uk

W www.stonewall.org.uk

Central Scotland Racial Equality Council

Community Education Centre, Park St, Falkirk, FK1 1RE

☎ 01324 610950

✉ admin@centralscotlandrec.org.uk

W www.centralscotlandrec.org.uk

If you would like this information in another language, Braille, LARGE PRINT or audio, please speak to member of staff at the Accommodation Resource Centre.

إذا كنت ترغب بالحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بريل، احرف كبيرة او مسجلة صوتيا، نرجوا منك التكلم مع احد موظفينا في مركز مصادر السكن.

如果你需要這個信息其他版本，如：另一種語言文字，盲人用點字，大字體印刷或者錄音版本，請你聯系房屋資源信息中心的工作人員。

Jeigu jūs norėtumėte gauti šią informaciją kita kalba, Brailio raštu, stambiu šriftu ar įgarsintą, prašome kreiptis į Gyvenamųjų Patalpų Fondo darbuotoją.

Jeśli Śyczą sobie Państwo tych informacji w innym języku, Braillem, DUŚYM DRUKIEM lub w wersji audio, prosimy zwrócić się do pracownika Accommodation Resource Centre.

اگر آپ یہ انفارمیشن کسی دوسری زبان، بریل، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی یا آڈیو میں چاہتے ہیں تو براہ کرم مہربانی آکوموڈیشن سینٹر کے اسٹاف ممبر سے بات کریں۔

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਜਬਾਨ, ਬਰੇਲ, ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਆਡੀਓ ਤੇ ਲੇਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਐਕਮੋਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਰੀਸੋਰਸ ਸੈਂਟਰ ਦੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਬੰਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਗੱਲ ਬਾਤ ਕਰੋ।