

Carronshore Primary School and Nursery News

Gotta Keep Reading!

Our First term culminated in a showcase of literacy. We staged an event for classes and families displaying the work we had done with novels. We promoted reading for pleasure and for life. The term ended with a whole school event, Gotta Keep Reading. Two former pupils led the song and dance routines displaying great skill. A flash dance was created with nearly 400 participants and the Black Eyed Peas track "You've Got a Feeling" was sung to alternative lyrics approved by Will.i.am.

We shared the event on our website for all to see. The only disappointment was the event being an indoor celebration because of the weather.

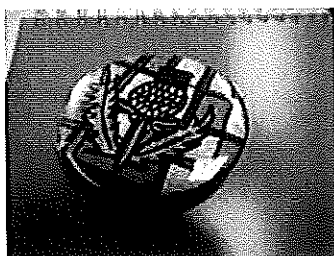
We also celebrated Poetry Day. The theme this year was stars. Some children wrote and recited poems about the stars in the sky and all things astronomical.

Others wrote poems about the stars in their life – footballers, pop stars, film stars and their mum! We shared our favourite poems and made colourful displays for all to share.



An Enterprising approach

Every class in school explored ways of being enterprising. The focus was on the skills we need for life and work. This was reinforced by more than 50 adults who shared their work experiences with staff and children. Amongst our visitors we had radiologists, doctors, forensic scientists, chemists, glassblowers, voice over artists, dentists, journalists, support workers, firemen, architects and nurses. The children had many opportunities to develop interview and film skills, ask searching questions and identifying the skills needed to play a full part in adult life. We also designed some corporate gifts to thank our visitors and to give visitors in the future- coasters, keyrings and cards.



A badge designed by Megan Jordan in P7 and our keyring design made by the Art Club.

Throughout school creative ideas were developed and skills

improved. Business plans were presented and budgets approved. Primary 1 recorded a number CD and sold these to their families. Primary 7 made smoothies and sold them at playtimes. They also staged a games afternoon for the whole school with games ranging from traditional to digital. Primary 6 designed, made and marketed a range of fridge magnets. Primaries 4 and 5 held charity events. Primary 3 held a very successful Bring and Buy Sale and Primary 2 designed and sold a range of good s with an owl theme.

Thinking of others

We supported the Fish and Chip babies Appeal in Africa by encouraging friends and families to read their story and to help us create knitted garments. Friends and families as well as some staff and pupils made more that 400 tops and hats in fantastic colours to clothe new born children who previously left hospital wrapped in newspaper. Mama packs of baby clothes and cot blankets were also knitted for this worthy cause.



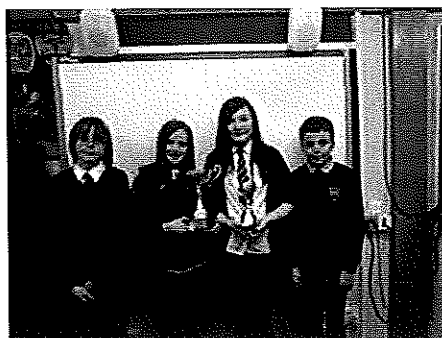
We created bronze and silver bears to support Children in Need. Everyone added a little and our total will make a difference to lives all over the country.

Recently we supported Comic Relief with bake sales and pyjama parties.

Achievements

Our quiz team were winners in the Vale of Carron Rotary inter schools quiz. Well done to a super team who prepared for the competition by watching Pointless and The Chase. Their knowledge was very impressive ! They did well in the Falkirk

Rotary Quiz too coming second after a tense tiebreak finish. Two of the team are ready to tackle the Euroquiz next.



Carronshore Primary School News - cont'd

Cross country

The cross country team have been very successful this year and returned to school with many trophies. They proudly shared their success in assembly- Max and Owen achieved 1st and 2nd place for P7 boys and Ross a 1st for p6 boys and all runners did their best to achieve the best places they could. We also won team prizes for Primary 6 and 7.

Nursery

Big changes have taken place in Carronshore Nursery this term with nursery staff turning into a 'Changing Rooms' style team to transform the layout and design of the nursery floor. Fabulous new equipment has revitalised the art and craft area



and children have been discovering and exploring using their new sand and water tray.

Staff members were so keen to continue with this

great start that they decided to use their recent holiday to come into the nursery and clear out with Kim and Aggie style flair. A new office space for staff members has been created and the arrival of a new laptop, printer and carpeting will complete this new adult working space.

The children have been encouraged in nursery and at home to look after their new look nursery and have been rewarded with leaves on the nursery Golden Tree when they are spotted being gentle with equipment or tidying their new resources away carefully.

The children and staff are enjoying their revitalised nursery space and look forward to using their design talents alongside parents to develop our outdoor area. We have extensive grounds with different environments which have been created by the Eco group. We have marshy areas, an outdoor classroom with seats, a storytelling circle and areas for planting. Our plans already include sand pits, gravel pits and den building areas. We are excited to see what we will have by the end of the summer term.

WORLD BOOK DAY AT INCHLAIR

Inchlair Nursery School celebrated by dressing up as a book character and bringing the book to Nursery for story time. Yvonne Manning, Head of Library Services, bounded into Nursery dressed as Little Bo Peep's lost sheep. She brought an exciting selection of books and had the children spellbound with her story telling. You can imagine the reaction to The Little Monsters story. Yvonne and her team continue to provide Inchlair with excellent topic boxes, help in organising our library, storytelling session, library visits and an ongoing supply of the best new books around. We



thoroughly recommend this service. In Inchlair we believe that literacy is the key to all learning. Children spend time every day reading in groups, one to one with their Early Years Officer or reading to each other. There are books in all areas giving

children opportunity to use books of various genres. Recipe books, introduction books, story books. Our story bags are a great success.

Every child received a Book Token and Parents had the opportunity to buy a book. Developing literacy has never been so much fun.



Kids Lit Quiz – Larbert HS

On the 14th November, 10 pupils from LHS took part in the annual Kids Lit Quiz at St Mungo's High School.

The Kids Lit Quiz is an international competition and the winners of this heat go through to the final in London. There were 10 rounds on topics such as mythology, spies and animals; there were even

picture and music rounds. Schools from all over central Scotland &

Edinburgh took part – 22 teams in total. Authors Linda Strachan and V. Campbell were there as guest judges and also talked to the pupils about their new novels, Don't Judge Me and Viking Gold.

Although our two teams didn't make it to the final, everyone had a great day!



Stenhousemuir Primary School News

Dance at Stenhousemuir Primary School

All P7 pupils took part in a play called "The Ripple Effect" at the King's theatre in Glasgow in September. They were invited to take part in this event as part of the Cultural Olympiad, following their participation in "Go Dance 2012".

Our P6 pupils were then invited to take part in "Go Dance 2013".



This event took place in the Theatre Royal in Glasgow in February. P7 took on a mentoring and choreographic role this year to support the

P6 performers. P7 used their previous experience as they had been fully involved in the performance of "Go Dance 12". The topic began with P7 organising workshops for P6. A group of P7s opted to form their own "Go Dance" committee. They compiled interview questions for staff and pupils, conducted the interviews and photographed pupils in action which became a corridor display charting the progress of the project.

Through the Go Dance experience pupils have worked towards the four capacities of "Curriculum for Excellence";

- ★ striving to become successful learners through learning about themselves and reflecting to ensure that development needs are met
- ★ responsible citizens by understanding their place in the community and understanding how their attitudes and behaviours can not only affect them but those around them
- ★ effective contributors through their contribution to this event and how their participation in this event as performers and mentors was vital to the success of our piece
- ★ being the confident individuals we saw on stage at the end of the project.

Pupils were encouraged to think about their ambitions and their final destinations throughout the dance. However this also impacted on class work including literacy, technology, other expressive arts and health and well being.

This project has already inspired our younger pupils, instilling in them high aspirations and expectations for their future involvement.

This project allowed pupils to learn in a different context and explore their learning through different media. They were presented with a truly memorable experience which impacted positively on their education.

St Andrew's Day Competition

P4 and P4/3 won the Scottish Power national competition. They made a Scottish themed image of thistles on a tartan background, and they won a piper to come to school to help us celebrate St Andrew's day. The piper played in the school playground on the morning of 30th November to welcome pupils and their parents to school!

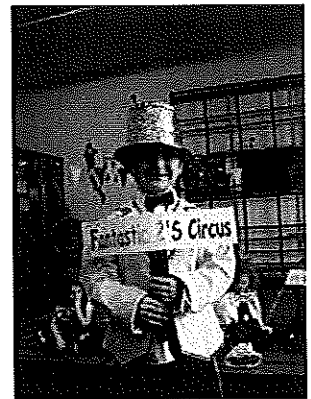


Circus

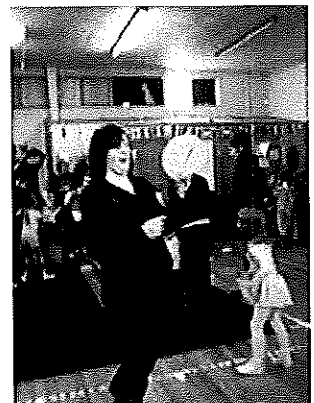
Both P2 classes presented a Circus event to their parents. The children made up the name, "Fantastic 2'S Circus", choose acts, auditioned for parts, decided what to wear, decided the running order and made up their own acts.



Tight-rope walking



Ring master



Even the Parents joined in!

Stenhousemuir Primary School News - cont'd

Science

Larbert High science teachers have been working in class with P7 pupils. This has given the pupils a real sense of what science teaching and learning will be like when they move onto Larbert High.



Making electricity with a lemon!

Outdoor learning

P7 pupils have had their first visit to the forest behind the new hospital. This has been designated an area for local school children to use as part of their learning. There is an outdoor classroom with seats for the pupils. The P7 pupils timed the walk



The outdoor classroom

and managed to get there in under half hour. They are currently making up a pamphlet for other pupils across the school, detailing the activities which can be done, the clothes pupils need to wear and the risks to watch out for. All pupils in Stenhousemuir Primary will access this experience across the session.



When the snow arrives in Stenhousemuir, we make the most of it.!



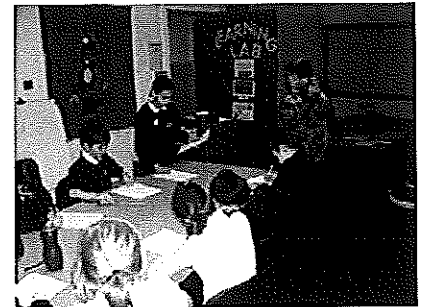
Rota-kids

P6 pupils at Stenhousemuir are all part of Rotakids linked with Vale of Carron Rotary. In December they put on a family quiz to raise money for the new Maggie's centre to be built in the ground of the new Forth Valley hospital. Some P6 pupils also supported

Vale of Carron at their craft fair at the Dobbie Hall.

Reciprocal learning

As part of our new approaches to delivering "Curriculum for Excellence", we are encouraging pupils to be involved in teaching other pupils. This allows teachers to check that pupils have a full understanding of what they have learned. P7 pupils were learning about negative numbers and then prepared a lesson on negative numbers to teach to a group of P5 pupils. All the pupils involved did very well and they all succeeded in teaching the P5 pupils. The P5 pupils really enjoyed learning from the older pupils and took part fully in the lesson. We aim to do more of this type of learning and are already planning for pupils to share their learning in P.E. We already have identified budding teachers of the future!



James and Raymond deliver their lesson

P5W and P5Q have been working with Sharon Wallace, the authority officer for active literacy. They have



been learning about literal, inferential and evaluative questions during Active Reading. They have done some reciprocal teaching with their P1 buddy using the different types of

questions to check their understanding of a specific text.

Olympic visit

In February, we had a fantastic visit from Lynn McCafferty, captain for the Olympic handball team. Lynn spoke to P3 -7 in the morning explaining a bit about her life and how she had achieved the standard to play at the



Simon with the Torch

Stenhousemuir Primary School News - cont'd

Olympics. The pupils were transfixed during her talk and they all wanted autographs when she finished. She brought with her the Olympic torch which she has as a result of running as part of the torch relay. She then did three training sessions with our P6 and P7 pupils which they loved. PE teachers from across Falkirk Council visited to watch these training sessions. It was a great and very inspiring day for pupils at Stenhousemuir Primary School.



Handball in action with P7B

Helicopter

An army helicopter paid a visit to the school in February. We did not alert parents or pupils to this event in advance as the helicopter may have been sent to an emergency on the day and we did not want disappointed children. The sergeant contacted us on the morning to indicate "green for go"! We got all the pupils outside and told them to keep looking and listening. They had lots of guesses about what was going to happen. P1 thought Santa



or the Easter Bunny were putting in an appearance. When they saw the helicopter fly over the first time, they were all very excited. They got even more

excited when on the second time, the helicopter came within ten metres of the ground and the door opened and the soldiers waved from inside! The pupils all waved back! It was an amazing experience and pupils spent the rest of the day talking, writing and drawing about their experience.

Nursery

The children of Stenhousemuir Nursery celebrated Burns' Day in traditional fashion. A tasty snack of haggis, neeps and tatties was followed by the children reciting their poem "Katie Beardie". Elisabeth and Fleming McLay were on the violin

and accordion then played a selection of ceilidh music which the children enjoyed dancing to. A demonstration of the Highland

Fling was given by Rylee Smith who is only four years old. A great time was had by all!



P4 Medieval Banquet Celebrations!

Primary 4 and P4/3 recently concluded their Scottish Wars of Independence project in true medieval style! They organised and hosted their own medieval banquet, extending invitations to parents and relatives to join in the celebrations. They discussed and prepared food which was relevant to medieval life and decorated the dining room to reflect the atmosphere of the Great Hall. Games were organised and played to help the children understand leisure and pastime activities which would take place in the castle courtyard. Great fun was had by all firing the mangonel at the chosen targets! Most importantly the children were visited by 'King Edward' who had the serious job of electing a new Scottish king and queen. The children had prepared both letters and gifts to present to the king in order to convince him that they would be the best to succeed to the throne! The children and parents entered into the spirit of the occasion with their highly imaginative and authentic costumes. This was an excellent opportunity for



the children to consolidate their learning about life in the past and make comparisons with life today.



Kinnaird Primary School News

Woodland Wednesdays

Here at Kinnaird Nursery we have taken outdoor learning off site and we have set up our 'Woodland Wednesday'.

We use the NHS woodland site at Larbert. Parents have been very supportive of this initiative and drop off and collect their children at the woods for their nursery session. We have been den building and



learning through using the natural environment. Each visit has been a different learning experience due to the weather and the changes that are happening around us. The benefits have already been evident as this has helped the children become more observant to changes, manage risks, problem solve and engage more in physical activity. The children have given very positive feedback: Lily said "I liked squelching and drawing in the mud", Lois said "I liked it when we saw Kyle the horse".

Indepen-dance

Pupils from the Thistle Wing and Primary 5 at Kinnaird Primary recently had the opportunity to work together with "Indepen-dance", an inclusive dance development company which offers creative



movement classes to people with very diverse abilities. Using a cross-curricular approach, dance and movement are linked to other elements of the eight curriculum areas. With Glasgow due to

host the Commonwealth Games in 2014, our weekly sessions focused on "Scotland", and we explored different aspects such as music, our climate and traditions. The pupils (and staff!) thoroughly enjoyed the learning experiences and we are looking forward to hopefully working with Indepen-dance again at some point in the future.

Kinnaird Growbots

Growbots is an afterschool gardening club for P4-7 pupils who are enthusiastic and motivated to develop the playground at Kinnaird Primary School. Growbots have had a hugely successful first year, contributing to the wider life of the school. Their work was supported financially by a grant from the Central Scotland Forest Trust (£500) and a community donation from ASDA

Stenhousemuir (£50). The Growbots' projects are decided, researched and planned by the pupils themselves, giving them a sense of pride and ownership. Growbots' first success included planting, growing and harvesting a range of fruits and vegetables including potatoes, carrots, lettuce, apples and peas. Growbots have shared their learning and expertise with the rest of the school including teaching the nursery about composting and P2 about how plants grow. Their current project involves creating a wildlife area within the school grounds to enhance outdoor learning by encouraging biodiversity of plants, insects and birds. So far they have designed and created a bug hotel, planted a variety of flowers, collected 1500 plastic bottles to make a bottle greenhouse and are in the process of making a willow tunnel as the entrance to the garden. Probably the greatest success of this initiative is the sense of achievement experienced by the children involved and the social and life skills they have developed as a result.



'Roman Day'

Primary 3 pupils at Kinnaird Primary School organised a Roman themed day to celebrate all of the things that they had learned during their topic on 'The Romans'. Pupils were greeted in the morning by their teachers wearing Roman togas and were given Roman names for the day. After that, pupils participated in a Roman style maths lesson, where Roman numerals were used in calculations. In order to get ready for their afternoon banquet, pupils then created either a Roman helmet or an Emperor's wreath to add to their toga costumes.

The Roman banquet began with dressing up as Romans, which was lots of fun and helped pupils to reflect on their knowledge of Roman clothes. The main highlight of the afternoon was tasting examples of foods that were popular in Roman times, such as honey, dates, olives, bread and they especially enjoyed pretending that their grape juice was wine! To help digest, pupils were then able to relax lying against cushions in their 'Roman Villa' and shared their favourite memories from the topic. To add to the excitement, there was a film crew in school that day who were very interested in the banquet. As they were not in Roman dress, they were not allowed to join in!

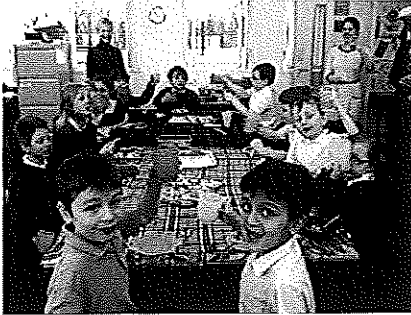


Larbert Village Primary School News

Butterfly Room

The Butterfly Room has been learning about teeth hygiene. The children were being dentists and caring for their toy furry friends' teeth.

The Enhanced Provision planned and enjoyed a Burn's Supper. We bought and cooked the food then we danced and sang to Scottish songs.



The Butterfly Room has been getting all artistic. We are exploring with different painting techniques. We used water and ink to make a lovely marble effect on paper.

Dragonfly Den – Things we have done!

We love being outside whatever the weather! As we are an eco school, we decided to recycle carrier bags and turn them into kites to fly on windy days!



We love eating healthy foods! Here we are following a recipe to make a yummy fruit salad in orange peel bowl!

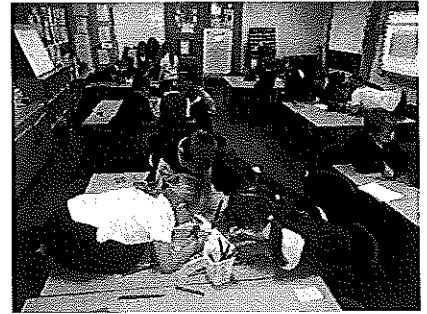
Here we are exercising at a sports event at Grangemouth Stadium. We like meeting new friends from other schools at these events too!

We really like going to businesses in the local community! We learn lots of life skills and our writing about our visits is always really good when we get back into class!

We love celebrating all kinds of different festivals! At Halloween we helped a friendly witch make a tasty spell in her cauldron! It had lots of weird and wonderful things in it, and some of us enjoyed eating it afterwards!

Engaged Children in Co-operative Learning Groups!

Primary 1M have been working in co-operative learning groups in class. The children have been working very well together and the class decided they wanted to make a cottage for the three bears in our library corner. The children decided they wanted to make a forest



outside of our cottage for the three bears to go a walk. They made three beds, put in three different sized chairs and created some bowls for the bears. The children also wanted to go to Asda to buy porridge for the three bears. We went to Asda bought the porridge and then made some... of course we tried some too! Yum! Look at our photograph and see how well the children are working together and just how engaged they are in the topic ☺

Goldilocks Makes Porridge in P1



After reading Goldilocks, P1 wanted to learn how to make porridge. Lots of us had never tasted it and when we discovered how good for you porridge is we decided to try it for ourselves. We planned together and set off to Asda to buy our ingredients. We got a tour of the shop and learned what happened to the porridge from when the big lorry delivers it to when we can scan it by our self.



When we got back to school Goldilocks taught us how to make porridge. We enjoyed trying it out!

Larbert Village Primary School News cont'd

Grandparents' Day in Larbert Village

Grandparents Day in Larbert Village Primary School's Nursery Class was a great success. The children were very confident in showing the grandparents the activities they participate in at nursery and the grandparents were more than happy to join in. The children's recitation of some Scottish poems and their singing of Scottish songs to their grandparents was seen to be the highlight of their visit.



Quotes from grandparents:

"A well equipped and well run nursery. I loved the singing of the old Scots songs. Children clearly love it here".

"Nice to be included. Good to see all that is going on.

Bread Making in P1LM

The Little Red Hen story has sparked a lot of interest in bread making in P1LM. We visited Asda and were shown round their bakery while they made bread for the store. Using a shopping list we collected and bought the ingredients we needed to make bread in class. It took a lot of careful measuring to make sure we followed the recipe but the



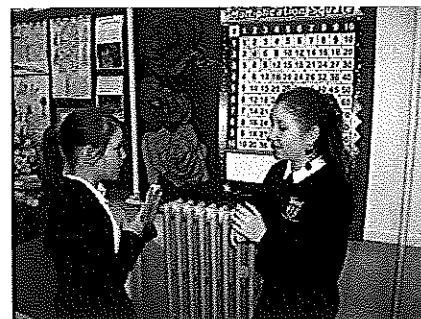
result was worth the effort. We made a beautiful big loaf which we shared and enjoyed! Children are able to share their learning with their families through our class blog with stories, photographs and sound clips.

P6 News

P6 are enjoying an exceptionally busy year with enterprise incorporated in our learning during every term so far.

The pupils were enthralled by a visit from ScotSAC coach, Ronnie Scrymgeour, who paid our class a visit in October 2012 as part of our Titanic topic. He helped them to further consider a question they had asked during the course of the topic about the ethics and practicalities of salvaging property from wreck sites. They asked some very intelligent and thought provoking questions of Mr Scrymgeour who also brought several items for them to investigate from salvage trips he and his colleagues have made in the past.

In December, the class learned the skill of British Sign Language fingerspelling. After practising on each other, they taught the skill to the rest of the school and proved to be very able and patient teachers. Through sharing their learning via a fingerspellathon,



P6 raised some money for the National Deaf Children's Society and learned the value of good communication skills first hand through their experiences.

We are taking the Micro Tyco challenge for February 2013 and the children are working hard to be effective, ethical



entrepreneurs. However, beyond the money raising aspect of this challenge, P6 are enjoying a highly beneficial learning experience that embodies the aims of Curriculum for Excellence. The children identify and discuss the life, work and learning skills the experience is helping them to develop and are beginning to recognise where they may be useful for them in the future. P6 are an innovative, inspiring bunch who have risen enthusiastically to every challenge set so far this year.

Larbert Village Primary School News cont'd

P7 Burns Supper

This year's Burns Supper was a roaring success. The P7's worked their wee tartan socks off to host a fantastic night full of entertainment. Staff, pupils and parents were treated to the traditional meal of Haggis, neeps and tatties and the Immortal Memory was given by Mr Gibb a guidance teacher at Larbert High School.

We were incredibly lucky to have our local chippy Enrico's support our school event by not only donating all the tatties for the evening but also peeling them beforehand!!! In return our piper (an ex-pupil) piped a casserole of haggis, neeps and tatties along the street for his dinner – much to the amusement of passers by!



The P7 pupils were a credit to their parents and school by reciting poetry, playing traditional Scottish tunes on their tin whistles and singing Burns' songs. They also gave an incredible

rendition of Tam O'Shanter – not an easy task but they excelled themselves.

The event came to a close with some ceilidh dancing and Auld Land Syne.

Comments from parents – "The best Burns Supper we have ever been to – it was a fantastic night out! I was amazed by how well the pupils performed their poetry!"

"I really enjoyed the whole Community spirit of the event."

P1 and P5 Shared Reading Project

Primary 5 and Primary 1 have been working together to make a brand new house for Goldilocks and the 3 Bears! They have been working co-operatively to make 3D models of each room. This has been an invaluable experience for the P5s in preparation for becoming a Buddy next year. The



Primary 1s have really grown in confidence and extended their vocabulary in the process. Goldilocks and the 3 Bears are now very lucky owners of a state of the art

mansion complete with disco lights in the kitchen and an amazing games room!

P5 Solar System

As part of their Earth and Space project P5 drew the solar system to scale in our school playground. They worked as part of a team to work out how far each



planet should be from the Sun and made sure they used what they had learned throughout the project to draw, colour and size the planets appropriately.

P5/4 Technology Project

Inspired by the innovation of the Victorian Era (our recent topic), P5/4 at LVPS have been working hard to design products to solve modern day design problems. Children posed problems such as the T.V. remote getting lost, alcohol being too strong, mobile phone batteries running out and there not being enough fun and stimulating play areas for children. They then worked in trios to design a solution to the problem such as a twister mat T.V. remote, a machine to make alcohol less strong, a very colourful and exciting soft play area. They then produced models of these using junk.

The trios then trialled their inventions to a test group of p5's and received valuable feedback to then use to modify their creations. We hope to present our final products in a 'dragons den' style presentation to P4/3 this week. Children have been thoroughly engaged in the whole process as they have led the learning and creative process throughout.



Larbert Village Primary School News cont'd

P2 Castle Project

P2 are learning all about Castles. We have been busy making castle artefacts to display in our classrooms. There are models of castles, thrones, shields and even a jousting pole. Very soon we hope to have our own Larbert Village Castle where we will host a medieval banquet.



We have also been working in co-operative groups finding out about Medieval castle inhabitants and their roles and responsibilities, comparing their lives to our own.

We are loving this topic and can't wait for the grand feast!

P3 Emergency Services

We worked in groups to share what we knew about the emergency services in our pre topic assessment. We shared this with the class.

We used the Green Cross Code to walk to the fire station.

The firemen at Larbert Fire Station welcomed us at the station and told us all about their job



We got to look at the equipment in the fire engine and squirt the hose! It was great fun.

We went for a tour of the fire station. We saw the gym, the firefighter's bedrooms, the kitchen, the office and we met Mr Resuscitate!



We had a fantastic day and learned lots. Thank you Larbert Firefighters!

Back at school, we visited the nursery to sing them a

song about the fire brigade – they loved it!

P6/5 Science Topic

Primary 6/5 have been experimenting and investigating material changes in Science.

As part of a Harry Potter themed block of lessons pupils have taken part in various practical experiments to observe how materials change. In



lesson one they sorted Muggles Materials into the Solids, Liquids and Gases. During our Transformation Lesson they transformed milk and sugar into ice-cream. Pupils had lots of fun making their own ice-cream, it was chilly work but the results were very tasty. In Potions Class we have found out which liquids are the most effective dissolvers. We look forward to more investigating and can't wait to defeat Voldemort.

P5/4 at Larbert Village Primary School were Hampden V.I.P.'S!

On Tuesday 5th March primary 5/4 at Larbert Village received the V.I.P treatment at Hampden Park. This was all thanks to parent, Mags McLay, who won the trip through a Tesco Bank competition.

The children were transported in a luxury coach and given a day of treats and surprises at the park. This included meeting the mascot, running through the tunnel to the 'Hampden Roar', and hour long coaching session with SFA coaches, a tour of the park and museum and a delicious packed lunch! The children also received Tesco Bank goodie bags. Pupils had a day to remember forever.



SCOTLAND'S FIRST SCHOOL WITH A PATRON OF READING

Larbert High School snaps up Nicola Morgan

Multi-award winning author, Nicola Morgan, has just become Scotland's first Patron of Reading. The new scheme is the brainchild of Tim Redgrave, dynamic Head of a school in Wales and children's author, Helen Pielichaty. After Nicola blogged about the scheme and mentioned that she was available, by 9.30am, the librarian at Larbert High School near Falkirk had contacted her enthusiastically and everything was agreed that day. Two more schools emailed that morning but each author can only commit to one school.

Nicola says, "I was thrilled when Larbert High School contacted me so quickly. We'd been in contact before because pupils enjoy *Fleshmarket*, and I instantly knew I wanted to commit to being their Patron of Reading. I can't wait to meet the enthusiastic pupils and staff and see what we can achieve together over the next three years!"

Kimberly Bryce, Librarian: "We are all very proud and excited that Larbert High will be the first school in Scotland to take part in the Patron of Reading scheme, and very glad that Nicola Morgan is willing to take this journey with us. We are all great fans of Nicola's novels and one of our S2 classes study *Fleshmarket*, so I knew she'd be a fantastic choice. Nicola was the 2011 winner of Falkirk Council's RED book award for her novel *Wasted* and was

also nominated in 2010 for *Deathwatch*, and this speaks volumes about how much our pupils enjoy her work. By working with Nicola we hope to increase the quality of creative writing, improve literacy levels across the school and increase the number of pupils reading for enjoyment. We hope that being able to work closely with Nicola will bring something special to the classroom and increase pupils' confidence in reading and writing."

John Doherty, PT of English + Literacy: "This is really exciting as we are always looking to introduce our pupils at Larbert High to experienced writers. Through meeting and listening to professionals, pupils undoubtedly gain greater insight into the writing process and, thus, their writing improves. Over the next two years creative writing is being afforded a greater weighting and status in the examinations that all pupils will sit in English. Having Nicola Morgan as our Patron of Reading is a really exciting opportunity to improve all aspects of pupil literacy at Larbert High School and make a real difference."

To contact the school for further information, please phone main number, 554233, and ask for Kimberly Bryce, Librarian – or email kimberly.bryce@falkirk.gov.uk

Easter Carmuir PS Engage for Education Prize Visit

Dear Mr Kitchin,

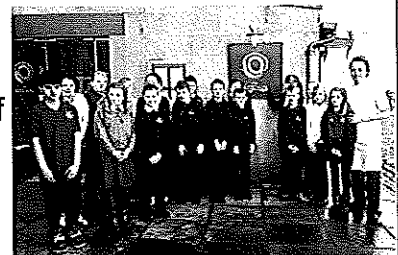
We would like to thank you for having us at your restaurant as part of the Eco School One Planet Picnic competition. We enjoyed watching our class mates try the oysters and we enjoyed trying foods that we had never tasted before.

We found it very interesting when you told us about what inspired you to be a chef. We also liked getting to meet a famous Scottish chef and hearing all about your life. We were so pleased when we found out we had won the top prize as we worked very hard to make our One Planet Picnic a success. We were really proud of our school and class winning the top Eco Schools prize.

We all had a really great time and thank you again for letting us come and visit. We will look out for you in the future on *Masterchef* and spread the word about how amazing local and seasonal foods are!

Yours sincerely

Primary 7 at Easter Carmuir



Bo'ness Public Tennis Stars

Congratulations to Bo'ness Public School pupils Lewis and Calum Bowmaker who won a competition run by 'On Court' magazine to attend the SOTO Tennis Academy in Spain.

They flew to Gibraltar and were driven to Sotogrande in November, looking forward to lots of November sunshine.

Unfortunately to quote the boys, "...It was more a case of the rain in Spain falls mainly in Soto! Being hardy Scottish players the rain didn't stop us. We knew some of the team and other players from tournaments we have played in Scotland and England and it was great to catch up with them. Every training session started with a good long warm up lasting about an hour and we have been keeping up the good habits since coming home.

When the rain was too heavy to play on court we did extra fitness training and also learned how to string rackets. We had a fabulous time and worked very hard. We plan to go back to the Tennis Academy as soon as possible and we learnt lots of great stuff."



Bo'ness Public Fairtrade Johari Fashion Show

Bo'ness Public School, Primary 3 Class, showed off their many talents on Friday 1st March during a Fashion Show organised to tie in with Fair Trade Fortnight. The Fashion Show which promoted ethical fashion brand; Johari's children's range was a great success.

Primary 3 along with their teacher Alan Potters, have been promoting Fair Trade since last August in order to meet the goals required to maintain their status as a Fair Trade School which they have held since 2010. Many of the events have been targeted at educating other classes but the Fashion Show gave the children the opportunity to show the skills, talent and knowledge they have gained over the past few months and highlight Fair Trade to family and friends. The children chose to promote ethical fashion brand Johari as it's the social enterprise of Johari Foundation; a charity based in Kenya which supports vulnerable children and young adults which the school have strong links with.

Alan Potters said 'Working on the Fair Trade topic has helped to bring a fun element to lessons for the children. We have been able to link in key areas of the curriculum such as; maths, language and ICT skills and also build up their knowledge of issues relating to Global Citizenship. The children really embraced the Fashion Show which has helped them develop as individuals and as a team. I am delighted with the skills and knowledge they have gained throughout this project and the children should be proud of their achievements. I must also thank other staff members and parents for their support and involvement in the choreography of the fashion show and modelling of Johari's women's wear range.'

Ruth Smith of Johari Foundation said 'The Johari Fashion Show on Friday night at Bo'ness Public School was amazing! The children and Mr Potters produced a very professional event which kept the audience entertained, highlighted Johari's children's range to great effect, and delivered the message on why buying products that are made to Fair Trade standards really does make a difference. I'm encouraged to hear that this project has helped Primary Three children achieve some of their learning objectives and the money raised during the Fashion Show will provide valuable support to the children on our social development programmes in Kenya. A big thank you to all involved and to all who supported the event.'

One guest commented - 'The children were very confident and did a great job modelling the clothes. It was a fun evening!'

Primary 3 also promoted Fair Trade on Monday 11th March in Craigmailan Church, Bo'ness between 1:30pm – 3:30pm when they will be running a Fair Trade Cafe.



Maddiston Primary Spring News Roundup

Rotary Club Quiz Winners

On Tuesday 19th February, four representatives from our P7 classes attended the annual Rotary Club Quiz at Westquarter Primary. Our intelligent pupils used their excellent general knowledge to succeed and win the overall quiz for the first time in Maddiston Primary history. We are extremely proud.



Jump 2 it Basketball

Congratulations to Miss Muir and our P7 basketball team who won the Falkirk Schools Jump 2 It final on Sunday 20th January at the Commonwealth Arena in Glasgow. The children and staff are extremely proud of the team's achievement.

Tennis

A group of P6 children took part in the Braes Cluster Tennis Tournament in which they performed fabulously! Some of these children can pride themselves in the fact that they did not



lose a single game.

Poetry

January was a busy month for all pupils as they had to make preparations for the Braes Cluster Poetry competition which took place at Wallacestone Primary on Tuesday 29th January. We are extremely proud of all our pupils for taking part but must congratulate Hannah of P3 for her wonderful performance of 'Ma Dug'. She won her category and was asked to perform at an Assembly at Braes High on Tues 26th February.



Cross Country

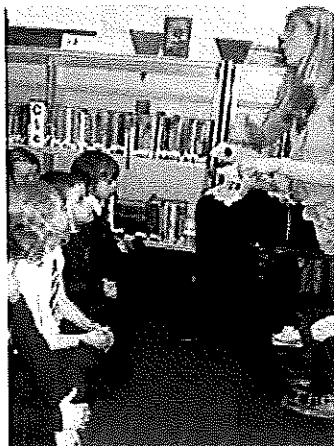
A number of P7 representatives competed in a cross country race in January. Congratulations must go to Thomas and Lorna who qualified to take part in the Forth Valley Competition on Friday 8th March. Good Luck!

Chinese New Year

P2 have been busy learning about Chinese New Year. They heard the story of the race and how each of the animals came to represent a year. They demonstrated their creative sides in making Chinese lanterns, Money pockets, dragon masks, acrostic poems and performed dragon dances while playing musical instruments. Well done P2!

Wallacestone Primary Book Week

We have had an extremely successful book week this year as always! The children have enjoyed visiting the Scholastic Book Fair, exploring the book fair garden, reading some of the books and completing activity sheets. The P7 children have been involved in our Book Fair this year as part of an enterprising Business School taking on the roles of Customer Advisors, Inventory and Display specialists supporting classes and Parent helpers to make our Book Fair a successful and enjoyable experience.



All classes have visited the book fair with their class teachers to explore the books in the Garden themed Book Fair which showcased children's work, book reviews and favourite books on caterpillars, butterflies and flowers.

We took part in live events on World Book Day, completed competitions for designing a reading bug and everyone made a special effort to dress up as their favourite character and share their favourite books with their classmates. Some of the children took part in story telling workshop with a librarian, which was enjoyed by all!

I think we have all definitely 'Caught the Reading Bug!'

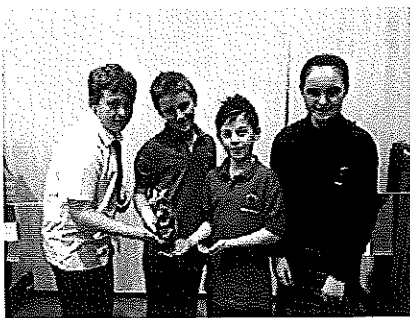
Calendar of Events

April 2013

Term Time Public Holiday	01 Apr
Vaisakhi - New Year Festival (Sikh)	13 Apr
Summer Term Begins	15 Apr
Secondary HTs Business Meeting - 9.15am	17 Apr
ESMT - 9am - Conference Room, Sealock House	18 Apr
EYPIP (Early Years) - 1.30pm - 4.30pm - CEC	18 Apr
Education Matters - Submitting articles deadline date	19 Apr
St George's Day	23 Apr
ESMT - 2pm - Conference Room - Sealock House	24 Apr

Euroquiz Winners!

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Euroquiz heat. The team, from Kinnaird Primary School, will represent Falkirk at the final, held in the Scottish Parliament on May 13. We had 16 schools competing this year and as ever it was a close contest.



Congrats for the Bats!

Congratulation to Maddiston Primary School pupils who are soon going to be published in an edition of The Young Batworker. The photos that will be published in the magazine are of children that joined a nature group doing various activities involving bats.

MFD Toner Recycling – New Process

Ricoh have a recycling facility for all their MFD toners which is provided free of charge. To make use of this service you need to register and log on to

www.ricoh-return.com

Then create an account and upload your details and follow the step by step on screen guide.

Kaptain Kleen flies into Falkirk

An excellent new resource has been launched in all Primary Schools in the area - all schools should already have their copy.

The "Kaptain Kleen Action Pack" is a litter education resource which has been written by Jennifer Terris of the Council's Litter Strategy Team, assisted by Anne Easton, Principal Teacher at Bantaskin Primary. Anne's involvement has greatly enhanced the Curriculum For Excellence value of the pack, particularly in relation to "Responsible Citizens" outcomes. The pack represents a one-stop shop for litter education, with quizzes, fact-sheets, word games and information on the legislation. In addition, the related litter-picking, litter surveys and orienteering activities all feed into our Outdoor Learning strategies.

As you know, Litter Education is the only compulsory module under the Eco Schools scheme, and as such, is crucial in gaining or retaining school's Green Flags.

Schools can copy and use the pack, but please keep the material within the Falkirk Council area, as legal discussions re. licensing will commence soon.

Enjoy using it!



FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: STUDY TOUR BY REPRESENTATIVES OF CHILD CARE AGENCIES FROM TAJIKISTAN, LOCAL SERVICE SHORTLISTED FOR CARE ACCOLADE AWARD
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 24th APRIL 2013
Author: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Study Tour by representatives of child care agencies from Tajikistan.

In 2010, Falkirk Council were approached by the charity HealthProm who work in Social Care in a variety of countries to support practice and develop resources. The contact arose as a result of work on practical approaches to working with young people with autism developed within Falkirk, which were attracting significant attention both locally and across the country.

As a result of this, two staff from Falkirk were invited to visit Tajikistan in April 2012 to assist HealthProm and local agencies to begin to develop services within a small project attached to a large children's institution and also to speak at conferences about disability and children's services and fostering in particular. This visit was a significant event, attracting national interest and resulted in a subsequent request that Falkirk become a formal partner with HealthProm in a bid to the EU for funding to assist in developing a modern social service within Tajikistan. The Children's Commission in Falkirk supported this bid, and in September 2012 it was confirmed that the funding had been secured by HealthProm.

Part of this funding is being used to resource a study tour to Falkirk which is taking place over the 2 week period commencing 8th April. Our visitors were formally welcomed by the Provost on 11th April at a small reception and have spent their time in Falkirk visiting a range of local Council run and voluntary sector led services. Staff across Council Services have been generous in their time and also their fund raising efforts in trying to assist colleagues in circumstances significantly more challenging than our own.

Local Service shortlisted for Care Accolade Award.

The Falkirk Falls Management Service which is a partnership initiative between the Councils Mobile Emergency Care service and NHS Forth Valley, has been shortlisted for one of the prestigious Care Accolades awards, under the category "Working Better, Working Together". The service is one of three services to be shortlisted for this award with the final winner being announced on 31st May.

The Falkirk Falls Management Project commenced in March 2002 as a joint initiative between the Falkirk Council Mobile Emergency Care Service (MECS) and the NHS Forth Valley Rehabilitation in the community and at home (Reach) / Day Therapy teams aimed at reducing the number of falls being experienced by older people in the Falkirk area..

The project commenced following initial meetings where it was agreed that MECS had considerable data about people who were experiencing falls in the community and that this data could be utilised in a joint effort to target those considered to be frequent fallers for early advice, assessment and therapies aimed at minimising the risk of future falls.

What the Project has done

The rate of falls per service user in MECS at 2002, prior to the commencement of this work, was 42% per annum and equated to the national average rate of falls amongst older people in any given year;

- Over 65s 35%
- Over 80s 45%

Alterations were made to the way in which data was recorded on the MECS system to better capture data about people who were calling for assistance from MECS staff as the result of falls at home.

Early interventions were offered to frequent fallers who were MECS service users (those who had fallen twice or more in the preceding 6 months) aimed at identifying the reasons for, and putting in place measures to, reduce their falls.

These included the MECS assessor undertaking the following for people:

- An environmental risk assessment
- A timed Get up and Go measurement
- A falls risk assessment
- A fire risk assessment
- Referrals on to Community care teams for aids , equipment and other services required
- Provision of both verbal and written advice on falls reduction measures including diet, hydration, eye tests and footwear
- Referrals to Reach/Day therapy for medical interventions, walking aids and therapeutic exercise

The chosen therapeutic exercise offered to fallers by Reach or within Day therapy is most often Otago, which is a series of exercises developed and evaluated in New Zealand, intended to increase muscle strength and balance through exercising against resistance and has been evaluated as having the potential to reduce falls by as much as a third.

Outcomes

From 2002 to 2012, with all of the foregoing interventions in place, the number of falls recorded by MECS was reduced from the expected 25365 to 19204 falls.

This indicates a potential prevention of approximately 6161 falls amongst service users of MECS as the result of early intervention with frequent fallers and direct referrals having been made for further therapy and/or specialist assessments to Reach or Day Therapy following these multi-factorial assessments by MECS assessors.

Given a national rate of fractures amongst older fallers at 5% and a rate of fractured neck of femur at 1% of all falls this equates to a potential; prevention of 247 fractures and 61 fractured neck of femur in this period.

It is estimated that at today's rate of costs the total savings to both Health and Social Work Services achieved through this type of joint working over the 11 years is around £7,843,500 for prevented fractures alone.

This is based on the costs reported by Joyce Craig in "Resources, costs and benefits associated with implementing Care Bundles to prevent falls in the Community, November 2012, for the Scottish Government where she estimates that the full costs of treating and caring for someone who has experienced a fracture as £22,000 and the costs of the same for a fractured neck of femur at £39,500.

This report also costs a "simple" fall as costing £1721 in treatment and care costs thus rendering a further potential saving of around £10,055,803, for prevented falls not resulting in a fracture, within the 11 year period.

Building on the good work evidenced from 2002 to 2009 a specific project, which was joint funded by the Scottish Government Joint Improvement Team Telecare Development Board commenced to undertake multifactorial assessments of all people with any falls history at the initial point of referral to the MECS service in Falkirk from 1st July 2010 to September 2011 and this has recently been evaluated following a full year of monitoring.

The project involved dealing with the needs of 422 people referred in this period who had any history of falls.

All the people who were subject to an assessment were carefully screened in relation to appropriate falls detection technology with most who required robust monitoring of their situation being offered a relatively new automatic falls detector which has the capacity to be altered in sensitivity to make it best suit the needs of each individual.

Automatic falls detectors identify a tilt, an impact or an increased rate of acceleration by the wearer, or a combination of any of these events, and automatically send a radio controlled signal to the Control room to indicate that the wearer has suffered an event and requires assistance.

Compliance with the wearing of such devices can be a challenge and the MECS assessor kept in regular contact either through personal visits or by telephone conversations with those using these types of devices in order to achieve the most positive outcomes.

Several service users have since been given wrist-worn falls detectors, which are now available, as a means of ensuring best compliance rates with the wearing of the devices.

The results , following a full year of monitoring, show that falls rates for those dealt with as part of this project were:

- Under 65s 12.5%
- 65 to 79s 13.4%
- 80 and over 15%

Service user evaluation

In an evaluation of service users 92% said that having MECS equipment made them feel safer and all who replied said that they felt that the reasons for their falls had been addressed adequately in their assessment visit.

Individual comments included;

“Everything very positive, excellent service, feel very safe in home thanks to MECS, thank you.

“I feel much safer now as I live alone”

“Took time to explain procedures to help us, been fortunate not to have any further falls at home

“Gives me peace of mind”

“Staff were helpful and reassuring”

Future development

Discussion with the Falls Lead for NHS Scotland, has lead to use of Change funding in 2013 for the appointment of a Falls Co-ordinator within the team .

The primary functions of this post will be to:

- Create and maintain a falls register across all Social Work Community based services
- Undertake multi-factorial assessments of frequent fallers identified through both the falls register and the normal MECS processes
- Progress falls awareness training across Care and Support at Home and other groups of Social Work staff and introduce methods of informing the falls register.

This post will be in place by April 2013 and will play a major role in implementing “Falls Bundles” across the Falkirk area.

“Falls Bundles” were originally developed in Wales and involve tackling falls amongst older people by using a four stage approach involving;

- A trigger bundle
- A Risk assessment bundle
- An intervention bundle
- A monitoring bundle

Meantime falls management both across Housing with Care and Residential Care has also been strengthened.

- In Housing with Care and residential Care a direct referral pathway to Reach has been developed.
- Staff in both services have also attended Falls Awareness training inputs.

In February 2013 2 members of staff from each of the 2 services have been funded to attend a training course which will equip them with the qualifications to train others to deliver otago as part of a therapeutic exercise programme in their work locations.

Director of Social Work Services
11 April 2013

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: REDESIGNING THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE SYSTEM
A CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS**
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 24th APRIL 2013
Author: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

In December 2012 the Scottish Government published a consultation paper on the proposals to redesign the Community Justice System. Since the publication of the consultation document there have been a number of consultation events, some organised by the Scottish Government and others organised at a local level. The consultation has also been discussed by the Falkirk Partnership Board for Health and Social Care and by the Community Planning Leadership Group.

The consultation sets out three options for change:

Option A – Enhanced Community Justice Authority

- Under Option A, it is proposed that CJAs would continue to be key strategic body, with the same geographical boundaries, responsible for reducing reoffending but the following key changes would be made:
- A chair for each CJA would be appointed by Scottish Ministers and Board membership would be widened to include an appointed member of the Health Board RSLs would become a partner body.
- A statutory duty would be placed on all partner bodies to work together to develop a local plan for reducing reoffending and engage in its delivery.
- CJAs statutory functions would be expanded to include strategic commissioning of services and to promote the CJA's role in the community and represent community justice interests with the local judiciary, media and public.
- There is also a further option to give CJAs operational responsibility for the delivery of criminal justice social work services in the community.

Option B – Local Authority Model

- Under Option B it is proposed that CJAs are abolished and local authorities would assume both strategic and operational responsibility for the planning, designing and delivery of services for offenders in their area.

- To enable this, a statutory duty would be placed upon local authorities to work in consultation with partner bodies to produce and deliver a strategic plan for reducing reoffending in their area. This duty would be in addition to existing local authority duties to work with offenders in the community as set out under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. It would be up to local authorities to decide how best to deliver these duties.
- There would be a direct relationship, set out in legislation, between the Scottish Government and local authorities in terms of allocation of funding, and accountability and accountability and performance requirements.
- It is proposed that the scope of the Risk Management Authority (RMA) is extended to include community justice more broadly. In particular, the RMA would take on responsibility for some of the improvement functions currently undertaken by the Community Justice Division of the Scottish Government. This would include performance management, production of guidance, programme development and workforce development.
- This model has been endorsed unanimously by the COSLA Leaders Group

Option C – The Single Service Model

- Under Option C it is proposed that CJAs are abolished and a national social work led service for community justice is established with strategic and operational responsibility for the planning, managing and delivery of community based offender services. Central to the creation of a single service would be the core values and principles of social work which is key to their professional identity. It would be separate to, and sit alongside, the SPS and would incorporate the existing functions of the RMA.
- The new service would be a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), headed by a Chief Executive, with appropriate strategic and operational experience in criminal justice, who would be appointed through open recruitment by the Board of the new service. Scottish Ministers would set the strategic framework for the body but the NDPB (and the services it manages and delivers) would be able to take decisions at some distance from Government. Ministers would appoint a Board which could include locally elected members, if appropriate, and the Board would hold the Chief Executive to account.
- Local authority criminal justice social workers (and other applicable staff currently funded under section 27A and 27B of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, as well as relevant RMA staff, would transfer to the new service. There are important practical issues that would need to be considered in detail if this option was progressed.

A draft response to the consultation has been prepared and has been considered by group leaders who have not suggested any changes. It is therefore intended that this response will be submitted by the due date of 30th April.

REDESIGNING THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE SYSTEM A CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Title Mr ☐ Ms ☐ Mrs ☒ Miss ☐ Dr ☐

Please tick as appropriate

Surname

ANDERSON

Forename

MARGARET

2. Postal Address

DENNY TOWN HOUSE

23 GLASGOW ROAD

DENNY

Postcode FK6 5DL

Phone 01324 506400

Email

margaret.anderson@falkirk.gov.uk

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual



/

Group/Organisation



Please tick as appropriate

- (a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate ☐ Yes ☐ No

- (b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available ☐

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address ☐

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address ☐

- (c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate ☒ Yes ☐ No

- (d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate

☒ Yes

☐ No

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The consultation questions are split into two parts, which are:

- applicable to all options; and
- specific to either Option A, B or C.

Respondents can reply to all of the questions, or a selection, depending on where their interests lie. General views on the consultation paper are also welcomed.

All options

Which option(s) do you think is more likely to meet the key characteristics (set out on pages 15 and 16 of the Consultation) that, if integral to any new community justice system, are more likely to lead to better outcomes?

Key characteristic (pages 15 and 16 of the consultation)	Option (please specify A, B or C or a mix of all three)
Strategic direction and leadership to drive forward performance improvements and deliver public services that protect victims and communities and meet the needs of people who offend	<p>Falkirk Council would support option B.</p> <p>At a local level, this enables Community Justice Services to draw strength from the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) which provides strategic direction and leadership to all partnership organisations and which also connects and gives coherence to different themes of partnership working, including health and social care. The Falkirk CPP is fully supportive of this option.</p> <p>Option B also enables leadership of Criminal Justice Social Work functions to be provided by the Chief Social Work officer, which is particularly important in ensuring a joined up approach to all strands of public protection and risk management.</p> <p>In relation to the issue of national leadership and strategic direction, ADSW and COSLA already make significant contributions to the national Community Justice agenda and we would suggest that this could be further strengthened.</p>

A focus on prevention and early intervention	<p>Falkirk Council would support option B.</p> <p>As outlined above, this option enables Community Justice services to be firmly located within Community Planning arrangements and enables connections to be made with those services and partnerships which focus on prevention and early intervention.</p>
Better and more coherent person-centred opportunities for supporting desistance, which focus on developing the capacities and capabilities of offenders to enable them to make a positive contribution to their families and communities	<p>Falkirk Council would support Option B.</p> <p>Research on effective practice stresses that a holistic approach to addressing “needs” as well as “deeds”, plus balancing practical support with other interventions is the most likely way to improve desistance from offending. The local authority option offers the best hope of this.</p>
Clearer lines of political, strategic and operational accountability for performance and mechanisms to support continuous improvement	<p>Falkirk Council would support option B.</p> <p>Whilst commending the approach that the CJA has taken to scrutinising performance, this can be replicated and enhanced through the performance monitoring arrangements inherent in the CPP and in the Council. This option also provides greater clarity in relation to accountability, which can be somewhat blurred in the existing CJA arrangements.</p> <p>At a local level the Council's Criminal Justice Social Work services have a well established continuous improvement group and performance framework. This encompasses those services provided in the community and also services to serving prisoners.</p>

<p>Effective local partnership and collaboration that brings together public, third and private sector partners, including non-justice services, and local communities to deliver shared outcomes that really matter to people</p>	<p>Falkirk Council would support option B.</p> <p>As indicated above, the CPP is able to ensure effective local partnerships arrangements including partnerships with the third sector.</p>
<p>Strategic commissioning of services that are based on a robust analysis of needs, evidence of what supports desistance and best value for money</p>	<p>Falkirk Council would support option B.</p> <p>Strategic commissioning arrangements are well established in the local authority and in this area there is a strong track record of collaboration and joint commissioning where appropriate. Option B provides opportunities to extend this further, where appropriate to develop partnerships with other areas/organisations which fall outwith the boundaries of the existing CJA.</p>
<p>A strong and united voice that represents community justice interests with the judiciary, public and media</p>	<p>Falkirk Council would support option B, although we would acknowledge that this represents a significant challenge in any of the options outlined.</p> <p>We are also particularly interested in forging close links with the Scottish Prison Service who have a shared interest in effective throughcare.</p> <p>There is also scope to use organisations such as ADSW to strengthen the voice of community justice at a national level.</p>
<p>Better data management and evaluation to assess organisational and management performance, including the impact of services</p>	<p>Improvement in data management is dependent on there being sufficient resource and capacity in organisations to gather, analyse and use management information to good effect. This presents challenges in all three options however, the Council's Criminal Justice Service has a good track record of being able to develop data systems appropriately and being</p>

	able to use data to good effect and as such we would advocate that ongoing improvements are achievable under option B .
Involvement of service users, their families and the wider community in the planning, delivery and reviewing of services	<p>Falkirk Council would support option B.</p> <p>Within Falkirk Council, we already have a stated commitment to the participation and engagement of service users in the planning and delivery of services. This is clearly articulated in the Social Work Services Participation and Engagement Strategy. Likewise we have a strong track record in engaging with communities, particularly in relation to how Community Payback can be used to good effect. In this respect, a local approach is critical to success.</p>
Provision of an overview of the system as a whole, including consistency and breadth of service provision	<p>Falkirk Council would support option B which is capable of achieving this at a local level.</p> <p>We are aware, however, of the need to ensure consistency across the country and believe that the underpinning of national standards for Criminal Justice Social Work Services, combined with ring-fenced funding and robust performance management provides the right cornerstones to achieving such consistency. Strong connections with other justice agencies are also critical.</p>
Better integration between local partnership structures, services and organisations working with offenders and their families	<p>Falkirk Council would support option B.</p> <p>See above for comments on the role of the CPP in making and sustaining these critical connections.</p> <p>This is particularly important with the development of health and social care partnerships arrangements.</p>

<p>A more co-ordinated and strategic approach to working with the third sector</p>	<p>We regard third sector organisations as very important partners and their strength comes from the diversity they can bring, ranging from small local organisations to very large national organisations. Within the local authority we have well established mechanisms for supporting the contribution of the third sector and believe that this could continue under both options A and B. We have some concerns about option C which could potentially make it more difficult to achieve engagement with small local organisations who in this area perform a critical and valued role.</p>
<p>A strategic approach to workforce development and leadership for criminal justice social work staff that is based on evidence of what supports desistance and builds expertise, capacity and resilience and encourages collaborative working with other professionals towards shared outcomes</p>	<p>Falkirk Council would support option B.</p> <p>Workforce development is a key priority for all public service organisations as is effective leadership.</p> <p>The proposal to enhance the role of the Risk Management Authority (RMA) in relation to training and workforce development would provide welcome additional support and would help to create economies of scale, provided that there is local flexibility.</p>
<p>Greater professional identity for community justice staff which builds on their existing values and provides well defined opportunities for career progression</p>	<p>Falkirk Council would support option B.</p> <p>During the consultation events criminal justice staff expressed strong views about the need to retain an underpinning social work value base and voiced considerable concern about the extent to which this might be eroded under option C.</p>

<p>Ability to follow innovation nationally and internationally, as well as develop and share evidence based good practice</p>	<p>The development of innovative approaches is less dependent on structure and more dependent on organisational culture. We are confident that, under option B, we would continue to be able to nurture a culture of innovation and have a good track record in this regard, being one of the key contributors to the development of the Caledonian programme and other approaches to groupwork. Appropriate support from the RMA, ADSW and COSLA would also enhance this.</p>
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Which option(s) will result in the significant cultural change required to redesign services so that they are based on offender needs, evidence of what works and best value for money?

There is no evidence to suggest that organisational change is required in order to facilitate cultural change. At a local level, our approach to service development and service delivery is already underpinned by a holistic understanding of offenders needs, a knowledge of what works and a desire to achieve best value for money. In view of this Falkirk Council would support option B.

Which option(s) will result in improvements in engagement with, and quicker access to, non-justice services such as health, housing and education?

Option B has the distinct advantage of aligning Criminal Justice Services with other non justice services and, as such, is the option we would favour. There are potential risks associated with such links being weakened under option C which would be to the detriment of both offenders and communities.

Do you think a statutory duty on local partners will help promote collective responsibility for reducing reoffending among all the bodies who work with offenders? If not, what would?

Cultural change is as important as legislative change in determining how organisations respond. Cultural change takes time and has to be worked at with there being a need to develop mutual respect for the challenges and constraints as well as the opportunities which each organisation brings. This is the journey that the Community Planning Partnership has embarked on and, if any legislative changes are required, it would make sense for these to be considered as part of the review of community planning.

Under options A and B should funding for criminal justice social work services remain ring-fenced?

Yes

Are there specific types of training and development that would be beneficial for practitioners, managers and leaders working in community justice? Who is best placed to provide them?

Over and above national training on national tools and programmes there is a requirement for a range of training and development for non social work qualified staff. There is also a need for local training to assist in the implementation and review of the use of national tools and programmes. There is also a requirement for training in relation to working with challenging behaviour, mental health officer work, welfare reform and other knowledge and skills to create a well skilled and led workforce.

There would be scope for the RMA to extend it's role, in partnership with other Local Authorities and other appropriate bodies as listed below, to provide appropriate training under option B.

Is there potential for existing organisations such as Scottish Social Services Council, Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services and knowledge portal Social Services Knowledge in Scotland to take on a greater role in supporting and developing the skills and expertise of professionals working with offenders?

Yes, however, there would be a need for this to be well co-ordinated so that there is a clarity over who is able to do what.

What do you think are the equalities impact of the proposals presented in this paper, and the effect they may have on different sectors of the population?

Option A and option C may be less responsive to variations in demographics and local needs. Option B provides the best option to ensure that local individual needs are met in a way that respects diversity and ensures equality.

What are your views regarding the impact that the proposals presented in this paper may have on the important contribution to be made by businesses and the third sector?

As indicated above, our strong track record locally in relation to third sector engagement would suggest to us that option B has the greatest potential. We have also had some limited success, as part of corporate initiatives, in developing employment opportunities. It must be recognised, however, that this is a particularly challenging area at a time of recession.

Are there other options, or permutations of the options presented in this paper, which should be considered? Please provide details.

The local authority option B could be further developed by :

- Enhancing the capacity of ADSW and COSLA to support better national co-ordination and to contribute a national social work perspective to discussions involving other Justice agencies such as SPS/Police/COPFS and Court Services.