

Falkirk Community Trust

Access Policy Statement

1. INTRODUCTION

Falkirk Community Trust has a responsibility to provide access to the Museum and its collections to all and to work to ensure that it does not discriminate against people because of different capabilities.

2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Our Access policy derives from our statement of purpose which states that:

The purpose of Falkirk Community Trust Museums & Archives is to engage the public with heritage, by encouraging and enabling learning and by collecting, recording, preserving, interpreting and making accessible the material culture and archival record of the Falkirk Council area.

3. OUR VIEW OF ACCESS

We define access as something which is made possible when physical, cultural, social, financial, intellectual, psychological and emotional barriers to learning from, and enjoyment of, the museum are removed, reduced, or overcome.

4. OUR COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY

We seek to make the museum, archives, education service and its displays accessible to the widest possible audience irrespective of disabilities within the Museum's available resources. As an organisation we aim to remove barriers to access which are physical, cultural, social, financial, intellectual, psychological or emotional.

5. PLANNING FOR ACCESS

Our policy is to build accessibility into everything that we do to develop and improve the museum.

When planning events, exhibitions and any changes to our service we will consider:

- Physical accessibility – the ability of people with physical disabilities to reach and appreciate every part of the museum. The needs of the elderly and of people caring for young children are considered as physical access issues.
- Sensory accessibility – whether those with impaired vision or hearing can enjoy and appreciate the museum's building, exhibitions and collection.
- Intellectual access – whether people with learning disabilities can engage with and enjoy the museum and its exhibitions.
- Cultural access – the needs of people for whom English is not a first language, or whose background knowledge of Scottish history and culture may be limited.

- Emotional and attitudinal access – whether the museum environment and the museum staff are welcoming to visitors from all sections of the community.
- Financial – the needs of people who may have limited income.

We pay due regard to intergenerational equality. The rights of future generations to enjoy access to our present collection are safeguarded by high standards of collection care and where necessary by restrictions on handling, or exposure to light, moisture or other harmful environmental conditions.

6. CONCLUSION

We regularly review our achievements and make plans for further progress.

Niamh Conlon
Museum Curator
25 June 2012