

children who are looked after

social work ... putting people first



Falkirk Council

what does 'looked after' mean?

Falkirk Council has a legal duty under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children wherever possible in their own home and community.

We work with children and their families on a voluntary basis where we can, but in the minority of cases where this isn't possible, it may be necessary for a Children's Hearing to impose a Supervision Requirement. In these circumstances the child is referred to as being 'looked after'. This means that the child lives at home with their families whilst receiving support and supervision from a social worker to address the issues which led to their attendance at a Children's Hearing.

If it has been agreed that remaining at home is not the most suitable option then children may have to be cared for by foster carers or in a residential setting. This is referred to as being 'looked after and accommodated.' For more information on this please see our leaflet called 'children looked after away from home,' available from all local Social Work offices or from our website www.falkirk.gov.uk.

In addition, children and young people with particular needs and/or disabilities may benefit from overnight stays away from their family, or their families may require a break from providing their child's full time care. Generally children/young people who access respite or short breaks in these circumstances do so on a voluntary basis and there is no involvement with the Children's Hearing. However, children who receive respite or short breaks are also considered to be 'looked after' as the local authority has a responsibility to review the support provided to the child and their current needs, to ensure the support offered is appropriate.

For further information on short breaks for children/young people with a disability you can contact the children with disabilities team on 01324 504646, or e-mail: morag.odwyer@falkirk.gov.uk.

Alternatively you can visit our website www.falkirk.gov.uk.

what is the children's hearing system?

The Children's Hearing is the legal process for children in Scotland who are either at risk or who have been caught offending, and their welfare has to be considered. Children and their families may become involved in the Children's Hearings System for a number of reasons including:

- if the child is getting into trouble with the police
- if there are concerns that they are being abused
- if they are taking drugs or alcohol
- if they are not attending school
- if they are subject to an antisocial behaviour order and the Sheriff requires the case to be referred to a children's hearing
- where there are significant concerns regarding the child at home or in the community.

A child can only be called to a Children's Hearing if they are under 16 years of age, or under 18 and already subject to an order from a Children's Hearing.

who can refer a child to a children's hearing?

Anyone can make a referral regarding any child they have concerns about, including the child/young person themselves. In practice, however, Police and the Local Authority are most likely to refer.

what is a supervision requirement?

A Supervision Requirement is a legal order which places a duty on the Local Authority to work with the child and their family and this has to be reviewed at least annually. A child can only be subject to a Supervision Requirement up to the age of 18 years.

A Supervision Requirement can, when necessary, contain conditions stating where the child should live and other conditions which must be complied with. The local authority will visit regularly to ensure that the terms of the Supervision Requirement are being carried out and that the child is getting the help they need.



can you appeal against a decision?

Yes, a child or their parents may appeal to the Sheriff against a decision of a hearing, but must do so within 21 days. Once an appeal is lodged, it must be heard within 28 days.

who has rights and responsibilities under a supervision requirement?

Children who are subject to a Supervision Requirement have the right to be consulted about what is happening to them, and their views will be taken seriously. Parents will still retain full parental rights although these may be limited by the Children's Hearing or the court.

For more information about Children's Hearings you can visit the website www.childrens-hearings.co.uk.

what happens next?

Shortly after the Supervision Requirement has been made, a meeting will be arranged to draw up a Supervision Contract for the child to ensure that their best interests are being promoted. Social Work Services will involve the child and the parents when writing the care plan which will include the following information:

- details of the conditions attached to the Supervision Requirement
- timescales for meeting any objectives
- when these objectives will be reviewed
- the child's care, education and health needs
- the local authority's responsibilities
- the contribution that the parents will make to the child's care
- the arrangements for involving parents in decision making

Social Work Services will then hold review meetings at regular intervals while the child/young person is being looked after.



what is a review meeting?

There is a legal requirement to review the care plan for every child who is looked after. Review meetings are held to make sure that 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, parents, and usually a representative from the child's school or nursery, a health practitioner and any other agency involved with the child or the family.

what will be discussed?

The discussion will usually cover areas such as the child's progress under the Supervision Requirement, their education, health, contact with significant people, plans for the future and any legal issues, if appropriate.

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, with help from their social worker 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 if this is helpful. Advocacy Services can also support parents and young people. The allocated social worker can provide advice in relation to local advocacy services.

decisions after review meetings

Decisions are confirmed in writing following review meetings. Anyone who doesn't agree with the decision should discuss it with their allocated social worker in the first instance.

If still unhappy with the decision, then they should contact the manager of the allocated social worker. If the issue still can't be resolved then our formal complaints procedure should be followed. Our complaints leaflet, which describes our complaints procedure, is available from any local Social Work office or from our website www.falkirk.gov.uk.

useful websites

For further information on Children's Hearings and Supervision Requirements, you may find the following external websites useful:

Children's Hearings
www.chscotland.gov.uk

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
www.scra.gov.uk

Scottish Government
www.scotland.gov.uk

Scottish Child Law Centre
www.sclc.org.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau
www.adviceguide.org.uk/scotland



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/chciałabyś uzyskać owe informacje w języku innym aniżeli 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 ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਸੋਸ਼ਲ ਵਰਕ ਆਫਿਸ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ