

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL) held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2015 at 9.30 a.m.

COUNCILLORS: David Balfour
Steven Jackson
Charles MacDonald
Brian McCabe
John McLuckie
Rosie Murray
Depute Provost John Patrick

OFFICERS: Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Technology & Improvement
Matthew Davies, Service Manager
Alice Keenan, Corporate Policy Officer
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager

ALSO ATTENDING: Chief Superintendent John Hawkins, Police Scotland
Amy MacGregor, Inspector, Police Scotland
Mandy Patterson, Chief Inspector, Police Scotland

SE1. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER

Colin Moodie welcomed members to the meeting. Council agreed on 13 May 2015 (ref FC10) that the Scrutiny Committee (External) would consist of eight members with four drawn from the Administration and four not drawn from the Administration (subject to the provision that no member of the Executive may be a member of the Scrutiny Committee (External)). The Convener of the Committee will be a member of the Committee from the largest Opposition group appointed by the Committee.

Colin Moodie sought nominations for the position of Convener. Councillor Balfour, seconded by Councillor McCabe, nominated Councillor Jackson.

There being no other nominations Councillor Jackson assumed the chair for the remainder of the business.

SE2. APOLOGIES

An apology was intimated on behalf of Councillor Hughes.

SE3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

SE4. POLICE SCOTLAND – FALKIRK AREA COMMAND PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services presenting the local police performance report by the Local Commander.

Local Commanders are required, in terms of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, to report performance of local policing as measured against the Local Policing Plan and to provide information about complaints against the police or in regard to policing.

Chief Superintendent Hawkins gave a presentation on the detail of the report which covered the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 and highlighted the performance of policing in the Falkirk Council area in accordance with the local policing plan priorities:-

- Protecting People and Places;
- Dealing with Antisocial Behaviour;
- Violent Crime;
- Disrupting Organised Crime;
- Crimes of Dishonesty; and
- Making Roads Safer.

The Committee discussed the reduction in the number of speeding offences and road safety issues in general. Members asked for information on the local approach to raising awareness in regard to road safety including bike safety and school road safety campaigns. Members then highlighted concerns in regard to road safety around schools at drop off/pick up times and sought clarity of Police Scotland's role in this. Members specifically highlighted instances of irresponsible parking and asked for Police Scotland's position on policing parking offences.

The Committee commented on local community engagement, highlighting the increase in police attendance at community council meetings and the value in this. Members remarked on the increase in the percentage of positive stop and searches conducted. Chief Inspector Patterson confirmed that the number of searches had decreased and the percentage of positive searches had increased attributably making to a proactive and intelligence led approach. Chief Superintendent Hawkins confirmed the force's emphasis on community engagement and highlighted a targeted partnership approach to tackling social issues, citing examples in the Grangemouth, Bo'ness, Bainsford and Camelon areas.

The Committee highlighted concerns over the instances recently when Falkirk Police station has been closed to the public during office hours. Chief Inspector Patterson confirmed that, due to staff absence the office had been closed on a number of occasions. Following a review the office will be staffed and open during office hours only.

Chief Superintendent Hawkins explained the force's approach to tackling high impact/high victim crimes. In response to a question in regard to the drop of 9% in the detection rate of acquisitive crime, he pointed to an increase in the detection rate of residential housebreaking as an example where such an approach, which had been successful.

The Committee discussed the impact of excessive alcohol consumption on victim vulnerability and sought information on the force's approach to both supporting victims of crime. Chief Inspector Patterson explained that a range of interventions, with a range of partners, are available and where vulnerability is identified the public protection unit will look to identify the most appropriate intervention. Similarly in custody, where a large proportion of detainees have substance issues a range of interventions are available, citing, for example, an increase in referrals of detainees with addiction needs to the SIGNPOST support organisation.

In regard to the reporting of performance the Committee sought clarity on why performance information was measured against the previous year and against the preceding 5 year average. Chief Superintendent Hawkins stated that comparisons against both were of value, noting that overall crime in Scotland was at a 40 year low. The Committee then discussed instances where the Prosecutor Fiscal takes determines that there a no proceedings on drugs supply cases put forward by the police. Chief Inspector Patterson explained that fiscal policy had changed in regard to the evidence required to prosecute. As a consequence the number of cases which fall has risen.

Decision

The Committee noted the performance of Police Scotland against the priorities set out in the Local Policing Plan.

SE5. FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND (FPP): COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services which provided an update on the work of external organisations in receipt of funding from the Community Safety budget and who fall within the Following the Public Pound reporting and monitoring arrangements.

The report provided background on each organisation, highlighting their respective contribution to the Council's Single Outcome Agreement priority of Safer Communities.

An individual report was appended for each of the four organisations which receive funding. Each report set out the service provided, the agreed outcomes and objectives, and performance information for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 together with information on their funding and the Council's contribution thereto.

The Committee heard from officers in relation to the individual reports.

(a) Falkirk Towns Ltd - Specialized Security - Taxi Marshalling Service

Alice Keenan provided an overview of the report, advising that Specialized Security received £36,000 of Council funding in the period (with total funding of £52,000) and provides a taxi marshalling service in Newmarket Street and Meadow Street and also the Safe Base initiative over the festive period.

The Committee praised the taxi marshalling service and its contribution to reducing anti-social behaviour in the town centre. Members also highlighted the multiagency approach to tackling alcohol related antisocial behaviour and in particular the Street Pastor initiative. The Committee sought clarification on the funding available for the marshalling services

Decision

The Committee approved the report and acknowledged the progress made by Falkirk Towns Ltd – Specialized Security in delivering Council priorities.

(b) Sacro – Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Service

Alice Keenan provided an overview of the report, advising that Sacro received funding for two initiatives - £46,104 for the Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Service – Anti Social Behaviour and £81,296 for the Restorative Justice Service – Youth Service. The latter is reported on separately at (c) below.

The Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Service aims to divert young people from anti social behaviour and criminal activity, reduce the fear of crime and support and promote safer communities.

The Committee sought clarification on the services provided, in particular the referral mechanism and the client groups supported by the initiatives. Ms Keenan explained that referrals stem from a number of can originate as a result of anti social behaviour or offending and the majority of referrals are made by Council services. Members asked for further information on the partnership work with schools and the measures of intervention employed. Ms Keenan explained that there were specific initiatives set up in individual schools, for example an Alternative To Exclusion initiative at Falkirk High School and groupwork at St Mungo’s high School and, while Sacro would liaise with each school, there was not a single one size fits all initiative for schools. Members then asked whether all headteachers were aware of the Service and its benefits. Ms Keenan, in reply, stated that the (former) Education Service was involved through the Community Safety Partnership and reiterated that Sacro would be willing to liaise with all schools.

Members then sought clarification on the funding available and questioned whether the service was meeting its agreed outcomes.

Decision

The Committee approved the report and acknowledged the progress made by Sacro – Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Service in meeting Council priorities.

(c) Sacro – Restorative Justice Service

Matthew Davies provided an overview of the report, advising that Sacro received £81,296 for the service which aims to provide victims of crime and anti social behaviour the opportunity to apologise to their victims and repair the damage they have done.

The Committee sought further detail on the outcomes and in particular questioned whether the agreed objective of receiving 120 referrals had been achieved. Mr Davies explained the referral process, the majority of which are received through the Youth Justice Referral Group. In 2014/15 106 referrals had been received, lower than the target of 120, and this, he attributed to lower than anticipated referral numbers in the earlier part of the year due to a redesign of the referral processes and on Government funding pressures.

Decision

The Committee approved the report and acknowledged the progress made by Sacro – Restorative Acceptable Justice Service in meeting Council priorities.

(d) Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnerships – Contract to Scottish Families Against Drugs (SFAD) Forth Valley Family Support Service (FVFS)

Fiona Campbell provided an overview of the report, highlighting the role of the Family Support Service, which provides support across the Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council areas and which was established in March 2014 following a pilot project in 2012/13. Each of the Councils in the Forth Valley contributed £20,000 in 2014/15 for the service which received 83 referrals in the period.

The Committee asked whether the number of referrals (83 compared to 100 in 2013/14) represented an effective use of the Council's limited funding. Ms Campbell confirmed that the Forth Valley Drug and Alcohol Partnership reviews the service quarterly and in particular monitor the uptake of the services provided.

In regard to funding, Ms Campbell confirmed that funding was available from each of the local authorities for 2015/16. The service was, she confirmed, staffed by Volunteers.

The Committee then sought further information on the service provider and the partners with which the service engages. Ms Campbell explained that, while the service has links with the Council's Social Work Services, through the Drugs and Alcohol Partnership, its main links are with organisations such as SIGNPOST. In regard to its outcomes, Ms Campbell explained that one of its roles was to help support new groups to form and become self-sustaining. Members then asked how the work, which was to support families, compared to the services provided by Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

Decision

The Committee approved the report and acknowledged the progress made by Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnerships – Contract to Scottish Families Against Drugs - Forth Valley Family Support Service.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

SUBJECT: FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND: EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE - 2014/2015 MONITORING REPORT
MEETING: EXTERNAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE: 17 SEPTEMBER 2015
AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the work of the external organisations who receive funding to provide early intervention services to children and young people and who fall within the Following the Public Pound reporting and monitoring arrangements. The reporting period is April 2014 to March 2015. It should be noted that organisations were previously reported by service, however, in order to provide Members with strategic context, organisations will now be reported by category as outlined to Members during Scrutiny Committee in April 2014.
- 1.2 External organisations are often voluntary or charitable organisations which have been provided with funding on the basis that they are able to provide services which could not readily be provided within the council. Services are however provided in a way that complements those provided by the council and other statutory partners.
- 1.3 Whilst the long term value of early intervention and prevention is recognised, challenging fiscal constraints may require organisations to operate with reduced funding in future years.

2. SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 2.1 In Falkirk there are a number of factors which impact on the demand for services to children and young people and their families.

2.2 Rising Population

Falkirk Council's population is rising and the proportion of children and young people in our area is higher than elsewhere in Scotland. In 2014, it was estimated that the council area's population had reached almost 158,000 and the number of births increased from around 1500 in the early 2000s to over 1800 in 2012, an increase of double the Scottish average. This has resulted in an increasing number of children in early years establishments and primary schools, with the number of pupils in secondary schools expected to rise in the next few years. The number of births each year peaked at 1,913 in 2008, which was the highest figure for over 15 years, has fallen only marginally since. This peak is now resulting in an increase in the number of primary school age children and will affect school rolls for several years to come. Across the Council Wards there are variations in the proportions of the population in different age groups. Larbert & Bonnybridge (21.7%) and Upper Braes (20.5%) have the highest percentage of the population of children who are aged 0-15; Grangemouth (17.0%) and Lower Braes (16.6%) the smallest.

2.3 In 2012/2013 relative child poverty in Scotland increased by 4% compared with 2011/2012 (poverty and income equality in Scotland 2012/2013). For households in employment reduced entitlement to tax credits has contributed to a fall in household incomes for those with lower earnings who are unable to increase the number of hours worked. At April 2013 there was a 26% decrease in the number of children in households in Scotland in receipt of in-work tax credits compared with April 2012. This will have broadened vulnerability to the stresses that poverty brings to family life beyond the more traditional deprived areas and groups. In Falkirk the Scottish Welfare Fund spending increased from £6,144 in April 2013 to £109,991 in March 2014. Referrals to Falkirk foodbanks have increased year on year since their inception in 2011. In 2011/2012 1,861 young people 18 and under accessed the foodbank. This rose to 4,572 young people in 2012/2013 and a staggering 22,387 in 2013/2014. Of the above, 321 young people were referred by Social Work in 2014.

2.4 Of the 24,000 children in schools and nurseries in Falkirk 13% have additional support needs which require to be provided for and managed through specialist staff from a variety of agencies.

2.5 Increase in Vulnerability

The factors outlined above, when considered alongside other factors such as substance misuse and mental health difficulties amongst the adult population, result in higher levels of vulnerability within the population of early years children & young people. The council's approach to early intervention services has been strong and this has mitigated against the increases in numbers of children looked after and accommodated and children on the Child Protection Register being as high as has been experienced in other parts of Scotland.

At the end of June 2015, 236 children were looked after away from home, 114 children were looked after at home and 65 children were on the child protection register.

In light of the above it is all the more important that the Council is able to maintain a focus of early intervention, much of which is achieved through partnerships with the third sector, as outlined later in this report.

2.6 Policy Context - National - GIRFEC

National policy is delivered in the context of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC). The GIRFEC approach requires every child and young person to have a named person who will be the first point of contact if a child or young person's wellbeing is of concern. The requirement of a named person is now enshrined in law under the Children & Young People Act (Scotland) 2014. The GIRFEC approach is intended to ensure that children get the right help at the right time in their lives. The approach consists of ten core components which are:

1. A focus on improving outcomes for children & young people and their families based on a shared understanding of wellbeing.
2. A common approach to gaining consent and sharing information when appropriate.

3. An integral role for children, young people and families in assessment planning and intervention.
4. A co-ordinated and identified approach to identifying concerns, assessing needs, agreeing actions and outcomes based on the wellbeing indicators
5. Streamlining planning, assessment and decision making processes that lead to the right help at the right time.
6. Consistent high standards of cooperation, joint working and communication where more than one agency needs to be involved.
7. A lead professional to coordinate, monitor inter agency activity where necessary.
8. Maximising the skilled workforce within universal services to address needs and risks at the earliest possible time.
9. A confident and competent workforce across all services for children, young people and their families.
10. A capacity to share demographic assessment and planning information electronically within and across agency boundaries.

2.7 Policy Context - National - Early Years Framework

In addition for children aged 0-8 years, the Early Years Framework, published in 2008, set out 10 overlapping elements that need to come together to improve outcomes for early years. These elements are:

1. A cohesive approach;
2. Helping children, families and communities to secure outcomes for themselves;
3. Breaking cycles of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes in and through early years;
4. A focus on engagement and empowerment of children, families and communities;
5. Using the strength of universal services to deliver prevention and early intervention;
6. Putting quality at the heart of service delivery;
7. Services that meet the needs of children and families;
8. Improving outcomes and children's quality of life through play;
9. Simplifying and streamlining delivery
10. More effective collaborations.

2.8 Policy Context - National – Early Years Collaborative

The objective of the Early Years Collaborative (EYC) is to accelerate the high level principles set out in GIRFEC and the Early Years Framework into practical action. It is designed to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up by improving outcomes and reducing inequalities for all babies, children, mothers, fathers and families across Scotland to ensure that all children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed. To do this the EYC has five stretch aims:

1. To ensure that women experience positive pregnancies which result in the birth of more healthy babies as evidenced by a 15% reduction in stillbirths and infant mortality.
2. 85% of all children within each community planning partnership area will have reached all of the expected developmental milestones at the time of the child's 27-30 month health review by end-2016

3. 90% of all children in each community planning partnership area will have reached all of the expected developmental milestones and learning outcomes by the time the child starts primary school, by end-2017.
4. 90% of all children in each community planning partnership area will have reached all of the expected developmental milestones and learning outcomes by end of Primary 4 by end-2021.

2.9 Policy Context - National - Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

The Act received its Royal Assent in March 2014 and covers a variety of areas relating to the wellbeing of children and young people. The legislation comes into force incrementally over the next two years. Some of the key areas covered are:

- Increasing the amount and flexibility of free Early Learning and Childcare from 475 hours to a minimum of 600 hours per year for all 3 and 4 year olds from August 2014, and 15% of Scotland's most vulnerable 2 year olds. From August 2015 this will extend to 27% of the most vulnerable 2 year olds;
- Provision of free School Lunches to all children in primary 1–3 from January 2015;
- Better permanence planning for looked after children by giving all 16 year olds in care the right to stay in care until the age of 21 from 2015; extend the support available to young people leaving care for longer (up to the age of 26), and support the parenting role of kinship carers;
- Enshrining elements of the *Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)* approach in law, ensuring there is a single planning approach for children who need additional support from services, providing a single point of contact for every child and providing a holistic understanding of wellbeing;
- Creating new duties in relation to the United Nations Convention Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and strengthening the Children's Commissioner role; and
- Strengthening existing legislation that affects children, including a number of amendments to the process for school closure proposals under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

2.10 Policy Context - Local

At a local level our Single Outcome Agreement has as one of its aims supporting children in early years so that they become young people who are confident and successful. Falkirk's Children's Commission drive the planning and delivery of Children's Services across the partnership, and in doing so report directly to the Community Planning Leadership Group. The Integrated Children's Service Plan sets out the collective ambition of the Community Planning Partnership to achieve the vision that every child and young person should have an enjoyable, fulfilling life in a nurturing healthy and safe environment. The Integrated Children's Service Plan sets out ways in which services will work together in order to achieve this vision for Falkirk's children. Third sector organisations are key partners in this process.

All services and agencies are working locally to ensure that we meet the requirements of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Local tests of change are also contributing to achieving the stretch aims of the EYC.

2.11 **Falkirk Family Support Public Social Partnership**

From October 2013 to March 2015 Falkirk Council was working in partnership with Falkirk Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum in a Public Social Partnership (PSP). This project was designed to develop a cohesive system of family support across Falkirk Council.

The following organisations, considered as part of this report on Following the Public Pound, were involved in the initiative.

- **Aberlour Childcare Trust**
Family Support Service - Langlees
- **Aberlour Childcare Trust**
Early years Outreach
- **Barnardos**
Bo'ness Family and Support Service
- **Barnardo's**
New Beginnings
- **Home Start**
- **One Parent Families Scotland**
Braes Family Centre

Areas of common delivery amongst these services were explored to ensure families experience a streamlined effective service. The PSP allowed changes in delivering family support to be tested enabling externally funded services to be responsive to need across the Falkirk Council area. It was recognised that there was increased collaboration amongst the listed externally funded services, along with the internally funded Education Family Support Service and Social Work Intensive Family Support Service.

This collaboration has continued beyond the life of the project and has allowed externally funded services to share training opportunities and support, allowing them to maintain service delivery whilst experiencing reductions in funding. The lead officers were involved in all these discussions.

2.12 **Falkirk Family Support and Speech and Language Therapy**

The majority of the organisations considered by this report provide support to families. Supporting families to raise their own children wherever possible is the cornerstone of professional package. To meet the child's developmental needs, parents must:

- provide the child with basic care;
- ensure the child's safety;
- provide emotional support;
- offer guidance and provide boundaries; and
- provide the child with stability.

Sometimes families need support on one or more aspects listed above.

This support allows children to access the curriculum taught in schools and nurseries. It is nationally recognised that for every £1 spent in early intervention and prevention we save £10 of spend later in a child's life. This was borne out by a Social Return on Investment Study (SROI) carried out with the Education Family Support Service where every £1 spent saved £11.48 in future funding.

The final funding package relates to the provision of Speech and Language Therapy.

Language skills are crucial to the success of children within the education system. Understanding and communicating with other people is a pre-requisite to literacy, itself a necessity for further academic and social learning. When deficits in language are identified, it is important to act quickly and comprehensively to address the child's development needs. For this reason Falkirk Council Children's Services has a close working relationship with the NHS Speech and Language Therapists, working in partnership to help children develop to their potential.

- 2.13 As a result of the funding granted to these external organisations most are able to enhance service delivery in Falkirk by attracting further funding only available to third sector organisations. This added value is highlighted in each of the individual reports.

3. OVERVIEW OF FUNDED ORGANISATIONS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO OFFER SUPPORT TO CHILDREN IN EARLY YEARS AND PRIMARY

- 3.1 The table below shows the external organisations that received council funding during 2014/15 either in kind or by direct financial support in order to enable them to contribute to the council's goal of increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination.

Name of Organisation	Funding			
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Aberlour Childcare Trust Early years Outreach	£315,162	£315,162	£276,384	£263,464
Aberlour Childcare Trust Family Support Service - Langlees	£225,012	£225,012	£199,695	£180,076
Barnardos Education and Family Support Service	£314,605	£314,605	£279,208	£262,414
Barnardo's New Beginnings	£192,341	£192,341	£182,724	£182,724
Home Start	£29,488	£29,488	£29,488	£29,488
NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy	£515,040	£515,040	£465,040	£465,040
One Parent Families Scotland Braes Children and Family Centre	£136,064	£136,064	£120,755	£115,654
TOTAL	£1,727,712	£1,727,712	£1,553,294	£1,498,860

- 3.2 In addition to the funding provided by Falkirk Council these organisations attract an additional £370,416 to the area which is used to enhance service delivery.

4. ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATIONS PERFORMANCE

- 4.1. An individual report is attached in Appendix 1 for each external organisations shown in 3.1 above. Each report provides an overview of the service provided, the agreed objectives or outcomes, performance information during the reporting period and a financial overview. It should be noted that the audited accounts for 2014/2015 are not available as yet. This is largely due to the timing of the annual general meetings of each organisation.
- 4.2. As part of the assessment process, external organisations are allocated a risk rating based on governance arrangements, financial management and past performance. The ratings are low, medium or high and provide monitoring officers with an indication of the minimum level of monitoring and support which should be established. External organisations deemed as low risk are monitored at least annually, medium risk or external organisations are monitored at least quarterly and high risk at least monthly. Monitoring is recommended to take the form of regular reports which measure performance against outcomes and/or objectives and provide financial monitoring information. Monitoring officers are also required to hold meetings with the external organisation throughout the year.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 As set out within the report to this committee on 13 June 2013, Members are invited to consider each organisations' report and select from the following options for each external organisation:
- a) Approve report and acknowledged progress by the external organisation in meeting council priorities
 - b) Request further information on specific aspects of the service provided.
 - c) Request action with follow-up for subsequent Scrutiny Committee consideration.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to:

- **Consider individual reports for external organisations and select an option from those presented at 5.1.**
- **Note the financial context and potential requirement for organisations to operate with reduced funding in future years.**

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Robert Naylor
Director of Children's Services

Date: 8 September 2015

Contact Officer: Elaine Costello, ext. 6642

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2014/15**

Organisation Name	Aberlour Child Care Trust
Project	Aberlour Early Years Outreach
Agreement Dates	April 2014 to March 2015
Name of Lead Officer	Elaine Costello

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

Aberlour Child Care Trust will provide a service to vulnerable families and those experiencing multiple stress in:-

Airth/Bantaskine/Bothkennar/Camelon/Carronshore/Denny/Dunipace/Dennyloanhead/Dunmore/Fankerton/Grangemouth/Haggs/Head of Muir/Longcroft/Larbert/Letham/Skinflats/Stenhousemuir/Stoneywood/South Alloa/Tamfourhill/Torwood.

Primarily support will be offered to expectant parents and those with children under the age of 4 years. This support to parents will have a direct impact on the wellbeing and development of their children. Staff will work on an outreach basis in families' homes and making use of local amenities.

List of Agreed Outcomes

When working with families staff assess the families' needs by using Aberlour Outcomes Framework. This is done with the families and involves them exploring their welling in-line with SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included). A programme of support is then agreed and support is focussed on improving the areas of need identified.

In taking GIRFEC wellbeing indicators for children and young people into consideration the service will:-

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Safe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce risk and levels of harm to children and young people ● Increase and/or strengthen protective factors ● Improve healthy relationships ● Increase access to positive role models |
| Healthy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve physical health ● Improve mental health and wellbeing ● Increase access to appropriate health and dental care advice |

- Active
 - Involve children in regular constructive activity
 - Increase confidence in children and parents' own ability
 - Promote positive self-esteem of children and parents
 - Promote participation in social and community activities
 - Provide experiences focusing on play, contact with peers and social interaction

- Nurtured
 - Improve relationships with family (carers)
 - Reduce risk of family breakdown
 - Improve relationship with, and accepting of services
 - Parents/carers demonstrate understanding of the needs of their child(ren)

- Achieving
 - Foster communication skills and abilities
 - Create an environment that is interesting and empowers children to learn that will allow children to meet their developmental milestones
 - Improve children and families quality of life

- Respected
 - Actively involve families in plans and decisions
 - Ensure families are listened to and heard
 - Communicate with others at a level which is understandable
 - Pursue relevant and appropriate input and feedback from families and partner agencies

- Responsible
 - Enable children and parents to take part in planning
 - Encourage families to have positive networks
 - Support families in allowing them to distinguish acceptable and unacceptable behaviour

- Included
 - Encourage participation in community activities and services
 - Reduce barriers to inclusion
 - Understand cultural background and kinship
 - Foster a sense of belonging for families and promote their ability to plan for the future

List of Agreed Outcomes

1. 62 parents' understanding of meeting their developmental needs of their children will increase. 78 children's development will be enhanced.
2. 48 parents' understanding of meeting their developmental needs of their children will increase. 48 children's development will be enhanced.
3. 96 babies and their parents will have improved attachment. Parents' wellbeing will be enhanced and have direct impact on the wellbeing of their baby.
4. 16 parents' will have improved self-esteem, enhanced mental health and wellbeing. This will have a direct benefit on the wellbeing of their children.

5. 30 parents' confidence and knowledge of how to manage children's behaviour, will increase. This will include enhancing minimum of 30 children's emotional wellbeing.
6. 66 parents will have increased confidence and skills in managing life events. This will include improving children's sleep hygiene, using appropriate responses to children's positive and negative behaviours and being connected to other community resources.
7. 30 children will have been provided with positive opportunities for them to enhance their development while also providing respite for parents during periods of stress or crisis.

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

Aberlour Child Care Trust outreach service is funded by Children's Services and Aberlour Child Care Trust. Their work is well established in the area and compliments the work of our own family support service.

Aberlour Child Care Trust are able to attract funding from other funders to support this work based on the funding we provide.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

Achieved Outcomes : 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015			
	Improvement	Maintained same level	Deteriorated
Safe			
1.1 reduction in risk and levels of harm	13	4	0
1.2 protective factors increased and/or strengthened	11	9	1
1.3 Improved healthy relationships	8	0	1
1.4 increased access to positive role models.	1	0	0
Health			
2.1 Being happier	12	0	0
2.2 Improved physical health	21	5	0
2.3 improved mental health and well being	32	21	1
Achieving			
3.1 appropriate communication skills and abilities	3	0	0
3.2 interested, enabled and empowered to learn	3	3	0
3.5 meeting developmental milestones and improving quality of life	5	1	0
Nurtured			
4.1 Improved relationships with family or carers	34	12	0
4.3 Risk of breakdown reduced	2	1	0
4.4 improved relationships with and accepting of services	0	2	0
4.6 parent/carer demonstrate understanding of the needs of the child	11	14	0
Active			
5.1 involvement in regular constructive activity	10	6	0
5.3 Positive self esteem	3	1	0
5.5 enjoy play, contact with peers, social interaction	22	14	2
Respected			
6.2 being listened to and heard	5	0	0

	Improvement	Maintained same level	Deteriorated
6.3 communicated with at a level which is understandable	2	1	0
Responsible			
7.4 Being able to distinguish acceptable and unacceptable behaviour	13	11	0
Included			
8.1 ability to participate in community activities and services	17	9	0
8.2 Barriers to inclusion reduced or eliminated	21	8	0

302 families were supported by the project between April 2014 and March 2015, below is the breakdown of the requests per month

April - 18	May - 16	June - 11	July -16
August - 34	September - 25	October – 20	November - 23
December - 12	January - 24	February -20	March - 23

There has been an increase in the amount of referrals for family's experiencing poor mental wellbeing, this has been addressed by providing more Finding the Balance Groups. To build on staff knowledge of mental health wellbeing six staff attended Seasons for Growth training; two were trained in the adult programme and four in the children's programme.

27 families have attended peek a boo groups which helps improve the interaction between parent and child and improves parental confidence.

57 families have attended stay and play groups which build on positive communication between parents and children, this increases parental knowledge of child development.

29 parents attended a Finding the Balance Group which improved their mental wellbeing by giving them tools and strategies to manage their own wellbeing.

13 parents attended a positive parenting programme which improved their understanding of and management of children's behaviour

110 babies attended infant massage groups with their parents, this early communication and bonding programme enhances attachment and increases parental knowledge and understanding of their child's development

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

The manager continues to be on secondment however the assistant manager has proven ability to support the work in the service. A reduction in next year's funding will have an impact of the number of families the service will be able engage with, further reduction in subsequent years will continue to reduce this.

The change and increase in Council let charges also means the service now pay for community facilities which were not previously charged for.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

Aberlour Early Years Outreach have played a key part in:-

- Continuing to improve health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities
- Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination

By building family capacity and supporting children and their families to reach their potential.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

None.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

The monitoring officer has changed and therefore initial meetings have been quarterly.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

	FC Funding	FC In Kind	Total	FC %
2012/13	£315,162	£3,000	£318,162	-
2013/14	£315,162	£3,000	£318,162	-
2014/15	£315,162	£3,000	£318,162	79%
2015/16	£279,384	£3,000	£279,384	TBC
2016/17	£263,464	£3,000	£266,464	TBC

Aberlour Childcare Trust has directly funded a parental service in Falkirk contributing £82,173. The Assistant Director is also an active participant⁶ within Falkirk's Early Years Collaborative and is chair of Falkirk's Early Intervention and Prevention Workstream.

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

Year Ending 31/3/2014

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

Further cuts to funding will result in a reduction of service. Introduction of costings for community venues will impact on delivery of service.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Medium due to uncertainty around future funding.

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year

Aberlour Early Years Outreach service continues to have a positive impact on children and their families. The Aberlour Outcomes Framework shows a high level of children and their families that engage and participate have improved or sustained their wellbeing.

E COMPLETED BY	
<u>Name</u>	Elaine Costello
<u>Designation</u>	Integration Support Manager
<u>Date</u>	27.08.15

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2014/15**

Organisation Name	Aberlour Child Care Trust
Project	Family Centre - Langlees
Agreement Dates	April 2014 to March 2015
Name of Lead Officer	Elaine Costello

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

Aberlour Child Care Trust Family Centre – Langlees will primarily offer support to expectant parents and children up to the age of 12 years. This support to parents will have a direct impact on the wellbeing and development of their children. Staff will work with families within the Family Support Centre as well as in the Community

List of Agreed Outcomes

When working with families staff assess the families' needs by using Aberlour Outcomes Framework. This is done with the families and involves them exploring their wellbeing in-line with SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included). A programme of support is then agreed and support is focussed on improving the areas of need identified.

In taking GIRFEC wellbeing indicators for children and young people, the service will:-

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Safe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce risk and levels of harm to children and young people • Increase and/or strengthen protective factors • Improve healthy relationships • Increase access to positive role models |
| Healthy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve physical health • Improve mental health and wellbeing • Increase access to appropriate health and dental care advice |
| Active | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve children in regular constructive activity • Increase confidence in children and parents' own ability • Promote positive self-esteem of children and parents • Promote participation in social and community activities • Provide experiences focusing on play, contact with peers and social interaction |

- Nurtured
 - Improve relationships with family (carers)
 - Reduce risk of family breakdown
 - Improve relationship with, and accepting of services
 - Parents/carers demonstrate understanding of the needs of their child(ren)

- Achieving
 - Foster communication skills and abilities
 - Create an environment that is interesting and empowers children to learn that will allow children to meet their developmental milestones
 - Improve children and families quality of life

- Respected
 - Actively involve families in plans and decisions
 - Ensure families are listened to and heard
 - Communicate with others at a level which is understandable
 - Pursue relevant and appropriate input and feedback from families and partner agencies

- Responsible
 - Enable children and parents to take part in planning
 - Encourage families to have positive networks
 - Support families in allowing them to distinguish acceptable and unacceptable behaviour

- Included
 - Encourage participation in community activities and services
 - Reduce barriers to inclusion
 - Understand cultural background and kinship
 - Foster a sense of belonging for families and promote their ability to plan for the future

List of Agreed Outcomes

1. 42 children will reach their developmental potential.
2. 20 parents will increase their understanding of meeting their child's developmental needs.
3. 24 babies and their parents will have improved attachment. Parents wellbeing will be enhanced and have a direct impact on the wellbeing of their baby.
4. 12 babies and their parents will have a healthy attachment to each other.
5. Parents of 14 children will increase their confidence and knowledge of managing their children's behaviour.
6. 10 children's emotional wellbeing will improve, they will be more able to describe their feelings and respond appropriately in potentially challenging situations.

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

Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees is funded by Children’s Services and Aberlour Child Care Trust. Their work is well established in the area and complements the work of our own Family Support Service.

Aberlour Child Care Trust are able to attract funding from other funders to support this work based on the funding we provide.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

Between April 2014 and March 2015, 147 children and their families received a service from Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees. The target for the service was to provide support to 128 children and their families. 120 of the children were aged 0-4. Following support received 38 families were signposted onto other services. There is some detail in the Case Studies in Appendix 1.

The service offers low level universal services and more targeted support. The top six criteria met in requests for assistance were, in highest order:

- Concerns for child development
- Difficulty with parenting
- Limited Family Support
- Parental ill health and wellbeing
- Observed or expressed attachment issues
- Domestic or substance misuse

The families are supported through various methodologies including:

Early Learning and Child Care

Pre-Birth to Three Curriculum is followed within Early Learning and Child Care Sessions. This sets out four key principles for best starts and positive outcomes, through which effective support and learning opportunities for very young children can be promoted. Early Learning and Child Care sessions follow a daily structured routine. This provides a balance in play opportunities where children are encouraged to make individual choices, receive individual adult attention, as well as participating in large peer group activities. Early Learning and Child Care Sessions aim to:

- Provide a nurturing, safe and stimulating environment where expression of feelings and emotions are encouraged and respected.
- Encourage all children and staff to recognise and value each other’s individual needs and to respect and support these.
- Provide child led opportunities with access to a variety of resources and learning activities which promote overall development.
- Protect children from abuse.
- Promote children’s physical, emotional and mental health, providing a consistent and reassuring environment with familiar adults who provide a positive role model.

Stay and Play

The Stay and Play Group provides parents/carers and children with a variety of play and learning opportunities. Space is provided for parents/carers and children to come together and enjoy a programme of activities including messy play, outdoor play, story and song time.

The Stay and Play Group aims to:

- Promote and support positive parent/carer and child interaction, by increasing socialisation opportunities with other parents/carers and children.
- Provide the opportunity to explore practical play experiences.
- Encourage parents to transfer this learning through play to their home environment.
- Utilise the play@home toddler book.
- Encourage language development, by promoting parent and child participation in song time.
- Promote the positive benefits of peer support in a relaxed, supportive and informal setting.

Infant Massage

Infant Massage is the positive nurturing touch that builds on the bonding and relationship between parent/carer and child. Infant Massage aims to promote nurturing, bonding and communications between parent/carer and child. It has particular benefits for:

- Parents/carers who want to strengthen the bond/attachment with their child.
- Infants suffering from colic, constipation or wind.
- Parents/carers who would like to increase their own confidence.
- Infants who have special needs.
- Mothers suffering from/at risk of post-natal depression.
- Parents/infants who would benefit from relaxation.

Baby Play

Baby Play Group provides parent/carers and their babies with a variety of play and learning opportunities. Space is provided for parents/carers and children to come together and enjoy a programme of activities including messy play, story and song time. Baby Play Group provides support following the birth of a new baby and throughout their first year. The Group aims to:

- Promote and support positive parent/carer and baby interaction, increasing socialisation opportunities with other parents/carers and babies and enhancing feelings of mental well-being.
- Utilise the play@home baby book.
- Support parents/carers in understanding the importance of play with your baby.
- Provide the opportunity to explore practical play experiences.
- Encourage parents to transfer this learning through play to their home environment.
- Promote early communication skills, by promoting parent and baby interaction during song and rhyme time.
- Promote the positive benefits of peer support in a relaxed, supportive and informal setting.

Art Therapy

Art Therapy provides an environment where parent/carer or child can freely express their thoughts, feelings and experiences that may be too difficult or painful to talk about. Images made can take the place of words and also can make the communication easier.

There is no “right” way to do Art Therapy. You do not need to have any special talent or prior knowledge of art to be able to benefit from Art Therapy. The Art Therapist can help parent/carer or child to explore their emotions through art without judging or directing the process of art making.

In Art Therapy you are not told what to paint or make but are supported in whatever you want to do, at a pace that is suitable for you. The parent/carer or child and Art Therapist work together to reduce the effect that certain feelings can have on their well-being.

Individual Support for Families

Individual Support is tailored to meet the specific needs of the individual and their families and aims to:

- Support parents/carers and children to recognise and make positive changes to strengthen family relationships.
- Support parents/carers to develop confidence, self-esteem and interpersonal skills.
- Encourage and promote positive behaviour.

This work is supported by a Child and Family Worker, who will discuss with the individual and their families the most suitable time for support to take place. This can take place within the family home or within the Family Support Centre. The Service recognises individual needs and supports this where we can.

Individual Nurture Support for Children

Individual Nurture Support provides children with an opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities which help to increase their self-esteem and emotional literacy. This is available on an individual basis, within a safe and warm environment and aims to:

- Develop children's existing emotional and social skills.
- Promote development of 'who you are', 'where you belong' and 'what choices can you make'.
- Encourage children's respect for others.
- Promote positive verbal and non-verbal communication

Video Interaction Guidance

VIG stands for Video Interaction Guidance. This is an intervention where parents/carers are guided to reflect on video clips of their own successful interactions. The person who engages with the parent/carer and leads the process is called the Video Interaction Guider (Guider). VIG works by actively engaging parents/carers in a process of change towards better relationships with their child or children and others who are important to them.

The Guider films successful positive interaction between the parent/carer and the child (ren) for approximately 10 minutes. The Guider selects 3-4 clips showing the best examples of communication using the "*Principles of attuned interaction*". The Guider returns and views the clips with the participant and they discuss them fully. This is called a "*Shared Review*".

The participants should then begin to see many elements of the skills they have and exactly how they can build on these. The process is repeated until agreed success is achieved.

Parenting Assessment Manual (PAMs)

Parenting Assessment Manual Software (PAMs) is a structured, wide-ranging diagnostic parenting assessment, aimed at vulnerable families with children up to 19 years of age.

PAMs assesses 312 skills focussing on Parenting Knowledge, Skills and Practice for each parent.

The PAMs Assessor will work with one parent or both parents together, depending on whether this is a single or joint PAMs Assessment. The PAMs Assessor works through the assessment with the parent(s) over 20 Sessions using a variety of methods including questionnaires, cartoon cards and observations.

A Request for this Service can only be made by Social Work Services.

In My Shoes

In My Shoes is a computer assisted interview for children and vulnerable adults. It facilitates sharing of information by the interviewee and has therapeutic and forensic value.

In My Shoes has proved capable of helping children to share information in ways that could not be achieved through conventional methods. The forensic value of the package has been demonstrated in that children have provided information that has added substantially to that which is already known, and has proved acceptable in court.

Some staff are also trained in **Early Bird** and **Seasons for Growth**. This has been supported by Falkirk Council and improves outcomes for a further number of children in Falkirk.

The results of the interventions are captured in the table below for the achieved outcomes April 2014 – March 2015

INDICATORS	Improving	No change	Deteriorating	New
SAFE				
1.1 Reduction in risk and levels of harm	3	2	0	3
1.2 Protective factors increased and/or strengthened	0	2	0	2
1.3 Improved healthy relationships	4	0	0	1
1.4 Increased access to positive role models	11	1	0	4
HEALTHY				
2.1 Being happy	1	0	0	0
2.2 Improved [physical health	5	0	0	0
2.3 Improved mental health and well being	12	0	0	1
2.5 Reduction in exposure to/participation of harm	1	1	0	2
ACHIEVING				
3.1 Appropriate communication skills and abilities	13	5	2	7
3.2 Interested, enabled and empowered to learn	9	0	0	8
3.3 attending school, college, work placement	2	0	0	0
3.5 meeting developmental milestones and improving quality of life	11	2	0	4
NURTURED				
4.1 Improved relationships with family or carers	7	0	0	3
4.2 Stable and secure home or placement	1	0	0	0
4.4 Improved relationships with and accepting of services	1	1	0	0
4.5 Well prepared for placement moves	0	0	0	1
4.6 Parent/Carer demonstrate understanding of the needs of the child	15	3	0	1
ACTIVE				
5.1 Involvement in regular constructive activity	6	1	0	2
5.2 Confidence in own ability	1	0	0	0
5.3 Positive self esteem	2	1	0	1
5.4 Participation in social, community and school activities	1	0	0	1
5.5 Enjoying play, contact with peers, social interaction	25	2	0	10
RESPECTED				
6.2 Being listened to and heard	1	0	0	0
6.3 Communicated with at a level which is understandable	1	0	0	0
6.4 Views sought when appropriate	2	0	0	0
6.5 Relevant and appropriate input and feedback	2	0	0	0
RESPONSIBLE				
7.4 Being able to distinguish acceptable and unacceptable behaviour	4	0	0	1
INCLUDED				
8.1 Ability to participate in community activities and services	1	1	0	0
8.2 Barriers to inclusion reduced or eliminated	3	0	0	0
8.4 Developing a sense of belonging and ability to plan for the future	2	0	0	1
8.5 Settled and included in country and community	1	0	0	1

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

The service appointed the previous Assistant Manager (Kim Carey) to the post of Service Manager when the previous Service Manager (Winnie Delaney) went on secondment in January 2014. Therefore the current Service Manager (Kim Carey) has proven ability to support the service and has since been appointed in this role on a permanent basis from 01.04.15.

A reduction in next year's funding will have an impact of the number of families the service will be able engage with, further reduction in subsequent years will continue to reduce this with a potential negative impact on outcomes for young children.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees have played a key part in:-

- Continuing to improve health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities
- Increasing our efforts to take disadvantage and discrimination by building family capacity and supporting children and their families to reach their potential.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

None.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

The monitoring officer has changed and therefore initial meetings have been quarterly.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

	FC Funding	FC In Kind	Total	FC %
2012/13	£225,012	£3000	£228,012	-
2013/14	£225,012	£3000	£228,012	-
2014/15	£225,012	£3000	£228,012	98%
2015/16	£199,695	£3000	£202,695	TBC
2016/17	£180,076	£3000	£183,076	TBC

The financial contribution from Aberlour has been through fundraised income and donations. This has equated to £4,656 across Aberlour's Falkirk Services and was received from Sodexo Foundation. This has supported partnership working in relation to food shopping and cooking on a budget. This arose from the high use of Falkirk Food Bank and Social Work Services concerns for children who are entitled to free school meals who are unable to access this during school holidays.

This has continued throughout the year, in a variety of ways, including partnership working with Social Work, Community Learning and Development, other Voluntary services and Falkirk Council Family Support Service.

The Service has provided financial assistance to 15 families over the year equating to £1036 from our fundraised income budget and £328 in donated gift vouchers received from Aberlour Marketing and Fundraising Department. This has improved the lives of children as this provided shoes, jackets, gas and electricity.

The Service has a very strong relationship with Hidden Treasure, Charity Shop which is run by Falkirk Baptist Church as receive approx. £1000 a year to help with various requirements for children and families including annual Summer and Christmas outings.

Aberlour has been invited to apply through Forth 1's 'Cash for Kids Bed Appeal'. Therefore the Service has also been fortunate to access and apply on the behalf of 2 families to have a bed for their child.

In kind from Aberlour: Assistant Director is an active participant within Falkirk's Early Years Collaborative and chair of Falkirk's Early Intervention & Prevention work stream (part of Falkirk's Community Planning structure).

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

Year ending 31 March 2014

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

Further cuts to funding will result in a reduction of service.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Medium due to uncertainty around future funding.

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year

Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees continues to have a positive impact on children and their families. The Aberlour Outcomes Framework shows a high level of children and their families that engage and participate have improved or sustained their wellbeing.

E COMPLETED BY	
<u>Name</u>	Elaine Costello
<u>Designation</u>	Integration Support Manager
<u>Date</u>	27.08.15

Case Studies

Child	Reason for Request for Assistance	Support Provided	Baseline Outcomes	Outcomes at Closure	Signposting
1 Age 4 sibling aged 9 months	Request received from Health Visitor. Mum presenting with low mood, has limited family support and feels isolated. Mum not motivated to seek out friends/groups and prefer to stay at home. Child has challenging behaviour and resorts to tantrums to gain Mum's attention	Individual Support for families was provided within the family home on a weekly basis. Support for Mum to introduce sticker/reward charts, consistent routine and support to go out in the community with the children.	4.6 Being appropriately cared for and supported by family/carers (2) 6.2 Being listened to and heard (3) 8.1 Ability to participate in community activities and services (2)	4.6 Being appropriately cared for and supported by family/carers (6) 6.2 Being listened to and heard (6) 8.1 Ability to participate in community activities and services (6)	Engaged with Bainsford Nursery for 4 year old. Considering attendance at Baby Play Group with 9 month old
2 Age 8	Request received from Health Visitor. Child is very affected by parental relationship breakdown. Mum reports that her relationship with child is difficult as child had a close relationship with Dad who has a new partner who has a child of their own. Mum is keen to improve relationship.	Video Interaction Guidance with parent and child. Support to review their positive interactions and build on these each session. Opportunity for reflection on current situation and make positive changes for the future	6.3 Communicated with at a level which is understandable (2) 4.1. Improved relationships with family or carers (2)	6.3 Communicated with at a level which is understandable (5) 4.1. Improved relationships with family or carers (5)	
3 Age 3	Request received from Aberlour Early Years Outreach. Child becoming increasingly upset prior to contact with Dad. Behaviour changes the night before including refusal to go to bed, complaining of pains in her legs, screaming and kicking at Mum and being uncooperative when Mum tries to get her dressed.	Art Therapy to encourage exploration of feelings and emotions through the use of art materials	2.1 Being happy (3) 2.2 Improved physical health (4)	2.1 Being happy (4) 2.2 Improved physical health (5)	Children's Advocacy Service

4 Age 2	Request received from Health Visitor. Child has short attention span and does not respond to parental guidance. Mum suffers from low mood and has recently had another baby.	Early Learning and Child Care provided for structure and routine. This also offers stimulating environment for child, providing Mum with respite from child and time with new baby. Individual Support for Families encouraged consistent routine and boundaries at home.	3.3 Attending school, college, work placement (2) 5.1 Involvement in regular constructive activity (2) 5.5 Enjoying play, contact with peers and social interaction (3)	3.3 Attending school, college, work placement (3) 5.1 Involvement in regular constructive activity (4) 5.5 Enjoying play, contact with peers and social interaction (4)	Homestart Denny Bainsford Nursery
5 Age 2	Request received from Health Visitor. Child has global developmental delay and not reaching developmental milestones. This is being assessed by Paediatrician for neurodevelopment check.	Early Learning and Child Care to provide opportunity for social interaction with children of a similar ability. Consistent structure and support for early learning skills. Informal support for parents to attend appointments to support child's development.	3.1 Appropriate communication skills and abilities (2) 4.6 Being appropriately cared for and supported by family/carers (2) 5.1 Involvement in regular constructive activity (2)	3.1 Appropriate communication skills and abilities (3) 4.6 Being appropriately cared for and supported by family/carers (5) 5.1 Involvement in regular constructive activity (4)	Pre-Five Home Visiting Service, Speech and Language, PreFCAT, Dentist

FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2014/15

Organisation Name	Barnardo's
Project	Barnardo's Education and Family Support Service
Agreement Dates	April 2014 to March 2015
Name of Lead Officer	Elaine Costello

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

Barnardo's Education and Family Support Service provides support to children and young people aged birth to 18 years and their parents and carers through a planned stage of early intervention in order to maintain and sustain the child/young person's place in mainstream school and enable families to tackle challenges which if not addressed, can impact on family functioning and negatively influence the long term outcomes for children and young people.

Children and young people benefit from the support to improve levels of emotional literacy, resilience and wellbeing. They build positive relationships with peers and are supported to actively participate in school, family and community life.

Parents/Carers benefit from support to improve their knowledge and understanding of parenting styles which promote positive attachment between them and their children. They are supported to address challenges that can impact on their ability to create and maintain positive family relationships. The focus is on solutions and strengths based plans to meet the holistic needs of their child and family unit.

List of Agreed Outcomes

When working with young people and their families the service assesses needs using the Barnardo's Outcomes Framework. This is done with the young person or family member and involves them exploring their wellbeing in line with the wellbeing indicators (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, and Included). A programme of support is then agreed and support is focussed on improving the area of need identified.

The key objectives of the service for this reporting period were:-

- Service users will participate in drawing up an agreed initial care plan and participate in a 3-6 monthly review of that plan with an identified worker.
- Service users participate in identifying indicators/focus of work and improve knowledge about their child's needs. They will be supported to attend and participate at multi-agency meetings.
- Services users' emotional literacy will be improved by identifying needs and focussing on the area of development through individual, group and family work.
- Service users' will have a positive attitude towards learning, maintaining their place in mainstream education.
- The service will work collaboratively with other agencies to develop strategies and strong working relationship that benefit children, young people and their families.

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

This service is funded by Children’s Services and Barnardo’s. The family centre is well established in Bo’ness and the family support work compliments our own family support work in that locality, it also supports work in Falkirk East.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

Between April 2014 and March 2015 the service worked directly with 97 children, this number doesn’t include parents or other family members. Of those 97, 36 were between 5 and 10 years old and 35 between 10 and 15 years old. 60 of them were male.

The requests for assistance for the service are unevenly split with 74% of requests coming from Falkirk East.

The service facilitated the following groups:-

- 1 x Graeme High Positive Families Group
- 1 x Nursery to P1 transition group at Hallglen Primary
- 1 x Incredible Years Parenting Programme
- 1 x Early Bird Parenting Programme
- 2014 Summer Programme collaboratively with other family support agencies

Specific Outcomes for children and young people

Barnardo’s Outcomes Framework	Improvement	Stabilised	Non Progression
<p>1. Parents take responsibility for child’s welfare</p> <p>Example indicators -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I have structures and routines appropriate for my age</i> • <i>I have guidance and opportunity to learn to make the right choices and decisions</i> • <i>I have positive role models who are there to support me with everyday care, help and diet</i> • <i>I am encouraged to take part in a range of activities out with school</i> • <i>I have parents who encourage me to develop self confidence</i> • <i>I have parents who are able to manage their income/ resources</i> • <i>I have access to appropriate health care as and when require</i> 	<p>17 (57%)</p>	<p>13 (43%)</p>	

Barnardo's Outcomes Framework	Improvement	Stabilised	Non Progression ¹
<p>2. Able to solve conflicts constructively</p> <p>Example indicators -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I am able to express my thoughts and feelings sensitively to others</i> • <i>I am encouraged to learn to take responsibility for my actions</i> • <i>I can understand and manage my emotions</i> • <i>I am able to understand the impact of my behaviour on others</i> • <i>I have trusted adults/peers who can support me to problem solve</i> • <i>I am able to develop healthy trusting relationships</i> 	<p>16 (62%)</p>	<p>9 (34%)</p>	<p>1 (4%)</p>
<p>3. Positive attitude towards learning</p> <p>Example indicators -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I am proud of my achievements/abilities</i> • <i>I have peer role models who model positive behaviours</i> • <i>I can apply myself to problem solving</i> • <i>I can participate in opportunities to learn</i> • <i>I am able to build and sustain relationships with some peers</i> • <i>I am a positive role model for others</i> • <i>I am able to make good choices</i> 	<p>12 (57%)</p>	<p>9 (43%)</p>	
<p>4. Contribute to planning and decision making</p> <p>Example indicators –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I am or have parents/carers who are actively engaged in working with Barnardo's</i> • <i>I am or have parents/carers engaged in action/work plans</i> 	<p>32 (63%)</p>	<p>12 (24%)</p>	<p>7 (13%)</p>

¹ Non Progression may indicate the timing of scoring or that change and new patterns haven't yet been established

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

During the reporting period the dissolution of multi-agency groups that were previously the route for requests for assistance being allocated initially left a lack of clarity for the service and those making requests. Significant time was spent trying to ascertain who else may be working with the family and if there was any duplication. There was also a dip in the number of requests to the service.

In addition the service was disrupted from January 2015 to March 2015 in order to respond to a request by Education Services to support Oxbang Primary School with an alternative to school programme for 4 children on an individual basis. This work pulled all staffing resources to focus on this programme.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

Barnardo's Education and Family Support Service have played a key part in:-

- Continuing to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities
- Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage

By building family capacity and supporting children and young people to maintain their places in education.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

The service didn't have the expected number of requests for assistance. As explained, this was due to initial lack of clarity of the route for these requests and also pooling the staffing resources in the service to support Oxbang Primary School as a priority. This resulted in a reduction of families engaging in the service.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Officer has changed and meetings have been quarterly.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

	FC Funding	FC In Kind	Total	FC %
2012/13	£314,605	£16,200	£339,885	-
2013/14	£314,605	£16,200	£339,885	-
2014/15	£314,605	£16,200	£339,885	92%
2015/16	£279,208	£16,200	£296,008	TBC
2016/17	£262,414	£16,200	£278,615	TBC

In addition Barnardo's attracts through this project £16,811 for Early Intervention and £11,326 for volunteering. These figures do not take account of the volunteering hours just the paid work associated with volunteering.

<u>Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts</u>	
2013/14	
<u>Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation</u>	
Continued cuts to funding will result in a reduction of service.	
<u>Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)</u>	
Medium due to uncertainty around future funding	
D CONCLUSIONS	
<u>Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year</u>	
<p>Barnardo's Education and Family Support Service continues to have a positive impact on children, young people and their families.</p> <p>The Barnardo's Outcome Framework shows a high level of children, young people and their families that engage and participate have improved or sustained their wellbeing.</p>	
E COMPLETED BY	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Elaine Costello</u>
<u>Designation</u>	<u>Integration Support Manager</u>
<u>Date</u>	<u>27.08.15</u>

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2014/15**

Organisation Name	Barnardo's
Project	New Beginnings
Agreement Dates	April 2014 – March 2015
Name of Lead Officer	David Mackay

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

Working in partnership with Oxgang School and Outreach Service, the Oxgang Family Support Team provides a range of flexible support to children and their families who have been prioritised by the Oxgang Pupil Support Resources Group, due to being at risk of:

- exclusion from school or not achieving their potential within school arising from social, emotional and behavioural difficulties
- not accessing school-based learning due to out-of-school circumstances
- being placed in Out-Authority schools

List of Agreed Outcomes

The Oxgang Family Support Team aims to promote pupil well-being by keeping pupils:

- **safe** – reduce engagement in unsafe behaviour by promoting and developing positive alternatives
- **healthy** – analyse factors in the child's home and environment to identify health risks, and work with Oxgang, the child and family to minimise them
- **active** - increase the positive involvement of children in their communities, including play, community service and organised groups
- **nurtured** – increasing parent and carer skills in managing the child at home, building to developing their support for the child's learning, social and emotional development, including organisation and management
- **achieving** – increase the child's ability to learn within the classroom environment by reducing the barriers to learning
- **respected and responsible** – encourage the child to take responsibility for progress by facilitating the child's close involvement in the planning processes
- **included** – support the successful re-integration of children to their mainstream school by supporting the child as they practice newly-acquired skills in their local school environment

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

Barnardo's have significant experience in this area of support and an extensive network of support to assist the delivery of the service. In addition, Barnardo's contribute to the cost of delivering the service.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

Direct Contact with Children and their Families

From April 2014 to March 2015 the project provided a total of 2942 hours of contact with 22 children. This includes intensive work with four children of over 2,700 hours to meet their needs between January 2015 and March 2015.

A variety of programmes and approaches were utilised in individual work with children, parents and families. Workers tailor programmes to meet the individual child and family's needs. The following are some examples programmes, approaches and resources that were used to focus discussions, promote learning, self-reflection, build aspirations and encourage change -

- Relax Kids
- Incredible Years Parenting programme
- Parenting Factor in ADHD
- All About Me
- Volcano in My Tummy
- Five to Thrive approach
- Systemic Family Therapy
- CBT Approaches
- Feelings work such as – A Niffleloo called Nevermind; Drawing on your emotions; How does it feel?
- Talking Mats
- Video Interaction Guidance
- Strength Based Approach
- Strength Cards
- Solution focussed approach
- Resilience based work
- Nurture Groups
- Wellbeing toolkit
- Marvellous Me
- Helping Children build self esteem
- Developing Parents Skills Confidence and Self Esteem
- play@home resources

Oxgang School and Support Services – Barnardo's Duty Cover

During April to November 2014 Barnardo's provided 390 hours Duty Cover in school to support children during their school day and help facilitate lunchtime activity groups, individual support and school outings

Groupwork Sessions

July – August 2014

Summer programme

Barnardo's was able to secure additional funding from NHS *All In This Together Grant* for £2000 to be able to provide activity based sessions over the summer holidays and during the rest of this fiscal year.

September - November 2014

Children's Groups

All children in the school participated in either one or both weekly groups provided by the Barnardo's team

- 3x Relax Kids per week 2 hours per group
- 1x Social Skills Group per week 2 hours per group
- 1x Creative Skills Group per week 2 hours per group
- 1x Friendship Group per week 2 hours per group

April 2014 – December 2014

Parents Groups facilitated by Barnardo's

Oxgang School Parents Group

Parents were offered the opportunity of meeting on a fortnightly basis so that they could offer each other mutual support; identify topics impacting on their lives which they wished to discuss or learn more about. Topics covered such as internet safety, baking etc. Barnardo's provided 100% funding for the peripatetic worker who facilitated this group.

Finding the Balance

Parents Group to improve mental health and wellbeing

Additional Resources

Core Family Support

Despite the significant resources that had to be made available to support the work described above, Barnardo's also had a commitment to continue to provide support to the families whose child was still in Oxgang School. This involved 5 out of 6 pupils. Additional staffing resource was used during this period to work with these families. Volunteer Befriender input was also provided for one of the parents.

Families were offered support to maintain links with the school, 2 families have had indepth assessments carried out and there has also been some individual work with 2 of the children

Activities were organised/provided for all of the children during the Easter break and all were able to participate in the community activities without any negative feedback from organisers

Volunteers

Barnardo's recruits and trains Volunteers to support its services across Forth Valley; some will deliver/support group work programmes, work as Befrienders to individual children or parents. During this period a number of Volunteers supported the work taking place and a total of **278+** hours of Volunteering were provided to the Service supplementing and complementing the individual children's programmes.

Barnardo's provides 100% funding for the Volunteer Manager who recruits, trains and supports our volunteers.

The attached case study for further insight into the work that is carried out.

The work above led to the following outcomes for the 22 children and families

Barnardo's Outcomes	Improvement	Stabilised	Emerging Issues
<p>Access to/or use of inclusive resources in the community Examples of indicators -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am encouraged to have hobbies and/or attend group/activities after school • I have supportive adults who help me to join in activities (new or existing) • I have dreams and goals • I am included in my community • I have friends • I can follow instructions/guidance • I have a family who do activities together 	<p>6</p> <p>75% of children were given support to join local clubs/activities which helped improve their social skills, mental wellbeing and confidence</p>	<p>2</p> <p>25% of children were able to attend local clubs/activities without the need for ongoing support</p>	
<p>Able to understand the impact of own behaviour. Examples of indicators -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can ask for help • I know and understand the golden rules at school, at home and in the community • I am able to listen • I can talk about my feelings • I have friends • I can understand how others feel • I can work/play with others 	<p>14</p> <p>78% of children were more able to self-regulate and make better choices in challenging situations on a weekly basis</p>	<p>4</p> <p>22% of children were able to use their learning to manage situations they found challenging in a more self-regulated manner on a daily basis</p>	<p>1</p> <p>child was unable to manage to self-regulate on a consistent basis</p>

Barnardo's Outcomes	Improvement	Stabilised	Emerging Issues
<p>Stable and secure family environment. Examples of indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have parents who provide me with a suitable place to live where I can feel safe, settled and belong • I have parents who are able to manage their income/resources • I have access to appropriate health care as and when required • I have regular meals/healthy meals • I have fixed routines and boundaries • I have a positive attachment with responsible caregiver • I am encouraged to have dreams and goals • I know what to expect from my parents 	<p>10</p> <p>67% of children's families had made marked changes and improvements at home which had a positive effect on their child</p>	<p>5</p> <p>33% of children's families were able to sustain the changes and be consistent on a regular basis</p>	
Barnardo's Outcomes	Improvement	Stabilised	Emerging Issues
<p>Access to/or use of inclusive resources in the community</p> <p>Examples of indicators -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am encouraged to have hobbies and/or attend group/activities after school • I have supportive adults who help me to join in activities (new or existing) • I have dreams and goals • I am included in my community • I have friends • I can follow instructions/guidance • I have a family who do activities together 	<p>6</p> <p>75% of children were given support to join local clubs/activities which helped improve their social skills, mental wellbeing and confidence</p>	<p>2</p> <p>25% of children were able to attend local clubs/activities without the need for ongoing support</p>	

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

- The major challenge facing this organisation was the requirement to support Oxgang School on a very flexible basis during times of extreme challenge. This required diverting staff from their core activities to meet the needs of some children on a fulltime basis.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

- Improving the life skills and positive wellbeing outcomes for our children
- Supporting the integration of children with challenges within our educational establishments

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

- Oxgang School experienced significant staff shortages during 2013-14, and as partners, members of the Oxgang Family Support Team were asked to cover school-based activity. This resulted in less time available for family- and community-based support

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

- Until December 2014 the Oxgang Headteacher met regularly with the Oxgang Steering and Monitoring Group, consisting of a Quality Improvement Officer, Educational Psychologist, Additional Support for Learning Officer (Looked After Children) and the Oxgang Headteacher. Additionally, the senior management at the school (Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Principal Teacher) met on a weekly basis with Barnardo's Children's Service Manager. Beyond this time, communication was on a weekly basis with the Lead Officer and Principal Educational Psychologist.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

	FC Funding	FC In Kind	Total	FC %
2012/13	£192,341	£14,000	£206,341	-
2013/14	£192,341	£14,000	£206,341	-
2014/15	£192,341	£14,000	£206,341	71%
2015/16	£182,724	£14,000	£196,724	TBC
2016/17	£182,724	£14,000	£196,724	TBC

In addition Barnardo's attracts through this project:

£16,811 for Early Intervention
£11,326 for volunteering - paid

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

- Barnardo's accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2014

<u>Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting the increased demands and challenges faced by children experiencing difficulties within our existing resources • This service is now more closely linked with the Mariner Support Service, offering a joined-up approach to supporting children with behavioural difficulties • This work of this service will be realigned with the outcomes of the Inclusion Review • Further reduction in funding would affect the intensity and amount of support that could be offered to children and families 	
<u>Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium – the host organisation, Oxgang, has experienced some management difficulties 	
D CONCLUSIONS	
<u>Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year</u>	
Good work and progress has been made during the year, hampered slightly by the pressures faced in Oxgang School. It is embracing a new approach to family support, based on developing parental skills and attitudes.	
E COMPLETED BY	
<u>Name</u>	David Mackay
<u>Designation</u>	Pupil Support Manager
<u>Date</u>	27 August 2015

Case study

Overview of Assessment

Child B had a history of challenging behaviours in his mainstream school and it was recognised that additional supports were required to meet his needs. He struggled in small group education also with his level of need presenting particular challenges. This was displayed in his behaviour as he was often loud, impulsive, impatient, aggressive and violent. He lacked confidence and struggled in social situations.

Child B has had a number of home/school moves in his young life due to the family's housing issues that resulted in eviction. Child B was also on the Child Protection Register for concerns around physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. He has social, emotional and behavioural difficulties alongside communication deficits which increases his vulnerability. It was recognised that that there was an emotional aspect to this behaviour which was to be jointly addressed with CAMHS. The family's ability to access CAMHS and other health services has previously been limited due to a significant number of failed appointments.

In relation to the home situation there are concerns around his parent's ability to meet their child's needs. There have been safety concerns raised and police visits to the family home due to difficult extended family relationships and concerns regarding the safety of the children due to unknown adults in the family home under the influence of alcohol. Concerns were raised by school staff about a change in behaviour for Child B in school where presented as more secretive about his home life.

Intervention

Emotionally Child B was very young and the need was to focus on the attachment between him and his Mum. Barnardo's worked in Partnership with CAHMS in supporting Mum to meet her child's needs. This was achieved through the use of the Incredible Years Programme being delivered on an individual basis with mum by CAMHS and Barnardo's. Barnardo's developed this work further by also supporting mum with the implementation of the techniques and strategies she was learning through the Incredible Years Programme at home. Mum required support and coaching to be able to develop the confidence in her skills as a parent.

Child B was met with on a weekly basis to support him in exploring his feelings, through providing him with a safe space to discuss concerns or anxieties, engage and was supported in positive play and provide him with positive experiences. The focus of these sessions as also to develop his social skills in this time and allow him opportunities to express his views about school and home life. Child B became very confident in sharing his views through the use of the Talking Mats approach used by Barnardo's that allowed him to share his views and feelings with professionals and at meetings.

Sessions included providing support to Child B to develop his ability to recognise and express his emotions in a safe and appropriate way.

Outcomes

Both Child B and his parents were able to fully participate in this work which was a strong positive in ensuring that the home situation remained stable and secure. The work with the parents was particularly challenging and difficult for the parents as it related to the gaps in their care of the children and child B in particular.

Through the joint work between Barnardo's and CAHMs there was an improvement in the attachment and engagement between the child and his mother and support mum in implementing strategies at home. However, the on-going assessment demonstrated that Child B required alternative care as the sustainability of the care being provided was not something that mum could maintain without on-going support and guidance.

The individual work with the child was successful in supporting the child develop their self-esteem, confidence ability to communicate their needs and their resilience. He also learned how to seek out and use appropriate supports when distressed and talk through his feelings rather than dealing with his feelings through violent behaviour.

FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDRENS' SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2014/15

Organisation Name	Home-Start
Project	Home-Start Falkirk West
Agreement Dates	April 2014 to March 2015
Name of Lead Officer	Elaine Costello

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

Home-Start Falkirk West provide a home visiting support service through trained volunteers within Denny, Bonnybridge and Banknock areas to vulnerable families with young children.

The service aims are:-

- To offer support, friendship and practical assistance.
- To visit families in their homes, where the dignity and identify of each adult can be respected.
- To develop a relationship with the family using a flexible approach to take account of differing needs.
- To reassure parents that difficulties in bringing up children are not unusual and encouraging them to enjoy family life.
- To encourage parents' strengths and emotional wellbeing for the ultimate benefit of their children.
- To encourage families to widen their network of relationships and to use the support services in the community.
- To manage and develop the service in-line with the quantified objectives against the performance standards and performance indicators specified in the Joint Working Agreement.

List of Agreed Outcomes

30 families will be provided with support and 20 volunteers will provide this support.
 The service will actively work with other agencies to the benefit of local families.

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

Home-Start recruit and develop volunteers to undertake the support to parents, the volunteers are checked and verified using Home-Start Quality Assurance Scheme. Our funding supports the co-ordination of these volunteers. Our funding is supplemented by big lottery, donations and fund raising.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

88 families were supported by 25 volunteers. Families are referred by health visitors, social work and other agencies. Support offered includes home-visiting and family groups which meet on a four weekly basis. At these groups parents have access to a wide range of services including Citizen's Advice Bureau and credit Union.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

Any funding cuts to the service will present a challenge, without co-ordination and quality assurance the work could not continue. The service fundraise to support/compliment the work.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

Home-Start Falkirk West have contributed to the Council goals by:-

- Continuing to improve health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and community
- Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination

They do this by volunteers supporting vulnerable families.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

None.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Monitoring officer has changed and therefore initial meetings have been quarterly.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

	FC Funding	FC In Kind	Total	FC %
2012/13	£29,488	£6000	£35,488	-
2013/14	£29,488	£6000	£35,488	-
2014/15	£29,488	£6000	£35,488	34%
2015/16	£29,488	£6000	£35,488	TBC
2016/17	£29,488	£6000	£35,488	TBC

In 2014/15 Homestart also received funding from the Big Lottery of £65,533; £1642 in donations; £2220 from fund raising and £5844 from Homestart UK

<u>Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts</u>	
Year ending 31 March 2014	
<u>Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation</u>	
The organisation has limited reserves to cover any unforeseen expenses. Future cuts to funding would also pose a risk and would impact on their ability to provide the service.	
<u>Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)</u>	
High – due to impact of loss of any funding from Falkirk Council.	
D CONCLUSIONS	
<u>Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year</u>	
The organisation continues to make good progress and offers good value for money. Work is being undertaken to allow them to report more specifically on outcomes for each family.	
E COMPLETED BY	
<u>Name</u>	Elaine Costello
<u>Designation</u>	Integration Support Manager
<u>Date</u>	27/10/15

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2014/15**

Organisation Name	National Health Service Forth Valley
Project	Speech and Language Therapy
Agreement Dates	Apr 2014-Mar 2017
Name of Lead Officer	A Facherty

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

The Service Level Agreement between Falkirk Council Children's Services and NHS Forth Valley ensures that the language-based additional support needs of children in Falkirk's nurseries, primary, secondary and special schools are met using quality-assured, professional support, and that the linguistic needs of children in deprived areas are targeted through community support. This is an essential partnership within Getting It Right For Every Child and the Children and Young People Act.

List of Agreed Outcomes

Aims for Children and Young People

The overall aim is to enable young people to fulfil their potential and communicate to the best of their ability, improving outcomes in safety, nurture, health, achievement, activity, responsibility and inclusion. The Speech and Language Therapy Team aims to work in partnerships with families and schools to:

- provide comprehensive assessment and diagnosis of voice, speech, language, communication, eating and drinking disorders for children with complex and enduring additional support needs
- meet complex and enduring language and communication needs in early years and educational settings
- advise the Team Around the Child on methods and resources that can support progress in meeting additional support needs arising from voice, speech, language, communication, eating and drinking difficulties
- improve outcomes for all children and young people in the Getting It Right For Every Child areas of safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included

Other Aims

The Speech and Language Therapy Service also aims to:

- support the Falkirk Council Education Services Additional Support for Learning Team in providing Continuing Professional Development for its staff
- work alongside Education Services and other agencies in the Early Years Collaborative

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

This service combines the work of Falkirk Council Children's Services schools and Early Years facilities on language and communication with the efforts of Forth Valley National Health Service to tackle similar issues. The engagement of qualified, experienced Speech and Language Therapists is essential to this – they bring skills in assessment, treatment and home follow-up that teachers and Support for Learning Assistants do not have.

Professionally, Speech and Language Therapists are also clinically supervised – Falkirk Council does not have the staff to do this.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

NHS FV Speech and Language Therapy will:

- Provide at least 95% of the children accepted by the Speech and Language Therapy Team, with a signed agreement of the child's parents or carers, will receive an offer of an assessment within 18 weeks
- Use the specialist assessment generated to contribute to the multi-agency assessment (IAF Form 3 *My World Triangle Assessment*) of the child's world
- Negotiate targets, methodologies and success criteria for the integrated plan (IAF Form 4 *Child or Young Person's Plan*)
- Generate data and reports to contribute to the reviews for the child (IAF Form 6 *Record of Child or Young Person's Meeting*)
- Use robust criteria allowing the selection of different levels of targeted support
- Ensure 100% of staff, parents and carers receive detailed advice and guidance within 18 weeks
- Ensure for children with understanding options and expressing choices identified as a target, an improvement in the ability of the young person to:
 - recognise choices offered
 - generate further options
 - make a decision
- Enable child can participate in, and contribute to, their chosen activities
- Provide places where children live, play and learn are communication friendly
- Allow parents report greater confidence in:
 - their understanding of their child
 - how to cope with problems presented
 - their part in overcoming difficulties
- Provide Assessment reports on children's language include as appropriate:
 - attention and listening
 - receptive language
 - social interaction
 - expressive language
 - speech
- Promote strategies, practical techniques and protocols to address identified difficulties within the Child's plan, with recommendations for the Team Around the Child
- Work with children shows thorough and up-to-date grounding in the professional practice of Speech and Language Therapy
- Analyse of outcomes, with results informing improvement suggestions for subsequent planning
- Enable child or young person is able to communicate their targets and give an opinion about their communication needs
- Present data to Children's Services Management Team and to the Additional Support for Learning Team on how schools and nurseries develop communication skills, and plan to address any significant shortcomings
- Reflect the good practice of speech and language therapists in longer-term school allocations related to the planning and delivery activities of teachers and Support for Learning Assistants

- Offer professional training courses for Children's Services staff in Speech and Language Therapy and related topics. Up to 15 courses per year for staff and schools groups, and specialist support in team-building and partnership working for schools in the Focusing on Communication and Learning project

B2: Performance Data

		Yes	No	Target	Actual	Met?	Satis- factory	On- going	Not satis- factory	%tage Satis- factory or Ongoing
One Child, One Plan	Assessment within 18 weeks	96	0	95%	100.0%	Y	-	-		
	Contributed to My World	62	0	95%	100.0%	Y	-	-		
	Offered targets and Methods	257	0	95%	100.0%	Y	-	-		
	Contribute to Reviews	206	2	95%	99.0%	Y	-	-		
Safe	Eating and Drinking	15	0	-	100.0%	-	6	8	0	100.0%
Healthy	Choice making Targeted?	49	1	-	98.0%	-	24	15	1	97.5%
Active	Personal and social targets?	92	1	-	98.9%	-	40	45	3	96.6%
Nurtured	Focus on home?	97	0	-	100.0%	-	43	50	6	93.9%
Achieving	Assessment Results Delivered	187	1	-	99.5%	-	114	149	8	97.5%
	Involved in planning?	248	10	-	96.1%	-				
	Intervention by Therapist	222	2	-	99.1%	-				
	Intervention by TAC Member	261	11	-	96.0%	-				
Responsibility	Self-Expression Targeted?	26	3	-	89.7%	-	17	8	1	96.2%

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

- Recruitment and retention of staff
- Continuing to meet the needs of children who are experiencing communication difficulties in their homes, schools or communities and improve outcomes

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The service provided by Forth Valley National Health Service via this agreement contributes towards the goals of Falkirk Council's Corporate Plan:

- further developing a thriving, sustainable and vibrant economy
- continuing to improve the health, safety and well-being of our citizens and communities
- increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

- None

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Regularly throughout the school term. Additionally there is a scrutiny panel, with Headteacher representation from the Early Years and Primary Improvement Partnership.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW	
<p><u>FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years</u></p> <p><u>Total Support Provided (Financial and In-Kind Contributions):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £515,040 (2013-14) • £515,040 (2014-15) • £465,040 (2015-16) • £465,040 (2016-17) 	
<p><u>Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year Ending 31 March 2015 	
<p><u>Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Service Level Agreement for 2014-17 was cut by £50,000 per annum from the previous three year Service Level Agreement, resulting in a reduction of the number children seen, and a greater emphasis on the group- and school-wide initiatives • In this project NHS Forth Valley has a significant number of staff whose funding is dependent on Falkirk Council. With the variability of local authority budgets, NHS Forth Valley is carrying high risk of underfunding. 	
<p><u>Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low 	
D CONCLUSIONS	
<p><u>Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good work and progress has been made during the year working in partnership with schools 	
E COMPLETED BY	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Andrew Facherty</u>
<u>Designation</u>	<u>Additional Support for Learning Manager</u>
<u>Date</u>	<u>27 August 2015</u>

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2014/15**

Organisation Name	One Parent Families Scotland
Project	Braes Children and Families Centre
Agreement Dates	April 2014 to March 2015
Name of Lead Officer	Elaine Costello

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

Braes Children and Families Centre based in Maddiston offers a range of support to parents (especially lone parents) on a variety of issues via family support, advice on benefits, income maximisation, debt, parenting, befriending, supported childcare sessions and 600 hour placements for 2 year olds.

Service Aims

- To enable and empower children and families to achieve their full potential.
- To support and enable children and families to better enjoy family relationships and to develop strategies to cope with the stresses of family life.
- To ensure each child is offered appropriate protection and guidance.
- To promote good physical and emotional health for children and their families.
- To support children to develop their communication, social and cognitive skills.
- To encourage caregivers to participate in their child's early years learning.
- To offer a safe nurturing environment to each child and their family.
- To offer a space where each child has an opportunity to participate in stimulating activities.
- To ensure each child and family feel listened to and are taken seriously.
- To ensure each child and their family are fully involved in decisions which concern them.
- To promote acceptable behaviour while accessing the service, at home and the local community.
- To promote opportunities for parents within the centre and in partnership with other voluntary and statutory agencies in the Falkirk area.
- To promote local opportunities within the community.
- To offer a service that accepts and values the views of children and their families.

List of Agreed Outcomes

- Children will have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self-esteem.
- Parents, especially lone parents will be better equipped to ensure that their children have healthy, stable and supportive home environments.

- Children and their families are supported to overcome social, educational, physical, environmental and economic barriers that create inequality within their communities.
- Parents, especially lone parents will increase their capacity and resilience to deal with the complex issues they face.
- Children have improved opportunity to take part in activities such a play, recreation and sport which contributes to improved healthy growth and development.

When families are referred to the service their needs are assessed using the Barnardo's Outcomes Framework (the framework has been adapted to enable service to report in a comparable way to other externally funded family support services). This is done with the child and family using SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included) wellbeing indicators. A programme of support is then agreed which may include:-

- Supported childcare sessions for children who need additional support due developmental difficulties or family problems.
- Group and individual work with parents/carers and children aged 0-3 to promote positive parent/child attachment, interaction and healthy development.
- Support to vulnerable children on an individual or group basis.
- Family support to parents of children accessing the supported childcare.
- Summer programme of activities.

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

One Parent Families Scotland complement the work of Children's Services family support with the additional expense of working with lone parents they also have national resources to address benefit advice and income maximisation.

By funding the service, this also allows them to apply for further funding from STV appeal , Third Sector Early Intervention Fund and Robertson Trust

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

Between April 2014 and March 2015 the service worked directly with 105 parents, 29 fathers and 207 children. The Falkirk funding supported the service to deliver:-

Children	Parents
Supported Childcare – 46	Group Work - 31
1:1 Support – 30	1:1 Support – 15
Summer Programme – 25	
Totals 101	totals 46

Specific outcome for children and their families

Supported Childcare	Improvement	Maintained Same Level	Deterioration
Healthy			
1.2.07 Developmental needs understood by carer /professional	46		
1.2.16 Increased Independence.	44	2	
Achieving			
5.3.01 Satisfactory progress in learning developmental goals.	44	2	
Nurtured			
4.1.06 Improved communication skills	44	2	
4.1.07 Family has access to support services	19	17	
4.1.19 Link with reliable and supportive role models	46		
Active			
6.1.01 Social skills gained/ improved	44	2	
6.1.02 Development through new experiences/ interests	44	2	
6.1.04 Positive socialisation with peers	44	2	
6.1.05 Increased choice of activities/ opportunities	46		
Respected			
7.1.05 Views and opinions voiced and acted upon	44	2	
Responsible			
8.3.02 Develop English language skills	6	38	
8.3.06 Assume age appropriate responsibilities	44	2	

Additional Support for children	Improvement	Maintained Same Level	Deterioration
Healthy			
1.2.16 Increased Independence.	55		
1.2.05 Increase confidence	55		
1.4.07 Increased exercise / physical activities	55		
Nurtured			
4.1.06 Improved communication skills	55		
4.1.19 Link with reliable and supportive role models	55		
Active			
6.1.01 Social skills gained/ improved	55		
6.1.02 Development through new experiences/ interests	55		
6.1.04 Positive socialisation with peers	55		
6.1.05 Increased choice of activities/ opportunities	55		
Responsible			
8.3.06 Assume age appropriate responsibilities	55		
Supporting Parents	Improvement	Maintained Same Level	Deterioration
Healthy			
1.2.01 Enhanced parent / child relationship	21	4	
1.2.02 Improved parent / carer confidence/ resilience/ health.	40	6	
1.2.03 Improved knowledge of parenting	31	15	
1.2.12 Reduced parental stress	35	11	
Nurtured			
4.1.04 Positive improved family relationships	42	4	
4.1.07 Family has access to support services	7	39	
4.1.10 Improved family routines	35	11	
Active			
6.1.03 Carers promote children's care and learning	41	5	
6.1.07 Access to resources at home	31	15	
Respected			
7.1.01 Contribute to planning and decision making.	44	2	
7.1.02 Parents and carers active in working with service	5	41	
Responsible			
8.3.01 Opportunities to volunteer	3	43	

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

A key challenge for One Parent Families Scotland in Braes has been to restructure the service to meet the financial cuts of 15%. They have responded to this in a positive manner by joining up services and re-focussing work on family support. This complements provision provided by Falkirk Council for vulnerable two year olds.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

One Parent Families Scotland at Braes Children and Family Centre contributes to the corporate goals by:-

- Continuing to improve health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities.
- Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

None.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

The monitoring officer has changed and therefore initial meetings have been quarterly.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

	FC Funding	FC In Kind	Total	FC %
2012/13	£136,064	£6000	£142,064	TBC
2013/14	£136,064	£6000	£142,064	TBC
2014/15	£136,064	£6000	£142,064	TBC
2015/16	£120,755	£6000	£126,755	TBC
2016/17	£115,654	£6000	£121,654	TBC

In addition One Parent Families attracts the following additional funding:

STV	£103,375
TSEIF	£ 48,000
Robertson Trust	£ 17,000
Rotary Club	£ 1,000
	<u>£169,375</u>

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

2013/14

<u>Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation</u>	
The main risk to the service will be any further cuts to the funding which would result in a reduction of families being supported.	
<u>Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)</u>	
Medium due to uncertainty around future funding.	
D CONCLUSIONS	
<u>Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year</u>	
<p>One Parent Families Scotland in the Braes Family Centre continues to have a positive impact on children and their families.</p> <p>The Barnardo's Outcomes Framework shows that all families who engaged with the service either improved or sustained their wellbeing in the areas identified.</p>	
E COMPLETED BY	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Elaine Costello</u>
<u>Designation</u>	<u>Integration Support Manager</u>
<u>Date</u>	<u>27.08.15</u>

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND UPDATE
Meeting: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL)
Date: 17TH SEPTEMBER 2015
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 14th May 2015 a “Following the Public Pound: Advice Services” report was presented to the Scrutiny Committee including an appendix detailing the provision of support from Falkirk Council to Falkirk District Credit Union Limited (FDCU). Following consideration of that report Members requested **“that a report providing the organisation’s accounts is provided to Scrutiny Committee (External), highlighting what percentage of the organisation’s income is from the Council’s contribution.”** The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on FDCU accounts and the value of support provided by Falkirk Council as requested.

2. FALKIRK DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LIMITED ACCOUNTS

- 2.1 FDCU submit annually audited accounts to Falkirk Council. Accounts for 2013 -2014 are available, (Appendix 1) however 2014-2015 accounts will not be available until January 2016. There are two aspects to the Credit Union accounts: income and expenditure relating to general running costs and assets; and liabilities relating to member’s savings and loans. FDCU must also complete quarterly returns to the PRA (Bank of England, Prudential Regulation Authority).
- 2.2 FDCU operate in line with FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) requirements, which state that all credit unions must have 3% reserves of their overall balance. According to their accountant, the organisation is currently within this requirement with 3.24% in reserves at present. As shown in Appendix 1, the reserve at the end of FDCU’s financial year (September 2014) was 3.08%.
- 2.3 The Treasurer has overall responsibility for accuracy of the accounts which are externally verified on a monthly basis by an independent accountant. The day to day banking is all reconciled on a daily basis. The treasurer presents monthly accounts which are verified by the Board at each board meeting.
- 2.4 FDCU have provided a three year forecast of income and expenditure projection, as follows:

PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total Income	£112,302	£ 124,174	£139,698
Total Expenditure	£102,921	£115,069	£122,270
Surplus/deficit for the year (cumulative)	£9,381	£18,485	£35,914

- 2.5 The information above shows a healthy projected year on year growth. This growth will be realised through better publicity of their loans and the new addition of their “Quick Loan” for new members.
- 2.6 There will also be a significant impact and increase to the finances of the FDCU due to changes within the FCA regulations. At the moment the FCA stipulated the reserves for bad debt provision. However due to a change in the regulations, the bad debt provision will cease, releasing another £24,000 currently held as reserve.
- 2.7 FDCU Board recently approved the investment of £400,000 with the Bank of Scotland and £300,000 with The Nationwide which will give them an annual return of £6,000 per year.

3. FALKIRK COUNCIL'S SUPPORT

- 3.1 The tables below highlight the support allocated to Falkirk District Credit Union Limited (FDCU) from Falkirk Council during the 3 year period 2012/13 to 2014/15. The tables provide detail of both financial and in-kind contributions

Annual support provided directly to the Credit Union 2014-2015

Direct Support			
Support Provided	Volume	Purpose	Cost
Admin Officer (Corporate & Housing Services, post based within Credit Union)	18.5 hours per week	Admin support to Credit Union	£9,794
Total			£9,794
Indirect in-kind support			
Support Provided	Volume	Purpose	Cost
Financial Inclusion Development Officer (Corporate & Housing Services)	15 hours per week	Support growth and development of Credit Union	£12,462
Project Manager Banknock, Denny and Bonnybridge area (Employed by Denny Community Flat, funded by CLD)	16 hours per week	To support the credit union through the following operation: Vice Chair, Collection points, Loan Committee Board Meetings, Staff Supervision, Volunteer recruitment and training	£12,700
Accommodation for collection points	21 collection points 42 hours, 48 weeks	To deliver credit union services within local communities	£24,998
Monitoring Officer	As and when identified support required	Monitoring progress towards Falkirk Council targets	
Graphic Designer	As and when identified support required	Develop promotional material to support growth of credit union	
Total			£50,160
Total Cost 14/15			£59,954

Annual Support provided directly to the Credit Union 2013-2014

Direct Support			
Support Provided	Volume	Purpose	Cost
Admin Officer	18.5 hours per week	Admin support to Credit Union	£9,794
IT System (FFF Grant)			£45,000
Stationary (FFF Grant)			£2,121
Total			£56,915
Indirect in-kind support			
Support Provided	Volume	Purpose	Cost
Financial Inclusion Development Officer (Corporate & Housing Services)	15 hours per week 3.5 months	Support growth and development of Credit Union	£3,634.
Project Manager Banknock, Denny and Bonnybridge area (Employed by Denny Community Flat, funded by CLD)	18 hours per week	To support the credit union through the following operation: Vice Chair, Collection points, Loan Committee Board Meetings, Staff Supervision, Volunteer recruitment and training	£12,700
Accommodation for collection points	13 collection points 21 hours, 48 weeks	To deliver credit union services within local communities	£12,499
Graphic Designer	As and when identified support required	Develop promotional material to support growth of credit union	
Total			£28,833
Total Cost 13/14			£85,748

Annual Support provided directly to the Credit Union 2012-2013

Direct Support			
Support Provided	Volume	Purpose	Cost
Admin Officer	18.5 hours per week	Admin support to Credit Union	£9,794
Total			£9,794
Indirect in-kind support			
Support Provided	Volume	Purpose	Cost
Community Learning and Development Officer (Community Learning & Development)	37 hours per week	Support growth and development of Credit Union	£42,798
Project Manager Banknock, Denny and Bonnybridge area (Employed by Denny Community Flat, funded by CLD)	18 hours per week	To support the credit union through the following operation: Vice Chair, Collection points, Loan Committee Board Meetings, Staff Supervision, Volunteer recruitment and training	£12,700
Accommodation for collection points	13 collection points 21 hours, 48 weeks	To deliver credit union services within local communities	£12,499
Graphic Designer	As and when identified support required	Develop promotional material to support growth of credit union	
Total			£67,997
Total Cost 12/13			£77,791

3.2 The tables above show a decrease in the total support allocated to the Credit Union over the past 3 years, from £77,791 in 2012/13 to £59,954 in 2014/15. The range of support within the package has fluctuated over the 3 year period:

- The financial allocation for admin support has remained static, whilst there was a one-off additional financial contribution of £47,121 which was allocated in 2013-14 from the Fairer Falkirk Fund. This contributed to a new IT system and stationary.
- The number of hours spent by the Development Officer supporting the credit union has decreased with the officer increasingly focusing on other financial inclusion projects such as Community Finance Initiative.
- The amount of in-kind support through lets within the Community Centres/halls and schools have increased by 100% due to an increase in collection points within FDCU.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The following table shows Falkirk Council's support expressed as a percentage of organisation's income.

Financial year	FDCU total income	Direct support	Direct support as a % of total income	In-kind support	In-kind support as a % of total income	Total support provided	Overall support as a % of total income
2014/15	£96,271	£9,794	10.1%	£50,160	52.1%	£59,954	62.2%
2013/14	£55,563	£56,915	102.4%	£28,833	51.8%	£85,748	154.3%
2012/13	£55,014	£9,794	17.8%	£67,997	123.6%	£77,791	141.4%
		£76,503		£146,990		£223,493	

Note: the above table shows only the income generated through loans, memberships, annual fee, investments etc. The share balance is not included.

4.2 With significant support from Falkirk Council, the Credit Union in the past year has achieved the following:

- Completed transfer of engagements from Grangemouth Credit Union Limited
- Installed new IT account system which allows on-line joining, jam-jar accounts and internet access to accounts
- Employed new member of staff as an Admin Assistant
- Implemented volunteer and training officer role within existing compliment of staff.
- Completed review of policies and procedures, implementing new policies and procedures required
- Developed and agreed a three year business plan
- Developed an action plan detailing key task to achieve aims of the business plan
- Secured external funding to enable feasibility study on High Street premises
- Consulted with members and non-members about possible High Street premises
- Developed a PR and Marketing Plan

4.3 With the exception of a significant grant to implement a new system, the value of development support for FDCU has decreased over the past three years.

4.4 During the financial year 2014-15, membership increased by 327 adult members and 291 junior savers bringing total membership at March 2015 to 2,045 adults and 708 juniors. Savings had increased by 42% and loans by 38%. Five new collection points were opened. 21 new volunteers were recruited and a substantial amount of training was delivered for all volunteers. A significant number of promotional events and joint working initiatives have taken place over the last year to help secure these increases.

4.5 The Credit Union is now in a good position to build on the considerable support that has been provided and to continue to grow and provide vital financial services to our communities. The Development Officer resource funded by the Fairer Falkirk Fund is now supporting Credit Unions across the area within the remit of supporting Financial Inclusion across the Falkirk Council area.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 As set out within the report to the Scrutiny Committee on 13 June 2013, ‘Following the Public Pound: Scrutiny Committee Role and Reporting Schedule’, Members are invited to consider this report and select from the following options:

- a) Approve report and acknowledge progress by the external organisation in meeting Council priorities;**
- b) Request further information on specific aspects of the service provided; or**
- c) Request action with follow-up for subsequent Scrutiny Committee consideration.**

.....

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES

Date: 17th September 2015
Ref: - ABC0915SB – Credit Union
Contact: Sally Buchanan

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1 Nil

FALKIRK DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LTD

Firm Reference No 213807

Registered No 110CUS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 SEPTEMBER 2014

Business Focus & Systems Ltd

Chartered Accountants, Business Advisors & Statutory Auditors



**4 Chevin Mill
Leeds Road
Otley
West Yorkshire
LS21 1BT**



T : 01943 855700 F : 01943 855701 E : mail@bfandsl.co.uk W : bfandsl.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales at the above address. Company Number 4669692.

Registered to carry on audit work in the UK & Ireland and regulated for a range of investment business activities by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

**STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE MEMBERS OF
FALKIRK DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LTD**

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS

The directors are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. In preparing those financial statements the directors are required to:-

- show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Credit Union and the surplus/deficit for that period
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare financial statements on a going concern basis unless this is inappropriate
- to presume that the Credit Union will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Credit Union, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and the Credit Union Act 1979. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Credit Union, and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Name of Director 1:

Signature



Date:

3/2/2015

Name of Director 2:

Signature

Date:

3/1/

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS OF
FALKIRK DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LTD**

We have audited the financial statements, being the primary statements of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet, together with the Notes thereto which are set out on pages 2 to 5. These statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out therein. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The report is made solely for the Credit Union's members as a body, and our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Credit Union's members those matters that we are required to declare in an auditor's report, and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Credit Union's members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITOR

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 1a, the directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standard for Auditors.

SCOPE OF THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Credit Union's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We have undertaken the audit in accordance with the requirements of APB Ethical Standards including APB Ethical Standard - Provision Available for Small Entities in the circumstances set out in Note 6 to the Financial Statements.

OPINION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Credit Union's affairs as at 30 September 2014 and of its income and expenditure of the year then ended; and,
- have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and the Credit Union Act 1979.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- proper books of account have not been kept by the Credit Union in accordance with the requirements of the legislation.
- a satisfactory system of control over transactions has not been maintained by the Credit Union in accordance with the requirements of the legislation,
- the revenue account or the other accounts (if any) to which our report relates, and the balance sheet are not in agreement in the books of account of the credit union.
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Business Focus & Systems Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
4 Chevin Mill
Leeds Road
Otley
West Yorkshire
LS21 1BT

17/2/201

FALKIRK DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LTD

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2014

INCOME	Notes	2014	2013
Entrance fees		762	722
Income from loans to members.	2	63,802	46,216
Interest received on investments		1,769	2,337
Bad Debts recovered		945	-
Grants released: Fairer Scotland Fund		888	182
Falkirk Council		700	-
Capital		15,459	693
Donations & Other Income		1,330	1,043
Surplus from take on of Grangemouth Credit Union Ltd		4,802	-
Annual membership fees		5,814	4,370
TOTAL INCOME FOR THE YEAR		96,271	55,563
EXPENDITURE			
Administration Expenses		39,735	26,618
Auditors Remuneration		2,520	1,368
Fidelity Bond Insurance		1,311	1,440
Bad Debt Provisions: Charge for the year		9,937	(13,457)
Taken on from Grangemouth Credit Union		(538)	-
Bad Debts Written Off		30	17,262
Bank Charges		67	66
Interest on loans repayable		-	61
Property & Other Insurance		631	628
Savings & Loan Insurance		8,718	7,063
FCA/PRA Fees		843	752
Trade Association Dues		465	500
Depreciation of assets	4	17,209	2,443
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		80,928	44,744
SURPLUS FOR YEAR BEFORE TAX		15,343	10,819
TAXATION		354	467
SURPLUS FOR YEAR AFTER TAX		14,989	10,352
Appropriations:-			
To General Reserve compulsory transfer		2,998	2,070
To General Reserve voluntary transfer		2,800	5,802
From Development and Training reserve to cover training expenses		(315)	(894)
To Revenue Reserve	8	9,506	-
To Dividends Proposed in 2013	8	-	3,409
To Previous years Dividends overstated		-	(35)
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		14,989	10,352

Note :There are no recognised gains or losses other than those included on the income and expenditure account

All figures included on the income and expenditure account are from continuing activities.

FALKIRK DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LTD

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2014

	Notes	2014	2013
FIXED ASSETS	4	54,657	27,566
MEMBERS LOAN ACCOUNTS	2		
Current balances	622,907	395,153	
Less provision for unperforming loans	(30,727)	592,180	374,363
SUNDRY DEBTORS			
Other debtors and prepayments	1,819	2,081	
		1,819	2,081
INVESTMENTS		200,000	125,000
IMMEDIATE LIQUIDITY			
Cash at bank on current account.	500,720	344,350	
Cash in hand.	158	34	
	500,878	500,878	344,384
TOTAL ASSETS		1,349,534	873,394
LIABILITIES	2,3		
Ordinary members shares repayable on demand	1,223,994	805,561	
Junior Members Shares	43,491	26,562	
Dividends Proposed	8	1,267,485	835,532
OTHER PAYABLES			
Creditors and accruals	3,034	1,441	
Grants carried forward:			
Capital	37,157	8,316	
Fairer Scotland Fund	-	888	
Bank of Scotland Loan	-	235	
Corporation tax	354	40,545	11,347
OTHER CAPITAL			
Revaluation reserve	376	376	376
RETAINED EARNINGS			
General reserve	31,576	25,778	
Development and Training Reserve	46	361	
Revenue Reserve	8	41,128	26,139
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,349,534	873,394

We hereby approve and adopt the attached accounts for circularisation to our members.

Committee Member

Committee Member

Secretary

Date

29/01/2015

FALKIRK DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LTD

NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- a. The Credit Union is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965. The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost accounting rules in accordance with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and the Credit Union Act 1979. Applicable accounting standards have been followed.
- b. Fixed Assets are stated at cost. Depreciation of fixed assets is charged by equal instalments commencing in the year of acquisition at rates estimated to write off their cost less any residual value over their expected useful lives as follows:
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Office Furniture & Fittings | 5 Years |
| Computers | 3 years |
| Property | 20 years |
- c. Interest is accounted for on the basis of amounts receivable or payable in the year covering these accounts.
- d. Provision for Doubtful Debts is stated after specifically reviewing all loans in arrears. The criteria used is whether the loan will be repaid within the medium term and whether there is a regular pattern of repayments.
- e. Juvenile transactions are included within the accounts unless specifically shown otherwise.

2 SUMMARY OF MEMBERS SHARE (including Juniors) AND LOAN ACCOUNTS

	SHARES		LOANS	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Balances brought forward from last year	832,123	611,590	395,153	360,358
Grangemouth Credit Union balances taken on	101,943	-	21,031	-
Shares saved and loans repaid.	1,002,747	738,557	(635,528)	(499,204)
Dividends paid	3,406	2,573		
Shares withdrawn	(672,734)	(520,597)		
Loans granted			778,479	505,045
Interest charged			63,802	46,216
Loans Written off			(30)	(17,262)
Balances carried forward to next year.	<u>1,267,485</u>	<u>832,123</u>	<u>622,907</u>	<u>395,153</u>

3 RE-CLASSIFICATION OF SHARES

Shares are now shown as liabilities as they are allowed to be withdrawn at any time.

4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Property	Computers/ Software	Office Equip/ P'ty Imprvmnts	Total
COST				
Cost at 30th September 2013	35,000	12,141	13,895	61,036
Additions during year.	-	44,300	-	44,300
Disposals during year.	-	(12,141)	(30)	-
Cost at 30th September 2014	<u>35,000</u>	<u>44,300</u>	<u>13,865</u>	<u>93,165</u>
DEPRECIATION				
Depreciation at 30th September 2013	15,750	12,141	5,579	33,470
Charged in these accounts	1,750	14,766	693	17,209
Depreciation on disposal	-	(12,141)	(30)	(12,171)
Depreciation at 30th September 2014	<u>17,500</u>	<u>14,766</u>	<u>6,242</u>	<u>38,508</u>
VALUE ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014	<u>17,500</u>	<u>29,534</u>	<u>7,623</u>	<u>54,657</u>
VALUE ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013	<u>19,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,316</u>	<u>27,566</u>

5 NUMBER OF MEMBERS (including Juniors)

	2014	2013
Number at beginning of year	1,885	1,357
Joined during year	977	557
Lapsed during year	(467)	(29)
Number at end of year.	<u>2,395</u>	<u>1,885</u>

6 NON AUDIT SERVICES

In common with many other Credit Unions of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities and assist us with the preparation of the financial statements.

FALKIRK DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LTD

NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

7 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, 19 members of the board, staff and 5 of their close relatives had or were issued with loans with the Credit Union. These loans were approved on the same basis as loans to other members of the credit union and none of the directors and staff had had any preferential terms on their loans.

8 REVENUE RESERVE

A Revenue Reserve will now be used to ensure that future dividend proposals are met and distributed properly. This is summarised as follows:

	2014
Balance transferred from dividend reserve last year	3,409
Less: Dividends paid during the year	(3,406)
Dividends overpaid released to Revenue account	(3)
To dividends proposed: 0.75 % (2013 0.5 %)	<u>9,506</u>
Balance transferred from revenue accounts to be carried forward to next year.	<u><u>9,506</u></u>

9 GOING CONCERN

The credit union must maintain a minimum Capital-To-Total assets ratio of 3%, in accordance with PRA Guidelines outlined under CREDS 5.3.1 (T.P. 1.1). The relevant ratios are:-

2014	2013
3.08%	3.04%

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – FALKIRK & WEST
LOTHIAN COMMAND PERFORMANCE REPORT**
Meeting: EXTERNAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date: 17 SEPTEMBER 2015
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND HOUSING SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Following the establishment of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on 1 April 2013 under the provisions of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, local senior officers are required to report on performance with regard to progress being made on the local fire and rescue plan as well as the provision of local services. A new local Fire and Rescue Plan covering the period 2014 – 2017 was considered and approved by Falkirk Council on 14 May 2014.

1.2 The local fire and rescue plan sets out a framework of local priorities for the Falkirk Council area. This is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. The plan takes account of the following:

- The Scottish Government’s overarching vision for public services;
- Strategic priorities set by Scottish Ministers;
- National outcomes within the National Performance Framework; and
- The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013. This sets out 4 strategic aims for the service and 7 national equalities outcomes.

1.3 In addition to this the plan sets out 7 local priorities. The following sets out a list of these priorities and what will be achieved as a result:

- **Priority 1 - Local Risk Management and Preparedness**
 - Ensuring training, staff development and equipment is fit for purpose to meet the current risk profile and adaptable to changing circumstances;
 - Ensuring all known risk information is obtained, communicated and tested;
 - Working locally with partner organisations and agencies to ensure effective response plans are developed for identified risks; and
 - Fulfilling statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
- **Priority 2 - Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires**
 - Active participation in Falkirk Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to risk reduction;
 - Leading the Safety Work-stream of the Falkirk Community Safety Partnership;
 - Contributing to the monthly/fortnightly Tasking & Coordinating process;

- Sharing information with Health Care, Social Work and relevant partners to help protect the most vulnerable, young and elderly;
 - Developing new partnerships to identify and support at risk groups;
 - Identifying opportunities for engagement with all members of the community to promote fire safety and good citizenship; and
 - Delivery of fire safety related educational programmes and community engagement activities.
- **Priority 3 - Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties**
 - Active participation in Falkirk Council Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to risk reduction;
 - Continued delivery of the Home Fire Safety Visit programme to households within the Falkirk Council area, with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable in our community;
 - Targeted Home Fire Safety Visit referrals from partner agencies;
 - Promoting healthier lifestyles through encouraging a reduction in alcohol, drugs and cigarette use;
 - Ensuring our Community Safety Strategy considers all persons at risk from fire; and
 - Citizens and communities shall be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and well-being.
- **Priority 4 - Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting**
 - Engaging in a multi-agency approach to tackle deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour by the targeting resources to areas of demand;
 - Leading the Safety Work-stream of the Falkirk Community Safety Partnership;
 - Contributing to the monthly/fortnightly Tasking & Coordinating process;
 - Deliver youth engagement programmes to reduce anti-social behaviour through diversionary activities and education;
 - Identify and develop partnerships with organisations who engage with young people; and
 - Providing an enhanced level of fire Investigation within the Falkirk area.
- **Priority 5 - Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property**
 - The audit of business and commercial premises by Fire Safety Enforcement Officers using a risk based approach;
 - Work with the Falkirk Council licensing department to ensure all multiple occupation houses comply with the required standards in relation to Fire Safety;
 - Carrying out Post Fire Audits following any fire within a relevant premise;
 - Work in partnership with the Falkirk Business Panel, through the Falkirk Council's Economic Development Service;
 - Consultation with Falkirk Council Building Standards Officers and architects; and
 - Participation in major incident preparedness and exercising.

- **Priority 6 - Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies**
 - Continuing educational programmes, such as Safe Drive Stay Alive, particularly aimed at high risk groups within local communities;
 - Develop innovative ways of reducing accidents in collaboration with partners; and
 - Working with partners within the Falkirk Council area to ensure that all agencies are aware of road incident hotspots.

- **Priority 7 - Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals**
 - Working with the business and commercial sector to provide advice and guidance in relation to the management of unwanted fire alarm signals.
 - Ensure premises with unwanted fire alarm signal occurrences comply with the British Standard 5839 Part 1 & 6 current edition.

2. REPORT CONTENT

2.1 The Senior Local Officer has provided the following reports and appendices for Members to consider and report on progress and performance towards the attainment of local priorities, as follows:

- Falkirk performance report, covering the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 – appendix 1;
- Contextual appendices containing supplementary information, supporting the performance report – appendix 2;
- Falkirk performance report, covering the period April 2015 to June 2015 – appendix 3; and
- Contextual appendices containing supplementary information, supporting the performance report – appendix 4

2.2 A local officer from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will attend Committee to present these reports and answer questions from Members.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 This report provides an opportunity for Members to fulfil their scrutiny role on local fire and rescue services as set out in the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, and take a view on the submitted reports.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee:

- 4.1 Note the performance report and supporting information.**

.....
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES

Date: 14 August 2015

Ref: ABC0815AW – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Cover Report

Contact Name: Andrew Wilson

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Local Plan 2014 – 2017, Falkirk Council, 14 May 2014

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506046 and ask for Andrew Wilson.



LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR FALKIRK



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**
Working together for a safer Scotland

Year To Date Report, 1st April 2014 – 31st March, 2015

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



Falkirk Council

DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

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3 Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities	
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<i>All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))</i>	9
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Introduction

This performance report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within the Falkirk Council area over the year to-date period 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015.

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision is supported by 16 National Outcomes which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes in the Falkirk Council area by contributing to the Community Planning Partnership arrangements across the area.

The national priorities for the SFRS are set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The SFRS Strategic Plan outlines how the SFRS will deliver against these priorities and the outcomes against which this delivery can be measured.

The priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Falkirk Council area reflects the Falkirk Council Strategic Community Plan 2010-2015, the Falkirk Council Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2011-2014 and the Falkirk Council Community Planning Partnership, Single Outcome Agreement 2014-17. The Single Outcome Agreement includes a range of key themes focused on delivering improved outcomes for communities of the Falkirk Council area. The key themes that this plan contributes to are;

- Economic Recovery and Growth,
- Early Years, Children and Young People,
- Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending,
- Health Inequalities and Physical Activity,
- Outcomes for Older People,
- Poverty and Welfare Reform.

The aims of the local Fire & Rescue Service in the Falkirk Council area are to reduce deaths, injuries and damage to property from fires and other emergency events. We aim to achieve this by working in partnership, being pro-active and targeting our prevention and protection activities to where they are most required, based on evidence.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Falkirk Council 2014 - 2017, 7 priorities for the local Fire and Rescue Service have been identified;

- Priority 1. Local Risk Management and Preparedness,
- Priority 2. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires,
- Priority 3. Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities,
- Priority 4. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting,
- Priority 5. Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property,
- Priority 6. Reduction in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies,
- Priority 7. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Area Manager Gary Laing
Local Senior Officer for Falkirk & West Lothian
Gary.laing@firescotland.gov.uk

Performance Summary

We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Mar					RAG rating
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	YTD
All accidental dwelling fires	113	101	91	119	111	●
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	26	24	14	32	23	●
All deliberate fires	703	576	393	467	354	●
Non domestic fires	82	75	53	70	46	●
Special Service Casualties - All	56	51	66	48	67	◆
False Alarms - All	1315	1299	1253	1170	1096	●

RAG rating - KEY

◆	RED DIAMOND	10% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
▲	YELLOW TRIANGLE	Up to 9% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
●	GREEN CIRCLE	Equal to or improved upon the previous equivalent quarter (or YTD period), or local target achieved.

Note

Quarterly comparison RAG Rating = the reporting period compared to the average of the three previous quarterly reporting periods.

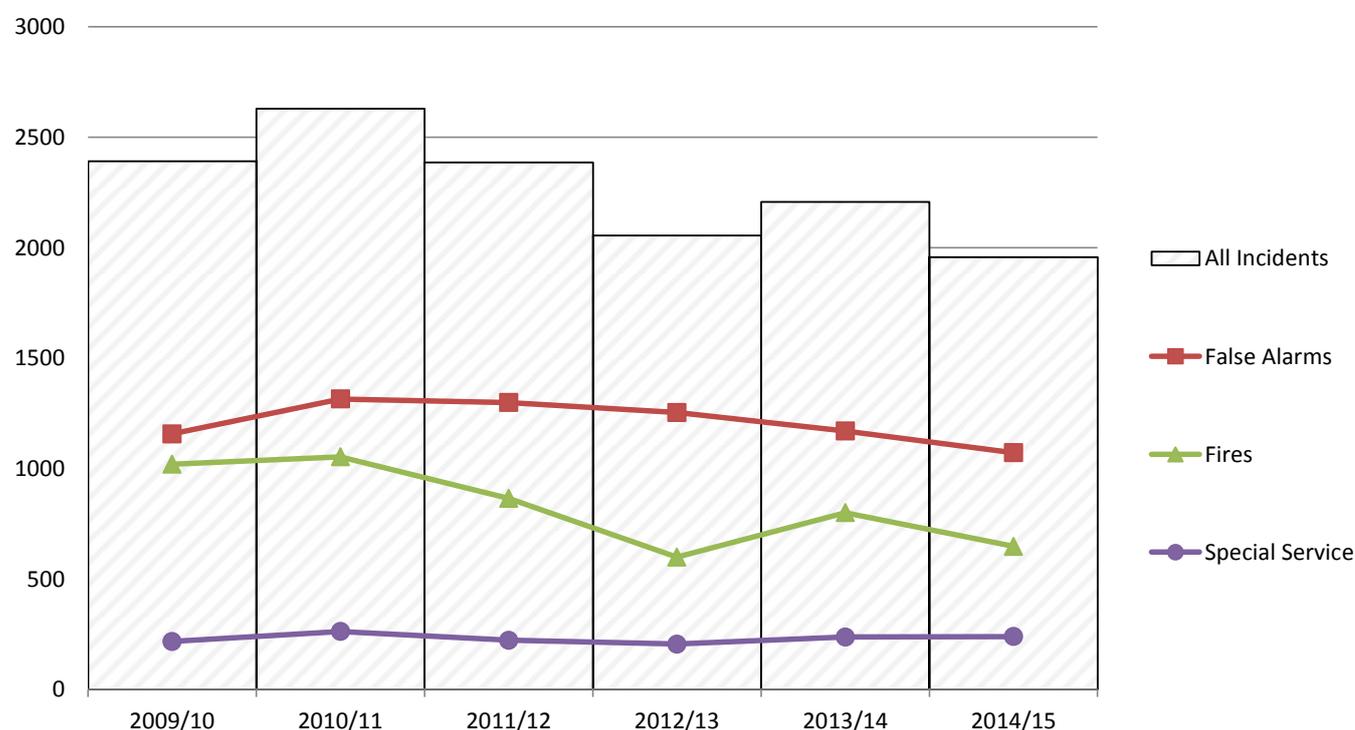
Year to Date RAG Rating = the cumulative total of all quarterly performance in current year compared to cumulative total of all quarterly performance in previous year.

Incident Overview

During the year 2014-15, SFRS responded to a total of 2010 incidents within Falkirk.

This is a reduction of 10.6% (238 incidents) when compared to the same reporting period on the previous year.

The chart below illustrates incidents YTD attended within Falkirk council over the last 6 fiscal years



Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities

Local Risk Management and Preparedness

The Service must identify, prioritise and plan to meet the risks in each local community.

We said we would:

- train our staff to deal with our local risks
- gather and analyse risk information
- work with partners to mitigate risks
- deal with major events.

Train our staff to deal with our local risks

Our operational staff have continued to undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training.

During 2014-15 all firefighters will participate within the Maintenance Phase Development Planner for firefighters. Completed modules during the year to date period are based around incidents involving: Chemicals, Commercial & Office Property, Lifts & Escalators, Rural Areas, Water & Flooding, Railways, Height, Flammable Liquids & Gases, High Rise Buildings, Collapsed Structures, Petro Chemicals, Explosives and Community Safety.

Gather and analyse risk information

Our operational staff continue to gather and analyse local risk information and operational intelligence which is used in our preparations to resolve incidents.

We conduct Post Incident Debriefs through the use of a Structured Debriefing process, to identify any lessons that can be learned from our preparedness and response to emergency events.

We use Urgent Operational Intelligence Briefings to inform our operational staff of any safety critical information.

Work with partners to mitigate risks

We continue to be an active member of the Forth Valley Local Resilience Partnership.

We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders (e.g. Police Scotland) to ensure emergency event risks are mitigated.

Deal with major events

In the closing quarter of the year SFRS did not respond to any major fire events or significant emergency events.

Reduction of 'All accidental dwelling fires'

Accidental dwelling fires can have devastating effects on our community. The SFRS is committed to keeping people safe in their homes. We share information with partners to make sure that the right people get the right information they need, particularly those who are vulnerable due to age, isolation or addiction. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of; Early Years, Children and Young People, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending, Health Inequalities and Physical Activity, Outcomes for Older People, and Poverty and Welfare Reform.

Results

Against a local target of continually reducing Accidental Dwelling Fires on a year on year basis that contributes towards the SFRS target of a 10% reduction, over a three-year rolling period, we have seen a 6.7% decrease in incidents compared to the same year period in 2013-14 (2013/14 119 incidents, 2014/15 111 incidents, a decrease of 8). However, when comparing Q4 to the previous quarter the trend in incidents is slightly upward. It is noted that the number of incidents /10,000 population is around the same as that of a comparator local authority and lower than Scotland during Q4 2014-15 and the 5 year trendline is static.

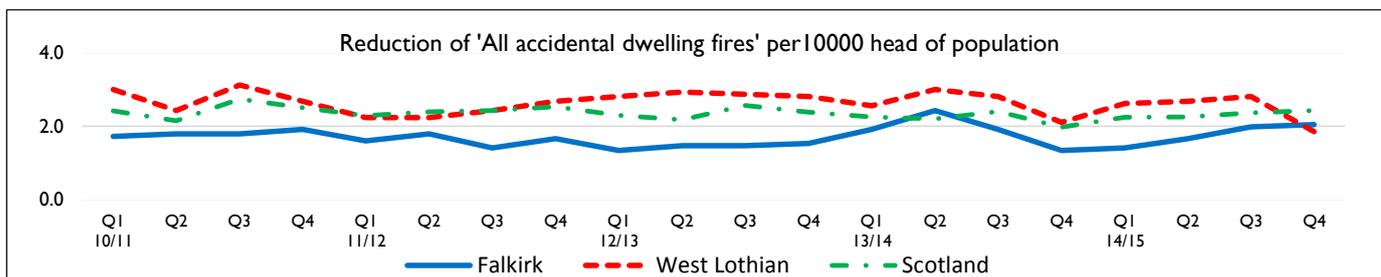
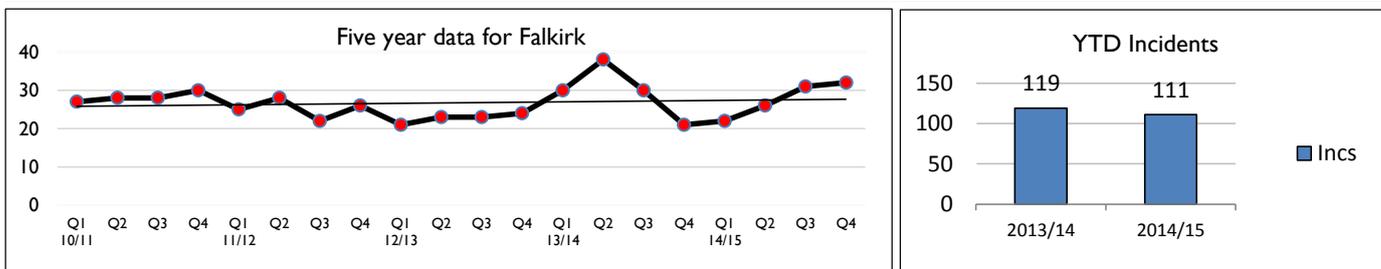
Reasons

There were more incidents than we would expect, taking into account the recent decrease since Q2 2013/14. From analysing the causes of these incidents, it has been identified that nearly 66% were cooking related.

Actions

The Post Domestic Incident Referrals (PDIR) target areas where accidental dwelling fires have occurred and are intended to reassure the local neighbourhood and prevent further incidents occurring in the surrounding area. The number of HFSV undertaken in private dwellings in the Falkirk Council area for 2014-15 was 1640.

Appendix I provides further details on our prevention activities in relation to this priority.



YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 13	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Sparklines
Falkirk	113	101	91	119	111	
Bo'ness and Blackness	10	11	7	12	17	
Grangemouth	22	14	12	19	13	
Denny and Banknock	14	10	9	11	10	
Carse, Kinraid and Tryst	6	12	7	9	14	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	7	6	4	12	12	
Falkirk North	22	15	19	24	19	
Falkirk South	17	13	17	18	11	
Lower Braes	6	7	5	4	6	
Upper Braes	9	13	11	10	9	

Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))'

Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life-threatening injuries that occur due to fire. This can indicate not only the success of SFRS in reducing the number of life risk fires through community fire safety and similar activities, but also their success in response activity in saving lives.

Results

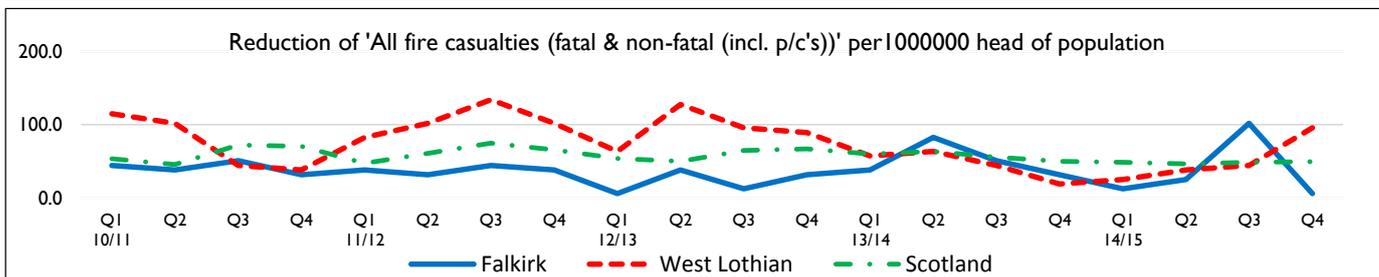
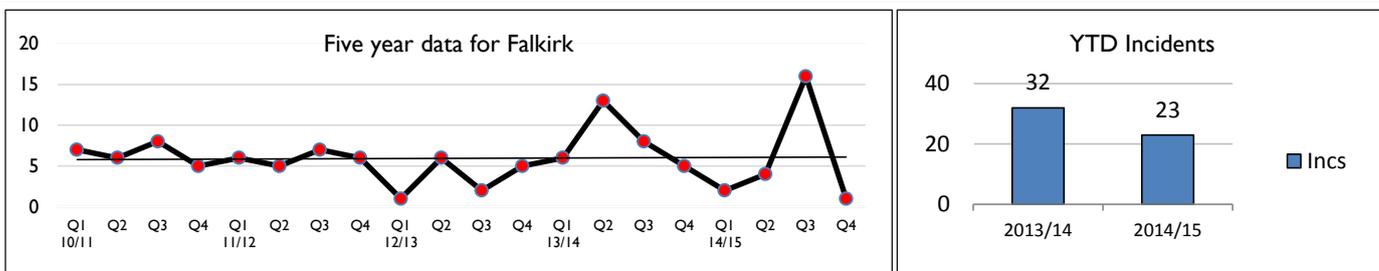
There have been no fatal fire casualties and 23 non-fatal casualties due to fires in 2014-15. Against a local target of continually reducing Fire Casualties on a year on year basis that contributes towards the SFRS target of 5% reduction, per year over a three-year rolling period, we have seen a 28% decrease in the number of fire casualties compared to 2013/14 (2013/14 32 casualties, 2014/15 23 casualties, a decrease of 9 casualties). The trend in number of fire casualties continues to be downward. It is noted that number of casualties/1,000,000 population is below that of a comparator local authority and Scotland and the 5 year trendline is static.

Reasons

Contributory factors to the reduction in fire casualties may be: the reduction in accidental cooking incidents; SFRS Home Fire Safety preventative activities focuses upon the need to have an 'Escape Plan' and to 'Get out, Stay out and Call 999'; targetted approach to the delivery of preventative activities and partnership working to identify and assist those who are 'most at risk from fire'.

Actions

During 2014-15, 1640 Home Fire Safety Visits were completed in Falkirk Council area. Appendix I provides further details on our prevention activities in relation to this priority.



YTD ward ave. for - 3	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Sparklines
Falkirk	26	24	14	32	23	
Bo'ness and Blackness	4	6	0	2	6	
Grangemouth	7	0	1	3	8	
Denny and Banknock	3	1	0	5	1	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	2	4	0	4	0	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	2	3	1	5	5	
Falkirk North	5	4	1	8	1	
Falkirk South	2	0	2	3	0	
Lower Braes	0	2	3	1	2	
Upper Braes	1	4	6	1	0	

Reduction of 'All deliberate fires'

Deliberate fire setting is a significant problem for the SFRS and in the Falkirk Council area. In the main, deliberate fires are secondary fires whose categories are; refuse, grassland and derelict buildings incidents. There is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of; Economic Recovery, Growth and Employment, Early Years, Children and Young People, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending and Outcomes for Older People.

Results

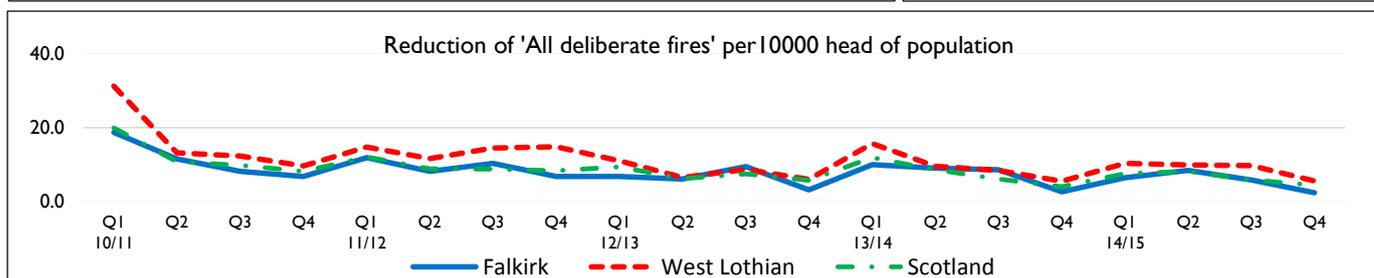
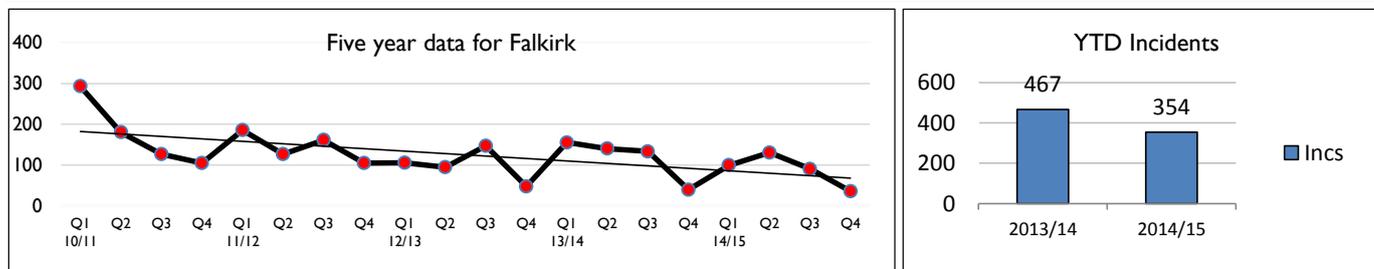
Against a local target of continually reducing Deliberate Fire Setting on a year on year basis, we have seen a 24% decrease in the number of incidents compared to 2013-14 (2013/14, 467 incidents, 2014/15 354 incidents a decrease of 113 incidents). The quarterly trend line shows a downward slide since Q2 2014-15. It is noted that Deliberate Fire Setting /10,000 population trendline is below a comparator local authority and Scotland.

Reasons

The majority of deliberate fires involve refuse or grasslands, which are recorded as deliberate secondary fires. Deliberate secondary fires accounted for 80% of all deliberate fires during 2014-15. Of these deliberate secondary fires, 43% involved refuse/wheelie bins.

Actions

SFRS along with multiagency partners, continue to imbed the twice weekly 'Tasking and Coordinating Group', They undertook a number of events across the Falkirk area in relation to educating young people in the dangers and consequences of deliberate fire setting and also included initiatives aimed at preventing fires within derelict properties, grassland fires and fires involving refuse and wheelie-bins. Details of these are provided in Appendix 2.



YTD ward ave. for - 78	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Sparklines
Falkirk	703	576	393	467	354	
Bo'ness and Blackness	131	82	82	77	65	
Grangemouth	55	76	41	38	30	
Denny and Banknock	80	61	61	42	32	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	41	37	28	25	15	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	40	20	14	28	15	
Falkirk North	124	96	52	96	56	
Falkirk South	83	76	50	81	78	
Lower Braes	91	81	38	38	31	
Upper Braes	58	47	27	42	32	

Reduction of 'Non domestic fires'

Fires in Non Domestic Property can have a detrimental affect on the built environment and the prosperity of the local area. Non-domestic fires are classed as fires which took place in buildings that are not domestic households. Reduction of Non Domestic Property contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of; Economic Recovery, Growth and Employment, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending and Outcomes for Older People

Results

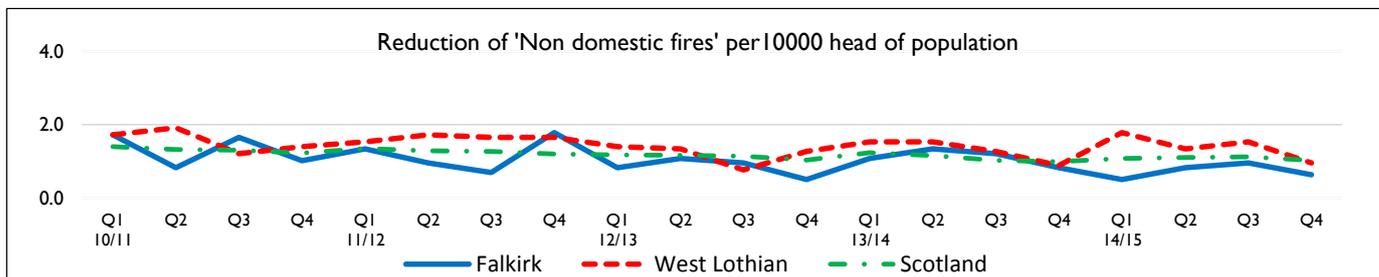
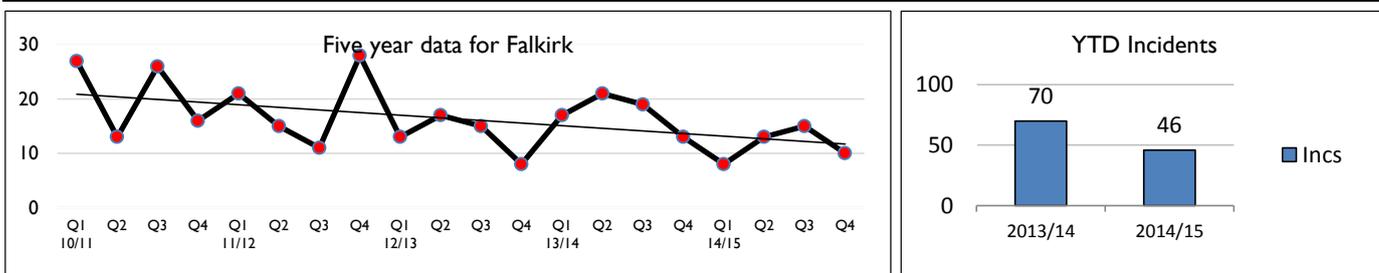
Against a local target of continually reducing Non Domestic Property fires on a year on year basis, that will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of fires in Non Domestic Property, we have seen a 34% decrease in incidents compared to 2013/14 (2013/14 70 incidents, 2014/15 46 incidents. A decrease of 24 incidents) . It is noted that Fires in Non Domestic Property /10,000 population trendline in the Falkirk Council area is downward compared to a comparator local authority and Scotland. (Footnote, the relatively low event rates needs to be taken into cognisance when considering % increase/decreases).

Reasons

There are no specific trends emerging from Fires in Non-Domestic Property.

Actions

Appendix 3 provides further details on our prevention activities in relation to this priority.



YTD ward ave. for - 9	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Sparklines
Falkirk	82	75	53	70	46	
Bo'ness and Blackness	10	7	4	7	2	
Grangemouth	15	13	3	8	4	
Denny and Banknock	2	5	6	10	4	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	6	4	6	0	3	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	9	10	3	4	12	
Falkirk North	18	14	12	9	9	
Falkirk South	3	4	2	10	5	
Lower Braes	12	14	14	16	4	
Upper Braes	7	4	3	6	3	

Reduction of 'Special Service Casualties - All'

While much of this risk is outwith SFRS control, responding to Non Fire Emergencies is a key part of our activities. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in this area. Reduction of Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending, Health Inequalities and Physical Activity and Poverty and Welfare Reform.

Results

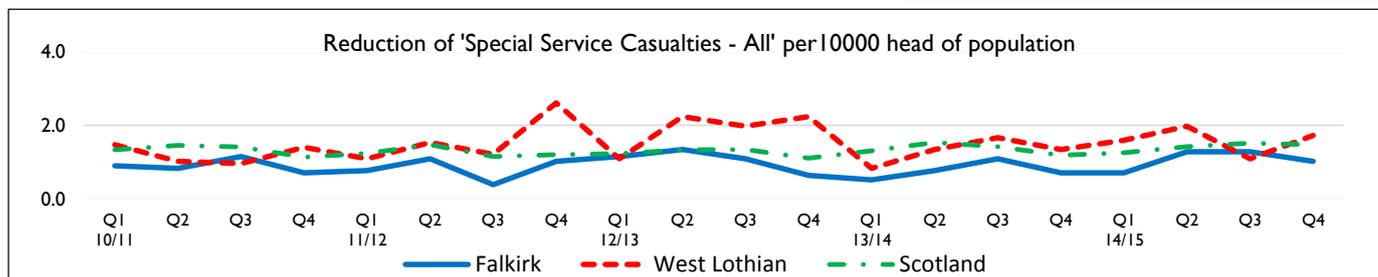
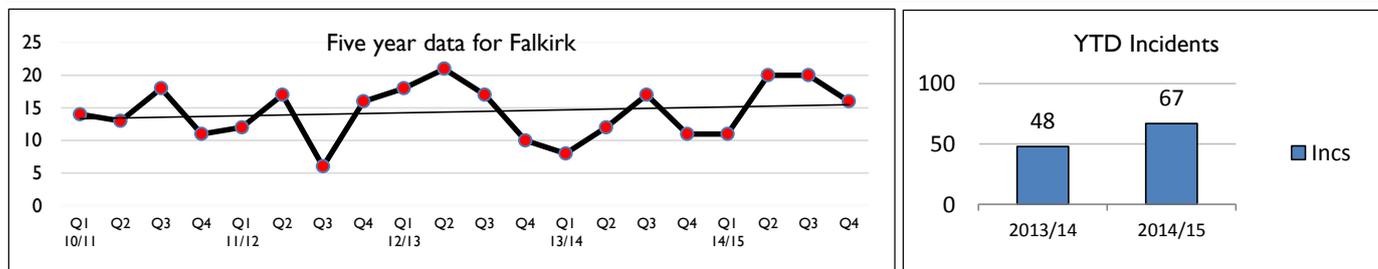
Against a local target of continually reducing in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies on a year on year basis, that will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies, we have seen a 39% increase in the number of casualties from non fire emergencies compared to 2013/14 (2013/14 48 casualties, 2014/15 67 casualties. An increase of 19 casualties) .

Reasons

During 2014/15, 'Special Service casualties' were predominantly as a result of road traffic collisions (RTC's) attended by SFRS. RTC's accounted for 42 casualties, 5 of which were fatalities.

Actions

The continued delivery of the Safe Drive Stay Alive programme targeting young people is an excellent partnership approach to reducing road traffic collisions we will continue to resource this and look at other ways of furthering this work. Appendix 4 provides further details on our prevention activities in relation to this priority.



YTD ward ave. for - 6	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Sparklines
Falkirk	56	51	66	48	67	
Bo'ness and Blackness	4	8	7	3	6	
Grangemouth	8	2	5	4	9	
Denny and Banknock	7	6	15	6	6	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	2	5	5	5	2	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	11	12	13	10	7	
Falkirk North	6	9	3	4	8	
Falkirk South	9	3	6	6	10	
Lower Braes	7	4	7	3	7	
Upper Braes	2	2	5	7	12	

Reduction of 'False Alarms - All'

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents (UFAS) are those occasions when an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals which contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of, Economic Recovery, Growth and Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending.

Results

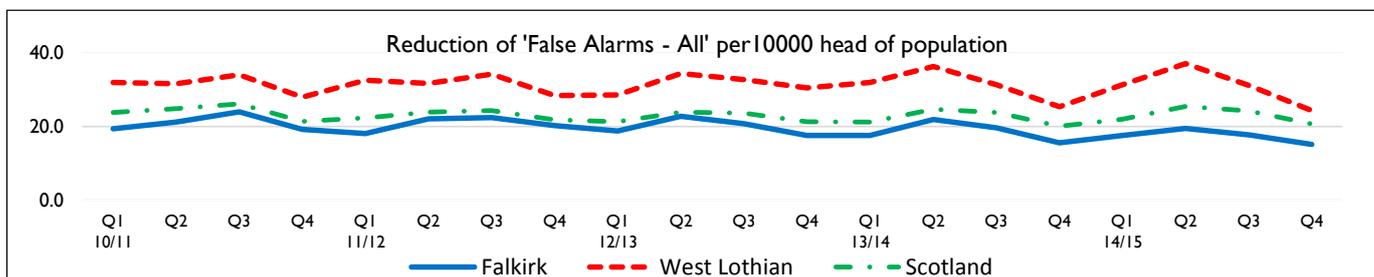
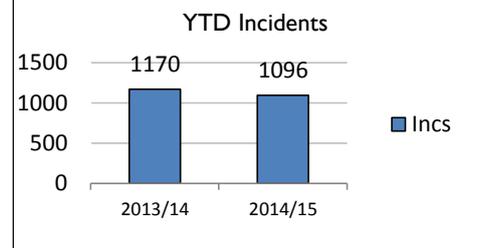
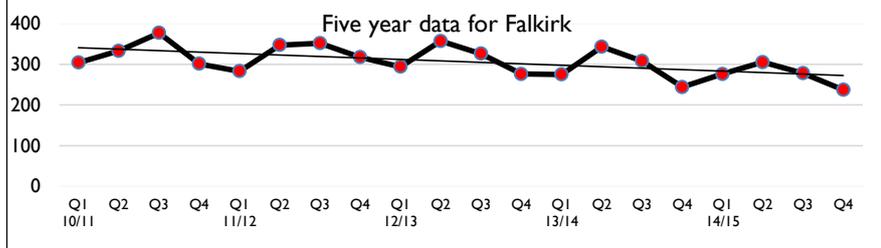
Against a local target of continually reducing UFAS incidents on a year on year basis, that will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of UFAS incidents, we have seen a 6% decrease in incidents compared to 2013/14 (2013/14 - 1170 UFAS, 2014/15 - 1096 UFAS, a reduction of 74). It is noted that the number of incidents/10,000 population of UFAS trendline in the Falkirk Council area is lower than that of a comparator local authority and Scotland during 2014-15 and the 5 year trendline is static.

Reasons

UFAS - Equipment failure incidents tend to be allied to premises which are categorised as a 'sleeping risk'.

Actions

We continue to proactively monitor UFAS incidents and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises to reduce further UFAS incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future UFAS incidents. During Q3 2014-15 SFRS introduced a new UFAS policy, designed to promote business continuity, reduce the road risk from 'blue light' journeys and reduce the demand placed upon SFRS by these types of incidents. This should help to reduce UFAS incidents going forward.



YTD ward ave. for - 146	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Sparklines
Falkirk	1315	1299	1253	1170	1096	
Bo'ness and Blackness	91	80	50	61	64	
Grangemouth	134	136	125	99	125	
Denny and Banknock	85	88	91	73	68	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	100	98	116	90	89	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	201	298	273	286	254	
Falkirk North	335	268	269	250	270	
Falkirk South	168	128	130	121	118	
Lower Braes	114	149	135	125	51	
Upper Braes	87	54	64	65	57	

Contextual Appendices

Appendix 1

Reduction of 'All accidental dwelling fires (ADFs)' & Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. precautionary check ups))'

A primary activity related to improving the safety of our communities is the carrying out of home fire safety visits. Evidence identifies that dwelling fires occur more frequently in those premises that are occupied by those who are most vulnerable such as the elderly and those with drug and alcohol dependencies.

As such, the focus of our Home Fire Safety Programme continues to focus on those premises identified as 'high' or 'medium' risk.

Home Fire Safety Programme visits completed (Year to date).

Year to Date Activity	Low	Medium	High	TOTAL
Total HFSVs	209	646	785	1640

During this reporting period, SFRS continue to work with multi-agency partners including social work, housing and MECS Telecare in order to target those most vulnerable within our communities. Enhanced referral pathways have been established this period with Polmont , targeting clients due for release and hosting fire safety seminars to inmates and nominated vulnerable groups.

As part of the SFRS commitment to safeguarding individuals, frontline SFRS staff submitted a number of 'Adult Protection' forms to our partners within the Social Work Department.

SFRS continue to focus on preventative approaches with partners and continue to improve on the quality and quantity of Home Fire Safety Visits requested and conducted.

Winter Season Thematic Action Plan

This purpose of the Winter Season Thematic Action Plan was delivered in order to minimise the impact of accidental fire and fire casualties in the home over the peak Winter/Festive period (8th December 2014 to 19th January 2015) and to coordinate arrangements at local level to ensure public safety.

A number of initiatives were delivered in support of this Thematic Action Plan with a firm emphasise on targeting those most vulnerable with our communities, these events resulted in generating High risk Home Fire Safety Visits.

Appendix 2

Reduction of 'All deliberate fires'

Tasking and Coordinating Group

During this reporting period SFRS along with multiagency partners, continue to imbed the twice weekly 'Tasking and Coordinating Group'. This groups primary focus is on addressing tactical level issues using information sharing, problem profiling and the implementation of measures to reduce both fire related and other anti-social behaviour issues. This process greatly assists with addressing areas of high operational demand and with the proactive targeting of those most vulnerable within our communities.

This methodology enables immediate interventions to emerging issues and is evidencing positive outcomes for partners.

Youth Engagement

During this reporting period, SFRS undertook a number of events across the Falkirk area in relation to educating young people in the dangers and consequences of deliberate fire setting. This included a visitation to all primary schools and targeted visitations to secondary schools including the on-going delivery of Youth Engagement activities within Polmont Young Offenders Institute; this was in support of the 'Spring Season Thematic Action Plan' (TAP).

Spring Season Thematic Plan

In order to minimise seasonal operational demand and ensure the safety of people who live, work and visit Scotland during the peak spring period a local 'Spring Thematic Action Plan' (TAP) was devised and delivered from 2nd March and continues into the 27th April. Statistical evidence indicates an increase in outdoor fires during early spring and extending into the school's Easter holiday period.

This TAP relies on effective multi-agency partnership working and primarily focusses on reducing deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour. This included initiatives aimed at preventing fires within derelict properties, grassland fires and fires involving refuse and wheelie-bins.

Appendix 3

Reduction of 'All non-domestic fires'

Fire Safety Enforcement Activity

A Pre-Programmed Audit is an audit programmed at the commencement of the fiscal year, selected from premises held within the Service's database, based on a risk assessment as defined in the Service's Enforcement Framework.

A Non-Programmed Audit is an audit that can occur throughout the year. This type of audit would be undertaken as a result of the following: fire safety complaints, requests from partner agencies or joint initiatives with partners, following any fire within a relevant premise and the targeting of specific premises type in line with the Service's Enforcement Framework.

Audits activity Year to Date 2014

FSEC Code	Premises Type	Number of premises in Local Authority area as of 31 March 2014	Number of premises subject to pre-planned audit 2014*	Number of premises audited 2014 YTD	% of Target Premises achieved YTD**
A	Hospital	5	5	11	220%
B	Care Home	49	49	52	106%
C	House of multiple occupation (HMD) Tenement	35	16	16	100%
E	Hostels	1	1	1`	100%
F	Hotels	57	25	25	100%
H	Other sleeping accommodation	1	1	2	200%
J	Further Education	2	0	0	-
K	Public Building	32	2	7	350%
L	Licenced Premises	307	10	26	260%
M	Schools	127	6	23	383%
N	Shops	1064	12	18	150%
P	Other premises open to public	167	9	17	188%
R	Factories & Warehouses	330	12	30	250%
S	Offices	635	3	10	333%
T	Other Workplace	52	2	10	500%
	Total	2864	153	242	158%

*Pre-planned targets are only set for Hospitals, Care Homes, HMO's classed as 'high' risk or in line with licence renewals and other premises classed as 'high' or 'very high' risk.

**Where target is exceeded this is due to non-programmed auditing such as thematic auditing, fire safety complaints or post fire audits.

Enforcement/Prohibition Notices

No enforcement or prohibition notices have been served this year within the Falkirk area.

Thematic Auditing carried out in reporting period

During this period, local Fire Safety Enforcement Officers supported the Falkirk 'Best Bar None' initiative by undertaking fire safety audits of licenced premises.

Appendix 4

Reduction of 'Special Service - casualties (fatal & non-fatal)'

Members of the local Community Action Team delivered 'Make it or break it' events within Polmont Young Offenders Institute.

January saw the successful delivery of the highly acclaimed "safe drive stay alive" initiative aimed at contributing to reducing the number of road casualties and fatalities on Falkirk's roads. Over 2000 young people from within Falkirk attended this event; an evening performance was also delivered for parents and guardians of the young people to assist in reinforcing the message which was also successfully attended.

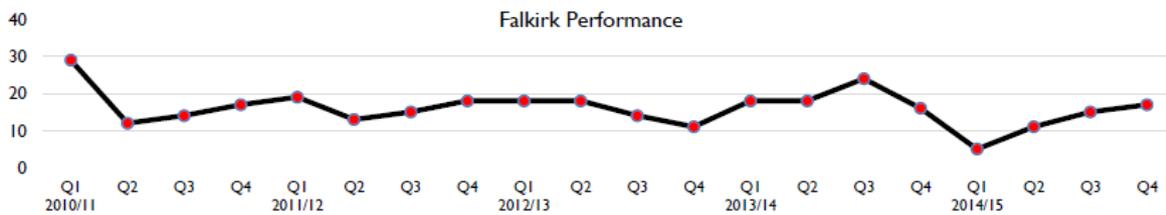
Final preparations were made and the organising completed for the Helix emergency services open day, this day is to promote water safety in the lead up to spring and summer weather with partners focusing on prevention and awareness raising of the dangers in and around water.

Appendix 5

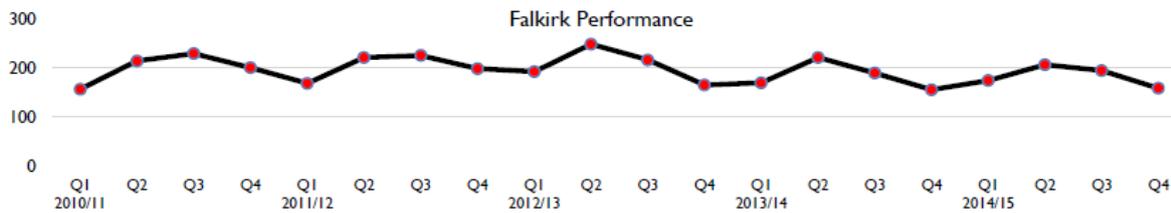
Reduction of 'False Alarm - Equipment failure'

UFAS fall into a range of categories that include. Malicious, Failure of Equipment and Good Intent. The graphs below provide a breakdown of UFAS incidents the SFRS attended by category.

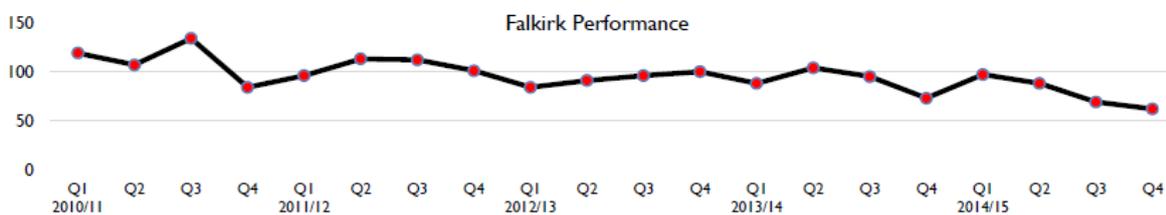
Malicious



Equipment Failure



Good intent



Glossary

Primary Fire

Primary fires include all fires in non-derelict buildings and outdoor structures or any fires involving casualties or rescues or any fires attended by five or more appliances.

Secondary Fires

Secondary fires are the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or if five or more appliances attend. They include fires in derelict buildings but not chimney fires.

Accidental Dwelling Fires

Building occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. In 2000, the definition of a dwelling was widened to include any non-permanent structure used solely as a dwelling, such as caravans, houseboats etc. Caravans, boats etc. not used as a permanent dwelling are shown according to the type of property. Accidental includes fires where the cause was not known or unspecified.

Fire Fatality

A person whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if the death occurred weeks or months later.

Fire Casualty

Non-fatal casualties, injured as a direct result of a fire attended by the service. Includes those who received first aid at the scene and those who were recommended to go for a precautionary check. Does not include injuries to fire service personnel.

Deliberate Fire

Fires where deliberate ignition is suspected

Special Services

Special Services are non-fire incidents requiring the attendance of an appliance or officer. The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 placed a statutory duty on FRS to attend fires and road traffic accidents. It also included an additional function order that covers non-fire incidents such as rescues from collapsed buildings or serious flooding

CPP

Community Planning Partnership.

SOA

Single Outcome Agreement.

Year to Date (YTD)

Year to date is calculated from 1st April on the reporting year

RTC

Road Traffic Collision

UFAS

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Seasonal Community Safety Calendar

The seasonal calendar depicts a range of initiatives and activities that the SFRS and CPP partners will undertake throughout the year as part of our preventative strategies.





LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR FALKIRK



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Year To Date Report, 1st April – 30th June, 2015

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



Falkirk Council

DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

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Introduction

This performance report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within the Falkirk Council area over the year to-date period 1st April – 30th June 2015.

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision is supported by 16 National Outcomes which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes in the Falkirk Council area by contributing to the Community Planning Partnership arrangements across the area.

The national priorities for the SFRS are set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The SFRS Strategic Plan outlines how the SFRS will deliver against these priorities and the outcomes against which this delivery can be measured.

The priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Falkirk Council area reflects the Falkirk Council Strategic Community Plan 2010-2015, the Falkirk Council Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2011-2014 and the Falkirk Council Community Planning Partnership, Single Outcome Agreement 2014-17. The Single Outcome Agreement includes a range of key themes focused on delivering improved outcomes for communities of the Falkirk Council area. The key themes that this plan contributes to are;

- Economic Recovery and Growth,
- Early Years, Children and Young People,
- Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending,
- Health Inequalities and Physical Activity,
- Outcomes for Older People,
- Poverty and Welfare Reform.

The aims of the local Fire & Rescue Service in the Falkirk Council area are to reduce deaths, injuries and damage to property from fires and other emergency events. We aim to achieve this by working in partnership, being pro-active and targeting our prevention and protection activities to where they are most required, based on evidence.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Falkirk Council 2014 - 2017, 7 priorities for the local Fire and Rescue Service have been identified;

- Priority 1. Local Risk Management and Preparedness,
- Priority 2. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires,
- Priority 3. Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities,
- Priority 4. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting,
- Priority 5. Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property,
- Priority 6. Reduction in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies,
- Priority 7. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Area Manager Gary Laing
Local Senior Officer for Falkirk & West Lothian
Gary.laing@firescotland.gov.uk

Performance Summary

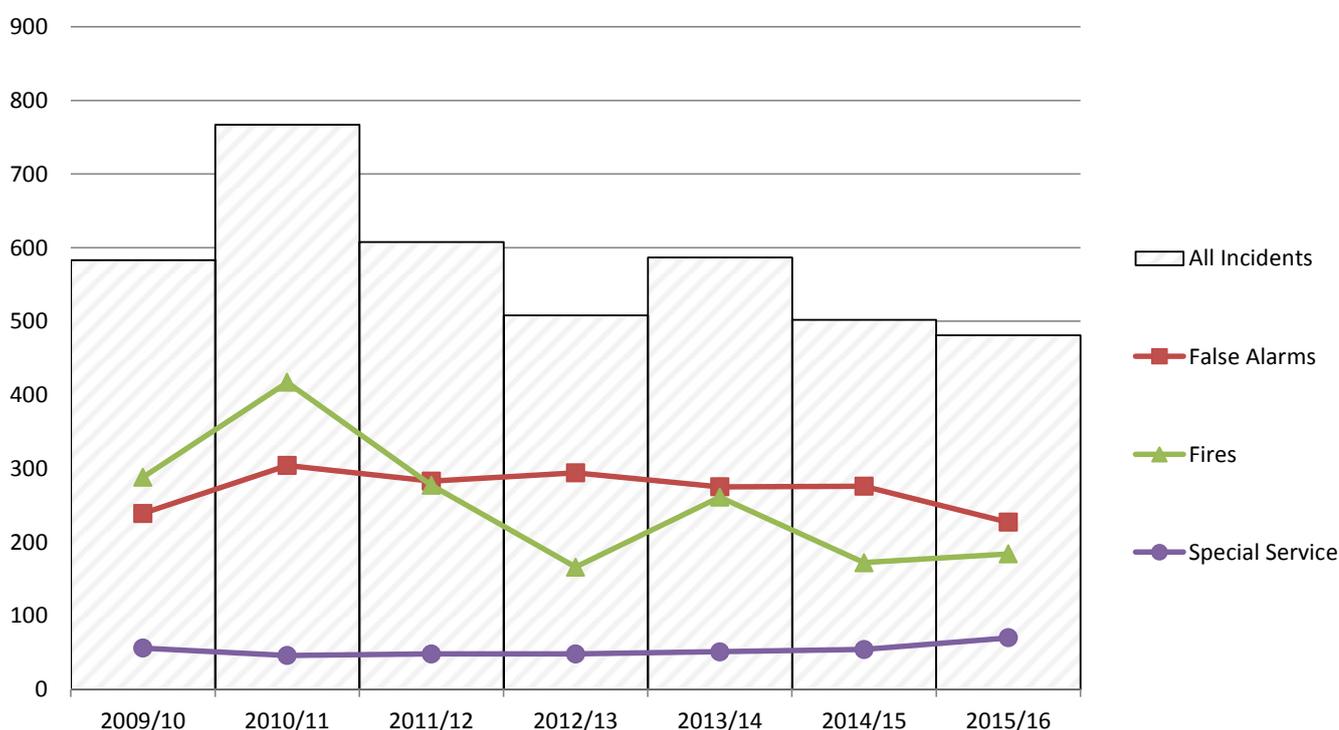
We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Jun					RAG rating
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	YTD
All accidental dwelling fires	25	21	30	22	29	◆
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	6	1	6	2	5	◆
All deliberate fires	185	105	155	99	101	▲
Non domestic fires	21	13	17	8	20	◆
Special Service Casualties - All	12	18	8	11	22	◆
False Alarms - All	283	294	275	276	227	●

RAG rating - KEY		
◆	RED DIAMOND	10% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
▲	YELLOW TRIANGLE	Up to 9% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
●	GREEN CIRCLE	Equal to or improved upon the previous equivalent quarter (or YTD period), or local target achieved.

Note
Quarterly comparison RAG Rating = the reporting period compared to the average of the three previous quarterly reporting periods.
Year to Date RAG Rating = the cumulative total of all quarterly performance in current year compared to cumulative total of all quarterly performance in previous year.
Incident Overview
During this period, SFRS responded to a total of 404 incidents within Falkirk.
This is a decrease of 14 incidents (3.35%) when compared to the same reporting period on the previous year.

The chart below illustrates incidents YTD attended within Falkirk council over the last 6 fiscal years



Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities

Local Risk Management and Preparedness

The Service must identify, prioritise and plan to meet the risks in each local community.

We said we would:

- train our staff to deal with our local risks
- gather and analyse risk information
- work with partners to mitigate risks
- deal with major events.

Train our staff to deal with our local risks

Our operational staff continue to undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training.

During 2015-16 all firefighters will participate in the Maintenance Phase Development Planner for firefighters. Completed modules during the year to date period are based around incidents involving: aircraft, silos, trenches and pits & wells. Firefighter safety is always a priority and this is a theme underpinned within all activities. Theoretical inputs are confirmed with practical training sessions and exercises. Local risks such form part of our training plans. Grangemouth petro-chemical complex is an obvious focus and we continue to train and exercise as part of a multi-agency approach.

Gather and analyse risk information

Our operational staff continue to gather and analyse local risk information and operational intelligence which is used in our preparations to resolve incidents.

We conduct Post Incident Debriefs through the use of a Structured Debriefing process, to identify any lessons that can be learned from our preparedness and response to emergency events.

We use Urgent Operational Intelligence Briefings to inform our operational staff of any safety critical information.

Work with partners to mitigate risks

We continue to be an active member of the Forth Valley Local Resilience Partnership.

We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders (e.g. Police Scotland) to ensure emergency event risks are mitigated.

Deal with major events

In the first reporting quarter of this year, SFRS did not respond to any major fire or significant emergency events.

Reduction of 'All accidental dwelling fires'

Accidental dwelling fires can have devastating effects on our community. The SFRS is committed to keeping people safe in their homes. We share information with partners to make sure that the right people get the right information they need, particularly those who are vulnerable due to age, isolation or addiction. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of; Early Years, Children and Young People, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending, Health Inequalities and Physical Activity, Outcomes for Older People, and Poverty and Welfare Reform.

Results

Against a local target of continually reducing Accidental Dwelling Fires on a year on year basis that contributes towards the SFRS target of a 10% reduction over a three-year rolling period, we have seen an increase of 7 incidents compared to the same year period in 2014/15 - 22 incidents with 2015/16 - 29 incidents. The trendline over the previous 5 years shows a slight increase. The number of incidents /10,000 population is around the same as that of a comparator local authority and slightly lower than Scotland for this period.

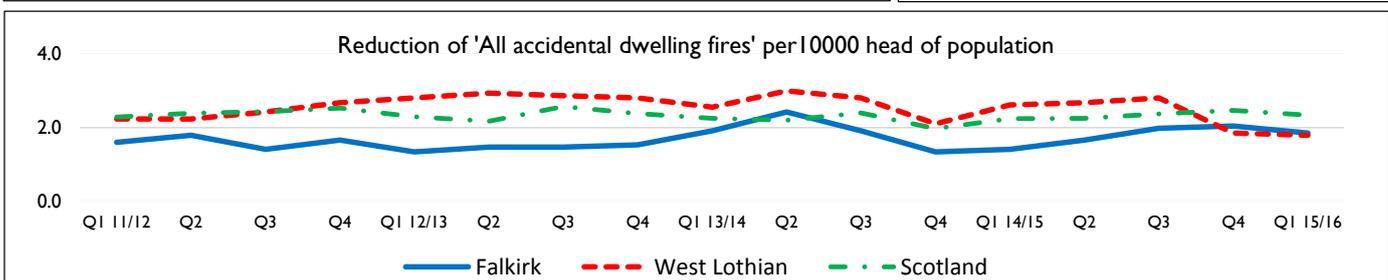
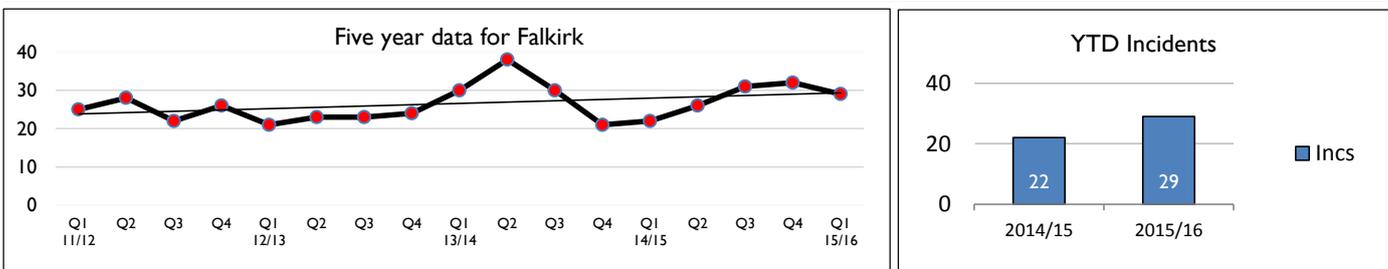
Reasons

The number of incidents are relatively small with the majority of fires involving cooking materials..

Actions

The Post Domestic Incident Referrals (PDIR) target areas where accidental dwelling fires have occurred and are intended to reassure the local neighbourhood and prevent further incidents occurring in the surrounding area. We continue to deliver our Home Fire Safety Visit programme to reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires.

Appendix I provides further details on our prevention activities in relation to this priority.



YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 3	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	25	21	30	22	29	
Bo'ness and Blackness	5	1	3	4	3	
Grangemouth	3	2	6	4	2	
Denny and Banknock	2	2	4	1	4	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	3	2	4	2	3	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	1	1	2	1	4	
Falkirk North	3	5	5	4	3	
Falkirk South	4	4	1	3	4	
Lower Braes	1	3	1	2	2	
Upper Braes	3	1	4	1	4	

Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))'

Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life-threatening injuries that occur due to fire. This can indicate not only the success of SFRS in reducing the number of life risk fires through community fire safety and similar activities, but also their success in response activity in saving lives.

Results

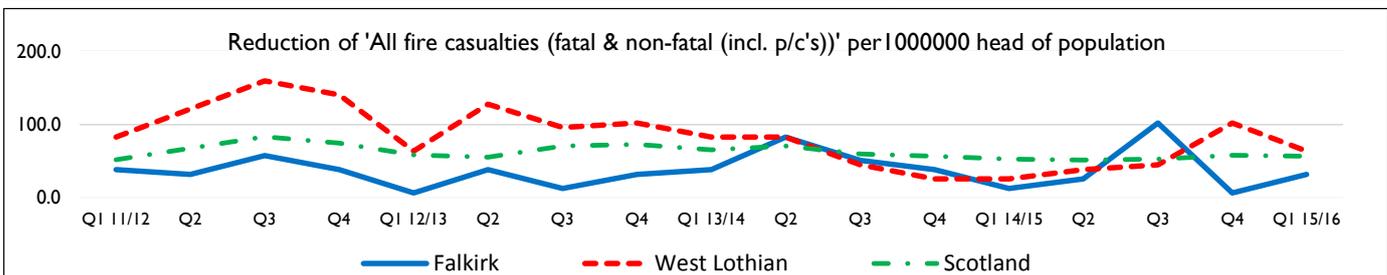
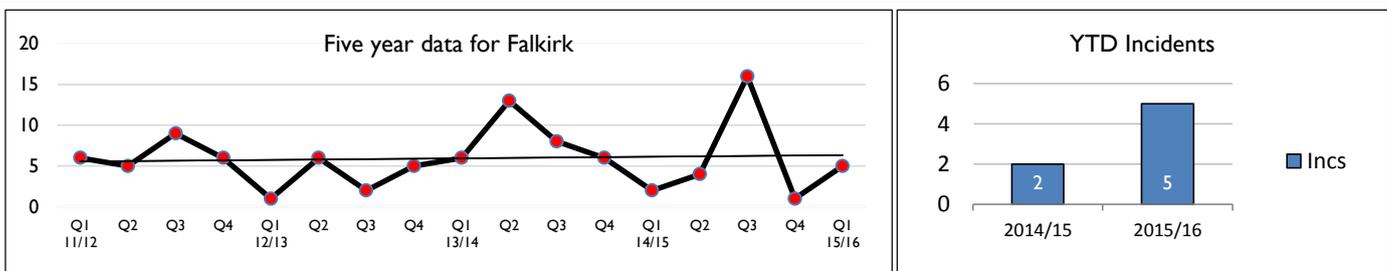
There have been no fatal fire casualties and 5 non-fatal casualties due to fires in this reporting period. Against a local target of continually reducing Fire Casualties on a year on year basis that contributes towards the SFRS target of 5% reduction, per year over a three-year rolling period, we have seen an increase from 2 to 5 casualties reported from the same period last year. The five year trendline in number of fire casualties has taken a slight rise due the aforementioned figures. It is noted that number of casualties/1,000,000 population is below that of a comparator local authority and Scotland.

Reasons

The number of persons reported as sustaining injury due to fire remains small. It is difficult to identify the reasons for this sharp increase compared to the same reporting period last year. The 5 casualties resulted from separate incidents, which included cooking, smoking materials and outdoor fires. Injuries included burns and smoke inhalation. Three casualties required on scene medical attention only, whilst two persons were transported to hospital for further treatment.

Actions

The SFRS embarked on a fire safety 'week of action' during the month of June 2015. Appendix I provides further details on this initiative and other prevention activities.



YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - I	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	6	1	6	2	5	
Bo'ness and Blackness	4	0	0	2	0	
Grangemouth	0	0	0	0	1	
Denny and Banknock	0	0	3	0	0	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	0	0	0	0	0	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	0	0	0	0	0	
Falkirk North	0	0	2	0	2	
Falkirk South	0	0	0	0	2	
Lower Braes	0	1	0	0	0	
Upper Braes	2	0	1	0	0	

Reduction of 'All deliberate fires'

Deliberate fire setting is a significant problem for the SFRS and in the Falkirk Council area. In the main, deliberate fires are secondary fires whose categories are; refuse, grassland and derelict buildings incidents. There is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of; Economic Recovery, Growth and Employment, Early Years, Children and Young People, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending and Outcomes for Older People.

Results

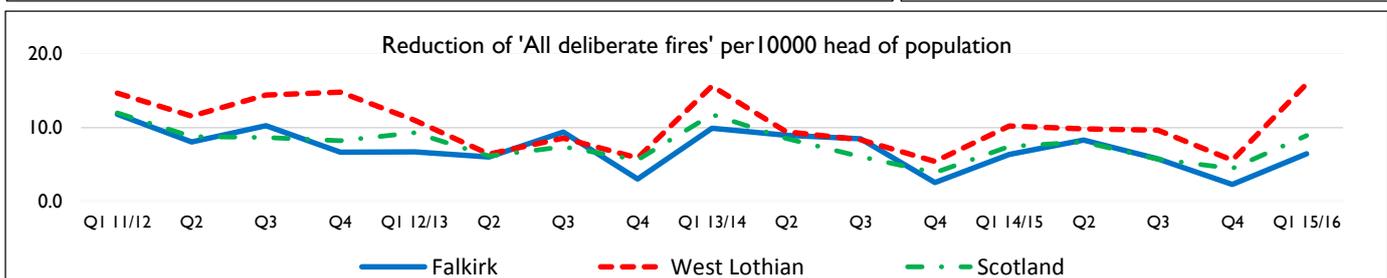
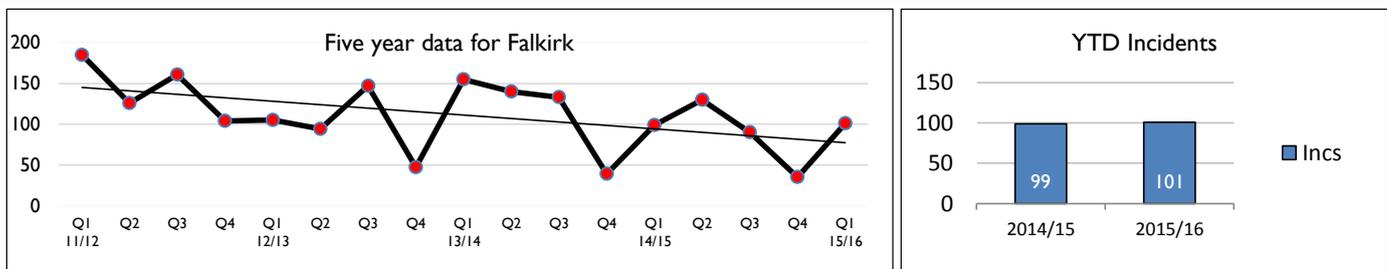
Against a local target of continually reducing Deliberate Fire Setting on a year on year basis, we have seen a 2% increase in the number of incidents compared to 2014/15- 99 incidents, 2015/16 - 101 incidents. The five year trendline continues to show a decrease in this type of incident. It is noted that Deliberate Fire Setting /10,000 population trendline is below a comparator local authority and Scotland with all highlighting an increase for this period.

Reasons

The majority of deliberate fires continue to involve refuse or grasslands, which are recorded as deliberate secondary fires. Deliberate secondary fires accounted for 83.5% of all deliberate fire during this period. The SFRS attended 41 incidents involving grass and similiar types of secondary fire amounting to 73% of secondary fire incidents. This reflects a pattern consistent with warmer weather (spring/summer) and schools holidays.

Actions

SFRS along with multiagency partners, continue to support the twice weekly 'Tasking and Coordinating Group', They undertook a number of events across the Falkirk area in relation to educating young people in the dangers and consequences of deliberate fire setting and also included initiatives aimed at preventing fires within derelict properties, grassland fires and fires involving refuse and wheelie-bins. Details of these are provided in Appendix 2.



YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	185	105	155	99	101	
Bo'ness and Blackness	31	17	18	6	9	
Grangemouth	17	3	12	10	2	
Denny and Banknock	22	21	21	15	3	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	12	8	8	5	8	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	9	4	15	6	15	
Falkirk North	29	18	32	15	13	
Falkirk South	17	14	28	15	17	
Lower Braes	38	12	12	10	19	
Upper Braes	10	8	9	17	15	

Reduction of 'Non domestic fires'

Fires in Non Domestic Property can have a detrimental affect on the built environment and the prosperity of the local area. Non-domestic fires are classed as fires which took place in buildings that are not domestic households. Reduction of Non Domestic Property contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of; Economic Recovery, Growth and Employment, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending and Outcomes for Older People

Results

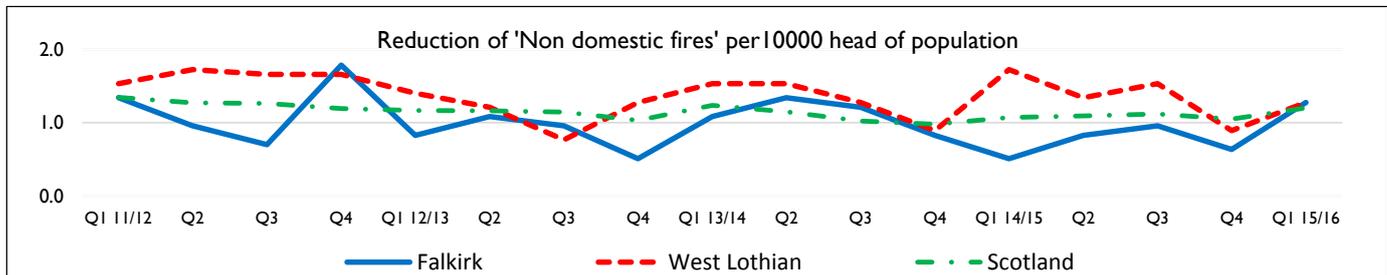
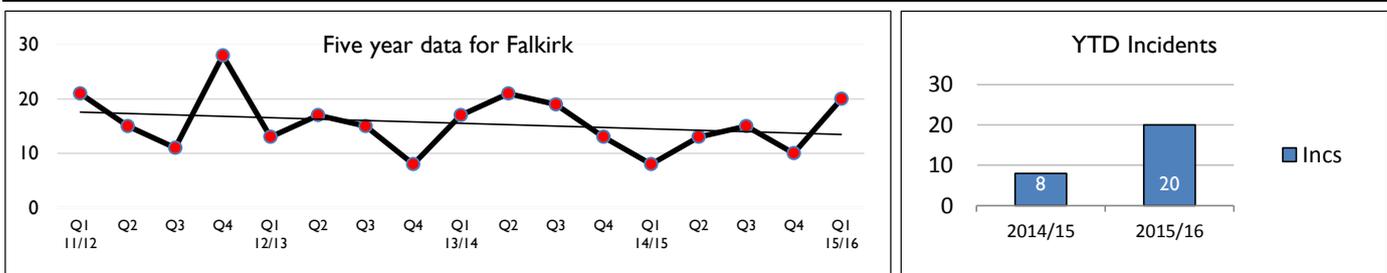
Against a local target of continually reducing Non Domestic Property fires on a year on year basis, that will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of fires in Non Domestic Property, there has been an increase of 12 incidents compared to this period 2014/15 - 8 incidents, 2015/16 - 20 incidents. The five year trendline remains on a downward trajectory. It is noted that Fires in Non Domestic Property /10,000 population trendline in the Falkirk Council area is at this point similar to a comparator local authority and Scotland.

Reasons

There are no specific trends emerging from Fires in Non-Domestic Property.

Actions

Appendix 3 provides further details on our prevention activities in relation to this priority.



YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 2	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	21	13	17	8	20	
Bo'ness and Blackness	4	0	2	0	2	
Grangemouth	1	1	1	1	1	
Denny and Banknock	1	3	3	1	1	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	2	2	0	0	1	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	4	0	3	2	5	
Falkirk North	3	1	1	0	6	
Falkirk South	1	0	2	0	1	
Lower Braes	4	5	3	1	2	
Upper Braes	1	1	2	3	1	

Reduction of 'Special Service Casualties - All'

While much of this risk is outwith SFRS control, responding to Non Fire Emergencies is a key part of our activities. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in this area. Reduction of Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending, Health Inequalities and Physical Activity and Poverty and Welfare Reform.

Results

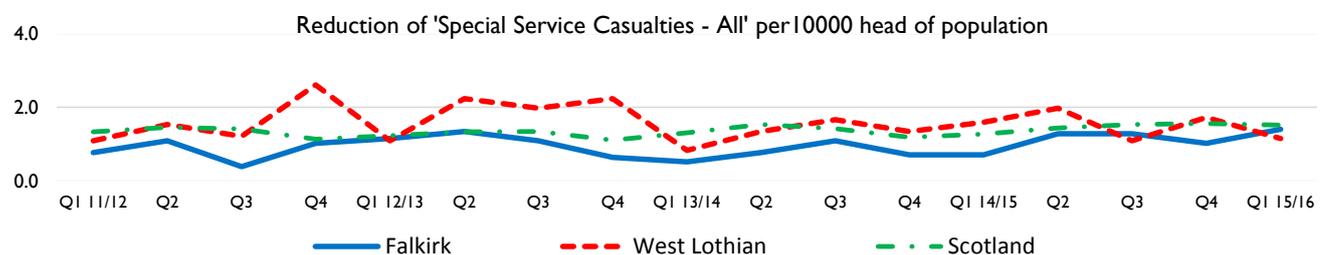
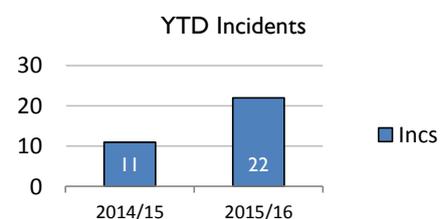
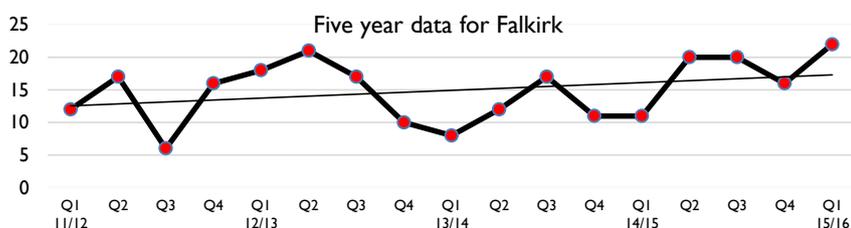
Against a local target of continually reducing in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies on a year on year basis, that will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies, we have seen an increase in the number of such casualties. The actual rise doubles last years figure for this reporting period, from 11 to 22 casualties.

Reasons

During this period, the SFRS reported 8 casualties as a result of Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's). Increasingly the SFRS has been called to assist partner emergency services, making entry to properties, rendering medical assistance and providing Automatic External Defibrillators (AED). This additional activity has contributed to the increase in number of casualties we report. No Special Service fatalities have been reported during this period

Actions

Through a partnership approach we continue to target the education of young people to reduce road traffic collisions and we continue to resource this, looking at other ways of furthering this work. Other initiatives have been delivered to reduce Special Service casualties. Appendix 4 provides further details on our prevention activities in relation to this priority.



YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 2	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	12	18	8	11	22	
Bo'ness and Blackness	0	0	0	1	4	
Grangemouth	2	4	1	2	0	
Denny and Banknock	0	5	0	3	2	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	2	0	1	1	2	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	1	2	3	0	4	
Falkirk North	4	2	1	1	3	
Falkirk South	1	0	1	0	3	
Lower Braes	1	5	0	1	4	
Upper Braes	1	0	1	2	0	

Reduction of 'False Alarms - All'

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents (UFAS) are those occasions when an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals which contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of, Economic Recovery, Growth and Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending.

Results

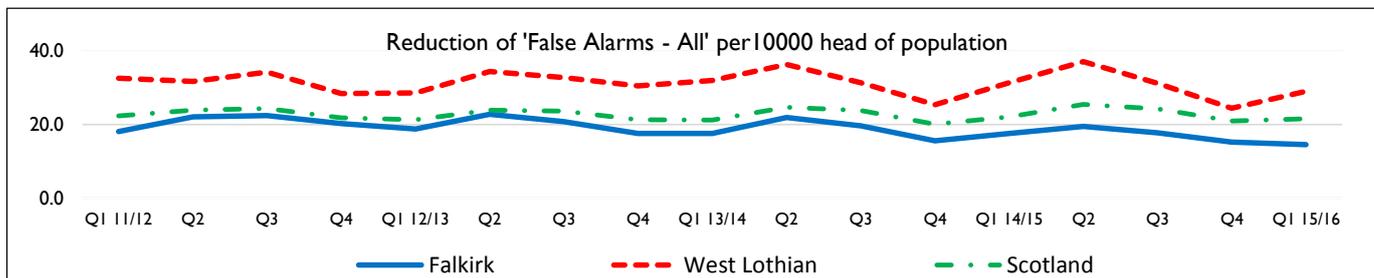
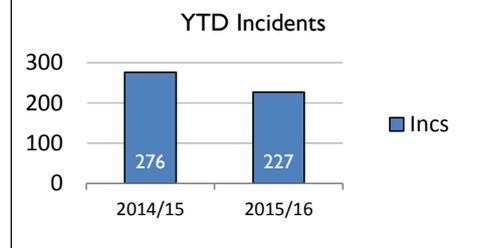
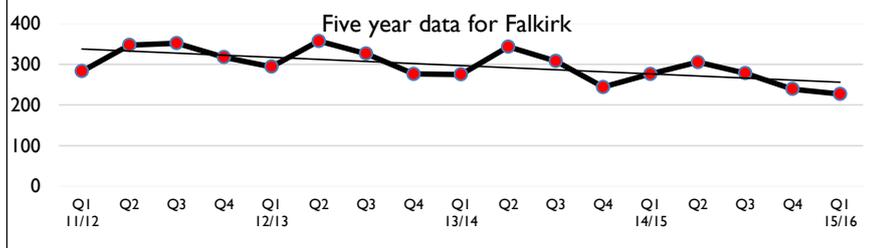
Against a local target of continually reducing UFAS incidents on a year on year basis, that will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of UFAS incidents, the SFRS reported a total of 276 false alarms for this period last year. This number has fallen to 227 for the year to date 2015/16. This is a decrease of 49 incidents or 18%. It is noted that the number of incidents/10,000 population of UFAS trendline in the Falkirk Council area is lower than that of a comparator local authority and Scotland during this reporting period and the 5 year trendline is downward.

Reasons

UFAS - Equipment failure incidents tend to be allied to premises which are categorised as a 'sleeping risk'.

Actions

We continue to proactively monitor UFAS incidents and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises to reduce further UFAS incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future UFAS incidents. Over the last 12 months, the SFRS has introduced a new UFAS policy, designed to promote business continuity, reduce the road risk from 'blue light' journeys and reduce the demand placed upon SFRS by these types of incidents. This should help to reduce UFAS incidents going forward. Appendix 5 provide further information.



YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 25	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	283	294	275	276	227	
Bo'ness and Blackness	10	13	17	11	18	
Grangemouth	32	35	26	36	31	
Denny and Banknock	23	22	20	13	21	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	18	14	19	25	16	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	51	72	73	63	58	
Falkirk North	65	52	62	67	36	
Falkirk South	29	29	26	25	19	
Lower Braes	37	37	21	17	14	
Upper Braes	18	20	11	19	14	

Reduction of 'All accidental dwelling fires (ADFs)' & Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal incl. precautionary check ups)'

A primary activity related to improving the safety of our communities is delivering Home Fire Safety Visits. Evidence identifies that dwelling fires occur more frequently in those premises that are occupied by the more vulnerable members of our community such as the elderly and those with substance and alcohol dependencies.

SFRS continue to deliver HFSV and conducted a 'Week of Action' across the Falkirk area. It is proposed that Information Sharing Protocols will develop between partners and increase the safety of residents by all agencies making appropriate referrals.

Home Fire Safety Programme visits completed (Year to date).

Year to Date Activity	Low	Medium	High	TOTAL
Total HFSVs	65	215	405	685

During this reporting period, SFRS continue to work with multi-agency partners including social work, housing providers, Health etc in order to target those most vulnerable within our communities, by seeking referrals.

SFRS frontline staff submitted a number of 'Adult Protection' forms to our partners within the Social Work Department to ensure appropriate support is delivered.

Appendix 2

Reduction of 'All deliberate fires'

Tasking and Coordinating Group

During this reporting period SFRS along with multiagency partners, implemented a twice weekly 'Tasking and Coordinating Group'. The primary focus is on addressing tactical level issues using information sharing, problem profiling and the implementation of measures to reduce both fire related and other anti-social behaviour issues. This process greatly assists with addressing areas of high operational demand and with the proactive targeting of those most vulnerable within our communities.

Early indications are that this group has already delivered improved outcomes and a full evaluation will be undertaken in due course.

Youth Engagement

During this reporting period, SFRS undertook a number of events across the Falkirk area. This includes a number of Fire Safety events, the 'Emergency Services Day' and the on-going delivery of Youth Engagement activities within Polmont Young Offenders Institute.

Summer Season Thematic Plan

In order to minimise seasonal operational demand and ensure the a safer Scotland during the peak Summer period a local 'Summer Season Thematic Action Plan' (TAP) was devised and delivered.

This allowed SFRS staff to adopt an evidence based approach to support the design and delivery of CSE activities in support of the TAP.

SFRS Community Safety Advocates deliver a programme to 'targeted schools' to address any developing trends. The purpose of this was to deliver seasonal fire education with the focus on reducing fire related ASB and hoax calls which also reduces the financial impact on Local Authority Budgets.

SFRS Crews pro-actively promoted local diversionary activities. This provided opportunities for our frontline crews to engage with youths and reduce ASB.

Effective multi-agency partnership working and primarily focussed on reducing deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour. This included initiatives aimed at preventing fires within derelict properties, grassland fires and fires involving refuse and wheelie-bins.

Wilful fire raising in wheelie disposal bins is becoming an increasing problem but being addressed at Task and Co-ordinating Groups with partners.

Appendix 3

Reduction of 'All non-domestic fires'

Fire Safety Enforcement Activity

A Pre-Programmed Audit is an audit programmed at the commencement of the fiscal year, selected from premises held within the Service's database, based on a risk assessment as defined in the Service's Enforcement Framework.

A Non-Programmed Audit is an audit that can occur throughout the year. This type of audit would be undertaken as a result of the following: fire safety complaints, requests from partner agencies or joint initiatives with partners, following any fire within a relevant premise and the targeting of specific premises type in line with the Service's Enforcement Framework.

Audits activity Year to Date 2015

FSEC Code	Premises Type	Number of premises in Local Authority area as of 31 March 2015	Number of premises subject to pre-planned audit 2015*	Number of premises audited 2015 YTD	% of Target Premises achieved YTD**
A	Hospital	6	6	4	66%
B	Care Home	45	45	16	35%
C	House of multiple occupation (HMO) Tenement	35	25	2	8%
E	Hostels	1	1	0	0
F	Hotels	56	22	10	45%
H	Other sleeping accommodation	3	3	2	66%
J	Further Education	2	1	2	200%
K	Public Building	32	7	2	28%
L	Licenced Premises	307	10	0	00%
M	Schools	127	4	2	50%
N	Shops	1064	12	10	83%
P	Other premises open to public	167	6	5	83%
R	Factories & Warehouses	330	9	3	33%
S	Offices	635	2	3	150%
T	Other Workplace	52	0	1	200%
	Total	2862	153	62	40%

*Pre-planned targets are only set for Hospitals, Care Homes, HMO's classed as 'high' risk or in line with licence renewals and other premises classed as 'high' or 'very high' risk.

**Where target is exceeded this is due to non-programmed auditing such as thematic auditing, fire safety complaints or post fire audits.

Enforcement/Prohibition Notices

No enforcement or prohibition notices have been served this year within the Falkirk area.

Thematic Auditing carried out in reporting period

During this period, local Fire Safety Enforcement Officers supported the Falkirk 'Best Bar None' initiative by undertaking fire safety audits of licenced premises.

Appendix 4

Reduction of 'Special Service - casualties (fatal & non-fatal)'

Members of the local Community Action Team delivered 'Make it or break it' events within Polmont Young Offenders Institute.

Due to the prolonged period of warm weather, and in response to concerns around the number of people swimming in areas of open water and canals, SFRS along with multi-agency partners, organised a high profile exercise and awareness raising session within the Helix Park.

Appendix 5

Reduction of 'False Alarm - Equipment failure'

UFAS fall into a range of categories that include. Malicious, Failure of Equipment and Good Intent. SFRS have developed a UFAS Policy to ensure that persistent UFAS within premises are addressed appropriately. Engagement with key holders is key to reducing SFRS attendance.

Glossary

Primary Fire

Primary fires include all fires in non-derelict buildings and outdoor structures or any fires involving casualties or rescues or any fires attended by five or more appliances.

Secondary Fires

Secondary fires are the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or if five or more appliances attend. They include fires in derelict buildings but not chimney fires.

Accidental Dwelling Fires

Building occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. In 2000, the definition of a dwelling was widened to include any non-permanent structure used solely as a dwelling, such as caravans, houseboats etc. Caravans, boats etc. not used as a permanent dwelling are shown according to the type of property. Accidental includes fires where the cause was not known or unspecified.

Fire Fatality

A person whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if the death occurred weeks or months later.

Fire Casualty

Non-fatal casualties, injured as a direct result of a fire attended by the service. Includes those who received first aid at the scene and those who were recommended to go for a precautionary check. Does not include injuries to fire service personnel.

Deliberate Fire

Fires where deliberate ignition is suspected

Special Services

Special Services are non-fire incidents requiring the attendance of an appliance or officer. The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 placed a statutory duty on FRS to attend fires and road traffic accidents. It also included an additional function order that covers non-fire incidents such as rescues from collapsed buildings or serious flooding

CPP

Community Planning Partnership.

SOA

Single Outcome Agreement.

Year to Date (YTD)

Year to date is calculated from 1st April on the reporting year

RTC

Road Traffic Collision

UFAS

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Seasonal Community Safety Calendar

The seasonal calendar depicts a range of initiatives and activities that the SFRS and CPP partners will undertake throughout the year as part of our preventative strategies.

