



**2010 – 2015**  
**Falkirk's Integrated Children's Services**  
**Plan**

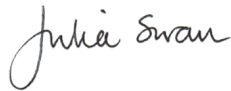


## **FOREWORD**

This is Falkirk's second Integrated Children's Services Plan which has been prepared in accordance with the guidance issued by the Scottish Government in March 2008. It takes account of the Concordat between the Scottish Government and the Convention of Local Authorities (COSLA) and links through the Community Planning Process into Falkirk's Single Outcome Agreement. This plan has more of a strategic focus with individual plans for action for each priority being prepared by appropriate partners. The plan is based on the entitlements detailed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is our strategic planning document for services for children and young people across the Falkirk Council area.

We want all children and young people in Falkirk to be safe; nurtured; healthy; achieving; respected and responsible; active and included. To ensure this, children and young people need to be supported to become confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.

Planning across agencies has continued to improve and is becoming more integrated within the Community Planning process. Work continues to ensure the meaningful involvement of children, young people, parents and carers in the strategic planning process. The next years will see us concentrating on embedding the outcome approach in all our core work across services and agencies and ensuring that we have consistent co-ordinated service delivery which improves outcomes for all children.



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## **CHAPTER 1 – OUR STRATEGIC AIMS**

### **OUR VISION**

We want every child and young person to have an enjoyable, fulfilling life in a nurturing, healthy and safe environment. We will encourage children and young people to work to their potential and make a positive contribution to society.

To make this possible all young people need to have different opportunities and experiences based around the Scottish Government’s vision and aims, to ensure we “Get it right for every child” (GIRFEC).

### **OUTCOMES**

The outcomes we want for our children and young people are:

#### **Outcome 1:**

- All Falkirk children will be happy and healthy and enabled to make positive decisions about their own health and well-being.

#### **Outcome 2:**

- All Falkirk children will achieve their potential through learning and creativity, developing the skills and knowledge to make them fulfilled, happy adults.

#### **Outcome 3:**

- All Falkirk children will grow up in a safe environment where they are protected, loved and enabled to enjoy their lives.

## PRINCIPLES

We continue to operate to the same principles to achieve the vision, as outlined in the original Integrated Children's Services Plan, published in 2005.

We will deliver integrated services that:

- have children and young people at the centre of all that we do;
- ensure that as many young people as possible access high quality, universal services;
- have a shared strategy and commitment to improving outcomes for all children and young people;
- ensure that children, young people and families feel that they receive services within a system which is free from awkward transitions and which provides a continuity of service provision;
- have a collective commitment to co-operation and co-ordination of services – paying particular attention to transition points;
- have a collective commitment to sharing information to ensure improved outcomes.

We will work together to:

- have agreed measurable qualitative and quantitative outcomes for children and young people that can be monitored and publicly reported;
- provide services to meet assessed needs in the most appropriate way at as local a level as possible;
- ensure that nothing we do as individual agencies will jeopardise other agencies' ability to deliver high quality services;
- ensure clear lead responsibilities for key areas of service;
- continue to focus on the seven indicators of wellbeing – Safe, Included, Active, Achieving, Nurtured, Respected and Responsible and Healthy.

## **Valuing Young People: Principles and connections to support young people to achieve their potential**

This document published by the Scottish Government in 2009 is designed to support partners deliver positive outcomes for young people. It recognises that any developments which impact on young people need to be seen in the context of a fresh approach to how we view and value young Scots. This focuses on:

- ensuring that **all** young people have the support they need to achieve their potential;
- positive opportunities for, and positive engagement with young people; and
- early intervention to nurture potential and offer support at an earlier stage in a young person's life.

The delivery of services to children, young people and their families in our area recognises this context and embeds this approach in all we do.

### **Early Years Framework**

The Scottish Government and COSLA agreed an Early Years and Early Intervention Framework that was published in December 2008. The document defines early years as pre-birth to 8 years old but many aspects of the framework are equally relevant to children beyond the age of 8. The framework advocates an approach which recognises the right of all young children to high quality relationships, environments and services which offer a holistic approach to meeting their needs. These needs should be interpreted broadly and encompass play, learning, social relationships and emotional and physical wellbeing. This framework applies to all children but will be of particular benefit in supporting those children and families requiring high levels of support.

The framework identifies four principles of early intervention which are:

- we want everyone to have positive outcomes and the same access to opportunities;
- we identify children and young people at risk of not achieving those outcomes and take steps to prevent that at risk of materialising;
- where the risk has materialised we take effective action;
- we work to help parents, families and communities to develop their own solutions.

The framework has been developed from an analysis of the types of experiences that will support positive outcomes for children based on evidence from research and from work with parents and children. Our vision for early years reflects the high ambitions we have for early years. It establishes a new conceptualisation of early years in that children should be

valued and provided for within communities; the importance of strong, sensitive relationships with parents; the right to a high quality of life and access to play; the need to put children at the centre of service delivery; to provide more support through universal services when children need it; and that children should be able to achieve positive outcomes irrespective of race, disability or social background.

The framework identifies parents and communities as playing a crucial role in children achieving positive outcomes and that parents and communities need to value that role themselves and be aware that they are supported by the Falkirk Council community of partners. The vision also stresses the importance of high quality, flexible and engaging services delivered by a valued and appropriately qualified workforce.

Local partners will implement this framework as an integral part of their planning processes and will be reflected in our performance management arrangements including single outcome agreements and begin the process of aligning resources to local priorities for action. This must result in ensuring our resources are aligned to these priorities.

## **Resources**

We will utilise all our resources to ensure the best outcomes for all our children and young people. We understand that the demand for our services both universal and specialist will increase as our population increases. We also know that the resources available to deliver our services are reducing. We must seek to be more efficient and effective in our use of resources if we are to continue to provide the services our children need and deserve.

Over the coming years, and in response to the recession, public spending will reduce. It is against this background that joint planning and delivery of services becomes more critical.





## **CHAPTER 2 – DEVELOPING OUR MODEL OF DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

### **PROGRESS TO DATE**

A new model for the delivery of services to children and families was agreed in principle by Falkirk Council in June 2009.

Key components included in this model are:

- A locality frontline delivery model that provides support to all children and families and includes universal services, targeted services and early intervention.
- An overarching strategic co-ordination and communication system (hub) which also commissions targeted services for the most vulnerable children and young people.
- A crisis intervention / intensive family support service.

The key element in a locality frontline delivery model is the development of a post to individually co-ordinate locally based services. Four such posts will be created across the council area:

- Bo'ness / Grangemouth
- Larbert / Denny
- Falkirk / Braes
- Falkirk West / St. Mungo's High School

The strategic co-ordination and communication system (the hub) will allow referrals relating to the most vulnerable young people to pass through a single point to the most appropriate service to meet their needs in an effective and rapid way. The 'hub' will also evaluate the impact of services and over time develop a joint commissioning role.

## **Support to Families**

The Intensive Family Support Service will offer intensive support flexibly (out-with conventional hours) during evenings and weekends. The service will be staffed by workers with appropriate skills. Support will be provided within young people's homes and the community. Short-term residential provision will also be available. Flexible resources will be built around the needs of individual children and their families.

## **Domestic Abuse**

Running alongside these proposals is the continuing development of the GIRFEC Domestic Abuse Pathfinder. This pilot is one of four national pilots and is led by Central Scotland Police.

The pilot is based in the Larbert area. It has tested the GIRFEC principles in relation to multi-agency sharing of information and earlier intervention to reduce referrals to the Reporter, specifically in relation to children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The pilot is now considering addressing other 'concerns' in relation to children and young people in the Larbert area. This work will continue to inform procedures for multi-agency working.

## **Joint Assessment and Information Sharing**

The Falkirk Children's Commission recognised the need for a robust approach to assessment and information sharing and has developed a draft framework for an Integrated Assessment along with practice guidelines. The Integrated Assessment Framework (IAF) is a tool which assists appropriate information sharing, across agencies, consistency in assessment and integrated planning and reviewing. The framework requires a child-centered approach and the assessments are carried out with the child and family not 'to' the child and family.

A multi-agency IAF Steering Group is leading the developments and has representation from all agencies working with children and young people. There are also individual implementation groups for Health, Social Work, Education and the Voluntary Sector. Initial awareness raising training was delivered to 185 participants and a further 247 participants attended training in June 2009. The draft framework is being piloted within:

- Children & Families Social Work Teams
- GIRFEC Domestic Abuse Pathfinder Pilot
- Denny and St. Mungo's Locality Pilot

- Education referrals to the Attendance Panel
- Referrals to CLASP (Voluntary Sector project)

It is expected to complete implementation of the framework by 2011.

Involvement of the Voluntary Sector in the redesign process has been achieved through the Voluntary Sector Children's Forum. This Forum was established specifically at the request of voluntary sector providers. This Forum provides members the opportunity to share information and input to the whole service redesign process. The Voluntary Sector has participated in all information and awareness raising events. The Forum continues to define their role in relation to agreed outcomes for children and young people.

Involvement of children, young people, parents and carers has been integral to the development process. This has been achieved through the Young People's Focus Group and the Parents' Reference Group. These groups meet on a regular basis and have undertaken work around all the service redesign activity and will continue to be involved in future developments.

Further details on the involvement of parents and carers and young people are described in Appendix 1.



## **CHAPTER 3 - THE PLANNING PROCESS**

Our Children's Commission has the remit to take forward multi-agency planning for children and young people. This group comprises of senior managers from all key agencies and Council Services. To ensure that planning leads to action and change, the Children's Commission has ensured this plan:

- links to the Single Outcome Agreement;
- is streamlined and strategic;
- has specific measurable achievable relevant and timed indicators which are directly related to outcomes for children and young people.

For this plan information has been drawn from:

- Audit and Consultation Process;
- Peer Review of "for falkirk's bairns" 2005-08;
- Parents' Reference Group;
- Young People's Focus Group;
- Research and analysis of need.

All partners in Falkirk Children's Commission have contributed to this Plan.

## THE CHILD'S JOURNEY

It was agreed that the ideal life and experiences for all children and young people in the Falkirk Council area should be mapped from pre-birth to adulthood.

The child's life as a whole can be broken down into six stages:

- Pre-birth
- Birth 0 - 12 weeks
- Very Young Children 12 weeks – 2 years
- Young Children 3 years – 4 years
- Children 5 years – 11 years
- Young People 12 years – 24 years

In order to measure progress on each stage of a child's life the indicators have been aligned to the following headings:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Active
- Nurtured
- Achieving
- Respected and Responsible
- Included

These indicators are detailed in Chapter 4. Progress on each of the wellbeing indicators will be monitored and reviewed at appropriate intervals by the Children's Commission. The indicators will be adjusted as appropriate in line with ongoing reviews and developments of the Single Outcome Agreement.

The Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP) is a plan for **all** children and young people but it is important that we ensure progress for our most vulnerable groups. The Children's Commission will therefore also monitor the specific outcomes for young people in vulnerable groups on a six monthly basis. This will include looked after children (LAC) and children who are looked after away from home (LAAH), children who live in the worst 15% of deprived areas, children with a disability, children from minority communities and young carers, and children on the Child Protection Register.

Specific information will be gathered on these groups of young people in order to track progress.

As detailed in Chapter 1 Falkirk Children’s Commission has three outcomes which we wish to achieve for all children and young people in our area. These are referred to throughout the document as Children’s Services Outcomes. These outcomes link to the wellbeing indicators as follows:

<u>Children’s Services Outcomes</u>	<u>Wellbeing Indicators</u>
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b></p> <p>All Falkirk children will be happy and healthy and enabled to make positive decisions about their own health and wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy</li> <li>• Active</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 2:</b></p> <p>All Falkirk children will achieve their potential through learning and creativity, developing the skills and knowledge to make them fulfilled, happy adults.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving</li> <li>• Respected &amp; Responsible</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 3:</b></p> <p>All Falkirk children will grow up in a safe environment where they are protected, loved and enabled to enjoy their lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe</li> <li>• Nurtured</li> <li>• Included</li> </ul>

These specific outcomes for children also impact on other local outcomes contained in our Single Outcome Agreement. These include:

- Our area will be recognised as having a culture of aspiration and ambition;
- Our workforce will be highly skilled;
- Our citizens will be supported to make positive health choices in order that they can live longer;
- Disadvantaged communities will benefit from better services;
- Vulnerable children will be protected;

- People will have equitable access to local health, support and care;
- Our citizens will be protected;
- Citizens and communities will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and well being;
- Our citizens continue to access critical services that meet their needs.

We are committed to:

1. Public service.
2. Performance.
3. Partnership.

### **Performance Framework**

We will agree a process for ensuring that all our services and agencies disseminate a summary of the plan and its priorities. This will ensure that the priorities are addressed in all aspects of planning our services. The Children's Commission will take an overview and act as an advisory body to the Community Planning Partnership on these issues as part of its role as sub-group of the Community Planning Partnership. The Commission will want to consider how it raises the profile of the key priorities in the ICSP with young people, their families and communities.

The Children's Commission will map out what agency or service should deliver on each of the priorities of the plan. This will ensure the priorities of the ICSP will be included in other agency and service plans. The ICSP would therefore link to many plans and form part of a "web" of plans.

The Children's Commission will establish a monitoring and review process that extracts six monthly information from the planning web in relation to progress on each of the priorities. The Commission can then make judgments about the rate and effectiveness of progress and where there are concerns these can then be addressed. This will also provide the Commission with a basis for revising the ICSP over time. The Children's Commission will report their findings to the Community Planning Partnership and relevant Committees and Boards.

## **CHAPTER 4 – IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN**

**All our children in Falkirk will be:**

- **Safe**
- **Healthy**
- **Active**
- **Nurtured**
- **Achieving**
- **Respected and responsible**
- **Included**

**The indicators which are being used to measure progress under each of the following headings are detailed in the following plan.**

## SAFE

Keeping children safe has many facets. It includes practical care through the prevention of accidents in the home; protection from physical, social and emotional dangers; and taking an interest in a child's friends and associates and recognising where exposure to situations can put a young person at risk of, for example, sexual exploitation or substance misuse.

It is recognised that keeping children and young people safe in Falkirk is everyone's responsibility.

### Our Priorities for action are:

- Improve outcomes for children where there is parental substance misuse.
- Ensure that children are in an environment in which they feel safe and are safe.
- Reducing unplanned teenage pregnancies.
- Reducing unintentional injuries in the home.
- Increasing access to appropriate support for teenagers in crisis.
- Internet safety

### Principal Plan

- The Child Protection Committee Business Plan 2010.

### Priority Groups are:

Children and young people who:

- Are looked after / looked after away from home.
- Live in our 15% most deprived areas.
- Have a disability.
- Are on the Child Protection Register.
- Have previously been looked after / looked after away from home.
- Young carers.

### Contributing Plans

- Falkirk Joint Health Improvement Plan 2008.
- Forth Valley Sexual Health Strategy.
- Falkirk Council Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013.
- Education Services Performance Plan 2010/13.
- Social Work Services Performance Plan 2008/11.

<b>Safe</b>	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Responsibility for reporting</b>	<b>National Outcome</b>	<b>Baseline (2009/09)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
<b>My life before birth is safe.</b>	Number of pre-birth case conferences and percentage registered	Social Work Services	8	22 (13%)	Compare to Scottish Average
<b>My birth is safe.</b>	Number of children placed on Child Protection Register from birth.	Social Work Services	8	3	Compare to Scottish Average
<b>As a very young child I will grow up in a safe environment where I am protected and enabled to enjoy myself.</b>	The number of children killed or seriously injured per million vehicle kilometers.	Central Scotland Police	9	2004-2008 0.048	Reduce
<b>As a young child I will grow up in a safe environment where I am protected and enabled to enjoy myself and have a basic understanding of right and wrong and a basic awareness of danger.</b>	Number of children and young people on the Child Protection Register.	Social Work Services	8	93	Compare to Scottish Average
	Number of children and young people deregistered.	Social Work Services	8	92	Compare to Scottish Average
<b>As a child I will grow up in a safe environment where I am protected and enabled to enjoy myself and will develop strategies which enable me to look after myself and am supported to manage and access risks.</b>	Using the Integrated Assessment Framework the number of young people who are identified as not having their needs met in terms of being safe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-intervention</li> <li>• Post-intervention</li> </ul>	Localities	8	Not recorded Not recorded	Record Record/Decrease
<b>As a young person I have the skills and strategies which enable me to keep myself safe and enjoy myself.</b>	Teenage pregnancy rate per 1000 13-5 year olds.	NHS Forth Valley	5	8.8 (2004/06)	Decrease

## HEALTHY

Being healthy includes all aspects of a child's health and development relevant to age and stage. It also includes aspects of health care such as nutrition, exercise, physical and mental health issues, sexual health and substance misuse.

### Our Priorities for action are:

- The health of our most vulnerable young people.
- Mental health and wellbeing for all children.
- Substance misuse in young people.
- Childhood obesity.

### Principal Plan

- The Falkirk Joint Health Improvement Plan 2008.

### Priority Groups are:

Children and young people who:

- Are looked after / looked after away from home.
- Live in our 15% most deprived areas.
- Have a disability.
- Are on the Child Protection Register.
- Have previously been looked after / looked after away from home.
- Young carers.

### Contributing Plans

- Education Local Improvement Priorities 2010-2013.
- Forth Valley Sexual Health Strategy.
- Forth Valley Framework for Mental Health and Wellbeing.
- Social Work Service Performance Plan 2008/11.

<b>Healthy</b>	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Responsibility for reporting</b>	<b>National Outcome</b>	<b>Baseline (2008/09)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
<p><b>My life before birth is healthy.</b></p> <p><b>My birth is healthy and without complications.</b></p> <p><b>As a very young child I have the care I need to keep me healthy.</b></p> <p><b>As a young child I have the care I need to keep me healthy.</b></p> <p><b>As a child I have the knowledge which will enable me to make healthy decisions for myself.</b></p> <p><b>As a young person I have the knowledge which will enable me to make healthy decisions for myself.</b></p>	Percentage of women smoking during pregnancy.	NHS Forth Valley	5	24.8% (2007)	Decrease
	Proportion of low birth weights per 1000 live singleton births – full term babies.	NHS Forth Valley	5	23.6	Reduce
	Proportion of new born babies exclusively breast fed at 6-8 weeks.	NHS Forth Valley	5	21.3%	Increase
	Primary immunisation uptake rates % completed primary course at 24 months	NHS Forth Valley		Diphtheria 98.3 Tetanus 98.3 Pertussis 98.3 Polio 98.2 Hib 98 MMR1 92.7 Men C 97	
	% children free of dental decay in P1	NHS Forth Valley	5	62.9	Increase
	% of children in P1 receiving a review who have a high BMI	NHS Forth Valley	6	16.8% (07/08)	Reduce
	School meals taken as a % of the school roll: • Primary • Secondary	Corporate and Neighborhood Services	5	59% 50%	Increase to 65% 55%
	% of eligible children who take up free school meals – registered and present: • Primary • Secondary	Corporate and Neighborhood Services	5	97% 73%	Increase to 99% 90%

<b>Healthy</b>	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Responsibility for reporting</b>	<b>National Outcome</b>	<b>Baseline (2008/09)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
<p><b>My life before birth is healthy.</b></p> <p><b>My birth is healthy and without complications.</b></p> <p><b>As a very young child I have the care I need to keep me healthy.</b></p> <p><b>As a young child I have the care I need to keep me healthy.</b></p> <p><b>As a child I have the knowledge which will enable me to make healthy decisions for myself.</b></p> <p><b>As a young person I have the knowledge which will enable me to make healthy decisions for myself.</b></p>	Number of children and young people for whom Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provide consultation to other services.	NHS Forth Valley	6	TBC	
	Number of admissions of children and young people for CAMHS to adult beds	NHS Forth Valley	6	TBC	Reduce by 50% by 2009
	Access to specialist CAMHS	NHS Forth Valley	6	TBC	Improve
	Chlamydia testing in 15-24 age group.	NHS Forth Valley	6		
	Males			66/1000 (20%)	
	Female (percentage positive in brackets)			243/1000 (12%)	
	Number and percentage of schools which are health promoting schools:	Education Services	6	100%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level 1</li> <li>• Level 2</li> <li>• Level 3</li> </ul>			20(32%) 43(78%) 0	13 (21%) 40 (63%) 10 16%)	
Using the Integrated Assessment Framework the number of young people who are identified as not having their needs met in terms of being healthy:	Localities	6			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-intervention</li> <li>• Post-intervention</li> </ul>			Not recorded Not recorded	Record Record	

## ACTIVE

It is recognised that young people who are active are more likely to achieve and be included in their community.

### Our Priorities for action are:

- Ensuring young people have appropriate access to play, sport and leisure activities.
- Ensuring young people have appropriate opportunity to access arts, culture and heritage activities.
- Increasing pupils' activity levels throughout the school day and in out-of-school hours activities.

### Principal Plan

The Physical Education, Physical Activity & School Sport.

### Priority Groups are:

- Children and young people who are looked after away from home.
- Children and young people who are looked after.
- Young carers.
- Children with a disability.
- Children and young people who live in our 15% most deprived areas.
- Children who are on/or been on the Child Protection Register.

### Contributing Plans

- Let's Make Falkirk More Active.
- Falkirk Joint Health Improvement Plan 2008.
- Education Local Improvement Priorities 2010-2013.
- Community Learning and Development Strategy
- Development Services Performance Plan 2008-2011.

<b>Active</b>	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Responsibility for reporting</b>	<b>National Outcome</b>	<b>Baseline (2008/09)</b>	<b>By 2011 we will:</b>
<p><b>As a very young child I have opportunities to socialise and play with other children and have fun.</b></p> <p><b>As a young child I am entitled to and encouraged to play and have fun independently.</b></p> <p><b>As a child I am supported by my family and community to experience a wide range of activities and achievements.</b></p> <p><b>As a young person I am supported by my family and community to experience a wide range of activities and achievements.</b></p>	Number and percentage of children walking or cycling to school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary</li> <li>• Secondary</li> </ul>	Development Services	14	63.4% 74.3% (06/07)	Increase
	Number of participant activity sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary</li> <li>• Secondary</li> </ul>	Education Services	6	54,566 (05/06) 87,406 (05/06)	
	Number of young people involved in arts, culture and heritage activities.	Education Services, Community Services	6	TBC	
	Number of schools receiving positive inspections on the quality of energetic and outdoor activities.	Education	6	TBC	
	Number of Leisure Centre Admissions for young people.	Community Services	6	399,960	Increase to 400,000
	Number of children and young people taking part in active school programmes	Education Services	6		
	Using the Integrated Assessment Framework the number of young people who are identified as not having their needs met in terms of being active: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-intervention</li> <li>• Post-intervention</li> </ul>	Localities	6	Not recorded Not recorded	Record Record

## **NURTURED**

All children and young people deserve to be loved and cared for within their family. However where this is not possible children require high quality care within an appropriate setting. This should be as often as possible within a family home within the Falkirk area. Too many of our young people are still placed outwith our local authority area. Evidence suggests that outcomes are not positive for these young people. A Best Value Review of Residential Services is due to report early in 2009.

### **Our Priorities for action are:**

Reduce the number of young people who are placed outwith the community and to ensure that there is adequate nursery provision for vulnerable children from 0-3 years. We will do this by:

- Implementing the Early Years Framework.
- Implementing our model of local delivery of children's services including specialist family support.
- Increasing our in-house provision of both residential and foster-care placements.

### **Principal Plan**

- The Social Work Service Performance Plan 2008-2011.

### **Priority Groups are:**

- Children and young people who are looked after away from home.
- Children and young people who are looked after.
- Young carers.
- Children with a disability.
- Children and young people who live in our 15% most deprived areas.
- Children who are on/or been on the Child Protection Register.

### **Contributing Plans**

- Education Services Improvement Priorities 2010-2013.
- Community Learning and Development Strategy
- Falkirk Joint Health Improvement Plan 2008.
- Corporate Parenting Strategy.

<b><i>Nurtured</i></b>	<b><u>Relevant Indicators</u></b>	<b><u>Responsibility for reporting</u></b>	<b><u>National Outcome</u></b>	<b><u>Baseline (2008/09)</u></b>	<b><u>By 2011 we will:</u></b>
<p><b>As a very young child I have positive experiences of family life.</b></p> <p><b>As a young child I have positive experiences of family life.</b></p> <p><b>As a child I have positive experiences of family life.</b></p> <p><b>As a young person I will leave home in a positive way.</b></p>	The number of young people who require services from Localities.	Localities		387	Increase
	Number of parent hours contributed towards Integrated Children's Services planning.	Localities		296	Increase
	Number of parents attending parenting classes or courses.	Education Services, Community Services		To be collected	
	Number of young people registered as homeless	Corporate and Neighbourhood Services		TBC	
	Using the Integrated Assessment Framework the number of young people who are identified as not having their needs met in terms of being nurtured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-intervention</li> <li>• Post-intervention</li> </ul>	Localities		Not recorded Not recorded	Record Record
	Provision of a suitable mix of affordable, accessible and high quality of early learning and childcare (0-4): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Pre-school education</li> <li>b) Toddler places</li> <li>c) Baby places</li> <li>d) Wraparound care</li> </ul>	Education Services	5	100% 101 24 254	100% 127 36 232
	Number of 0-2 yrs attending playgroups	SPPA		TBC	Record

## ACHIEVING

In Falkirk we are committed to improving pre-school education and implementing the Early Years Framework to ensure that opportunities are provided for those who are most disadvantaged so that all five year old children are ready for formal education. Our attainment is steadily increasing, however some aspects of our secondary schools' Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) results require further improvement. Education Services continue to tackle these important aspects through their local improvement priorities. In addition pupil attendance at schools and improving school leaver destinations need to be tackled. These require a multi-agency response to ensure improved outcomes.

### Our Priorities for action are:

- Entitlement to full time education.
- Continuing to raise attainment and achievement.
- Improving school leaver destinations.

### Principal Plan

- The Education Local Improvement Priorities 2010-2013.

### Priority Groups are:

- Children and young people who are looked after away from home.
- Children and young people who are looked after.
- Young carers.
- Children with a disability.
- Children and young people who live in our 15% most deprived areas.

### Contributing Plans

- Community Learning and Development Strategy.
- Social Work Service Performance Plan 2008–2011.

<b><i>Achieving</i></b>	<b><u>Relevant Indicators</u></b>	<b><u>Responsibility for reporting</u></b>	<b><u>National Outcome</u></b>	<b><u>Baseline (2008/09)</u></b>	<b><u>By 2011 we will:</u></b>
<p><b>As a very young child I should have opportunities for engagement with adults and be in an environment which encourages the development of language, physical and early social skills.</b></p> <p><b>As a young child I have a good quality structured learning experience at home and in other environments.</b></p> <p><b>As a child I am provided with an environment at home, school and in the community which enables me to become a confident learner, responsible citizen, effective contributor and a healthy individual.</b></p> <p><b>As a young person I have a level of skills and competencies that enables me to progress to a positive and independent adult life.</b></p>	% of children and young people in full time education.	Education Services			
	<p>The % of pupils in P3, P4, P6 and P7 attaining or exceeding the appropriate levels for their stage in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Writing</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> </ul>	Education Services	4		5 – 14 measures under review
				85%	85%
				82%	80%
			88%	85%	
	<p>Cumulative Attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded schools for S4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of the S4 roll level 3 or better in English and Mathematics</li> <li>• % of the S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 3 or better</li> <li>• % of the S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 4 or better</li> <li>• % of the S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better</li> </ul>	Education Services	4		
				94%	96%
				91%	93%
				77%	77%
				35%	36%

<b><i>Achieving</i></b>	<b><u>Relevant Indicators</u></b>	<b><u>Responsibility for reporting</u></b>	<b><u>National Outcome</u></b>	<b><u>Baseline (2008/09)</u></b>	<b><u>By 2011 we will:</u></b>
<p><b>As a very young child I should have opportunities for engagement with adults and be in an environment which encourages the development of language, physical and early social skills.</b></p> <p><b>As a young child I have a good quality structured learning experience at home and in other environments.</b></p>	<p>Cumulative Attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded schools for S5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of the original S4 roll gaining 1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better</li> <li>• % of the S4 roll gaining 3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better</li> <li>• % of the S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better</li> </ul>	Education Services	4	<p>39%</p> <p>20%</p> <p>8%</p>	<p>39%</p> <p>22%</p> <p>10%</p>
	<p>% of pupils attendance at school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary</li> <li>• Secondary</li> </ul>	Education Services	4	<p>95.6%</p> <p>91.7%</p>	<p>Increase to 96%</p> <p>Increase to 92%</p>
<p><b>As a child I am provided with an environment at home, school and in the community which enables me to become a confident learner, responsible citizen, effective contributor and a healthy individual.</b></p> <p><b>As a young person I have a level of skills and competencies that enables me to progress to a positive and independent adult life.</b></p>					

<b><i>Achieving</i></b>	<b><u>Relevant Indicators</u></b>	<b><u>Responsibility for reporting</u></b>	<b><u>National Outcome</u></b>	<b><u>Baseline (2008/09)</u></b>	<b><u>By 2011 we will:</u></b>
<b>As a very young child I should have opportunities for engagement with adults and be in an environment which encourages the development of language, physical and early social skills.</b>	The % of school leavers moving into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Education</li> <li>• Further Education</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Employment</li> </ul>	Education Services	3	31% 22% 8% 21%	28% 20% 7% 31%
	% of school leavers offered a guaranteed positive destination.	Education Services / Community Services	3	n/a	50% by 2008 75% by 2009 100% by 2010
<b>As a young child I have a good quality structured learning experience at home and in other environments</b>	The % of young people who leave school without employment, further or higher education or training.	Education Services / Community Services	4	18%	Reduce
<b>As a child I am provided with an environment at home, school and in the community which enables me to become a confident learner, responsible citizen, effective contributor and a healthy individual</b>	Number of young people gaining an accredited achievement award: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASDAN bronze</li> <li>• ASDAN COPE</li> <li>• Duke of Edinburgh Bronze</li> <li>• Duke of Edinburgh Silver</li> <li>• Duke of Edinburgh Gold</li> <li>• First stage certificate</li> <li>• Junior Sports Leader Award</li> </ul>	Education Services/ Community Services	4	TBC	Increase
<b>As a young person I have a level of skills and competencies that enables me to progress to a positive and independent adult life.</b>	Using the Integrated Assessment Framework the number of young people who are identified as not having their needs met in terms of achieving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-intervention</li> <li>• Post-intervention</li> </ul>	Localities		Not recorded Not recorded	Record Record

## RESPECTED AND RESPONSIBLE

It is understood that children and young people are individuals who should be treated with respect and have their views taken into account. Children and young people must learn appropriate skills and behaviour; have consideration for others; have a sense of right and wrong; these elements all contribute to a child and young person's sense of responsibility.

### Our Priorities for action are:

- Involving young people in community and/or locality planning.
- Ensuring that children's views are sought and considered on a case by case basis.

We will do this by:

- Continued development of Children's Rights Service.
- Continued implementation of Falkirk Youth Justice Partnership Plan.
- Establishment of a reference group for young people who are looked after.

### Principal Plan

- Education Local Improvement Priorities 2010-2013.

### Priority Groups are:

- Children and young people who are looked after away from home.
- Children and young people who are looked after.
- Young carers.
- Children with a disability.
- Children and young people who live in our 15% most deprived areas.
- Children who are on/or been on the Child Protection Register.

### Contributing Plans

- Falkirk Joint Health Improvement Plan 2008.
- Community Learning and Development Strategy.
- Social Work Service Plan 2008-2011.
- Falkirk Youth Justice Partnership Plan.

<b><i>Respected &amp; Responsible</i></b>	<b><u>Relevant Indicators</u></b>	<b><u>Responsibility for reporting</u></b>	<b><u>National Outcome</u></b>	<b><u>Baseline (2009/09)</u></b>	<b><u>By 2011 we will:</u></b>
<p><b>As a young child I have a sense of belonging and know my role in the family and be able to express my own needs and wishes.</b></p> <p><b>As a child I have the everyday care and help I need to begin to take responsibility for my own wellbeing.</b></p> <p><b>As a young person I have the skills I need to take responsibility for my own wellbeing.</b></p>	% of educational establishments achieving Eco school awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronze awards</li> <li>• Silver awards</li> <li>• Green flags</li> </ul>	Education Services	14	81% 67% 37%	Increase to: 80% 60% 30%
	Number of schools receiving positive recognition with respect to anti bullying strategies during performance reviews.	Education Services	11	TBC	Increase
	Number of parental complaints received concerning bullying.	Education Services	11	TBC	Record
	Number of young people in secondary schools involved in pupil councils.	Education Services	4	429	Increase to 450
	Number of young people accessing Children's Rights Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referrals</li> <li>• Drop in/phone enquires</li> </ul>	Social Work Services	11	29 20	Record
	Number of young people participant hours involved in children's services planning.	Localities	11	698 hrs	Increase
	% of staff interviews in Council Services which involved young people in recruitment.	Education Services / Voluntary Sector Social Care	11	TBC	Increase
	Number of young people involved in local community or locality planning.	Education Services	11	TBC	Increase
	Using the Integrated Assessment Framework the number of young people who are identified as not having their needs met in terms of being respected and responsible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-intervention</li> <li>• Post-intervention</li> </ul>	Localities	11	Not recorded Not recorded	Record Record

## **INCLUDED**

Some children and young people are excluded from participating fully in society. They can be isolated from their peer group and community through difficulty accessing services through poverty, disability, language and or culture.

### **Our Priorities for action are:**

Our priority is to reduce the number of children living in poverty.

### **Principal Plan**

- Fairer Scotland.
- Community Learning and Development Strategy 2008.
- Development Services Performance Plan 2008-2011.
- Equalities Action Plan.

### **Priority Groups are:**

- Children and young people who are looked after away from home.
- Children and young people who are looked after.
- Young carers.
- Children with a disability.
- Children and young people who live in our 15% most deprived areas.
- Children who are on/or been on the Child Protection Register.

### **Contributing Plans**

- Social Work Service Plan 2008-2011.
- Education Local Improvement Priorities 2010-2013.

<b><i>Included</i></b>	<b><u>Relevant Indicators</u></b>	<b><u>Responsibility for reporting</u></b>	<b><u>National Outcome</u></b>	<b><u>Baseline (2008/09)</u></b>	<b><u>By 2011 we will:</u></b>
<p><b>As a young child I have the opportunity to experience a range of environments and belong to my community.</b></p> <p><b>As a child i have the right to know and appreciate my family history and culture and be accepted, valued and participate in my community.</b></p> <p><b>As a young person I have the right to know and appreciate my family history and culture and be accepted, valued and participate in my community.</b></p>	Proportion of children living in households that are dependant on out of work benefits or child tax credits where more than the family element (finalised awards) number per 1000 children aged 0-16.	Corporate and Neighbourhood Services	5	166 Child tax credit 543	Monitor
	Public Access: % of schools that are fully or mostly accessible to disabled people.	Development Services	13	89%	Increase to 90%
	The proportion of children with additional support needs who are educated outwith Falkirk.	Education Services	13	TBC	
	Percentage of requests which are met for the provision of information on council services in a range of languages/mediums to meet the needs of children, young people and their families.	Falkirk Council	13	100%	Maintain
	Number of racial incidents reported in schools.	Education Services	13	46	Record and Monitor
	Using the Integrated Assessment Framework the number of young people who are identified as not having their needs met in terms of being included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-intervention</li> <li>• Post-intervention</li> </ul>	Localities			Not recorded Not recorded

## **CHAPTER 5 – IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Our most vulnerable children in Falkirk will be:**

- **Safe**
- **Healthy**
- **Active**
- **Nurtured**
- **Achieving**
- **Respected and responsible**
- **Included**

**The indicators which are being used to measure progress under each of the following headings are detailed in the following plan.**

**INDICATORS WHICH REFER SPECIFICALLY TO OUR MOST VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE.**

	<u>Relevant Indicators</u>	<u>Responsibility for reporting</u>	<u>National Outcome</u>	<u>Baseline (2008/09)</u>	<u>By 2011 we will:</u>
<b>Safe</b>	Number and % of first contacts following supervision requirements within 15 days.	Social Work Services	8	70 78%	Better than Scottish average 82.1%
<b>Healthy</b>	Proportion of children who are with BMI outwith the healthy range.	NHS Forth Valley	8	TBC	
	Proportion of children who are looked after away from home who have had a health assessment.	Social Work Services	8	TBC	
	% of children looked after away from home who access CAMHS.	Social Work Services	8	TBC	
	% of staff who are working with or caring for children who are looked after or looked after way from home who have had basic mental health training.	Social Work Services	8	TBC	
<b>Achieving</b>	% of looked after children who on leaving care achieve at least one subject at SCQF level 3 or higher.	Education Services	5	48%	Better than the Scottish Average 58.8%
	% of looked after children who on leaving care achieve both English and Maths at SCQF level 3 or higher.	Education Services	5	26%	Better than the Scottish Average 37.9%
	Number and % of children receiving respite sessions provided by the Children with Disabilities Team.	Social Work Services	8	171	Maintain
	Number of looked after young people who are temporarily excluded from school.	Education Services	8	TBC	Reduce
	% attendance at school of looked after young people.	Education Services	*	TBC	Increase

	<u>Relevant Indicators</u>	<u>Responsibility for reporting</u>	<u>National Outcome</u>	<u>Baseline (2008/09)</u>	<u>By 2011 we will:</u>
<b><i>Nurtured</i></b>	The number and proportion of children who are in community placements rather than residential care.	Social Work Services	8	84%	Better than the Scottish Average 81%
	The number of requests received for vulnerable children 0–3 years to attend nursery: • % met	Education Services	8	TBC	Increase
	The number of young people who are looked after away from home outwith the authority area.	Social Work Services	8	TBC	Decrease
<b><i>Active</i></b>	Number of young people with a disability taking part in activity sessions.	Social Work Services, Community Services	*	TBC	Increase
<b><i>Respected &amp; Responsible</i></b>	% of young people who are looked after away from home who complete a report before their review meeting.		8	TBC	Increase
	% of young people who have received an advocacy service.		8	TBC	Increase
	Number and % of persistent young offenders.	Social Work Services	8	64 10.9%	Decrease to better than the Scottish Average 8.7%



## **APPENDIX 1 – PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND CARERS/PARENTS**

### **Children and Young People**

The engagement and participation with children and young people played an intrinsic part in the planning and delivery of Children's Services in 2005-2008.

Getting It Right for Every Child will underpin all the future work within the ICSP 2009–2014. This means every child in Falkirk will continue to:

- understand what is happening and why;
- have been listened to carefully and their wishes heard and understood;
- be appropriately involved in discussion and decisions that affect them.

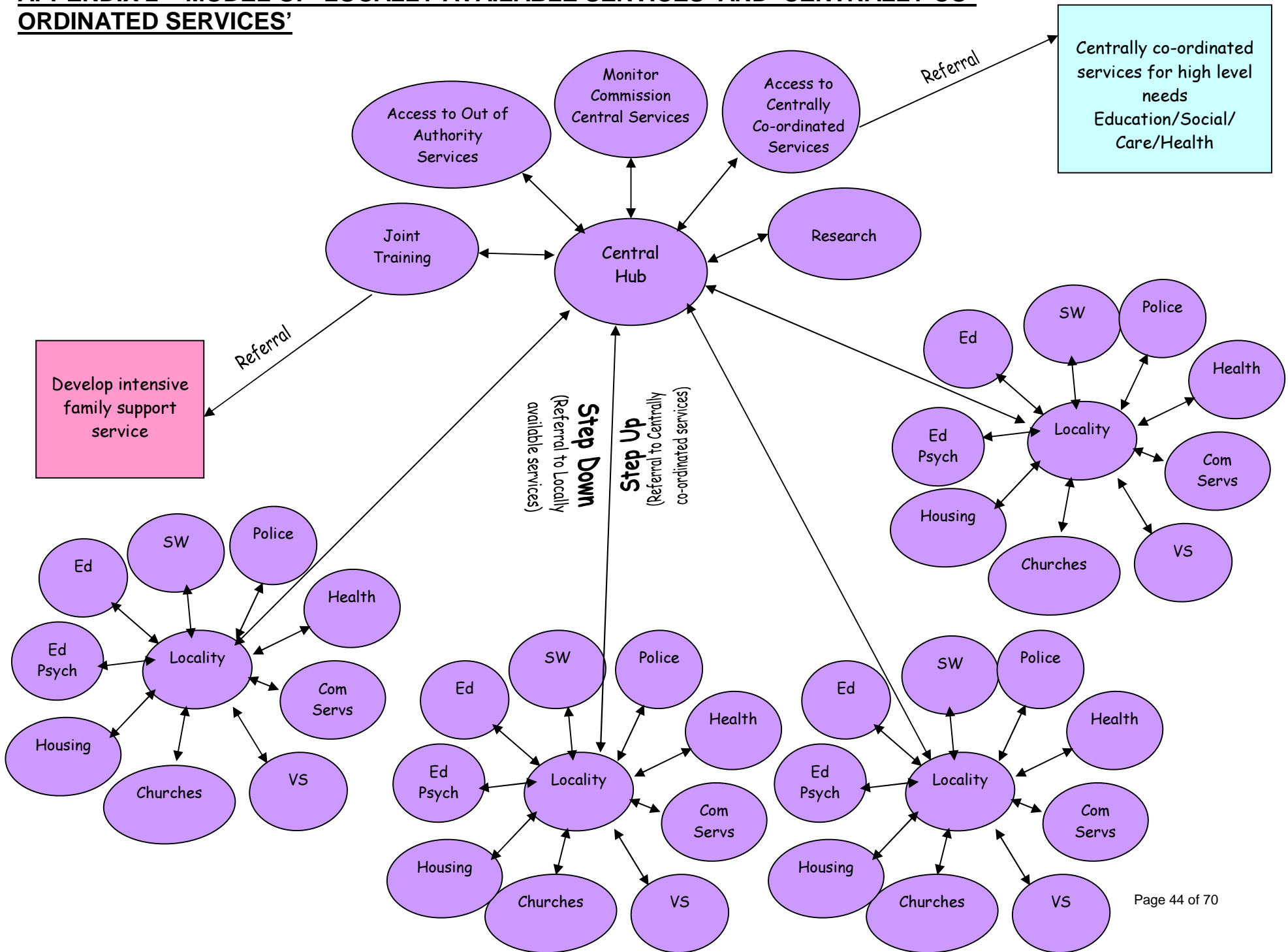
The Young People's Focus Group will continue to develop and inform the delivery of children's services. Their input to the full implementation of the Integrated Assessment Framework will be critical in establishing if children, young people and their families receive the right help at the right time.

### **Parents/Carers**

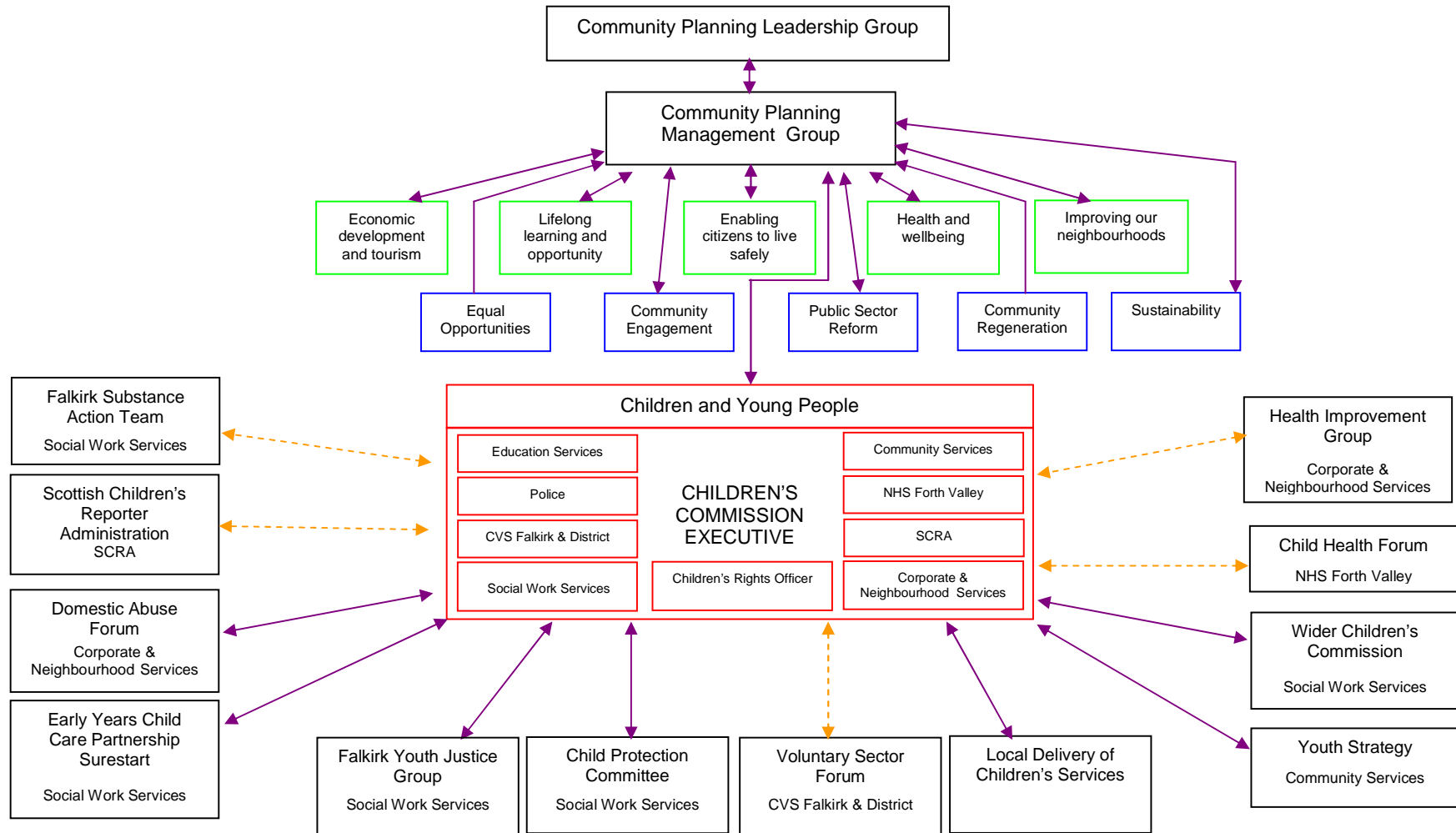
The Parents' Reference Group will continue to comment and influence the delivery of integrated children's services. They will play a key role in the monitoring and evaluation process of both Locality pilots and subsequent roll-out. They will also inform the full implementation of the Integrated Assessment Framework, in terms of improved outcomes for children, young people and their families.

This approach to involving parents and carers as well as young people in the planning of children's services was recognised in November 2007, when Falkirk Council's Children's Commission were named 'runners up' in the National Guardian Public Service Awards, under the category of Innovative Partnership Working.

**APPENDIX 2 – MODEL OF ‘LOCALLY AVAILABLE SERVICES’ AND ‘CENTRALLY CO-ORDINATED SERVICES’**



# APPENDIX 3 - FALKIRK CHILDREN'S COMMISSION



## **ROLE AND REMIT**

The role and remit of Falkirk's Children's Commission is currently being reviewed to reflect the focus on outcomes and early intervention as well as the implementation of the model for delivery of services to children and families. The Commission is also developing a framework in order that it can be responsible for the joint commissioning of services. Part of this review will also involve an examination of the remit and membership of sub-groups of the Commission.

Currently Falkirk Children's Commission is a multi-agency strategic group responsible for the:

- Development and implementation of the Children's Services Plan, including regular monitoring of the plan and reporting progress to the Community Planning Partnership;
- Proactive examination of services for children and young people across agencies, in consultation with young people and their families, for opportunities to enhance services by greater integration/collaboration in order to meet need;
- Monitoring of services for vulnerable children and young people (including child protection) – ensuring standards are met and that regular reports are made to the Chief Executives of Council, Health, Police and the Community Planning Partnership;
- Co-ordinated consultation on the responses to national documents and those arising from individual agencies;
- Provision of an informed resource from which individual agencies can get a co-ordinated perspective on services/issues relating to children and young people;
- Monitoring of policies and expenditure across NHS Forth Valley, Falkirk Council, Voluntary and Private agencies and commenting, as necessary, on any relationship to children and young people. Specifically to recommend expenditure proposals for any earmarked "partnership monies" that relate to children and young people.

## **MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION**

The Commission will have a wide and inclusive membership, with a smaller Executive Group that takes forward the detailed business.

### **Executive Group:**

Falkirk Council Education Services – Schools  
Falkirk Council Education Services – Early Years  
Falkirk Council Community Services – Community Education  
Falkirk Council Corporate and Neighbourhood Services  
Falkirk Council Child Protection Committee  
Falkirk Council Social Work Services – Children and Families  
Voluntary Sector Representative  
Central Scotland Police Representative  
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration  
NHS Forth Valley Health, Child Health Commissioner  
NHS Forth Valley Falkirk, Community Health Partnerships Representative  
Children's Services Integration Manager, Falkirk Council Social Work Services  
Integration Support Manager, Falkirk Council Education Services  
Quarriers Children's Rights Service

### **Commission Membership:**

The Executive Group plus:

Headteachers, Education Services  
Young People x 12  
NHS Forth Valley – Allied Health Professionals  
NHS Forth Valley – Acute Paediatric Service  
Race Equality Council  
Central Scotland Police  
Voluntary Organisations x 5

Falkirk Council Corporate and Neighbourhood Services  
Falkirk Council Community Services  
Falkirk Council Education Services  
Scottish Independent Nurseries Association  
Chairpersons of the Children's Panel  
Parent Representative x 3  
Children's Services Team  
Domestic Abuse Forum  
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration  
Locality Staff  
Consultant  
Domestic Abuse Pathfinder Pilot  
Careers Scotland

## **APPENDIX 4 - PROFILE OF FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA**

Falkirk Council is strategically located in the centre of Scotland, midway between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Because of its location, there are excellent transport links across the country. It covers a compact area of some 259 square kilometres (100 square miles) on the south side of the River Forth.

The main town is Falkirk, but the area also contains the former Burghs of Grangemouth, Bo'ness and Denny and Dunipace as well as several other towns of some size such as Larbert, Stenhousemuir, Bonnybridge and the towns and villages of the Braes, centred on Polmont.

Falkirk provides the focus of the area as a major shopping centre, as well as having the main hospital, further education college, Falkirk Council and the Authority Reporter's headquarters, and a purpose built Police headquarters for the Falkirk Division of Central Scotland Police. Grangemouth is Scotland's main port. Over the last few years Falkirk has become a major tourist attraction with the world's first and only rotating boat lift, the simply unique Falkirk Wheel.

The Falkirk Council area had an estimated population of 151,570 in 2008. This is an increase of over 850 compared with 2007. The population is expected to continue to grow over the next few years. In terms of population, Falkirk is the eleventh largest council in Scotland.

The age structure of the Falkirk Council area's population is close to the Scottish average although there are slightly more children and young people under 15 than average.

### **2008 Population Age Structure**

Age Group	Falkirk		Scotland
	No.	%	No.
0-4	8,994	5.9%	5.5%
5-9	8,373	5.5%	5.2%
10-15	10,857	7.2%	7.0%
16-19	7,713	5.1%	5.1%
20-24	8,690	5.7%	6.9%

Source: General Register Office for Scotland, mid year estimates of population 2008, Crown Copyright

Falkirk Council area has fewer people in managerial and professional occupations (24.2%) compared to 26.8% in the rest of Scotland for the period June 2008 to July 2009.

The residents of Falkirk generally have lower qualifications than the rest of Scotland with only 14% having a degree or a professional qualification compared to 19% in the rest of Scotland.

Only 18,400 households in the Council area had children and young people living in them in the 2001 Census. This is just under 30% of the total, slightly above the Scottish proportion. Of these, 4,350 were single parent households – 24% of all households with children and young people.

The area has a small ethnic minority population. The 2001 Census counted 1,491 people from an ethnic minority background – 1% of the population. This compares with 2% of the total Scottish population. It does however show a considerable increase compared with the 1991 Census figures. The main groups are Pakistanis who make up half the number followed by those from a mixed background and Chinese. There are no particular geographic concentrations of ethnic minority population.

32% of the ethnic minority population were aged under 16 (475 people) compared to 20% of the population as a whole.

## **HEALTH**

In 2005-2007 the rate of teenage pregnancies (ie those aged under 16) in Falkirk was 9.6 per 1000 population; this is higher than the Scottish average rate of 7.8. There were 81 teenage pregnancies during this period. The number of low birth weight babies is 2.5%, the same as the Scottish average. Smoking during pregnancy is slightly higher than the national average of 24.3% compared to 24.8% for Falkirk. Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks is over 7% lower than the Scottish average.

300 pre-school children were overweight in 2001, which is just above the Scottish average. Figures for 2007/2008 indicate that 16.8% of primary 1 school children in Falkirk are overweight (this includes obese and severely obese) this is lower than the Scottish rate of 20.0%.

Uptake of immunisations, including MMR, is around the national average.

Over the last year 52 young people (aged 12 to 18) were referred to the Youth Justice Referral Group where substance misuse was identified as a problem.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND ATTAINMENT**

### **ACHIEVEMENT AND ATTAINMENT**

Average attainment for 5-14 reading, writing and mathematics in Falkirk Council primary schools have been increasing steadily over the last few years with 85% of P3,P4, P6 and P7 children achieving or exceeding the relevant level in reading, 82% in writing and 88% in mathematics.

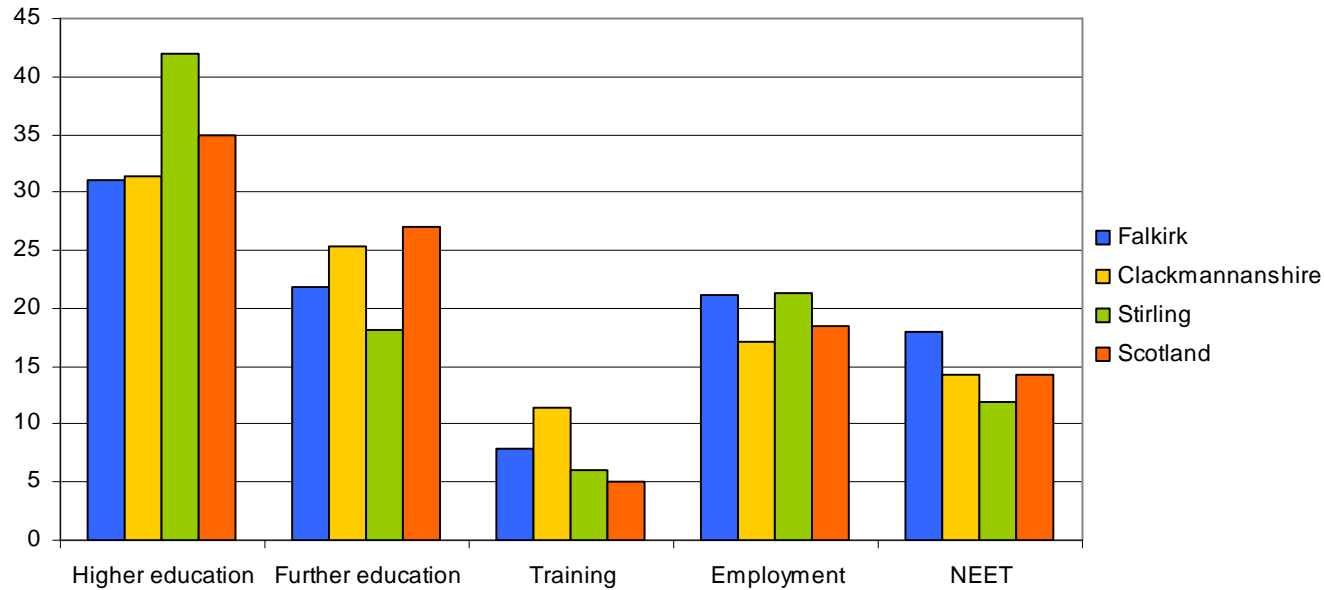
#### **Percentage of pupils attaining relevant level**

	2007	2008	2009
Reading	85	85	85
Writing	81	81	82
Mathematics	88	87	88

Source: Falkirk Council Education Services

In Falkirk Council secondary schools, the percentage of pupils attaining SQA certificates has been steadily increasing. In 2009, 92% of S4 pupils attending schools in Falkirk achieved 5 or more Standard Grades, which was higher than the Scottish average of 91%, with 21% of S5 pupils attaining 3 or more Highers in Falkirk, whilst the Scottish average was 23%.

**School Leaver Destinations 2008/09**



Source: Scottish Government Statistical Publication

2008/09 sees the third consecutive rise in the percentage of Falkirk school leavers entering full time higher education and is now only 2% lower than the average of our comparator authorities. The percentage of school leavers entering full time further education is now 6% higher than it was 2 years ago. The percentage of school leavers entering training is 3% higher than both the national average and the average of our comparator authorities.

The 2008/09 figures are the first to show the effects of the current recession 21% of Falkirk school leavers went straight into employment, a drop of 7% from last year and 12% lower than it was 2 years ago. 18% of Falkirk school leavers did not enter a 'positive' destination, a 5% increase on last year's figure. This is now at a level similar to 3 years ago.

## Youth unemployment (aged 18-24) January 2010

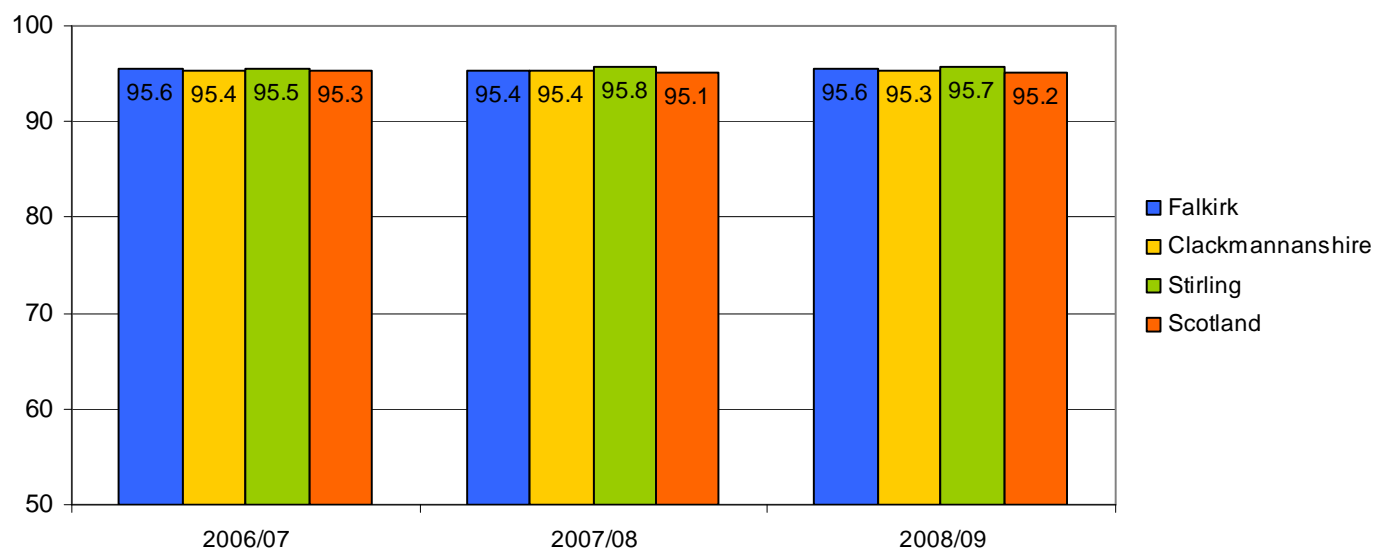
	Falkirk		Scotland
	No	%	%
Males	885	13.8%	11.3%
Females	350	5.8%	5.3%
Total	1,235	10.0%	8.3%

Source: NOMIS, Crown Copyright

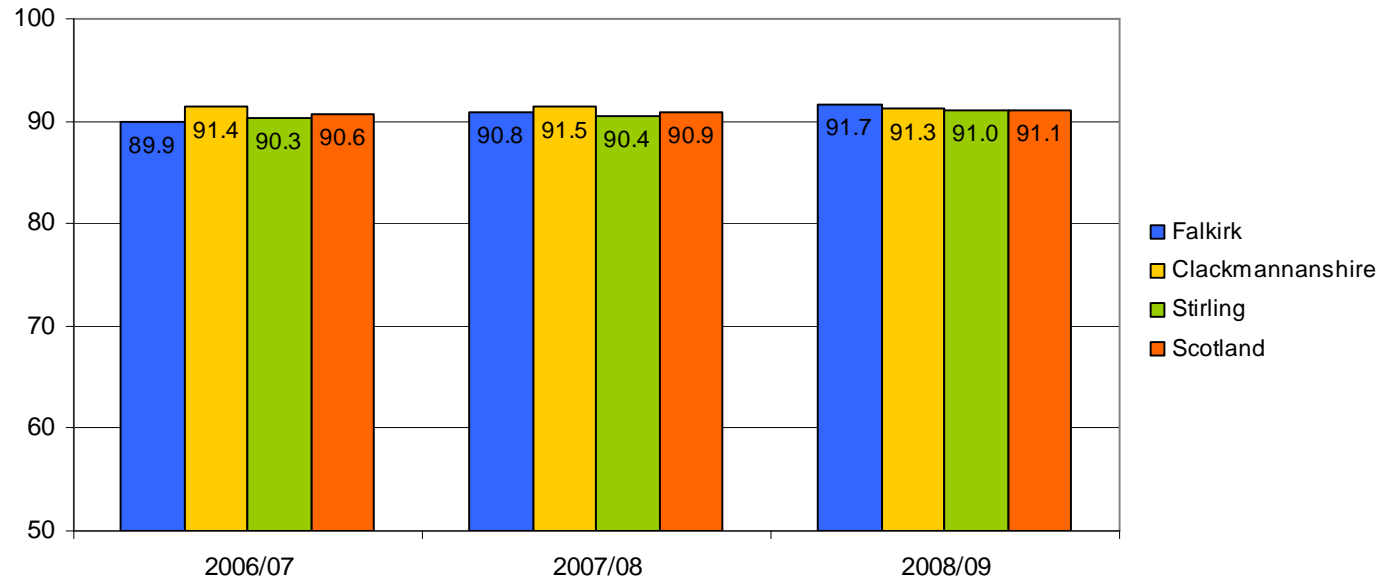
## PUPIL ATTENDANCE

The level of pupil attendance in Falkirk Council schools is shown below alongside figures for Forth Valley authorities and the national average.

### Primary Pupil Attendance Rates (%)



### Secondary Pupil Attendance Rates (%)

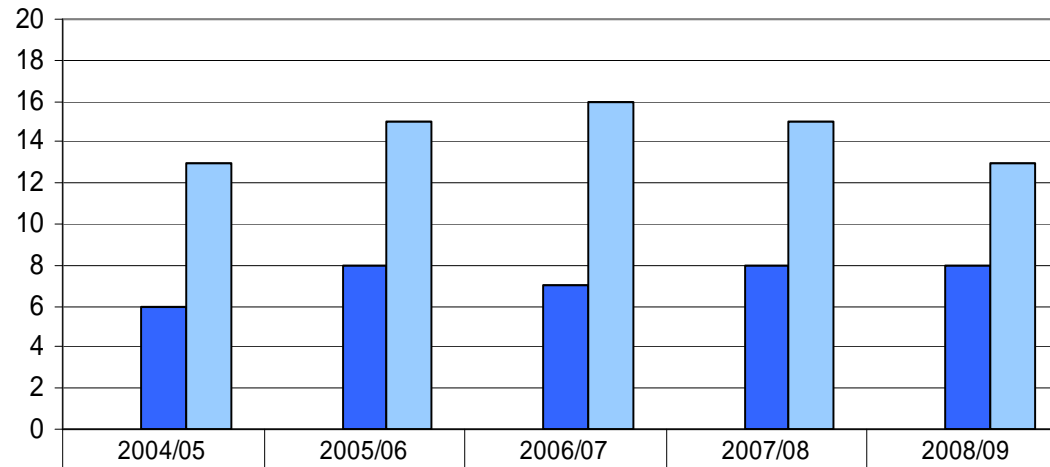


Source: Scottish Government Statistical Publication

In 2008/09, the attendance rate of pupils in Falkirk Council primary schools was 95.6%. This was an increase of 0.2% from the previous session and equaled the level of 2006/07 (our highest ever). The attendance rate pupils in Falkirk Council secondary schools was 91.7%. This was the highest level yet and was higher than the national average for the first time (by 0.6%).

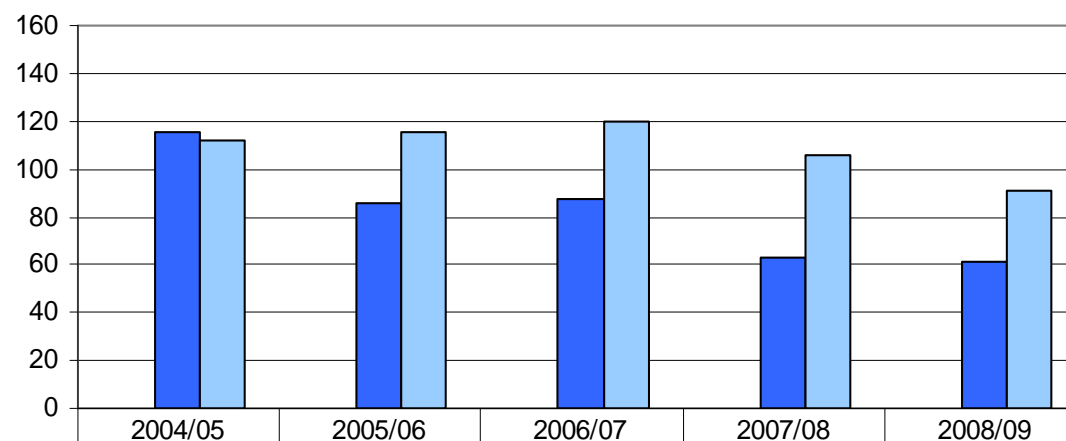
## EXCLUSIONS

### Temporary Exclusions - Primary Sector



Number of exclusions	75	90	85	97	90
■ Exclusions per 1,000 pupils (Falkirk)	6	8	7	8	8
■ Exclusions per 1,000 pupils (Scotland)	13	15	16	15	13

## Temporary Exclusions -Secondary Sector



	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Number of exclusions	1,049	785	801	576	547
■ Exclusions per 1,000 pupils (Falkirk)	115	86	87	63	61
□ Exclusions per 1,000 pupils (Scotland)	112	115	120	106	91

Source: Scottish Government Statistical Publication

In 2008/09 the number of temporary exclusions reduced by 7% in Falkirk Council primary schools and was 38% lower than the national average. In Falkirk Council secondary schools the number of temporary exclusion reduced by 5% since last year and was 33% lower than the national average.

## **DEPRIVATION**

Through the Single Outcome Agreement and the targeting of the Fairer Scotland Fund, Falkirk Council and its partners are seeking to tackle individual and area based poverty, addressing the causes and the symptoms.

While the Falkirk Council area does not suffer from the levels of deprivation to be found in the cities, there are some parts of the area which do exhibit multiple issues. These areas generally have high levels of people on working age benefits, low household income, lower levels of education attainment, poorer health and higher crime rates than the rest of the community. The areas which are of particular focus are identified within the worst 15% nationally in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2006 and 2009 and together, make up 10.2% of the Falkirk Council area's population. These areas include parts of:

- Bo'ness
- Camelon
- Dawson
- Denny
- Grangemouth
- Hallglen
- High Flats (Callendar Park)
- Maddiston
- Stenhousemuir
- Thornhill Road & Westfield
- Westquarter

For information and more detailed area profiles, can be obtained at [www.falkirk.gov.uk/regeneration](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/regeneration).

## **VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

While it is impossible to be sure just how many vulnerable children and young people there are in the Falkirk Council area, certain children and young people are already known to the Council through its services:

- There were 86 children and young people on the Child Protection Register in March 2008. This is a 6% increase from 2007. The largest group of these was suffering from neglect.
- The rate per 1,000 children on the Register is 3.1 children under 16 years of age. This is slightly above the national average of 2.7 children per 1,000.

The breakdown of looked after children by accommodation type as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 is:

<b>Accommodation Type</b>	<b>No. of Children</b>	<b>Falkirk %</b>	<b>Scotland %</b>
At home with parents	218	45.4%	45.6%
With friends/relatives	69	14.4%	17.2%
With foster carers	124	25.8%	25.7%
Residential care	69	14.4%	11.6%
Total	480		

- 27 (100%) young people, formerly accommodated are receiving aftercare support;
- There are 210 children and young people attending special day schools in the Falkirk Council area;
- There were 3,434 referrals made to the Children's Reporter in Falkirk for the period 2007/2008. This represents 11% of the population under 16 years old. Of these 2,036 referrals were on non-offence grounds. 1,398 children and young people were referred on offence grounds. This represents 9% of the population between 8 and 16 years.
- 43 young people were classified as persistent young offenders in 2006/2007;
- 1,305 Children's Hearings were held between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. This is an increase of 15% from 2006/2007 period;
- In 2006/2007 13 out of 27 (48%) care leavers in Falkirk obtained at least one qualification at SCQF level 3 or above. This is similar to the Scottish average. Only 34% of care leavers were in employment, education or training compared to the Scottish average of 38%.

Other groups of children and young people may be vulnerable through their family circumstances, poverty, unemployment or benefits dependency:

- Almost 1,400 children and young people aged 0-15 were recorded in the 2001 Census as having a limiting long-term illness or disability – 4.9% of the total;
- 326 children and young people under 16 were carers, almost the same proportion as nationally;
- In August 2009, 4,980 children and young people (16.5%) in the Falkirk Council area lived in households dependent on benefits – mainly Income Support;
- 2,570 of these were living in single parent households;
- 4,070 children and young people lived in overcrowded households at the time of the last Census, although at 14.3% this was considerably below the Scottish average of 17.8%.
- In 2006/2007 there were 484 Child Protection investigations which represent a decrease of 0.4% on the previous year.

## **APPENDIX 5 - THE POLICY CONTEXT**

### **NATIONAL/LOCAL POLICIES**

Key policy documents both at a national and local level have direct application to the development and implementation of the Integrated Children's Services Plan.

#### **National**

In recent years both the Scottish Executive and Scottish Government have established a significant number of new policy initiatives. Many of these aim to improve the health and quality of life of the more vulnerable members of our communities. However, Social Justice underpins the whole range of the Scottish Government's policies. All policies are designed to support their core beliefs that people should be supported in building strong, safe communities to live and work in and that inequality and discrimination should have no place in Scottish society.

"For Scotland's Children" (October 2001) paved the way towards services/agencies working more closely together to provide integrated services. In order to achieve improved services, it is clear that closer partnership working, both within and across agencies is required and establishing and maintaining good working relationships across the Council, NHS Forth Valley, Central Scotland Police, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the Voluntary Sector remains an ongoing priority for all partners.

#### **Local**

In this context there is a continuing need to cope with the challenge of balancing the national priorities set by the Scottish Government against local priorities which reflect particular needs and aspirations of local people. There is also a continuing need to review how we provide services to identify both overlaps and gaps in service provision and to establish improved operating protocols and procedures within the wider policy framework.

There have been a variety of local reviews and resulting action plans which have impacted and continue to impact on the local planning process.

- The structure and membership of the Children's Commission has been reviewed and revised to include young people and parents as members. The Children's Commission will be responsible for ensuring that strategic and

operational arrangements are in place for monitoring the implementation of the locality model and for evaluating outcomes for children and young people across children's services.

- The Children's Commission will agree eligibility criteria/thresholds for access to targeted service provision.
- The Children's Commission has become a cross cutting theme group within the Community Planning structure.
- Work is ongoing at a Forth Valley level to establish an information sharing protocol and to develop a local approach to implementing the National Framework for Assessment.
- In relation to the Child Protection Reform agenda we have developed a Falkirk Child Protection Strategy. One element of this is a corporate Child Protection Training Officer.
- Partners are working to develop the childcare workforce in relation to the implications from Hall 4 and the implementation of the Early Years Framework.
- The local Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy reflects a multi-agency approach to addressing the four key themes of Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement and Rehabilitation, with the agreed principle that children and young people should remain within the Children's Hearing system wherever possible.
- Falkirk's Youth Justice Strategy group ensures progress towards meeting the Scottish National Youth Justice Standards. The group commissions an annual review report. The group has also developed a Communication Strategy and maintains close links with the Forth Valley Youth Justice Strategy group.
- The multi-agency Falkirk Youth Justice Referral group provides a single point of access for all Youth Justice and substance referrals for 12-18 year olds within the Falkirk Council area. This group ensures that young people are assessed and then located in the most appropriate service to meet their needs.
- Agencies within the Falkirk Council area contribute to the Forth Valley Criminal Justice Strategic Management Group, addressing issues involving public safety, management of high risk offenders, reduction of reoffending and fear of crime, as well as aspects of effective practice.
- A Domestic Abuse Training Strategy has been developed for the Falkirk Council area based on both the National and Forth Valley strategies. This will cascade down to all core services to ensure staff have a greater awareness of domestic abuse issues which affect children, young people and their families.

- The Youth Learning Team is leading the Council's Young People's Strategy and the Young People's Learning Plan. The staff work closely with young people in encouraging them to become active citizens and in support of local youth forums.
- The Falkirk Council area has a ten year action plan (My Future's in Falkirk) supported by Falkirk Council, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley and Innovene. This positions the Falkirk Council area as an attractive area to live, work and invest in, therefore a place where people can be confident about their future. Falkirk Community Stadium has been constructed as a part of this massive initiative and reflects our commitment to contribute to building a healthier Scotland.
- Learning to Achieve is a flagship document which details the vision of Education Services in Falkirk Council. The Council is committed to seeking to provide learning experiences which enable all young people to achieve their potential and participate in the development of a fair and caring society. The document makes the links to national and local policies and identifies the challenges which have to be overcome to meet the vision. It examines attainment within the wider context of achievement and acknowledges that raising achievement in schools is complex and that to succeed it will require a consistent and concerted effort by all partners. The document is currently being revised to take account of Curriculum for Excellence and its implementation in Falkirk.
- Feel Good Falkirk has been adopted by Falkirk Council and partners as the overarching theme to promote and develop health improvement actions and opportunities. The vision is that Feel Good Falkirk will gather momentum over time and will eventually become an easily identified brand under which work around health improvement will sit.
- Central Scotland Police have developed a local action plan to progress the ACPOS Youth Strategy, with the three main aims of:
  - promoting the safety of young people;
  - tackling persistent offending;
  - promoting the effectiveness of the Police Service.
- In all that we are doing, we are mindful of aligning development of the locality model alongside Community Health Partnerships to promote closer working, which it is anticipated will result in improved service delivery.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Partner agencies all operate within the context of a legal framework. There is a wide range of legislation which impacts on all agencies but there are particular Acts which have specific implications for certain agencies. They are as follows:

- For Education Services the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 is of particular significance, as are the National Priorities for Education.
- For Children and Families Social Work Services, the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 provides the operational legislative framework.
- Improving Health in Scotland – The Challenge clearly sets out the NHS priorities whilst the NHS Reform Scotland Act 2004 introduced Community Health Partnerships.
- Both the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act, 1937 and the more recent Children (Scotland) Act 1995 outline the Police priorities in relation to child welfare.
- The Children's Hearing System is the judicial system for children and young people in Scotland. It is a unique system, which upholds the welfare and rights of children and young people, while addressing their behaviour.

At its centre are Children's Reporters located in each local authority area. Children's Reporters are officers of the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration. The Children's Reporter is independent from all other agencies involved in the Children's Hearing System.

Children and young people are referred to the Reporter from a number of sources for a variety of reasons. The Reporter investigates each referral to decide if compulsory measures of intervention are needed. If necessary, the child/young person is referred to a Children's Hearing.

A Children's Hearing is a legal tribunal. Each Hearing comprises of three Panel Members, who are all trained volunteers from the local community.

The Children's Hearing System has wide and far-ranging powers available to it, designed to ensure that the best interests of the child/young person are met.

- The Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act (2005) is having significant implications for work with all people involved in offending. In circumstances where young people cannot be remitted back to the Children's Hearing system for advice and disposal, other options may be available as an alternative to custody. These include:
  - Diversion from prosecution;
  - Probation;
  - Community Service;
  - Supervised Attendance Order.

Following evaluation of the Youth Court pilot, it may be that this option is rolled out across Scotland. Young people will be worked with in a manner which reflects their age and vulnerability.

- The Child Protection Reform programme, including the Children's Charter and the Framework for Standards for Child Protection impacts on all agencies.
- Most partner agencies will work with children and young people up to age 18 although Social Work Services in particular has a requirement to support care leavers up to age 24.

### **National**

- A Curriculum for Excellence: The Curriculum Review Group;
- A Scottish Framework for Nursing in Schools (March 2003);
- Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004;
- Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007;
- Ambitious, Excellent Schools – Our Agenda for Action;
- Anti-Social Behaviour Act Scotland (2004);
- Assessment is for Learning;
- Better Behaviour, Better Learning;
- Better Health, Better Care;
- Building our Future: Scotland's School Estate;
- Child Protection Reform Programme;
- Children (Scotland) Act 1995;
- Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937;
- Children's Hearing (Scotland) Rules (1996);

- Closing the Opportunity Gap;
- Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003;
- Determined to Succeed;
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995;
- Education (Disability Strategies and Pupils' Education Records) (Scotland) Act 2002;
- Equally Well;
- For Scotland's Children: Better Integrated Children's Services (2001);
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families – Department of Health, Department of Education and Employment and Home Office (2000);
- Happy, Safe and Achieving their Potential: A Standard of Support for Children and Young People in Scottish Schools;
- Health Improvement Performance Management Framework;
- HEAT Targets;
- Hidden Harm – Scottish Executive Response (2004);
- Hidden Harm: Responding to the needs of children of problem drug users – Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, Home Office (2003);
- Improving Health in Scotland – The Challenge;
- In partnership, challenging Domestic Abuse: Joint Protocol between Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Services;
- "It's Everyone's Job To Make Sure I'm Alright"– report of the Child Protection Audit and Review;
- Learning with Care;
- Life Through Learning Through Life: The Lifelong Strategy for Scotland;
- Modernising Government Agenda;
- National Childcare Strategy;
- National Framework for Prevention, Promotion and Care;
- National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland, Scottish partnership on Domestic Abuse (Nov 2000);
- National Priorities for Education;
- NHS Reform (Scotland) Act 2004;
- Nicholson Report;
- Partnership for Care: Scotland's Health White Paper;
- Plan for Action on Alcohol Problems (2002);
- Protecting Children – A Shared Responsibility – Guidance for Health Professionals in Scotland (2000);
- Protecting Children and Young People: Framework for Standards (2004);
- Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003;
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007
- Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000;
- Race Relations (Amendment) Bill 2005;

- Raising the Issue of Domestic Abuse in School Children (South Ayrshire study) (2004);
- Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001;
- Scottish Executive's Social Justice Targets;
- Scottish Government's National Priorities;
- Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000;
- Targeting Health Visiting and School Nursing Service – Hall 4 (April 2005);
- The Alcohol Problems Treatment and Support Services Framework (2002);
- The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004;
- The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003;
- The National Debate on Education;
- UN Convention of the Rights of the Child;
- Working with Children and Families Affected by Substance Misuse (Getting our Priorities Right – Good Practice Guidance for Working with Children Affected by Substance Misuse) (Feb 2003);
- Youth Crime Review;
- Youth Justice National Standards (2002);
- Youth Justice Strategy.

### **Local**

- Inclusive Education
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy;
- Child Protection Strategy;
- CHP Development Plan;
- Community Planning Process;
- Domestic Abuse Strategy;
- Forth Valley Information Sharing Protocol;
- HMIE Inspection;
- Joint Health Improvement Plan;
- Learning to Achieve;
- Review of Children's Commission;
- Review of Community Plan;
- Review of Integrated Learning Communities;
- Single Outcome Agreement;
- Youth Strategy.

## **APPENDIX 6 - MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Partner Organisations**

- Aberlour Trust
- Barnardo's Scotland
- Capability Scotland
- Careers Scotland
- Central Scotland Child Protection Strategy Group
- Central Scotland Police
- Child Health Forum
- Children 1<sup>st</sup>
- Children in Scotland
- Falkirk Child Protection Committee
- Falkirk Childcare Partnership
- Forth Valley Substance Action Team
- Homestart
- Integrated Planning Group for Child Health
- Jobcentre Plus
- NCH
- NHS Forth Valley
- One Parent Families Scotland
- Princess Royal Trust (Young Carers)
- Scottish Childminding Association
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley
- Scottish Pre-School Play Association
- Women's Aid

## **Definitions of Child/Young Person in Need**

Child or young person:

- with disability or affected by disability;
- who has a care responsibility;
- affected by HIV/Aids;
- suffering from, or affected by, chronic illnesses and life threatening condition;
- living in poverty;
- living in families with complex or multiple problems including drugs, alcohol, domestic abuse, and mental illness;
- who misuses substances/alcohol;
- on Child Protection Register, or in need of protection;
- from traveling communities;
- from asylum and refugee families;
- who is looked after or looked after and accommodated away from home;
- who is leaving or has left care;
- who is homeless or at risk of homelessness or who lives in poor quality housing;
- who has been adopted (or is in the adoption process);
- who has emotional, behavioural or mental health problems;
- who is in conflict with the law because of offending.

## Scottish Ministers' Vision for Children and Young People in Scotland

Scottish ministers want all children and young people to be:

- **Safe** – Children and young people should be protected from abuse, neglect and harm by others at home, at school and in the community;
- **Nurtured** – Children and young people should live within a supportive family setting, with additional assistance if required, or, where this is not possible, within another caring setting, ensuring a positive and rewarding childhood experience;
- **Healthy** – Children and young people should enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, with access to suitable health care and support for safe and healthy lifestyle choices;
- **Achieving** – Children and young people should have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self-esteem to the fullest potential;
- **Active** – Children and young people should be active with opportunities and encouragement to participate in play and recreation, including sport;
- **Respected and responsible** – Children, young people and their carers should be involved in decisions that affect them, should have their voices heard and should be encouraged to play an active and responsible role in their communities;
- **Included** – Children, young people and their carers should have access to high quality services, when required, and should be assisted to overcome the social, educational, physical, environmental and economic barriers that create inequalities.

To ensure this the children and young people need to be confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.

