



# **Agenda Item**

**4**

**Following the Public Pound –  
Services to Children and Young  
People – 2016/17 Annual Reporting  
Statements**

**Falkirk Council**

**Title: Following The Public Pound: Services To Children & Young People – 2016/17 Annual Reporting Statements**

**Meeting: Scrutiny Committee (External)**

**Date: 16 November 2017**

**Submitted By: Director of Children's Services**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the work of the external organisations that are funded by Children's Services (or by the Scottish Government in relation to those funded by Criminal Justice) which provide services to children, young people, families and adults; and which fall within the Following the Public Pound reporting and monitoring arrangements. The reporting period is April 2016 to March 2017.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. **The Scrutiny Committee (External) is asked to consider individual reports for external organisations and select an option to:-**
- (1) approve the report and acknowledge progress by the external provider(s) in meeting the Council's priorities;**
  - (2) request further information on specific aspects of the service provided;**
  - (3) request action with follow up for subsequent Scrutiny Committee (External) consideration.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1. External organisations which receive funding from Falkirk Council are subject to formal monitoring, scrutiny and reporting. The organisations that receive funding from Children's Services are either from the Third Sector (voluntary/charitable) or NHS Forth Valley. Monitoring is also in place within Criminal Justice funded services.

The organisations are funded on the basis that they are able to provide services which could not readily be provided within the Council. Services are, however, provided in ways which complement those provided by the Council and other statutory partners. They are subject to routine monitoring in terms of their performance against agreed outcomes.

- 3.2. The majority of external organisations were subject to a reduction in funding from the Council last year. Whilst the long term value of input from the funded external provision is acknowledged, challenging fiscal restraints have required organisations to operate with reduced funding and in future years these constraints are expected to further impact on service delivery. As a result, resources allocated to external organisations continue to be under review to ensure value for money.
- 3.3. As part of the process for Following the Public Pound, Monitoring Officers assess risk and measure performance for the organisations they are responsible for. Monitoring takes the form of regular reports and meetings. Each Reporting Statement (attached as Appendices) provides an overview of the service funded by the Council, the agreed objectives or outcomes, performance information during the period and a financial overview.
- 3.4. Children's Services provides varying levels of funding to 16 organisations. They each provide services to children, young people, adults and their families and operate in partnership with Children's Services. They are specifically aligned to support Council priorities, service plan objectives and national policy.

#### **4. Considerations**

The organisations funded by Falkirk Council significantly enhance our ability to meet our statutory responsibilities and local policy objectives but financial constraints require us to keep each arrangement under review.

##### **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**

The Early Years Framework sets out the elements that need to come together to improve outcomes for early years 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 covers a variety of areas relating to the wellbeing of children and young people. Some of the key areas covered are:-

#### **4.2.2 Increasing the Amount and Flexibility of Free Early Learning and Childcare**

Falkirk Council's proposal has been submitted recently to the Scottish Government. The proposal takes into consideration the expected increase in population and aims of expansion.

This is a significant and challenging project which seeks to support all children and their families.

- 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.

The Falkirk Community Justice Partnership was established in 2016 and has a particular focus on the prevention and reduction of further offending. Partners are now required to work together to address the underlying causes of offending and to secure the best possible outcomes for people with convictions, victims and witnesses, families and communities.

### **5 Implications**

#### **5.1. Financial**

The table below details funding received by external organisations which fall within Following The Public Pound reporting. Some of these are national organisations and may have access to other financial resources. An overview of the funding provided for both 2016/17 and the previous financial year (2015/16) is provided. Cyrenians and Signpost Recovery (Criminal Justice Link Nurse – Women Offenders) are funded from the ring-fenced Scottish Government grant awarded annually to Criminal Justice Services.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>Increase (+) / Reduction (-)</b>	<b>Appendix</b>
<b>Aberlour</b> Early Years Outreach Service	£276,384	£263,464	-£12,920 (4.7%)	1
<b>Aberlour</b> Family Support Centre - Langlees	£205,272	£201,260	-£4,012 (2.0%)	2
<b>Barnardo's</b> Axis Service	£137,443	£105,405	-£32,038 (23.3%)	3
<b>Barnardo's</b> Cluaran Service	£687,310	£694,620	+£7,310 +1.1%	4
<b>Barnardo's</b> Education and Family Resources Service	£279,208	£253,644	-£25,564 (9.2%)	5
<b>Barnardo's</b> Education and Family Resources Service (Oxgang Primary School)	£182,724	£182,727	+£3 (-%)	6
<b>Cyrenians</b> Falkirk Criminal Justice Services	£157,959	£183,828	+£25,869 +16.4%	7
<b>Home-Start</b> Falkirk West	£29,488	£29,488	NIL (-%)	8
<b>NHS Forth Valley CAMHS</b> Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children	£70,704	£67,401	-£3,303 (4.7%)	9
<b>NHS Forth Valley</b> Speech & Language Therapy Service	£520,190	£465,040	-£55,150 (10.6%)	10
<b>One Parent Families Scotland</b> Maddiston/Braes Family Centre	£120,755	£115,654	-£5,101 (4.2%)	11
<b>Quarriers</b> Children's Rights Service	£86,200	£86,200	NIL (-%)	12
<b>SACRO</b> Youth Justice Service	£123,336	£121,848	-£1,488 (1.2%)	13
<b>Signpost Recovery</b> Time 4 Us	£45,000	£42,375	-£2,625 (5.8%)	14
<b>Signpost Recovery</b> Criminal Justice Link Nurse – Women Offenders	£22,030	£22,255	+£225 +1.0%	15
<b>“Who Cares?” Scotland</b> Advocacy Service	£27,970	£27,970	NIL (-%)	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,971,973</b>	<b>£2,863,179</b>	<b>-£108,794 (3.7%)</b>	

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1. Each Appendix attached provides a detailed statement of the service provided, the agreed objectives or outcomes, performance information during the reporting period and a financial overview.
- 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. The risk rating for each organisation is contained within the specific statements which are provided as Appendices.

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Director of Children's Services

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Date: 6 November 2017

## **Appendices**

### **Annual Reporting Statements**

- 1) Aberlour Early Years Outreach Service
- 2) Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees
- 3) Barnardo's Axis Service
- 4) Barnardo's Cluaran Service
- 5) Barnardo's Education and Family Support Resources Service
- 6) Barnardo's Education and Family Resources Service (Oxgang Primary School)
- 7) Cyrenians Falkirk Criminal Justice Services
- 8) Home-Start Falkirk West
- 9) NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children
- 10) NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy Service
- 11) One Parent Families Scotland Maddiston/Braes Family Centre
- 12) Quarriers Children's Rights Service
- 13) SACRO Youth Justice Service
- 14) Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us
- 15) Signpost Recovery Criminal Justice Link Nurse – Women Offenders
- 16) "Who Cares?" Scotland Advocacy 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**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	Aberlour
Project	Early Years Outreach Service
Agreement Dates	April 2016 to March 2017
Name of Monitoring Officer	Nick Balchin
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<p><b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b></p> <p>Working on an outreach basis in families' homes and in local community settings, the support provided by Aberlour Early Years Outreach to families will have a direct impact on the wellbeing, development and future outcomes of their children. Aberlour's Outcomes Framework is used to agree, plan review and measure outcomes for each child within the Service. The framework is based on GIRFEC well-being indicators. In taking into account GIRFEC wellbeing indicators for children and young people, the service will:-</p> <p>Safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce risk and levels of harm to children and young people</li> <li>• Increase and/or strengthen protective factors</li> <li>• Improve healthy relationships</li> <li>• Increase access to positive role models</li> </ul> <p>Healthy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve physical health</li> <li>• Improve mental health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Increase access to appropriate health and dental care advice</li> </ul> <p>Active</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve children in regular constructive activity</li> <li>• Increase confidence in children and parents' own ability</li> <li>• Promote positive self-esteem of children and parents</li> <li>• Promote participation in social and community activities</li> <li>• Provide experiences focusing on play, contact with peers and social interaction</li> </ul> <p>Nurtured</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve relationships with family (carers)</li> <li>• Reduce risk of family breakdown</li> <li>• Improve relationship with, and accepting of services</li> <li>• Parents/carers demonstrate understanding of the needs of their child(ren)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b></p> <p>Aberlour Early Years Outreach is tasked to provide a service to vulnerable families and those experiencing multiple stress. In agreement with Falkirk Council, the Service is required to contribute to the outcomes of the Integrated Children's Services Plan and the delivery of provisions in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.</p>	



The Service contributes to the following Falkirk Strategic Priorities:

- Address the impact of poverty on children and young people
- Improving mental health and wellbeing
- Substance misuse
- Inclusion – live, learn and thrive in Falkirk
- Implement 6 corporate parenting duties in the Act
- Earlier identification and response to childhood neglect.

### 3. Why does the council fund this?

The Council are committed to early years and early intervention for families and Aberlour Early Years Outreach play a significant part in delivering support to families who are in need of additional support. The work undertaken is outcome focused and contributes to Falkirk's children having the best start in life. Staff are trained to use specific approaches which meet the needs of individuals and the community.

### 4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?

Aberlour Early Years Outreach (formerly known as CLASP) has been working with young children and their families since January 2000. Funded initially by Sure Start Scotland, the Service has developed significantly since 2000. These changes took place in response to the needs of the children and families across Falkirk, while taking into account the Scottish Government's strategic objectives.

### 5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	263,464	£3000	
2015/16	276,384	£3000	
2014/15	320,562	£3000	
2013/14	325,162	£3000	
2012/13	315,162	£3000	

## B SERVICE DELIVERY

### 1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?

Aberlour Early Years Outreach works with families who are adversely impacted by one or more of the following issues:- bonding/attachment concerns; difficulty with parenting; disability; domestic abuse; child development concerns; family crisis; limited family support; parental learning disability; parental ill health; parental mental health; poverty; problematic substance use. More recently some of these issues now referred to as **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** are stressful or traumatic events, including abuse and neglect

The Service primarily works with expectant parents and those with children under the age of 4 years, in the following areas of Falkirk Council:- Airth, Bantaskine, Bothkennar, Camelon, Carronshore, Denny, Dunipace, Dennyloanhead, Dunmore, Fankerton, Grangemouth, Haggs, Head of Muir, Longcroft, Larbert, Letham, Skinflats, Stenhousemuir, Stoneywood, South Alloa, Tamfourhill,

Torwood.

In addition to this, the Service can also support other families in other areas where there has been an identified gap in service delivery, and where the Service has a specific expertise or resource that is not available in those other areas.

From April 2017 the Service will also work with families with children under the age of 5 years prior to them attending school.

## **2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?**

Since 2000, Aberlour Early Years Outreach has received over 3,000 family referrals, impacting on over 3,500 children.

From 1st April 2016 and March 2017, the Service supported 368 children.

This number includes families who were referred to the Service before 1st April 2016, and received support during April 2016 to March 2017.

The number of new requests for assistance for the financial year 16/17 totaled 215

## **3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client/communities. Include any differences in service.**

There are other Family Support Services across Falkirk Council, provided primarily by the Third Sector, but also by Falkirk Council's Children's Services. Some of these services are geographically located to work in nominated towns and villages. Each of the Services offer different types of interventions but work towards shared outcomes of Falkirk's strategic priorities.

Early Years Outreach's work is commissioned to work in specific geographical areas with young children, however they are able to provide support to families in other areas and with older children where a specific type of support or intervention where other organisations cannot offer this is not available, e.g. Sleep Scotland Counselling, Parenting Assessment Manual Software (PAMS), Infant Massage, Finding A Balance, Positive Parents Group, Seasons for Growth – Adults Programme, Linked Childminding.

## **4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

In addition to direct service delivery activities, Aberlour's Assistant Director chairs Falkirk's Poverty Task Group. The Service Manager attends Falkirk's strategic working groups, namely, Falkirk Child Protection Practitioners Forum Steering Group; Falkirk's Child Poverty Action Task Group; Child and Young People Improvement Group; Food in School Holidays Project; Children's Commission Mental Health and Well-being Task Group; Family Support Task Group. The Assistant Service Manager has sat on Falkirk's Child Protection Committee and Falkirk's Multi-agency Continuation Improvement Group.

**5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

They are consulted on an ongoing basis

**6. What specific geographical areas does this service/organization cover within the Council area?**

New referrals from geographical areas - 2016/17	
Larbert/Stenhousemuir/Letham	45
Falkirk	41
Bantaskin/Camelon/Tamfourhill	34
Grangemouth	33
Denny/Dunipace/Stoneywood	25
Banknock/Bonnybridge/Dennyloanhead	15
Redding/Reddingmuirhead/Westquarter	6
Carron/Carronshore	5
Laurieston/Maddiston/Shieldhill	5
Bainsford/Langlees	4
Avonbridge	1
Slamannan	1

**C ASSESMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

**1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that.  
(Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)**

Of the outcomes set for each of the 368 children :

Improved:	Still Improving	No Change	Deterioration	No Longer Relevant e.g. family chose not no longer work with the Service.
75.3%	8.1%	5.7%	1.1%	9.8%

See additional performance at end of this report

**2. Exception reporting – Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.**

Aberlour have complied with our Joint Working Agreement however there is a concern over future funding cuts and how this will affect children and families. Aberlour are planning to apply for external funding to try to bridge the gap that previous and potential future funding cuts will create. However they are aware that external funders are not necessarily attracted by filling gaps created by funding cuts. They aim to brand some of our work so that it has merit for future potential funding.

**3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?**

Date of most recent review – March 2017  
Next planned review - TBC November/December 2017

**4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?**

See above.

**5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?**

The Service is not a registered service, therefore is not inspected by the Care Inspectorate. There are no other external evaluations.

The Service undertakes an annual Health & Safety Inspection. In addition to this the Service is regularly visited by members of Aberlour's Senior Leadership Team.

The Service undertake internal reviews of our service delivery and working practices.

## **D FINANCIAL/RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

**1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.**

Falkirk Council Funding represents 3.9% of the whole organisation's budget.

Falkirk Council fund 100% of Early Years Outreach's budget. The additional funding to support parents in the perinatal period is another funding source as noted below.

**2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.**

PERINATAL SUPPORT - £82,398 – this funding for 2016/17 came from several sources i.e. Aberlour, William Grant Foundation, Microsoft and the Volant Trust

Aberlour Urgent Assistance Fund: this is specifically to help families, across Falkirk, in need of resources when affected by poverty. During 2016 / 2017 12 Children were supported at a cost of £1210. This includes figures from Aberlour Langlees Family Support Centre.

Individual donors / fundraising: they are able to fundraise internally to allow us to support families experiencing extreme stress, anxiety or poverty. This has been primarily to buy food, clothing, utilities and household goods. This has also allowed them to subsidise summer outings e.g. it would cost 2 parents with 3 children £76.00 to visit Blair Drummond Safari Park, however they would charge this family £21.00

Impact of Welfare Reform : From their fundraised budget they supported 18 families in paying for food, clothing, utilities and household goods

<p><b>3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?</b></p> <p>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, uncommitted or “free” unrestricted reserves for the whole Aberlour national organisation were £1,580,000.</p> <p>There are no uncommitted reserves for Early Years Outreach.</p>
<p><b>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?</b></p> <p>Not applicable</p>
<p><b>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts</b></p> <p>2016/176 – Aberlour national organisation. From September 2017</p>
<p><b>6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?</b></p> <p>See overview report</p>
<p><b>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</b></p> <p>Decreasing the funding will directly affect the service able to be provided.</p>
<p><b>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</b></p> <p>Decreasing the funding will directly affect the service able to be provided.</p>
<p><b>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</b></p> <p>The council would not be able to provide the service to children and families that this organisation does.</p>
<p><b>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</b></p> <p>Medium to high. The families receive support at an early stage in life. Without this support these are likely to require more expensive forms of support.</p>
<p><b>E CONCLUSIONS</b></p>
<p><b>1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.</b></p> <p>Aberlour Early Years Outreach plan to continue to delivering the specialist interventions.</p> <p>There is evidence that the Service is improving outcomes for most of the children and families they are supporting.</p>

They have demonstrated value for the funding on 2016/17.

The service has implemented a saving of more than 15% following the council settlement for April 2017, which will be reported on in 2017/18, and moved premises to assist the council in delivery of education.

**F MONITORING OFFICER DETAILS**

Name: Nick Balchin

Designation: Principal Educational Psychologist

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 7 November 2017

**Performance reports, continued**

<b>ACTIVITIES OR OUTPUTS TARGET AS NOTED IN JOINT WORKING AGREEMENT FOR 2016 - 2018</b>	<b>UPDATE FOR TIME PERIOD FOR 01/04/16 TO 31/03/17</b>
The service will support <b>300</b> families.	The Service worked with <b>368</b> children. The following information does not equate to 368 as children and parents may receive more than one type of support or intervention.
<b>Stay and Play Group – 48 children</b>	74 children attended Stay & Play 80 Parents attended Stay & Play with their children. This number exceeded our projection as attendance at the groups was greater than previously expected.
<b>Positive Parents Group – 24 parents</b>	22 parents attended this in a group setting.. This number was slightly lower than anticipated, however there were some parents who were invited to the Group but did not attend. 13 parents received this support on an individual basis at home due to personal and social circumstances they felt unable to attend a group setting. A total of 45 parents received this intervention.
<b>Finding a Balance Group – 24 parents</b>	19 parents attended this in a group setting. This number was slightly lower than anticipated for the group setting i.e. 24, however there were some parents who were invited to the Group but did not attend. 26 parents received this support on an individual basis at home due to personal and social circumstances they felt unable to attend a group setting. This number did exceed our anticipated demand. A total 45 parents received this intervention

<b>Sleep Scotland – 40 families</b>	<p>a) Individualised programme at home: 20 families accessed this intervention. This impacted on 39 parents and 33 children.</p> <p>b) Group Information Sessions : 15 families accessed this intervention. This impacted on 16 parents and 16 children. They did not meet the target of for Group Information Sessions. However there were some parents who were invited to the sessions but did not attend.</p>
<b>Infant massage – 80 babies</b>	<p><b>150</b> babies received Infant Massage. This number was made from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>128</b> babies attended Infant Massage Classes with their parents.</li> <li>- <b>9</b> dad attended the Dads only Infant Massage Class</li> <li>- <b>13</b> babies and their parents received individual Infant Massage instruction at home as due to personal and social circumstances they have been unable to</li> </ul> <p>This total exceeded the anticipated target. This is partially due to families living out with our main geographical criteria now being able to attend the Class from 2015 and this being more publicised in 2016.</p> <p>They also undertook additional promotion in the Denny area to make families more aware of this resource.</p>
<b>Seasons For Growth : Adult Programme - 12 parents</b>	11 Parents attended this group.
<b>Parenting Manual Assessment Software (PAMS) - 10 families</b>	<p>They have undertaken 5 x PAMS assessments. This is below the anticipated target. This is a time heavy piece of work (minimum 1 day per week for up to 6-9 months). The Service could not commit to undertaking more than this due to the reduction in staffing compliment as a result of the cut in grant received from Falkirk Council.</p> <p>However thry have undertaken Individual Parenting Observations for 5 families which impacted on 8 parents and 11 children. These are less time consuming than PAMS and have a different focus. They are part of a multi-agency plan.</p>
<b>Link Childminding Scheme – 30 children</b>	24 children received this support.
<b>Individual Parenting Support- 80 families</b>	<p>This was provided to 80 families which impacted on 85 parents and 116 children.</p> <p>Of this there were 19 families, 19 parents and 25 children who benefited from individual Play@Home sessions.</p>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
<p><b>Summer Food Group</b> - aimed at providing food for children during the school holidays while cooking with their parents once a week and providing 3 meals each week for children and their parents.</p>	<p>13 families benefited from this intervention. This was funded by Aberlour fundraising.</p>
<p><b>Nursery fees test</b> – Aberlour fundraising paid for accrued debt families and paid for local authority nursery snacks and activities for 10 months. Aimed at increasing children's attendance in nursery; improving relationships between parents and nursery staff.</p>	<p>4 families who had accrued nursery debt: this was paid by Aberlour. 11 families and 14 children benefited from Aberlour fundraising paying the nursery fees for 10 months. This information was presented to Falkirk's Strategic Leadership Team and they are now considering how best to support families experiencing financial hardship whose children attend local authority nurseries.</p>
<p><b>Summer Outings</b></p>	<p>42 families This was subsidised by Aberlour fundraising.</p>
<p><b>Impact of poverty – financial support</b></p>	<p>18 families received financial assistance: this included money for food, utilities, clothing, and/or household goods. This was funded by Aberlour fundraising.</p>
<p><b>Perinatal Befriending Support</b></p>	<p>Early Years Outreach identified a long standing gap in how families are supported when women were experiencing anxiety and /or depression during pregnancy and until their baby's first birthday. Existing funding from Falkirk did not allow us to develop targeted resources for this community, therefore Aberlour has sourced external funding to support women and their babies, by offering trained befrienders. This amounted to £82,398 During 2016/17, 85 families received support.</p>
<p><b>Five to Thrive</b></p>	<p><b>Five to thrive</b> describes a sequence of relational activities that build healthy brains in young children and maintain healthy brain function throughout life. It offers a bridge between professional understanding of neuroscience and everyday experience. Aberlour Early Years Outreach weave this approach through all the work they do with parents to coach them in understanding the neurodevelopment of their children and the importance of nurturing relationships.</p>



**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	Aberlour
Project	Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees
Agreement Dates	April 2016 to March 2017
Name of Lead Officer	Nick Balchin
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<p><b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b></p> <p>Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees aims to work in partnership within the local community by providing a range of services to promote, positively support and strengthen the capacity of families to reach their full potential. The Service primarily works with vulnerable families, expectant parents and those with children under the age of 3 years who live in Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron area.</p> <p>Aberlour will work in partnership with other local agencies where the need arises by doing this strive to complement not duplicate services available. Therefore the Service can also support other families in other areas where there has been an identified gap in service delivery, and where the Service has a specific expertise or resource that is not available in those other areas.</p> <p>Referrals are accepted where there are children and families who are adversely impacted by one or more of the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Child development concerns.</li> <li>2. Parental ill-health and well-being.</li> <li>3. Difficulty with parenting.</li> <li>4. Domestic abuse.</li> <li>5. Problematic substance use.</li> <li>6. Bonding / attachment concerns.</li> <li>7. Limited family support.</li> <li>8. 600 Hours Initiative.</li> </ol> <p>Service will also be offered to children between the ages of 3 and 12 years where there is a need for additional support. Parents will also be supported which will have a direct impact on the well-being and development of their children and young people.</p> <p>When working with families, staff assess the families' needs by using Aberlour Outcomes Framework. The framework is based on GIRFEC well-being indicators and is done with the families and involves them exploring their wellbeing in-line with SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included). A programme of support is then agreed and support is focussed on improving the areas of need identified to plan review and measure outcomes for each child within the Service.</p>	

In taking into account GIRFEC wellbeing indicators for children and young people, the service will:-

Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce risk and levels of harm to children and young people</li><li>• Increase and/or strengthen protective factors</li><li>• Improve healthy relationships</li><li>• Increase access to positive role models</li></ul>
Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve physical health</li><li>• Improve mental health and wellbeing</li><li>• Increase access to appropriate health and dental care advice</li></ul>
Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involve children in regular constructive activity</li><li>• Increase confidence in children and parents' own ability</li><li>• Promote positive self-esteem of children and parents</li><li>• Promote participation in social and community activities</li><li>• Provide experiences focusing on play, contact with peers and social interaction</li></ul>
Nurtured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve relationships with family (carers)</li><li>• Reduce risk of family breakdown</li><li>• Improve relationship with, and accepting of services</li><li>• Parents/carers demonstrate understanding of the needs of their child(ren)</li></ul>
Achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foster communication skills and abilities</li><li>• Create an environment that is interesting and empowers children to learn that will allow children to meet their developmental milestones</li><li>• Improve children and families quality of life</li></ul>
Respected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actively involve families in plans and decisions</li><li>• Ensure families are listened to and heard</li><li>• Communicate with others at a level which is understandable</li><li>• Pursue relevant and appropriate input and feedback from families and partner agencies</li></ul>
Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enable children and parents to take part in planning</li><li>• Encourage families to have positive networks</li><li>• Support families in allowing them to distinguish acceptable and unacceptable behaviour</li></ul>
Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage participation in community activities and services</li><li>• Reduce barriers to inclusion</li><li>• Understand cultural background and kinship</li><li>• Foster a sense of belonging for families and promote their ability to plan for the future</li></ul>

## **2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?**

The service provided by Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees contributes to the following Falkirk Strategic Priorities:

- Address the impact of poverty on children and young people
- Improving mental health and wellbeing
- Substance misuse
- Inclusion – live, learn and thrive in Falkirk
- Implement 6 corporate parenting duties in the Act
- Earlier identification and response to childhood neglect.

## **3. Why does the council fund this?**

The Council's values of fairness, listening and responding, being open, accessible and accountable, promoting our services using plain English as far as possible, providing quality and achieving value for money, is aligned with Aberlour's values to be Respectful, Innovative, Challenging and have Integrity.

The Council are committed to early years and early intervention for families and Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees play a significant part in delivering support to families who are in need of additional support. The work undertaken is outcome focused and contributes to Falkirk's children having the best start in life. Staff are trained to use specific approaches which meet the needs of individuals and the community.

Aberlour staff are members of Council strategic working groups, and play a key role in the reviewing, planning and promotion of improved working practices across the authority in keeping with the Council's Corporate Plan.

The established relationship with Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees has allowed the Council make use of the specialist intervention that the Service can offer. The Service changes and adapts to local needs while addressing the developing priorities of the local authority and the Scottish Government such as the offering of the Eligible 2's provision since 2014.

## **4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?**

Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees (formerly known as Langlees Family Centre), has been working with young children and their families since 1983. Funded initially by Central Regional Council, the Service has grown and developed significantly during this time. When the regions disbanded Falkirk continued with funding of the service. These changes took place in response to the needs of the children and families across Falkirk, while taking into account the Scottish Government's strategic objectives.

5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.

6.

Year	Annual	Support In Kind	One Off Support	Eligible 2s funding Up to
2016/17	£201,260	£3000		£38,600
2015/16	£205,272	£3000		£38,600
2014/15	£225,012	£3000		
2013/14	£225,012	£3000		
2012/13	£225,012	£3000		

## B SERVICE DELIVERY

1. What does the organization deliver and to whom? i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?

The Service offers a range of planned interventions to parents and children. Children and families are supported in a variety of methods detailed below through our core funding:

- **Early Learning and Child Care** sessions are for children aged 18 months – 3 years living in the aforementioned areas meeting the criteria agreed. These sessions support our vulnerable children through providing a safe and nurturing space with high staff:child ratios for children who require intensive support in building secure relationships and learning through play. ***An element of this is funding via Scottish Government monies for the Eligible 2's provision.***
- **Art Therapy** supports Child or Parent to express thoughts, feelings and experiences that may be too difficult to talk about and explore emotions through art (*only available October – March through Trainees from Queen Margaret University*) **(This can be accessed by families living across all areas of Falkirk Council)**
- **Stay & Play** group is an interactive weekly group for parents and their babies / toddlers where staff encourage positive interaction with children and work towards supporting parents in transferring this learning to the home. Parents will increase their skills and understanding of the value of play and how this promotes their child's development.
- **Play Therapy** provides the Child with time and a place to be themselves. They are supported to show how they feel through play in a non-directive environment. Things might come up that feel difficult or hard that make them feel upset or unsure.  
(*only available November – June through Trainees from Queen Margaret University*) **(This can be accessed by families living across all areas of Falkirk Council)**
- **Infant Massage** – a programme to help new parents suffering from or at risk from post-natal depression. It consists of a communication and bonding programme which enhances parent:child relationship, reduces the impact of colic for babies, can improve babies' sleep and evidence demonstrates that it reduces the impact of post-natal depression for mothers. **(This can be accessed by families living across all areas of Falkirk Council)**
- **Seasons for Growth for Adults:** Group sessions enabling parents to understand and learn how adults can manage the painful realities of change, loss and grief. **(This can be accessed by families living across all areas of Falkirk Council)**
- **Seasons for Growth for Children:** Delivered twice a year in 2 local primary schools. Supports children to work together in a group to understand and learn the skills to manage their change, loss and grief. The programme promotes resilience, confidence and self-esteem.
- **Video Interaction Guidance** supports parents in a process of change towards better relationships with their child or children and others who are important to them. Helps to improve

communication between families.

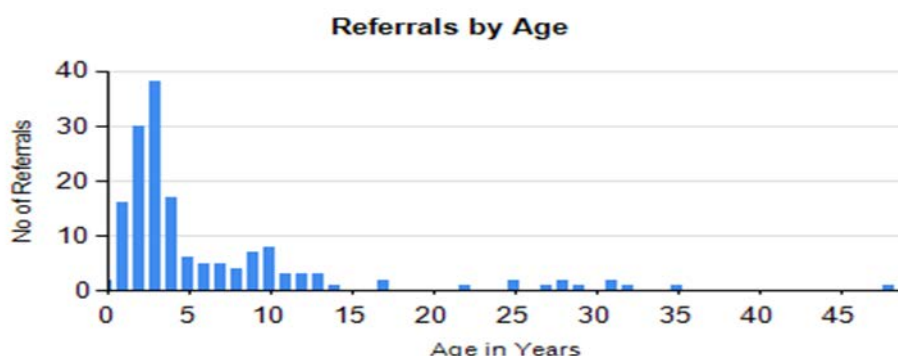
- **In My Shoes** supports children and adults to share their thoughts, feelings and emotions on certain circumstances or traumas in ways that could not be achieved through conventional methods. Improves child & parents emotional well-being.
- **Individual Support for Families:** work with individual families addressing a range of issues. This work can vary from short to long term. This is dependent on the needs of each family and can also include support for families to recognise and make positive changes to strengthen family relationships, encourage and promote positive behaviour and liaise with various agencies involved in the families' lives.
- **Parenting Assessment Manual Software (PAMS)** assesses 312 skills focusing on Parenting Knowledge, Skills and Practice for each parent over 20 Sessions using a variety of methods including questionnaires, cartoon cards and observations. This results in a teaching programme for the parent(s) capacity. A Request for this Service can only be made by Social Work Services. **(This can be accessed by families living across all areas of Falkirk Council)**
- **Five to Thrive:** this attachment based approach to positive parenting has been embedded across each of the interventions / work strands they undertake with families.
- Some staff are also trained in the **Early Bird Programme** supporting parents with children who have a diagnosis of Autism. This has been supported by Falkirk Council.

They have delivered the Eligible 2's provision of **Early Learning and Child Care** sessions for children aged 2 years where there parents are in receipt of particular benefits. This was initially for 10 children however as referrals increased they have been provided by another staff member via Falkirk Council supply to enable the service to accommodate 15 children.

The service has been supporting the '**Langlees Achieve**' through the attainment. The service delivers 7.5 hours of family support to children and their families who have been identified by Langlees Primary.

## 2. Who and how many people directly benefit from the organisation?

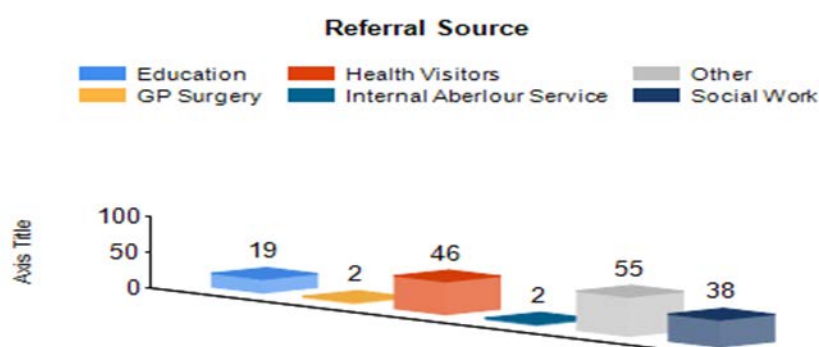
160 children and parents were supported by the service between April 2016 and March 2017 with the following ages:



The number of new requests for assistance for the financial year totaled : 93

April - 4	May - 5	June - 11	July - 9
August - 8	September - 9	October - 8	November - 13
December - 4	January - 10	February - 7	March - 5

Referrals were received from:



*\*'Other' includes a high percentage of Parents referring their children, Speech & Language Colleagues and FDAMH.*

Comments from parents and professionals who have accessed the service include:

"My child is sharing more at home. I would like support with toilet training her. She loves the family centre and her speech is coming on great. I benefit from the break. Don't know what I would do without it." Parent

"Great place so happy to be introduced to the place." Parent

"I don't know what I would do without this place, it's got me through some hard times" Parent

"I can't say enough about the staff here, they go over and above for us" Parent

"I've used Aberlour for 14 years with all my children and they are just brilliant. I see the changes in them, they play better, share better and communicate better" Parent

"Supporting the young children and families of Langlees. Responding quickly to queries with support/advice. Supporting the transitions of children requiring an enhanced transition process to Nursery." Depute Head Teacher

"The service is excellent at working in partnership with parents. They empower parents and support them to achieve with their children." Social Worker

"Recognising when there may be concerns re a child's development and liaising with HV. Offering follow On groups to children who you recognise would benefit from continued support in their development as this may be limited in the household. I'm happy with the service provided." Health Visitor

**3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client/communities. Include any differences in service.**

There is some overlap with Falkirk Council Family Support and Intensive Family Support, however Aberlour is often providing an intermediate tier of support to families between the council Family Support Service and the Intensive Family Support Service. It has similarity

with voluntary sector organisations including Aberlour's other projects, Barnardo's, One Parent Family Scotland, Homestart. The overlap is in terms of broad aims and general populations with profiles of need. They have some similar methods such as group work approaches with parents and using volunteers. The service provided is unique to the specific clients. There are differences in the specific methods used and each of the organisations and they have tended to receive referrals from their traditional geographic areas as that is where they are best known. There are some differences in the age range of the client groups between the voluntary sector services with Aberlour having a significant focus on pre-school aged children. When there is a potential overlap of service a decision is made (between service managers) as to which of the services or agencies is best placed to offer a service so that there is no actual overlap or duplication experienced by children and families. Aberlour Langlees offers unique methods and with the client group focused in Langlees.

#### 4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?

See information above within the report.

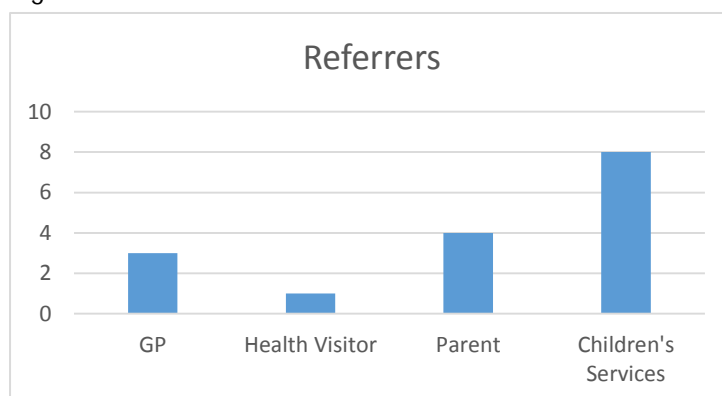
External Manager for the Service chairs the Poverty Task Group and they are a member of Fairer Scotland. Service Manager is the Third Sector Representative on Child Protection Committee and Chair of the Parenting Partnership.

The Service is delivering family support element of the Attainment funding and eligible 2's provision.

#### Are there any areas of improvement or efficiency that could be achieved?

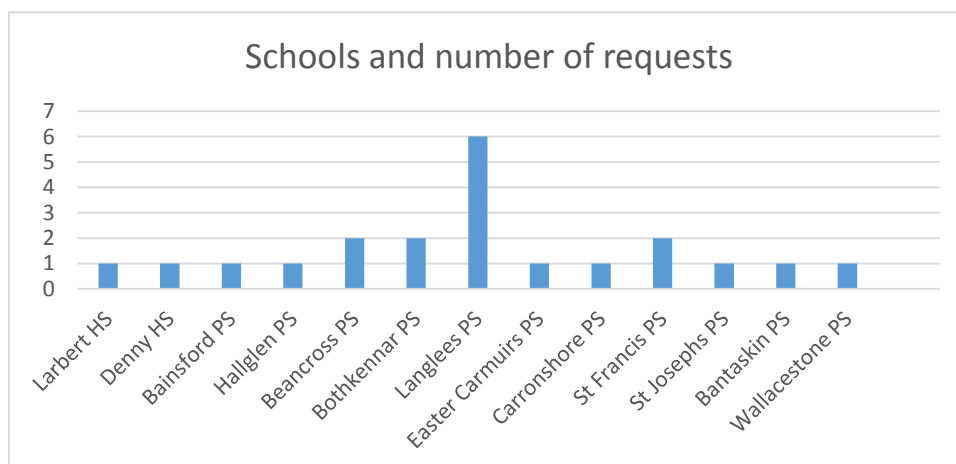
They have made changes in the past year to take account of the ongoing reduced funding. For example, they no longer are able to facilitate the Baby Play group which had been delivered for over 5 years. This group was aimed at coaching parents in how to engage with their babies, through communication, interaction and play; providing advice on how to promote their children's development. However those families still receive this type of support as they have amended our Stay & Play programme to accommodate babies and toddlers.

They are also aware of the increase in referrals for school age children that have been requested from the following sources\*:

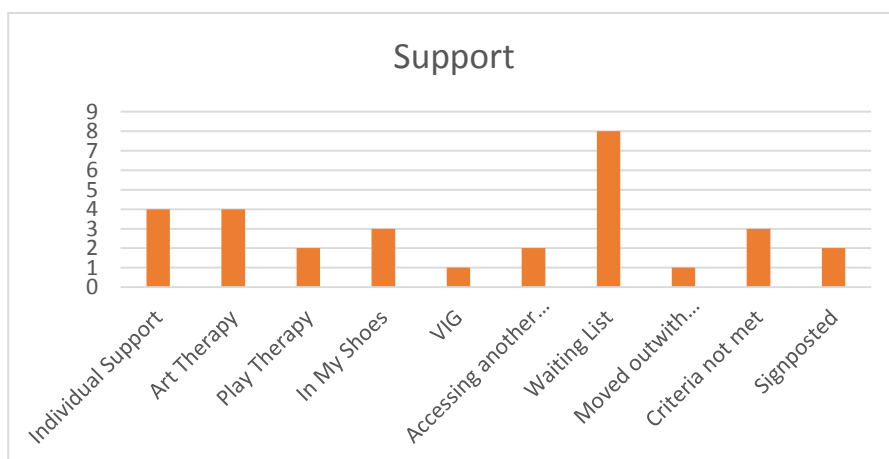


***\*'Children's Services' had 7 Education referrals and 8 Social Work referrals.***

The number of Schools who have referred are detailed below:



The chart below highlights the work offered and the waiting list that has occurred:



#### 5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?

Service users regularly provide feedback to the management team of the service. This in turn informs the types of programs and activities that are offered.

#### 6. What specific geographical areas does this service/organization cover within the Council area?

Langlees and Bainsford.

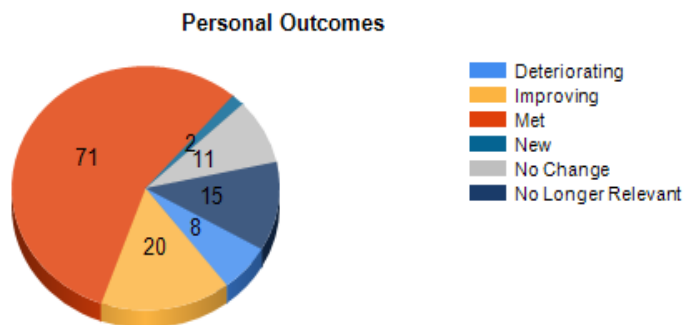
### C ASSESMENT OF PERFORMANCE

1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that. (Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)



The service has exceeded the objectives set by Falkirk Council as 125 families were to be supported in this time frame. The service has supported 140 families with 160 children & adults receiving a service.

Personal Outcomes were identified for the families, out with group work cases. The graph below documents the journey.



**2. Exception reporting – Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.**

Aberlour have complied fully with our Joint Working Agreement however there is a concern over future funding cuts and how this will affect children and families. Aberlour are planning to apply for external funding to try to bridge the gap that previous and potential future funding cuts will create. However they are aware that external funders are not necessarily attracted by filling gaps created by funding cuts. They aim to brand some of their work so that it has merit for future potential funding.

**3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?**

Date of most recent review - March 2017 with Monitoring Officer.  
Next planned review - To be confirmed, approximately November 2017. The monitoring officer has changed.

**4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?**

Efficiencies of more than 15% have been implemented since April 2017.

**5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?**

Yes. Care Inspectorate for Day care element of provision. August 2017.

Date	Care and Support	Environment	Staffing	Management and Leadership
23 Aug 2017	4 - Good (I)	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	4 - Good (I)
15 Jul 2015	5 - Very Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)

09 Jul 2013	5 - Very Good (I)	4 - Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)	4 - Good (I)
01 Aug 2011	5 - Very Good (I)	4 - Good (I)	4 - Good (I)	4 - Good (I)

## D FINANCIAL/RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

### 1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.

Falkirk Council Funding represents 3.9% of the organisation's budget. Aberlour is a Scotland wide service with a range of projects and services.

### 2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.

- **Aberlour Urgent Assistance Fund**: this is specifically to help families, across Falkirk, in need of resources when affected by poverty. **Over 2016 / 2017 12 Children were supported at a cost of £1210.**
- **Individual donors / fundraising**: This is also minimal costs and does not contribute to the daily running of the Service. They received £1000 over the year from Hidden Treasure Charity Shop that covered the costs for summer and Christmas outings for the children & families accessing the service.
- **Impact of Welfare Reform**: From their fundraised budget they supported 9 families as documented in Section A.

### 3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, uncommitted or "free" unrestricted reserves for the organisation were £1,580,000.

### 4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

"Free" reserves represents 9.4% of operation costs.

### 5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

2016/17 accounts are signed off on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

### 6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?

See overview report.

### 7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?

This would require a poverty and equality impact assessment. Aberlour are open to applying for external grants and are better placed to be "bid ready". Decrease in the money from the council will equate to a decrease in service provision.

<b>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</b>  This would require a poverty and equality impact assessment and consultation with staff and service users.	
<b>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</b>  The service to families and children would not be provided in direct proportion to the decrease in funding at best.  The service are seeing an increase in referrals from Children's Services and capacity to support this has decreased.	
<b>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</b>  If funding ceased there is a <u>medium to high</u> risk that families in receipt of the targeted support would escalate to more expensive forms of support and intervention. It is not possible to signpost all families in receipt of service to alternative services	
<b>E CONCLUSIONS</b>	
<b>1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.</b>  The service has made good use of the funds provided in 2016/17 in proving a service. The service has achieved positive outcomes and represents good value for money. The service is already identifying more efficient ways, such as though group work, in which to provide the required support. The Service has made efficiencies into 2017/18 of more than 15%.	
<b>F SUBMITTED BY</b>	
Name:	Nick Balchin
Designation:	Principal Educational Psychologist
Service:	Children's Services
Date of Report:	7 November 2017

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

**Appendix 3**

<b>Organisation Name</b>	Barnardo's
<b>Project</b>	Axis Service
<b>Agreement Dates</b>	1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017
<b>Name of Monitoring Officer</b>	Mathew Davies
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<p><b>1 Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b></p> <p>Barnardo's is one of the UK's largest Children's Charities, delivering over 900 services supporting 220,000 children, young people and their families in the UK every year. Barnardo's vision is that the lives of all children, young people and families should be free from poverty, abuse and discrimination. Barnardo's purpose is to help the most vulnerable children and young people transform their lives and fulfill their potential.</p> <p>Barnardo's Corporate Strategy for 2016-2025 identifies 3 key strategic aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stronger families</li> <li>• Safer childhoods</li> <li>• Positive Futures</li> </ul> <p>Axis 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 a range of difficulties related to alcohol or substance use.</p> <p>The range of interventions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Service: medium to long term support for young people experiencing significant difficulties</li> <li>• Early Intervention Service: consisting of approximately six to eight focused individual sessions, advice/information and group work sessions to existing groups focusing on awareness raising.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2 What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b></p> <p>Barnardo's aims and priorities compliment Falkirk Council Priorities and the AXIS Service directly supports and contributes to Falkirk Council's SOLD and Integrated Children's Services Plan priorities to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve mental health and wellbeing</li> <li>• address the impact of poverty on children</li> <li>• minimize the impact of substance misuse on children</li> </ul>	

Barnardo's AXIS Service is commissioned to:

Provide a specialist young person's Substance Misuse Service in the Falkirk Council area, to support the council to address its priorities in the SOLD plan around minimising the impact of substance misuse.

- Assist the Forth Valley Alcohol and Drugs Partnership strategy to reduce the number of young people using drugs and alcohol.
- Provide an advice and information service for young people and parents engaging with the Service.
- Promote amongst non-specialist services, knowledge and understanding concerning the needs of young people who are misusing substances.
- Work jointly with other Young People's Services in sharing practice, understanding responsibilities and providing drug specific support, information to these organisations as appropriate
- Provide an analysis of need and report back to the Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnership to inform local strategy decisions.
- Ensure links are developed between Young People's Substance Service i.e. Axis and Adult Treatment Services to ensure transitional provision is developed where appropriate.

### **3 Why does the Council fund this?**

The Axis Service has specialist knowledge and skills in relation to young people who use substances. The service is unique in Falkirk in that it provides a harm reduction service to young people and is aligned with the SOLD priority of reducing harm resulting from substance misuse.

### **4 How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?**

The Axis Service was established in 2009 as a result of identified unmet need in relation to young people's substance misuse and associated risks.

### **5 Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.**

Year	Annual Funding	Voluntary Funds
2016-17	£105,405	-
2015-16	£137,443	£28,314
2014-15	£144,676	£54,497
2013-14	£144,676	£66,454
2012-13	£144,676	£67,319

## **B SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **1 What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?**

#### **CORE SERVICE**

The Core Service works with young people who are identified because of problematic substance use and require an intensive/long term service. Their needs are identified using a detailed comprehensive assessment tool. The Core Service works with the broader range of issues of which substance use is often a symptom. These issues include:

- exposure to or experience of domestic violence
- generational poverty, parental substance use
- transient home life
- limited educational attainment
- experience of care system
- child sexual exploitation.

Falkirk Council funding pay for the intensive core service. Barnardo's has been able to use this money to access additional monies/resources for Falkirk young people either by way of voluntary funds, Children in Need or most recently monies from the ADP and Lloyds. The ADP has recently awarded two years funding for a part time post to provide the following focus.

#### **EARLY INTERVENTION**

##### **Individual Support**

Consists of between 1 - 8 sessions, may involve family members and will include:

- Substance use profiling which is done as part of the initial and second session.
- Sessions build on the young person's knowledge and awareness of substance effects and risks, according to their age, stage and pattern of use.
- Sessions set goals and identify support or resources needed to achieve them.
- Signposting to other services,
- Follow-up after 3 months.

Axis also provides one-off information and advice sessions to young people who do not require or do not wish to commit to the 1-8 sessions

##### **Group Interventions**

Axis work alongside partner agencies to deliver bespoke awareness focus sessions to groups of young people where the issue of drugs or alcohol is identified. This is primarily in schools throughout Falkirk.

## Care Experienced Substance Service

Building on the key learning and experience of a pilot project delivered since August 2015 – June 2017. This ADP Funded Pilot was aimed at developing a service intervention to respond to a gap in provision for care experienced young people who are affected by their own alcohol/substance misuse.

Due to the success of the pilot in Forth Valley, Barnardo's secured £120,000 additional funding from Lloyds TSB to enable the care experienced specific post to continue in Falkirk for a further three years.

### 2 How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

During the period April 2016 – March 2017, contact was made with **104** young people and/or their referrers. 73 referrals were received, 69 new referrals and 4 re-referrals.

39 young people were assessed and assigned to the Core Service 64 young people were assessed and assigned to the Early Intervention Service.

One young person had no substance issues and was considered inappropriate,

The Axis Service has access to Barnardo's Forth Valley Volunteers to enhance service delivery and maximise the resources for young people and their families as appropriate.

### 3 Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client / communities. Include any differences in service.

Although Axis is the only specialist young people's Substance Service within Falkirk it works collaboratively with the following service agencies :-

Social Work  
Schools  
Police Scotland  
CAMHS  
Children's Residential Children's Houses  
Leaving Care Team

### 4 How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?

Barnardo's aims and priorities compliment Falkirk Council priorities and our local commissioned services directly support and contribute to Falkirk Council's SOLD and ICSP priorities.

The Axis Service is aligned to the Falkirk Councils SOLD goals of :-

- Minimising the impact of substance by challenging harmful perceptions of norms within our communities.
- Health and wellbeing and children developing into resilient confident and successful adults

Barnardo's managers and project workers engage and support a wide range of Children's Commission strategic and operational groups and activity, audit and inspection, review and redesign. Barnardo's provides expertise and flexibility, additionality by way of funding, resources, influence, learning and leadership and compliments Falkirk Council's resources, reach and intervention.

**5 How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

AXIS service user's views are gathered at every stage of the engagement, assessment and care planning and intervention process. Young people, and where appropriate their families, participate in designing their service plan and their feedback is considered through regular service reviews and final feedback and evaluation processes.

Individual plans are responsive to young people's needs, circumstances and learning style. Staff apply a range of tools and process to ensure a high level of service user participation and influence.

Barnardo's has a representation and Complaints Policy to further encourage and facilitate service user feedback. All staff participate in children's rights training to ensure best practice.

**6 What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?**

Axis is commissioned to deliver services to the whole Falkirk Council area.

**C ASSESMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

**1 Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that. (Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)**

2016-17			
New Referrals	No of YP previously assessed and assigned	YP assessed and assigned to the Core Service	YP Assessed and assigned to the Early Doors Service
73	31	39	64
2015-16			
79	29	39	69

2016-17 – one young person had no substance issues and was considered inappropriate.

The AXIS Service activity and performance is reported to an established Steering Group, chaired by the Monitoring Officer. Any challenges and opportunities are identified and progress and performance in relation to the contract is reviewed.

Outcomes are attached in Annex 1.

**2 Exception reporting - Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.**

No issues to report.



**3 When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?**

The Service participated in the ADP – Quality Standards Inspection in March 2016.

As a result of Falkirk Council 2017/18 budget and subsequent reduction in service funding, discussions took place in March 2017 regarding future funding, resources and service priorities.

In addition, all Barnardo's Services are subject to internal audit and review – finance, quality and performance - and subject to independent Corporate Inspection and Audit cycle.

**4 Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?**

Improvements are being considered relating to the delivery of service to Larbert Emergency department.

**5 Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?**

The service is not subject to any external regulation but has participated in wider partnership inspections, including ADP – Quality Standards Inspection in March 2016.

**D FINANCIAL/RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

**1 Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.**

Year	Falkirk Council - Core	ADP – Early Doors	% Falkirk/ADP
2016-17	£105,405	£32,692	76/24
2015-16	£137,443	£28,314	83/17

During this time period the ADP contributed monies to fund the Early Intervention Service and the Pilot Project for LAC young people.

**2 List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.**

Barnardo's in Falkirk and across the Forth Valley delivers a range of services, most funded by statutory partners and supported by Barnardo's voluntary funds and other external small grants (activity specific).

As a national organisation, Barnardo's has a wide range of statutory and trust/grant income as indicated within the annual accounts.

**3 What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?**

Please note that the statement below in relation to reserves applies to the Barnardo's UK.

Abstract from Annual report and Accounts 2016/2017:

*'The Balance Sheet shows unrestricted reserves (reserves that do not carry any restrictions on how they can be used) of £104.9 million (2016: £99.1 million). In carrying out our assessment of reserves, we look at reserves prior to taking pension liabilities into account, referred to as free reserves. In assessing our level of free reserves against the target range, we also exclude the fixed asset fund of £41 million (2016: £41.7 million) because this cannot quickly be realised. We do include the working capital fund of £14.4 million (2016: £8.1 million) as no restrictions apply to this fund. After excluding the fixed assets fund, this leaves free reserves above the target at £63.8 million (2016: £57.4 million). If necessary Trustees will aim to bring reserves back within the range, once that is decided, over the next two to three years.*

*Our unrestricted reserves assessment also takes no account of the £35 million (2016: £30.6 million) held in restricted and endowment funds. Only the income from these funds is available for our work'.*

#### **4 What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?**

Please note that the statement below in relation to reserves applies to the Barnardo's UK.

Abstract from Annual report and Accounts 2016/2017 (p. 11-12 attached):

*'Reserves are represented by the fund balances in the Balance Sheet on page 27 of the Annual Report and Accounts.*

*The level of our reserves is determined by balancing two objectives: maintaining sufficient reserves to enable us to carry on our work when faced with difficult circumstances, and ensuring we maximise the resources used for charitable purposes. Our reserves level therefore needs to be adequate to allow us to address potential losses that might arise from our charitable activities, investments, trading and other activities. It also needs to give us sufficient time to adjust our strategy to meet changing circumstances without unnecessarily removing funds from addressing our charitable purposes.*

*The Board of Trustees assesses the risks Barnardo's could be exposed to and the appropriate level of reserves that we should maintain. Last year's assessment of the target range of free reserves (funds that are freely available to be used for our general charitable purposes) was £39 million to £51 million. We regularly review the actual level of reserves, and take action to bring it back in line with the target if the level looks likely to move significantly outside the target range. In 2017/18, Trustees plan to review the reserves in the light of the much greater financial and economic uncertainties caused by Brexit and the current political uncertainty. They may opt to raise the range significantly to recognise the increase in risk to the charity'.*

#### **5 Last period of submitted audited accounts**

2016-17 Accounts are pending and will be available in October 2017.

#### **6 What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?**

There are no other services within Falkirk that provide a specialist substance service to young people who are directly involved with problematic substance misuse.

<b>7</b>	<p><b>Future sustainability - Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</b></p> <p>The service has moved towards improving resilience within a climate of diminishing resources by the development of a Barnardo's Forth Valley Substance Misuse Service.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>How can reductions in funding be achieved?</b></p> <p>The service has secured additional resource £120,000 over 3 years for Falkirk young people using the funding the Council provides to facilitate access. Axis has also secured additional ADP funding for Early Intervention Service.</p> <p>Axis is working with the Alcohol and Drug Partnership and its Monitoring Officer to ensure that service are aligned with strategic priorities. Axis recognises the need to secure additional funding out with Falkirk Council resources and be ready to respond when these opportunities arise.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</b></p> <p>Axis has achieved economies of scale through shared premises, shared admin and management with other Barnardo's Falkirk/Forth Valley Services.</p> <p>Progressive savings or stand still budgets over the previous five years were managed through holding vacant posts, economies of scale and other reductions in spending where possible. Further reduction will impact on direct delivery, service viability and the sustainability of the additional Care leavers post funded through Lloyds TSB.</p> <p>Further reduction in funding, will result in a reduction in service delivery staffing and therefore delivery hours. This will lead to proportionate reduction of service delivery and therefore reduction in young people and families who can access the service. It will also increase the time that young people are on a waiting list</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</b></p> <p>Low</p>
<b>E CONCLUSIONS</b>	
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.</b></p> <p>Please see 8 &amp; 9 above.</p>
<b>F. Monitoring Officer Details</b>	
Name: Matthew Davies	
Designation: Service Manager	
Service: Children's Services	
Date of Report: 18-10-17	

## Annex 1

### Core Outcomes Achieved 2016-17

	YP Showing Improvement	Young people maintaining	Young people showing a
1.1.01 Receives necessary health care	0	3	0
1.2.01 Enhanced parent/carer/adult - child relationships	1	3	0
1.2.13 Improved mental health & well-being	5	8	0
1.3.02 Knowledge of sexual health strategies	2	4	0
1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	13	8	3
1.5.04 Knowledge of alcohol/drug misuse risks	9	12	0
1.5.05 Improved Parental Knowledge of alcohol/drugs risks	0	1	0
2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	11	11	2
4.1.15 Access to information on housing, health, benefits, rights or support needs	0	2	0
5.2.01 Satisfactory school/college attendance	0	1	1
6.1.04 Positive socialisation with peers	3	3	0
6.1.05 Increased choice of activities/opportunities	2	2	0
8.1.03 Reduction in anti-social behaviour	2	1	1
9.1.02 Access to employment, education or training	5	4	0

## Early Intervention Outcomes Achieved 2016-17

Outcome	Young People Showing	Young People maintaining	Young people showing a
1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	14	10	2
1.5.04 Knowledge of alcohol/drug misuse risks	18	11	0
2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	14	11	1

## Core Outcomes achieved 2015-16

	YP Showing Improvement	Young people maintaining	Young people showing a
1.1.02 Receives necessary health care	3	1	0
1.2.02 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	6	8	1
1.3.02 Knowledge of sexual health strategies	4	3	0
1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	14	5	1
1.5.04 Knowledge of alcohol/drug misuse risks	10	6	0
1.5.05 Improved Parental Knowledge of alcohol/drugs risks	1	0	0
2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	14	7	0
5.2.01 Satisfactory school/college attendance	1	0	1
6.1.04 Positive socialisation with peers	4	4	0
6.1.05 Increased choice of activities/opportunities	2	0	1
8.1.03 Reduction in anti-social behaviour	2	1	0
9.1.02 Access to employment, education or training	6	1	2

## Early Intervention Outcomes achieved 2015-16

Outcome	Young People Showing	Young People maintaining	Young people showing a
1.5.01 Reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances	10	4	2
1.5.04 Knowledge of alcohol/drug misuse risks	12	2	1
2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	13	3	1

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Barnardo's</b>
<b>Project</b>	<b>Cluaran</b>
<b>Agreement Dates</b>	<b>1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017</b>
<b>Name of Monitoring Officer</b>	<b>Matthew Davies</b>
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<p><b>1. Summary of Key Aims &amp; Objectives of Organisation</b></p> <p>The aim of the Cluaran Service is to ensure as many young people as possible can remain in their own families, schools and communities wherever safe and appropriate. Young people aged 11-16 years old are referred to the Service if they meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At risk of being looked after away from home</li> <li>- At risk of being placed in a residential school or residential placement out with the Falkirk areas as a result of combined education and care placement difficulties</li> </ul> <p>The service participates in a range of groups within Falkirk aimed at developing good practice and improving outcomes for young people. These include membership of various Children's Commission subgroups and Voluntary Sector Children's Services Steering Group.</p> <p>The service 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</p>	
<p><b>2. What is the Purpose of the funding provided by the Council</b></p> <p>To ensure that wherever possible children are cared for in the Falkirk area and not in residential school or external residential provision.</p>	
<p><b>3. Why does the council fund this?</b></p> <p>The Cluaran Service has specialist knowledge and skills relating to the target service user group. Barnardo's have expertise in this area of service delivery and joint fund the Service.</p> <p>The service is innovative providing a model for relationship based practice. The service has assisted the local authority to develop its quality assurance processes and outcome measures through the joint development and application of the Outcomes Framework Toolkit.</p> <p>The service has a robust understanding of partnership and has engendered relationships across Falkirk communities and support provision. The service is embedded with local stakeholders and has referral protocols and pathways in operation with key support partners.</p>	

**4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this service?**

17 years – throughout this time the service has adapted and responded to emerging need and realignment with new and refocused Council Services.

**5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years**

Year	Annual	Support In Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	345,300	349,320	£10,640 Vocational Income c/f
2015/16	345,300	342,010	£34,660 Vocational Pilot
2014/15	361,620	330,010	none
2013/14	361,280	316,930	none
2012/13	360,380	336,890	none

**B SERVICE DELIVERY**

**1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom?**

Cluaran's aim, in partnership with Falkirk Council, is to ensure as many young people as possible remain with their own families, schools and communities wherever safe and appropriate to do so. Individual packages of support are designed to meet the needs of the young people in a variety of ways:

- Family Work
- Support through Transitions
- Group Work
- Education Support
- Support for Parents/Carers

When working with young people and families the service identifies progress through Barnardo's Outcomes Framework. This involves the family, young person, and other professionals agreeing the focus of work based on a range of outcomes in line with SHANARRI Wellbeing Indicators. A programme of support is delivered around an action plan targeting these areas.

For the purpose of reporting 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 identify the specific outcomes for each young person and family. (See Annex 1).

The service utilises Barnardo's Forth Valley Volunteers to enhance and extend service delivery and to maximise the resources and competence within our communities.



## 2. How many People directly benefit from the organisation?

Between April 2016 and March 2017:

- 59 young people and their families received a service from Cluaran. (the target is to provide support to up to sixty young people and their families in any one year.)
- 27 young people were looked after at home;
  - 19 were looked after away from home;
  - 6 young people had voluntary contact with social work;
  - 7 young people had no legal status. Of the young people who have received support to date, 26 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:
  - 27 (93%) remained in the community;
  - 23 (85.2%) remained at home;
  - 1 (3.7%) remained in a foster care placement;
  - 3 (11.1%) remained in a community based residential service within Falkirk;
  - 1 (3.5%) was placed in community based residential service outwith Falkirk; and
  - 1 (3.5%) young person refused to engage.

In addition to working with individual young people and their families during one-to-one and family sessions, the service runs a number of group work programmes for young people and parents and/or carers. Some of these have included education focused groups; landscaping and gardening opportunities; Forth Valley College taster sessions and a variety of activities to promote health, wellbeing and socialising opportunities such as teen yoga, cycling and football.

Group support for parents and carers has focused on parenting skills: family cooking group, an attachment-based parenting group and family days during the summer period.

Overall, in addition to ongoing family work, the Service has provided group work opportunities for 71 parents and Carers.

## 3. Set out what other similar or complimentary services are provided which are similar in function or support the same clients/communities.

Cluaran works in partnership with a variety of complimentary children's services. These include social work, schools (including Mariner Support Service), IFSS, NHS FV and other Third Sector Organisations.

Whilst there are services for children and young people with similar needs i.e., education and Intensive Family Support, Cluaran is located within the Council's continuum of service provision and tiered support and intervention. Access to the service is by way of a strategic allocation group (SSRG) to ensure appropriate gatekeeping and application of resources throughout the council area.

#### **4. How does this organisation support the council to achieve its priorities?**

Barnardo's aims and priorities compliment Falkirk Council priorities and its local commissioned services directly support and contribute to Falkirk Council's SOLD and ICSP priorities.

The Cluaran Service is aligned to the Council's strategic goals of:

- Continuing to improve the health, safety and well-being of our citizens and communities
- Tackle disadvantage and discrimination in all of its forms

In terms of the Children and Families Service Plan goals:

- To support children in need.

In terms of Education Services' priorities:

- Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination

Track, monitor and intervene to support vulnerable groups, especially looked after children.

Barnardo's managers and project workers engage and support a wide range of Children's Commission Strategic and Operational Groups and activity, audit and inspection, review and redesign.

#### **5. How are Service Users involved in the design and delivery of Services?**

Cluaran aims to ensure that service user involvement is an integral part of systems and services, resulting in more effective service design delivery, and evaluation.

Young people and families are involved in ongoing conversations with staff which influence the service they receive, from choosing activities leading to the achievement of educational awards, to designing and helping to landscape the service grounds.

Young people from Cluaran recently participated in a workshop run by staff to help inform the "Gender Equality, Gender Based Abuse" research commissioned by the Scottish Government.

Young people are involved in staff recruitment processes.

#### **6. What specific geographical areas does this Service/Organisation cover within the Council Area?**

All geographical areas within Falkirk Council.

<b>C ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE</b>
<b>1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. if there is any benchmarking data provide that.</b>
<p>29 young people completed the Cluaran programme during the course of 2016/2017. 27 remained in the community - this equates to 93%. The service is funded to maintain a target of 75% of young people in the community. Consequently, the service exceeded its service delivery expectations.</p> <p>Annex 1 provides detailed information relating to aggregate outcomes for young people who have been involved with the Cluaran programme. This type of information is presented routinely to the Cluaran monitoring group and it can be seen that the majority of indicators are green, representing a positive shift as children and young people progress through the programme.</p> <p>The service has demonstrated an ability to offer flexible packages of support to children in crisis, in mainstream education settings this year. These packages have been delivered at a higher intensity than would normally be the case for Cluaran programmes and at short notice. This has allowed children to be maintained in mainstream provision in circumstances where otherwise these placements would have broken down.</p> <p>The service has continued to assist Falkirk Council's implementation of the Outcomes Framework and is prepared to continue to support the implementation of the framework to all looked after children. This is beyond the agreed remit of the service and represents added value.</p> <p>Barnardo's have made efficiencies in terms of its management structure and its accommodation to allow it to continue to deliver frontline services at the same level despite budget cuts.</p>
<b>2. Exception reporting – Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected</b> No issues to report.
<b>3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?</b>  The service delivery is reviewed 6 monthly through a multi-agency Cluaran Monitoring and Steering Group.
<b>4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?</b>  Consideration will be given to targeting the service more effectively to ensure that more children can be supported to remain at home.
<b>5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so, please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?</b> No.

**D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW****1. Set out FC funding as % of organisation's budget, including financial and in-kind contributions.**

Year	Falkirk Council - Cash	Falkirk Council - CIK	Barnardo's Vol Funds	%
2016-17	£345,300	£349,320	£68,173	90/10
2015-16	£345,300	£342,010	£95,377	86/14

**2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.**

Barnardo's Voluntary Funds as noted above - £68,173 (2016/17).

**3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?**

Please note that the statement below in relation to reserves applies to the Barnardo's UK.

Extract from Annual report and Accounts 2016/2017:

*'The Balance Sheet shows unrestricted reserves (reserves that do not carry any restrictions on how they can be used) of £104.9 million (2016: £99.1 million). In carrying out our assessment of reserves, we look at reserves prior to taking pension liabilities into account, referred to as free reserves. In assessing our level of free reserves against the target range, we also exclude the fixed asset fund of £41 million (2016: £41.7 million) because this cannot quickly be realised. We do include the working capital fund of £14.4 million (2016: £8.1 million) as no restrictions apply to this fund. After excluding the fixed assets fund, this leaves free reserves above the target at £63.8 million (2016: £57.4 million). If necessary Trustees will aim to bring reserves back within the range, once that is decided, over the next two to three years.*

*Our unrestricted reserves assessment also takes no account of the £35 million (2016: £30.6 million) held in restricted and endowment funds. Only the income from these funds is available for our work'.*

**4. What proportion of operation costs do reserves represent?**

Please note that the statement below in relation to reserves applies to the Barnardo's UK.

Extract from Annual report and Accounts 2016/2017

*'Reserves are represented by the fund balances in the Balance Sheet on page 27 of the Annual Report and Accounts.*

*The level of our reserves is determined by balancing two objectives: maintaining sufficient reserves to enable us to carry on our work when faced with difficult circumstances, and ensuring we maximise the resources used for charitable purposes. Our reserves level therefore needs to be adequate to allow us to address potential losses that might arise from our charitable activities, investments, trading and other activities. It also needs to give us sufficient time to adjust our strategy to meet changing circumstances without unnecessarily removing funds from addressing our charitable purposes.*

*The Board of Trustees assesses the risks Barnardo's could be exposed to and the appropriate level of reserves that we should maintain. Last year's assessment of the target range of free reserves (funds that are freely available to be used for our general charitable purposes) was £39 million to £51 million. We regularly review the actual level of reserves, and take action to bring it back in line with the target if the level looks likely to move significantly outside the target range. In 2017/18, Trustees plan to review the reserves in the light of the much greater financial and economic uncertainties caused by Brexit and the current political uncertainty. They may opt to raise the range significantly to recognise the increase in risk to the charity'.*

**5. Last period of submitted accounts**

Barnardo's Audited Accounts for 2015-16 are enclosed. 2016-17 accounts are pending.

**6. What other services does the council fund that are similar to this organisation including council provision and to what level are those activities funded?**

Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS) £437,550.

**7. Future sustainability - Are there any ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the council?**

The service has participated in a range of reviews. Recent reviews include PSP Family Support (2015) and the subsequent Family Support Review (2016) led by Falkirk Council Children's Service. The most recent review was undertaken by Barnardo's and Falkirk Council Monitoring Officer in March 2017 as a result of Falkirk Council 2017/18 budget and reduction in service funding.

The service, along with other Barnardo's Services in Falkirk, have applied further economies of scale, service co-location and reduction in staff resources to achieve reduced Council Funding for 2017-18. Continued reduction in funding would require a further review and redesign of service activities/ targets and result in a reduction in service outputs.

The service is 'bid ready' in relation to external funding opportunities.

**8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?**

Further reduced funding would result in decreased service output as described above.

**9. What is the risk to the council if these services are not funded?**

The Cluaran service is commissioned to reduce the likelihood of young people being placed in residential schools outwith the council as a result of their level of risks and needs. The demand for the service is high and it has demonstrated it can support young people to remain in their communities and achieve positive outcomes.

If this service was not funded, more young people would be at risk of being accommodated in residential schools outwith Falkirk; this would have resource and financial implications for Falkirk Council.

**10. Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should clarify the risk to the council not the organisation.**

Low

## **E CONCLUSIONS**

### **1 Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow the services to continue to be delivered.**

The service has continued to perform well throughout the year and effects spend to save in terms of reducing the costs associated with the placement of children in external resources. Cluaran contributes to a wide range of strategic and developmental forums and has made a significant contribution to Children's Services as the result of the assistance provided relating to the roll out of the outcomes Framework.

Barnardo's is a responsive organisation who has works in partnership with Falkirk Council to review, extend and influence service development and activity. Specifically the service has been proactive in sharing learning and resources in relation to attachment and trauma.

The service is aware of the likelihood of further reviews in relation to Education and Family Support Services and has confirmed its commitment to work with the writer (monitoring officer) to respond to further change.

## **F Monitoring Officer Details**

**Name:** Matthew Davies

**Designation:** Service Manager

**Service:** Children's Services

**Date of Report:** 16-10-2017

# Annex 1

## Achieved Outcomes April 2016 – March 2017

	Improvement	Maintained Same Level	Deterioration
<i>Healthy</i>			
I.2.01 Enhanced parent, carer or adult-child relationships	1	4	0
I.2.04 Increased resilience	10	4	0
I.2.05 Increased confidence	1	3	0
I.2.18 Improved family communications	2	0	0
I.2.19 Improved self esteem	3	2	0
I.2.24 Improving parenting	1	0	0
I.2.26 Improved peer relations	1	1	0
<i>Safe</i>			
2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	3	1	0
2.1.13 Reduced association with risky peers	0	1	0
2.3.02 Able to solve conflicts constructively	5	5	0
<i>Nurtured</i>			
4.1.04 Positive, improved family relationships	2	3	1
4.1.10 Improved family routines	4	0	0
<i>Achieving</i>			
5.2.01 Satisfactory school or college attendance	2	1	0
5.2.02 Positive student attitude towards learning	7	6	0
5.2.03 Remain in or return to mainstream education	7	3	0
5.2.04 Improved behaviour in school	3	1	0
5.2.06 Access to alternative education provision	1	0	0
5.3.01 Satisfactory progress in learning/developmental goals	4	2	1
5.4.01 Satisfactory Academic Performance	1	0	0
<i>Active</i>			
6.1.01 Social skills gained/improved	1	1	0
6.1.04 Positive Socialisation with Peers	2	1	0

## Achieved Outcomes April 2015 – March 2016

	Improvement	Maintained Same Level	Deterioration
<i>Healthy</i>			
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
<i>Safe</i>			
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
<i>Nurtured</i>			
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
<i>Achieving</i>			
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
<i>Active</i>			
6.1.01 Social skills gained/improved	3	1	0
6.1.04 Positive Socialisation with Peers	2	2	0
<i>Responsible</i>			
8.1.03 Reduction in anti-social behaviour	1	0	0
8.3.06 Assume age appropriate responsibilities	1	0	0



FALKIRK COUNCIL  
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17

Organisation Name	Barnardo's
Project	Education and Family Resources Service
Agreement Dates	April 2016 – March 2017
Name of Monitoring Officer	Nick Balchin
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<p><b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b></p> <p>Barnardo's is one of the UK's largest Children's Charities, delivering over 900 services supporting 220,000 children, young people and their families in the UK every year.</p> <p>"Barnardo's <b>vision</b> is that the lives of all children, young people and families should be free from poverty, abuse and discrimination. Our <b>purpose</b> is to help the most vulnerable children and young people transform their lives and fulfil their potential. Our strength is in the <b>diversity</b> of the services they provide, each of which is <b>locally based</b> and addresses local need.</p> <p>All of their services address child and family disadvantage, striving to demonstrate greater effectiveness and they are uniquely placed to transfer best practice across elements of delivery and can share and apply innovation and learning from different areas of our work to new settings."</p> <p>Barnardo's statement,</p>	
<p><b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b></p> <p>Barnardo's has been a longstanding 3rd sector partner who has provided competent, responsive and effective interventions to children, young people, families from this service since 1986 and has demonstrated a "can do" approach when Falkirk Council has required flexibility or change to focus of work to meet changing priorities. Barnardo's aims and priorities compliment Falkirk Council Priorities and our local commissioned Services directly support and contribute to Falkirk Council's SOLD and ICSP priorities to: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve mental health and wellbeing - children will develop into resilient, confident and successful adults</li> <li>• address the impact of poverty on children</li> <li>• minimize the impact of substance misuse on children</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. Why does the council fund this?</b></p> <p>Specifically this service is funded to provide targeted support for families, using early intervention approaches and in partnership with other agencies. It has been traditionally in the Bo'ness area with latter changes to include the Graeme High School cluster (Falkirk East) and then all of Falkirk from 2015 onwards. They work with families of children from birth to 18.</p>	

**4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?**

The partnership with Barnardo's began in the mid 1980's. The original service was set up as Bo'ness Family Centre; the first 7 years were funded through Urban Aid and Barnardo's. At the end of the seven year period 1992 – 93, the Local Authority and Barnardo's agreed the ongoing funding and development. This agreement based on local need and Council priorities has continued through periods of 5, 3 and 1 year funding since the early 1990's with a range of incremental changes in relation to funding, targets and geographic reach.

**5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.**

Year	Annual Support	In Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	£253,644	£16,200	N/A
2015/16	£279,208	£16,200	N/A
2014/15	£298,405	£16,200	N/A
2013/14	£298,405	£16,200	N/A
2012/13	£298,405	£16,200	N/A

**B SERVICE DELIVERY**

**1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?**

Their service supports 88 children where there has been referrals for support, 74 family members through group work programs and 134 people in the wider family.  
20% of families where children are pre-school  
40% of families where children are primary school age  
40% of families where children are secondary school age.  
All children have been assessed within the Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) framework as requiring support to improve outcomes.

**2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?**

88 children where direct referrals have been received. Their wider family members also benefit from the support. A total of 296 people benefited from the support. The support is designed to help the adults in helping their children.

**3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client/communities. Include any differences in service.**

There is some overlap with Falkirk Council Family Support and Intensive Family Support, however Barnardo's is often providing an intermediate tier of support to families between the council Family Support Service and the Intensive Family Support Service. It has similarity with voluntary sector organisations including Barnardo's other projects, Aberlour, One Parent Family Scotland, Homestart. The overlap is in terms of broad aims and general populations with profiles of need. They have some similar methods such as group work approaches with parents and using volunteers. The service provided is unique to the specific clients. There are differences in the specific methods used and each of the organisations and they have tended to receive referrals from their traditional geographic areas as that is where they are best known. There are some differences

in the age range of the client groups between the voluntary sector services with Barnardo's having a significant focus on school aged children as well as those in pre-school. When there is a potential overlap of service a decision is made (between service managers) as to which of the services or agencies is best placed to offer a service so that there is no actual overlap or duplication experienced by children and families.

#### **4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

Children and families have an assessment of need. Programmes and interventions for service users are offered based on this assessment and include:

- **Individual**  
Individual work with children and young people, their parents/carers and siblings i.e. emotional regulation; confidence building; life and social skills; boundaries; relationships etc.
- **Family**  
Whole Family Systemic work – this is the name of an approach where the practitioner works with the family and supports them in their dynamics and relationships. The focus on the work is aimed at concerns experienced by the child and how to assist them, e.g. school attendance, social skills, behaviour management, parenting skills, resilience, trauma and attachment etc.
- **Group work**  
The service offers support in the form of group work on specific topics. Children or adults participate in these programmes when it is identified as a suitable approach. Topics include: peer relationships, activity groups, parenting and child development.
- **School based support**  
Individual and group work programmes based in schools and delivered in partnership with schools or by the request of schools. Parents and children are able to opt in to these programmes and tackle an early stage of intervention. Topics include:
  - Nurture (relationships and emotional development),
  - peer support,
  - Income maximisation and budgeting,
  - homemaking skill

The Service offers a flexible approach which is attachment and trauma informed, needs led and keeps the child/young person at the centre of assessments, plans, interventions and reviews. Getting it Right for Every Child principles, processes and aspirations as well as the Falkirk/Forth Valley standards and expectations underpin their work.

#### **5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

Service users regularly provide feedback to the management team of the service. This in turn informs the types of programs and activities that are offered.

#### **6. What specific geographical areas does this service/organization cover within the Council area?**

Approximately 45% of services users live in Bo'ness postcode areas and 49% in FK1 and FK2 postcodes. The remainder live in wider Falkirk postcodes.

## C ASSESMENT OF PERFORMANCE

1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that.  
(Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)

Barnardo's Outcomes Framework has been in place for a number of years and is the method used to identify and measure the distance travelled by each service user. The following table illustrates the progress made in 2016 -17.

Outcomes 2016 - 2017	Improvement	Stabilized	Non progression
Contribute to planning and decision making	80%	10%	10%
Enhanced parent/carer/adult - child relationships	63%	37%	0%
Adequate Family income/resources	23%	76%	0%
Improved capacity to access learning	75%	25%	0%

2. Exception reporting – Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.

The service achieves a high percentage of improved outcomes for the children and families in receipt of service.

3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?

Date of most recent review - March 2017 with Monitoring Officer.

**Next planned review** - To be confirmed, approximately November 2017. The monitoring officer has changed.

4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?

The Service has been combined in 2017/18 with Barnardo's Education and Family Resources - Intensive team, previously known as New Beginnings and Oxbang Family Support Service. This was to achieve the cuts to service funding from April 2017. The Services' combined staffing has reduced by approximately 50%. The effect of this efficiency and redesign will be reported on in 2018/19.

It should be noted that reduction in funding with Barnardo's brings about a cut to the additional 20% contribution.

5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?

None.

#### **D FINANCIAL/RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.

Barnardo's is a national organisation with revenue of approximately £226.9m per annum. Falkirk Council funds 100% of the service commissioned, although Barnardo's make available an additional 20% of funds for either this service or specific services within Falkirk that meet their organisation's objectives. The Service was based in 2016/17 financial year in Bo'ness Family Center, which is an in-kind contribution of approximately 8%. The service has since moved to a Barnardo's owned premises.

2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.

Barnardo's makes additional funding contributions to service delivery in Falkirk of approximately 20% of its overall funded position. It has additionally been successful in joint funding applications with Falkirk Council for externally funded projects, although at present these are not directly linked to this service.

3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?

The national organisation has approximately £99m in unrestricted reserves at the time of the last audit.

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

The question is not relevant as Barnardo's is a UK wide organisation with a range of projects and services for which the reserves are required to support.

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

Year end 2015/16.

6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?

See overview report

7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?

This would require a poverty and equality impact assessment. Barnardo's are open to applying for external grants and are better placed to be "bid ready". Decrease in the money from the council will equate to a decrease in service provision.

<p><b>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</b></p> <p>This would require a poverty and equality impact assessment and consultation with staff and service users.</p>
<p><b>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</b></p> <p>The service to families and children would not be provided in direct proportion to the decrease in funding at best.</p>
<p><b>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</b></p> <p>If funding ceased there is a <u>medium to high</u> risk that families in receipt of the targeted support would escalate to more expensive forms of support and intervention. It is not possible to signpost all families in receipt of service to alternative services.</p>
<p><b>E CONCLUSIONS</b></p>
<p><b>1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.</b></p> <p>The Service has already been re-designed in response to the reduction in funding from April 2017. This service and the New Beginnings Service (Oxgang Family Support), have been merged. The service has made good use of the funds provided in 2016/17 in providing a service. The service has achieved positive outcomes and represents good value for money. The service is already identifying more efficient ways, such as through group work, in which to provide the required support.</p>
<p><b>F MONITORING OFFICER DETAILS</b></p>
<p>Name: Nick Balchin</p>
<p>Designation: Principal Educational Psychologist</p>
<p>Service: Children's Services</p>
<p>Date of Report: 7 November 2017</p>

## Additional Performance Information

The Service adds value including:

**Strong Leadership & workers who can meet the needs of vulnerable young people:** the Service is led by an experienced management team, accountable for strategic and operational overview, external engagement and internal performance. Delivery staff are highly experienced in family support, appropriately qualified, and have all necessary Child Protection checks and training.

**Delivering in Partnership:** they have a robust understanding of and relationships across Falkirk communities and support provision. They are embedded with local stakeholders and have referral protocols and pathways in operation with key support partners. Their partnership and delivery contributes to existing system of care linking with partner's delivery and priorities.

**Delivering Innovation:** they are known for implementing innovative solutions for both children and young people and service development in partnership with the others including: intensive relationship building to ensure young people engage; matching young people to specialist workers, aligned with the differing needs and delivering innovative pilots across all of our Falkirk Services.

**Applying Best Practice:** Barnardo's Service delivery demonstrates their ability to engage with children, young people and their families and build relationship with local statutory/ voluntary support partners. This learning includes: recognising the complex, systemic needs of children and young people impacted by attachment, trauma, change and loss, delivering GIRFEC outcomes; and offering strong project worker relationship to ensure engagement and progression for vulnerable young people.

**Providing Assurance:** Barnardo's workers locally understand Falkirk Council's ways of working and are currently involved in the audit and review processes and local improvement work, which ensures a productive and low risk relationship.

**They offer:** Capacity – existing local infrastructure, including a safe and nurturing delivery space and wider economies of scale provided by our extended Falkirk and Forth Valley wide Services; Capability - they have demonstrated expertise in delivering family support in Falkirk and establish trusting, appropriate professional relationships with children and their families. They are also in the process of providing evidence for both the LGBT Youth Charter and the Investing in Young People accreditation in recognition of our values and practice.

## Who and How many People directly benefit from the organization?

In the fiscal year 2016 -2017 Barnardo's Education and Family Resources Service had 118 open case files for children and young people aged 0 – 18 years. Work with siblings during family sessions or activities are not counted in the stated figures.

## Ages worked with

AGE	-1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Female	0	2	1	0	5	0	0	1	1	3	4	4	5	5	4	4	1	0
Male	1	2	6	3	4	0	0	10	8	6	4	5	7	3	1	0	0	1
Total	1	4	7	3	9	0	0	11	9	9	8	9	12	8	5	4	1	1

Referrals April 2016 – March 2017 Overall total – 88

Month	April 16	May 16	June 16	July 16	Aug 16	Sept 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17
Female	0	4	2	2	2	5	3	4	3	4	2	5
Male	3	3	7	4	3	3	3	6	2	5	5	8
TOTAL	3	7	9	6	5	8	6	10	5	9	7	13

Summer Programme 2016 – Family Fun Days Overall total – 134 people

July/Aug 2016	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
People per session	20	39	18	23	14	20

Group Work Apr 2016 – March 17 Overall total – 74 people

Football Academy (2 sessions)	15	Mellow Ready	7
Hallglen Nursery Nurture Group	6	Girl's Group	7
Hallglen P1 Transitions Group	10	Incredible years (2 Groups)	25
Chatterbox	4		

Source of Referral Apr 2016 – March 2017 Total number of new referrals - 88

Source	Education	Health	Social Work	Self
Number of Request	40	22	21	5



**FALKIRK COUNCIL  
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	Barnardo's
Project	Education and Family Resources Service (Oxgang Primary School)
Agreement Dates	April 2016 – March 2017
Name of Monitoring Officer	Nick Balchin
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b>	
<p>Barnardo's is one of the UK's largest Children's Charities, delivering over 900 services supporting 220,000 children, young people and their families in the UK every year. Barnardo's vision is that the lives of all children, young people and families should be free from poverty, abuse and discrimination. Our purpose is to help the most vulnerable children and young people transform their lives and fulfil their potential. Our strength is in the diversity of the services they provide, each of which is locally based and addresses local need.</p> <p>"All of our services address child and family disadvantage, striving to demonstrate greater effectiveness and they are uniquely placed to transfer best practice across elements of delivery and can share and apply innovation and learning from different areas of our work to new settings."</p>	
<b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b>	
<p>Barnardo's has been a longstanding 3rd sector partner who has provided competent, responsive and effective interventions to children, young people, families and has demonstrated a "can do" approach when Falkirk Council has required solutions, flexibility or change to focus of work to meet changing priorities within Oxgang Primary School.</p> <p>Barnardo's aims and priorities compliment Falkirk Council Priorities and our local commissioned Services directly support and contribute to Falkirk Council's SOLD and ICSP priorities to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve mental health and wellbeing - children will develop into resilient, confident and</li> <li>• successful adults</li> <li>• address the impact of poverty on children</li> <li>• minimise the impact of substance misuse on children</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Why does the council fund this?</b>	
<p>The Service has supported and responded to the needs of children who attend or receive outreach support from Oxgang School and their family/carers. They provide specific support for the families to assist in the emotional development of the children.</p>	

#### 4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?

Funding for the Family Support Service (formerly New Beginnings) was agreed at the amalgamation of Falkirk Council's Dundas Day unit and Barnardo's Lecropt School (2005/2006). Since that time, Falkirk and Barnardo's have continued to provide funding on an annual basis and the Service has supported and responded to the needs of children who attend or receive outreach support from Oxgang School and their family/carers.

**Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.**

Year	Annual	Support in Kind	One off support	Externally Sourced
2016 -2017	£182,727	N/A	£101,124	£0
2015 -2016	£182,724	N/A	£131,185	£987
2014 -2015	£192,341	N/A	N/A	£1025
2013 -2014	£192,341	N/A	N/A	£91
2012 -2013	£192,341	N/A	N/A	£0

Shared premises with Barnardo's Bo'ness Family Centre, accounted for in their report.

## **B SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?**

Barnardo's partnership with Oxgang Primary School is to provide needs led interventions to children and families attending or receiving outreach from the school, with a focus on the impact of home or community issues and barriers which may be preventing the child managing and thriving in an education environment.

Barnardo's Education and Family Resources Service (Oxgang primary School) aims:

To enhance the strengths, abilities and coping strategies of the families and young people to the point where young people are enabled to remain in their own families, school and communities wherever safe and appropriate. Promote pupil wellbeing by

- developing positive alternatives to unsafe behaviour
- minimising risks to health
- increasing child's involvement in own community
- increasing parent/carer skills
- reducing barriers to learning
- encouraging child's participation in their own plan
- successfully reintegrating children to mainstream school

The Service is informed and underpinned by relevant theory and current evidence based practice, to specifically meet the needs of children and families who have been impacted by loss, trauma and bereavements, which often result in children being unable to understand their distress and their ability to express their feelings and emotions in a positive manner.

Without trauma informed, nurturing and empathic interventions exclusions, levels of distress and harmful behaviours will increase frequently resulting in the disengagement from education, home and community so children and families become more isolated.

The Service offers a flexible approach which is attachment and trauma informed, needs led and keeps the child at the centre of assessments, plans, interventions and reviews. The focus is to ensure each child, where possible can thrive in their family, school and community in Falkirk. The work is more complex than early intervention and the time spent with families is reflective of this. Depending on need, the minimum number of sessions would be two per week, increasing in response to need or crisis, until the planned exit phase, when this would be reduce to weekly/fortnightly sessions to support transitions and endings.

Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) principles, processes, aspirations and Falkirk/Forth Valley standards and expectations underpin all of our work.

Based on assessment of need, programmes and interventions for service users could include:

- Individual work with children, their parents/carers and siblings i.e. self- regulation; life and social skills; relationships; routines and boundaries etc.
- Whole Family Systemic work i.e. school attendance; social skills; behaviour management; parenting skills; resilience; trauma and attachment etc.
- Thematic group work i.e. Relax Kids; activities to promote social skills; activities to promote parental mental wellbeing etc.
- Income maximisation and budgeting, family cooking sessions etc.

The Service has also regularly utilised our Barnardo's Forth Valley Volunteers to enhance and extend service delivery and to embrace and maximise the resources and competence within our communities. Volunteers, as well as bringing their own skills, are provided with a minimum of 26 hours training before commencing direct work. They are able to offer support and further additionality and extension to the work of the Service, for example through befriending opportunities for children in order to widen opportunities for social interactions during evenings and weekends.

Barnardo's managers and project workers engage and support a wide range of Children's Commission Strategic and Operational groups and activity, audit and inspection, review and redesign. Barnardo's provides expertise and flexibility, significant additionality by way of funding, resources, influence, learning and leadership and compliments and extends Falkirk Council's own resources, reach and intervention

**The Service adds value including:**

**Strong Leadership & workers who can meet the needs of vulnerable young people:** the Service is led by an experienced management team, accountable for strategic and operational overview, external engagement and internal performance. Delivery staff are highly experienced in family support, appropriately qualified, and have all necessary Child Protection checks and training.

**Delivering in Partnership:** they have a robust understanding of and relationships across Falkirk communities and support provision. They are embedded with local stakeholders and have referral protocols and pathways in operation with key support partners. Their partnership and delivery contributes to existing system of care linking with partner's delivery and priorities.

**Delivering Innovation:** they are known for implementing innovative solutions for both children and young people and service development in partnership with the others including: intensive relationship building to ensure young people engage; matching young people to specialist workers, aligned with the differing needs and delivering innovative pilots across all of our Falkirk Services.

**Applying Best Practice:** Barnardo's Service delivery demonstrates their ability to engage with children, young people and their families and build relationship with local statutory/ voluntary support partners. This learning includes: recognising the complex, systemic needs of children and young people impacted by attachment, trauma, change and loss, delivering GIRFEC outcomes; and offering strong project worker relationship to ensure engagement and progression for vulnerable young people.

**Providing Assurance:** Barnardo's workers locally understand Falkirk Council's ways of working and are currently involved in the audit and review processes and local improvement work, which ensures a productive and low risk relationship.

**We offer:** Capacity – existing local infrastructure, including a safe and nurturing delivery space and wider economies of scale provided by our extended Falkirk and Forth Valley wide Services; Capability - they have demonstrated expertise in delivering family support in Falkirk and establish trusting, appropriate professional relationships with children and their families. They are also in the process of providing evidence for both the LGBT Youth Charter and the Investing in Young People accreditation in recognition of our values and practice.

## **2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?**

In the fiscal year 2016 -2017 Barnardo's Education and Family Resources Service (Oxgang Primary School) had 20 open case files. Work with siblings during family focused sessions or activities are not counted in the stated figures.

## **3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client/communities. Include any differences in service.**

There is some overlap with Falkirk Council Family Support and Intensive Family Support, however Barnardo's in this service is often providing a tier of support to families in parallel to or just below the Intensive Family Support Service.

It has similarity with voluntary sector organisations including Barnardo's other projects, Aberlour, One Parent Family Scotland, Homestart. The overlap is in terms of broad aims and general populations with profiles of need. They have some similar methods such as group work approaches with parents and using volunteers. The service provided is unique to the specific clients. There are differences in the specific methods used and each of the organisations and they have tended to receive referrals from their traditional geographic areas as that is where they are best known. There are some differences in the age range of the client groups between the voluntary sector services with Barnardo's having a significant focus on school aged children as well as those in pre-school. When there is a potential overlap of service a decision is made (between service managers) as to which of the services or agencies is best placed to offer a service so that there is no actual overlap or duplication experienced by children and families.

It overlaps most with Cluaran in target population and level of vulnerability, although working with a younger age group (primary aged children, rather than secondary)

**4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

The service works with priority children with significant Additional Support Needs arising from social, emotional and behavioural development or family circumstances. It then works with those families to provide parallel support to that in school.

**5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

Service users regularly provide feedback to the management team of the service. This in turn informs the types of programs and activities that are offered.

**5. What specific geographical areas does this service/organization cover within the Council area?**

Service users by postcode

Postcode	EH51	FK1	FK2	FK3	FK4	FK5	FK6	FK7
Number	1	6	4	3	1	2	2	1

**C ASSESMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

**1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that. (Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)**

During this reporting period, as in the previous year, the Service provided support to 20 families based on levels of need, focusing on issues that were preventing the individual children from engaging in learning.

Parents/carers were supported to engage with Oxbang School, mainstream schools or individualised programmes for children transitioning between schools and the team around the child processes in place.

Work also took place with families in their own homes to improve relationships, increase parental knowledge and skills, reduce barriers to learning and increase involvement in their local community. All parents/carers engaged with the service and desired more positive outcomes for their children and family. Significant outcomes during this reporting period include:

- **12 out of 12 children successfully transitioned to a new education placement** with our support, including a return from an out of authority placement for one young person
- **6 children were provided with an intensive bespoke programme of activities and learning as an alternative** to Oxbang school placement. All 6 were able to engage and benefit from this work. By the end of the period they were supported and able to self-regulate emotions with a reduction in noted incidents, engaged in a programme of learning which related to key topics and were able to return to education placements following our intervention. 2 children also worked on Dynamic Youth Awards during that time.
- **8 children to remained in their mainstream school** following intensive individual work and family work in partnership with mainstream schools

For the second year Barnardo's responded to the request from Falkirk Council to prioritise the needs of Oxbang School and its children by redirecting and extending some of our resources. From October 2016 onwards they provided resources and expertise based on "what works" for children who are traumatised, unable to self-regulate and showing their distress through acting out behaviours. They worked alongside school staff and provided an approach based on research and practice (referred to locally as Re-Connect) to help stabilise the situation with some positive results.

Through the Re-Connect approach, they provided additional staff resources through recruitment of agency workers on Falkirk's behalf. They supported children in mainstream schools alongside Oxbang School colleagues. During this time Barnardo's workers also continued to provide core Service to allocated families.

Although there has been additional expenditure/investment for Falkirk Council during this, and the previous, reporting period, it has provided a successful local response to need and prevented more children being placed in out of authority (in residential or day placements) as a result of the support provided by the Barnardo's team.

**2. Exception reporting – Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.**

Exceptional performance in assisting the council provide safe education for children, during times of staffing crisis in Oxbang School.

**3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?**

The Service has participated in a range of reviews over the past few years. Recent reviews include PSP Family Support (2015) and the subsequent Family Support Review (2016) led by Falkirk Council Children's Service. The most recent review was undertaken by Barnardo's and Falkirk Council Monitoring Officer in March 2017 as a result of Falkirk Council 2017/18 budget and reduction in Service funding.

**Next planned review** – the service has been re-designed from April 2017 and is now joint with Barnardo's Education And Family Resources early Intervention Team.

**4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?**

The Service has been combined in 2017/18 with Barnardo's Education and Family Resources - Intensive team, previously known as New Beginnings and Oxbang Family Support Service. This was to achieve the cuts to service funding from April 2017. The Services' combined staffing has reduced by approximately 50%. The effect of this efficiency and redesign will be reported on in 2018/19.

It should be noted that reduction in funding with Barnardo's brings about a cut to the additional 20% contribution.

**5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?**

None

**D FINANCIAL/RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW****1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.**

Barnardo's is a national organisation with revenue of approximately £226.9m per annum. Falkirk Council funds 100% of the service commissioned, although Barnardo's make available an additional 20% of funds for either this service or specific services within Falkirk that meet their organisation's objectives. The Service was based in 2016/17 financial year in Bo'ness Family Center, which is an in-kind contribution of approximately £9k shared with the sister service. The service has since moved to a Barnardo's owned premises.

**2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.**

Barnardo's makes additional funding contributions to service delivery in Falkirk of approximately 20% of its overall funded position. It has additionally been successful in joint funding applications with Falkirk Council for externally funded projects, although at present these are not directly linked to this service.

**3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?**

The national organisation has approximately £99m in unrestricted reserves at the time of the last audit.

**4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?**

The question is not relevant as Barnardo's is a UK wide organisation with a range of projects and services for which the reserves are required to support.

**5. Last period of submitted audited accounts**

Year end 2015/16.

**6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?**

See overview report

**7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?**

This would require a poverty and equality impact assessment. Barnardo's are open to applying for external grants and are better placed to be "bid ready". Decrease in the money from the council will equate to a decrease in service provision.

**8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?**

This would require a poverty and equality impact assessment and consultation with staff and service users.

**9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?**

The service to families and children would not be provided in direct proportion to the decrease in funding at best.

**10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.**

If funding ceased there is a high risk that families in receipt of the targeted support would escalate to more expensive forms of support and intervention. It is not possible to signpost all families in receipt of service to alternative services.

**E CONCLUSIONS**

**1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.**

The Service has already been re-designed in response to the reduction in funding from April 2017. This service and the Education and Family Resource Early Intervention Team (Bo'ness Family Center), have been merged.

The service has made good use of the funds provided in 2016/17 in proving a service. The service has achieved positive outcomes and represents good value for money.

The service is already identifying more efficient ways, such as though group work, in which to provide the required support.

**F MONITORING OFFICER DETAILS**

Name: Nick Balchin

Designation: Principal Educational Psychologist

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 7 November 2017



**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	Cyrenians
Project	Falkirk Criminal Justice Services
Agreement Dates	1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017
Name of Monitoring Officer	Nick Burgess
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<p><b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organization</b></p> <p>The Cyrenians have key aims, objectives and values which fit well with the Council's wider aims and also with the Criminal Justice Social Work Objectives of promoting social inclusion and reducing re-offending.</p> <p>This is exemplified by their mission statement <i>"to support people excluded from family, home, work or community on their life journey."</i></p> <p>Another element of Cyrenians strategic aims which is of interest to Criminal Justice Social Work is their commitment to expanding social enterprise to create real sustainability.</p> <p>The focus on inclusion and social enterprise is a strong factor in creating a partnership with the Cyrenians.</p>	
<p><b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b></p> <p>Funding is not provided by the Council but via Section 27 ring fenced grant to Criminal Justice Social Work.</p> <p>The funding offers a range of opportunities to promote inclusion, improve skills and build the self-worth of people with convictions.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Employability Service</b> ~ The unemployment rate amongst the offender cohort is much higher than the general population. The Cyrenians support people to gain SQA accredited qualifications, preparation towards work such as interview skills, creating CV's and dealing with disclosure of convictions. In addition Cyrenians staff provides support to remove barriers to employment.</li> </ul> <p>Information is shared with the Council's Employment and Training Unit to encourage further progress once Criminal Justice Supervision has ended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Peer mentoring</b> ~ This service provides training and support to those men and women who have progressed through the Criminal Justice system and want to offer something back to persons at an earlier stage in their journey away from offending.</li> </ul>	

- **Dollar Park Walled Garden** ~ Renovated by people on Community Payback Orders, in 2015 Cyrenians became responsible for managing and maintaining the garden, supporting people on Community Payback Order and community based volunteers are involved. With the refurbishment of Arnotdale House, Falkirk Criminal Justice hopes that services will eventually grow into a more sustainable social enterprise.
- **Benefit and debt advice** ~ While the level of benefit and debt within the criminal cohort is significant, many persons struggle to avail themselves of services via the hub. Service users prefer the environment and people they are used to at Brockville. This led Criminal Justice to commission an advice service two days per week based at Brockville to cater for this need.
- **Men's/Women's Group Work Support** ~ Criminal Justice run support groups throughout the year involving a range of staff. Cyrenians provide a worker for eight hours per week to ensure continuity and resilience in service provision.

### 3. Why does the Council fund this?

The Community Justice strategy sets out a vision of community justice where people are held to account for their offending but thereafter supported to be active and responsible contributors to their communities. Reoffending is a complex social issue but evidence shows that desistance can be significantly affected by a number of factors. Helping to support the development of employability skills, as well as encouraging involvement in training and lifelong learning, is a key part of a preventative approach to ensure individuals who have been involved in offending can move on with their lives.

### 4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?

Since Sept 2013 with the first service women's mentoring.

### 5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2016/2017	£183,828		
2015/2016	£157,959		
2014/2015	£92,503		
2013/2014	£12,625		

## B SERVICE DELIVERY

### 1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?

Services are delivered to persons aged 16 plus (male and female) who have or had involvement in the Criminal Justice System

### 2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

Within Falkirk in service delivery we have directly impacted 483 persons.

In addition to this we also reach people and increase their awareness of community justice through our events at the walled garden within Dollar Park. To date in 2017 we have raised awareness of community justice to over 1600 members of the public not involved in service delivery

**3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client / communities. Include any differences in service.**

There are a number of services providing employability support of different kinds. Where Cyrenians cannot provide the learning supports required, Criminal Justice Social Work use another provider. The Cyrenian pathway allows close supervisory control by Criminal Justice working with a provider accustomed to working with vulnerable persons.

**4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

This organization is funded to support Criminal Justice Social Work priorities, which are set by the justice department. These are-

- a) Public protection and community safety.
- b) Reducing re-offending.
- c) Enhancing social inclusion and promoting desistance from offending.

Working towards these priorities should contribute to wider council priorities set out in the Corporate Plan, e.g. alienating poverty and tackling inequality, ensuring all people are valued, promoting learning and achievement and in particular to the outcome of protecting citizens.

**5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

Service users contribute to review of service delivery through feedback forms and review of each programme.

**6. What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?**

Covers the whole of Falkirk.

**C ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

**1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that. (Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)**

Quarterly reports are provided

Employability Service is funded to work with 40 people and to provide up to 70 SVQ units

Peer mentoring to have 6 mentors trained and support 1 mentee at any given time

Men's peer mentoring to train up to a max of 6 mentors in year one

Women's drop in –to co facilitate the women's drop in group

Men's drop in –to co-facilitate the men's drop in group

<p><b>2. Exception reporting - Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.</b></p> <p>I would suggest the Cyrenians provide strong evidence of the work they do through case studies and hosting events which raise the public's awareness of the work of community planning and community justice.</p> <p>In the women's peer mentor service, 6 out of 6 mentors are employed or in education.</p> <p>Cyrenians are represented in a variety of external meetings which continue to keep Community Justice on</p>
<p><b>3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?</b></p> <p>Date of most recent review January 2017 which led to Service redesign and new delivery beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.</p>
<p><b>4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?</b></p> <p>Following most recent review further efficiencies were implemented and 1:1 working enhanced.</p>
<p><b>5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><b>D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW</b></p>
<p><b>1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.</b></p> <p>5%</p>
<p><b>2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.</b></p> <p>Local Authorities excluding Falkirk 46%; OTHER PUBLIC BODIES 19%; income generated through services 8%; big lottery funding 8%; companies and trusts 6%, donations and other 8%.</p>
<p><b>3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?</b></p> <p>At 31 March 2017 = £466,573</p>
<p><b>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?</b></p> <p>12%</p>
<p><b>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts</b></p> <p>Year end 31/3/2016 Year end 31/3/2017 with auditors for signature</p>
<p><b>6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?</b></p> <p>Criminal Justice Social Work does not fund any other employability provision. The employment and training unit may fund other providers.</p>

**7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?**

No council money is used in this provision. Criminal Justice funding is a ring fenced direct grant to support the assessment and supervision of offenders as set out in Section 27 to the Social Work Scotland Act 1968. This funding comes directly from Scottish Government.

**8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?**

- a) Criminal Justice Social Work hopes that the social enterprise, due to commence in 2018, will eventually reduce, but not eliminate, the support required from Criminal Justice Social Work. This social enterprise is to be based from Arnotdale House in Dollar Park.
- b) If the benefit and debt advice was able to be delivered two days per week from Brockville instead of the hub, it may save criminal justice monies. Currently Criminal Justice provide a range of services from Brockville including benefits and debt advice. Seconding a Benefits Advisor to Brockville for two days per week from the hub may reduce funding required from Criminal Justice.

**9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?**

The risk of not funding these services is that Council priorities may be harder to attain. The offender cohort is already of the most marginalized, suffers from inequalities, poor housing, ill-health, a very high employment rate and cause communities, families and individuals problems.

Funding Cyrenians assists the Council with continuing to improve the health, safety and well-being of our citizens and communities, increasing efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination. At the walled garden, enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to visit.

**10 Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.**

There is no current risk to the council.

**E CONCLUSIONS**

**1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.**

Assuming that Criminal Justice Social Work is funded to its current level these services are not at risk. Criminal Justice always works with partners such as the employment and training unit and Skills Development Scotland to share risks.

**F. Monitoring Officer Details**

Name: Nick Burgess

Designation: Service Manager

Service: Criminal Justice Service

Date of Report: 04/10/17

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	Home-Start
Project	Home-Start Falkirk West
Agreement Dates	April 2016 to March 2017
Name of Monitoring Officer	Nick Balchin
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<p><b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b></p> <p>Home-Start is one of the leading family support charities in the UK. Home-Start volunteers help families with young children deal with the challenges they face. They support parents as they learn to cope, improve their confidence and build better lives for their children.</p> <p>There are 269 local, independent Home-Starts. At the heart of each Home-Start's work is home visiting volunteer support. Families struggling with post-natal depression, isolation, physical health problems, bereavement and many other issues receive the support of a volunteer who will spend around two hours a week in a family's home supporting them in the ways they need.</p> <p>Home-Start recruits, trains and matches volunteers with vulnerable families who have young children. Volunteers visit families at home each week, supporting parents in situations as diverse as isolation, bereavement, multiple births, illness, disability or who are just finding parenting a struggle. They provide non-judgmental practical and emotional support for as long as this is required.</p> <p>Home-Start Falkirk West aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To visit families in their homes, where the dignity and identity of each adult can be respected.</li> <li>• To develop a relationship with the family using a flexible approach to take account of differing needs.</li> <li>• To reassure parents that difficulties in bringing up children are not unusual and encouraging them to enjoy family life.</li> <li>• To encourage parents' strengths and emotional wellbeing for the ultimate benefit of their children.</li> <li>• To encourage families to widen their network of relationships and to use the support services in the community.</li> </ul> <p>To manage and develop the service in-line with the quantified objectives against the performance standards and performance indicators specified in the Joint Working Agreement.</p>	
<p><b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b></p> <p>To provide a home visiting support through trained volunteer support primarily focused in the Denny, Bonnybridge and Banknock areas to vulnerable families with young children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation.</p>	

Home-Start Falkirk West may also work out with these areas in partnership with other local agencies where the need arises by doing this strive to complement not duplicate services available.

### 3. Why does the council fund this?

Home-Start Falkirk West recruits, trains and develops volunteers to undertake the support to parents. The volunteers are checked and verified using Home-Start Quality Assurance Scheme. Using volunteers is a cost effective way to provide early intervention support to parents at a time of difficulty in their lives. Our funding supports the co-ordination of these volunteers. Funding is supplemented by Big Lottery, Henry Duncan Awards, Robertson and RS MacDonald Trusts, donations and fund raising.

### 4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?

Since 1982

### 5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	£29,488	£6,000	
2015/16	£29,488	£6,000	
2014/15	£29,488	£6,000	
2013/14	£29,488	£6,000	
2012/13	£29,488	£6,000	

## B SERVICE DELIVERY

### 1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?

They offer a wide range of services to vulnerable families with young children. The main reasons families are referred to the service include:

- Poor physical and/or mental health
- Lack of parenting skills
- Disability
- Isolation
- Debt and poor financial management
- Inability or reluctance to engage with support services

Our home visiting volunteers are matched with a family and will spend 2-3 hours with them each week providing tailor-made, one-to-one support including:

- Emotional support to find better ways to manage and resolve problems.
- Practical help with making and getting to appointments.
- Help with shopping, budgeting, nutrition, meal planning, cooking and making the home safe.
- Direct support to children, including playing, listening, having fun, establishing routines, encouraging development and providing opportunities for outings and treats.
- Outreach and Family Group work so parents can get out, meet others and become more involved in their local communities.

- Provide information and links to other organisations including health and educational services.
- Access to parenting advice and parenting skills courses.

They provide weekly Family Group Hubs in 3 areas where parents and children can access a range of supports including CAB, Credit Union, Speech and Language Therapy, Peer support, Budgeting, Cooking, Health, Parenting advice and courses, Play Together sessions along with a varied range of speakers from other services.

They deliver the Denny Buggy Walking Group meeting once a week to support improvements in physical and mental health of parents and their children.

Our trained staff and volunteers support separating or separated parents to access the Splitting Up: Put kids first online tool. The tool promotes more positive communication at a very difficult time for the benefit of their children and also themselves.

## **2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?**

Vulnerable families with young children.

In 2016/17 they supported 81 parents with 112 children – 65 under 5 and 47 over 5.

Families were supported by 29 volunteers

## **3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client/communities. Include any differences in service.**

There are no organisations carrying out similar work but they do compliment other organisations work, both statutory and voluntary sector, by providing longer term support following more intensive, short term interventions. This long term support consolidates change and ensures better outcomes for the children.

There is some overlap with Falkirk Council Family Support and Intensive Family Support, however Homestart is often providing a different type of support to families. It has similarity with voluntary sector organisations including Barnardo's, Aberlour and One Parent Family Scotland. The overlap is in terms of broad aims and general populations with profiles of need. They have some similar methods such as group work approaches with parents and using volunteers. The service provided is unique to the specific clients.

There are differences in the specific methods used and each of the organisations and they have tended to receive referrals from their traditional geographic areas as that is where they are best known. There are some differences in the age range of the client groups between the voluntary sector services with Barnardo's having a significant focus on school aged children as well as those in pre-school. When there is a potential overlap of service a decision is made (between service managers) as to which of the services or agencies is best placed to offer a service so that there is no actual overlap or duplication experienced by children and families.

## **4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

They contribute to the following strategic priorities:



- Addressing the impact of poverty on children
- Improving mental health and wellbeing
- Maximising job creation and employability
- Substance misuse
- Inclusion – live, learn and thrive in Falkirk
- Implement 6 corporate parenting duties in the Act
- Earlier identification and response to childhood neglect

Highlighted priorities are significantly part of the service delivery.

**5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

Stakeholders provide regular feedback. Those in receipt of service often return as volunteers once their children are older thereby further informing service delivery.

**6. What specific geographical areas does this service/organization cover within the Council area?**

It is available across the council, although focuses on Denny, Banknock and Bonnybridge.

**C ASSESMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

**1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that. (Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)**

They have exceeded benchmarks in terms of numbers of families supported and numbers of volunteers. Over the period, 89% of children showed improvements in SHANARRI outcomes. (81 parents with 112 children – 65 under 5 and 47 over 5).

**2. Exception reporting – Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.**

Due to the small proportion of funding from the council, the organisation is able to deliver a higher level of support to families than would be funded by the council. This results in nearly 4 times as many families benefiting from the support.

**3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?**

Date of most recent review – March 2017  
Next planned review - TBC, November 2017

**4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?**

Further reductions in funding would mean the service is not viable.

**5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?**

No

**D FINANCIAL/RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

**1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.**

25% of funding is from the council.

**2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.**

Big Lottery	£68,216
Robertson Trust	£12,500
Henry Duncan Awards	£4,500
RS MacDonald Trust	£8,000
Donations and fundraised	£3,825
<b>Total</b>	<b>£97,041</b>

**3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?**

£13,500

**4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?**

25%, of operating costs. 11% of turnover.

**5. Last period of submitted audited accounts**

2015/16 – for national organisation.

**6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?**

See overview report

**7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?**

No.

**8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?**

Reductions in funding make the service unviable.

**9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?**

Support to those families would need to be provided by another provider.

**10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the**

**Council not the organisation.**  
High risk. Service would not exist.

**E CONCLUSIONS**

**1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.**

The service offered by Homestart represents excellent value for the council, having an impact 4 times as much as their funding would normally allow due to the success of securing additional grants.

Their service approach is highly cost effective though the use of volunteer programmes. The council funding allows the core service to exist while funding from other sources may be variable. The organisation has fully achieved its objectives for 2016/17.

The organisation has reduced funding from April 2017.

**F MONITORING OFFICER DETAILS**

Name: Nick Balchin

Designation: Principal Educational Psychologist

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 7 November 2017

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	NHS Forth Valley CAMHS
Project	Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children
Agreement Dates	1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017
Name of Monitoring Officer	Frank Kennedy
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b>  To provide a specialist clinical psychology assessment and therapy service for:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b>  The purpose is to provide a service to meet the above key aims and objectives.  The development of this service reflects that looked after children and young people have significant mental health needs that may not always meet the criteria for a mainstream mental health service. Young people often experience difficulty in engaging fully with such services.  The psychologist provides 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.  The psychologist service is a key contributor to the care planning for children and young people who are looked after by Falkirk Council and for whom the Council has corporate parenting responsibilities.	
<b>3. Why does the Council fund this?</b>  This post is a partnership arrangement with NHS Forth Valley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The post holders are employed by NHS. This ensures that the clinical psychologist has access to the necessary level of professional support, supervision and clinical governance.  It is funded by the Council as part of our commitment to meeting the mental health needs specifically of looked after children and young people. This population of young people often experience difficulty in accessing or engaging with mainstream services and appropriate support can be difficult to access for children and young people placed outwith Falkirk Council's geographical area.	

**4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?**

5 years.

**5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.**

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	£67,401		
2015/16	£70,704		
2014/15	£64,904		
2013/14	£64,264		
2012/13	£63,631	N/A	N/A

## **B SERVICE DELIVERY**

**1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?**

The service delivers a specialist Clinical Psychologist Service to looked after children and young people. This is delivered on a one-to-one basis with children living at home and those in foster care and residential placements. The service also provides a support and consultation service to others working directly with these vulnerable groups including foster carers, residential workers and social workers to enhance and develop their skills in meeting the needs of looked after young people.

The service provides assessments of risk – harm to self and others. The service provides reports and assessments to various statutory forums, e.g. formal looked after reviews, children's hearings and the Court. The service has also contributed to permanence planning for children and young people including parental capacity and contact assessments.

**2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?**

The service has been developed to 2 Psychologists sharing input to the Council making up 1 full time post. The post holders have different skills and competencies which allows for multi model assessments and treatments and for shared opinion, wider expertise and joined up working.

The current caseload is as follows:-

61 open one to one cases  
10 open consultations  
1 open parenting capacity assessment  
10 open neuropsychological assessments  
3 open risk assessments.  
4 young people on the waiting list. (waiting time approximately 3 weeks)

**3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client / communities. Include any differences in service.**

The service is, as indicated above, located within NHS Forth Valley. CAMHS provide a service for children and young people across Forth Valley with a mental disorder or other symptoms of psychological distress and manage referrals from the broader population of Falkirk Stirling and Clackmannanshire. They do not provide a specialist mental health service for looked after or looked after and accommodated young people.

**4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

The work of the service is targeted at aspects of the Council's Strategic Outcome and Local Delivery plans specifically in the following areas:-

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

The Council's Integrated Service Plan is committed to:-

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

**5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

The service undertakes regular service user audit feedback activity including anonymous comments. Similar feedback is sought from carers and social workers.

Service users can also comment on the quality of the service through other mechanisms, for example reviews and children's hearings.

**6. What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?**

The service is provided across Falkirk Council geographical area. The service also supports children and young people whose care needs cannot be met within the Council area and who require a placement out with the Council.

**C ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

**1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that.  
(Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)**

The requirements and expectation of the service has not changed since the service started. The mental health needs of looked after children continues to be significant. The service continues to deliver on its aims and objectives and has remained focused on providing a specialist service to this vulnerable group that cannot be met elsewhere.

The focus of the service is towards clinical work, however has been responsive to wider strategic needs as they develop, for example:-

HOLAC - Health Of Looked After Children

CAMHS liaison with the broader service for children with mental health needs

PACE - Permanence And Care Excellence. Improvement in the drift and delay in children requiring permanence.

<p><b>2. Exception reporting - Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.</b></p> <p>The service is routinely and consistently viewed very positively by children and young people accessing the service directly and also from foster carers and from social workers who use the service on a consultative basis. Its accessibility, flexibility and responsiveness is a major contributory factor to the high value placed on the service by these groups.</p>
<p><b>3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?</b></p> <p>The service has not, since its development, been subject to a formal review. Regular monitoring meetings do, however, take place which confirms that the service continues to meet the mental health needs of children and young people.</p>
<p><b>4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?</b></p> <p>Administrative support for the service is not sufficient for its needs. Data gathering and other quality assurance and administrative processes are challenging to maintain without impacting on direct service provision.</p>
<p><b>5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?</b></p> <p>The service is not inspected on a standalone basis. However its work did attract some positive comments from the 2016 Joint Inspection of Children Services by the Care Inspectorate which noted <i>"the highly personalized flexible approach had demonstrated considerable success in overcoming barriers to accessing and sustaining engagement with vulnerable young people"</i>.</p>
<p><b>D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW</b></p>
<p><b>1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.</b></p> <p>Post is funded 100% by Falkirk Council.</p>
<p><b>2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.</b></p> <p>Does not apply for this post.</p>
<p><b>3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?</b></p> <p>Does not apply for this post.</p>
<p><b>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?</b></p> <p>Does not apply for this post.</p>
<p><b>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts.</b></p> <p>Does not apply for this post.</p>

<b>6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?</b>
This is a specialist Clinical Psychologist Service. The Council has an Educational Psychologist Service which is a different professional discipline and its focus is on improving the development and learning of children and young people.
<b>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</b>
The postholders are employed by NHS Forth Valley. The post is funded by Falkirk Council and is a key element of the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities. NHS Forth Valley also has corporate parenting responsibilities. Any reduction in financial commitment from Falkirk Council would require to be met by NHS Forth Valley to ensure the continuation of the service.
<b>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</b>
It is a single full-time post currently shared by 2 psychologists. Any reduction in hours would lead to a reduction in service.
<b>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</b>
Were the service to be discontinued, there would be a significant negative impact on the mental wellbeing needs of Looked After children for whom the Council, along with other organisations, has corporate parenting responsibilities. The withdrawal or reduction in the service may lead to an escalation of the difficulties for children and young people and higher need for other more expensive services.
<b>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</b>
Low
<b>E CONCLUSIONS</b>
<b>1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.</b>
The Clinical Psychologist has matured and developed to being a critical service to address the needs of vulnerable looked after children and young people in Falkirk. Looked after children are significantly more likely to have mental health needs than their not looked after peers..
The service has developed a very high reputation with young people, carers and professionals for delivering a responsive service when it is required free from restrictive criteria.
The need for the service continues to be consistently evidenced in the care planning of young people and has and will continue to work exclusively with children and young people with complex needs and in line with its existing aims and objectives.
<b>F. Monitoring Officer Details</b>
Name: Frank Kennedy
Designation: Service Manager
Service: Children's Services
Date of Report: 18 October 2017



**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	NHS Forth Valley, Speech and Language Therapy Service
Project	Service level agreement for children with Additional Support Needs
Agreement Dates	April 2016 to March 2017
Name of Monitoring Officer	Nick Balchin
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<p><b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b></p> <p><i>To provide an effective speech and language therapy service where children, regardless of their socio-economic background, experience improved speech, language, communication, confidence and learning which enables them to access the curriculum.</i></p> <p>They aim to enable all children and young people to fulfil their potential by enabling them to communicate to the best of their ability. They aim to reduce the impact of communication difficulties in all environments. The Speech and Language Therapy Team aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve outcomes for all children and young people in the Getting It Right For Every Child areas of safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included (Service Level Agreement, 2017)</li> <li>• provide comprehensive assessment and diagnosis of voice, speech, language, communication, eating and drinking disorders for children with complex and enduring additional support needs</li> <li>• meet complex and enduring language and communication needs in early years and educational settings</li> <li>• advise the Team Around the Child on methods and resources that can support progress in meeting additional support needs arising from speech, language, communication, and eating and drinking difficulties.</li> <li>• To support the Falkirk Council Education Services in providing Continuing Professional Development for its staff</li> <li>• To support Falkirk Council Education Services in closing the spoken language gap for children in poverty and positively impacting on attainment.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b></p> <p>Speech and Language Therapy is directly helping Falkirk Council to deliver their responsibilities under the Children and Young People Act (2014) and Additional Support for Learning Act (2004). In addition the service has a significant contribution to make in supporting Falkirk Council's priorities outlined in the Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan 2016-2020 (SOLD) and the Integrated Children's Service Plan 2017-2020 (ICSP). This is explored below and more fully in the appendix of the full Speech and Language Therapy Evaluation Report 2016/17.</p>	

The Service Level agreement between NHS Forth Valley and Falkirk Education Services recognises the need for improving spoken language for all children, and therefore mitigating the significant impact that poor spoken language has on attainment, behaviour, wellbeing and future life chances

### **3. Why does the council fund this?**

To enable the Council to meet its statutory duties under the Additional Support for Learning Act; addressing the additional support needs of children and young people who face barriers to their learning. It aims to ensure that all children and young people are provided with the necessary support to help them work towards achieving their full potential. Communication skills are the foundation of children's intellectual, social and emotional development. Much of the learning within schools assumes underlying levels of spoken language ability that they know is increasingly absent when children come to school.

### **4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?**

In the 1990s the Scottish Office made national funding available to allow Education departments to part fund Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) services. This funding was to ensure children with Records of Needs and in special educational establishments, received the level of SLT service deemed necessary by both SLT and education. Presumption to Mainstream followed shortly and the drive was to include, wherever possible, children with additional support needs into their local mainstream primary school. This change meant that collaborative practice and joint working was essential to meet the inclusion agenda ensuring that all children receive the correct level of input in a variety of educational settings.

There has been a long standing joint service level agreement in place between NHS Forth Valley and Falkirk Education Services for over twenty years.

### **5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.**

Year	Annual	Support In Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	465,040	575,110	
2015/16	520,190	556,579	
2014/15	515,040	539,487	
2013/14	575,596	534,492	
2012/13	565,099	529,547	

## **B SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?**

The population of Falkirk is currently served by 21.5 fte Speech and Language Therapists. This equates to Education funding 47% and NHS Forth Valley 53% of the staffing.

Due to the stepped reduction in funding by the Council over the life of the 2014-17 Joint Working Agreement, NHS Forth Valley and Falkirk Council Education Services considered how the service could be delivered efficiently and effectively within a reduced budget. Staffing was reduced from 16.8fte to 15.6fte, and then again to 14.2fte of which Falkirk Council funds 10.1fte and NHS FV 4.1fte. To accommodate this, the service delivery model had to be

adapted. The impact of this reduction means that NHS Forth Valley has also had to absorb the majority of non-pay and admin support costs in order to maximize SLT capacity.

NHS FV also funds a 5.8fte service delivered in community clinics and provides additional 1.5fte support from Forth Valley wide advisors, including Alternative and Augmentative Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder Makaton specialists.

### **Specialist Work**

The Communication Support in Education Team (CSE) currently has a caseload of 294 children and young people with the most complex communication needs in Falkirk's nurseries, primary schools and secondary schools. Our aim is to promote communication skills and facilitate effective inclusion and participation in the environment that is often having the biggest impact on children's well-being and learning. This is achieved by empowering education staff through advising on effective strategies, modeling interventions and providing quality training. They work with a wide range of children and young people with speech, language, communication and swallowing needs.

### **Universal and Targeted Work**

In conjunction with Falkirk Education Services the Speech and Language Therapy Team has been leading the way in innovation and developing quality universal and targeted services. Our approach is underpinned by national agendas and policy drivers such as the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act, Allied Health Professions Ready to Act Transformational Plan and the Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative. These drivers call for approaches that build assets, emphasise prevention and empower universal services.

### **Developing the Communication Environment**

Speech and Language Therapy have used the best available national and local evidence in order to improve our pathways for developing communication environments in early years' settings. The approach aims to develop the visual and spoken environment within early years' settings to ensure children are experiencing language enriching environments.

### **Training**

Speech and Language Therapy provide a range of development opportunities for Education Staff and families. Examples of topics include:

- Introduction to Speech and Language Therapy
- Developing Communication Environments
- Autism Spectrum
- Complex Language Disorders
- Interventions to improve Spoken Language
- Makaton Sign Sharing

### **Early Years Intervention**

The Early Years Intervention Team specifically aims to engage with hard to reach families and provides services at universal, targeted and specialist levels.

### **Focusing on Communication and Learning**

The Focusing on Communication and Learning Initiative (FOCAL) is a whole school approach to improving children's spoken language, self-esteem and learning with particular emphasis on P1-P3.

## **2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?**

Total number of children who benefited in 2016/17 was 1118.

Total number of Education Staff who attended formal training opportunities was 869.

Total reach is much greater than figure stated above, as they are regularly supporting education staff to develop the spoken language skills of all children. Details are below.

### **Specialist Caseload**

At the end of March 2017 the complex caseload was at 294 children. In the 12 month period 599 unique children received specialist support from the Communication Support in Education Team (CSE Team is the jointly funded Speech and Language Therapy resource) which provided 4904 contacts. This includes 3648 direct contacts and 1133 indirect contacts.

### **Training of Education Staff**

In 2016/17 Speech and Language Therapy trained 869 education staff. 720 staff members completed an evaluation form.

### **Early Years Intervention**

116 different parents / carers were engaged with using a range of drop in sessions, workshops and stay and play activities.

### **Focusing on Communication and Learning**

Over these 12 months the FOCAL approach reached 519 unique children.

## **3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client/communities. Include any differences in service.**

No services are similar in function currently. Parents may commission independent speech and language therapists by private arrangement.

## **4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

Speech and Language Therapy contribute to all of the council's priorities:

- Our children will develop into resilient, confident and successful adults
- Our area will be a fairer and more equal place to live
- Our population will be healthier
- Successful business investment and employment
- Our area will be a safer place to live

Through:

- evidence based approaches to improve the quality of children's spoken language;
- interventions designed to break intergenerational cycles of poor spoken language;
- improving language to mitigate against lifestyle and health risks
- improved language skills in children assists employers
- improved communication skills reduces communication problems and the linked behavioural problems, reducing risk developing challenging and offending behaviour

The Organisation's full report provides in-depth analysis of how this is done. Which can be made available.

<p><b>5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?</b></p> <p>Through regular feedback.</p>
<p><b>6. What specific geographical areas does this service/organization cover within the Council area?</b></p> <p>Falkirk wide.</p>
<p><b>C ASSESMENT OF PERFORMANCE</b></p>
<p><b>1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that. (Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)</b></p> <p>95.3 % episodes of speech and language care resulted in a satisfactory outcome (695 children)</p> <p>See Attached</p>
<p><b>2. Exception reporting – Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.</b></p> <p>As an innovative service Speech and Language Therapy in Falkirk is always looking for ways to improve service delivery to improve outcomes for children in Falkirk, based on emerging evidence. Within Scotland, the work in Falkirk is held in high regard and other areas are looking to learn and replicate the good practice.</p>
<p><b>3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?</b></p> <p>There is a formal review on an annual basis. The Service Level Agreement Monitoring Group meets four times a year to review performance.</p> <p>Date of most recent review – March 2017</p> <p>Next planned review - TBC</p>
<p><b>4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?</b></p> <p>Speech and Language Therapy Services are required to demonstrate continuous improvement in line with NHS targets.</p>
<p><b>5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?</b></p> <p>NHS targets and quality assurance processes.</p>

<p><b>6. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.</b></p> <p>As a total of SLT budget this is 41.7%.</p>
<p><b>7. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.</b></p> <p>Two clusters of schools were successful in a bid to Education Scotland through the Innovation Fund. £40,000 of short term funding was used this business year to roll out an enhanced programme to support schools in order to close the spoken language gap.</p>
<p><b>8. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?</b></p> <p>The speech and language therapy service does not have separate reserves from the NHS.</p>
<p><b>9. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?</b></p> <p>Not applicable for the NHS</p>
<p><b>10. Last period of submitted audited accounts</b></p> <p>NHS audit accounts annually.</p>
<p><b>11. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?</b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>12. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</b></p> <p>Decrease in funding will lead to reduction in service delivery and reach. Negotiations with NHSFV will be required.</p>
<p><b>13. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</b></p> <p>This has not been the focus of the FPP monitoring. Any further reduction in funding will have a significant impact on service provision. The monitoring officer and the service would need to work pro-actively to reduce service delivery as appropriate.</p>
<p><b>14. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</b></p> <p><b>Cost for Children and Young People</b>  The Children and Young People's Act (2014) Statutory Guidance states, '<i>Speech, language and communication development is important to the overall wellbeing of all children and young people</i>'. Scottish Government formal guidance and key children's policies (such as <i>Getting it Right for Every Child</i>) recognise speech, language and communication ability has an impact on a child or young person's safety, health (particularly mental health), achievement, responsibility, respect and inclusion.</p>

**Cost to Education**

Speech, language and communication needs are the most common need children have (two to three in every classroom). Additional support needs including incidence of challenging behaviour in schools has cost implications for education departments. Effective partnerships with SLT help schools to effectively and efficiently manage these needs and therefore minimise costs.

**Cost for Parents and Families**

Speech, language and communication is strongly associated with parent-child attachment and behaviour at home and school - as well as relationships with siblings and peers. By reducing SLT services, parent's ability to support the speech, language and communication development of their child and to subsequently manage often challenging behaviour could be affected.

**Cost for Teachers**

Being able to identify speech, language and communication needs and meet those needs effectively underpins a child's ability to learn, behave in the classroom and playground and attain literacy and numeracy. Objectives for learning, attainment and behaviour are all likely to be impacted if teachers are not able to access adequate support from their local SLT service.

**15. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.**

High – reduction in funding is likely to decrease the availability of the service, thereby meaning children and young people with communication problems are not assisted. This in turn has an impact on their attainment in school. Communication problems are associated with high risks such as poor health, poor mental health and anti-social behaviour.

**E CONCLUSIONS**

**1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.**

NHS Forth Valley, Speech and Language Therapy Service have provided a valuable service that has contributed positively to the outcomes. Their service delivery has achieved the objectives set for the funding from Falkirk Council. The Service agreement will continue to be monitored

**F MONITORING OFFICER DETAILS**

Name: Nick Balchin

Designation: Principal Educational Psychologist

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 7 November 2017

# HOW SLT IS SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL WITH ITS PRIORITIES?



Speech and Language Therapy is directly addressing Falkirk Council's priorities outlined in Falkirk's Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan and Integrated Children's Service Plan

## OUR CHILDREN WILL DEVELOP INTO RESILIENT, CONFIDENT AND SUCCESSFUL ADULTS

Speech and Language Therapy's approach to working in schools within Falkirk is underpinned by the evidence base that the quality of spoken dialogue in classrooms can significantly improve children's attainment.



## OUR AREA WILL BE A FAIRER AND MORE EQUAL PLACE TO LIVE

In partnership with education we have developed effective approaches and interventions designed to break the inter-generational cycles where children are presenting with poor spoken language skills linked with poor life outcomes

## OUR POPULATION WILL BE HEALTHIER

Research has clearly demonstrated the link between spoken language skills and poor behaviour, self esteem and general well-being. Through facilitating effective interventions and improving spoken language skills we are mitigating these risks.



## SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

We advise and provide development opportunities for education staff in order to build communication skills in children & young people, which employers are reporting are essential for success in a increasingly service driven world.

## OUR AREA WILL BE A SAFER PLACE TO LIVE

Due to the link between communication problems and subsequent behavioural problems, speech and language therapy interventions with children & young people reduce the risk of developing challenging and subsequent offending behaviour.





## Performance information

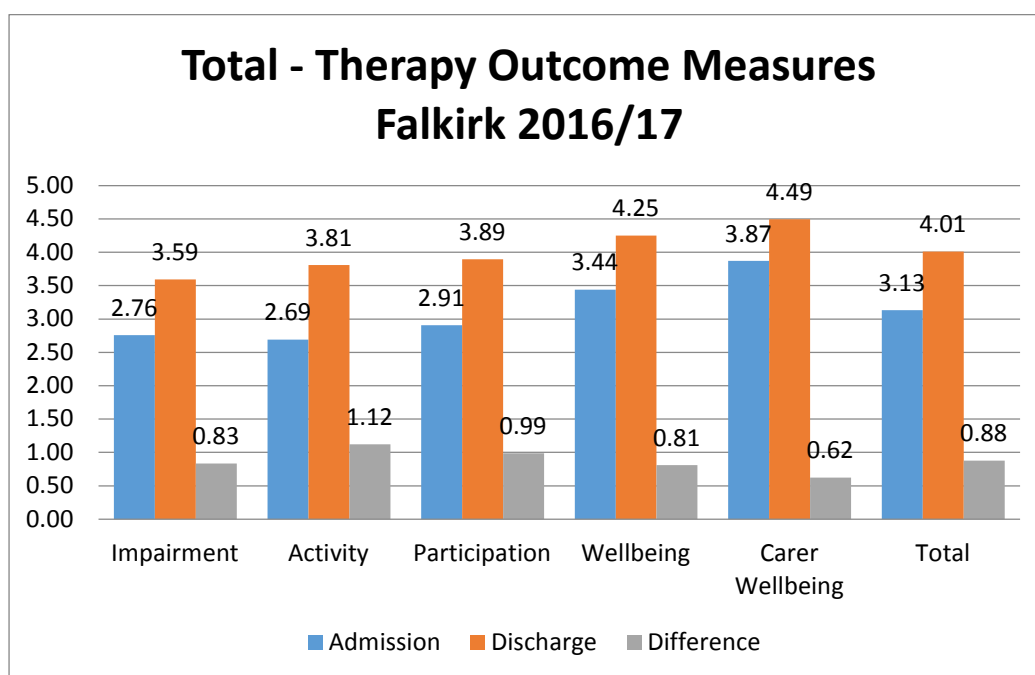
Speech and Language Therapy use a range of measures and data to demonstrate impact at specialist and targeted levels.

## Specialist Caseload

### Therapy outcome measures

Professionals and families use Therapy Outcome Measures to rate progress based on four key dimensions. Each dimension is rated from 0 (severe end) to 5 (normal). These rating scales are used at the beginning and end of a child's journey through the service.

Average data collected from 380 child ratings and 260 carer ratings is displayed on the graph. This data demonstrates the **significant added value** of speech and language therapy across the four domains.



## Performance Indictors

Speech and Language Therapy report performance data to Falkirk Education Services every three months. This data quantifies efficacy for each child on the caseload related to the above targets. Speech and Language Therapy consistently exceeds the compliance targets. Based on 695 episodes over a 12 month period, **95.3 % episodes of care resulted in a satisfactory outcome.**

- **Safe** – Management of Eating and Drinking – **100%**
- **Healthy** – Positive Mental Health – **91%**
- **Active** - Increase Involvement of Children in Communities – **96%**
- **Nurtured** – Communication at Home – **94%**
- **Achieving** – Addressing the impact of language as a profound barrier to learning – **96%**
- **Respected and Responsible** – Pupil Involvement in Change – **100%**

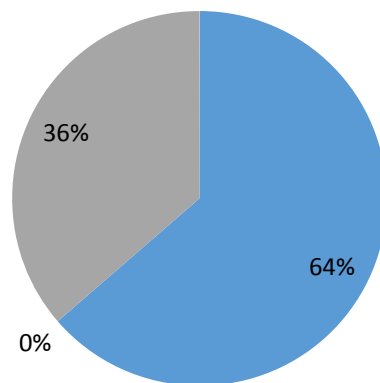
## Universal and Targeted Work

### Early Years Intervention

A recent study in California Nursery School demonstrated the efficacy of the nursery narrative intervention targeting children with delayed spoken language skills. This was a snap shot study capturing spoken language data from eleven children.

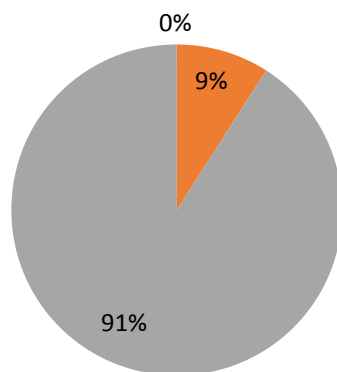
#### Spoken Language Scores (information) before Intervention - Nursery Narrrative

■ Below Average ■ Expected ■ Above Average



#### Spoken Language Scores after Intervention - Nursery Narrrative

■ Below Average ■ Expected ■ Above Average



The evidence gathered shows that prior to the intervention 64% of the children's spoken language skills (information) were below the level expected for their age. After the intervention, this number dropped to 0%. 36% of the children's scores for spoken language skills were at or above the level expected for their age before the intervention. After the intervention, this number rose to 100%.

### **Focusing on Communication and Learning (FoCaL)**

The FoCaL initiative is a whole school approach to improving children's spoken language, self-esteem and learning. Data based on **373 children**.

- **Improved Spoken Language** - In the 9 months of active involvement the children improved their spoken language skills by an average of **14.5 months**.
- **Improved Phonological Awareness** – children's phonological awareness skills **improved by 72%**.
- **Improved Self Esteem** - **96%** of children either maintained or improved their self-esteem.
- **Improved Confidence for Education Staff** - Prior to the initiative 50% of education staff felt confident or very confident in including children with communication difficulties within their class. At the end of the academic year **83% of staff** felt confident or very confident.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	One Parent Families Scotland
Project	Maddiston/Braes Family Centre
Agreement Dates	April 2016 to March 2017
Name of Monitoring Officer	Nick Balchin
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single parents have the capacity and resilience to deal with the complex issues they face and are equipped to ensure that their children can grow up and flourish within a healthy, stable, and supportive home environment.</li> <li>Single parents have the disposable income required to ensure a good standard of living and the opportunity to achieve their aspirations and ambitions, for themselves and their children.</li> <li>Single parents can participate fully in decision-making in their families, their communities, and in the wider society.</li> <li>Scottish and local governments, and partner organisations have a comprehensive understanding of the issues affecting one parent families, resulting in the delivery of effective and appropriate services.</li> <li>OPFS is a resilient and responsive organisation, delivering quality-assured services, embracing a culture of learning and development, supported by a sustainable financial strategy.</li> </ol>	
<b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b> <p>Support for families  Families contribute to planning and decision making.  Parents take responsibility for their children's welfare.  Parent and children have a positive attitude to learning.  Families live in households free from low income.</p> <p>Early Education and Childcare  Children are mentally and emotionally healthy  Children achieve stretching national educational standards at childcare setting  Children achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation  Children develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges.</p>	
<b>3. Why does the council fund this?</b> <p>By offering Family Support and Early Education OPFS are addressing issues around parenting, poverty, poor mental health and attainment in early years, primary school and High School. There is no other capacity for 600 entitled placement or a support service available in the local vicinity.</p>	

**4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?**

By offering Family Support and Early Education OPFS are addressing issues around parenting, poverty, poor mental health and attainment in early years, primary school and High School. There is no other capacity for 600 entitled placement or a support service available in the local vicinity.

**5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.**

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	£115,654	£6000	£33,950
2015/16	£120,755	£6000	£33,950
2014/15	£136,064	£6000	Eligible 2s Nursery
2013/14	£136,064	£6000	
2012/13	£136,064	£6000	

**B SERVICE DELIVERY**

**1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?**

OPFS Falkirk provides much needed Family Support to parents and their children and Early Education for children aged two to three years. They are also a local placement provider for 600 hour places for entitled two year olds. The Family Centre offers support to families across the 16 villages that make up the Upper Braes area. There is no other locally based service which offers a comprehensive package to children and families.

OPFS supports parents, especially single parents, with issues which include parenting, debt, budgeting, low mood and poor mental health, hygiene and identifying and addressing risk taking behavior.

They offer support to children in group settings as well as on a one to one basis. Group work addresses issues around Transition, Friendships and Nurture.

One to one support for children and young people is centered on their individual needs and can include developing strategies to enable them to deal with anger or risk taking behavior, improving school attendance and achieving well at school or building confidence and resilience to deal with difficult situations, being IT aware or developing strategies that will keep them safe from harm.

Where possible support is delivered systemically and will include both school and parents. Their early education and childcare is targeted at children aged two to three years of age. Along with the delivery of the 600 hours provision they offer two mornings per week to children who do not qualify for entitled two placements but require additional support to deal with issues around delays in their development. These issues may be around speech and language or a disability. These sessions may also be offered to children where there are issues within the family home and the child requires support to reach their milestones.

**2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?**

	Funded through other funding	Funded through Falkirk Council	Total
Female Lone Parents/ Carers	49	77	126
Male Lone Parent/Carers	33	2	35
Parents Supported through Childcare	0	29	29
Parents supported through Befriending / Respite	21	0	21
Two year olds	0	32	32
Children (under five)	7	12	19
Children & Young people	60	90	150
Total	170	242	412

**3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client / communities. Include any differences in service.**

There is some overlap with Falkirk Council Family Support and Intensive Family Support, however OPFS is often providing an intermediate tier of support to families between the Council Family Support Service and the Intensive Family Support Service. It has similarity with voluntary sector organisations including Barnardo's, Aberlour, Homestart. The overlap is in terms of broad aims and general populations with profiles of need. Some aspects are most similar to Langlees Family Centre. They have some similar methods such as group work approaches with parents and using volunteers. The service provided is unique to the specific clients. There are differences in the specific methods used and each of the organisations and they have tended to receive referrals from their traditional geographic areas as that is where they are best known.

There are some differences in the age range of the client groups between the voluntary sector services. When there is a potential overlap of service a decision is made (between service managers) as to which of the services or agencies is best placed to offer a service so that there is no actual overlap or duplication experienced by children and families.

OPFS offer families a Centre where they are able to visit and ask for advice and support. The local area has a functioning Community Centre which offers activities for young people and toddlers. The Salvation Army offers youth groups and sessions for parents and toddlers. The local church offers activities for primary school children and a parent and toddler group. These service compliment the Family Centre as youth sessions are delivered out with our operating times and parent and toddler groups cater for parents whose children do not qualify for the childcare offered at the Family Centre. Through other funding streams OPFS have been able to develop this service further and through funding from the STV Appeal they offer a Drop In / Hub which offers a variety of different services which aim to maximize family's income.

**4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

OPFS supports Falkirk Council's SOLD Priorities to

- Be a fairer and more equal place to live
- Our children will develop into resilient, confident and successful adults
- Our population will be healthier
- People live full, independent and positive lives within supportive communities
- Our area will be a safer place to live

**5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

Regularly consulted

**6. What specific geographical areas does this service/organization cover within the Council area?**

Upper braes area.

**C ASSESMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

**1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that. (Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)**

Performance has been high based on service report. The Service supported 412 individuals, 242 were from the funding of Falkirk Council, 170 from funding provided by other sources. Of this, more than 95% showed positive movement in improving outcomes. The detail of this is provided in the Annual report.

100% of parents showed positive movement or were stabilised in the outcomes "*mentally and emotionally healthy*" and "*Develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges*".

For the children in receipt of childcare or eligible 2s provision, successful improvement in outcomes was shown for 94% of children (30 out of 32).

**2. Exception reporting – Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.**

Additional funding has allowed the service to tackle poverty in a practical and sustainable way. They run a holistic service which meets the needs of local families where they can access:

- Childcare
- Family Support
- One to one support for children and young people
- Befriending
- Respite
- Peer Support

- Friendship, Transition and Nurture Groups for children and young people
- Groups tackling isolation and issues surrounding emotional health and wellbeing
- Access to essential hygiene, baby and household items
- Access to School Uniform and winter jackets
- Access to Home energy advice and funding for item to reduce energy costs
- Income Maximisation advice
- Free activities for families during term time and school holidays which include family meals

**3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?**

Date of most recent review – March 2017

Next planned review - TBC November/December 2017

**6. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?**

They could take more children in the eligible 2s provision.

**7. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?**

The recent Care Inspectorate Inspection in January 17 rewarded OPFS a score of 5 - Very Good for the two areas inspected - Care and Support and Environment.

Date	Care and Support	Environment	Staffing	Management and Leadership
26 Jan 2017	5 - Very Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
25 Nov 2014	5 - Very Good (I)	4 - Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)	4 - Good (I)
29 Nov 2012	5 - Very Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)
03 Sep 2010	5 - Very Good (I)	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	5 - Very Good (I)
29 Apr 2009	5 - Very Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)

**D FINANCIAL/RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

**1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.**

Falkirk Council including In Kind and 600 hour provision provide 55% of our total funding.

**2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.**

Funding	Amount
Falkirk Council	£115645
600 Hours (Falkirk Council)	£25588
In kind	£6000
STV Appeal	£55822
Robertson trust	£17000
Early Intervention Fund	£40,000
Earned	£3000



Total	£263,055
<p><b>3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?</b></p> <p>One Parent Family Scotland is a national organisation. The reserves are required to support a variety of projects and services across the country.</p>	
<p><b>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?</b></p> <p>Not possible to report.</p>	
<p><b>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts</b></p> <p>2015/16</p>	
<p><b>6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?</b></p> <p>See overview report</p>	
<p><b>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</b></p> <p>No. If the service was to receive a cut in Falkirk Council funding of for example £10,000 this would result in a potential cut of £20,000 as matched funding is required by external funders.</p> <p>Falkirk council is unable to change the funding parameters of funding bodies.</p>	
<p><b>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</b></p> <p>Reductions in funding would mean a decrease in service provision.</p>	
<p><b>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</b></p> <p>The families who benefit from the service would not be able to receive this assistance, making it more likely that some or many of these families would require more expensive forms of intervention, if their problems and difficulties are not addressed quickly.</p>	
<p><b>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</b></p> <p>Medium to high</p>	
<p><b>E CONCLUSIONS</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.</b></p> <p>The organisation has performed well, adapted its service to reduced funding and changed its service</p>	

delivery approach.

The organisation has been successful in attracting other grants to the area to support their work.  
This is often matched funding.

The work undertaken represents good value for money.

<b>F      MONITORING OFFICER DETAILS</b>
Name: Nick Balchin
Designation: Principal Educational Psychologist
Service: Children's Services
Date of Report: 7 November 2017
PDF document embedded. Click to expand for full report

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	Quarriers
Project	Quarriers Children's Rights Service
Agreement Dates	1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017
Name of Monitoring Officer	Vivien Thomson
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<p><b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop and deliver a comprehensive Children's Rights Service in the Falkirk area in partnership with "Who Cares?" and Falkirk Council.</li> <li>• 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 UNCRC and Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and associated guidance.</li> <li>• To collate client feedback and questionnaires and assess this information to identify needs.</li> <li>• To develop a pool of volunteers to provide information/advocacy services to children and young people.</li> <li>• To develop and maintain a service profile and target marginalised children and young people.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>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 priority for those who are looked after.</p> <p><b>Agreed Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of a service to children from Falkirk to ensure that their rights are upheld both individually and within policy developments.</li> <li>• Evidence of addressing themes from across services which require attention in relation to children's rights, especially concerning corporate parenting duties.</li> <li>• Close work with "Who Cares?" to ensure that together the rights of children who are looked after are maintained and upheld.</li> <li>• Evidence of challenge to the Council and its partners where appropriate, where children's issues are not being properly upheld or developed.</li> <li>• Evidence of involvement in and initiation of developments within Children's Services.</li> </ul>	

- Ensuring that key priorities in the ICSP, especially our new children's rights and corporate parenting duties are being taken forward and involve young people.
- A key role in the developing Champions Board model in relation to corporate parenting.

## 2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?

The funding ensures that the Council fulfils its legal obligations to provide a Children's Rights Officer and service to our vulnerable children.

The post of Children's Rights Officer and the related service is intended to provide independent advocacy for children. There is a particular priority given to those who are:-

- Looked After
- on the Child Protection register
- have a disability
- are, involved with the youth justice system.

The service has a scrutiny role in terms of ensuring that the Council adheres to the UNHCR principles in our actions and policies. Given this, it is good practice for the service to be provided by an external agency.

## 3. Why does the Council fund this?

To ensure the Council meets the core statutory duty as detailed above. Provision of the service internally would not provide the level of independence required to meet a core priority for the Council.

## 4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?

10 years.

## 5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	£86,200		
2015/16	£86,200	Access to National Training and events	£10,475 (full year costs, Sept 16 to Sept 17)
2014/15	£86,200		
2013/14	£86,200		
2012/13	£86,200		

## B SERVICE DELIVERY

### 1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?

It provides, in conjunction with "Who Cares?", a children's rights service to children and young people up to the age of 21 who are normally resident in the Falkirk Council area. Priority is given to the most vulnerable groups, particularly:-

- Looked After
- on the Child Protection register
- have a disability
- are, involved with the youth justice system.

## **2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?**

In terms of the work in Falkirk, the following children and young people directly benefit:-

- All our looked after children/young people- approximately 400 at any one point.
- Young people in continuing care – currently 27 young people are in continuing care placements.
- Care leavers. Almost 200 care leavers are currently eligible for support.
- Children on the child protection register. Child Protection figures average around 70 children each month.
- Children/young people with a disability. Two thirds of the referrals to the service in the first quarter of 2017 were from those with additional needs.

## **3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client / communities. Include any differences in service.**

The Quarriers service is only one part of the Falkirk Children's Rights Service. The full service is made up of the Children's Rights Officer and admin support provided by Quarriers, plus a part time Advocacy Worker provided by "Who Cares?" Scotland (subject to a separate Following the Public Pound report).

The involvement of two agencies in the Councils Children's Rights Service is not duplication as the service itself is a combination of two aspects of children's rights. One agency focusses on advocacy for looked after young people, and the other provides the statutory Children's Rights Officer function plus additional advocacy for vulnerable groups. The partnership approach allows the Council to achieve best value in terms of resources, and to access significant additional benefit via those organisations.

Examples of additional benefits from Quarriers:-

- Silverhill Trust funding for a participation worker for Champions Board.
- Locating of Mentor Program for Looked After at home young people aged 8 – 12 years in Falkirk - funded by Scottish Government and run in Forth Valley by Quarriers.
- Access to life coaching scheme for care experienced young people. Funding accessed due to the existing Children's Rights service in Falkirk.

## **4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

Corporate Parenting is priority for the Council and this is reflected in the planning structure. The Children's Rights and corporate parenting duties of the Council are outlined in detail in the Integrated Children's Services Plan. The Children's Rights Service is a core aspect of our Champions Board development and the current resources form the basis of our plans for continuing this core work when the Life Changes Trust funding for the Board ceases in 2019.

## **5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

The service reports quarterly on the themes and feedback from each individual who receives a service, thus influencing priorities and actions in line with their remit to challenge and influence policy and practice. Reporting and monitoring is done jointly with "Who Cares?".

The support provided to the Champions Board provides direct access to young people who are becoming involved in the design and delivery of the services which affect them.

**6. What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?**

The service covers the full Council area, and is open to any child or young person who is normally resident in this area e.g. Looked After children those who are placed out with the Council can access the services.

**C ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

**1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that.  
(Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)**

The service reports on a quarterly basis to a steering group made up of all relevant partners. Alongside this there is a quarterly meeting of the service managers for "Who Cares?" and Quarriers to review contractual details and service focus. Reports are provided to these meetings using an agreed format which is developed to allow reporting which demonstrates both the statistical information required and the practice and quality aspects of the work.

These reports demonstrate:-

- Year on year increase in referrals to Falkirk Children's Rights Service, including evidence of increasing contact with younger children who may find having their voice heard more of a challenge and an increase in those with additional needs accessing the service.
- The use of volunteers has expanded the capacity of the service slightly.
- Closer working relationships with "Who Cares?" and CLD has allowed the developing corporate parenting work to fit well with other initiatives nationally and locally e.g. the national mentoring programme for Looked After children aged 8 – 12 years.
- Involvement in the development and support of the Champions Board work e.g. assistance in providing a drop in surgery for care leavers.
- Provision of exit interviews following the de-registration of children from the child protection register and following the ending of a foster placements. This informs Children's Services 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 building their capacity.
- The Children's Rights Service continues to provide a 'drop in' facility at local schools.
- The Children's Rights Officer liaises with young people in Falkirk Council 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 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 Council's response to the new legislation and emerging guidance particularly in relation to practice guidance for continuing care and after care alongside "Who Cares?" and the Council. The service is a core aspect approach to how the Council meets our new corporate parenting and Children's Rights duties.

The service, alongside "Who Cares?" and the Council has reviewed the working protocol and the service now focuses on the most vulnerable groups of young people.

**2. Exception reporting - Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.**

The Children's Rights Service is universally praised by the young people who access services. Falkirk Council's partnership approach to children's rights is attracting national interest.

**3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?**

*Date of most recent review:* 15 August 2018

*Next planned review:* 23 November 2017

**4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?**

This service has been funded on a stand still basis since its inception with no increases for cost of living, staffing costs etc. Efficiencies have been obtained to allow the core service to continue without any uplift by:-

- Using volunteers to meet some of the need. This is only appropriate in certain circumstances, given the nature of the client group.
- Combining "Who Cares?" and Quarriers work in to one service.
- Imminent co-locating the service with the Champions Board staff in Park Street, which allows the continuation of the core service without additional costs related to for example, pensions or rent.
- Using vacancy management to offset other costs.

**5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?**

The service is not a registered service with the Care Inspectorate. It was, however, part of the recent Integrated Children's Services Inspection.

**D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

**1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.**

Falkirk Council provides £86,200 to Quarriers.

Their overall expenditure per annum is £41.7m.

**2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.**

Quarriers is a large Scottish Charity and is funded by a range of authorities to provide social services, primarily in relation to epilepsy, adult disability, and children and families. They also have a small amount of income from donation and legacies (£2.1m from an income of £41.7m). This is detailed in their accounts.

**3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?**

£14 million, as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. It is Quarrier's policy to hold 12 weeks of operational expenditure in reserve at any one time.

**4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?**

£14m equates to approximately 18 weeks operational costs for the overall services provided by Quarriers nationally.

**5. Last period of submitted audited accounts**

Financial year 2015/16.

**6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?**

There are no other organisations in the Falkirk area which provide a specific rights service for children. The full Children's Rights Service is a combination of Quarriers who provide the statutory Children's Rights Officer, and an admin post and "Who Cares?" who provide a part time advocacy worker focusing on advocacy with children in care. Together they ensure that a rights based service is available to vulnerable and priority groups in Falkirk.

**7. Future sustainability - Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?**

The stand-alone nature of the funding since the inception of the service means that there is very limited flexibility remaining to reduce cost without impacting on the basic service. The service would require to reduce or lose resource therefore some provision will lessen or cease.

**8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?**

The funding for the service primarily covers staffing costs for the two staff – the Children's Rights Officer and the admin post. These costs equate to £60,197. Any applied funding cut would mean a reduction in what is already a very small staff compliment, and therefore threaten sustainability of the service.

Steps already taken are outlined elsewhere and we are maximizing the opportunities provided by the Champions Board funding by locating the service alongside the Champions Board staff in Park Street, which allows the service to meet the increased staffing demands, and allows us to 'future proof' our Champions Board work. We will continue to maximise such opportunities to maintain the core service.

**9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?**

We will not meet our statutory duties in terms of provisions of a Children's Rights Officer, and some new duties in the Children and Young People (Scot) Act 2014. These duties would still require to be undertaken by the Council.



10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.

High

#### **E CONCLUSIONS**

**1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.**

This service, in conjunction with "Who Cares?" provides a statutory service to the Council's most vulnerable young people. It has had a stand-alone budget since its inception 10 years ago. The service is valued and is also a core aspect of our corporate parenting approach and future ability to meet our corporate parenting duties as well as our Children's Rights duties. Monitoring is stringent with quarterly reporting against key indicators, and scrutiny of the service.

As a result of our Children's Rights work with Quarriers and "Who Cares?" we have been able to use existing management provision to staff our Champions Board work, also allowing access to funding streams not open to the local authority. This added value has been crucial in developing the Champions Board, providing opportunities to our care experienced young people and meeting our corporate parenting targets.

#### **F. Monitoring Officer Details**

Name: Vivien Thomson

Designation: Service Manager

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 18 October 2017

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	Sacro
Project	Youth Justice Service
Agreement Dates	1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017
Name of Monitoring Officer	Matthew Davies
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b> <p>Sacro is a community justice organisation with a vision for a safer Scotland, where the wellbeing of its citizens including young people and their families are supported within local communities. Sacro aims to resolve conflict constructively and address offending and its consequences. Sacro works in partnership with vulnerable people with complex needs as well as those who present with significant risks to the local community. Sacro also works with victims of offences and those harmed by anti-social behaviour. Key aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To reduce conflict, offending and anti-social behavior</li> <li>▪ To promote and contribute to community engagement and community safety</li> <li>▪ To assist and empower individuals to reach their potential and become responsible citizens</li> <li>▪ To work with the strengths of individuals and communities in order to reach goals</li> <li>▪ To promote health, wellbeing and safety in order to achieve flourishing and achieving lives</li> </ul>	
<b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b> <p>Sacro Youth Service provides a wide range of support, determined by the needs of the young person. Sacro work with young people to prevent escalation into more formal systems and to achieve positive outcomes with a strong link to GIRFEC, SHANNARI and Wellbeing principles. Sacro work with young people and their families to promote inclusion in school and within communities as well as to reduce the likelihood of being looked after and accommodated.</p> <p>Sacro delivers Restorative Justice Services commissioned by Social Work and Corporate Services to address offending behavior and anti-social behavior by young people up to the age of 18 years. The key aim of the service is to give victims a voice and enable young people to make amends and repair the damage caused. The service provides a constructive resolution to conflict and its consequences. This service is consistent with and contributes to the priorities within Falkirk's Integrated Children's Services Plan. The partnership approach has included the provision of training and skills sharing across professions with colleagues in Education and Social Work.</p>	

### 3. Why does the Council fund this?

Sacro has developed significant expertise in restorative approaches and is recognised throughout Scotland as a sector leader in this type of intervention. Sacro's track record in achieving positive outcomes for young people with an impact on communities is well documented (e.g. including empowerment of young people to make decisions and improved physical and mental health). The service works with young people and their families out with normal working hours as required. The Service provides a cost effective mechanism for delivering these services at times to suit young people who offend and their families, thereby ensuring that the intervention is not disruptive to their attendance at school or employment. The service is also funded to assist the Council achieve the priorities set out in the integrated Children's Service Plan.

### 4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?

From 2003 to date.

### 5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	£121,848	-	-
2015/16	£123,336	-	-
2014/15	£127,192	-	-
2013/14	£127,192	-	-
2012/13	£127,192	-	-

## B SERVICE DELIVERY

### 1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc.?

Sacro provides support to young people from the age of 8 to 18 years of age that have committed offences or involved in anti-social behaviour. This includes young people who may be excluded from mainstream school or/and are looked after by the Local Authority.

Sacro works with a minimum of 120 referrals per year through a targeted approach. For example Face to Face meetings, Shuttle Dialogue, Restorative Conferences, Reparative Tasks, Victim Awareness and bespoke 1:1 and group work programmes.

Sacro

- provides a diversion service to the Procurator Fiscal for 16 and 17 year olds. To keep young people out of formal systems.
- supports pupils involved in negative behavior or at the risk of exclusion from schools under the Alternative to Exclusion referral process.
- promotes internet safety and reduces the likelihood of cyber bullying with school age young people
- provides an out of hours crisis and support service for young people
- delivers awareness raising group work in response to identified concerns in the community and schools. This is bespoke and linked to particular needs

In addition, Sacro has delivered restorative conversation training over a 4 day period to the Community Safety Team, ran citizenship groups, sexual exploitation groups and awareness raising in relation to social media and internet safety with groups of young people.

Families benefit also from the impact of the outcomes on young people. Maturity and employability prospects are enhanced by learning new skills and coping mechanisms. There is a positive impact on school attainment, confidence and health. Public perception can improve when a young person engages in restorative approaches in order to change and make amends for behaviour.

## **2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?**

For the year 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017:

- 122 new referrals (79 males and 44 females). 88% of referrals are young people aged 12-15 years
- 211 pupils participated in group work in schools around Internet Safety
- 107 young people were engaged with a programme of support to address their offending behaviour
- 76 young people completed programmes
- 95 cases closed
- 18 re-referrals to Sacro

## **3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client / communities. Include any differences in service.**

Connect Services are co-located with Sacro and provide an in house youth Justice Service to high risk young people. Connect does not provide restorative or reparative interventions and generally focuses on children who are involved in sexually harmful behaviors.

## **4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

Sacro and Falkirk Council work in partnership to achieve positive outcomes for young people which are aligned to the priorities as set out in the ICSP and SOLD. Sacro work with vulnerable, hard to reach and engage young people who do not always work well within mainstream services. The service focuses on inclusion, building resilience and confidence in young people, alongside taking responsibility for their actions and reparation. This sits well with the ICSP priority relating to inclusion.

Sacro are trained and capable of identifying potential child protection concerns in its various forms. Their policy on Child Protection is consistent with Falkirk Council's so there is a common understanding regarding roles and the priority of keeping children safe.

## **5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

Sacro has a service user involvement strategy which includes young people in recruitment processes and in providing feed-back on services. Young people are encouraged to complete "what do you think" surveys. This information provides credible direction to inform continuous improvement of services. Sacro adopt a responsive/person centered approach with all young people from assessment to delivery. Staff listen and learn from what the young person needs/wants and supports the young person to think about their short and long term goals on a continual basis.

Six weekly reviews are undertaken with young people to assess progress and the effectiveness of programmes. Outcomes star is used as an evaluation tool which plots and scores progress, outlining the journey of the young person during their time with Sacro.

In addition every person including victims, parent/carers and stakeholders receives an Evaluation Form to look at service delivery and service improvement.

Focus groups are another method that the service uses. Parents/carers and young people have been involved in this approach and have shared their views on service improvement and delivery.

**6. What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?**

The service covers all of the Falkirk Council area.

Sacro works outwith these areas where necessary when young people are at school or accommodated outwith the Falkirk Council area.

**C ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

**1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that.**

During the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, Sacro have received 122 referrals to the Youth Justice Service. The majority of referrals continue to be received through the fortnightly meeting of the Youth Justice Referral Group, (YJRG).

Quarterly steering groups are held to monitor compliance with agreed standards and annual reports are also provided detailing performance over a 12 month period. Sacro has internal review mechanisms to monitor performance and undertake periodic casefile audits.

**2. Exception reporting - Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected**

None

**3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?**

Date of most recent review 26-09-2017.

Next Planned review March 2018.

**4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?**

Sacro has engaged with local secondary schools to discuss the development of the "Refresh" service as part of the pupil equity fund. This service supports young people at risk of exclusion, enhances attainment potential through mentoring and coaching and provides bespoke awareness and coping strategies around areas such as living with domestic abuse.

Sacro plans to work with young people with a view to developing them into peer mentors which is not only beneficial to others but builds skills and employability capability in the young people themselves.

<p><b>5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?</b></p> <p>The Falkirk Youth Justice Service is not a registered service. Sacro is part of the PVG scheme and requires appropriate checks to be in place before recruiting staff into the organisation.</p>								
<p><b>D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW</b></p>								
<p><b>1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.</b></p> <p><b>2016/17 audited accounts</b>  Falkirk Council provides £121,848 of funding to Sacro in financial year 2016/17, representing around 1.6% of total budgeted income of £7.4m.</p>								
<p><b>2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>2016/17 audited accounts</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Other Local Authority funding</td> <td>£5,244,834</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scottish Government funding</td> <td>£873,754</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grants awarded</td> <td>£930,812</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other funding</td> <td>£293,357</td> </tr> </table>	Other Local Authority funding	£5,244,834	Scottish Government funding	£873,754	Grants awarded	£930,812	Other funding	£293,357
Other Local Authority funding	£5,244,834							
Scottish Government funding	£873,754							
Grants awarded	£930,812							
Other funding	£293,357							
<p><b>3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?</b></p> <p>£1,586,455</p>								
<p><b>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?</b></p> <p>25% or 3 months operating costs</p>								
<p><b>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts</b></p> <p>1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017</p>								
<p><b>6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?</b></p> <p>The Council does not provide any equivalent restorative justice services for young people</p>								
<p><b>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</b></p> <p>Funding received for Sacro's Youth Justice service reduced in 2016/17 in comparison with the previous year (2.5% reduction), and significant efficiency savings have already been made, including rationalization of leased accommodation in Falkirk and co-location of staff in council premises. Future sustainability can be improved by increased partnership working across the area.</p> <p>Sacro works in partnership with Falkirk Council to identify external funding opportunities which could increase and/or complement the existing service.</p>								

<b>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</b>
As Sacro's costs are aligned to the funding received, any further reduction in funding will impact on the level of service provided.
<b>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</b>  Referrals to the service are currently high and there is a risk that, if not funded an increase in anti-social behavior in the community and harm caused. There is a knock-on cost to Falkirk Council with having to deal with the effects of youth anti-social behaviour – damage to property, exclusions from school, social work interventions and recourse to intensive supervision at a later date. The service is effective at keeping young people out of formal systems and preventing escalation into higher tariff disposals - for example moving on to the criminal justice system. The current service is cost effective from a preventative viewpoint.
<b>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</b>  Low
<b>E CONCLUSIONS</b>
<b>1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.</b>  The year ahead will be a challenging for the Youth Justice service, with new and creative ways to be developed to support the increasing number of young people referred to the service, within the confines of available funding. Service improvement and development is a standard agenda for the Sacro team and the focus will be on developing and delivering preventative, responsive and timely services to young people in the community.
The Pupils Causing Concern model has been viewed as proportionate, collaborative and flexible. Bo'ness Academy and Larbert High have requested additional support in the form of group work and restorative interventions. This work commenced in August 2017 and is hoped will be adopted by other schools within Falkirk. Internet Safety Groupwork is a focus for 2017/18, and will be rolled out to all 3 <sup>rd</sup> year pupils in Falkirk to address the increasing number of young people being charged with offences.  Sacro intends to prioritise development work with young people to be trained as peer mentors.
<b>F. Monitoring Officer Details</b>
<b>Name:</b> Matthew Davies
<b>Designation:</b> Service Manager
<b>Service:</b> Children's Services
<b>Date of Report:</b> 17-10-2017

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

**Appendix 14**

Organisation Name	Signpost Recovery
Project	Time 4 Us
Agreement Dates	01/04/16 to 31/03/17
Name of Monitoring Officer	Matthew Davies, Service Manager
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<p><b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b></p> <p>Signpost Recovery's objectives are the advancement of health and the relief of those in need by reason of ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage by providing community access drug, alcohol, substance misuse and/or health &amp; social care services. Signpost Recovery carries out the following activities in the attainment of the aforementioned objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The provision of information, advice and support to substance users, carers and/or families that, where appropriate, enables access into treatment, care and support services that encompass and/or constitute a 'Recovery Orientated System of Care' (ROSC);</li> <li>2. The facilitation of clinics, appointments, outreach services and 'Drop-in' provision for those identified as being affected by substance misuse.</li> <li>3. The identification, development, promotion and maintenance of partnerships and/or working relationships with relevant individuals, services, agencies, commissioners and key stakeholders;</li> <li>4. Maintaining a service structure that allows for the provision of advice, information, support, treatment, training and guidance to individuals, families, groups, services, organisations and communities in the Forth Valley area who are affected by or impacted upon by substance misuse and/or its effects; and</li> <li>5. The identification, development, planning, co-production and provision of care, support and treatment services to new and emerging client groups in planned organised projects. Examples include the Clackmannanshire Healthier Lives (CHL) initiative, Social Inclusion Project (SIP) and the Forth Valley Alcohol Related Brain Damage (ARBD)</li> </ol>	
<p><b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b></p> <p>The specific purpose of funding is to increase the capacity and resilience of families and children affected by substance misuse through delivering the appropriate support to children and families that responds to their individual needs and circumstances in a timely way. The objectives are:</p>	



**Objective 1:** Families will have easy access to support that improves parental capacity and parenting skills.

**Objective 2:** Families affected by substance misuse can get help and a core offer of joined-up substance misuse, family support and practical interventions is available, appropriate to their needs.

**Objective 3:** Increase the support and reduce the challenges for families with multiple and complex needs.

The project works with children and families affected by their parents' drug and/or alcohol use.

### 3. Why does the Council fund this?

Time for Us is funded by a combination of external funding from The Big Lottery Fund, Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Signpost Recovery and Falkirk Council. The external funding supports Time 4 Us to deliver an enhanced service to families across Falkirk and the wider Forth Valley.

Falkirk Community Planning Partnership's Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan 2016-2020 identified *Minimising the Impact of Substance Misuse* as a key priority. Within the plan, the Council highlighted the need to support children affected by parental substance misuse and to promote reduction in the use of substances within families. The work delivered by Time 4 Us sits under this priority, aiming to engage children; young people and families affected or involved in substance misuse and support them to make positive, sustainable change in their lives.

Without the Council's contribution to the funding of the Time 4 Us service, the capacity of the service delivery would be diminished with the potential consequential risk that children who are affected by parental substance misuse in Falkirk will not be identified and supported.

### 4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?

8 years.

### 5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	£42,375	-	-
2015/16	£45,000	-	-
2014/15	£45,000	-	-
2013/14	£45,000	-	-
2012/13	£45,000		

Other 2016-17 funding:

Big Lottery	£45,926
Signpost Recovery	£25,000
Stirling Council	£15,000
Clacks Council	£10,000

## B SERVICE DELIVERY

### 1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?

Time 4 Us offers 1-1 sessions supporting children to explore the impact of parental substance misuse, enhance their resilience and self-esteem, with the goal of empowering them to express their thoughts, feelings and concerns around this.

The service also works individually with parents to reduce levels of risk and harm related to substance misuse and to build individual parenting capacity. Time 4 Us supports families through child welfare and protection procedures, ensuring that children's voices are heard.

The Time 4 Us team has noted that children are presenting to the service with more complex issues. Given this, the service is engaging with a greater proportion of children than adults, delivering a range of interventions within care plans that are co-produced with key partners, including schools, children and families' social work and other third sector organisations. Examples of the impact of this work include:

- School Children and Families workers report a notable increase in children's school attendance and attainment levels, whilst engaging with the service.
- Service users have improved emotional regulation, allowing children and adults to take more control within difficult situations, which has provided direct and indirect opportunities for learning.
- Children have increased confidence, self-esteem and resilience, which has impacted positively on their holistic development. This has been noted across contexts, home, school and community.
- The service has been instrumental in reducing recidivism by supporting families with their financial troubles by recognising their need for specialist supports, to gain and maintain their welfare benefits, so that they do not enter into criminal activity.
- Reduced isolation which families have felt, due to their substance misuse. The service has lessened the stigma towards them. The service ensures service users are supported with a key aim to making them feel they are not alone.
- The service has worked in partnership with Police Scotland to divert young girls away from sexual exploitation.

### 2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

Between 01/04/16 and 31/03/17, Time 4 Us received 26 referrals in respect of the Falkirk local authority area:

Source of Referral	Number
Signpost Recovery	10
Falkirk Children & Families Social Work	11
Time 4 Us	2
Social Inclusion Project	1
Falkirk Addiction Recovery Service	1
Addiction Support & Counselling	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

This year saw a 24% increase in referrals for work with children in comparison to the previous year and there was a significant increase in appointment attendance with rates rising from an average of 76% per month to 81%. Social Work staff have continued to be the main source of referral for the Time 4 Us service accounting for 46% of the total referrals received.

**Project Outcome:**

**Outcome 1:**

19 parents were supported to improve their parenting capacity. 53% fully met this outcome with 26% partially meeting the outcome.

19 families were supported to stay together in the best interest of the child whilst reducing statutory involvement. 63% fully met this outcome, with 16% partially meeting the outcome.

19 parents were supported to increase their motivation, confidence and feelings of self-worth. 63% fully met this outcome, with 16% partially meeting the outcome.

**Outcome 2:**

46 children were supported to show an increase in their self-esteem and resilience. 72% fully met this outcome with 13% partially meeting the outcome.

46 children were supported to improve attendance and achievement at School/Nursery etc, 63% fully met this outcome, with 17% partially meeting the outcome.

46 children were supported to have improved well-being in accordance with the well-being indicators. 74% fully met this outcome, with 11% partially meeting the outcome.

**Outcome 3:**

29 families were supported to improve their social functioning. 55% fully met this outcome, with 21% partially meeting the outcome.

29 families were supported to demonstrate improved structure, routines and boundaries. 52% fully met this outcome, with 28% partially meeting the outcome.

29 families were supported to improve structure, routines and boundaries. 52% fully met this outcome, with 28% partially meeting the outcome.

**3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client / communities. Include any differences in service.**

Complementary services:

- Barnardos Axis Service;
- Intensive Family Support Service;
- Young Carers;
- Braes Children and Family Centre;
- Aberlour;
- Quarriers; and
- Action For Children.

Time 4 Us is distinct in terms of what it delivers, specifically relating to the impact of substance misuse on families, children, young people and the wider community. The service offers one to one support for parents in an environment where they feel safe and secure. This is of significance as, in some cases, parents/ families may not feel confident enough to participate in group activities offered by other family support services.

Time 4 Us is uniquely positioned to deliver a holistic service to children and families, as a part of Signpost Recovery, offering a tiered service, which links children's and parenting work closely with adult addictions services.

#### **4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

Time 4 Us contributes to the Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan - Falkirk Community Planning Partnership 2016-2020 through the delivery of interventions to children, young people and families affected by substance misuse. The work undertaken by the Time 4 Us service contributes to:

##### **Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery (SOLD) Plan**

Time 4 Us contributes to the following 4 priorities:

- Improving mental health and wellbeing
- Maximising job creation and employability
- Minimising the impact of substance misuse
- Addressing the impact of poverty on children

And the following 5 outcomes:

- Our area will be a fairer and more equal place to live
- Our children will develop into resilient, confident and successful adults
- Our population will be healthier
- People live full, independent and positive lives within supportive communities
- Our area will be a safer place to live

##### **Falkirk ADP Priorities**

Time 4 Us contributes to the following 7 priorities:

Communication – messages in relation to misuse of substances for the whole community;

Support for families and friends of those affected by substance misuse

Access – to appropriate treatment, support and recovery services for individuals with substance misuse problems

Service User Involvement

Training/Awareness – addressing acceptability/culture of alcohol and drugs within the whole community through Workforce Development.

Drug Related Deaths

Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse

#### **5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

The service works in collaboration with all children and families, involving extended family and community supports where possible. Children and families are asked to participate in regular feedback on their experience of the service and complete an exit evaluation on discharge.

Children were involved in the recruitment process for a Children and Families worker in November 2016.

Time 4 Us adopts a person-centred approach to assessment and care planning when working with children and families.
<p><b>6. What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?</b></p> <p>The Time 4 Us service is delivered across the whole of the Falkirk local authority area.</p>
<b>C ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE</b>
<p><b>1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that. (Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)</b></p> <p>Time 4 Us submits monthly monitoring data to Forth Valley ADP and monitoring reports to Falkirk Council. As Time 4 Us is a Forth Valley wide service, the monitoring reports combine information relative to entire service delivery. In addition, Time 4 Us reports performance against key indicators to the Big Lottery as part of annual monitoring requirements.</p>
<p><b>2. Exception reporting - Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.</b></p> <p>Time 4 Us notes that children are presenting to the service with more complex issues. This impacts on the length of time a child is engaged with the service, as the depth and duration of work required is greater than during previous years. This in turn has an impact on capacity with the service currently operating a waiting list.</p> <p>The range and remit of services that can support children and families across Forth Valley has reduced since the inception of the Time 4 Us service. As a result, the team, are working to identify new and innovative support packages for children and young people exiting Time 4 Us.</p>
<p><b>3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?</b></p> <p>Date of most recent review 22-06-17.</p> <p>Next planned review 14-12-17.</p>
<p><b>4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?</b></p> <p>Time 4 Us will continue to develop existing and new partnerships across Forth Valley as part of the services sustainability plan. Time 4 Us is negotiating the extension of the holiday activity programme currently modelled with Active Stirling, to reach across all Forth Valley. Links with leisure facilities in the Falkirk area and local trusts are in progress. The extension of the programme will give equal opportunities and free access to physical activities to children across Forth Valley.</p>
<p><b>5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?</b></p> <p>The service is registered and inspected by the Care Inspectorate. The most recent report is attached.</p> <p><a href="http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/534651/alcohol-and-drug-partnerships-use-and-impact-of-the-quality-principles.pdf">http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/534651/alcohol-and-drug-partnerships-use-and-impact-of-the-quality-principles.pdf</a></p>

## D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

### 1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.

Total Funding per annum for Time 4 Us is £141,000 of which £45,000 is provided by Falkirk Council. This is 32% of the total annual income for the core element of Time 4 Us.

Signpost Recovery, as an organisation, has grown considerably over the last five years and has demonstrated year on year growth. In 2012 Signpost Recovery had an income of £743,775; this has more than doubled to an income of £1,512,405 in this reporting period.

### 2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.

#### Movement in Funds

	2015 £	Transfer between funds £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	2016 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
CHL Fund	-	1,643	45,191	(46,834)	-
CHL Management Fund	19,420	-	146,579	(142,431)	23,568
Time4Us	-	16,506	115,926	(132,432)	-
Social Influencing Work	-	-	4,668	(4,668)	-
Challenging Behaviour Model	-	-	-	-	-
IT upgrade & refurbishments	-	(1,388)	1,488	(100)	-
	<u>19,420</u>	<u>16,761</u>	<u>313,852</u>	<u>(326,465)</u>	<u>23,568</u>
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Mobile Harm Reduction	-	-	19,608	(10,534)	9,074
Time4Us (donations & events)	13,850	3,000	454	(3,455)	13,849
Criminal Justice Authority	53,434	10,000	49,202	(74,788)	37,848
Cognitive Behaviour Therapy	10,000	(10,000)	-	-	-
Service Development Worker	-	-	11,071	(11,071)	-
Early Intervention Worker	-	-	34,997	(34,572)	425
Veterans Recovery Worker	-	-	31,172	(15,220)	15,952
	<u>77,284</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>146,504</u>	<u>(149,640)</u>	<u>77,148</u>
<b>Unrestricted fund</b>	668,176	(19,761)	1,052,049	(894,572)	805,892
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>764,880</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,512,405</u>	<u>(1,370,677)</u>	<u>906,608</u>

**3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?**

<b>Capital and reserves</b>			
Restricted funds	11	23,568	19,420
Designated funds	11	77,148	77,284
Unrestricted fund	11	805,892	668,176
<b>Accumulated funds</b>		<b>906,608</b>	<b>764,880</b>

**4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?**

6 Months

**5. Last period of submitted audited accounts**

Based on the Signpost Annual Report & Accounts 2015-16\*

Annual Report & Accounts 2016-17 have still to be formally agreed and ratified at the Signpost Annual General Meeting

**6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?**

While there are other children and family support services in the Falkirk area, Time 4 Us is the only service the Council funds that is addictions specific, supporting children and families experiencing or affected by substance misuse.

**7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from 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 Signpost can attract grant funding, furthermore, owing to Signpost's business model it is currently putting surplus into the project,

This combination of funding reduces the reliance upon Falkirk Council, however, any reduction of the contribution from the Council will reduce provision.

**8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?**

Time 4 Us is currently supported by a combination of funding from The Big Lottery Fund, Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnership (FVADP), Signpost Recovery and Falkirk Council, with the majority coming from the Big Lottery Fund. The external funding supports Time 4 Us to deliver an enhanced service to families across Falkirk and the wider Forth Valley. The 2016/17 Annual meeting with the Big Lottery Monitoring officer has confirmed that any future funding applications must be 'matched' to additional income and any future project bids would only be funded to a maximum of 60% of project costs. To maintain the current provision of the Time 4 Us service, there is a requirement for a proportion of the service costs to be funded in addition to the Big Lottery.

**9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?**

A reduction in funding from the Council will impact on the number of children and families the Time 4 Us Project is able to support. Time 4 Us contributes to the delivery of key priorities within the Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan 2016 – 2020, the reduction in service provision could impact on the achievement of the Council's key priorities.

**10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.**

Low

**E CONCLUSIONS**

**1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.**

Time 4 Us has recently assessed and revised the service's evaluation tools, to ensure that moving forward the highest levels of care continue to be provided to children and families, and that project outcomes are met.

Signpost Recovery and Time 4 Us continue to be committed to the delivery of high quality, responsive service. The organisation receives support from the Big Lottery and intends to build the next funding bid with a view to sustaining the delivery of this service across Forth Valley.

**F. Monitoring Officer Details**

Name: Matt Davies

Designation: Service Manager

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 18-10-2017




**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	Signpost Recovery
Project	Criminal Justice Link Nurse - Women Offenders
Agreement Dates	01/04/16 – 31/03/17
Name of Monitoring Officer	Nick Burgess
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATIONAL AIMS</b>	
<b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organisation</b>  Signpost recovery is a key partner for the alcohol and drug partnership (ADP) in delivering a range of substance misuse related services through Forth Valley.  Its objectives are to the advancement of health and relief of those in need by reason of ill-health, disability or other disadvantage by providing community access to drug, alcohol, substance misuse and/or health and social care services in Forth Valley.	
<b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b>  Funding is provided by Scottish Government ring-fenced funding for Criminal Justice Social Work. This funding is to support the Justice Ministry objectives and guidance provided for criminal justice social work. In particular, the Elish Angiolini Report in 2012 highlighted the mental health needs of women in the criminal justice system. This funding provides women offenders with the opportunity to have their health needs assessed quickly.	
<b>3. Why does the Council fund this?</b>  No Council money is used to fund this provision.  To meet the three primary justice objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public protection and community safety</li> <li>• Reduce re-offending</li> <li>• Enhance social inclusion and promote desistance from offending</li> </ul>	
<b>4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?</b>  Five years.	

**5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.**

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	£22,255	Office base	
2015/16	£22,030	Office base	
2014/15	£21,812	Office base	
2013/14	£21,594	Office base	
2012/13	£21,378	Office base	

*(60% of costs)*

**B SERVICE DELIVERY**

**1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc.?**

- Every woman is offered a wellbeing assessment
- 'Survive and Thrive' groups are run to address trauma
- Individual mental health work and links with other health services
- Support to drop-in groups

**2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?**

Falkirk has approximately 100 women at any one time in contact with the Criminal Justice Service who are entitled to a service

**3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client / communities. Include any differences in service.**

While some universal or other provision may provide a similar service in some respects, I know of no other service which is embedded with Criminal Justice Social Work provision, so responsive to need and with the three justice outcomes as a guide – apart from the similar set-ups in other criminal justice areas.

**4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

The Criminal Justice Link Nurse post contributes to Falkirk's strategic outcomes and local delivery plan by:

- Improving mental health and wellbeing;
- Minimising the impact of substance misuse;
- People live full, independent and positive lives within supportive communities;

**5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

Women are involved in deciding the shape of service delivery. The nurse works with the Women's development Officer, Health Care Assistant, Shine Mentor and women involved with the service to ensure it continues to meet needs. The nurse also works with criminal justice supervising officers to ensure she addresses risks in association with concerning behaviour.

**6. What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?**

This is a Forth Valley wide post; however, in its 50% allotted Falkirk specific time, the post covers all of the Falkirk local authority area.

<b>C ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE</b>
<p>1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that. (Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)</p> <p><a href="#">Link Nurse Intervention.</a>  <a href="#">Evaluation of Sixteen Women's Community Justice Services in Scotland.</a>  <a href="#">Signpost Recovery Service Update Report.</a>  <a href="#">Self Evaluation for Community Justice in Scotland.</a>  <a href="#">Link Nurse Report.</a></p>
<p>2. Exception reporting - Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.</p> <p>The post holder is very dedicated and is totally focused on assisting women improve their lives.</p>
<p>3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?</p> <p>Date of most recent review - October 2016</p> <p>Next planned review - April 2018</p>
<p>4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?</p> <p>It is difficult to see how we could achieve more efficiency and effectiveness apart from having the post holder in Falkirk 5 days per week instead of 3.</p>
<p>5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc.?</p> <p><a href="#">Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships – A report on the use and impact of the Quality Principles through validated self-assessment</a></p>
<b>D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW</b>
<p>1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget, including financial and in kind contributions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CJ Link Nurse post received £22,258 from Falkirk CJS for the period 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017</li> <li>• Falkirk Criminal Justice Social Work provides 60% of the funding for this post with Stirling and Clackmannanshire providing 20% each.</li> <li>• Based on the Signpost Annual Report &amp; Accounts 2015-16* this is 1.47% of Signpost Recovery's total budget</li> </ul> <p>* Annual Report &amp; Accounts 2016-17 have still to be formally agreed and ratified at the Signpost AGM.</p>

2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.

**Movement in Funds**

	2015 £	Transfer between funds £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	2016 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
CHL Fund	-	1,643	45,191	(46,834)	-
CHL Management Fund	19,420	-	146,579	(142,431)	23,568
Time4Us	-	16,506	115,926	(132,432)	-
Social Influencing Work	-	-	4,668	(4,668)	-
Challenging Behaviour Model	-	-	-	-	-
IT upgrade & refurbishments	-	(1,388)	1,488	(100)	-
	<u>19,420</u>	<u>16,761</u>	<u>313,852</u>	<u>(326,465)</u>	<u>23,568</u>
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Mobile Harm Reduction	-	-	19,608	(10,534)	9,074
Time4Us (donations & events)	13,850	3,000	454	(3,455)	13,849
Criminal Justice Authority	53,434	10,000	49,202	(74,788)	37,848
Cognitive Behaviour Therapy	10,000	(10,000)	-	-	-
Service Development Worker	-	-	11,071	(11,071)	-
Early Intervention Worker	-	-	34,997	(34,572)	425
Veterans Recovery Worker	-	-	31,172	(15,220)	15,952
	<u>77,284</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>146,504</u>	<u>(149,640)</u>	<u>77,148</u>
<b>Unrestricted fund</b>	668,176	(19,761)	1,052,049	(894,572)	805,892
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>764,880</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,512,405</u>	<u>(1,370,677)</u>	<u>906,608</u>

3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?

**Capital and reserves**

Restricted funds	11	<b>23,568</b>	19,420
Designated funds	11	<b>77,148</b>	77,284
Unrestricted fund	11	<b>805,892</b>	668,176

**Accumulated funds**

**906,608**

764,880

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

6 Months

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

Based on the Signpost Annual Report & Accounts 2015-16\*

\* Annual Report & Accounts 2016-17 have still to be formally agreed and ratified at the Signpost AGM

<p><b>6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?</b></p> <p>Criminal Justice funds nursing and other health provision relating to drug treatment. In 2017/18 Criminal Justice will fund health circa £160,000 for the Substance Treatment Service.</p>
<p><b>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</b></p> <p>No council monies are used to purchase this service. The vulnerable nature of the offender cohort requires additional resource to be used to help reduce re-offending and address need.</p> <p>Funding comes from ring fenced Scottish Government grant for the sole purpose of meeting obligations under Section 27 of the Social Work Scotland Act 1968.</p>
<p><b>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</b></p> <p>If universal health services became as responsive to the criminal justice system as is currently achieved by this post, then reductions in funding may be achieved.</p>
<p><b>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</b></p> <p>The risk is that Council objectives such as citizens making positive health choices and community safety will be affected if this post does not exist.</p>
<p><b>10. Overall risk rating (Low / Medium / High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</b></p> <p>Criminal Justice Social Work intends continuing funding at no cost to the council.</p>
<p><b>E CONCLUSIONS</b></p>
<p><b>1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.</b></p> <p>Service will continue to be monitored and reviewed on a quarterly basis.</p>
<p><b>F. Monitoring Officer Details</b></p>
<p>Name: Nick Burgess</p>
<p>Designation: Service Manager</p>
<p>Service: Criminal Justice Social Work</p>
<p>Date of Report: 3 October 2017</p>

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2016/17**

Organisation Name	"Who Cares?" Scotland
Project	Advocacy Service
Agreement Dates	1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017
Name of Monitoring Officer	Vivien Thomson
<b>A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS</b>	
<p><b>1. Summary of key aims &amp; objectives of organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To deliver an effective independent advocacy, advice and support service to children and young people who are Looked After away from home.</li> <li>• To liaise with other relevant service providers and particularly to work alongside the Falkirk Children's Rights Officer in the provision of a Children's Rights Service for Falkirk</li> <li>• To collate feedback from young people and assess this information to identify needs.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• To enable children and young people to be involved in contributing to decisions about their personal care plan.</li> <li>• To challenge discriminatory views.</li> <li>• To support children and young people in ways that improve their confidence.</li> <li>• To act in the child/young person's best interests.</li> <li>• Where required to act as an intermediary between children/young people and Council services.</li> </ul> <p>To involve children and young people in the wider work of "Who Cares?" Scotland to ensure Falkirk's young people are represented nationally.</p>	
<p><b>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</b></p> <p>In conjunction with Quarriers, the service provided by "Who Cares?" ensures that the Council fulfils our legal obligations to provide a Children's Rights Service. "Who Cares?" focus specifically on advocacy for children who are Looked After away from home.</p> <p>The full Children's Rights Service provided by Quarriers and "Who Cares?" also has a scrutiny role in terms of ensuring that the council adheres to the UNHCR principles in our actions and policies. Given this, it is good practice for the service to be provided by an external agency.</p>	

**3. Why does the Council fund this?**

Provision of the Children's Rights Service internally would not provide the level of independence required to meet what is also a core priority for the council.

**4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?**

"Who Cares?" has been funded to provide advocacy services since the inception of Falkirk Council in 1996. Prior to this, the service was provided on a Central Regional Council basis.

**5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.**

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2016/17	£27,970	Access to national events + research. Funding of £10,725 for trainee (12 month	
2015/16	£27,970		
2014/15	£27,970		
2013/14	£27,970		
2012/13	£27,970		

**B SERVICE DELIVERY**

**1. What does the organisation deliver and to whom i.e. typical service users, customer group targeted etc?**

It provides, in conjunction with Quarriers, a children's rights service to children and young people up to the age of 21 who are normally resident in the Falkirk Council area. "Who Cares?" focus on those who are looked after away from home or formerly looked after i.e. some of those for whom we have a particular corporate parenting duty.

**2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?**

At any point the following numbers of young people are eligible to access the service:

- 240 – 260 children and young people aged from 0 – 18 years who are looked after away for home
- Approximately 200 care leavers
- Young people in continuing care placements – currently 27 young people.

**3. Set out what other similar and or complementary services are provided that are similar in function or support the same client / communities. Include any differences in service.**

The "Who Cares?" Advocacy worker is only one part of the Falkirk Children's Rights Service. The full service is made up of the Children's Rights Officer and admin support provided by Quarriers, (subject to a separate Following the Public Pound report) plus the part time Advocacy Worker provided by "Who Cares?" Scotland. This is not duplication as the service itself is a combination of two aspects of children's rights, the one agency focusing only on advocacy for Looked After young people, and the other providing the statutory Children's Rights Officer function plus additions advocacy for vulnerable grips The partnership approach has allowed the council to achieve best value in terms of resources, and to access significant additional benefit via those organisations.

Examples of Additional Benefits:

- Care Experienced Trainee post
- National Events access e.g. 1000 voices, care leavers week, leadership training for young people
- Opportunity to benefit from family firm experience
- Access to Champions Board experience and training, and funding for Champions Board staff

**4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?**

Corporate Parenting is priority for the council and this is reflected in the planning structure. The Children's Rights and corporate parenting duties of the council are outlined in detail in the Integrated Children's Services Plan. The Children's Rights Service, provided by Quarriers and "Who Cares?" is a core aspect of our Champions Board development and support structure and the current resources form the basis of our plans for continuing this core work when the Life Changes Trust funding for the Board ceases in 2019.

**5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?**

The service reports quarterly on the themes and feedback from each individual who receives a service, thus influencing priorities and actions in line with their remit to challenge and influence policy and practice. Reporting and monitoring is joint with Quarriers.

Additionally, the support provided to the Champions Board provides direct access to young people who are becoming involved in the design and delivery of the services which affect them.

**6. What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?**

The service covers the full council area, and is open to any child or young person looked after away from home or previously looked after away from home who is normally resident in this area i.e. looked after children those who are placed out with the council can access the services.

**C ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

**1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that. (Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)**

The service reports on a quarterly basis to a steering group made up of all relevant partners. Alongside this there is a quarterly meeting of the service managers for "Who Cares?" and Quarriers to review contractual details and service focus. Reports are provided to these meetings using an agreed format which is developed to allow reporting which demonstrates both the statistical information required and the practice and quality aspects of the work.

These reports demonstrate:

- Advocacy provided for almost 60 young people during this period which includes individual meetings with young people and over 50 formal meetings.
- Young people supported to participate in Children's Hearing Training for Panel Members from the Falkirk Office and various corporate parenting and national events linked to the Root and Branch Review of Care in Scotland



- Young Person's Worker focuses on issues in relation to older young people, including undertaking regular visits to residential children's houses 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. Both parts of the service are now co-located
- "Who Cares?" Is a key partner in the work to develop the Champions approach to corporate parenting and are partners in the successful funding bid related to this.
- "Who Cares?" were part of the consortium to fight discrimination of children and young people in and from care. Falkirk Council signed up in 2013 to the five 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?" have been involved in facilitating and taking forward this work locally.
- .Young people from Falkirk are involved in the participation and consultation forums covering the central belt.
- "Who Cares?" Have involved local young people in delivering training within the Local Authority and to partners as part of the new corporate parenting duties.

We are currently looking at how "Who Cares?" experience of employing and supporting care leavers into work can assist us in our development of the Family Firm in Falkirk.

## **2. Exception reporting - Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.**

The Children's Rights Service is universally praised by the young people who access the service. Falkirk Council's partnership approach to children's rights is attracting national interest.

## **3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?**

**Date of most recent review - 15 August 2018**

**Next planned review - 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017**

## **4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?**

This funding covers one half time post, and has been recognised as insufficient for the need for some time. Efficiencies have been realised by imaginative use of the whole Children's Rights Service resources, as per the Following The Public Pound report on Quarriers. Reduction of this funding would make the post non-viable, with related loss of the service, including the additional funding having the post externally funding is able to attract.

<p><b>5. Is the organisation covered by any external regulation or inspection? If so please provide a link to the most recent inspection report noting any improvements etc?</b></p> <p>The service is not a registered service with the care inspectorate. It was however, part of the recent Integrated Children's Services Inspection.</p>
<p><b>D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW</b></p>
<p><b>1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.</b></p> <p>"Who Cares?" is a national organisation with an income of £2,574,507</p> <p>Falkirk Council provides funding of £27,970</p>
<p><b>2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.</b></p> <p>"Who Cares?" nationally also receive funding for other local authorities, Life Changes Trust and Scottish Government to undertake work at national level such as corporate parenting training. Details are contained in the annual report and accounts.</p>
<p><b>3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?</b></p> <p>£386,383. This is below their target of £550,000 or 13 weeks operational costs.</p> <p>Their annual accounts indicate that their level of reserves is not a concern.</p>
<p><b>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?</b></p> <p>The annual operational costs of "Who Cares?" Scotland is £2,574,507. Their reserves are £386,383.</p>
<p><b>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts</b></p> <p>Year ending March 2016</p>
<p><b>6. What other services does the Council fund that are similar to this organisation including Council provision and to what level are those activities funded?</b></p> <p>There are no other organisations in the Falkirk area which provide a specific rights service for children. As noted, the full children's rights service is a combination of Quarriers who provide the statutory Children's Rights Officer, and an admin post and "Who Cares?" who provide a part time advocacy workers focusing on advocacy with children in care. Together they ensure that a rights based service is available to vulnerable and priority groups in Falkirk.</p>
<p><b>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</b></p> <p>As noted also in the Quarriers Following The Public Pound report, the stand-alone nature of the funding since the inception of the service means that there is little if any flexibility remaining to reduce cost without impacting on the basic service and thus the council's statutory duties in terms of a Children's Rights Service for Looked After children.</p>

**8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?**

See above.

This funding covers one half time post, and has been recognised as insufficient for the need for some time. Maximum efficiencies have been realised by imaginative use of the whole Children's Rights Service resources, as per the Following The Public Pound report on Quarriers. Further reduction in funding would make the post non-viable, with loss of the service, and the related funding it attracts.

Steps already taken are outlined elsewhere and we continue to maximize the opportunities provided by the Champions Board funding by locating the service alongside the Champions Board staff in Park Street, which allows the service to meet the increased staffing demands, and allows us to 'future proof' our Champions Board work. We will continue to maximize such opportunities to maintain the core service.

**9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?**

We will fail to meet our statutory duties in terms of provisions of a Children's Rights Officer, and some new duties in the Children and Young People (Scot) Act 2014. These duties would still require to be undertaken by the council.

**10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.**

High

**E CONCLUSIONS**

**1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.**

This service, in conjunction with Quarriers, provides a statutory service to the council's most vulnerable young people. It has had a stand-alone budget since the inception of Falkirk Council. The service is valued and is also a core aspect of our corporate parenting approach and future ability to meet our corporate parenting duties as well as our Children's Rights duties. Monitoring is tight with quarterly reporting against key indicators, and scrutiny of the service.

Additionally, as a result of our Children's Rights work with Quarriers and "Who Cares?" we have been able to use existing management provision to staff our Champions Board work, also allowing access to funding streams not open to the local authority. This added value has been crucial in developing the Champions Board, providing opportunities to our care experienced young people and meeting our corporate parenting targets.

**F. Monitoring Officer Details**

Name: Vivien Thomson

Designation: Service Manager

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 19 October 2017