

Social Work offices

Please contact your local Social Work office if you need advice or assistance. The offices are open **Monday to Friday 9.00am-5.00pm**.

Please note that sending e-mails is not secure as there is a risk that they could be intercepted and read by someone else. Please bear this in mind when sending personal information by e-mail.

Social Work Headquarters

Brockville
Hope Street
Falkirk
FK1 5RW
T: 01324 506400

Hospital Social Work team (for facilitating hospital discharge)

Falkirk Royal Infirmary
Social Work Unit (Hut 5)
Majors Loan
Falkirk FK1 5QE
T: 01324 616039

Grahamston Office

155 Grahams Road
Falkirk
FK2 7BQ
T: 01324 506595
E: grahamston.swk@falkirk.gov.uk

Meadowbank Office (Community Care Service only)

1 Salmon Inn Road
Polmont
FK2 0XF
T: 01324 503883
E: meadowbank.swk@falkirk.gov.uk

Laurieston Office (Children & Families Service only)

1 James Street
Laurieston
FK2 9PZ
T: 01324 590300
E: laurieston.swk@falkirk.gov.uk

Denny Office

Carronbank House
Carronbank Crescent
Denny FK6 6GA
T: 01324 504160
E: denny.swk@falkirk.gov.uk

Grangemouth Office

Oxgang Road
Grangemouth
FK3 9EF
T: 01324 504343
E: grangemouth.swk@falkirk.gov.uk

Stenhousemuir Office

130 King Street
Stenhousemuir
FK5 4HS
T: 01324 503503
E: larbert.swk@falkirk.gov.uk

Bo'ness Office

Kinglass Centre
Gauze Road
Bo'ness EH51 9UE
T: 01506 778668
E: boness.swk@falkirk.gov.uk

Camelon Office

108b Glasgow Road
Camelon
FK1 4HS
T: 01324 501200
E: camelon.swk@falkirk.gov.uk

Emergency Duty Team If you need an urgent Social Work Service outwith normal working hours, please phone **01786 470500**.

If you would like this information in another language, Braille, LARGE PRINT or audio, please contact your local Social Work office.

Polish

Jeżeli chciałbyś/chciałybyś uzyskać owe informacje w języku innym niżeli język angielski, w języku Braille'a, w DUŻYM FORMACIE lub zapisane na kasetach audio skontaktuj się z lokalnym biurem Opieki Społecznej (social work office).

Lithuanian

Jeigu jūs norėtumėte gauti šią informaciją kita kalba, Brailio šriftu, stambiu šriftu ar įgarsintą, prašome susisiekti su jūsų vietiniu socialines rūpybos ofisu.

Arabic

إذا كنت بحاجة الى هذه المعلومات بلغة اخرى, بريل, حروف كبيرة او مسجلة صوتيا نرجوا منك الاتصال بمكتب الخدمات الاجتماعية المحلي.

Urdu

اگر آپ یہ معلومات دوسری زبان، بریل، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی یا آڈیو میں چاہتے ہیں تو براہ مہربانی اپنے لوکل سوشل ورک آفس سے رابطہ کریں۔

Chinese

如果你希望獲得此份資料的其他語言、凸字、大號字印刷或者錄音格式，請與你附近的社會工作辦公室聯絡。

Punjabi

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਜ਼ਬਾਨ, ਬਰੇਲ, ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਜਾਂ ਆਡੀਓ ਤੇ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਡਿਊਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਸੋਸ਼ਲ ਵਰਕ ਆਫਿਸ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ

children looked after away from home

social work ... putting people first

SWCF02

May 08

www.falkirk.gov.uk

 Falkirk Council

 Falkirk Council

Falkirk Council has a legal duty, under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people wherever possible in their own home and community. However, there may be times when a child's needs are best met by being cared for outwith the family home. Sometimes families ask us to provide care and accommodation for their child when they are unable to manage to do so themselves. In other circumstances, the Children's Panel and the Sheriff Court can make legal orders that require us to 'look after and accommodate' children and young people.

what does 'looked after and accommodated' mean?

Families sometimes experience difficulties which result in them not being able to meet all of their child's needs for a time. We will therefore provide support to the child and their family to help look after them. If it has been agreed that it's in the child's best interests to be looked after away from home until the problems are dealt with then Social Work Services will be involved in making arrangements to 'look after and accommodate' the child. This could mean staying with a family (such as foster carer), a relative, or living in a residential unit or school.

do parents still have rights and responsibilities?

Yes, the child's parents will continue to have legal rights and responsibilities towards them whilst being looked after and accommodated. One of these responsibilities is to keep in regular contact with them, and we will help with this wherever possible. Contact with the child will only be limited or prevented if it is felt to be in their best interests. We will inform the parents if this happens, and will provide information on how to appeal against the decision.

what happens next?

Shortly after the child is accommodated, a meeting will be arranged to discuss why they have been accommodated, and a care plan will be drawn up to make sure that their best interests are being promoted.

Social Work Services will then hold review meetings at regular intervals whilst the child is being looked after and accommodated.

what is a review meeting?

There is a legal requirement to review the care plan for every child who is looked after and accommodated. These review meetings are held to make sure the plan remains focused, that everyone concerned is doing what has been agreed and that the plan continues to be appropriate for the child.

who will attend these meetings?

Everyone who has a key part to play in making the plan will be invited to attend. This includes the child, anyone who has parental rights and responsibilities, and the person currently looking after the child. A representative from the child's school or nursery, a health practitioner and any other agency involved with the child or the family are also usually invited to attend.

what will be discussed?

The discussion will usually cover areas such as the child's progress in the foster care/residential placement, education, health, contact with significant people, plans for the future and any legal issues, if appropriate. It is therefore important that parents attend these meetings so that they are fully involved in making important decisions about their child.

how will children and their parents have their say?

The chairperson at the meetings will ensure that everyone's views are listened to. In addition, the child and their parents will be given the opportunity to put their views in writing. They can get help to do this from their social worker or carer if required.

The child can be supported at the review meeting by a representative from 'Who Cares? Scotland' or the Children's Rights Officer if this would help.

They can be contacted at the following addresses:

Who Cares? Scotland
5 Oswald Street
Glasgow
G1 4QR
T: 0141 226 4441
E: enquiries@whocaresscotland.org

Falkirk Children's Rights Service
9B/C East Bridge Street
Falkirk
FK1 1YD
T: 01324 692029
E: Falkirk.childrensrights@quarriers.org.uk

Parents can bring along a trusted person to support them during the meeting, but this person would not usually be invited to participate in the discussions about the child. The allocated social worker can advise on how to contact local advocacy services who may be able to help.

useful websites

The following external websites provide further useful information:

- Scottish Child Law Centre
www.sclc.org.uk
- Children's Hearings
www.chscotland.gov.uk
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)
www.scra.gov.uk
- Scottish Government
www.scotland.gov.uk
- Citizens Advice Bureau
www.adviceguide.org.uk/scotland