

The background of the slide features a large, faint, light blue outline of the City of Edinburgh Council crest. The crest is a shield divided into four quarters. The top-left quarter shows a castle tower, the top-right shows a stag's head, the bottom-left shows a sailing ship, and the bottom-right shows a lion. Above the shield is a crown with four fleurs-de-lis. Below the shield is a ribbon with the motto 'A'NE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 6

**Following The Public Pound: Services
To Children & Young People – 2017/18
Annual Reporting Statements**

Falkirk Council

Title: Following The Public Pound: Services To Children & Young People – 2017/18 Annual Reporting Statements

Meeting: Scrutiny Committee (External)

Date: 4 October 2018

Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update regarding the work of the external organisations that receive funding, provide services to children and young people, and fall within the Following the Public Pound reporting and monitoring arrangements. The reporting period is April 2017 to March 2018.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Scrutiny Committee 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.

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 compliment those provided by the Council and other statutory partners.

- 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.

- 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 is recommended to take 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 Falkirk Council provides varying levels of funding to 13 services. They each provide services to children, young people 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 services funded by Falkirk Council significantly enhance our ability to meet our statutory responsibilities and local policy objectives. The services may have been funded for many years by the Council but the monitoring and review processes are utilised to ensure services adjust and align to internal and external policy drivers and changes in legislation.

4.1 National Policy Context

4.1.1 Getting It Right For Every Child

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.

4.2 Local Policy Context

4.2.1 Strategic Outcome Local Delivery

At a local level, the Strategic Outcome Local Delivery (SOLD) 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.

4.2.2 Integrated Children's Services Plan

The Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP) 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 ICSP 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.

4.2.3 Closer To Home

Closer To Home is a 5 year Children's Services Strategy. The key principle of the Closer To Home Strategy is that children and young people, wherever possible, should be brought up within the environment of their own family. Where parents are unable to provide direct care, every effort should be made to maintain the child or young person within the family network. When it is assessed as necessary to provide alternative care, this should be provided locally, as close to home as possible.

The overarching aim of this 5-year Strategy is to reduce reliance on external foster and residential care, thus improving outcomes for Looked After children and young people. Closer To Home puts the needs of children, parents and families at the centre of Children's Services. It concentrates on the need to work closely with public, private and third sector partners to focus services towards prevention. The success of the Strategy will support improved outcomes for vulnerable children and young people and enable budget management leading to budget savings in the later stages. It is a critical element of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

4.2.4 Realigning Children's Services

Falkirk Community Planning Partnership joined the Realigning Children's Services (RCS) programme in 2016. RCS is an initiative sponsored by the Scottish Government to support effective commissioning of children's services. A key aim of RCS is to improve the availability and use of evidence about local needs and services. The output from the programme will allow Falkirk Community Planning Partnership to better target service provision, will inform our joint commissioning and will allow us to fulfil our statutory duties with regard to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act (2014) Parts 1 and 3. Analysis of the Falkirk specific data collected is being overplayed with financial data which relates to spend on services, this work will strengthen our ability to strategically commission services which meet the needs of children and young people which are currently being missed.

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 2017/18 and the previous financial year (2016/17) is provided.

| Organisation | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | Appendix |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Aberlour Early Years Outreach Service | £263,464 | £227,705 | 1 |
| Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees | £201,260 | £168,811 | 2 |
| Barnardo's Axis Service | £105,405 | £105,405 | 3 |
| Barnardo's Education and Family Resources Service | £253,644 | £281,583 | 4 |
| Barnardo's Cluaran Service | £345,297 | £345,297 | 5 |
| Home-Start Falkirk West | £29,488 | £28,014 | 6 |
| NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children | £67,401 | £68,472 | 7 |
| NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy Service | £465,040 | £465,040 | 8 |
| One Parent Families Scotland Maddiston/Braes Family Centre | £115,654 | £92,523 | 9 |
| Quarriers Children's Rights Service | £86,200 | £86,200 | 10 |
| Signpost Recovery Criminal Justice Link Nurse – Women Offenders | £22,255 | £22,255 | 11 |
| Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us | £42,375 | £38,869 | 12 |
| "Who Cares?" Scotland Advocacy Service | £27,970 | £27,970 | 13 |
| TOTAL | £2,025,453 | £1,958,144 | |

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.

With the specific focus and overall importance of the Closer To Home Strategy and the need to deliver on all of the objectives, Service Level Agreements with all organisations are being firmly aligned to performance monitored against agreed outcomes.

Children's Services intends to change the way it commissions services from external organisations. We intend to move away from one year grant funding to contracting of specified services. This new approach will be informed by the output from Realigning Children's Services, alignment with Council priorities and Closer To Home. This is a considerable piece of work and may not be concluded this year due to other priority areas detailed in the Closer To Home action plan.

Not all of the organisation's audited accounts for 2017/2018 are available as yet. This is largely due to the timing of the Annual General Meetings of each organisation.

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

External organisations deemed as low risk are monitored at least annually, medium risk or external organisations should be monitored at least quarterly and high risk at least monthly. Monitoring is recommended to take the form of regular reports which measure performance against outcomes and/or objectives and provide financial monitoring.

Director of Children's Services

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Date: 24 September 2018

Appendices

Annual Reporting Statements

- 1) Aberlour Early Years Outreach
- 2) Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees
- 3) Barnardo's Axis Service
- 4) Barnardo's Education and Family Support Resource Service
- 5) Barnardo's Cluaran Service
- 6) Home-Start Falkirk West
- 7) NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children
- 8) NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy Service
- 9) One Parent Families Scotland Maddiston/Braes Family Centre
- 10) Quarriers Children's Rights Service
- 11) Signpost Recovery Criminal Justice Link Nurse – Women Offenders
- 12) Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us
- 13) "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 2017/18

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Organisation Name | Aberlour |
| Project | Aberlour Early Years Outreach |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Cathy Megarry |
| A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS | |
| <p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation Falkirk Council Children's Services fund two Aberlour Services who support families across Falkirk, Aberlour Family Support Centre- Langlees, and Aberlour Early Years Outreach.</p> <p>Aberlour Early Years Outreach has worked on an outreach basis in families' homes and in local community settings since January 2000. The support provided by Aberlour Early Years Outreach to families has a direct impact on the wellbeing, development and future outcomes of their children. The key aims and objectives of the Service remain that the service will:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce risk and levels of harm to children and young people • Increase and/or strengthen protective factors • Improve healthy relationships • Improve physical and mental health • Involve children in regular constructive activity • Increase confidence in children and parents' own ability • Promote participation in social and community activities • Improve relationships with family (carers) • Reduce risk of family breakdown • Improve children and families quality of life • Actively involve families in plans and decisions • Ensure families are listened to and heard • Enable children and parents to take part in planning • Encourage families to have positive networks | |
| <p>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council? Aberlour Early Years Outreach is tasked to provide services to vulnerable families and those experiencing multiple stress. The Service contributes to the following Strategic Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 prevention and early intervention for families and Aberlour Early Years Outreach deliver support to families who are in need of additional support. The work undertaken is outcome focused and aligns with the priorities of Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy. Staff are trained to use specific approaches which meet the needs of individuals and the community.

The Council's values of being responsive, trusted, innovative and ambitious are aligned with Aberlour's values to be Respectful, Innovative, and Challenging and have Integrity.

Aberlour staff are members of Falkirk's strategic working groups, and contribute to the reviewing, planning and promotion of improved working practices across the authority in keeping with the Council's Corporate Plan.

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 |
|---------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2017/18 | 227,705 | Office premises, electricity | Nil |
| 2016/17 | 263,464 | Office premises, electricity | Nil |
| 2015/16 | 280,619 | Office premises, electricity | Nil |
| 2014/15 | 320,758 | Office premises, electricity | Nil |
| 2013/14 | 320,542 | Office premises, electricity | Nil |

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 parents and/or children's experiences of abuse and neglect.

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.

Summary of work : The Service offers a range of planned interventions to parents and children, including :

- **Stay & Play** groups: interactive group for parents and their toddlers. Parents increase their skills and understanding of the value of play and the impact on their child's development
- **Positive Parents Group:** 9 week programme enhances parents' understanding of how they can change their behaviour to influence change in their children's behaviour.
- **Finding a Balance Group:** 6 week programme promotes good mental health for parents, improving their parenting capacity.
- **Infant Massage** classes: communication and bonding programme, enhances parent: child relationship, reduces the impact of post-natal depression.
- **Seasons for Growth – Adult Programme:** to support parents to understand and manage the painful realities of change, loss and grief.
- **Individual Work:** All the above group work programmes can be provided on an individual basis. Staff also work with individual families addressing a range of issues, dependent on the needs of each family.
- **Sleep Scotland programme:** counsellors work with parents whose children are experiencing severe sleep issues.
- **Linked Childminding scheme:** co-ordination of short term placements for families experiencing crisis.
- **PAMS (Parent Assessment Manual Software):** measurement of parental capacity and clarifies support needs.

Of the 241 new referrals received this year the referring agencies were:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Self/family | 145 |
| NHS | 70 |
| Social Work | 11 |
| Education | 9 |
| Other Aberlour Services | 5 |
| Other partner agencies | 1 |

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

- Since 2000, Aberlour Early Years Outreach has received over **3,300 family** referrals, impacting on almost **4,000 children**.
- From 1st April 2017 and March 2018, the Service received new referrals for **270 children**.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the time frame of 1st April 2017 and March 2018, the service supported an additional 72 families who had been referred to the Service before 1st April 2017. • Total number of 342 children received support. • This is a reduction of 46 children from the previous year and can be accounted for by there being less staff resources as a result of the reduction in funding for the Service. • In addition to the number above, financial assistance was provided to 28 families which equated to £2267.15. The majority of the funds paid for food, gas and electricity. There were also clothes and shoes purchased for some children. The requests for this finance was generally made via Children's Services. This was paid for through fundraised monies. |
| <p>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.</p> <p>There are various in- house and commissioned Family Support Services across Falkirk. 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.</p> <p>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 is not available in their area, 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.</p> |
| <p>4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?</p> <p>Please see information within <u>"What does the organisation deliver and to whom?"</u></p> <p>Aberlour Early Years Outreach works to find and build on the strengths of families and to deliver early help locally. This supports the priorities outlined in Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy, putting families first and providing the best start in life for all children.</p> |
| <p>5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?</p> <p>Each parent is asked to complete an evaluation of the Service they receive. This then informs future development of what and how we plan and implement the Service.</p> |
| <p>6. What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?</p> <p>The Service primarily works with expectant parents and those with children under the age of 5 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.</p> |
| <p>C ASSESMENT OF PERFORMANCE</p> |
| <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>Please note that while there are 241 new families referred to the Service, the following figures relate to more than one child in some families and also relates to families who were referred prior to 1 April 2017 but were supported in the last financial year.</p> |

| ACTIVITIES OR OUTPUTS TARGET AS NOTED IN JOINT WORKING AGREEMENT (JWA) FOR 2016 - 2018 | UPDATE FOR TIME PERIOD FOR 01/04/17 TO 31/03/18 |
|---|--|
| The service will support 300 families. | The Service worked with 357 children. The following information does not equate to 357 as children and parents may receive more than one type of support or intervention. |
| Stay and Play Group – 48 children | 38 children attended Stay & Play 36 Parents attended Stay & Play with their children. This number was less than planned due to reduced staffing resources. |
| Positive Parents Group – 24 parents | 26 parents attended this in a group setting. The same number of groups was facilitated as this is a key resource for the local community and partner agencies. |
| Finding a Balance Group – 24 parents | 12 parents attended this in a group setting. This number was less than planned due to reduced staffing resources. |
| Sleep Scotland – 40 families | 19 families accessed this intervention. This number was less than planned due to reduced staffing resources. |
| Infant massage – 80 babies | 167 babies received Infant Massage. 172 parents attended Infant Massage Classes with their babies (this included 4 x dads). |
| Seasons For Growth : Adult Programme - 12 parents | 4 parents accessed this support. This number was lower than planned as the staff member trained in delivering this intervention left the Service. In preparation for this financial year, another member of staff has been trained in facilitating this work. |
| Parenting Manual Assessment Software (PAMS) - 10 families | 4 x PAMS assessments. This is below the anticipated target as this was an unrealistic target given the time taken to undertake a PAMS for each family. The Service could not commit to undertaking more than this due to the reduction in staffing compliment as a result of reduced funding. |
| Link Childminding Scheme – 30 children | 11 children received this support. The service was cautious as to whether we would have sufficient funding for this intervention. |
| Individual Parenting Support- 80 families | This was provided to 70 families. This number was less than planned due to reduced staffing resources. |

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| <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>a) Supporting families out with designated catchment area: Aberlour and Falkirk Council have agreed that the Service can provide support to families out with the priority catchment areas. Additional support was provided to 86 families without compromising families within the priority areas.</p> <p>b) Use of other Aberlour Services: specialist intervention was accessed from other Aberlour services i.e. Video Interactive Guidance. This was aimed at allowing a parent to improve their interaction with their child.</p> <p>c) Financial Assistance for families affected by Poverty and/or low income: The organisation are now a resource for other local agencies to ask for emergency funds to pay for food, gas, electricity, clothes and other essential items for 28 families. In addition, second hand household items were sourced for families.</p> <p>d) Strategic Working Groups: the Service Manager contributes to Falkirk's working groups and plays a role in developing staff from the local authority and other agencies, e.g. Safe and Together (Domestic Abuse model) and Child Practitioners' Forum Staff Development sessions.</p> <p>e) Aberlour Perinatal Befriending Support: As noted within this report this service supports women affected by perinatal mental illness. In 2017/1018, the service received 61 referrals. This is funded by Comic Relief.</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 – March 2018</p> <p>Next planned review – The service will be reviewed under the priorities of Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy</p> |
| <p>4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?</p> <p>The number of families receiving support reduced in 2017-18. This is in part due to there being a reduced staffing compliment due to reduced funding from the Council.</p> <p>Future reduction in funding would mean a reduction in the number of families supported. Aberlour's Marketing and Fundraising continue to attempt to source external funding to bridge any future gaps. The challenge is that external funders are not necessarily attracted by filling gaps in funding. .</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>Not applicable.</p> |
| <p>D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW</p> |
| <p>1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.</p> <p>For the delivery of the support provided by Aberlour Early Years Outreach Falkirk Council funds 100% of the Service's budget.</p> <p>(with the exception of the funds used to financially assist families affected by hardship and poverty)</p> |

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| <p>2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source. Aberlour's Perinatal Befriending Support works with families across Forth Valley who are affected by perinatal mental illness (during pregnancy until the child's first birthday). This service is funded through 100% fundraised income. In 2017/18, this funds were received by Comic Relief.</p> |
| <p>3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation? There are no uncommitted reserves with the Aberlour Early Years Outreach.</p> <p>Aberlour as a Scotland wide organisation, at 31st March 2018, has uncommitted or "free" unrestricted reserves of £1,688,000.</p> <p>Note – these reserves are at a level that meets OSCAR's best practice for charities. As a large children's charity Aberlour are required to hold reserves at this level to support any unforeseen issues to ensure the continued functioning of the organisation. This figure is not available for general revenue use and is to support 48 services across Scotland in an emergency situation</p> |
| <p>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent? "Free" reserves represents 9.1% of operation costs for Aberlour as a Scotland wide organisation.</p> |
| <p>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts The last audited accounts were up to 31/03/18 and they are awaiting sign off.</p> |
| <p>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? Various in- house and commissioned organisations offer family support across the Council area. They are currently being aligned under Children's Service 5 year Closer to home strategy in order to ensure equality of access and avoid duplication.</p> |
| <p>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council? Aberlour has worked closely with Falkirk Council to try to minimise the impact of the reduction of funding from the local authority. The reduction equates to over 30% for 2017/2018 when comparing recent years' funding. (This does not account for the additional 30% reduction in the grant from Falkirk Council for 2018/2019 which will be reported in next year's annual report.)</p> |
| <p>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved? Aberlour has been able to sustain the Service with the reduced funding, albeit the service provision has reduced. Further funding cuts would reduce provision and impact on the viability of the service.</p> |
| <p>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded? Aberlour's work directly supports parents in making changes in how they care for their children or how they can make changes to their own lifestyle.</p> <p>In losing the capacity to engage with families when there are complex social and/or personal issues impacting on family functioning and the welfare of children, the Council would be exposed to risks of increasing demand for more intrusive and expensive services to meet escalating need.</p> |

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.

Whilst they have reached fewer families this year, the organisation has continued to perform well despite a significant reduction in funding over recent years. In 2018/2019 the Service has secured some Pupil Equity Funding to work with primary school age pupils and their families. If this funding was to continue this would sustain the service beyond April 2019. However this would mean some staff resources would be diverted from families with children in the Early Years.

F Monitoring Officer Details

Name: Cathy Megarry

Designation: Service Manager

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 04/09/2018

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Organisation Name | Aberlour |
| Project | Family Support Centre - Langlees |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Cathy Megarry |
| A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS | |
| <p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation</p> <p>The Council fund two Aberlour services who support families across Falkirk, Aberlour Family Support centre- Langlees and Aberlour Early Years Outreach</p> <p>Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees provides a range of services for families with children under the age of 12 years, supporting families to enhance their child's development, improve family relations and engaging them within their local community.</p> <p>Key aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • earlier identification and response to childhood neglect and improving mental health and well-being; • an edge of care early intervention service that supports the reduction in costly statutory interventions. <p>The family support centre helps families in other areas of Falkirk 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 areas.</p> | |
| <p>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</p> <p>The Council provides core funding to the Family Support Centre so that support services can be directly delivered to vulnerable and hard to reach Falkirk communities in line with Council's Strategic Priorities e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the impact of poverty on children and young people • Improving mental health and wellbeing • Inclusion – live, learn and thrive in Falkirk • Earlier identification and response to childhood neglect. <p>Council funding contributes to employment of professional children and family workers, who are registered with SSSC and are vital in helping families overcome issues and become involved in their local communities.</p> <p>The Family Support Centre provides families with the support they need before their problems escalate to a point that requires statutory intrusive and costly interventions.</p> | |

3. Why does the Council fund this?

The Council are committed to prevention and early intervention for families and Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees provide this type of support to families who require additional help across three deprived Falkirk communities.

The work undertaken is outcome focused and aligns with the priorities of Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy. Early intervention support for families results in a reduction in the need for costly statutory interventions (such as care placements).

The Service has adapted to meet local needs while addressing the evolving priorities of the local authority and the Scottish Government such as continuing to offer 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. The Service was initially funded by Central Regional Council and Falkirk continued funding the service because it recognised the community need.

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

| Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support |
|---------|----------------|--|---|
| 2017/18 | £168,811 | Falkirk Council provides the premises for the services contracted. | 9 families in receipt of food, fuel, household items and replacement birth certificates totalling £1120.40 - increase of 56%. 2 families were supported to access the foodbank. |
| 2016/17 | £201,260 | | 9 families in receipt of food, fuel, clothing and household items due to impact of poverty totalling £496.59 from fundraised income. |
| 2015/16 | £195,202 | | 13 families in receipt of food, fuel, clothing and household items due to impact of poverty totalling £1480 from fundraised income. |
| 2014/15 | £225,012 | | 10 families in receipt of food, fuel, clothing and furniture due to impact of poverty totalling £750 from fundraised income. |
| 2013/14 | £222,012 | | |

Over the past 3 years there has been a total reduction of 32% in funding to the Family Support Centre.

B SERVICE DELIVERY

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

Referrals are accepted where there are children and families who are adversely impacted by one or more of the following issues:

- Child development concerns.
- Parental ill-health and well-being.
- Difficulty with parenting.
- Domestic abuse.
- Problematic substance use.
- Bonding / attachment concerns.
- Limited family support.
- 600 Hours Initiative.

The Family Centre's services are also offered to children between the ages of 3 and 12 years where there is a need for additional support. Parents are also supported where this will have a direct impact on the well-being and development of their children and young people.

Children and family workers assess families' needs using Aberlour's Outcomes Framework. The framework is completed alongside the families and involves them exploring their wellbeing in-line with SHANARRI indicators. A programme of support is then agreed, focussed on improving the areas of need identified.

The service offers a range of planned interventions to parents and children in need.

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

90 children and parents were supported by the service between April 2017 and March 2018 with under 3's continuing to be the main beneficiaries of the service. The service continues to work with children up to 10 years old.

The number of new requests for assistance for the financial year was: **69**

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| April - 10 | May - 7 | June - 10 | July - 3 |
| August - 10 | September - 5 | October - 1 | November - 12 |
| December - 3 | January - 1 | February - 2 | March - 5 |

At year end March 2018, there was a waiting list for all services with **11 families requiring support**. Referrals were received from the following sources :

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Health | 22 |
| Children's Services | 24 |
| Parent/Self | 22 |
| Other | 1 |

Main reasons for referral continue to be for parental ill-health and wellbeing, child development concerns and limited family support. Each referral can have multiple reasons for why support is required.

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 there are other in- house and contracted family support services across Falkirk, most of the interventions the Family Support Centre provide are only offered by Aberlour in the Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron areas. Aberlour works in partnership with other providers to ensure equity of service delivery and accessibility.

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

The organisation supports the Council in delivering Strategic Priorities as follows;

- Address the impact of poverty on children and young people
- Improving mental health and wellbeing
- Inclusion – live, learn and thrive in Falkirk
- Earlier identification and response to childhood neglect.

Aberlour Family Support Centre Langlees works to find and build on the strengths of families and to deliver early help, locally. This supports the priorities outlined in the Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy, putting families first and providing the best start in life for all children.

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

Parents and children are involved in staff interviews. Feedback is gathered on an ongoing basis particularly at 8 week Learning Journey reviews, mid and end reviews.

Views are gathered in a variety of child friendly ways through visual charts and fun activities.

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

The Family Support Centre covers Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron areas. The service helps families in other areas of Falkirk 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 areas.

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 was expected to support 100 families:

The following is what was supported:

- Core service of family support or child care supported 82 families
- Enhanced service, where multiple elements are offered supported 11 families
- Specialist service of high intensity or long duration supported 5 families

Feedback from children and families on the work they have engaged in and the impact this has had are detailed below:

- *“My child is less aggressive”*
- *“My child is not as angry”*
- *“My child is generally happier”*
- *“Family life has improved”*
- *“My child has learned to talk about his feelings”*

Children's feedback to SFG was:

1. The most important thing you have learned:
 - *Change is good sometimes*
 - *You have heard me*
 - *Play games and talk about feelings*
 - *Change is the most common thing in life*

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

Falkirk families have benefited from over £10k from Aberlour's Urgent Assistance Fund.

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

Date of most recent review – March 2018

Next planned review – To be confirmed, the service will be reviewed under the priorities of Children's Services 5 year Closer to Home strategy.

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

There are no improvements identified at present.

- 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.?**

Family Support Service is a Care Inspectorate registered service for Day Care of Children. Most recent inspection carried out in August 2017 and a variation was granted to enable the service to work with children aged 12 months. The organisation was awarded a 5 for leadership and management, a 4 for quality of environment, toilet facilities are in the process of being up-graded at present.

D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

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

Council funding represents 2.4% of organisation's budget.

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

The family centre brings additional funding to support vulnerable families:

- Aberlour Urgent Assistance Fund: this is specifically to help families, across Falkirk, in need of resources when affected by poverty. Over 2017 / 2018, 35 Falkirk families have benefitted at a cost of £10,652.
- Individual donors / fundraising: This is also minimal costs and does not contribute to the daily running of the Service. We 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 our fundraised budget we supported 9 families as documented in Section A at a cost of £1120.40.

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

At 31st March 2018, uncommitted or "free" unrestricted reserves were £1,688,000.

Note – these reserves are at a level that meets OSCR's best practice for charities. As a large children's charity, Aberlour are required to hold reserves at this level to support any unforeseen issues to ensure the continued functioning of the organisation. This figure is not available for general revenue use and is to support 48 services across Scotland in an emergency situation.

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

"Free" reserves represents 9.1% of operation costs

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

The last audited accounts were up to 31/03/18 and they are awaiting sign off.

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?

Various in-house and commissioned organisations offer family support across the Council area as are described elsewhere. Family Support services are being aligned under Children's Services 5 year Closer to Home strategy

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

Aberlour has seen 32% cuts in the family centre's funding. Aberlour has been proactive in introducing efficiency savings to ensure as much of the Council's funding is directed to frontline services and vulnerable families as possible.

Any further funding reductions will see a reduction in front line services to children and families.

8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?

The viability of the service will be at risk if further reductions are made.

| |
|--|
| <p>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</p> <p>For Falkirk children and families: There will be a direct impact on vulnerable families of very young children in the three areas of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>For the Council: There is a risk of increased expenditure due to the loss of a preventative service that supports reductions in care placements and child protection registrations. The communities will be negatively impacted and become increasingly isolated ghettos, adversely affecting all aspects of the population's wellbeing.</p> |
| <p>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</p> <p>Low</p> |
| <p>E CONCLUSIONS</p> |
| <p>1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.</p> <p>The organisation has continued to perform well despite significantly reduced funding. The ethos and practices of the organisation clearly align to Children's Services Closer to Home strategy and changed monitoring arrangements will provide the opportunity for family support provision across the Council Area to be increasingly joined up in delivering support where it is needed most.</p> |
| <p>F Monitoring Officer Details</p> |
| <p>Name: Cathy Megarry</p> |
| <p>Designation: Service Manager</p> |
| <p>Service: Children's Services</p> |
| <p>Date of Report: 04/09/2018</p> |

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Organisation Name | Barnardo's |
| Project | Axis Service |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Matthew Davies |
| A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS | |
| <p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation</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 Corporate Strategy for 2016-2025 identifies 3 key strategic aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger families • Safer childhoods • Positive futures <p>The Axis Service aims to reduce the risk and harm to young people, families and communities in the Falkirk area by providing support to young people up to the age of 19 (or 25 if care experienced) who are experiencing a range of difficulties related to alcohol or substance use.</p> <p>The range of interventions include:-</p> <p>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Service, (medium to long term support for young people experiencing significant difficulties). • Early Intervention Service consisting of approximately six to eight focused individual sessions and, advice/information and group work sessions to existing groups, focusing on awareness raising. | |
| <p>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</p> <p>Barnardo's aims and priorities compliment Falkirk Council Priorities and our AXIS Service directly supports and contributes to Falkirk Council's SOLD and ICSP priorities to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve mental health and wellbeing • address the impact of poverty on children • minimize the impact of substance misuse on children <p>Specifically, Barnardo's AXIS Service is commissioned to:-</p> <p>Provide a specialist young person's Substance Misuse Service in the Falkirk Council area to support the council to address their priorities in the SOLD plan around minimising the impact of substance misuse:-</p> | |

- 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 service 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 has consistently demonstrated added value and value for money.

Value includes:-

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. They have significant substance and harm reduction experience.

Delivering in Partnership: the service has 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. Partnership and delivery contributes to existing system of care linking with partner's delivery and priorities.

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.

Additional and Match Funding: Throughout the partnership, Barnardo's has identified and secured additional funds to extend the reach of the Service i.e. ADP funding, Corra (formerly Lloyds TSB) and Barnardo's Voluntary Funds.

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

Barnardo's has been a provider and partner in Falkirk for over 3 decades.

The AXIS Service was established in 2009 as a result of unmet need in relation to young people's substance misuse and associated risks. Throughout this time the Service remains responsive to the changing needs and perceived changing use of substances and amended interventions accordingly.

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

| Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2017/18 | £105,405 | - | |
| 2016/17 | £105,405 | - | |
| 2015/16 | £137,443 | £28,314 | |
| 2014/15 | £144,676 | £54,497 | |
| 2013/14 | £144,676 | £66,454 | |

It should be noted that Axis benefits from being a part of the larger Barnardo's Services In Falkirk, and therefore Economies of Scale. Included in this is a Voluntary Fund contribution to Falkirk of £37,845 specific to Axis Management costs for the Service Manager, which are in kind.

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 as a result of their problematic substance use at referral or screening, identifies them as requiring a more intensive/long term service. Their needs are identified using a more detailed comprehensive assessment tool.

The Core Service works with the broader range of issues of which substance use is often only 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.

Whilst Falkirk Councils monies pays for the intensive care service, Barnardo's has been able to use this money to leverage additional monies/resources for Falkirk young people either by way of Voluntary Funds, or most recently monies from the ADP and Corra. The ADP have recently awarded us 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 will build on the young person's knowledge and awareness of substance effects and risks, according to their age, stage and pattern of use.
- Sessions which set goals and identify support or resources needed to achieve them.

- Signposting to other services, (with support as appropriate). This could include diversionary activities.
- Follow-up after 3 months.

Building on the key learning, experience and the success of an ADP funded Forth Valley Pilot between August 2015 and June 17, which was based on this gap in provision, Barnardo's have been able to secure £120,000 additional funding from Corra to enable the care experienced specific post to continue in Falkirk for a further three years. This funding is match funded by Barnardo's.

The worker has been in post since November 2017. In real terms this has meant that we have been able to offer 11 of Falkirk's most vulnerable and undoubtedly complex young people a service which includes 137 appointments.

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

During the period April 2017 - March 2018, contact was made with **104** young people and/or their referrers. 89 referrals were received, 86 new referrals and 3 re-referrals.

For comparison, 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.

Additionally, the Social Influencing Programme which is a partnership with Barnardos and the NHS. Within Falkirk, during this time period, we have delivered this Service to three Secondary Schools namely:

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Grangemouth High | 136 S2 pupils |
| Larbert High | 178 S3 pupils |
| Bo'ness High | 106 S2 pupils |
| Total | 420 |

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 we work collaboratively as appropriate with the following service agencies :-

Social Work
Schools
Police Scotland
CAMHS
Children's Residential Units
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, significant additionality by way of funding, resources, influence, learning and leadership and compliments and extends Falkirk Council's own 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 own service plan and their feedback and input is valued through regular service reviews and final feedback and evaluation processes.

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

We have also been included in the National Quality Standards Self-Assessment which included all young people's files being assessed by the Manager against set criteria and all young people being encouraged to complete questionnaires re their involvement with the Service against these standards. We scored as a good to very good in all aspects. Our stats indicated that feedback from the self-evaluation indicated that we had a 90% plus engagement rate. Quotes from young people:

"I enjoy coming to Axis, the staff are very friendly"

"My worker asked me what I wanted to change and help me put things in place to stop re-using Cannabis"

Barnardo's has a Representation and Complaints Policy to further encourage and facilitate service user feedback. In addition, all staff participate in children's rights training to ensure our best practice and Axis is currently working towards the Investing in Children Award and has achieved the LGBT Youth Charter Award.

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

The Axis Service 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.)**

| 2017-18 | | | |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| 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 |
| 89 | 15 | 22 | 45 |
| 2016-17 | | | |
| 73 | 31 | 39 | 64 |

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

- 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 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.

The Service participated in the ADP – Quality Standards Inspection in March 2016 and the follow up Quality Standards Self Evaluation in March 2018.

As a result of the pressures upon Local Government Funding and therefore Falkirk Council's 2017/18 budget, discussions took place in March 2017 regarding future funding, resources and Service priorities. This meant that the part time vacancy was managed on an informal basis using temporary staff. Once there was clarity re funding, the recruitment process began. The worker is now in post.

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

The Team achieved a high level of efficiency and effectiveness. Minor adjustments are being made to recording and admin tasks to maximise the effectiveness and contact with young people.

- 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 Self-Assessment in March 2018.

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 |
|---------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 2017-18 | £105,405 | £0 | 100/0 |
| 2016-17 | £105,405 | £32,692 | 76/24 |

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):-

- £18,500 – ADP Falkirk
- £41,101 – Early Doors – NHS and ADP Forth Valley Social Influencing
- £120,000 – Corra (over 3 years)

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

Barnardo's is a national Organisation and accounts are audited annually. The most recent audited accounts will be forwarded.

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

As above, Barnardo's is a national Organisation and accounts are audited annually. The most recent accounts will be forwarded.

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

Barnardo's Audited Accounts for 2016-17 will be forwarded. 2017-18 Accounts are pending and will be available in October 2018.

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?

Axis and Time4Us (subject to a separate FPP report) provide specialist substance services to young people. Axis concentrates the majority of focus on 1:1 interventions with young people and is well connected to support to schools.

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

The Service has already moved towards improving resilience within a climate of diminishing resources by the development of a Barnardo's Forth Valley Substance Misuse Service. Although retaining their individual authority based teams, knowledge of the local area and potentially differing needs, we have developed a commonality of approach, process and service delivery. This will enable management and staff to support in different areas as needed, and learn from other's work.

8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?

We are currently working with the Alcohol and Drug Partnership and our Monitoring Officer to ensure that we are building a sufficient continuum of operational interventions to support the strategic plans seeking to address the issues of young people and substance use. This also includes supporting families and parenting support within this work. We recognise we need to secure additional funding outwith Falkirk Council resources and be jointly bid ready when these opportunities present themselves. If sufficient additional funds are secured there may be the opportunity to reduce some of the council funding at this point. We have secured additional ADP funding for Early Intervention Service.

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

Economies of Scale: we have achieved economies of scale through shared premises, shared admin and management with other Barnardo's Falkirk/Forth Valley Services, opportunities to continue to identify any further opportunities are limited.

This will also impact upon our ability to leverage other funding for the Service therefore increasing the provision to the young people in Falkirk.

Impact of further reductions in funding: 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 Corra.

Direct Delivery - 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 time referrals will be on a waiting list, leaving some of Falkirk's most vulnerable and at risk young people without a Service that at present aims to prevent those highest and riskiest tariff young people. This would significantly impact on our ability to be responsive to these young people in need.

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

Low

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|---|
| E CONCLUSIONS |
| 1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered. Please see 8 & 9 above. |
| F Monitoring Officer Details |
| Name: Matthew Davies |
| Designation: Service Manager |
| Service: Children's Services |
| Date of Report: 12/09/2018 |

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

| | |
|--|--|
| Organisation Name | Barnardo's |
| Project | Barnardo's Education and Family Resource Service |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Cathy Megarry |
| A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS | |
| <p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation Barnardo's Education and Family Resources Service Aims Barnardo's Family Resource Service in the Falkirk area is commissioned to provide support to children and young people aged birth to 18 years and their parents/carers in order to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain and sustain the child/young person's place in mainstream school • enable families to tackle challenges which if not addressed can impact on family functioning or positive long term outcomes for the child/young person. <p>The Service provides a child-centred, flexible, attachment and trauma informed, needs led, strengths based approach.</p> <p>Based on assessment of need, programmes and interventions for service users include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual work with children and young people, their parents/carers and siblings • Whole Family Systemic work • Improving school attendance • Group work with children, parents/carers and siblings • Peer relationships, activity groups, parenting and child development etc. • School based support – individual and group work, nurture and peer support • Income maximisation and budgeting, homemaking skills | |
| <p>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council? Barnardo's aims and priorities compliment Falkirk Council Priorities and commissioned Services contribute to Falkirk Council's SOLD and ICSP priorities to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve mental health and wellbeing • address the impact of poverty on children • minimize the impact of substance misuse on children | |
| <p>3. Why does the Council fund this? The Council funded the service to support to children who attended and received out-reach support from Oxbang Primary School and their families. These are children with additional support needs and their families often require support and advice in managing and understanding the emotional, social and behavioral needs of their children and how to manage them. This was to prevent escalation of need for this priority group.</p> | |

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

The partnership between Barnardo's and the Council began in the early 1990's and was based on local need and Council priorities.

Whilst the relationship with Barnardo's continues funding for this particular project ended in April 2018.

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

| Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2017/18 | £281,583 | £6,750 | N/A |
| 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 |

B SERVICE DELIVERY

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

Barnardo's Education and Family Resources Service works in partnership with schools and other key agencies to provide additional support to children with additional emotional, social and behavioural needs and their families.

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

Between April 2017 – March 2018. Barnardo's worked with a total of 124 children and their families

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.

Since closure of this service, capacity within mainstream secondary schools and the inclusion & Wellbeing Service has increased to meet the needs of this cohort of children.

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

In working with children with additional support needs and their families, the organization was targeted at a priority group who are now supported in-house.

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

Service Users are encouraged to participate in reviewing and evaluating their progress and also their time with the Service. They are asked to provide input on what has worked well for them and what could have been done differently.

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

All geographical areas within Falkirk 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 statistical information below is for the reporting period April 2017 – March 2018. The service worked with a total of 124 children and their families

| Source | Education | Health | Social Work | Self | Other |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|-------------|------|-------|
| Number of Requests | 33 | 10 | 26 | 10 | 1 |
| Waiting List | 8 | 2 | 4 | | |

Source of Requests for Assistance Apr 2017 - Feb 2018

Group Work Apr 2017– October 2017

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|---------------------|---|
| Parent of Teens Group | 5 | Teens Girls Group x | 5 |
| Football Academy | 12 | | |

Volunteer Hours Contribution – 97 hours direct support

- 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 was reviewed by Barnardo's and Falkirk Council Monitoring Officer in March 2017. The service was redesigned in April 2018 and will now be reviewed within the Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy

- 4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?**
None.

- 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 recent inspections have taken place.

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 - Cash | Falkirk Council - CIK | Barnardo's Vol Funds | % |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----|
| 2017/18 | £281,583 | £6,750 | N/A | 100 |
| 2016/17 | £279,208 | £16,200 | N/A | 100 |
| 2015/16 | £279,208 | £16,200 | N/A | 100 |

| |
|--|
| 2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source. |
| 3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation? Barnardo's is a national Organisation and accounts are audited annually. |
| 4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent? Barnardo's is a national Organisation and accounts are audited annually. |
| 5. Last period of submitted audited accounts Barnardo's Audited Accounts for 2016-17 are available. 2017-18 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? Increased capacity within mainstream secondary schools and the Inclusion & Wellbeing Service meets the needs previously met by this service. |
| 7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council? The organization is no longer funded. |
| 8. How can reductions in funding be achieved? Prior to the 2017-18 fiscal year, discussions took place to discuss savings of £175,699 and agree priorities and focus of the Service. The staff team were reduced by more than 50% through vacancy management and redundancy The following posts were retained <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Manager FTE • 1 Team Manager .5FTE • 4 Project Workers FTE The following posts would not be filled or become redundant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrator & Secretarial Assistant 1.5FTE posts • Project Worker 4FTE posts • Team Manager 1FTE post • Domestic p/t 1 post • Gardener p/t 1 post In addition, the premises at Cadzow Crescent, Bo'ness provided as an "in kind" contribution were withdrawn. The Service moved to a Barnardo's owned property in Falkirk in August 2017. |
| 9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded? The service is no longer funded. The cohort of children and families affected are now supported as above. |
| 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.

The reduction in funding for the financial year 2018-19 necessitated Barnardo's and Falkirk Council to redesign Barnardo's Services in alignment with the Closer to Home strategy. In addition to Axis, Barnardo's Substance Use Service, Barnardo's now delivers a Family Network Service in Falkirk. Family Networking is a family led approach which facilitates family decision-making and planning for families in need of assistance. It empowers families to use their own strengths and resources to make plans for their children.

This type of approach has been evidenced in shifting spend from expensive external resources to supporting children and families within their homes and communities and improving life chances for children and young people.

F Monitoring Officer Details

Name: Cathy Megarry

Designation: Service Manager

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 04/09/2018

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Organisation Name | Barnardo's |
| Project | Cluaran |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Cathy Megarry |
| A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS | |
| <p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation</p> <p>The Service is commissioned to providing support to up to sixty young people and their families in any one year with the aim of reducing the number of young people being placed in Residential School. (The Service had an agreed target of maintaining 75% of Service Users in the Community).</p> <p>Families and young people received support through a range of Individual Support, Educational Support, Family Work and Group Work.</p> <p>The Service supported professional development across Services to support young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.</p> <p>The Service also participated in a range of activities within Falkirk aimed at developing good practice and improving outcomes for young people, including membership of various Children's Commission and voluntary sector groups.</p> | |
| <p>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</p> <p>The aim of the Cluaran Service was to ensure as many young people as possible could safely remain in their own families, schools and communities. Young people aged 11-16 years old were referred if they meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At risk of being Looked After away from home • At risk of being placed in a residential school or residential placement out with the Falkirk areas. • Returning from residential school or secure accommodation and needing integrated support to re-engage in the Falkirk Council area. | |
| <p>3. Why does the Council fund this?</p> <p>The Council previously funded the service to ensure that wherever possible, children could be safely cared for and educated in the Falkirk area, enabling them to remain part of their family and wider community.</p> <p>The Council no longer specifically funds the Cluaran Service</p> | |
| <p>4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service?</p> <p>18 years.</p> | |

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

| Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 2017/18 | 345,297 | 326,670 | none |
| 2016/17 | 345,297 | 326,670 | £10,640 Vocational Income c/f |
| 2015/16 | 345,297 | 326,670 | £34,660 Vocational Pilot |
| 2014/15 | 361,619 | 326,670 | none |
| 2013/14 | 361,279 | 326,670 | none |

B SERVICE DELIVERY

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

Cluaran's aim was to ensure that young people struggling to maintain home and school placements, remained safely with their own families, schools and communities. Individual packages of support were 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 tracked progress using Barnardo's Outcomes Framework. This involved the family, young person, and other professionals agreeing the focus of work based on the SHANARRI Wellbeing Indicators. An Action Plan then targets these areas.

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

Between April 2017 and March 2018, **fifty-two** young people and their families received a Service from Cluaran.

Twenty-three young people were Looked After at Home;
sixteen were Looked After Away from Home;
four young people had Voluntary Contact with Social Services;
six were looked after by Kinship Carers and
Three young people had no Legal Status.

Of the young people who have received support to date, **20** were girls and **32** were boys.

During this period **48** young people completed programmes or left the Service. Of these, at the point of closure, **forty** (83%) remained in the community; **eight** (17%) were placed in Community Based Residential Units/Secure Accommodation out with Falkirk.

This exceeded the agreed target of maintaining 75% of Service Users in the Community

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| <p>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.</p> <p>Cluaran worked alongside a variety of Children's Services with the most similar service being Children's Services Intensive Family Support service, who provide support to families in crisis with the aim of reducing family and other placement breakdown.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the similarity between the remits of both services led to a risk of duplication and potential confusion for service users and referrers.</p> |
| <p>4. How does this organisation support the Council achieve its priorities?</p> <p>As an organisation, Barnardo's aims and priorities compliment Falkirk Council Priorities and local commissioned Services contribute to Falkirk Council's SOLD and ICSP priorities as well as being aligned to Children's Services Closer to Home strategy.</p> |
| <p>5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?</p> <p>Barnardo's aim to involve Service Users in every part of the work they do.</p> <p>Young people and families are involved in ongoing conversations with staff which influence the service they receive and staff use a variety of creative ways to engage and support young people in shaping national policy.</p> |
| <p>6. What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?</p> <p>All geographical areas within Falkirk Council.</p> |
| <p>C ASSESMENT OF PERFORMANCE</p> |
| <p>1. Set out current agreed performance information alongside previous years and future years. If there is any benchmarking information provide that.</p> <p>As described above, between April 2017 and March 2018, fifty-two young people and their families received a Service from Cluaran. Twenty-three young people were Looked After at Home; sixteen were Looked After Away from Home; four young people had Voluntary Contact with Social Services; six were looked after by Kinship Carers and three young people had no Legal Status. Of the young people who have received support to date, 20 were girls and 32 were boys.</p> <p>During this period 48 young people completed programmes or left the Service. Of these, at the point of closure, forty (83%) remained in the community; eight (17%) were placed in Community Based Residential Units/Secure Accommodation out with Falkirk. This exceeded the agreed target of maintaining 75% of Service Users in the Community</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>No issues to report.</p> |

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

The Cluaran service was reviewed last in March 2018. The service was closed in April 2018 and remaining Barnardo's provision will be reviewed within the Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy.

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

The service has now been subsumed into the wider Barnardo's service. This has led to a significant reduction in staffing. As part of the Closer to Home strategy, Barnardo's Falkirk Services were redesigned to provide a Falkirk Family Network service. It is expected this service will reduce the need for external resources by enabling and resourcing the wider family to find solutions to their difficulties and be fully involved in decision-making and planning for children.

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 recent inspections have taken place.

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 – Cash | Falkirk Council - CIK | Barnardo's Vol Funds | % |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------|
| 2017/18 | £345,297 | £326,670 | £50,686 | 93/07 |
| 2016/17 | £345,297 | £326,670 | £68,173 | 90/10 |
| 2015/16 | £345,297 | £326,670 | £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 - £50,686 (2017/18).

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

Barnardo's is a national Organisation and accounts are audited annually.

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

Barnardo's is a national Organisation and accounts are audited annually.

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

Barnardo's Audited Accounts for 2016-17 are available. 2017-18 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?

The most similar service run by the Council is the Intensive Family Support Service which supports families, beyond office hours when they are in crisis and at risk of becoming accommodated.

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

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.

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| <p>The Service, along with other Barnardo's services In Falkirk, applied further economies of scale, service co-location and reduction in staff resources to achieve reduced Council Funding for 2017-18.</p> <p>There are ongoing opportunities to work in partnership in relation to external funding opportunities.</p> |
| <p>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved? The service is no longer funded</p> |
| <p>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded? The Cluaran service was commissioned specifically to reduce the likelihood of young people being placed in residential schools as a result of their high level of risks and needs. The demand for the Service was high.</p> <p>As part of the Closer to Home strategy, Barnardo's Falkirk Services were redesigned to provide a Falkirk Family Network service. It is expected this service will reduce the need for external resources.</p> <p>The addition of family support within the mainstream secondary schools and the Inclusion and Wellbeing Service is also assisting in meeting demand at an earlier stage.</p> |
| <p>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation. Low</p> |
| <p>E CONCLUSIONS</p> |
| <p>1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered. A reduction in funding for the financial year 2018-19 necessitated Barnardo's and Falkirk Council to redesign Barnardo's services in alignment with Children's Services 5 year Closer to Home strategy. In addition to Axis, Barnardo's substance Use Service, Barnardo's now delivers a Family Network Service in Falkirk. Family Networks support the extended family in making safe and sustainable plans for their children. It is a well researched and effective family led approach which encourages and empowers families to use their own strengths and resources to make plans for their children.</p> <p>This type of approach has been evidenced in shifting spend from expensive external resources to supporting children and families within their homes and communities, and improving life chances for children and young people.</p> |
| <p>F Monitoring Officer Details</p> |
| <p>Name: Cathy Megarry</p> |
| <p>Designation: Service Manager</p> |
| <p>Service: Children's Services</p> |
| <p>Date of Report: 04/09/2018</p> |

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Organisation Name | Home-Start |
| Project | Home-Start Falkirk West |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Cathy Megarry |
| A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS | |
| <p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation</p> <p>Uk wide there are 269 independently run locally provided Home Starts. 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 those who are just finding parenting a struggle. They provide non-judgemental practical and emotional support for as long as is needed.</p> <p>Home-Start Falkirk West aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To visit families in their homes, where the dignity and identity of each adult can be respected. • To develop a relationship with the family using a flexible approach to take account of differing needs. • To reassure parents that difficulties in bringing up children are not unusual and encouraging them to enjoy family life. • To encourage parents' strengths and emotional wellbeing for the ultimate benefit of their children. • To encourage families to widen their network of relationships and to use the support services in the community. • To manage and develop the service in-line with Children's Services Closer to Home strategy. | |
| <p>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</p> <p>Home Start empowers the local community in a sustainable and cost effective way. They train volunteers to provide non- stigmatising support, in the recipients' home, 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> <p>Home-Start Falkirk West has traditionally focused in the Denny, Bonnybridge and Banknock communities but will also work in partnership with local agencies where the need arises elsewhere, in order to complement other available services.</p> | |
| <p>3. Why does the Council fund this?</p> <p>Home-Start Falkirk West recruits, trains and develops volunteers to support otherwise hard to reach, vulnerable parents.</p> <p>Using volunteers is a cost effective way to provide early intervention support to parents at a time of difficulty in their lives.</p> | |

Falkirk Council funding supports the co-ordination of these volunteers.
 This type of early intervention delivered locally and for as long as is needed, is an effective means of preventing escalation of need and more intrusive and expensive interventions.
 Funding is supplemented by Big Lottery, Corra Foundation, Robertson and RS MacDonald Trusts, donations and fund raising.

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

Falkirk Council has funded the Home-Start Falkirk West service for 18 years.

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

| Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2017/18 | £28,014 | £6,000 | |
| 2016/17 | £29,488 | £6,000 | |
| 2015/16 | £29,488 | £6,000 | |
| 2014/15 | £29,488 | £6,000 | |
| 2013/14 | £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?

Home Start 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

Home visiting volunteers are matched with a family and 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.

Home-Start 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.

Trained staff and volunteers support separating or separated parents, promoting more positive communication between parents at a very difficult time for the benefit of their children and also themselves.

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

In 2017/18 the organisation supported 78 parents with 142 children – 94 under 5 and 48 over 5. Initial advice and signposting was provided to a further 20 individuals. Families were supported by 27 volunteers.

Both the families and those who volunteer directly benefit from the organisation. The benefits to those who volunteer are well researched, with volunteers gaining confidence, experience and a sense of purpose as well as making significant contributions to the local community and economy.

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 locally. Home Start compliments the work of other organisations in both the statutory and voluntary sector, by providing longer term support following more intensive, short term interventions.

Due to the nature of service delivery and the long established relationships within the communities they work within, Home Start are able to work effectively with hard to reach families and those with children who might be described as being “on the edges of care” They work intuitively with families, flexibly responding to their needs and with varying intensity and for as long as support is required. This approach consolidates change and prevents escalation of need.

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

Home Start 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
- Aligning fully with the Closer to Home strategy

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

Home Start have a Project Development Group which includes staff, trustees, volunteers and current and former service users. All of the PDG members have had involvement in the project at some time in the last few years. They participate in a range of tasks and take account of the needs and interests of service users. They collect information on a regular basis from a variety of sources to ensure the work is current and relevant to the needs of the families, referrers and local and national policy. They work with other agencies across Falkirk and further afield to provide a particular support in a more accessible way - either through attending groups or by providing transport to an organisation or event.

All families participate in regular one to one reviews. The reviews address the difficulties the family is experiencing and any progress or barriers in addressing them. The review is also an opportunity to gather information from families about their local area - services they might need but which are either unavailable locally or too difficult or expensive for families to access. Families also participate in regular Focus Groups, sharing information and ideas with staff and Trustees. This information is used alongside the work of the PDG to inform any changes or developments the service may require.

Staff and Volunteer Support and Supervision sessions are used to assess progress of each family, identifying any gaps in the support they are accessing and creating a more complete picture of their progress. Staff are members of a wide range of Forums and Committees across Falkirk. This allows Home Start to keep up to date with changes in all areas affecting or likely to impact on families including changes to benefits, services and work opportunities.

They are then able to keep parents as informed as possible about these changes, losses or additions. This early knowledge and support to manage it, helps vulnerable parents cope with changes or new opportunities in a more positive and effective way.

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

The service covers mainly the Denny, Bonnybridge, Banknock and surrounding villages. However, where there is a need for a Home-Start service in the wider Falkirk Council area, they respond to this.

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 organisation is funded to provide support to 35 families on the following basis;

- 10 Initial advice and sign posting
- 15 Home visiting/ volunteer service
- 8 enhanced support with multiple elements
- 2 Specialist support of high intensity/ long duration.

As described above, the service exceeded expectation in 2017/18, by more than double. This is reflective of previous years.

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

Home Start consistently support a greater number of children and their parents than the agreement with the Council states.

They do not operate a waiting list – recognising that support is generally more effective if it is received as quickly as possible after the difficulty is identified.

They rely on the support and good will of Trustees, Staff and Volunteers working to take on additional families and carry out fundraising activities and apply to trusts and foundations.

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

Date of most recent review – Home Start are reviewed through the Home-Start UK Quality Assurance Review System on a 3 yearly basis with regular self-assessments during that period. Our last review was in 2016.

Next planned review – Home Start's next review will be in 2019. The service will be reviewed under the priorities of Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy.

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

Home Start have been working under significant financial restraint this year and had to loose staff in December. They are already an extremely cost effective organisation and any further cuts to funding would mean the service was 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.

In the year 2016/17 which is the latest they have audited figures for, Falkirk Council provided almost 30% of the funding for Home-Start Falkirk West.

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

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Big Lottery | £17,000 |
| Robertson Trust | £12,500 |
| Henry Duncan Awards | £4,500 |
| RS MacDonald Trust | £8,000 |
| Donations and fundraised | £9,500 |

Total £51,500

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

£12,000.

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

12%

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

2016/17

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?

The Council does not fund any other services offering this model of service delivery. Other in-house and commissioned family support services complement the approach.

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 cannot be achieved without making the service untenable

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

Vulnerable and hard to reach families who benefit from the service would not have their needs met at an early stage, their needs would escalate and they would require more intensive and expensive interventions in the future.

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

Low

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| E CONCLUSIONS |
| 1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered. Home start had reduced funding from April 2017 which necessitated redundancies for staff and a heavier reliance on fundraising activities and pursuing grant funding from trusts and foundations. Despite this reduction in capacity, the service has continued to provide a highly cost effective and impactful service which supports the Council's key priorities. |
| F Monitoring Officer Details |
| Name: Cathy Megarry |
| Designation: Service Manager |
| Service: Children's Services |
| Date of Report: 04/09/2018 |

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Organisation Name | NHS Forth Valley CAMHS |
| Project | Clinical Psychology Service for Looked After Children |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Gayle McIntyre |

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation

To provide a specialist clinical psychology assessment and therapy service for:-

- children and young people who are Looked After by Falkirk Council, either at home or accommodated away from home, and who are the responsibility of Falkirk Council, even when they are living outwith the area.
- children and young people residing in the Falkirk Council area whose family placement is at high risk of breakdown, which could lead to them becoming accommodated whether or not they are at that point Looked After by the Local Authority.

To provide professional consultation to staff including social workers, foster carers and residential staff with the aim of:-

- promoting therapeutic care for children and young people in their day to day lives.
- helping to sustain children and young people at home or within their local care placements.

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

The purpose is to provide services to meet the above key aims and objectives.

The development of this service reflects that Looked After children have significant mental health needs that may not always meet the criteria for a mainstream mental health service. Looked After children often experience difficulties in engaging with such services and, in addition, access to appropriate mental health support can be difficult to secure for children who are placed outwith Falkirk Council's geographical area.

The continuation of this service reflects the commitment to addressing the support needs for those working with this vulnerable group, e.g. foster carers, residential care staff and social workers, thereby enhancing their capacity in developing skills in supporting young people to either remain at home or within a local Falkirk care placement.

The psychology service is an important contributor to the care planning for children and young people Looked After by Falkirk Council and for whom the Council hold corporate parenting responsibilities for.

3. Why does the Council fund this?

This post is a partnership arrangement with NHS Forth Valley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The post holders are employed by the NHS. This ensures that the clinical psychologists have 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 our Looked After children and young people and those at risk of becoming Looked After. 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?

6 years

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

| Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2017/2018 | £68,472 | | |
| 2016/2017 | £67,401 | | |
| 2015/2016 | £70,704 | | |
| 2014/2015 | £64,904 | | |
| 2013/2014 | £64,264 | | |

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 Psychology 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.

The service contributes to risk assessment and risk management of young people who are a risk to themselves or others. The service will provide written reports and assessments to various statutory forums including Looked After reviews, Children's Hearings and the Court. The psychologists within the service contribute to permanence planning for children and young people including parental capacity, sibling and contact assessments and reports.

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

The service has been developed and is now delivered by two Psychologists sharing input to the Council and making up one full time post. The post holders have different skills and areas of expertise which allows for multi model assessments and treatments, shared opinion, wider expertise and joined up working.

The current caseload is as follows:-

- 49 open “one to one” cases
- 8 open consultations
- 2 recently completed parenting capacity assessments (one pending court)
- 2 open contact assessments
- 2 open neuropsychological assessments
- 2 open risk assessments
- 2 young people on the waiting list (waiting list 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 located within NHS Forth Valley. CAMHS provide a specialist 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 populations of Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire. They do not provide a specialist mental health service for Looked After children and young people.

The specialist Looked After psychology service offers much more flexibility in terms of working with this vulnerable and difficult to engage group. Appointments are offered within a range of venues to meet the needs of the young person and the psychologists will travel outwith the area to external care placements. They also offer appointments in the early evening rather than the traditional 9 – 5 office hours.

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

The service supports the achievement of a number of the Council’s strategic priorities including:-

The Council’s Strategic Outcome Local Delivery Plan (2017 – 2020) in the following areas:-

- vision – improving mental health and wellbeing.
- outcome – our children with develop into resilient, confident and successful adults.

The Council’s Integrated Children’s Services Plan (2017 – 2020) is committed to:-

- improving children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing.
- inclusion – supporting children and young people to live, learn and thrive in Falkirk.

The Children’s Services Closer to Home strategy (2018):-

- working with other professionals to keep vulnerable children and young people at home.
- providing therapeutic services to Looked After children to support them to maintain their local care placements.

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

The service undertakes regular audit activity to seek anonymous feedback from service users and professionals who have had involvement with the service.

Service users can also provide feedback through other mechanisms including Looked After 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 locally and who require a placement outwith the 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.)**

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 the service has been responsive to the wider strategic needs as they develop, for example:-

- staff learning and development.
- CAMHS liaison with broader service for children and young people with mental health needs.
- contributing to the Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE) programme which focuses on improving outcomes for Looked After children and addressing barriers leading to drift in care planning for children.

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

The service is routinely and consistently viewed very positively by children and young people and also from professionals who use the service on a consultancy basis. Its flexibility and responsiveness is a major contributory factor to the high value placed on the service by these groups. The Clinical Psychologist in post goes above and beyond her role to support children, parents and carers.

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

The service has not been subject to any formal reviews however quarterly monitoring meetings take place to ensure that the service continues to deliver on the key aims and objectives. Anonymised feedback is also sought on a regular basis.

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

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 delivery.

Involvement in strategic planning groups is also limited due to the demand for direct work with children and young people.

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 inspected on a standalone basis, however the LAC Psychology service was recognised positively within the last Care Inspectorate Joint Inspection of Services for Children in 2016 who commented that:-

“the highly personalised flexible approach had demonstrated considerable success in overcoming barriers to accessing and sustaining engagement with vulnerable young people.”

D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

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

Post funded 100% by Falkirk Council.

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

N/A

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

N/A

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

N/A

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

N/A

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?

This is a specialist Clinical Psychology Service. The Council has an Educational Psychology Service which is a different professional discipline with a focus on improving the development and learning of all children and young people with additional support needs across Falkirk Council's education establishments.

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

The post holders 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 the financial commitment from Falkirk Council would require to be met by NHS Forth Valley to ensure the continuation of the service.

8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?

The service involves the equivalent of one full time post, shared by two psychologists. Any reduction in service would lead to a reduction in services offered to vulnerable children who are either Looked After or at risk of being Looked After.

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

Were the service to be discontinued there would be a significant negative impact on the mental health and wellbeing of Looked After children for whom the Council, along with other agencies, has corporate responsibilities for. The withdrawal or reduction in the service may lead to an escalation of the difficulties children and young people face and this could contribute to an increase in the number of children Looked After away from home or the need for more expensive external placements if local ones cannot be sustained.

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.

The clinical psychology service is critical in addressing the needs of vulnerable children and young people who are at imminent risk of being accommodated or who are already Looked After by the Local Authority. Looked After children are significantly more likely to have mental health needs than their non Looked After peers.

The service has developed a very positive reputation with young people, carers and other professionals who value the responsiveness and flexibility of the service which is free from restrictive criteria or long waiting lists.

The need for the service continues to be consistently evidenced in the care planning for children and young people and has and will continue to work exclusively with this targeted group of vulnerable young people with complex needs, in line with the existing aims and objectives.

F Monitoring Officer Details

Name: Gayle McIntyre

Designation: Service Manager

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 04/09/2018

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Organisation Name | NHS Forth Valley Speech and Language Therapy |
| Project | Service Level Agreement for Children with Additional Support Needs |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Gill Clark |

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation

The overall aim is to enable young people to fulfil their potential and communicate to the best of their ability. The Speech and Language Therapy Team aims:

- to maximize the child's communicative potential within the context of education and the home environment
- to reduce the impact of children's communication and eating and drinking difficulties for children with complex and enduring additional support needs
- to facilitate effective communication and learning through skilling and empowering the child and those who communicate with the child on a regular basis.
- to move children and their communication partners towards independent self-management of long term communication support needs
- 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 ,2018)
- 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

Additionally

- to support the Falkirk Council Education Services in providing Continuing Professional Development for its staff
- to support Falkirk Council Education Services in closing the spoken language gap for children in poverty and positively impacting on attainment.
- to support Falkirk Council deliver on their priorities related to
 - children to grow into resilient, confident and successful adults
 - addressing the impact of poverty on children and young people
 - including children
 - improving mental health and wellbeing
 - maximising employability

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

Speech and Language Therapy is directly helping Falkirk Council to deliver their responsibilities under the Children and Young People(s) Act 2014 and ASL Act. 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 full Speech and Language Therapy Evaluation Report 2017/18.

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, behavior, 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 2006- 2014; including addressing the additional support needs of children and young people who face barriers to their learning. The Act aims to ensure that all children and young people are provided with the necessary support to help them achieve 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 we know is increasingly absent when children come to school.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 states: '*Communication is critical to the development of the wellbeing of all children and young people.*' National and local colleagues such as representatives from Education Scotland, HMIE, Scottish Government, local Head Teachers and Teaching staff are emphasising the importance of communication for learning and the need to address these difficulties.

The Speech and Language Therapy impact report (2017/18) clearly details how Speech, Language and Communication is intrinsically linked to wellbeing and how SLT is currently supporting education to deliver on their duties under the act, to support wellbeing outcomes for children and also how SLT is contributing to Falkirk Council's priorities.

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

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

Collaborative practice and joint working is essential to meet the inclusion agenda ensuring that all children receive the right level of input in a variety of a range of settings.

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

| Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2017/18 | 465,040 | 581,342 | |
| 2016/17 | 465,040 | 575,110 | |
| 2015/16 | 515,040 | 556,579 | |
| 2014/15 | 515,040 | 539,487 | |
| 2013/14 | 535,601 | 534,492 | |

B SERVICE DELIVERY

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

The types of barriers that children and young people experience in relation to Speech and Language Therapy intervention.

Delay of disorder in the areas of:

- receptive language
- expressive language
- pre verbal language
- auditory processing
- word finding
- sequencing language
- semantic pragmatic skills
- higher order linguistic skills such as summarising / negotiating / compromising
- focus and attention
- shared attention
- interaction
- relationships with adult and peers
- social understanding
- organisation linguistically and practically
 - phonological awareness and expression
 - eye contact
 - understanding and use of gesture
 - play
 - emotional regulation
 - anxiety related to lack of understanding and language

Roles / Remits of Speech and Language Therapy in relation to above:

- identification of range of needs
- assessment of needs
- development of appropriate programmes
- direct implementation of programmes [targeted support]
- indirect implementation of programmes [universal support]
- monitoring of pupils' progress
- reporting and identifying next steps
- risk assessment
- staff training and development
- joint working with staff, parents and colleagues
- input to IEPs and CSPs
- development of augmentative communication systems
- use of IT and software
- research

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

New Training options were delivered between April 2017 and March 2018, which included training sessions for Modern Apprentices working with the Early year's population.

Early Years Intervention

The Early Years Intervention Team specifically aims to engage families in poverty to ensure a quality service for the most vulnerable families who find it most challenging to access traditional services.

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 unique children who benefited in 2017/18 was **612**. This does not include all the children who benefited from whole class interventions across 12 schools accessing the Focusing on Communication and Learning (FOCAL) approach.

Total reach is much greater than figure stated above, as we 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 **241 children**. In the 12 month period **612** 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 **3890 contacts** to the caseload

Training of Education Staff

In 2017/18 Speech and Language Therapy trained 476 education staff across 70 placements. This does not include all the staff who benefited from formal training through the Pupil Equity Fund.

Early Years Intervention

In one geographical cluster, 57 parents and carers attended across the sessions offered. These allowed universal messages about parents supporting language development to be shared, including signposting to other reputable sources of support such as the NHS Forth Valley website and social media accounts.

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?

There is an eight page appendix in the full 'Speech and Language Therapy Evaluation Report 2017/18' which details how Speech and Language Therapy directly addresses targeted priority areas from Falkirk's Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan 2016-2020 (SOLD), Falkirk's Integrated Children's Service Plan 2017-2020 (ICSP). There is a brief summary below.

Speech and Language Therapy will contribute to all of the councils priorities :

- our children will develop into resilient , confident and successful adults
- our area will be 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

- improving the communication and spoken language of children can significantly improve children's attainment.
- interventions designed to break the intergenerational cycles of children in poverty who are presenting with poor spoken language skills linked with poor life outcomes.
- improved language to mitigate against lifestyle and health risks
- improved spoken language skills reducing communication problems which link to poor behavioral problems ,reducing the risk of developing challenging and offending behavior self-esteem and general wellbeing.

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

- Design and delivery of services are developed fully in partnership with staff at all levels within Education.
- Ongoing and regular feedback from parents, children and young people.

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

All Falkirk Council and Partnership nurseries and schools across the entire 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.**
(Performance reports can be attached as appendices.)

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.

Performance Indictors

Speech and Language Therapy report performance data, based on the SHANARRI indicators to Falkirk Education Services every four months. This data quantifies effective outcomes for each child on the caseload related to the SHANARRI indicators. Over a 12 month period, an average of **97.82 % episodes of care resulted in a satisfactory outcome.**

- Safe – Management of Eating and Drinking – **100%**
- Healthy – Positive Mental Health – **97.84%**
- Active - Increase Involvement of Children in Communities – **97.77%**
- Nurtured – Communication at Home – **95.74%**
- Achieving – Addressing the impact of language as a profound barrier to learning – **98.35%**
- Respected and Responsible – Pupil Involvement in Change – **97.22%**

Universal and Targeted Work

Early Years Intervention

Westquarter nursery was one of the placements involved in running Nursery Narrative groups. The data below shows how this approach has helped to close the spoken language gap for the most vulnerable children.

On average the children made 22 months progress in their spoken language skills in a 12 month period. Prior to the initiative the targeted children in nursery presented with a spoken language age equivalent of 9 months lower than their chronological age. At the end of the initiative the children presented with a spoken language age of 1 month higher than their chronological age.

Training

Based on training events offered centrally and using a 5 point scale of satisfaction, **85%** of attendees were **very satisfied**, **14%** were **satisfied**, **1%** were **fairly satisfied** and **0%** **not satisfied**. 100% of the attendees would recommend the course they attended.

Uptake on SLT-run courses is generally very high, suggesting that staff value these sessions. Education staff were asked to rate their knowledge and understanding pre and post training on a six point scale, with 1 denoting low knowledge and 6 high knowledge.

On average, staff rated their knowledge and understanding as 3.3 pre training, increasing to 4.9 post training. This is an average increase of 1.6 points.

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

There has been significant national recognition for the partnership working between Falkirk Children's Services and Speech and Language Therapy. Education staff and Speech and Language Therapists from across Scotland have visited Falkirk and Forth Valley to find out about this sector leading work. This includes staff from North Ayrshire, Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian, Glasgow and Ayrshire and Arran.

Speech and Language Therapy and Falkirk Education Staff have presented this work on the main stage at the Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative Conference in front of over 750 staff from across Scotland. SLT staff have also presented at the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy Conference and the National Association of Professionals concerned with Language Impaired Children (NAPLIC).

Speech and Language Therapy have been able to demonstrate exceptionally high performance as evidence by the SHANARRI performance monitoring data reported above.

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

There is a formal review on an annual basis. The Service Level Agreement Monitoring Group meets four times a year to review performance.

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

Speech and Language Therapy Services are required to demonstrate continuous improvement in line with NHS targets.

Discussions with Speech and Language Therapy service have already started working by developing links with the new Inclusion and Wellbeing service for children with Social and Emotional Behavioural Needs. This will allow us to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children in Falkirk and in line with the ambition of the "Closer to Home Strategy".

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?

Individual staff are fully regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council, NHS targets and quality assurances processes.

D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

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

As a total of Speech and Language Therapy NHS Forth Valley budget is 55.6%.

| |
|--|
| <p>2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.</p> <p>Head Teachers used Pupil Equity Fund for a separate piece of work to develop whole school approaches to improving children's spoken language in order to close the spoken language gap. This funding equated to £116,187; this additional resource is not a replacement for the core service and is not designed to meet the needs of children with specific and complex communication needs.</p> |
| <p>3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?</p> <p>The speech and language therapy service does not have separate reserves from the NHS.</p> |
| <p>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?</p> <p>Not applicable for the NHS.</p> |
| <p>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts</p> <p>NHS accounts are audited annually and are made public.</p> |
| <p>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?</p> <p>None</p> |
| <p>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</p> <p>Any further decrease in funding will have significant impact on service delivery and reach. Further negotiation will be required with NHS For the Valley.</p> |
| <p>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</p> <p>The monitoring officer and the service will be required to work collaboratively to reduce the service delivery as appropriate.</p> |

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

Cost for Children and Young People

- A reduction of Speech and Language Therapy services will potentially have an impact on the wellbeing, behaviour and learning of children in Falkirk both in the short and long term.

Cost to Education

- The risk of reducing Speech and Language Therapy input is that fewer children could be educated closer to home and rates of exclusions and school refusal may increase.
- Reputational risk for the council and potential increase in costs related to tribunals and complaints

Cost for Parents and Families

- 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

- Objectives for learning, attainment and behavior are all likely to be impacted if teachers are not able to access adequate support from their local SLT service.

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

Medium – further reductions in funding is likely to decrease the availability of the service, thereby meaning children and young people with communication difficulties are not assisted. Communication difficulties are associated with high risks such as poor health, poor mental health and anti- social behavior.

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 to children and young people, families, nurseries and schools. They have achieved the service delivery objectives set for the funding from Falkirk Council. The Service level agreement will be continually monitored.

F Monitoring Officer Details

Name: Gill Clark

Designation: Service Manager ASN

Service: Children Services

Date of Report: 30 August 2018

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Organisation Name | One Parent Families Scotland (OPFS) |
| Project | Maddiston/ Braes Family Centre |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Cathy Megarry |
| A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS | |
| <p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation</p> <p>The key objectives of One Parent families Scotland are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Single parents can participate fully in decision-making in their families, their communities, and the wider society. • 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 • OPFS is a resilient and responsive organisation, delivering quality-assured services, embracing culture of learning and development, supported by a sustainable financial strategy | |
| <p>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</p> <p>Maddiston/ Braes Family Centre provide the following:</p> <p>Support for families Families contribute to planning and decision making. Parents take responsibility for their children's welfare. Parents 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> | |

3. Why does the Council fund this?

Maddiston Family Centre offers support to vulnerable families across the 16 villages that make up the Upper Braes area. The area is characterised by low income families and does not have good public transport links.

By offering Family Support and Early Education in the Upper Braes area of Falkirk OPFS are addressing issues around parenting, attachment, poverty, poor mental health and attainment in early years, Primary School and High School. These are priorities for the Council.

The centre is well established and trusted in the local area and meets the needs of otherwise hard to reach families.

By offering early intervention locally, the service prevents escalation of need and the requirement for more intrusive and costly interventions.

There is no other comparable support service available in the local vicinity.

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

The Family Centre has supported people in the Upper Braes area for 30 years. The service has attracted additional funding to allow for a comprehensive service for children and families based on the evolving needs and wishes of the local area.

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

| Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support |
|---------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 2017/18 | £92,523 | £6000 (property costs) | |
| 2016/17 | £115,654 | £6000 | |
| 2015/16 | £115,000 | £6000 | |
| 2014/15 | £136,064 | £6000 | |
| 2013/14 | £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 Early Education for children aged two to three years. Families accessing the childcare are offered a package that comprises in-house and outreach support.

OPFS supports parents, especially single parents, with issues which include parenting, debt, budgeting, low mood and poor mental health, isolation, managing household tasks and identifying and addressing risk taking behaviour.

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 centred on their individual needs and can include developing strategies to enable them to deal with anger or risk-taking behaviour, improving school attendance and attainment or building confidence and resilience to deal with difficult situations, being IT aware or developing strategies that will keep them safe from harm.

Support is delivered systemically and where possible includes both school and parents.

The organisation's early education and childcare targets 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 due to developmental delay, including speech and language, disability or other contributing vulnerabilities within the family home.

Through other funding streams OPFS have been able to develop this service and offer a Drop In / Hub which offers a variety of different services which aim to maximize family's income.

Family Food and Fun sessions and holiday activities allow staff to role model healthy eating and provide advice on purchasing affordable meals. They also provide a fruit and many parents report that they have improved their children's diet as a result of being better informed.

The benefit to families on low incomes is significant. Along with a free healthy meal, families can access an Emergency Store which offers free essential household, hygiene, baby and sanitary items and a school clothing bank.

Sessions where parents and their children can come along and enjoy some time with their peers include: story and song times, physical activities, cooking, outdoor play and messy play. There are different themes each term which enable children to develop a range of skills. The group supports parents understanding of their child's development and provides guidance on a wide variety of issues.

Families can access the café area at any time allowing them to mix with other parents, speak to staff or access support from the range of other services including advice on benefit maximisation and home energy.

The service offers a befriending service to children, young people and parents which supports them to gain and improve their social skills and develop new interests, reducing social isolation and improving mood.

Where parents, especially lone parents, struggle to attend essential appointments with external and statutory agencies, the service offers respite sessions, allowing parents to deal with issues where non-attendance may lead to social work involvement, a housing crisis or poor outcomes for their children.

The service offers bespoke support for single fathers and their children. Whilst issues addressed are similar to the generic service the stigma facing lone fathers is taken into account.

Otherwise hard to reach and isolated families have a well-established social venue within their village which they trust and value and which breaks down many barriers to engagement and inclusion.

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

| Activities or outputs | Number | Funded through Falkirk Council |
|--|--------|--------------------------------|
| Family support or childcare for 25 families. | 58 | 100% |
| Enhanced service -multiple elements are offered to 7 families. | 74 | 40% |
| Specialist service of high intensity or long duration to 3 families. | 23 | 40% |
| Information and advice. | 148 | 40% |
| Work with families to improve their children's outcomes through activities for children. | 56 | 40% |
| Work with families to improve their children's outcomes through activities for parents. | 34 | 40% |
| Support for eligible 2 year olds | 16 | 100% |
| Support to lone and contact fathers. | 36 | 0% |

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 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 services compliment the Family Centre by offering universal support to families who have less barriers to engagement. This enables the Family Centre to support families into mainstream provision as their circumstances and capacity improve.

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
- Develop children 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.

The organisation also aligns with the aims and priorities outlined in the Children's Services Closer to Home strategy, aimed at empowering families and communities, improving outcomes and delivering sustainable services

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

The activities and developments within the service have been increasingly co-produced with the families who use it. The organisation reports that a less directive and more facilitative approach with families has empowered them to take a more active and innovative role in decision-making and planning. Families have directed several activities and work streams over the past year including the cooking group and a group to plan for celebrations to mark the centre's 30 years in the community. The sense of community buy-in and value placed on the family centre is apparent when visiting.

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

The Centre offers support mainly in the Upper Braes area of Falkirk, however they would support families out with the geographical area if they support could not be provided more locally. The Father's project covers the wider Falkirk 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.)**

The organisation continues to exceed the performance targets outlined in the service level agreement.

As funding has reduced, alternative funding has been accessed to enable an adapted mode of service delivery. Whilst the proportion of funding from the Council has reduced, the organisation has managed to sustain the number of people directly benefitting from the services they provide.

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

As described above and in the organisation's annual report, expectations have been exceeded in terms of how many families they were expected to work with.

Of those who engaged with the service, the vast majority have made positive progress by their own and the organisations measures.

Only 4 individuals during the year are reported as having disengaged or requiring higher levels of support than the organisation can meet.

This represents an extremely cost effective and community and family friendly means of service delivery.

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

Date of most recent review – March 2018

Next planned review - The service will be reviewed under the priorities of Children's Services 5 year Closer to Home strategy.

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

The organisation has been subject to significant cuts in funding from the Council in recent years which have led to reductions in staffing and increasing operational staff time spent fund raising and seeking other funding sources. External funders match existing funds and therefore less statutory funding received reduces the amount that can be attracted. External funding is also often offered on a short term basis which impacts on the organisation's ability to plan strategically on a medium term basis.

There would not appear to be further opportunities to increase efficiency at present.

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

D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

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

50%

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

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Falkirk Council Education Services | £82523 |
| 600 Hour Provision | £35000 |
| STV Appeal | £55822 |
| Robertson Trust | £17000 |
| Third Sector Early Intervention Fund | £40,000 |
| Earned | £3000 |
| Total | £233,345 |

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

Uncommitted reserves = £17,375 with pension reserve deducted = 2% of our annual operating costs.

Uncommitted reserves = £202,375 without deducting the pension reserve = 20% of our annual operating costs.

Our annual uncommitted operating costs are £999,706.

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

OPFS aim to have general 'free' reserves equivalent to 3 months' unrestricted operating costs to cover fluctuations in cash flow, any unexpected deficits in local services and redundancy obligations.

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

2016/17

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|---|
| <p>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?</p> <p>Various in-house and commissioned organisations offer family support across the council Area although none are established within the Upper Braes to the extent of this organisation. Family Support services are being aligned under Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy</p> |
| <p>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</p> <p>The organisation has received a funding reduction from Falkirk Council of £53,541 over the last 5 years and now attract 50% of their total income from other funders, a further reduction would mean a loss of matched funding by the same amount. A cut of £10,000 would, therefore, equate to a possible £20,000 cut in real terms.</p> <p>The organisation has redesigned its service on a couple of occasions and further to the reduction in funding are supporting more families than they were 5 years ago.</p> |
| <p>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</p> <p>The organisation has indicated that they would struggle to sustain a further cut than the 10% cut put in place in April of this year (2018).</p> |
| <p>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</p> <p>There would be no holistic support service for hard to reach, vulnerable families living in the Upper Braes area or provision for entitled twos in Maddiston. The reduction in access to early intervention and support would lead to escalation of need and an increase in the requirement for more costly and intensive interventions in the future.</p> |
| <p>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</p> <p>Low</p> |
| E CONCLUSIONS |
| <p>1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.</p> <p>The organisation has continued to perform exceptionally, despite reduced funding and a need to adapt its approach to service delivery.</p> <p>The organisation continues to seek funding from other sources to support their work but it should be noted that their capacity to do so is reduced as this is often matched to statutory funding.</p> <p>The work undertaken continues to represent good value for money</p> |
| F Monitoring Officer Details |
| Name: Cathy Megarry |
| Designation: Service Manager |
| Service: Children's Services |
| Date of Report: 04/09/2018 |

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Organisation Name | Quarriers |
| Project | Quarriers Children's Rights Service |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Vivien Thomson |

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation

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

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

Agreed Outcomes

- Provision of a service to children from Falkirk to ensure that their rights are upheld both individually and within policy developments.
- Evidence of addressing themes from across services which require attention in relation to children's rights, especially concerning corporate parenting duties.
- Close work with Who Cares? to ensure that together the rights of children who are looked after are maintained and upheld.
- Evidence of challenge to the Council and its partners where appropriate, where children's issues are not being properly upheld or developed.

- Evidence of involvement in and initiation of developments within Children's Services.
- Ensuring that key priorities in the 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 and sustaining the Champions Board model in relation to corporate parenting.

These aims align with the Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy and the Council Corporate Parenting Strategy and contribute to the inspection priorities in relation to hearing the voice of the young person.

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

The funding ensures that the Council fulfills its statutory duty to provide a Children's Rights Officer and children's rights 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 priority given to those who are:

- looked after,
- on the child protection register
- have a disability
- involved with the youth justice system.

The service also has a scrutiny role in terms of ensuring that the council adheres to the UNCRC 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 that we meet this core statutory duty as detailed above. Provision of the service internally would not provide the level of independence required to meet what is also a core priority for the council.

The views of looked after children are often overlooked and due to their particular status we have a responsibility to actively seek their views and provide them with the support required to ensure their voice is heard.

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

11 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 | £86,200 | Access to National Training and events. Assistance with Champions Board work | £10,475 (full year costs, Sept 17 to Sept 18) |
| 2015/16 | £86,200 | | |
| 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?

Quarriers in conjunction with Who Cares? provide 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:

- Young people for whom we have a corporate parenting duty
- Those involved with the youth justice system,
- Children with a disability
- Children on the child protection register.

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

The following children and young people can access the service.

- All our looked after children population- approximately 400 children at any one point
- Continuing care young people – 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, circa 70 children each month
- Those with a disability - two thirds of the referrals to the service in the first quarter of 2017 related to children and young people with additional needs.

Over each three month reporting period, approximately 21 new referrals will be received along with regular work in each of the Children's Units, Mariner Support service and with individual 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 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 Council's Children's Rights Service is not duplication as the service itself is a combination of two aspects of children's rights; the one agency specialising only in advocacy for young people looked after away from home, and the other providing the statutory Children's Rights Officer function (which encompasses a wider advocacy remit for vulnerable groups). This partnership approach has allowed the council to achieve best value in terms of resources, and to access significant additional benefit via both organisations.

Examples of additional benefits from Quarriers:

- 50% contribution to funding for a participation worker for Champions Board
- Locating a 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. This funding was able to be accessed specifically due to Quarriers existing Children's Rights presence in Falkirk and has had a significant impact on improving outcomes for young people.

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 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 report 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 Who Cares?

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. The Quarriers Children's Rights Officer works with the Champions Board young people and co-facilitates the work on gathering the views of young people.

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

The service covers the full council area, and is available to any child or young person who is normally resident in this area i.e. children and young people in the Falkirk area and those looked after and placed out with the council boundary.

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 reports on a quarterly basis to a Children's Rights and Champions Board steering group made up of all relevant partners and stakeholder. 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:

- Steady referrals to Falkirk Children's Rights Service, including evidence of contact with younger children who may find having their voice heard more of a challenge, an increase in those with additional needs accessing the service and continuing care issues.
- The use of a small number 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 with the participation work and supporting the young people who require additional support to participate

- Provision of the option of an 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 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 and is actively working to re-energise Rights Respecting Schools Award in Falkirk.
- The Children's Rights Officer or colleagues visit young people in Falkirk Council residential units and contracted units at least monthly, and links with the Foster Carers Consultative Committee and events to access children in 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 CRO has been involved in developing our 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 receives very positive feedback from the young people who access the service. Falkirk Councils partnership approach to children's rights is attracting national interest.

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| <p>3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this? Date of most recent review: 30 August 2018</p> <p>Next planned review: November 2018</p> |
| <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Co-location of 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. <p>Using vacancy management to offset other costs.</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? The service is not a registered service with the care inspectorate. It was however, part of the last Integrated Children's Services Inspection.</p> |
| <p>D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW</p> |
| <p>1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions. Falkirk Council provide £86,200 to Quarriers.</p> <p>Their overall income for 2016/17 was £42,166,000</p> |
| <p>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 which are detailed in their accounts.</p> |
| <p>3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation? Quarriers held £15,249,000 reserves at 1st April 2017. It is Quarriers policy to hold 12 weeks of operational expenditure in reserve at any one time.</p> |
| <p>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent? £15,249,000 equates to approximately 15 weeks operational costs for the overall services provided by Quarriers nationally.</p> |
| <p>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts Financial year 2016/17</p> |
| <p>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. 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 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.</p> |

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

The stand still 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 corporate parenting and provision of a Children's Rights Officer.

Quarterly monitoring allows the service to be reviewed regularly to ensure best use is made of the available resource, and that the service is provided within budget. The monitoring process also allows the service to be alert to future funding streams which may contribute or compliment the service.

8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?

The funding for the service, £86,200, primarily covers staffing costs for the two staff – the Children's Rights Officer and the admin post. These costs equate to £60,197, leaving £26,003 for activities and related expenses. An application of even a 5% cut would therefore inevitably 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 have maximised 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 fail to meet our statutory duties in terms of provisions of a Children's Rights Officer, and the duties in the Children and Young People (Scot) Act 2014. These duties would require to be undertaken by the council and would not have the independence that provides an important element to children's rights.

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.

This service, in conjunction with Who Cares? provides a statutory service to the council's most vulnerable young people. The budget has not increased since its inception 11 years ago. The service is valued and is 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 or performance is tight with rigorous quarterly reporting against key indicators.

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.

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| F Monitoring Officer Details |
| Name: Vivien Thomson |
| Designation: Service Manager |
| Service: Children's Services |
| Date of Report: 04/09/2018 |

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

| Organisation Name | Signpost Recovery | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|-----------------|------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------|--|---------|---------|-------------|--|---------|---------|-------------|--|---------|---------|-------------|--|---------|---------|-------------|--|
| Project | Criminal Justice Link Nurse - Women Offenders | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Ali Walls | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation 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.</p> <p>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.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council? 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.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>3. Why does the Council fund this? No Council money is now used to fund this provision. The NHS have assumed responsibility for service deliver and is reflected in the decrease in funding to the Signpost service from Criminal justice.</p> <p>To meet the three primary justice objectives –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public protection and community safety • Reduce re-offending <p>Enhance social inclusion and promote desistance from offending</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>4. How long has the Council funded this organisation to deliver this Service? Five years</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>5. Set out the funding provided by the Council over the last five years.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th><th>Annual Funding</th><th>Support in Kind</th><th>One Off Support</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017/18</td><td>£22,255</td><td>Office base</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td><td>£22,255</td><td>Office base</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>2015/16</td><td>£22,030</td><td>Office base</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td><td>£21,812</td><td>Office base</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td><td>£21,594</td><td>Office base</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">60% of costs</p> | | | | Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support | 2017/18 | £22,255 | Office base | | 2016/17 | £22,255 | Office base | | 2015/16 | £22,030 | Office base | | 2014/15 | £21,812 | Office base | | 2013/14 | £21,594 | Office base | |
| Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2017/18 | £22,255 | Office base | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2016/17 | £22,255 | Office base | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2015/16 | £22,030 | Office base | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2014/15 | £21,812 | Office base | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2013/14 | £21,594 | Office base | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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, no other service embedded within 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

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.)
[Link Nurse Intervention.](#)
[Evaluation of Sixteen Women's Community Justice Services in Scotland.](#)
[Signpost Recovery Service Update Report.](#)
[Self Evaluation for Community Justice in Scotland.](#)
[Link Nurse Report.](#)
2. **Exception reporting - Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.**
The post holder is extremely dedicated and totally focused on assisting women to improve their lives.
3. **When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?**
Date of most recent review – April 2018
Next planned review - November 2018
4. **Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?**
Service performance measures to be developed. Service efficiencies with NHS Partners to be considered at next Service Review.
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?**
[Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships – A report on the use and impact of the Quality Principles through validated self-assessment](#)

D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

1. 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 £ |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Restricted Funds | | | | | |
| 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) | - |
| | 19,420 | 16,761 | 313,852 | (326,465) | 23,568 |
| Designated Funds | | | | | |
| Mobile Harm Reductions | - | - | 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 |
| | 77,284 | 3,000 | 146,504 | (149,640) | 77,148 |
| Unrestricted fund | 668,176 | (19,761) | 1,052,049 | (894,572) | 805,892 |
| Total Funds | 764,880 | - | 1,512,405 | (1,370,677) | 906,608 |

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

| Capital and Reserves | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----------------|----------------|
| Restricted funds | 11 | 23,568 | 19,420 |
| Designated funds | 11 | 77,148 | 77,284 |
| Unrestricted fund | 11 | 805,892 | 668,176 |
| | | | |
| Accumulated funds | | 906,608 | 764,880 |

3. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

6 months

4. Last period of submitted audited accounts

Based on the Signpost Annual Report & Accounts 2015-16* updated account information requested.

* Annual Report & Accounts 2017-18 have still to be formally agreed and ratified at the Signpost AGM

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

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.

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

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.

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.

7. How can reductions in funding be achieved?

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.

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

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.

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

Low.

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| E CONCLUSIONS |
| 1. Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered. Service will continue to be monitored and reviewed on a quarterly basis. |
| F Monitoring Officer Details |
| Name: Ali Walls |
| Designation: Service Manager |
| Service: Children's Services |
| Date of Report: 4 September 2018 |

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

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|--|------------------------------|
| Organisation Name | Signpost Recovery |
| Project | Time 4 Us |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Matthew Davies |
| A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS | |
| <p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation</p> <p>Objectives and Activities</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 & social care services in the local authority areas of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling. Signpost Recovery carries out the following activities in the attainment of the aforementioned objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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); • The facilitation of clinics, appointments, outreach services and 'Drop-in' provision for those identified as being affected by substance misuse whilst resident in the Forth Valley area; • The identification, development, promotion and maintenance of partnerships and/or working relationships with the relevant individuals, services, agencies, commissioners and key stakeholders; • 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 • The identification, development, planning, co-production and provision of care, support and treatment services to new and emerging client groups in carefully planned and well organised projects. | |
| <p>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</p> <p>The service is funded 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:</p> <p>Objective 1: Families will have easy access to support that improves parental capacity and parenting skills.</p> | |

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: We will increase the support and reduce the challenges for families with multiple and complex needs.

The project works with children and families affected by parental drug and/or alcohol use. Time 4 Us first began in 2008 as a partnership with Aberlour Child Care Trust, before Signpost Recovery then assumed full responsibility for service delivery, project management and client outcomes in May 2011. Time 4 Us has gone from strength to strength and continues to offer intensive support, interventions and care packages to both children, their parents and/or carer's.

This year saw a **29%** increase in referrals for work with children in comparison to the previous year. The main source of referral for the Time 4 Us service from the Falkirk area was social work, who accounted for **42%** of the total referrals received.

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 have 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. More specifically, Our work contributes to the following 4 priorities:

- Improving mental health and wellbeing;
- Maximising job creation and employability;
- Minimising the impact of substance misuse; and
- 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; and
- Our area will be a safer place to live.

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, thereby growing into adulthood with unresolved trauma, low resilience and poor attachment and academic attainment.

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

9 years

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

| Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2017/18 | £38,869 | | |
| 2016/17 | £42,375 | | |
| 2015/16 | £45,000 | | |
| 2014/15 | £45,000 | | |
| 2013/14 | £45,000 | | |

Other 2017-18 funding:

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Big Lottery | £45,926 |
| Signpost Recovery | £25,000 |
| Stirling Council | £15,000 |
| Clacks Council | £ 8,846 |

B SERVICE DELIVERY

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

The Time 4 Us Project works with children and families affected by their parents' drug and/or alcohol use. Time 4 Us first began in 2008 as a partnership with Aberlour Child Care Trust, before Signpost Recovery then assumed full responsibility for service delivery, project management and client outcomes in May 2011. Time 4 Us has gone from strength to strength and continues to offer intensive support, interventions and care packages to both children, their parents and/or carers.

The Time 4 Us Service 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. The Time 4 Us service supports families through child welfare and protection procedures, ensuring that children's voices are heard.

The Time 4 Us team have noted that children are presenting to the service with more complex issues. This may be due to longer exposure to traumatic events or possibly down to a more skilled Children and Families team who are recognising more complexity of need.

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

Between 01/04/17 and 31/03/18, Time 4 Us received 24 referrals for children/families within the Falkirk local authority area:

| Source of Referral | Number |
|--|-----------|
| Falkirk Children & Families Social Work | 10 |
| Falkirk Addiction Recovery Service | 8 |
| Self Referrals | 3 |
| Signpost Recovery | 2 |
| Community Alcohol & Drugs Service (CADS) | 1 |
| Total Referrals | 24 |

This year has seen a **29%** increase in referrals for children's work. This highlights the value and importance of the work carried out by the Time 4 Us team. Social Work staff have continued to be the main source of referral for the Time 4 Us service and they continually report via stakeholder feedback that the service is invaluable in supporting children and families, especially with the complexity of the impact of parental substance misuse. They highlight the excellent and timeous information sharing, which helps assist in their function, all working in partnership in the best interests of children's emotional health and well-being.

Project Overall Outcomes:

Outcome 1:

15 Parents were supported to improve their parenting capacity. 40% fully met this outcome with 60% partially meeting the outcome.

15 Families were supported to stay together in the best interest of the child whilst reducing statutory involvement. 40% fully met this outcome, with 60% partially meeting the outcome.

15 Parents were supported to increase their motivation, confidence, and feelings of self-worth. 40% fully met this outcome, with 60% partially meeting the outcome.

Outcome 2:

43 Children were supported to show an increase in their self-esteem and resilience. 60% fully met this outcome with 40% partially meeting the outcome.

43 Children were supported to improve attendance and achievement at School/Nursery etc, 60% fully met Outcome, with 40% partially meeting the outcome.

43 Children were supported to have improved well-being in accordance with the well-being indicators. 60% fully met this outcome, with 40% partially meeting the outcome.

Outcome 3:

42 Families were supported to improve their social functioning. 45% fully met this outcome, with 55% partially meeting the outcome.

42 Families were supported to demonstrate improved structure, routines, and boundaries. 45% fully met this outcome, with 55% partially meeting the outcome.

42 families were supported to improve structure, routines and boundaries. 45% fully met this outcome, with 55% 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.

The service offers one to one support for parents in an environment where they feel safe and secure (for instance with in their own household). 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, which can be a significant barrier to change.

The Time 4 Us service provides children and families with information on the impact of substance misuse, utilising highly specialised resources, in tandem with an integrated care pathway, responsive to local need and delivered by an experienced staff team who have an in-depth knowledge and understanding in respect of the impact of substance misuse on families, children, young people and the wider community.

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 service 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

Our work 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

The Time 4 Us team have noted that children are presenting to the service with more complex issues. This may be due to longer exposure to traumatic events or possibly down to a more skilled Children and Families team, who are recognising more complexity of need. 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 education, children and families' social work and other third sector organisations. Examples of the impact of this work includes:

- Education staff, children and families report a notable increase in children's school attendance and attainment levels, whilst engaging with the service.
- Service users have increased 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.

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

Time 4 Us 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 re their experience of the service and complete an exit evaluation upon discharge.

Children were previously involved in the recruitment process for a Children and Families worker, which ensured a child focused approach was taken and their voices heard in relation to what they felt the service needed in a new member of staff. The service is currently advertising for a children and families worker and the plan would be to involve children in the recruitment process once again.

Time 4 Us adopts a person-centred approach to assessment and care planning when working with children and families. Initial work with a child or family focusses on assessment of needs, to ensure that a tailored, individual care plan can be created.

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

Time 4 Us is delivered across the whole of the Falkirk local authority 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.)**

The Time 4 Us service 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 the entire service delivery.

In addition, the Time 4 Us service reports performance against key indicators to the Big Lottery as part of annual monitoring requirements. The service will continue to report this performance information going forward.

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

Time 4 Us team have noted 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. Time 4 Us endeavours to advise and signpost any referring professional to additional support while a child is waiting for the service.

The range and remit of services that can support children and families has reduced since the inception of the Time 4 Us service. Given this, the team, are working to identify new and innovative support packages for children and young people exiting Time 4 Us.

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

Date of most recent review – 28/03/2018

Next planned review – 26/09/2018

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

Time 4 Us will continue to nurture and develop existing and new partnerships across the Falkirk area as part of the service's sustainability plan. As an example of this, Time 4 Us are working to extend the holiday activity programme currently modeled with Active Stirling to leisure facilities in the Falkirk area. This is a work in progress with negotiations ongoing. The extension of the programme would provide equal opportunities and free access to physical activities for children within the Falkirk area.

Time 4 Us Children and Families workers are supporting the wider substance misuse workforce across Forth Valley to enhance the response of addictions services to the impact of parental substance misuse on children.

Given the capacity of the service, waiting times can still be lengthy. Although there is the risk that a waiting period could impact on motivation and willingness to engage with the service, this has not been the case as there has been a **29%** increase in referrals for Children's work in comparison to the previous year.

The referral screening process is working effectively and ensures that only appropriate referrals are accepted to the waiting list and this coupled with a new 16 week work schedule for each client should reduce waiting times.

- 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?**

<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/534651/alcohol-and-drug-partnerships-use-and-impact-of-the-quality-principles.pdf>

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. Moreover, we have also been able to increase our reserves in line with Board targets. Whilst we are a 'not for profit' organisation we are actively turning financial profit into 'social profit' and are deploying resources to the benefit of our client groups and key stakeholders. Signpost Recovery now have a portfolio of 11 contracts which include Time 4 Us, GPPS, Addiction Recovery Service, Harm Reduction Team, Clackmannanshire Healthier Lives, Core Drug and Alcohol Services, Enhanced Addiction Casework Service, Tackling Health and Inequalities project, Social Inclusion Project Criminal Justice and Arrest Referral.

Annual Report & Accounts 2017-18 have still to be formally agreed and ratified at the Signpost AGM.

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

Movement in funds

| | 2016 £ | Transfer between funds £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | 2017 £ |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| CHL Fund | - | - | 45,191 | (45,191) | - |
| CHL Management Fund | 23,568 | - | 132,963 | (126,174) | 30,357 |
| Time4Us | - | 11,045 | 115,926 | (126,971) | - |
| Social Influencing Work | - | - | 5,446 | (5,446) | - |
| | <u>23,568</u> | <u>11,045</u> | <u>299,526</u> | <u>(303,782)</u> | <u>30,357</u> |
| Designated funds | | | | | |
| Mobile Harm Reduction | 9,074 | - | 17,608 | (8,178) | 18,504 |
| Time4Us (donations and events) | 13,849 | 2,000 | 800 | (2,793) | 13,856 |
| Criminal Justice Services | 37,848 | - | 110,710 | (92,930) | 55,628 |
| Early Intervention Worker | 425 | - | - | (425) | - |
| Veterans Recovery Worker | 15,952 | - | 31,172 | (31,891) | 15,233 |
| ARBD Social Care Coordinator | - | - | 35,000 | (9,284) | 25,716 |
| GPPS Development Officer | - | - | 27,978 | (16,079) | 11,897 |
| Service Development Programme | - | - | 100,000 | - | 100,000 |
| Challenging Behaviour Model | - | - | 100,000 | - | 100,000 |
| Social Influencing Work | - | - | 29,834 | - | 29,834 |
| | <u>77,148</u> | <u>2,000</u> | <u>453,100</u> | <u>(161,580)</u> | <u>370,668</u> |
| General fund | 805,892 | (13,045) | 1,097,209 | (1,038,225) | 851,831 |
| Total funds | <u>906,608</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,849,835</u> | <u>(1,503,587)</u> | <u>1,252,856</u> |

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

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Restricted Funds | 30,357 | 23,568 |
| Designated Funds | 370,668 | 77,148 |
| General Funds | 851,831 | 805,892 |
| Accumulated Funds | 1,252,856 | 906,608 |

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

6 months

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

Annual Report & Accounts 2016 - 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?

Time 4 Us and Axis (subject to a separate FPP report) provide specialist substance services to young people. Time 4 Us focus on family interventions to promote safe care and good parenting capacity.

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, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils. As a 'Third Sector' organisation Signpost can attract grant funding, furthermore, owing to Signpost's business model it has been putting surplus into the project, thus turning financial profit into social profit. This funding arrangement supports Time 4 Us to deliver an enhanced service to families across Falkirk and the wider Forth Valley.

This combination of funding reduces the reliance upon Falkirk Council, however, any reduction of the contribution from the Council could potentially reduce this provision.

8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?

As 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, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils, 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 Big Lottery Monitoring officer, 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. Thus, to maintain the current provision of the Time 4 Us service, there will always be 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?

If there were to be a reduction in funding from the Council, this would have a significant impact on the number of children and families the Time 4 Us Project would be able to support. As Time 4 Us can demonstrate how it contributes to the delivery of key priorities within the Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan 2016 – 2020, the reduction in service provision could potentially 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 will continue to nurture and develop existing and new partnerships across the Falkirk local authority area as part of the services sustainability plan. As an example of this, Time 4 Us will continue to negotiate the extension of the holiday activity programme currently modeled with Active Stirling, to reach across the Falkirk local authority area. The extension of the programme will provide equal opportunities and free access to physical activities to children across Falkirk.

Time 4 Us Children and Families workers continue to support the wider substance misuse workforce across Forth Valley to enhance the response of addictions services to the impact of parental substance misuse on children.

Time 4 Us continually assess the effectiveness of 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 a high quality, responsive service. The organisation will receive support from the Big Lottery to build the next funding bid with a view to sustaining the delivery of this service.

F Monitoring Officer Details

Name: Matthew Davies

Designation: Service Manager

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 04/09/2018

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2017/18

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Organisation Name | "Who Cares?" Scotland |
| Project | Advocacy Service |
| Agreement Dates | 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 |
| Name of Monitoring Officer | Vivien Thomson |
| A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS | |
| <p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliver an effective independent advocacy, advice and support service to children and young people who are looked after away from home. • To liaise with other relevant service providers and particularly to work alongside the Falkirk Children's Rights Officer in the provision of a Children's Rights Service for Falkirk • To collate feedback from young people and assess this information to identify needs. • To consult with children and young people about the services they receive to enable those who need a stronger voice to have their views listened to and actioned where appropriate. • To enable children and young people to be involved in contributing to decisions about their personal care plan. • To challenge discriminatory views. • To support children and young people in ways that improve their confidence. • To act in the child/young person's best interests. • Where required to act as an intermediary between children/young people and Council services. <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>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</p> <p>In conjunction with Quarriers, the service provided by Who Cares? ensures that the Council fulfill its 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 combined 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 UNCRC 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.

It is essential that looked after children are supported to ensure their views are heard and taken into consideration.

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.

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

| Year | Annual Funding | Support in Kind | One Off Support |
|---------|----------------|--|---|
| 2017/18 | £27,970 | Access to national events + research e.g. thousand voices | Provision of support to develop Family Firm options |
| 2016/17 | £27,970 | Access to national events + research. Funding of £10,725 for trainee (month period) | |
| 2015/16 | £27,970 | | |
| 2014/15 | £27,970 | | |
| 2013/14 | £27,970 | | |

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

Who Cares? provide, 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 in continuing care.

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, 25 to 27 young people at any one point.

The Who Cares? Advocacy worker will work with approximately 25 young people over each quarterly reporting period.

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 additional advocacy for vulnerable groups. 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 Who Cares? family firm experience
- Access to Champions Board experience and training, and funding for Champions Board staff
- Supported employment opportunities for Falkirk young people

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

Corporate Parenting is a 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 summer 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 undertaken jointly with Quarriers and in conjunction with monitoring of Champions Board

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 aged 0 – 21 who is looked after away from home or previously looked after away from home and who is normally resident in this area. This includes those looked after and placed out with the council boundary.

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 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 about 25 young people every quarter other than the fourth quarter which includes individual meetings with young people and formal meetings. The advocacy worker was unwell during the final quarter. This time is being replaced by additional hours being provided for 2018/19.
- 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 focused on issues in relation to older young people, including undertaking regular visits to residential units within Falkirk and purchased placements out with the Local Authority area to ensure that young people's rights are upheld.
- Who Cares? Scotland continues to work in partnership with Quarriers Children's Rights Service to jointly provide a Children's Rights and Advocacy service for Falkirk Council's children and young people. This has included joint service development work in relation to the 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 with the Champions Board staff.
- 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 other 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 and have provided core material on the support needs for staff and young people for our Family Firm development in Falkirk

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| <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 Children's Rights Service is universally praised by the young people who access the service. Falkirk Councils partnership approach to children's rights is attracting national interest.</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 30th</p> <p>August 2018</p> <p>Next planned review</p> <p>November 2018</p> |
| <p>4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?</p> <p>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 FFP 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> |
| <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>The service is not a registered service with the care inspectorate. It was however, part of the last Integrated Children's Services Inspection.</p> |
| <p>D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW</p> |
| <p>1. Set out Falkirk Council funding as a % of the organisations budget. Including financial and in kind contributions.</p> <p>Who Cares? is a national organisation with an income of £2,574,507</p> <p>Falkirk Council provide funding of £27,970</p> |
| <p>2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.</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. Falkirk benefit from this funding.</p> |
| <p>3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?</p> <p>£462,041. This is below their target of £550,000 or 9 weeks operational costs.</p> <p>Their annual accounts indicate that their level of reserves is not a concern.</p> |
| <p>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?</p> <p>The annual operational costs of Who Cares? Scotland is £3,270,939. Reserves are £462,041</p> |

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| <p>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts Year ending March 2017</p> |
| <p>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. 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>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council? As noted also in the Quarriers FFP report, the stand still 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> |
| <p>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved? 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 FPP report on Quarriers. Further reduction in funding would make the post non-viable, with loss of the service, and the related funding it attracts.</p> <p>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, and utilize the additional capacity provided by funding streams which can accessed by our partners.</p> |
| <p>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 the children's rights duties in the Children and Young People (Scot) Act 2014. These duties would still require to be undertaken by the council.</p> |
| <p>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</p> <p>Low</p> |

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: 04/09/2018