

Fairer Scotland Fund – Existing Initiatives

Employability projects

Project name and Organisation	Project description
Positive Transitions Falkirk Council, Education Services	This project provides an alternative curriculum for pupils in their final year of school in order to help them develop the skills they will need to get into work. It aims to reduce the number of young people who become NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) when they leave school and is targeted at pupils who are intending to leave school at the earliest opportunity.
Post School Interventions Falkirk Council, Employment Training Unit	This project aims to help young people who have left school to get into employment, education or training. It provides training to help young people prepare for the world of work, alternatives to the national government training programmes where young people have not managed to stay on track, and additional support to young people in work-based training through the Skillseekers and Modern Apprenticeship schemes.
Workforce Plus Falkirk Council, Employment Training Unit	This project aims to help adults to get into employment, education or training. It provides one-to-one support to parents who are out of work, as well as training to prepare for work and financial support with childcare to help people with the transition into work. It also focuses on partnerships with employers to create employment opportunities and ensure that local unemployed people have access to them.
Activate Skills Development Scotland	This project provides a programme of activities for pupils who are not achieving well at school and who are not ready to participate in other programmes, such as Positive Transitions. It aims to help these young people prepare for the world of work and also provides one-to-one support for up to a year after leaving school.
School Non-Attendees Project (SNAP) Skills Development Scotland	This project provides intensive one-to-one support to young people who are not attending school (for any reason) as they approach their school leaving date, as these young people cannot access the other supports (such as Activate and Positive Transitions) available in school. It aims to help these young people to develop the skills and confidence to enter employment, training or education after they have officially left school.
People with Potential Edinburgh Cyrenians	This project provides one-to-one support to homeless individuals in order to help them enter employment or training. It also aims to help people overcome their homelessness, as research shows that people are more likely to be able to sustain their accommodation if they are in work.
Particip8 Falkirk Council, Community Education	This project provides intensive support to particularly vulnerable young people towards the end of their school career in order to help them engage with opportunities that will get them into work. It will deliver both individual and group-based activities across all Falkirk secondary schools.
Rise Higher Salvation Army	This project works with people who are unemployed and who are a long way from getting into work for a range of reasons, including disability, substance misuse issues, offending and length of unemployment. It aims to help these individuals to build their skills and confidence through a three month programme of classes and activities.

Engage and Embrace Central Scotland Racial Equality Council	This project aims to provide support to people from a minority ethnic background to enter training or employment and to assist employers to recognise the barriers that some people face in entering employment. It also aims to research the need for this kind of service, as there is evidence of need at a national level, but it is not clear how many people might need assistance at a local level.
Volunteering into Work CVS Falkirk and District	This project aims to help people into employment through volunteering as a first step. Its aim is to support unemployed people to take up volunteering opportunities, to learn through their volunteering experience, and to move on into paid employment. By increasing the number of volunteers, the project also aims to help local community and voluntary sector organisations.
Axis Barnardo's	This project works with young people with substance misuse problems, to help them tackle their substance misuse and to move on towards sustainable employment.
Real Jobs Falkirk The Action Group	This project aims to help young people leaving Carrongrange School to enter employment. Works intensively with each school leaver and their family to support them into their chosen destination and to raise expectations of employment. Project has also generated spin-off social enterprise development through Muiravonside cafe.

Financial Security Projects

Project name and Organisation	Project description
Financial Inclusion Project Falkirk, Denny and Grangemouth Citizens Advice Bureaux	This project aims to improve the finances of people living in the regeneration areas through debt and benefit advice. It will provide a proactive follow-up service to individuals after their first contact with a CAB and will also provide some outreach services in the regeneration areas.
Credit Union Development Falkirk Council, Community Education, in partnership with local Credit Unions	This project aims to support the development of credit unions in the Falkirk Council area by providing a dedicated Credit Union Development Officer. It aims to increase the membership of the credit unions and the number of areas with a local branch.
Older People's Advice Project Linkwide	This project aims to increase the number of older people living in the regeneration areas and other deprived areas who are claiming the benefits they are entitled to. It will proactively contact older people in these areas in order to overcome some of the barriers that they face in claiming benefits.
Enhanced Benefit and Debt Advice Service Falkirk Council, Community Advice Service and Housing Service	This project provides advice on money, debts and benefits to people throughout the Council area, with a particular focus on the regeneration areas. It aims to help people who are in need of such advice, particularly those affected by the recession and those facing the risk of homelessness through eviction or repossession.

Community Pride Projects

Project name and Organisation	Project description
Growing Communities Fund CVS Falkirk and District	This project provides a small grants scheme for local community organisations operating in the regeneration areas. It will provide grants for groups to undertake training, do local research, or communicate with their community, and will assist groups through training and peer support.

Issues

- Project is duplicate the Council's Community Grants Scheme and is not providing sufficient extra benefit for priority areas.
- Communities Panel supported the basic idea of a targeted fund for grants to organisations in regeneration areas, but also highlighted that this is not a priority in the current climate.
- Project has delivered a significant number of grants, but has struggled to generate demand at times.

Recommendation

Project not to receive continued funding. Consideration to be given to introducing a criteria regarding priority areas and groups (in line with Poverty Strategy) to Council's Small Grants process.

Project name and Organisation	Project description
Housing Estate Regeneration Outcomes Squad (HEROS) Falkirk Council, Corporate and Neighbourhood Services	This project provides environmental improvements in the regeneration areas, using squads of young people. It also aims to get the young people involved in the squads into work by providing training in environmental work.

Issues

- Project has delivered a wide range of environmental improvements in regeneration areas.
- Project has struggled to demonstrate progressions to employment. Not clear that project is an essential part of the employability pathway in its current form.
- Communities Panel were not supportive of continuing this project, as not seen as a priority in the current climate.

Recommendation

Project not to receive continued funding from Fairer Falkirk Fund. Corporate and Neighbourhood Services to continue provision as needed from HRA. Workforce Plus Partnership to work with C&NS as appropriate to provide employment and work experience opportunities.

Project name and Organisation	Project description
Sport 4 Youth Falkirk Council, Community Recreation	This project provides a range of sporting activities for young people in the regeneration areas. It aims to tackle barriers to sport by providing activities in each area and delivering the type of activities that young people themselves request.

Issues

- Project has hit targets, delivering significant levels of sporting activity for young people in all regeneration areas (bar Callendar Park High Flats)
- Clear evidence that this project provides significant additionality for regeneration areas – young people involved would not access other leisure services for reasons of cost and territoriality.
- Significant anecdotal evidence of reduced anti-social behaviour in these areas
- Project has demonstrated considerable flexibility to deliver activities which will attract all young people, both boys and girls, in each area.
- Some progress made in breaking down territorial barriers between areas, which could be further developed.

Recommendation

Continued funding at 2010-11 level, with condition to do more work in breaking down territorial barriers.

Project name and Organisation	Project description
Substance Abuse Outreach Grangemouth Family Substance Abuse Support Group	This project provides support to families in crisis where a family member is abusing drugs. It aims to provide one-to-one support, group sessions and a telephone helpline, expanding its service across the area.

Issues

- Project has struggled to deliver against original targets, due to internal difficulties within the organisation.
- Negotiations are currently ongoing to look at Forth Valley wide family support service, which would overcome organisational difficulties and supersede this service.

Recommendation

Project to be funded through the Alcohol and Drug Partnership Funding subject to the Group submitting an application for funding. Discussions currently taking place on the provision on family support services across Forth Valley with a view to supporting local organisations more effectively.

Project name and Organisation	Project description
High Visibility Foot Patrols Central Scotland Police	This project provides additional high visibility foot patrols within the regeneration areas, with the aim of building community confidence and reducing crime and the fear of crime. It agrees priorities for these patrols with local community organisations.

Issues

- Project has delivered a number of additional foot patrols and in most areas has demonstrated responsiveness to community demands.
- Communities Panel supportive of basic idea of additional foot patrols, but of the view that this work should be funded through mainstream police resources.

Recommendation

Project not to receive continued funding.

Project name and Organisation	Project description
Children's Support Workers Falkirk Council, Social Work Services and Aberlour	This project provides support to children in families where a parent is misusing substances. It aims to minimise the effects of the parent's substance misuse on the children and to maintain them at home where possible.

Issues

- Project has exceeded targets and enabled a significant number of children to remain at home and attending school, etc.
- Communities Panel very supportive of early intervention as the right approach to tackling poverty in the long term.

Recommendation

The Children's Commission have restructured the Intensive Family Support Service and are therefore not continuing this project in its current form. It will therefore not receive FSF.

Project name and Organisation	Project description
Denny Youth Provision Denny Community Support Group	This project provides youth clubs and holiday activities for different age groups in the Bridge Crescent area of Denny. It aims to reduce anti-social behaviour and to enable the children to build confidence and self-esteem.

Issues

- Project is very local, but has delivered significant levels of youth activity for different age groups in the Denny regeneration area.

Recommendation

Project not to receive continued funding from Fairer Falkirk Fund, as it does not target the key outcomes of the Poverty Strategy. However, allocation to be made from Community Safety funds to continue this project, subject to receiving application from Denny Community Support Group.

Project name and Organisation	Project description
Community-directed projects fund Falkirk Council, Corporate and Neighbourhood Services	Ring-fenced fund for community-led projects in regeneration areas, which has delivered a wide range of new facilities (e.g. play facilities, MUGAs, etc.) and other tangible improvements in communities.

Issues

- Strong support from the Communities Panel, as tangible improvements can significantly improve community spirit.

Recommendation

Continued funding at reduced level. Consideration to be given to managing this fund alongside Council's small grants fund to ensure efficiency.

Proposed allocations 2011-12

INITIATIVE	2010-11 ALLOCATION	PROPOSED 2011-12 ALLOCATION (based on £0.5m cut to overall budget)
Outcome (1) - Increase no. of individuals participating in the labour market		
Positive Transitions	220,000	200,000
Workforce Plus	340,000	750,000 (funding to be managed by ETU/ Workforce Plus Partnership)
Post School Interventions	278,295	
Activate	26,268	
SNAP	35,133	
People with Potential	69,473	
Particip '8'	58,169	
Rise Higher	48,920	
Engage & Embrace	46,091	
Volunteering into Work	38,706	
Barnardo's AXIS	33,724	33,724
Real Jobs Falkirk	71,938	90,000
Outcome 1 total	1,266,718	1,073,724
Outcome (2) - Increased household income		
Financial Inclusion	162,967	162,967
Credit Union	44,416	44,416
Older People's Advice Project	66,495	66,495
Community Advice/Homeless Service	157,889	157,889
Outcome 2 total	431,767	431,767
Outcome (3) - Increased pride in, and satisfaction with the community		
Growing Communities Fund	56,601	-
HEROS (Alt Provision)	88,180	-
Sport 4 Youth	77,274	77,274
Family Support Outreach (Alt Funding)	26,731	-
High Visibility Patrols	39,100	-
Children's Support Workers	36,920	-
Outcome 3 total	324,806	77,274
Community Directed Fund		
Denny Youth Provision (Alt Funding)	21,335	-
Other community directed	128,174	50,000
Community directed total	149,509	50,000
Staffing	20,000	20,000
Community Engagement	10,000	10,000
Admin etc total	30,000	30,000
Total	2,202,800	1,662,765
Budget	2,194,037	1,694,037