



Agenda Item 5

**Following The Public Pound:
Services To Children & Young
People – 2015/16 Monitoring Report**

Falkirk Council

Title: Following The Public Pound: Services To Children & Young People – 2015/16 Monitoring Report

Meeting: Scrutiny Committee (External)

Date: 1 December 2016

Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of the report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the work of the external organisations that receive funding, provide services to children and young people, and fall within the Following the Public Pound reporting and monitoring arrangements. The reporting period is April 2015 to March 2016.

2. Recommendation

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:-

consider individual reports for external organisations and select an option to:-

- **approve the report and acknowledge progress by the external provider(s) in meeting the Council's priorities;**
- **request further information on specific aspects of the service provided;**
- **request action with follow up for subsequent Scrutiny Committee (External) consideration.**

3. Background

3.1. External organisations are voluntary or charitable organisations that have been provided with funding on the basis that they are able to provide services which could not readily be provided within the Council. Services are, however, provided in a way that compliments those provided by the Council and other statutory partners and are subject to routine monitoring in terms of their performance against agreed outcomes.

3.2. Whilst the long term value of input from the voluntary sector is acknowledged, challenging fiscal restraints have required organisations to operate with reduced funding and in future years these constraints may further impact on service delivery, as resources allocated to external organisations continue to be under review.

4. Considerations

4.1 National Policy Context

4.1.1 GIRFEC

National policy is delivered in the context of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC). The GIRFEC approach is intended to ensure that children get the right help at the right time in their lives.

4.1.2 Early Years Framework

In addition, for children aged 0-8 years the Early Years Framework, published in 2008, set out the elements that need to come together to improve outcomes for early years, emphasising a cohesive approach and using the strength of universal services to deliver preventative and early intervention services.

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

4.2 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

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

4.2.2 Increasing the amount and flexibility of free Early Learning and Childcare from 475 to a minimum of 600 hours per year for 3 and 4 year olds, and 15% of Scotland's most vulnerable 2 year olds. From August 2015, this was extended to 27% of the most vulnerable 2 year olds.

4.2.3 Ensure better permanence planning for looked after children by giving all 16 year olds in care the right to continuing care until the age of 21; extend the support available to young people leaving care for longer (up to the age of 26); and support the parenting role of kinship carers.

4.2.4 Enshrine elements of the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach in law, ensuring there is a single planning approach for children who need additional support from services, providing a single point of contact for every child and providing a holistic understanding of wellbeing.

4.3 Local Policy Context

At a local level, the Strategic Outcome Local Delivery plan has, as one of its aims, 'our children will develop into resilient, confident and successful adults'. Falkirk's Children's Commission oversees the planning and delivery of children's services and, in doing so, reports directly to the Community Planning Leadership Group.

The Integrated Children’s Service Plan sets out the collective ambition of the Community Planning Partnership to achieve the vision that every child and young person should have an enjoyable, fulfilling life in a nurturing, healthy and safe environment. The Integrated Children’s Services Plan sets out ways in which services will work together in order to achieve this vision for Falkirk’s children, within its 7 priorities, 4 relate directly to those in the SOLD. Services provided by the third sector are key partners in the delivery of these services.

5 Implications

5.1 Financial

The table below shows the external organisations that received Council funding during 2015/2016, either in kind or by direct financial support, in order to enable them to contribute to the Council’s goal of increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination. Some of these are national organisations and may have access to other financial resources.

Name of Organisation	Funding
Barnardo’s Axis Service	£137,443
Barnardo’s Cluaran Service	£687,305
NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children	£70,704
Quarriers Scotland Falkirk Children’s Rights Service	£86,200
Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us	£45,000
“Who Cares?” Scotland Children’s Rights Service	£27,970
TOTAL	£1,054,622

6. Conclusions

6.1 An individual report is attached for all of the external organisations shown above. Each report provides an overview of the service provided, the agreed objectives or outcomes, performance information during the reporting period and a financial overview.

It should be noted that not all of the audited accounts for 2015/2016 are available as yet. This is largely due to the timing of the Annual General Meetings of each organisation.

6.2 As part of the assessment process, external organisations are allocated a risk rating based on governance arrangements, financial management and past performance. The ratings are low, medium or high and provide monitoring officers with an indication of the minimum level of monitoring and support which should be established. External organisations deemed as low risk are monitored at least annually, medium risk or external organisations should be monitored at least quarterly and high risk at least monthly.

Monitoring is recommended to take the form of regular reports which measure performance against outcomes and/or objectives and provide financial monitoring.

6.3 All of the external organisations noted within this report are considered low risk.

Director of Children's Services

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Date: 4 November 2016

Appendices

Annual Reporting Statements Reports

- 1) Barnardo's Axis Service
- 2) Barnardo's Cluaran Service
- 3) NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children
- 4) Quarriers Scotland Falkirk Children's Rights Service
- 5) Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us
- 6) "Who Cares?" Scotland Children's Rights Service

List of Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

None

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2015/16**

Organisation Name	Barnardo's
Project	AXIS Service
Agreement Dates	1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016
Name of Lead Officer	Matthew Davies
A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS	
Summary of Key Aims & Objectives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Axis service aims to reduce the risk and harm to young people, families and communities in the Falkirk area by providing support to young people up to the age of 19 (or 25 if care experienced) who are experiencing difficulties related to alcohol or substance misuse. • The range of interventions include a Core Service, (medium to long term support for young people experiencing significant difficulties) and an Early Doors Service (an early intervention service consisting of approximately 6 to 8 focused individual sessions, advice/information and group work sessions to existing groups focusing on awareness raising). • In April 2015, Barnardo's Axis service was awarded 2 year funding from Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership to provide a dedicated Looked After post for young people who are looked after or are care leavers aged 12 to 25 with substance related need. This age range reflects new duties and responsibilities for care leavers contained within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and extends the current service provision of Axis to focus on the most vulnerable young people in Falkirk. 	
List of Agreed Outcomes	
<p>Progress is monitored through the Forth Valley Outcomes and Barnardo's Outcomes Frameworks. The Barnardo's Outcomes Framework focuses on a range of desired outcomes based on SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included) indicators and tracks progress made over a sequence of reviews with approximately 12 weeks between reviews. Each young person has an agreed set of outcomes based around need which determines the focus of support. The level of need is scored between 1 and 5, with 5 being the greatest and 1 illustrating that the need has been met.</p> <p>The service aims to provide support to 15 to 18 young people at any one time through Early Doors Service, and 10 to 12 young people at any one time through the Core Service. Awareness Raising Sessions are provided to young people and community groups. Axis also provides support to young people in relation to employability and training opportunities.</p>	

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

Axis has developed significant expertise relating to working with vulnerable young people with problematic substance misuse issues. The service shares its management structure with Barnardo's Cluaran service and therefore some costs associated with management and administration are reduced.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBEJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

Core Service

During the period 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, 39 young people received a programme of support from the service. The nature of the core young people means that the work will be long-term and intensive with a low turnover rate, resulting in young people remaining in service for an extended period. The frequency of contact and intensity of support for young people within the Core Axis Service reduces as the young people progress through the service, allowing for new referrals to be allocated to staff.

28 young people had outcomes measures set, 4 of whom had only one set of outcomes therefore no comparison available. 6 young people were in the process of initial assessment and had no outcomes agreed at the end of this reporting period. 5 young people closed before outcomes could be set.

The outcomes shown below include on-going work with young people where, on occasion, maintaining stability can be viewed to be progress.

Outcomes achieved through the Core Service

	Improvement	Maintained Same Level	Deterioration
1.1.01 Receives necessary health care	4	1	1
1.1.02 Access to medical care	1	0	0
1.2.01 Enhanced parent/carer/adult - child relationships	2	2	0
1.2.13 Improved mental health & well-being	10	7	1
1.3.02 Knowledge of sexual health strategies	7	3	0
1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	16	5	2
1.5.04 Knowledge of alcohol/drug misuse risks	14	6	0
1.5.05 Improved Parental Knowledge of alcohol/drugs risks	0	2	0
2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	17	7	0
4.1.15 Access to info on housing, health, benefits, rights or support needs	0	2	0
6.1.04 Positive socialisation with peers	6	5	0
6.1.05 Increased choice of activities/opportunities	3	0	1
8.1.03 Reduction in anti-social behaviour	2	1	1
9.1.02 Access to employment, education or training	5	2	3

Early Doors Service

During the period 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, **69** young people received, or are still receiving, a service from Early Doors. Of these young people, **54** have closed.

- **10** young people had planned closures and **1** young person was receiving support from school.
- **43** young people had unplanned closures: **1** moved away; **18** refused to engage; **9** stopped engaging; **6** young people received a home visit (of these, 6 received information and advice before opting out); **8** young people received a telephone call (7 accepted information before opting out); **1** referral was not appropriate.

For young people participating in the Early Doors Programmes, outcomes are agreed at the beginning and the end of the programme, therefore young people at the early stages of their programme will not be included in the outcome reporting. Given that the Early Doors Programme is early intervention, the range of desired outcomes is usually narrower than the Core Service and focuses on reduced consumption, reduced risk of harm and increased knowledge outcomes.

Outcomes achieved through the Early Doors programme

Outcome	Improvement	Maintained Same Level	Deterioration
1.2.01 Enhanced parent/carer/adult – child relationships	1	0	0
1.2.13 Improved mental health & well-being	3	1	0
1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	7	5	2
1.5.04 Knowledge of alcohol/drug misuse risks	11	3	0
2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	9	4	0
5.2.01 Satisfactory school/college attendance	1	0	0
6.1.05 Increased choice of activities/opportunities	1	0	0
9.1.02 Access to employment, education or training	1	0	0

Employability support

Of the 11 young people receiving support in this area, the majority have shown progress either in relation to engagement with education, employment/training or have shown an improvement in their attitude to, and readiness for, employment. This progress is as a result of greater stability in their lives due to a reduced/safer consumption of substances and a reduction in the level of risk or harm. At this stage, as well as helping them maintain stability, as part of their recovery the service then provides support to engage with services which offer employment or training opportunities.

Looked After Young People

38 (35%) of the 108 young people who worked with the Axis service from April 2015 – March 2016 were looked after:

14(37%) were looked after at home.

24(63%) were looked after away from home.

Of the **24** young people who were looked after away from home:

15(62.5%) were in residential units in Falkirk.

3 (12.5%) were in residential units outwith Falkirk; all of these young people had been looked after at home before being placed in a residential unit outwith Falkirk.

3 (12.5%) young people had been placed in a residential unit within and outwith Falkirk

3 (12.5%) young people had been placed with foster carers in Falkirk.

Through the pilot, we have identified that many of the young people referred already have entrenched substance misuse issues, making their recovery complex and lengthy. Part of the function of the pilot has been to raise awareness and work alongside partners to promote and enable earlier identification of care experienced young people at risk of, or affected by, their own substance misuse. Statistics for the first 6 months of 2016 indicate a higher rate of referral for young people who are looked after at home, which would suggest services are referring at an earlier stage in a young person's substance misuse behaviour.

It should be noted that for all young people completing programmes, both in Early Doors and the Core service, the service will contact them 3 months after closure to check if progress has been sustained.

Should there have been a relapse then the service would offer to re-engage with the young person. This part of the service is called Maintenance Monitoring.

Maintenance and Monitoring will last for a maximum of 12 weeks. If young people require additional and more frequent support during that period of time, they will be re-referred to the Core Service.

As stated above, in addition to providing programmes of support to individuals, the service has a remit to raise awareness of alcohol and drug related issues to local community groups. The information below highlights work in this area:

- Axis continues to develop links across schools in Falkirk. The service has successfully developed a Peer Mentoring Programme with senior students in Graeme High School resulting in resources that can now be used by all schools in Falkirk.
- Axis has developed a partnership with Police Scotland and Signpost to ensure that there is a clear pathway of support for young people who have been arrested and present under the influence of alcohol or substances.
- Axis is working closely with Falkirk and Forth Valley ADP and Falkirk Council to embed a Social Influencing Initiative in secondary schools across Falkirk. The project was successfully delivered in Falkirk High School, with young people developing a DVD for use in other schools. Delivery is currently underway in Larbert High School, moving on to Grangemouth High School in the next academic year.
- Staff across Children's Services, including Social Work teams, Community Wardens, Detached Youth Work teams and residential staff have been provided with awareness raising workshops by Axis.

- 40 Children’s Hearing Panel Members received an input relating to new psychoactive substances (NPS) and the impact of these on young people.

Barnardo’s Axis and Barnardo’s Stirling and Clacks Young People’s Substance Services, in partnership with Forth Valley NHS, provide a referral pathway and support for young people who present at the Emergency Department of Forth Valley Royal Hospital as a result of alcohol and/or drug use. Interventions are offered to children and young people before a pattern of risk taking behaviour is established.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

The Axis service is funded on a year-to-year basis. This impacts upon long term planning and staff recruitment and retention.

A reduction in budget by 5% has resulted in increased pressure on the service which has threatened to impact on the level of service delivery. To date, this has been managed through restructuring and management efficiency. In the longer term, however, a standstill budget or further imposed cuts will impact on service delivery to children and young people. The detail of how this reduction in the ability to deliver the service would be implemented has not been determined.

Additionally, the loss of £33,724 Corporate and Housing funding for employability from April 2016 will have an impact. In the short-term, this has been mitigated and the service has been enhanced by 2 year funding secured from Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership from April 2015 - March 2017. This secures the Early Doors Early Intervention Service delivery and enhances the service with a post specifically to support the most vulnerable young people in Falkirk who are, or have been, looked after. This funding comes to an end in March 2017.

In order to provide greater resilience within a climate of diminishing resources, Stirling and Clacks Barnardo’s services and Falkirk’s Barnardo’s Axis service are currently working with staff teams and consulting with stakeholders to develop a Barnardo’s Forth Valley Substance Misuse Service for young people. Services will continue to be delivered locally but with a greater commonality of process and approach to service delivery. The staff team will be working over the coming weeks and months to reflect and review the processes, tools and resources to capture best practice/what works and will engage with ADP Lead Officers. There will still, however, be a reduction in staffing within the Falkirk arm of the service when the Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership funding comes to an end in March 2017.

How has the Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities:

The service forms part of the tiered approach to Substance Misuse Service Delivery and is represented at Falkirk’s Alcohol and Drug Partnership. A representative from the service sits on the Youth Justice Referral Group and delivers services to children and young people coming to the attention of the Group as a result of substance related offending behaviour. The service is aligned to Falkirk Council’s goals of “continuing to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities”.

The service delivers interventions which are consistent with the Children and Families Social Work goals of providing support to “children in need, dealing with young offending and anti-social behaviour, and providing support for children and young people affected by drug or alcohol misuse”.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance	
None	
How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer	
Six monthly	
C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW	
Total Support Provided (Financial & In- Kind Contributions)	
The total Falkirk Council contribution to Axis in 2015-16 was £137,443; £105,405 from Social Work Services and £32,038 from Corporate and Housing Services.	
Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts	
2014 - 2015	
Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation	
Short term (1 year) funding arrangements impacts on service planning.	
Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)	
Low	
D CONCLUSIONS	
Summary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year	
The Axis service continues to perform well and in line with its service specification. The service is able to provide detailed outcomes information in relation to individual service users using its developed Outcomes Framework. These demonstrate positive outcomes for the majority of its service users.	
E COMPLETED BY	
Name	Matthew Davies
Designation	Service Manager
Date	13 October 2016

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2015/16**

Organisation Name	Barnardo's
Project	Cluaran Service
Agreement Dates	1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016
Name of Lead Officer	Matthew Davies

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

- Cluaran aims to:
 - support 60 young people and their families in any one year;
 - reduce the number of young people referred to the service being subsequently placed in a residential school setting outwith Falkirk;
 - reduce the number of young people becoming looked after away from home;
 - support young people who have been in a residential school or secure accommodation who require an integrated package of support to return to the Falkirk Council area.

The service has an agreed target of maintaining 75% of service users in the community.
- Families and young people receiving support from the service will have their strengths, abilities and coping strategies enhanced by receiving a range of interventions including individual support, educational support, family work and group work.
- Cluaran supports the development of professional skill and ability across services to support young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. This includes the development of programmes devised with partner agencies with a view to disseminating effective practice and improving outcomes for young people and families.
- The service participates in a range of groups within Falkirk aimed at developing good practice and improving outcomes for young people and families. The managers of the service undertake a variety of roles which support the broader aims of the Council, i.e. depute chair of the Corporate Parent and Vulnerable Groups workstream; membership of the Children's Commission and Voluntary Sector Children's Services Steering Group.

List of Agreed Outcomes

When working with young people and families, the service identifies progress through Barnardo's Outcomes Framework. This involves the family, young person, and the Team Around the Child agreeing the focus of work based on a range of outcomes in line with SHANARRI Wellbeing Indicators. Outcomes are assigned based on identified need and a process of action planning then ensures that changing needs are addressed. A programme of support is then based around an action plan targeting these areas.

For the purpose of this report, these outcomes have been presented in a way which shows an aggregate of the young people and families' progress across the range of outcomes rather than identifying the specific outcomes for each young person and family.

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

The Cluaran service has developed specialist knowledge and skills relating to the target service user group. Barnardo's have expertise in this area of service delivery and also joint fund the service.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

Between April 2015 and March 2016, **57** young people and their families received a service from Cluaran. Of the young people who have received support to date, **24** were girls and **33** were boys. During this period, **29** young people completed programmes or left the service. Of these, at the point of closure, **29** remained in the community (100%), **24** remained at home (83%), **2** remained in local residential units (7%), **3** remained in a foster care placement (10%).

Whilst individual programmes of support can vary significantly and can include a combination of individual support, family work, group work and educational support, there is an increase in the number of young people receiving more comprehensive levels of support. A comprehensive action plan for a family in crisis could include 4 or 5 workers on a weekly basis.

The average monthly occupancy of the service for the period under consideration was **31**.

The average yearly cost of a placement at Cluaran, based on an average monthly occupancy of **31** for 2015-16, was **£24,753**. Barnardo's contribution to this cost was **£3,217** per placement, with Falkirk contributing **£21,536** per placement. Although not exactly like for like, these costs compare favourably to the cost of residential school placements used by Falkirk which are often in excess of £200,000 per year.

The service has a role in disseminating good practice and improving the outcomes for young people and families across partner agencies. With this in mind, the service has played a significant role in a pilot programme devising and implementing an Outcomes Framework, based on Barnardo's Outcomes Framework, for young people placed on the Child Protection Register.

Cluaran staff worked alongside a range of professionals attending child protection core groups and supporting them to devise action plans with a clear outcomes focus. This work has also been shared with locality teams, education services and fostering and adoption groups, and is being rolled out for all looked after children.

Between July 2015 and June 2016, Cluaran undertook a Vocational Pilot Programme aimed at providing additional vocational support to looked after and accommodated young people accessing the service. This was funded by Falkirk Council through Education Scotland funding. A report on the pilot was shared with Children's Services and meetings have been arranged to explore ways to take forward the learning.

The service participates in a range of groups within Falkirk aimed at developing good practice and improving outcomes for young people. These include Practitioners' Forums; Learning and Development Steering Group and Forth Valley Child Sexual Exploitation Project Board.

Specific Outcomes for young people and Families

	Improvement	Maintained Same Level	Deterioration
Healthy			
1.2.01 Enhanced parent, carer or adult-child relationships	1	5	0
1.2.02 Improved parent or carer confidence, resilience or health	2	0	0
1.2.04 Increased resilience	6	10	0
1.2.05 Increased confidence	0	1	0
1.2.18 Improved Family communications	0	1	0
1.2.19 Improved self esteem	8	3	1
1.2.26 Improved peer relations	0	1	0
Safe			
2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	5	1	1
2.1.13 Reduced association with risky peers/adults	1	0	0
2.1.19 Build community capacity to promote child welfare	0	1	0
2.3.02 Able to solve conflicts constructively	1	5	0
Nurtured			
4.1.04 Positive, improved family relationships	4	3	0
4.1.07 Family has access to support	1	0	0
4.1.08 Remain with birth family	0	0	1
4.1.10 Improved family routines	0	1	0

Achieving			
5.2.01 Satisfactory school or college attendance	3	3	0
5.2.02 Positive student attitude towards learning	4	7	0
5.2.03 Remain in or return to mainstream education	4	3	3
5.2.04 Improved behaviour in school	3	4	1
5.2.06 Access to alternative education	1	1	0
5.3.01 Satisfactory progress in learning/developmental goals	4	3	0
Active			
6.1.01 Social skills gained/improved	3	1	0
6.1.04 Positive Socialisation with Peers	2	2	0
Responsible			
8.1.03 Reduction in anti-social behaviour	1	0	0
8.3.06 Assume age appropriate responsibilities	1	0	0
Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation			
<p>There has been no increase in grant funding from Falkirk Council for the past 3 years. However, the service has managed to meet demand and respond to need whilst maintaining capacity. By realigning services and creating efficiencies in management structures, including the co-location of 2 services, the service has effectively managed a reduction in income.</p>			
How has the Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities			
<p>The service is aligned to the Council's goals of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuing to improve the health, safety and well-being of our citizens and communities; tackling disadvantage and discrimination in all of its forms. <p>In terms of the Children and Families Service Plan goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting children in need. <p>In terms of Education Services' priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination; tracking monitoring and intervening to support vulnerable groups, especially looked after children. 			
List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance			
None			

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer	
Six monthly	
C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW	
Total Support Provided	
<p>Falkirk Council contributed £345,297 in cash terms for the period 2015-16, which comprised £311,007 in grant funding and £34,290 towards the costs of a Barnardo's employee. In addition, Falkirk Council also contributed £342,008 in kind to meet the costs of 3 Social Work staff and 5 Teachers.</p> <p>The total Falkirk Council contribution to Cluaran in 2015-16 was £687,305, made up of £455,243 from Children and Families Social Work and £232,062 from Education Services.</p>	
Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts	
2014/15	
Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation	
<p>A reduction in budget by 5% has resulted in increasing pressure on the service which has threatened to impact on the level of service delivery. To date, this has been managed through restructuring and management efficiency. In the longer term, however, a standstill budget or further imposed cuts will impact on service delivery to children and young people.</p>	
Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)	
Low	
D CONCLUSIONS	
Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year	
<p>The service has continued to perform well throughout the year and effects a spend to save in terms of reducing the costs associated with the placement of children in external resources. The service continues to contribute to a wide range of strategic and developmental forums and has made a significant contribution to Child Protection as the result of the assistance provided relating to the roll out of the Outcomes Framework.</p>	
E COMPLETED BY	
Name	Matthew Davies
Designation	Service Manager
Date	13 October 2016

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2015/16**

Organisation Name	NHS Forth Valley, CAMHS
Project	Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children
Agreement Dates	1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016
Name of Lead Officer	Frank Kennedy
A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS	
Summary of Key Aims & Objectives	
<p>To provide a specialist clinical psychology assessment and therapy service for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children and young people who are looked after by Falkirk Council, either at home or away from home, and who are the responsibility of Falkirk Council, even when living outwith the area; • children and young people residing in the Falkirk Council area whose family placement is at high risk of breakdown, leading to them becoming accommodated, whether or not they are at that point looked after by the Local Authority. 	
List of Agreed Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide highly specialist psychological assessment and therapy to the above noted specific group of children. • To provide advice, consultation, support and training to social workers and other professionals working with looked after children and young people, including foster carers, residential staff and voluntary agencies, where appropriate. • To contribute to care planning for children and young people who are the responsibility of Falkirk Council by way of the provision of specialist advice to Falkirk Social Work staff. • To participate in multi-agency planning forums, e.g. Health of Looked After Children meetings and Corporate Parenting Agenda. • To facilitate access to CAMHS services when appropriate. 	
Why Service/Project is Funded Externally Rather than by the Council	
<p>This post forms part of a joint service between the Council and NHS to provide for the Health Care needs of looked after children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link-up Service (4 posts) funded by NHS • Looked After Nurse funded by NHS • LAC Clinical Psychologist funded by the Council • Throughcare Nurse (0.5 post) funded by the Council. 	

This post is a partnership arrangement with CAMHS, with the post holder employed NHS Forth Valley. This ensures that the clinical psychologist has access to the necessary level of professional support and clinical governance.

The development of this service reflects that looked after children have significant mental health needs that may not always meet the criteria for a mainstream mental health service.

Looked after children often experience difficulties in engaging fully with such services and, in addition, access to appropriate mental health support can be difficult to secure for children who are placed outwith Falkirk Council's geographical area.

The establishment of this service also reflects a commitment to addressing the support needs for those working with this vulnerable group, e.g. foster carers, residential workers and social workers, thereby enhancing their capacity in developing their skills in supporting young people to remain either at home or in local Falkirk placement. An additional benefit is that the service provides a final year clinical psychology trainee on a specialist placement (funded by NHS). They gain experience and the Council gains an additional member of staff who is able to provide therapeutic input.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES/AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

The service remains focused on direct work with young people and key professionals. They remain closely aligned to objectives and agreed outcomes:

- one to one therapy with children & young people
- consultation with social workers, foster carers and residential staff, third sector and schools
- assessment of risk (harm to self and others)
- assessment of attachment functioning in respect of young people
- neuropsychological assessments
- developmental assessments
- cognitive assessments
- parenting capacity assessments
- contact assessments/observations
- sibling assessments
- report writing
- permanence planning
- attendance at child focused meetings

The full time Clinical Psychologist post has to date been occupied by one practitioner. The service will be developing to 2 psychologists sharing input to Falkirk Council, with different skills and competencies. This will allow for robust and multi model assessments and treatments, and where assessments can be carried out by more than one psychologist, allows for shared opinion and wider expertise.

Currently across the service there are:-

- **50** open one to one cases
- **12** open consultations
- **1** open parenting capacity assessment
- **3** open neuropsychological assessments
- **2** open risk assessments
- **8** young people on the waiting list (waiting list approximately 4 weeks)

The focus of the service is towards clinical work, although there is engagement through more strategic activities including attendance at Holac (Health of looked after children) CAMHS Liaison and input to a strategic parenting group.

In relation to more specific service developments, the service has provided input into foster carers support groups, consultation with social workers, foster carers and residential staff, and training inputs to family support staff in relation to child development attachment and loss.

The service was recently cited as an example of good practice by the Care Inspectorate's Joint Inspection of Services to Children & Young People, which concluded "*the highly personalised flexible approach had demonstrated considerable success in overcoming barriers to accessing and sustaining engagement with vulnerable young people*".

Summary of Key Issues/Challenges Facing the Organisation

The service remains funded on a temporary basis with agreements being reached every 2 years. This does have an impact on the longer term planning and potential for continuity of support of young people currently engaged with the service.

There remains higher need for the service than it is currently resourced to provide hence the need to manage a waiting list.

The service will require to continue to adapt to the changing needs and expectations of relevant professionals. A key challenge is to provide psychological input wherever it is required and to remain free from restrictive criteria which only serves to exclude some from the service.

How has the Organisation Contributed to Council/Service Priorities

The Service continues to be relevant in relation to the Council's Strategic Outcome and Local Delivery Plan, including the following:-

1. care experienced children and young people
2. those with a disability
3. those affected by parental mental ill health/substance misuse/domestic abuse
4. those who are affected by their own mental ill health/substance misuse

5. those aged 16-21 years (transition to adult services can make young people vulnerable)

In addition, the Council's Integrated Children's Service Plan is committed to:-

- improving mental health wellbeing
- inclusion, children & young people live, learn and thrive in Falkirk.

List any Areas where there has been a Shortfall in Performance

None

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Quarterly monitoring meetings are scheduled between a Children's Services Service Manager, the Clinical Psychologist and his/her clinical supervisor.

C FINANCIAL/RISK ASSESSMENTS OVERVIEW

Total Support Provided

£64,904 for Clinical Psychologist, office accommodation and equipment.

Admin support is provided at 10 hours per week estimated annual **£5,800**.

Total = **£70,704**

Last Period of Submitted Audited Annual Accounts

N/A

Future Risks

Were this service to be discontinued, there would be a significant negative impact on the Council being able to meet the mental wellbeing needs of looked after children for whom the Council has corporate parenting responsibilities. The withdrawal or reduction in the service is likely to result in an escalation of difficulties experienced by young people, which may in turn result in their needs requiring to be met by them being accommodated away from home.

Overall Risk Rating

Low

D CONCLUSIONS

The Looked After Children Clinical Psychologist Service has had a positive impact on the needs of vulnerable looked after children and young people in Falkirk.

The service is viewed positively by children and young people who directly access the service; from foster carers, and also from a range of professionals. This view is supported by the Care Inspectorate, who highlighted that the service has delivered significant benefits for looked after children and those caring for and supporting them.

E COMPLETED BY	
Name	Frank Kennedy
Designation	Service Manager
Date	28 October 2016

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2015/16**

Organisation Name	Quarriers Scotland
Project	Falkirk Children's Rights Service
Agreement Dates	1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016
Name of Lead Officer	Vivien Thomson

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

The Children's Rights Service is accessible to all children and young people normally resident within the Falkirk Council area, with vulnerable groups, and particularly those looked after, being prioritised.

- To develop and deliver a comprehensive Children's Rights Service in the Falkirk area in partnership with "Who Cares?" and Falkirk Council.
- To promote, protect and uphold the rights of children and young people from birth to 19 years within the Falkirk area as stated within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and associated guidance.
- To collate client feedback and questionnaires and assess this information to identify needs.
- To develop a pool of volunteers to provide information/advocacy services to children and young people.
- To develop and maintain a service profile and target marginalised children and young people.
- To work with the developing Champions Board to uphold and develop the voice of Falkirk's looked after children and young people, in line with the Children and Young People (Scot) Act 2014 and Falkirk Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy.

List of Agreed Outcomes

Provision of a service to children from Falkirk to ensure that their rights are upheld both individually and within policy developments.

Evidence of addressing themes from across services which require attention in relation to children's rights, especially concerning corporate parenting duties.

Close work with "Who Cares?" to ensure that the rights of children who are looked after are maintained and upheld.

Evidence of challenge to the Council and its partners where appropriate, where children's issues are not being properly upheld or developed.

Evidence of involvement in, and initiation of, developments within Children's Services.

Ensuring that key priorities in the Integrated Children's Services Plan are being taken forward and involve young people.

A key role in developing the Champions Board model in relation to corporate parenting.

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

Quarriers is a voluntary organisation which provides services to adults and young people across Scotland, with a particular emphasis and track record of involving service users in their work. The organisation also works at national level to influence policy. The Council is required to consult with young people and provide independent advocacy. This service could not be provided within the Council as this could result in conflict with other legal obligations.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBEJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

- Year on year increase in referrals for April 2015 to March 2016 show 116 young people referred compared to 98 for the previous year to Falkirk Children's Rights Service. Evidence of increasing contact with younger children who may find having their voice heard more of a challenge.
- Development of capacity by use of volunteers and amending the role of the admin worker to take on advocacy work.
- Closer working relationships with "Who Carers?" and CLD which have allowed the developing corporate parenting work to fit well with other initiatives.
- Involvement in the Joint Inspection of Children's Services.
- Provision of exit interviews following the de-registration of children from the child protection register and following the ending of foster placements. This informs the service's continuous improvement work.
- The Children's Rights Service has been successful in highlighting children's rights to the services and agencies working within the Falkirk area and is enabling all children and young people to have their voices heard, e.g. via corporate parenting events, individual advocacy and proactive advertising.
- The Children's Rights Officer has played a key role in the development of the Champions Board work, and facilitated young people speaking to Members involved in the looked after children scrutiny process.
- The Children's Rights Service continues to provide a 'drop in' facility at local schools.

- The Children’s Rights Officer regularly liaises with young people in Falkirk Council’s residential children’s houses and foster placements. Collation and feedback on issues is provided at the monitoring meeting.
- The Children’s Rights Officer contributes to a number of strategic groups including the Corporate Parenting Action Group and the Children and Families Continuous Improvement Group, and reports, in conjunction with “Who Cares?” to the Children’s Commission, thus allowing key issues to be taken forward and impact on procedure and strategy.
- The Children’s Rights Officer has been involved in developing the response to the new legislation and emerging guidance, e.g. in relation to continuing care and after care alongside “Who Cares?” and the Council. The service will form the core approach to how the Council will meet our new corporate parenting duties.
- The service, alongside “Who Cares?” and the Council, has reviewed the Joint working agreement and the service will focus on the most vulnerable groups of young people.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

The Falkirk Children’s Rights Service combines the Quarriers Children’s Rights Service and the “Who Cares?” service for children who are looked after by the Council. The challenges of establishing a consistent approach to this joint work have been overcome and borne fruit and have formed a core aspect to the development of the Champions Board Model which allows looked after and formerly looked after children to have their voice heard and to influence policy and the care experience.

Monitoring via the steering group and contract group is now embedded and working well, providing a clear and joint approach to ensuring the voice of vulnerable children is heard. Challenges remain, given the slightly different focus of each organisation, but dialogue is positive and well established.

Roles are clearly outlined, and priorities jointly agreed to focus on the most vulnerable. The service has a more established approach to recruiting volunteers, but numbers remain low. The focus on particular groups is hoped to give impetus to this, a key aspect of the contract to provide a wide and flexible service.

The service is also assisting in looking at how the Council can best and most flexibly respond to the new legislation allowing young people to remain in care until the age of 21 years; developing work on advocacy with “Who Cares?”, and contributing to identifying gaps in services.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The service continues to work in partnership with the “Who Cares?” service to ensure that vulnerable young people, both accommodated and within the community, receive a robust children’s rights service. The organisation ensures that the views of children and young people are fed into local and national consultations. This is a key priority of the Council’s Corporate Parenting Strategy and action plan.

The service has also been key in assisting the Council to develop our response to the Children and Young people (Scot) Act 2014. This included undertaking scoping work with young people to assist in establishing how the Council can best and most flexibly respond to the new legislation allowing young people to remain in care until the age of 21 years and contributing to identifying gaps in services.

The Children and young people (Scot) Act 2014 also increases the corporate parenting duties on Local Authorities and strengthens the rights base of our work. The Children's Rights Service is crucial in enabling Falkirk to meet those additional requirements.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

There continue to be challenges in recruiting and retaining volunteers. The service and Council are actively working together in this area. The increase in duties to looked after and formerly looked after children as a result of the new legislation has also increased demand on the service, resulting in capacity issues and a need to prioritise the work of the Children's Rights Service.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Joint "Who Cares?" and Quarriers monitoring meetings take place quarterly, with a Steering Group of key stakeholders which directs focus also meeting quarterly. The service reports twice yearly to the Children's Commission.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Total Support Provided (Financial & In- Kind Contributions)

£86,200

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

September 2015

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

None

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Low

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year

The service continues to meet a key priority in the Council's Corporate Parenting Action Plan. Feedback from services and young people and other groups is that the Children's Right Service is valued and assists young people to express their views. The Children's Rights Officer additionally is key to ensuring that service developments across the Council, and particularly those related to the new legislations, take account of the rights and needs of children in Falkirk.

E COMPLETED BY

Name

Vivien Thomson

Designation

Service Manager

Date

25 October 2016

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2015/16**

Organisation Name	Signpost Recovery
Project	Time 4 Us
Agreement Dates	1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016
Name of Lead Officer	Matthew Davies
A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS	
Summary of Key Aims & Objectives	
<p>The aim of Time 4 Us is to increase the capacity and resilience of families affected by substance misuse by delivering support that responds to individual needs and circumstances in a timely way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families will have easy access to support that improves parental capacity and parenting skills. • Families affected by substance misuse can get help and a core offer of joined-up substance misuse, family support and practical interventions is available and tailored to their needs. • The service will increase the support and reduce the challenges for families with multiple and complex needs. • Time 4 Us is a key service providing support to 'Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse' (CAPSM) agenda. This area of work was viewed as a priority for the former Forth Valley Substance Action Team and has remained a priority for all Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADP's) in Forth Valley. Time 4 Us adopts the 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (GIRFEC) principles to guide its work, thus the project aims to compliment statutory provision by offering services that focus on the family in its entirety. 	
List of Agreed Outcomes	
<p>Time 4 Us aims to reduce the impact of substance misuse and provide a role model and interventions for children and families in Forth Valley to allow them to lead safe, achieving, secure and stable lives. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents experiencing issues of substance misuse have improved parenting capacity, skills and understanding and are better able to meet the needs of the child. <p><i>Indicator 1</i> Parents will have improved parental capacity and abilities. <i>Indicator 2</i> Families will work with staff in the interest of the child whilst reducing statutory involvement. <i>Indicator 3</i> Parents will have increased motivation, confidence and feelings of self-worth.</p>	

- Children affected by parental substance misuse will have improved self-esteem, resilience and social functioning.

Indicator 1 Children will show improved self-esteem and resilience.

Indicator 2 Children will have improved attendance, attainment and achievement in nursery/school/relevant groups.

Indicator 3 Children will have improved wellbeing in accordance with the well-being indicators (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included).

- Children and families affected by substance misuse will have improved family relationships and will be better able to make positive and healthy choices.

Indicator 1 Families will have improved family and social functioning.

Indicator 2 Families will demonstrate improved structure, routines and boundaries.

Indicator 3 Families will have improved outcomes in accordance with the 'outcomes star'.

Time 4 Us interventions include:

- Addressing Substance Use
- Improving parenting capacity and parental skills
- Improving general and mental health issues
- Maximising family income, budgeting
- Advising on healthy diet and cooking
- Reducing impact on the local community
- Reducing debt, providing housing advocacy and support
- Appropriate communication with the relevant partners supporting individual families

Time 4 Us interventions and activities for children include:

- Activities that enable children to have a better understanding of their emotions and assist them to verbalise these
- Activities, contacts and structures that enable children to have fun and present as happier both physically and emotionally
- Interventions to ensure children will have improved coping skills
- The Children's Worker having a better understanding of each child's self-esteem and educating parents on its importance
- Work and the setting of routines that improve child engagement in activities within nursery and/or school settings
- Appropriate communications(s) with the relevant partners that are also supporting the children.

Recipients of the service include those who misuse substances to a level at which parental capacity is severely affected.

The project operates from locations in each of the three local authority areas in Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire. The project also offers specialist advice to other substance misuse services and undertakes outreach work where need(s) are identified and work in partnership accordingly.

Why the Project is Funded Externally Rather than by the Council

Time 4 Us is funded through a combination of sources: The Big Lottery Fund, Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Signpost Recovery and Falkirk Council. As a 'third sector' organisation, Time 4 Us can attract grant funding, furthermore, owing to Signpost's business model, it has been contributing surplus funds into the project, thereby turning profit into social profit. The funding arrangement supports Time 4 Us to deliver an enhanced service to families in Falkirk.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBEJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

During the period of 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016, Time 4 Us received **52** referrals from the Falkirk local authority area. This comprised **26** referrals for adult support and family work and **26** referrals in respect of children requiring support. Sources of referral:

• Signpost Recovery	10
• Falkirk Children and Families Social Work	5
• Falkirk Criminal Justice Social Work	3
• Falkirk Addiction Recovery Service	6
• Addiction Support and Counselling	1
• Falkirk Family Support Service	2
• Self-referrals	14
• Barnardo's Axis	1
• Time 4 Us*	10

*Referral generated by means of identified need through the process of working with another adult or child within the family.

In November 2015, Time 4 Us were invited by Alcohol Focus Scotland to pilot a new intervention, the CHAT toolkit (Children Harmed by Alcohol Toolkit). The aim of CHAT is to provide practitioners who work with children and young people aged 3-16 years with a range of interactive resources that can help build resilience and protective factors and further support the development of emotional intelligence and social awareness. The pilot exercise was a success and, subsequently, Time 4 Us were invited to present at the official CHAT launch. The audience included professionals from across Scotland, thereby ensuring widespread recognition for the service. Staff continue to work closely with Alcohol Focus Scotland and share the benefits of using this toolkit with local partners.

Multi-disciplinary training has been delivered for staff who work with children affected by substance misuse, mental health and domestic abuse. This training has been evaluated well and staff have highlighted that they found it particularly useful for their day-to-day practice.

Time 4 Us recently secured funding for an Early Intervention Service; a 2 year pilot delivering an outreach service to vulnerable families with children aged 0-5 years affected by substance misuse and identified by Police Scotland. The Early Intervention Worker will respond to Police Concern Forms where substance misuse is highlighted, thereby enabling the Early Intervention Worker to intervene and assess at the earliest opportunity.

The team use creative and innovative ways to support children and young people to enhance their self-esteem and build resilience. Children and young people are given the opportunity to talk in a safe environment, where they can discuss their emotions and gain a clearer understanding of their individual life circumstances. Examples of these techniques are as following:

Milk Shake Breathing – a productive approach to teaching self-regulation as a preventative rather than a reactive mechanism.

The Huge Bag of Worries – use of this tool provides an opportunity to help children externalise their disturbing thoughts and/or worries so that they can be better understood and put into a manageable context.

Children often progress to making their own ‘worry box’ where they are encouraged to write or draw their worries and then place them in a box. Boxes can be kept in school to allow a child to communicate worries or feelings with education staff or used at home to encourage the children to communicate worries with their parents. Importantly, this tool is also used when a child lives away from home, thereby providing their carers with an opportunity to understand the child’s thoughts and feelings and therefore allow them to respond appropriately.

Parents and carers who become involved with this activity have commented that it has increased family type discussion about feelings and it has helped them better understand their child.

The Board of Signpost Recovery was able to financially support the annual summer trip to the Blair Drummond Safari Park. The 2015 trip took place in August; attendance was excellent with 39 adults and 50 children enjoying the Safari Park experience.

Christmas 2015 donations provided 120 food hampers to Signpost service users and more than 30 hampers to those in other substance misuse services.

The Signpost Board committed £1000 to buy toys and gifts for the children of service users, with more than 50 children from across Forth Valley benefiting. Time 4 Us co-ordinated the gifting arrangements.

£1000 from Forth Valley ADP and a donation from Falkirk Community Fire Station which included £300 to purchase pyjamas for children and an additional £200 to buy food.

The service’s Social Inclusion Project Co-ordinator liaised with Fire Safety Officers, who supported staff to deliver presents and hampers whilst using the opportunity to undertake fire safety checks. 16 families in Falkirk received fire safety checks, thus ensuring their houses were up to an appropriate fire safety standard for the festive period.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

Time 4 Us continues to work with a waiting list, which creates challenge to ensure that both adults and children receive a timely service when required. Recent evaluation of the service has been positive; however, waiting times impact on the willingness and motivation of parents to engage.

As a consequence, Time 4 Us has developed a referral screening process that ensures that inappropriate referrals are identified and prioritised in accordance with presenting need. The screening process and its effectiveness will be monitored through 2016/17 to ensure it is meeting the needs of stakeholders and service users.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities:

Time 4 Us aims are congruent with Falkirk Council's aim of "continuing to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and Communities". The service is also aligned with the social work children and families aim of "providing support to children in need" and "providing support to children and young people affected by drug or alcohol misuse".

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

None

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Six monthly

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Total funding provided by Falkirk Council for Time 4 Us is **£45,000** for the year 2015/2016; £30,000 from Social Work Services and £15,000 from Corporate and Housing Services.

This is 33% of the total annual income for the core element of Time 4 Us with the remainder being achieved through grant funding.

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

Year ending 31 March 2015.

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

Year by year funding results in potential risk to staff retention.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Low

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year

- Time 4 Us continue to deliver a valuable service to children and families affected by parental substance misuse.
- The location and management of the service from within Signpost Recovery ensures effective delivery, management support and skills/information sharing.

E COMPLETED BY

Name	Matthew Davies
Designation	Service Manager
Date	13 October 2016

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2015/16**

Organisation Name	"Who Cares?" Scotland
Project	Children's Rights Service
Agreement Dates	1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016
Name of Lead Officer	Vivien Thomson

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

The aims of the service provided by "Who Cares?" Scotland are as follows:

- To deliver an effective independent advocacy, advice and support service to children and young people who are looked after away from home.
- To liaise with other relevant service providers and particularly to work alongside the Falkirk Children's Rights Officer.
- To collate client feedback and assess this information to identify needs.
- To consult with children and young people about the services they receive; enable those who need a stronger voice to have their views listened to and actioned where appropriate.
- To enable children and young people to be involved in contributing to decisions about their personal care plan.
- To challenge discriminatory views.
- To support children and young people in ways that improve their confidence.
- To act in the child/young person's best interests.
- Where required, to act as an intermediary between children/young people and Council services.
- To involve children and young people in the wider work of Who Cares? Scotland to ensure Falkirk's young people are represented nationally.

List of Agreed Outcomes

Regular monitoring meetings with Falkirk Council, Quarriers and "Who Cares?" Scotland ensures that work undertaken fulfils the contractual obligations outlined within the Joint Working Agreement.

Agreed individual outcomes are discussed at the monitoring meetings in relation to work undertaken by the young person's worker and the Children's Rights Officer.

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

“Who Cares?” Scotland is an independent advocacy organisation who have provided a service to young people across Scotland since 1978.

The organisation works across Scotland with children and young people with experience of care, to advocate and help them speak out, secure their rights and ensure their qualities and successes are recognised across society. This is done by influencing the people, culture and systems that will positively affect their quality of life. The organisation consults with young people from Falkirk Council and other Local Authority areas to ensure their views are fed into local and national policies and legislation. The organisation lobbies the Scottish Government to improve outcomes for all young people in care ensuring that young people with experience of care remain a high priority on the Scottish Government’s agenda. The Council is required to consult with young people and provide independent advocacy. This service could not be provided within the Council as this could result in conflict with other legal obligations. These duties are increased in the provisions of the Children and Young People (Scot) Act 2014.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBEJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

Local Achievements

- Advocacy provided for 60 - 70 young people during this period which included over 200 individual meetings with young people and over 60 formal meetings.
- Young people participated in Children’s Hearing Training for Falkirk Panel Members and various corporate parenting and Have Your Say events.
- Young Person’s Worker has focused on issues in relation to older young people, including undertaking regular visits to residential units within Falkirk and purchased placements out with the Local Authority area to ensure that young people’s rights are upheld.
- “Who Cares?” Scotland continues to work in partnership with Quarriers Children’s Rights Service to jointly provide a Children’s Rights and Advocacy service for Falkirk Council’s children and young people. This has included joint service development work in relation to the children’s rights and the Champions Board model, joint allocation and project monitoring reports and provision of training to staff and Members.
- “Who Cares?” is a key partner in the work to develop the Champions approach to corporate parenting and are partners in a funding bid related to this. “Who Cares?” was part of the consortium to fight discrimination of children and young people in and from care. Falkirk Council signed up in 2013 to the 5 year campaign, along with 28 Local Authorities, to help challenge discrimination in our society. Falkirk Council pledged to ensure that young people had regular forums for having their voice heard and to ensure that corporate parents listen to the views of young people and do their best to take action. “Who Cares?” has been involved in facilitating and taking forward this work locally.
- Young people from Falkirk participate in the participation and consultation forums covering the central belt.

- “Who Cares?” has involved local young people in delivering training within the Local Authority and to partners as part of the new corporate parenting duties.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

The service is contracted for 18.5 hours per week. Due to high demand for advocacy provision, it is difficult to respond to all requests for advocacy support within the time available. The organisation does endeavour to respond flexibly using its national links, but is also working within the budget constraints which does not allow for further partnership initiatives within the Local Authority. However, the development of the Champions Board will significantly assist in managing some of the challenges, particularly given the inclusion of opportunities for care experienced young people from Falkirk to be trainee participation workers with the service.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The service continues to work in partnership with Quarriers Children’s Rights service, CLD and Children’s Services to ensure that looked after young people receive a robust children’s rights service. The organisation ensures that the views of children and young people are fed into local and national consultations. This is a key priority of the Council’s Corporate Parenting Strategy.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

There are no areas of shortfall.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Joint “Who Cares?” and Quarriers monitoring meetings take place quarterly, with a Steering Group of key stakeholders which directs focus also meeting quarterly. The service reports twice yearly to the Children’s Commission. Additional meetings take place to input to the Champions Board development.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Total Support Provided (Financial & In- Kind Contributions)

£27,970

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

September 2015

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

“Who Cares?” is a robust organisation and there are currently no known risks.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Low

D CONCLUSIONS**Summary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year**

The service continues to meet a key priority in the Council's corporate parenting action plan. Feedback for young people and other groups is that the service is valued and significantly assists young people to express their views. This is increasingly important with the new legislation and recent changes in the Children's Hearing system. "Who Cares?" will play a key role in assisting us to meet the new corporate parenting duties.

E COMPLETED BY

Name	Vivien Thomson
Designation	Service Manager
Date	25 October 2016