

Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021



Falkirk Council

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1. Foreword

I welcome Falkirk's Community Learning and Development (CLD) Action Plan 2018-2021. Falkirk's CLD partners continue to make a significant contribution to the life chances of individuals and communities within the Falkirk Council area.

We are all aware of the fiscally challenging times that public and voluntary sectors are experiencing and the impact that this has on communities across the Council area. However, it is my view that we can all do more collectively to improve the inequalities which result from social-economic and other forms of disadvantage.

CLD partners are in a good position to engage directly with individuals and communities to ensure that they feel they can empower themselves to make a meaningful contribution to community life across the Council area.

Tackling inequalities is a priority for Falkirk's CLD partners. Central to this is the delivery of preventative and early intervention activities that promote the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities within the Falkirk Council area.

It is my belief that Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 offers partners, including importantly communities, the opportunity to work together on key actions to ensure that resources, assets and services are best used to meet the needs and aspirations of individuals and communities within the Falkirk Council area.

I would like to encourage all partners to take the opportunities that Falkirk's Community Learning and Development (CLD) Action Plan 2018-2021 offers.

Cecil Meiklejohn, Leader of the Council, Falkirk Council.

2. Introduction

2.1 Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 is intended to support Falkirk Council and its CLD partners to meet the statutory requirement for community learning and development.

3. Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018 – 2021: Strategic Fit

3.1 Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 and its priority actions do not stand alone, but rather is part of a developing policy and strategy framework designed to improve collaboration between Falkirk's CLD partners and deliver improved outcomes for children, young people, adults, families and communities within the Falkirk Council area.

3.2 Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 is designed to complement and align to Falkirk's Community Planning Partnership Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery (SOLD) Plan 2016-2020, which is Falkirk's Community Planning Partnerships equivalent of Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP).

4. Key Points from the CLD Regulations and Revised Guidance

4.1 The requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 place two obligations on Falkirk Council:

- The first is to ensure that the need for CLD provision within the Council area is assessed.
- The second is to publish a 3 year plan setting out what CLD provision the Council will make, how it will co-ordinate provision with other providers, what action the other providers intend to take during the period of the plan and what needs will be unmet.

4.2 In November 2017, the Scottish Government published revised guidance on Community Learning and Development Planning 2018-2021. The purpose of the revised guidance was to support local authorities and their partners to achieve the requirements of Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

4.3 Community Learning and Development (CLD) is seen as a way of working which supports disadvantaged or vulnerable groups and individuals of all ages to engage in learning that is negotiated with them, with a focus on bringing about change in their lives and communities. The goal of ensuring communities across Scotland, particularly those that are disadvantaged, have appropriate access to the CLD support they need is underlined by the requirement under the Education Scotland Act 1980 to "secure adequate and efficient provision" of CLD in the area.

4.4 The CLD Regulations in referring to CLD include "both programmes with explicit learning focus and other type activities that are designed with participants and promote their educational and social development".

4.5 The Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development (2012) continues to underpin national CLD policy. The Strategic Guidance states that "the foundation of CLD delivery is an assessment, in partnership with learners and communities, of needs, strengths and opportunities".

4.6 In deciding how best to meet that requirements of the CLD Regulations, Falkirk Council and its CLD partners should take accounts of policy priorities which relate to the assessed needs of learners, groups and communities. These should include:

- The Scottish Attainment Challenge
- The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- The National Improvement Framework

5. FALKIRK CLD PARTNERS SHARED UNDERSTANDING

5.1 Falkirk's CLD partners have shared understanding of the purpose of community learning and development and this is detailed below:

- Falkirk's CLD partners work with individuals to support them build their **core skills**, knowledge, understanding and confidence in order to be more effective in their personal, family, community and working lives. Central to this process is the voluntary engagement of the individual. **Core skills** are the ability to communicate, use numbers and ICT effectively in order to handle information, communicate with others, express ideas and opinions, make decisions and solve problems.
- Falkirk's CLD partners offer **community capacity building** support to enable communities to understand, inform and influence the decision making processes that impact on their lives. **Community Capacity Building** can support communities to address the inequalities that act as barriers to participation in society to thereby effect sustainable change.

6. HOW WAS FALKIRK'S CLD ACTION PLAN DEVELOPED?

6.1 Falkirk's Community Planning Partnership have used the Place Standards within Falkirk's East and West Localities and this data has informed the development of Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021.

6.2 Details of partner organisations who have been consulted on Falkirk CLD Action Plan 2018 – 2021 is detailed in Appendix 1.

6.3 Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 has also been informed by:

- Falkirk's Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation data
- Falkirk's Realigning Children's Service's data
- Falkirk's Pupil Equity Fund/Attainment Challenge data
- Falkirk's Integrated Children's Services Plan
- Falkirk Integrated Strategic Plan and Strategic Joint Needs Assessment
- Falkirk's Community Planning Partnership Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery (SOLD) Plan 2016-2020.

6.4 In addition to the above, Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 has been developed with the involvement of Falkirk's CLD partners, learners and communities. This has included:

- Partner organisations who deliver CLD within the Falkirk Council area
- Individuals who participate within CLD activities within the Falkirk Council area
- Individuals who live within the Falkirk Council area
- Falkirk's Community Planning partners

6.5 In particular, the Action Plan's development process has involved individuals and community groups who experience inequalities as a result of socio-economic and other disadvantage. This has been an important feature and it is envisaged that this involvement will continue throughout the lifespan of Falkirk's CLD Action Plan.

7. FALKIRK'S CLD ACTION PLAN 2018-2021

7.1 Falkirk CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 seeks to maximise the impact of community learning and development by focusing on activities that would improve the outcomes for the most disadvantaged communities. Falkirk's CLD partners will do this collectively to ensure that resources are best deployed to achieve the priority Actions detailed within the CLD Action Plan. Detailed below are the priority actions that have been agreed by Falkirk's CLD partners.

Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 Priority Actions
Action 1: Falkirk's CLD partners will work to develop the capacity of the public, voluntary and community sectors to meet the potential demands for social prescribing.
Action 2: Falkirk's CLD partners will work to develop the capacity of the public, voluntary and community sectors to meet the potential demands for support from people with complex needs, people with disabilities and older people to have access to activities within their own communities.
Action 3: Falkirk's CLD partners will develop evidence based practice with children, young people, adults and families that seek to improve their mental health and wellbeing.
Action 4: Falkirk's CLD partners will reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are not in education, employment and training.
Action 5: Falkirk's CLD partners will develop a range of diverse CLD interventions aimed at reducing the poverty related attainment gap.
Action 6: Falkirk's CLD partners will develop a range of diverse CLD interventions aimed at supporting vulnerable people into work.
Action 7: Falkirk's CLD partners will ensure that they have appropriate information, advice and guidance and referral routes in place to support vulnerable people.
Action 8: Falkirk's CLD partners will work with communities to co-design, co-produce and co-deliver services.
Action 9: Falkirk's CLD partners will develop services that promote digital inclusion and literacies.
Action 10: Falkirk's CLD partners will develop services that mitigate the impact of welfare reform.
Action 11: Falkirk's CLD partners will prioritise engagement with protected characteristics communities to ensure that they have a voice within the locality planning and community action planning process.
Action 12: Falkirk's CLD partners will, where appropriate, implement quality standards for CLD delivery. For example, LGBT Charter, Equally Safe Framework and Rights Respecting Schools/Service Awards.
Action 13: Action 1: Falkirk's CLD partners will ensure that people who participate within CLD activities have access to and are supported to use health services.
Action 14: Falkirk's CLD partners will ensure that, where possible, physical activity will be integrated within any CLD activity.
Action 15: Falkirk's CLD partners will increase food skills of vulnerable people and increase opportunities for them to access affordable food choices/activities within their local communities.

- 7.2 The priority actions detailed above, through regular review, may change over the lifetime of the Action Plan.
- 7.3 During the processes of developing Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018 – 2021, partners highlighted the need for further investment in the following area: -
- Access specialist ESOL provision for inward migrants
 - Access to assisted digital support for vulnerable individuals
 - Access to capacity building support for community organisations wishing to progress with asset transfers
- 7.4 Falkirk's CLD partners recognise that demand for the above services is outstripping the supply of services and that it may be the case that some requests for support will be unmet. Falkirk's CLD partners are committed to collective action to secure additional investment to meet the identified unmet needs.

8. CLD PARTNERS: WORKFORCE DEVELOPEMNT

- 8.1 Within the first 6 months of the implementation of Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021, Falkirk's CLD partners will develop a shared understanding of their workforce development priorities that support the CLD Action Plan. This may include Falkirk's CLD partners' involvement in:
- Developing knowledge, skills and attitudes
 - Networking
 - Practice sharing
 - Building leadership capacity

- 8.2 Falkirk's CLD partners have had a long commitment to and involvement with national and regional alliances such as the CLD Standards Council, Forth Valley CLD Regional Collaborative and the South East & Central CLD Workforce Development Consortium.
- 8.3 These alliances have provided valuable continuous professional development opportunities for Falkirk's CLD practitioners.
- 8.4 To support the CPD of practitioners Falkirk's CLD partners will encourage CLD practitioners to register with the CLD Standards Council.

9. REVIEWING, MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRESS AND IMPACT

- 9.1 Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 will be regularly reviewed to ensure that needs and resources remain relevant to the changing context and environment within the Falkirk Council area. This will include:
- Falkirk's CLD Action Plan will be monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis and improvement areas identified and acted on.
 - Performance data relating to Falkirk's CLD Action Plan will be updated by CLD partners on a quarterly basis.
 - Falkirk's CLD partners will participate within twice yearly review and action planning sessions for Falkirk's CLD Action Plan.
 - Twice yearly reports on progress will be provided to Falkirk Community Planning Partnership Group and regular reports will be provided to the Planning Locality Group.
 - Falkirk Council Education Executive will also receive a Falkirk's CLD Action Plan Annual Report detailing progress and impact.

- Falkirk CLD partners will publish an Annual Report detailing the progress and impact of Falkirk's CLD Action Plan.

10. FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

For further information regarding Falkirk's CLD Action Plan please contact: -

Mark Meechan

Community Learning and Development Manager

Falkirk Council Children's Services

Sealock House

2 Inchyra Road

Grangemouth

FK3 9XB

Tel: 01324 506692 Email: mark.meechan@falkirk.gov.uk

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Appendix 1

Partner Organisations who have been consulted about Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018 – 2021.

- Skills Development Scotland
- Forth Valley NHS
- Forth Valley College
- Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership
- Workers Education Association
- Youth Scotland
- Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit
- Royal National Institute for the Blind
- Link Living
- Falkirk Council Children's Services
- Falkirk Community Trust
- Falkirk Council Corporate and Neighbourhood Services
- Falkirk Council Development Services
- Communities Along the Carron
- CVS Falkirk
- Falkirk Credit Union
- Falkirk Food Bank
- LGBT Scotland
- Fire Scotland
- Police Scotland
- Falkirk Football Community Foundation
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Forth Environment Link
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust

- Youth Link Scotland
- Service users of Denny Community Support Project
- Service users of Falkirk's Work Club
- Service users of Central Scotland Regional Equality Council
- Service users of LGBT Youth Scotland

Geographical areas and schools who have participated within Placed Standard exercises are: -

- Bo'ness
- Grangemouth
- Upper Braes
- Denny/Dunipace
- Larbert
- Bonnybridge
- Langlees

Secondary School pupils at:

- Bo'ness Academy
- Braes High School
- Grangemouth High School
- St Mungo's High School
- Carrongrange High School
- Denny High School
- Larbert High School

Primary school pupils at:

- St Bernadette's Primary School, Stenhousemuir
- Bankier Primary School, Banknock

