

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. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 4

**Following The Public Pound:
Services To Children & Young People
2018/19 Annual Reporting Statements**

Falkirk Council

Title: Following The Public Pound: Services To Children & Young People – 2018/19 Annual Reporting Statements

Meeting: Scrutiny Committee - External

Date: 10 October 2019

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 2018 to March 2019.

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 11 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 Business 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 2018/19 and the previous financial year (2017/18) is provided.

Organisation	2017/18	2018/19	Appendix
Aberlour Early Years Outreach	£227,705	£159,060	1
Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees	£168,811	£110,937	2
Barnardo's	£732,285	£500,000	3
Home-Start Falkirk West	£28,014	£28,014	4
NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children	£68,472	£64,904	5
NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy	£465,040	£465,040	6
One Parent Families Scotland Falkirk	£92,523	£82,523	7
Quarriers Children's Rights Service	£86,200	£86,200	8
Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us	£38,869	£38,869	9
"Who Cares?" Scotland Advocacy Service	£27,970	£27,970	10
TOTAL	£1,935,889	£1,563,517	

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 2018/2019 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: 27 September 2019

Appendices

Annual Reporting Statements

- 1) Aberlour Early Years Outreach
- 2) Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees
- 3) Barnardo's: Axis Service; Lifelong Links Service - Family Group Decision Making
- 4) Home-Start Falkirk West
- 5) NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children
- 6) NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy
- 7) One Parent Families Scotland, Falkirk
- 8) Quarriers Children's Rights Service
- 9) Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us
- 10) "Who Cares?" Scotland Advocacy Service

List of Background Papers

None

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2018/19

Organisation Name	Aberlour
Project	Aberlour Early Years Outreach
Agreement Dates	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
Name of Monitoring Officer	Cathy Megarry

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

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.

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:-

- 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

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

Aberlour Early Years Outreach is tasked to provide services to disadvantaged families and those experiencing multiple stress.

The Service contributes to the following Strategic Priorities:

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

3. Why does the Council fund this?

The Council are committed to 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.

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
2018/19	159,060	Office premises, electricity	Nil
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

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 impacted by one or more of the following :- 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. Many of these issues, referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic events, including parents and/or children's experiences of abuse and neglect.

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: 6 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.

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

- a. Since 2000, Aberlour Early Years Outreach has received over 3,400 family referrals impacting over 4000 children.
- b. From 1st April 2018 and March 2019, the Service received referrals for 192 families (233 children). This includes new referrals and re-referrals.
- c. Between 1st April 2018 and March 2019, the service supported an additional 62 families (97 children) who had been referred to the Service prior to 1st April 2018.
- d. This is a reduction of 33 children from the previous year due to reduced staffing as a result of reduced funding from the Council.
- e. In addition, financial assistance was provided to 39 families (60 children) totalling £1,782.95. The majority of the funds paid for food, gas and electricity. There were also clothes and shoes purchased for some children. Most of the requests for this assistance were from Children's Services Social Work Staff. This was paid for through external fundraised monies.
Taking into account of all of the above = 293 families (369 children) have directly benefitted from the organisation.

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 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.

Early Years Outreach works in specific geographical areas, however, the service will extend its reach, when other agencies do not have types of intervention that Aberlour provides.

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

Please see section A 2 and 3 above.

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.

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

Each parent is part of planning what type of support and intervention would benefit them and their children. This is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

This bespoke planning and review process is fundamental to how individual families are supported and the collective information is analysed and also informs how the Service operates as a whole.

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

The Service primarily works with expectant parents and those with children under the age of 5 years as follows:- 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.

However, the Service will extend its reach as required to meet unmet need.

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.)

Please note that while the Service supported 193 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 2018 but were supported in the last financial year.

254 family referrals to support parents of 309 children, the following breakdown of services provided does not equate to 254 family referrals as children and parents may receive more than one type of support or intervention

- Stay and Play Group - 4 families (5 parents & 4 children). This programme has seen a reduction, primarily due to increased access to Early Learning & Childcare placements in nurseries, particularly 'eligible 2" year olds. An unintended consequence of this government initiative is that vulnerable parents leave their children at nursery and are not provided with the direct guidance and teaching in how to engage with their young children which was a key objective of Stay & Play.
- Positive Parents Programme - 29 parents received this support within a group setting or on a 1:1 basis
- Finding a Balance Programme - 15 parents received this support within a group setting or on a 1:1 basis
- Sleep Scotland - 26 families accessed this intervention
- Infant Massage - 104 babies received Infant Massage with their parents
- Seasons for Growth (Adult Programme) - 11 parents accessed this support

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting Manual Assessment Software (PAMS) - 1 assessment was completed • Linked Childminder Scheme - 17 children were supported by this service • Individual Parenting Support – 50 families received this support
<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.</p> <p>b) Aberlour's national resource "Aberlour's Urgent Assistance Fund" has provided additional funds for families affected by Poverty and/or low income: This fund has supported 33 families in Falkirk (85 children), specifically :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberlour Early Years Outreach : - £150 for 1 family (1 child) • Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees :- £1860 for 6 families (17 children) • Falkirk Council Children & Families Social Work:- £5200 for 25 families (65 children) • Falkirk High School :- £123 for 1 family (2 children) <p><u>TOTAL : £7,333 for 33 families (85 children)</u></p> <p>c) 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 Protection Practitioners' Forum.</p> <p>d) Aberlour Perinatal Befriending Support: This service supports women affected by perinatal mental illness. In 2018/19, the service received 71 referrals. This is funded by Comic Relief (£109, 693).</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 – May 2019 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 and 2018 – 19 as a result of reduced Council funding. The Service is currently assessing the role of volunteers in increasing in capacity.</p> <p>Aberlour's Marketing and Fundraising continue to make funding application to try to source external funding to bridge gaps in service provision.</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>

D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

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

Falkirk Council funds 100% of the Service's budget.
(with the exception of the funds used to financially assist families affected by hardship and poverty)

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

Aberlour's Perinatal Befriending Support received 71 referrals to work with parents 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 2018/19, these funds were received from Comic Relief which totalled £109,693.

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

There are no uncommitted reserves with the Aberlour Early Years Outreach.

Aberlour as a Scotland wide organisation, at 31st March 2019, has uncommitted or "free" unrestricted reserves of £2,419,000.

Note – these reserves are at a level consistent with 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 around 50 services across Scotland in an emergency situation, many of which operate without certainty on funding.

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

"Free" reserves represents 13.0% of total operational costs for Aberlour as a Scotland wide organisation.

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

The draft accounts for the period up to 31 March 2019 have been prepared and audited. The draft accounts were initially given a "clean" audit, presenting a fair and true view of the organisation. However, due to an identified control weakness, further enhanced audit arrangements may be applied. It is anticipated that this will impact on disclosure notes, rather than the overall financial position.

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>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</p> <p>Aberlour has worked closely with Falkirk Council to minimise the impact of the reduction of funding in recent years. However such changes are inevitable meaning less parents and children are supported.</p> <p>The reduction of 30% grant funding for 2018/2019 equates to 49.6% reduction over the past 5 years, when comparing funding of £320,758 in 2014/2015</p>
<p>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</p> <p>Aberlour has been able to sustain a reduced Service due to the reduced funding. Further funding cuts would reduce provision further and impact on the viability of the service.</p>
<p>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</p> <p>Aberlour's work directly supports parents in making changes in how they care for their children and/or how they can make changes to their own lifestyle that will benefit their families.</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>
<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>Whilst they have reached fewer families this year, the organisation has continued to perform well despite a significant reduction in funding over recent years.</p> <p>In 2018/2019 the Service secured some Pupil Equity Funding to work with primary school age pupils and their families. This funding has not been continued and the service will be reviewed under the priorities of the closer to Home strategy.</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: 06/09/2018</p>

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2018/19

Organisation Name	Aberlour
Project	Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees
Agreement Dates	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
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 disadvantaged families and those experiencing multiple stress, primarily offering support to expectant parents and children under the age of 5 years, supporting families to enhance their child's development, improve family relations and engaging them within their local community.</p> <p>Support is also offered to families with children under the age of 12 years where there is a need for additional support and capacity is available. Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees also currently provides additional services directly to Falkirk Council Primary Schools funded via Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)</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>Support is primarily provided to families living in the Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron areas but 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. 	

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.

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.

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
2018/19	£110,937 plus £40,000 from PEF	Falkirk Council provides the premises for the services contracted.	12 families (15 adults and 29 children) in receipt of food, fuel, household items, clothing, transport costs, replacement birth certificates and funeral costs totalling £1003. 6 families were supported to access the foodbank and a further 10 families were supported with the Salvation Army Christmas appeal.
2017/18	£168,811		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.

Over the past 2 years, Council funding to the Family Support Centre has reduced by 42%

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.
- Eligible 2's initiative

The Family Centre's services are also offered to children between the ages of 5 and 12 years where there is a need for additional support and funding has been provided via PEF. 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?

94 children and parents were supported by the service between April 2018 and March 2019 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 via Langlees Primary School PEF post.

The number of new requests for assistance for the financial year was: 108 (*35% increase from previous year*)

April - 7	May - 8	June - 11	July - 7
August - 7	September - 12	October - 12	November - 10
December - 3	January - 11	February - 13	March - 7

At year end March 2019, there was a waiting list for all services with 16 families requiring support. Referrals were received from the following sources:

Health	12
Children's Services	66
Parent/Self	36
Other	7

This represents a significant increase in parents self-referring and referrals from children's Services. Main reasons for referral include social and emotional concerns for child, 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 55 families
- Enhanced service, where multiple elements are offered supported 7 families
- Specialist service of high intensity or long duration supported 13 families
- PEF supported 34 families via Langlees Primary School

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"We wouldn't manage without the support Aberlour and the impact the cuts have been having". Social Work Team</i> • <i>"We can't begin to thank you and Aberlour Trust for everything you have done for our son. When no-one would listen to us it was only you guys that did and we are so grateful. He is really going to miss you Jane as he built up trust with you. Many thanks once again." Parent</i> • <i>"Aberlour Langlees Family Support Centre have really helped both myself and my child over the past few years. I feel their hard work and support with not just myself but the community should be fed back to someone." Parent</i> • <i>I couldn't have got through the past 2 years without you amazing women! I can't put into words how much you have helped me and my son. Especially you Kim! I will be forever grateful. Everyone from that family centre goes above and beyond their duties to help parents & kids & I personally feel you guys don't get enough credit. Thanks again for making me the parent I am today." Parent</i>
<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>Falkirk families have benefited from £7333 from Aberlour's Urgent Assistance Fund – 33 families including 85 children. This money has been accessed by both Aberlour services, Falkirk Council and Falkirk High School.</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 2019</p> <p>Next planned review – The service will be reviewed under the priorities of Children's Services 5 year Closer to Home strategy.</p>
<p>4. Are there any improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that could be achieved?</p> <p>There are no improvements identified at present.</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>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. Inspection due any time soon.</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>Council funding represents 2.4% of organisation's budget.</p>

<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Aberlour Urgent Assistance Fund</u>: this is specifically to help families, across Falkirk, in need of resources when affected by poverty. Over 2018 / 2019, 33 Falkirk families have benefitted at a cost of £7333. • <u>Individual donors / fundraising</u>: This provides minor funds to support particular one-off activities and does not contribute to the daily running of the Service. • <u>Impact of Welfare Reform</u>: 12 families were supported from the fund raised budget at a cost of £1003.
<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 2019, has uncommitted or "free" unrestricted reserves of £2,419,000.</p> <p>Note – these reserves are at a level consistent with 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 around 50 services across Scotland in an emergency situation, many of which operate without certainty on funding.</p>
<p>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?</p> <p>"Free" reserves represents 13.0% of total operational costs for Aberlour as a Scotland wide organisation.</p>
<p>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts</p> <p>The draft accounts for the period up to 31 March 2019 have been prepared and audited. The draft accounts were initially given a "clean" audit, presenting a fair and true view of the organisation. However, due to an identified control weakness, further enhanced audit arrangements may be applied. It is anticipated that this will impact on disclosure notes, rather than the overall financial position.</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>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.</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>Aberlour has seen 42% reduction 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.</p>

Any further funding reductions will see a reduction in front line services to children and families and an increase in the already growing awaiting list.	
8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?	The viability of the service will be at risk if further reductions are made.
9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?	<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>
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.	<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>
F.	Monitoring Officer Details
Name: Cathy Megarry	
Designation: Service Manager	
Service: Children's Services	
Date of Report: 05/09/2019	

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2018/19

Organisation Name	Barnardo's
Project	Axis Service Lifelong Links Service - Family Group Decision Making
Agreement Dates	1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019
Name of Monitoring Officer	Cathy Megarry
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. Barnardo's vision is that the lives of all children, young people and families should be free from poverty, abuse and discrimination. Barnardo's purpose is to help the most vulnerable children and young people transform their lives and fulfill their potential. Barnardo's work in partnership with local authorities to meet agreed strategic aims. The service fits within the principles of Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy for earlier intervention and prevention of escalation in the needs of young people and families.</p> <p>Axis Service</p> <p>The service aims to reduce the risk and harm to young people, families and communities in the Falkirk area by providing support to people up to the age of 19 (or 25 if care experienced) who are experiencing difficulties related to alcohol or substance use. Interventions include a core service for medium to long term support for young people with more complex difficulties and an early intervention service including group work and up to 8 individual and/or family sessions. Axis also provides awareness raising sessions with Children's Services partners across universal and targeted services.</p> <p>Family Group Decision Making Service</p> <p>Family Group Decision Making is a process that brings family members together to make decisions about how to care safely for their children and develop a Family Plan. It is a child-centred approach, involving the child in an age appropriate manner, to contribute their views to the planning for their future. It concentrates on bringing the wider family together to identify solutions in a blame-free, future focused way.</p> <p>Lifelong Links</p> <p>The Lifelong Links Service is for children and young people who have been in care for 5 years or less with no plans to return home or be adopted. The service aims to find family members or reconnect with those where contact has been lost, to provide children and young people with lasting relationships upon which they can depend, know more about their own history and feel a stronger sense of identity. These lifelong connections will hopefully give children someone to turn to for practical and emotional support.</p>	

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

Barnardo's aims and priorities compliment Falkirk Council priorities and the services directly support and contribute to Falkirk Council's SOLD and Integrated Children's Services Plan priorities to:

- improve mental health and wellbeing;
- address the impact of poverty on children;
- minimize the impact of substance misuse on children;
- promote the principle of early intervention and prevention in the use of substances;
- support children to develop into resilient, confident and successful adults; and
- enable people to live full, independent and positive lives within supportive communities

The **Family Group Decision Making and Lifelong Links** services support Falkirk's Council's duty under Part 12 of the Children and Young People Act 2014 Act to make arrangements to ensure that relevant services are offered to families. These services facilitate family decision making and increase parenting capacity and skills.

The Children and Young People Act 2014 also requires local authorities to consider placing children with family or friend carers in the first instance and only if that is not appropriate, to then place children in foster or residential placements.

Crucially, this supports one of the key aims of the closer to home strategy, to reduce the number of children looked after away from home and in residential care by supporting and empowering families as experts in their own lives.

The **Barnardo's AXIS Service** provides a specialist young person's substance misuse service in the Falkirk Council area, supporting the Council to address its priorities in SOLD, minimising the impact of substance misuse. The service provides advice and information for young people and parents. It promotes knowledge and understanding of the needs of young people who are misusing substances and works with Children's Services in sharing practice, understanding responsibilities and providing drug specific support and information to universal and non-specialist services as appropriate.

3. Why does the Council fund this?

The services provided by Barnardos are part of a Spend to Save initiative.

The Axis Service provides a harm reduction service to young people and is aligned with the SOLD priority of reducing harm resulting from substance misuse. As identified from Falkirk Child Protection data there is significant correlation between risk to children and the prevalence of substance misuse.

The Barnardo's Family Group Decision Making Service and Lifelong Links Service have been designed as part of Falkirk Council's 5 year Closer to Home Strategy, which "seeks to improve outcomes for young people by strengthening families and building resilience to enable more young people to stay at home as opposed to being in care".

The Family Group Decision Making Service aims to empower families to develop their own Family Plans to protect and support children to stay safely at home or in their own community rather than residential or foster care. All Barnardo's Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) Service Coordinators are trained and certified and all have received additional training through the Family Rights Group to undertake Lifelong Links. Where this has been established elsewhere, young people who have been supported to identify and establish life long connections have become more settled in their placements where their needs had previously been escalating.

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

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

Until March 2018, Barnardo's Cluaran and Education Family Resource Services were funded to provide assessment, supported and targeted interventions to vulnerable families in Falkirk which ranged across a spectrum from early intervention to specialist therapeutic work and support to children who are 'Looked After'.

In response to reduced funding and opportunities to realign with the Closer to Home Strategy, Barnardo's agreed to provide Family Group Decision Making and Lifelong Links services in Falkirk to harness families' support and resources to help keep children safe, and where possible enable children to stay within the family home and/or wider community.

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

	<u>Cluaran</u>	<u>BEFRC</u>	<u>Axis</u>	<u>FGDM/LL</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
18/19			116,905	383,095	500,000
17/18	345,297	281,583	105,405		732,285
16/17	345,297	253,644	105,405		704,346
15/16	345,297	279,208	105,405		729,910
14/15	361,619	298,405	110,952		770,976

B SERVICE DELIVERY

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

Barnardo's Axis works with young people who are identified because of problematic substance use and require either an intensive/long term service or an earlier intervention and shorter term support. Their needs are identified using an initial Substance Screening tool, followed by a more detailed comprehensive Assessment tool as required. The service works with a broad range of issues and substance use is often a symptom. Issues include domestic abuse, poverty, and parental substance use, transient home life, and limited educational attainment, experience of care and child sexual exploitation.

Falkirk Council funding pays for the intensive core service and Barnardo's access additional monies/resources either by way of Voluntary Funds, Children in Need funding or most recently monies from the ADP and CORRA Foundation.

Barnardo's Falkirk Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) Service works with whole families where there are welfare or safety concerns about the child/children. The service aims to widen and reinforce the support network families have by harnessing their own strengths to help keep children safely living within the family. Families have a positive experience of working together and producing agreed safe plans for their children.

Barnardo's Lifelong Links Service is a family connections finding model for young people who have been in care for up to 5 years, with no plans to return home or be adopted. The service is part of a 5 year pilot with 5 Scottish sites including Falkirk. The service is a partnership between Falkirk Council, Barnardo's and the Family Rights Group, with an external evaluation by CELCIS and Strathclyde University.

The Lifelong Links Coordinators use tools and techniques to search for and find family members, either known or unknown to the child and other adults, such as former foster carers or teachers, who care about the child. This network is then brought together through Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) to make a lifelong support plan with, and for the young person. All FGDM Coordinators are trained in the Lifelong Links model. Young people in care often experience broken relationships, which may end suddenly. They often won't know or understand why these relationships have ended and this can affect their self-esteem and sense of identity. Support is provided to young people, family and friends throughout the Lifelong Links process and success has been achieved in other areas where young people feel an enhanced sense of belonging and positivity about the future as a result of the process.

All Barnardo's Falkirk services have access to **Barnardo's Forth Valley Volunteers Service** which is funded by Barnardo's to enhance service delivery and maximise the resources for young people and their families. Volunteers support Family Group Decision Making meetings by providing a crèche or activities for children and young people to participate in if they feel unable to join all or some of the private family time during the meeting.

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

During the period April 2018 – March 2019, the **Axis Service** made contact with 134 young people and/or their referrers. 93 referrals were received during this period.

35% of referrals were received from the local authority Social Work Service. Partner agencies including Health, Education and Police also referred significant numbers of young people to the service for support.

82 % young people referred were aged between 14-17 years and 41% of all young people referred live in an area of multiple deprivation.,

Launched last year, the **Family Group Decision Making Service** received 57 referrals involving 120 young people from April 2018 – March 2019. The rate of referrals has increased this year and is likely to significantly exceed the target of 75 FGDM referrals per year.

The Pilot for the **Lifelong Links Service** was agreed in March 2019. The service is currently undertaking its first referral, with a target of 10 by March 2020.

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.

All Barnardo's Falkirk services work collaboratively with the following service agencies:

- Social Work
- Schools
- Police Scotland
- CAMHS
- Children's Residential Services
- Leaving Care Team
- Housing
- Adult Social Work Services; and
- Other voluntary sector organisations

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

Barnardo's aims and priorities align with Falkirk Council priorities and local services contribute to Falkirk Council's SOLD and ICSP priorities, as well as contributing to the aims of Closer to Home.

Barnardo's Falkirk services are aligned to the Falkirk Council's SOLD and Closer to Home 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; and
- Family first approach- empowering families and communities

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

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

The Lifelong Links Implementation Group is in the process of recruiting a young person and parent/carer with experience of Family Group Decision Making onto the group.

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

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

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

Barnardo's Falkirk services deliver services to the whole Falkirk Council area.

C ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

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

2018-19				
	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
Axis	93	31	39	69
2017-18				
Axis	79	29	38	65

2018-19		
	No. of referrals (families)	No. of young people
FGDM/LL	57	120

The Family Group Decision Making Service has been running for one year, with a transitional period of 3 months as services closed, which reflects in the lower number of referrals in the first year. The rate of referrals has increased significantly this year as confidence in the service grows. The target is for 75 FGDM referrals per year which is likely to be significantly exceeded in 2019/20.

Whilst the service was working with fewer referrals, staff undertook targeted family work to assist families at times of crisis where, for whatever reason, an FGDM could not be progressed. Potential estimated savings from care placements for the Family Group Decision Making Service April 2018 – March 2019 were £408,876. This year, potential estimated savings are higher. The Lifelong Links pilot started in March 2019, the service is currently undertaking it's first referral, with a target of 10 by March 2020.

Barnardos activity and performance is reported to the Monitoring Officer. Challenges and opportunities are identified and progress and performance in relation to the Joint Working Agreement is reviewed.

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

In March 2018 both the Cluaran and BEFRS services ceased to operate and the remaining staff from both joined to form the new Falkirk Service for Family Group Decision Making and Lifelong Links. This transition, as mentioned above impacted significantly on referrals and service delivery whilst the new service was being developed, promoted and established.

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

The service was reviewed in April 2018 and will be reviewed under the reporting arrangements for Closer to Home.

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?

The services are not subject to any external regulation.

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 –	ADP – Axis Early Doors	Volunteer Service, Premises (funded by Barnardo's)	Voluntary Funding	CORRA (inc. 50 / 50 match funding from Barnardo's)
2018-19	£500,000,	£20,000	£36,695	£82,701	£44,441
2017-18	£743,739	£20,000	£36,695	£50,686	£31,799
2016-17	£704,346	£32,692	£36,695	£68,173	£0
2015-16	£762,148	£28,314	£36,695	£123,691	£0

During this time period the ADP contributed monies to fund to Axis' Early Intervention Service and the Pilot Project for LAC young people. The ADP funding is due to end on 31st October 2019.

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

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

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

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

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

Abstract from Annual report and Accounts 2017/18:

Reserves are represented by the fund balances in the Balance Sheet on page 31 (attached). The level of our reserves is determined by balancing two objectives: maintaining sufficient reserves to enable us to carry on our work when faced with difficult circumstances, and ensuring we maximise the resources used for charitable purposes. Our reserves level therefore needs to be adequate to allow us to address potential losses that might arise from our charitable activities, investments, trading and other activities. It also needs to give us sufficient time to adjust our strategy to meet changing circumstances without unnecessarily removing funds from addressing our charitable purposes.

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

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

Abstract from Annual report and Accounts 2017/18.

The Balance Sheet shows unrestricted reserves (reserves that do not carry any restrictions on how they can be used) of £106.2m (2017: £104.9m). In carrying out our assessment of reserves, we look at reserves prior to taking pension liabilities into account, referred to as free reserves. In assessing our level of free reserves we also exclude the fixed asset fund of £39.3m (2017: £41.1m) because this cannot quickly be realised. We do, however, include the working capital fund of £22.7m (2017: £14.4m) as no restrictions apply to this fund. After excluding the fixed assets fund, this leaves free reserves at £66.9m (2017: £63.8m) as at the 31 March 2018. The Board of Trustees assesses the risks Barnardo's could be exposed to and the appropriate level of reserves that we should maintain. A recent review of our free reserves (funds that are freely available to be used for our general charitable purposes), based on the financial position at 31 March 2018, set a target range of £45.9m to £61.2m. This is an increase from last year to reflect the greater financial and economic uncertainties caused by Brexit, the current political environment and the risk associated with our pension deficit. We regularly review the actual level of reserves, and take action to bring it back in line with the target if the level looks likely to move significantly outside the target range. At 31 March 2018 the level of free reserves is outside of this target range, however, it is expected to move back within range by the end of the next financial year. Our unrestricted reserves assessment also takes no account of the £34.8m (2017: £35.0m) held in restricted and endowment funds. Only the income from these funds is available for our work.

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

2018-19 Accounts are pending and will be available in October 2019.

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

There are no other services within Falkirk that provide a specialist substance service to young people who are directly involved with problematic substance misuse, or a Family Group Decision Making/Lifelong Links Service.

<p>7. Future sustainability - Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</p> <p>To date, Barnardos has achieved significant savings by sharing resources, including premises and administrative and management arrangements across their Forth Valley services.</p>
<p>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</p> <p>Barnardo's works with funders and stakeholders to secure funding from a range of sources. Linked with Axis, CORRA funding is match funded by Barnardo's and provides a Looked After Young People's Service (3 years to August 2020). Further reduction in funding would reduce Barnardo's presence locally, including the ability to secure external funding or "added benefit" to the Council and Falkirk area. There would be a reduction in local jobs, employment opportunities and volunteering (use of volunteers).</p>
<p>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</p> <p>The Axis service is currently operating a waiting list which is being prioritised according to need, however, this represents at risk young people with significant and often complex difficulties. Any further reduction in funding will directly impact service delivery to this particularly vulnerable group.</p> <p>The Council may suffer reputational risk in relation to risk of harm to individuals awaiting a service, particularly in relation to drug- related deaths.</p> <p>If the services are not funded, service users and their families and communities would be significantly disadvantaged; the outcomes and benefits for individual children would be reduced and potentially increase cost to services in the longer term - including impact of risk/harm; child protection processes; statutory measures via the Children's Hearings; health and well-being, including self-harm and addictions.</p>
<p>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organization.</p> <p>Low</p>
<p>E CONCLUSIONS</p>
<p>Summary of the future activities of the organisation that will allow services to continue to be delivered.</p> <p>Please see 8 & 9 above.</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: 5/9/19</p>

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2018/19

Organisation Name	Home-Start
Project	Home-Start Falkirk West
Agreement Dates	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
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 disadvantaged 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 disadvantaged 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, disadvantaged parents.</p>	

Using volunteers is a cost effective way to provide early intervention support to parents at a time of difficulty in their lives.

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
2018/19	£28,014	£6,000(accommodation)	
2017/18	£28,014	£6,000	
2016/17	£29,488	£6,000	
2015/16	£29,488	£6,000	
2014/15	£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 disadvantaged families with young children. The reasons families are referred to the service include assistance with:

- Physical and/or mental health difficulties
- Parenting skills
- Disability
- Isolation
- Poverty, debt and financial management
- Engagement 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 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.
- Information and links to other organisations including health and educational services.
- Parenting advice and skills.

Home-Start provide weekly Family Group Hubs in 5 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 2018/19 the organisation supported 92 parents with 180 children – 80 under 5 and 100 over 5.

Initial advice and signposting was provided to a further 16 individuals
Families were supported by 23 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 where they work, 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
- Reducing the impact of 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.

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 informed 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 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 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 2018/19, 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 has continued to work under significant financial restraint this year and with a much reduced staff team. They are already an extremely cost effective organisation and any further cuts to funding would mean the service was not viable.

<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? No</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. In the year 2017/18 which is the latest they have audited figures for, Falkirk Council provided almost 30% of the funding for Home-Start Falkirk West.</p>										
<p>2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.</p> <table> <tr> <td>Big Lottery</td> <td>£47,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robertson Trust</td> <td>£3,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RS MacDonald Trust</td> <td>£8,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations and fundraised</td> <td>£9,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total £67,500</td> </tr> </table>	Big Lottery	£47,000	Robertson Trust	£3,500	RS MacDonald Trust	£8,000	Donations and fundraised	£9,000	Total £67,500	
Big Lottery	£47,000									
Robertson Trust	£3,500									
RS MacDonald Trust	£8,000									
Donations and fundraised	£9,000									
Total £67,500										
<p>3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation? £8,000.</p>										
<p>4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent? 9%</p>										
<p>5. Last period of submitted audited accounts 2017/18</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? 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.</p>										
<p>7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council? No, the service could not operate with reduced funding from the Council</p>										
<p>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved? Reductions cannot be achieved without making the service untenable</p>										
<p>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded? Disadvantaged 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.</p>										
<p>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation. Low</p>										

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: 04/09/2019

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2018/19

Organisation Name	NHS Forth Valley CAMHS
Project	Clinical Psychology Service for Looked After Children
Agreement Dates	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
Name of Monitoring Officer	Gayle McIntyre
A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS	
<p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation</p> <p>To provide a specialist clinical psychology assessment and therapy service for: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people who are Looked After by Falkirk Council, either at home or 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. <p>To provide professional consultation to staff including social workers, foster carers and residential staff with the aim of: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
<p>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</p> <p>The purpose is to provide services to meet the above key aims and objectives.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

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?

7 years

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

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2018/2019	£64,904		
2017/2018	£68,472		
2016/2017	£67,401		
2015/2016	£70,704		
2014/2015	£64,904		

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 children and young people who are Looked After. This is delivered on a one-to-one basis with children living at home and those in foster care, residential placements and secure care. A support and consultation service is also provided for other professionals 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 psychologist can 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 is delivered by an experienced and highly skilled clinical psychologist. The psychologist regularly has student psychologists on placement with her which offers additional resource to the organisation.

Throughout the last financial year, the psychologist worked with 81 young people.

This can be broken down into:

One to one sessions with the young person

Consultations with carers/workers

Other assessments e.g. Cognitive Assessments and Psychological Assessments

Meetings

Supervision

Training

Support for student psychologist

Trainee psychologist worked with 26 young people.

One to one sessions

Consultations and meetings

Supervision

Total number of children accessing support from LAC psychology service over the year was 107.

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 psychologist will travel outwith the area to external care placements if required. Appointments are also offered in the early evening rather than the traditional 9 – 5 office hours to accommodate the needs of children and young people.

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:-

- Working with other professionals to keep vulnerable children and young people at home.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing therapeutic services to Looked After children to support them to maintain their local care placements.
<p>5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?</p> <p>The service undertakes regular audit activity to seek anonymous feedback from service users and professionals who have had involvement with the service.</p> <p>Service users can also provide feedback through other mechanisms including Looked After reviews and Children's Hearings.</p>
<p>6. What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>C ASSESSMENT 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>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.</p> <p>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 CAMHS liaison with broader service for children and young people with mental health needs.</p>
<p>2. Exception reporting - Note any areas where there is exceptional performance outstripping expectation or where performance is below what would be expected.</p> <p>The service is routinely and consistently viewed very positively by children and young people and also by professionals who use the service on a consultancy basis. The flexibility and responsiveness is a major contributory factor to the high value placed on the service by these groups.</p>
<p>3. When was the last time the service was reviewed and what plans are there to review this?</p> <p>The service has not been subject to formal review. Bi-annual monitoring meetings take place to ensure that the service continues to deliver on the key aims and objectives. Anonymised feedback is sought on a regular basis.</p>

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.

<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 post holder is 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.</p>
<p>8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</p> <p>The service is provided by one full time clinical psychologist. Any reduction in service would impact directly on the vulnerable children and young people who access the service.</p>
<p>9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</p> <p>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.</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 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 and significantly more likely to have mental health needs than their non Looked After peers.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>F. Monitoring Officer Details</p>
<p>Name: Gayle McIntyre</p>
<p>Designation: Service Manager</p>
<p>Service: Children's Services</p>
<p>Date of Report: 3 September 2019</p>

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2018/19

Organisation Name	NHS Forth Valley Speech and Language Therapy
Project	Service Level Agreement for Children with Additional Support Needs
Agreement Dates	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
Monitoring Officer	Kerry Drinnan
A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS	
<p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, 2018/19) • 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 <p>Additionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Specialist Work</p> <p>The Communication Support in Education Team (CSE) reaches children and young people with the most complex communication needs in Falkirk's nurseries, primary schools and secondary schools. Their aim is to promote communication skills and facilitate effective inclusion and participation in the environment that is often having the biggest impact on</p>	

children's well-being and learning. This is achieved by empowering education staff through advising on effective strategies, modeling interventions and providing quality training. They work with a wide range of children and young people with speech, language, communication and swallowing needs.

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 2018 and March 2019, 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.

Wellbeing and Inclusion Service

Offering flexible Speech and Language Therapy and bespoke support at a targeted and specialist level to children and young people accessing support from the Wellbeing and Inclusion Service. This is a new development to support the council in keeping children closer to home.

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 2018/19.

The Service Level agreement between NHS Forth Valley and Falkirk Education Services recognises the need for improving spoken language for all children, and therefore mitigating the significant impact that poor spoken language has on attainment, behaviour, and 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 (2018/19) 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
2018/19	465,040	641,634	
2017/18	465,040	581,342	
2016/17	465,040	575,110	
2015/16	515,040	556,579	
2014/15	515,040	539,487	

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 or 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
 - 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

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

Total number of unique children who benefitted in 2018/19 was 625.

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

Specialist Caseload

At the end of March 2018 the complex caseload was at 250 children. In the 12 month period 625 unique children received specialist support from the Communication Support in Education Team (CES Team is the jointly funded Speech and Language Therapy resource) which provided 3682 contacts to the caseload.

Training of Education Staff

In 2018/19 Speech and Language Therapy trained 774 education staff. This does not include all the staff that benefited from formal training through Pupil Equity Fund.

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' 2018/19 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 spoken language to mitigate against lifestyle and health risks
- development of communication skills in order that young people have the requisite skills for college and/or employment
- improved spoken language skills reducing communication problems which link to poor behavioural problems, reducing the risk of developing challenging and offending behaviour 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. Data shows significant improvement in outcomes for children in regards to social participation, activity, wellbeing and impairment.

Performance Indicators

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 **94.8 % episodes of care resulted in a satisfactory outcome.**

- Safe – Management of Eating and Drinking – **100%**
- Healthy – Positive Mental Health – **97.9%**
- Active - Increase Involvement of Children in Communities – **96.6%**
- Nurtured – Communication at Home – **92.9%**
- Achieving – Addressing the impact of language as a profound barrier to learning – **96.9%**
- Respected and Responsible – Pupil Involvement in Change – **89.9%**
- Included – increasing child's participation in school and community life – **89.6%**

Universal and Targeted Work

Early Years Intervention

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

At the end of the initiative the children had closed the gap between their spoken language age and their chronological age from 11 months lower to 1 month lower than their chronological age. On average the children made **22 months progress** in their spoken language skills in a **12 month period**. This equates to 1.83 months progress per month of the initiative. Prior to the initiative the children were making, on average, 0.79 months progress.

Training

Based on 774 attendees **99.4%** would recommend the training courses. Using a 5 point scale of satisfaction, **98.5%** were **satisfied or very satisfied**, **1.5%** were **fairly satisfied** and **0%** were **not satisfied**.

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 3.25 pre training, increasing to 5.3 post training. This is an **increase of 63.4%** in knowledge.

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. Over the last 12 months, Speech and Language Therapy has been asked to present their approach to collaborative working and GIRFEC in London, Cardiff and Belfast.

Education staff and Speech and Language Therapists from across Scotland, the UK and the World (i.e. New Zealand) continue to make links with the service to find out about this sector leading work.

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.

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 aims to have regular interim meetings to review performance. The service is currently being reviewed in partnership with colleagues from Stirling and Clackmannanshire to promote greater consistency across Forth Valley.

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.

Speech and Language Therapy is currently undergoing a transformational review of their services in partnership with the three local authorities in Forth Valley. This review will allow us to make transformational changes to ensure our partnership can maximise effectiveness and outcomes for children and young people, based on the local population needs and a redesign to align with Early Years focus.

This year the service has made significant progress in developing the service for children with the wellbeing and inclusion service. This has been supportive in meeting 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.	Falkirk council funds 45.5% of the Speech and Language Therapy service. NHS Forth Valley funds 54.5%.
2. List other sources of funding the organisation has and how much is provided by source.	PEF Contracts. These contracts are an additional resource to improve literacy through improving children's spoken language for pupils affected by poverty. It is not a replacement to the core service.
3. What is the amount of uncommitted reserves held by the organisation?	The speech and language therapy service does not have separate reserves from the NHS.
4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?	Not applicable for the NHS.
5. Last period of submitted audited accounts	NHS accounts are audited annually and are made public.
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?	None
7. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?	The transformational review of this service in partnership with the three local authorities in Forth Valley will ensure the partnership can maximise effectiveness and outcomes for children and young people. A decrease in funding will have a significant impact on service delivery and reach. Further negotiation will be required with NHS Forth Valley.
8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?	The monitoring officer and the service will be required to work collaboratively to reduce the service delivery as appropriate.
9. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?	<p>Cost for Children and Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reduction of Speech and Language Therapy services will have an impact on the wellbeing, behaviour and learning of children in Falkirk both in the short and long term.

<p>Cost to Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reputational risk for the council and potential increase in costs related to tribunals and complaints <p>Cost for Parents and Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By reducing SLT services, parent's ability to support the speech, language and communication development of their child may be affected. <p>Cost for Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives for learning, attainment and behaviour may be impacted if schools are not able to access adequate support from their local SLT service.
<p>10. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</p> <p>Medium – further reductions in funding is likely to decrease the availability of the service, thereby reducing the level of assistance to a number of children and young people with communication difficulties. Communication difficulties are associated with high risks such as poor health, poor mental health and anti- social behavior. The redesign of the service seeks to mitigate the impact of reduced funding allocations.</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>NHS Forth Valley Speech and Language Therapy Service have provided a valuable service to children and young people, families, nurseries and schools. Service delivery objectives set for the funding from Falkirk Council have been achieved. The Service Level Agreement will be continually monitored.</p>
<p>F. Monitoring Officer Details</p>
<p>Name: Kerry Drinnan</p>
<p>Designation: Acting Service Manger ASN</p>
<p>Service: Children's Services</p>
<p>Date of Report:10.09.19</p>

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2018/19

Organisation Name	One Parent Families Scotland (OPFS)
Project	One Parent Families Scotland, Falkirk
Agreement Dates	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
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>The funding provided by the Council enables One parent families Scotland, Falkirk to contribute to 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?

One parent Families Scotland, Falkirk offers support to disadvantaged 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
2018/19	£82,523	£6000 (property costs)	
2017/18	£92,523	£6000	
2016/17	£115,654	£6000	
2015/16	£115,000	£6000	
2014/15	£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. In addition, 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.

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. This is delivered in a sensitive and non- stigmatising way.

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 (including those with ASN)	15	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 fewer barriers to engagement. This enables the Family Centre to support families into mainstream provision as their circumstances and capacity improves.

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.

<p>5. How are service users involved in the design and delivery of services?</p> <p>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 and the sense of community buy-in and value placed on the family centre is noticeable when visiting.</p>
<p>6. What specific geographical areas does this service / organisation cover within the Council area?</p> <p>The Centre offers support mainly in the Upper Braes area of Falkirk, however they support families out with the geographical area if support cannot be provided more locally. The Father's project covers the wider Falkirk area.</p>
<p>C ASSESSMENT 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>The organisation continues to exceed the performance targets outlined in the service level agreement.</p> <p>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.</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>As described above, expectations have been exceeded in terms of how many families the service worked with.</p> <p>Of those who engaged with the service, the vast majority have made positive progress by their own and the organisations measures.</p> <p>This represents an extremely cost effective and community and family friendly means of service delivery.</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 – August 2019</p> <p>Next planned review - The service will be reviewed within the family support project of Children's Services 5 year Closer to Home strategy, reporting to the Council of the Future Enabled Communities work stream.</p>

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 local authority funding and therefore less statutory funding received reduces the over all 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 Care Inspectorate Inspection in January 17 rewarded OPFS a score of 5 for the two areas inspected - Care and Support and Environment. The service next inspection is over-due.

D FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

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

59%

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

Falkirk Council Children's Services	£82,523
600 Hour Provision	£35,000
Robertson Trust	£17,000
Third Sector Early Intervention Fund	£31,000
Earned	£2,400
Tampon Tax	£7,545
Pupil Equity Funding	£21,700
Total	£197,168

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

Uncommitted reserves = £657,133 with pension reserve deducted = 22% of annual operating costs.

Or- Uncommitted reserves = £792,133 without deducting the pension reserve = 26% of annual operating costs.

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

OPFS' 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

2017/18 (18/19 accounts not yet available)

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 voluntary organisations offer family support across the Council area although none are established within the Upper Braes to the extent of this organisation.

<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 significant reduction in funding from the Council over the last 5 years, with a further 10% reduction in 2018/19. They now attract 50% of their total income from other funders, many of whom are short term. The impact of any further reduction would, in effect be doubled as it would mean a loss of matched funding by the same amount.</p> <p>Alongside the people who use the service, the organisation continuously redesigns its services and they are now 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 any further reduction in funding as indicated above.</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, disadvantaged families living in the Upper Braes area or provision for entitled twos in Maddiston.</p> <p>The capacity of council staff to identify children at risk of harm at an early stage in this vicinity in order to intervene effectively would be reduced.</p> <p>The reduction in access to early intervention and non- stigmatising 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>
<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 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>
<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: 04/09/2019</p>

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2018/19

Organisation Name	Quarriers
Project	Quarriers Children's Rights Service
Agreement Dates	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
Name of Monitoring Officer	Vivien Thomson
A. OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 21 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 supplement 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 <p>The Children's Rights Service is accessible to all children and young people normally resident within the Falkirk Council area, with vulnerable groups and particularly those looked after, being prioritised.</p> <p>Agreed Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p>	

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. Priority given to those who are:

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

The service 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?

This function is a 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?

12 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	£86,200	Access to National Training and events. In kind and financial assistance with Champions Board work	£10,475 (full year costs,) for half Champions Board participation worker costs) Access to Life Coach Access to Creative and Active Post
2016/17	£86,200	As above	As above
2015/16	£86,200	As above	Access to Life Coach
2014/15	£86,200		
2013/14	£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? How many benefit in one year?

The following children and young people can access the service.

- All of our looked after children population- approximately 400 children at any one point
- Continuing care young people
- Care leavers - almost 200 care leavers are currently eligible for support
- Children on the child protection register,
- 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 27 new referrals are received along with regular work in each of the Children's Houses, Wellbeing 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 until May 2019
- 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
- Access to a creative and active worker who focuses on health and wellbeing of our looked after children and young people. Again this funding was accessed due to the basis of the existing arrangements with Quarriers

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 formed the basis of our plans for continuing this core work when the Life Changes Trust funding for the Board ceased in 2019 and our ability to attract additional though lower funding from Life Changes Trust for a limited period.

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. ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

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

The service reports on a quarterly basis to a 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 and increasing referrals to Falkirk Children's Rights Service
- Closer working relationships with Who Cares? and CLD has allowed the developing corporate parenting work to fit well with other initiatives nationally and locally
- Involvement in the development and support of the Champions Board work and a number of strategic groups thus allowing key issues to be taken forward and impact on procedure and strategy
- Inclusion of the Children's Rights Officer at all initial child protection case conferences.
- 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 link with children in foster placements. Collation and feedback on issues is provided at the monitoring meeting and impacts on priorities.

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 positive feedback from the young people who access the service. Falkirk Council's partnership approach to children's rights is considered best practice nationally.

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

Date of most recent review:

22nd August 2019

Next planned review:

27th November 2019

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

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

- Using volunteers to meet some of the need. This is only appropriate in certain circumstances, given the nature of the client group.
- Combining Who Cares? and Quarriers work into 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.
- Using vacancy management to offset other costs.

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

The service is not a registered service with the care inspectorate.

D. FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

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

Falkirk Council provide £86,200 to Quarriers.

Their overall income for 2017/18 was £41.5m

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.

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

Quarriers held £15.4m reserves at 1st April 2018.

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

It is Quarriers policy to hold 12 weeks of operational expenditure in reserve at any one time. The reserves at April 2018 amounted to 20 weeks operational costs

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

Financial year 2017/18

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?

Falkirk Children's Rights Service is the only one in the Falkirk area to provide rights and advocacy support to looked after and vulnerable 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.

6. 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 no 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.

7. 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.

Work is underway on a procurement exercise to place the Children's Rights Service as a whole on a stronger footing, and ensure that both this statutory duty and the continuation of the Champions Board work are fit for the future

8. 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.

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

High

E. CONCLUSIONS

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

This service, in conjunction with Who Cares? provides a statutory service to the council's most vulnerable young people. The budget has not increased since its inception 12 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.

F. Monitoring Officer Details

Name: Vivien Thomson

Designation: Service Manager

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 18-09-2019

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

Organisation Name	Signpost Recovery
Project	Time 4 Us
Agreement Dates	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
Name of Monitoring Officer	Lesley James
A. OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS	
<p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organisation</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. Signpost Recovery carries out the following activities in the attainment of the aforementioned objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provision of information, advice and support to substance users, carers and/or families that, where appropriate, enables access into treatment, care and support services that encompass and/or constitute a 'Recovery Orientated System of Care' (ROSC). 2. The facilitation of clinics, appointments, outreach services and 'Drop-in' provision for those identified as being affected by substance misuse. 3. The identification, development, promotion and maintenance of partnerships and/or working relationships with relevant individuals, services, agencies, commissioners and key stakeholders. 4. Maintaining a service structure that allows for the provision of advice, information, support, treatment, training and guidance to individuals, families, groups, services, organisations and communities in the Forth Valley area who are affected by or impacted upon by substance misuse and/or its effects. 5. The identification, development, planning, co-production and provision of care, support and treatment services to new and emerging client groups in planned organised projects. Examples include the Clackmannanshire Healthier Lives (CHL) initiative, Social Inclusion Project (SIP) and the Forth Valley Alcohol Related Brain Damage (ARBD). 	
<p>2. What is the purpose of the funding provided by the Council?</p> <p>The specific purpose of funding is to increase the capacity and resilience of families and children affected by substance misuse (CAPSM) through delivering the appropriate support to children and families that responds to their individual needs and circumstances in a timely way. This preventative approach to minimize the impact on children living in households where alcohol and drug use as a factor is closely aligned with Children' service Closer to Home strategy and shift to prevention.</p> <p>The objectives are:</p>	

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

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

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

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

3. Why does the Council fund this?

Time for Us is funded by a combination of external funding from The Big Lottery Fund, Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Signpost Recovery, Stirling, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Councils. The external funding supports Time 4 Us to deliver an enhanced service to families across Falkirk and the wider Forth Valley. Falkirk's Child protection data identifies parent or carer substance use year on year as a significant risk indicator for children considered 'at risk'.

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

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

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

10 years.

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

Year	Annual Funding	Support in Kind	One Off Support
2018/19	£38,869	-	-
2017/18	£38,869	-	-
2016/17	£42,375	-	-
2015/16	£45,000	-	-
2014/15	£45,000		

Other 2018-19 funding:

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

B. SERVICE DELIVERY

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

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

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

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

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

2. How many people directly benefit from the organisation?

30

Children's referrals accounted for 71% of referrals received. 82% of appointments offered were attended.

Addiction services were the main referrers into the Time 4 Us service, accounting for 65% of the total referrals received.

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

Complementary services:

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

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

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

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

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

Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery (SOLD) Plan

Time 4 Us contributes to the following 4 priorities:

- Improving mental health and wellbeing
- Maximising job creation and employability
- Minimising the impact of substance misuse
- Addressing the impact of poverty on children

and the following 5 outcomes:

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

Falkirk ADP Priorities

Time 4 Us contributes to the following 7 priorities:

Communication – messages in relation to misuse of substances for the whole community;

Support for families and friends of those affected by substance misuse

Access – to appropriate treatment, support and recovery services for individuals with substance misuse problems

Service User Involvement

Training/Awareness – addressing acceptability/culture of alcohol and drugs within the whole community through Workforce Development.

Drug Related Deaths

Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse

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

The service works in collaboration with all children and families, involving extended family and community supports where possible. Children and families are asked to participate in regular feedback on their experience of the service and complete an exit evaluation on discharge.

Feedback is routinely gathered using an evaluation form that children complete on their own or with the help from an adult. The evaluation captures their understanding of the work and support they received, and each child is also asked to identify at least one thing that has changed for them for the better since working with Time 4 Us. The feedback collated to date has been exceptionally positive, with children and young people stating that their experience of the service has made a positive difference to areas of their life that they had previously struggled with. This process informs ongoing service evaluation and development.

Time 4 Us also regularly conduct stakeholder evaluations with referrers and key partners, such as social work, education and health professionals. Stakeholders are asked to rate communication, partnership and flexibility of the service and feedback is also gathered in relation to information sharing practice, positive changes in school attendance, attainment levels, behaviours and if the stakeholder would use the service again. Feedback has clearly indicated that the Time 4 Us service is valued and necessary and is making a significant difference to children's lives. Stakeholders have reported that they see the service as instrumental in obtaining positive sustainable change among this exceptionally vulnerable client group, with a particular emphasis on the role Time 4 Us has in safeguarding children and enabling them to have positive future outcomes.

Time 4 Us adopts a person-centred approach to assessment and care planning when working with children and families.

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

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

Time 4 Us submits monthly monitoring data to Forth Valley ADP and monitoring reports to Falkirk Council. As Time 4 Us is a Forth Valley wide service, the monitoring reports combine information relative to entire service delivery. In addition, Time 4 Us reports performance against key indicators to the Big Lottery as part of annual monitoring requirements. Time 4 Us has recently submitted the end of year funding report to the Big Lottery.

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 notes that children are presenting to the service with more complex issues. This impacts on the length of time a child is engaged with the service, as the depth and duration of work required is greater than during previous years. This in turn has an impact on capacity with the service currently operating a waiting list.

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

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

Date of most recent review 22-06-17.

Next planned review – date not set.

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

Time 4 Us will continue to develop existing and new partnerships across Forth Valley as part of the services sustainability plan. Time 4 Us is negotiating the extension of the holiday activity programme currently modelled with Active Stirling, to reach across all Forth Valley. Links with leisure facilities in the Falkirk area and local trusts are in progress. The extension of the programme will give equal opportunities and free access to physical activities to children across Forth Valley.

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 registered and inspected by the Care Inspectorate. There has been no inspection in the reporting period, however, the service did participate in the FVADP led audit of compliance against the National Quality Principles: Standard Expectations of Care and Support in Drug and Alcohol Services. The service was audited as compliant with no improvement actions identified.

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.

Time 4 Us received 5 years grant funding from the Big Lottery which ended in August 2018. Signpost Recovery have successfully secured a further 2 years funding from Big Lottery, thereby ensuring continuous service provision.

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

Signpost Recovery
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2018

3 Grant income	General £	Designated £	Restricted £	2018 £	2017 £
NHS (Substance Misuse Service)	416,508	-	-	416,508	416,508
NHS (Harm Reduction Service)	81,600	-	-	81,600	81,600
NHS (Custody Arrest Referral)	30,000	-	-	30,000	90,000
NHS (Addiction Recovery Services)	247,642	-	-	247,642	277,312
NHS (Enhanced Addiction Case Work)	170,950	-	-	170,950	185,196
NHS (Additional service provisions)	1,053	-	-	1,053	2,657
NHS (Social Influencing Work)	-	-	-	-	35,280
NHS (Challenging Behaviour Model)	-	-	-	-	100,000
NHS (Service Development Programme)	-	-	-	-	100,000
NHS (Time4Us)	-	-	35,000	35,000	70,000
Falkirk Council (Time4Us)	-	-	17,369	17,369	-
Stirling Council (Time4Us)	-	-	7,500	7,500	-
Clacks Council (Time4Us)	-	-	3,846	3,846	-
Big Lottery (Time4Us)	-	-	45,926	45,926	45,926
Falkirk Council (Safe Zone)	1,775	-	-	1,775	1,499
Stirling Council (Safe Zone)	823	-	-	823	-
Falkirk Council (Mobile Harm Reduction)	-	-	-	-	5,869
Stirling Council (Mobile Harm Reduction)	-	-	-	-	11,739
Clacks Council (CHL Management)	-	-	172,809	172,809	178,154
	<u>950,351</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>282,450</u>	<u>1,232,801</u>	<u>1,601,740</u>

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

Funds

Restricted funds	12	46,456		30,357	
Designated funds	12	336,994		370,668	
General fund	12	<u>770,696</u>		<u>851,831</u>	
			1,154,146		1,252,856
Total funds			<u>1,154,146</u>		<u>1,252,856</u>

4. What proportion of operation cost do reserves represent?

6 Months

5. Last period of submitted audited accounts

Based on the Signpost Annual Report & Accounts 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?

While there are other children and family support services in the Falkirk area, Time 4 Us is the only service the Council funds that is addictions specific, supporting children and families experiencing or affected by substance misuse.

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

Time 4 Us is funded through a combination of sources: The Big Lottery Fund, Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Signpost Recovery and Falkirk Council. As a 'Third Sector' organisation Signpost can attract grant funding, furthermore, owing to Signpost's business model it is currently putting surplus into the project,

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

8. How can reductions in funding be achieved?

Time 4 Us is currently supported by a combination of funding from The Big Lottery Fund, Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnership (FVADP), Signpost Recovery, Stirling, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Councils, with the majority of income 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.

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

A reduction in funding will impact on the number of children and families the Time 4 Us Project is able to support. Time 4 Us contributes to the delivery of key priorities within the Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan 2016 – 2020, the reduction in service provision could impact on the achievement of the Council's key priorities.

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

Low

E CONCLUSIONS

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

Signpost Recovery and Time 4 Us continue to be committed to the delivery of high quality, responsive service. The organisation has received funding from the Big Lottery and has successfully secured 2 years continued funding for 2019-2021. This success supports the sustainability of delivery of this service across Falkirk and Forth Valley.

F. Monitoring Officer Details

Name: Lesley James

Designation: Senior Service Manager

Service: Children's Services

Date of Report: 31/8/2018

FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2018/19

Organisation Name	Who Cares? Scotland
Project	Advocacy Service
Agreement Dates	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
Name of Monitoring Officer	Vivien Thomson
A. OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS	
<p>1. Summary of key aims & objectives of organization</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 and inform the Council's approach. • Alongside Falkirk Council, 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 care plans. • To challenge discriminatory views and practice. • To support children and young people in ways that improve their confidence. • To act in the child/young person's best interests. • Where required to act as an intermediary between children/young people and Council services. • To involve children and young people in the wider work of Who Cares? Scotland to ensure Falkirk's young people are represented nationally. <p>These aims align with the Children's Services Closer to Home Strategy and the Council Corporate Parenting Strategy and contribute to inspection priorities in relation to hearing the voice of the young person.</p>	

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

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.

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 appropriate and best practice for the service to be provided by an external agency.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act also require councils to provide a children's rights service in line with the UNCRC and to produce a plan and report on this plan. The work of Quarriers and Who Cares? contributes significantly to the Council's ability to meet these duties.

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 a core priority for the council.

It is a statutory requirement 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 to children looked after away from home 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
2018/19	£27,970	Access to national events + research e.g. thousand voices	Provision of support to develop Family Firm Options
2017/18	£27,970	Access to national events + research. Funding to equivalent of £10,725 for trainee	Provision of training and support for Champions Board work.
2016/17	£27,970	Access to national events + research. Funding to equivalent of £10,725 for trainee	Assistance with developing bid for Champions Board
2015/16	£27,970	Access to national events	
2014/15	£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 from home
- Approximately 200 care leavers
- Young people in continuing care placements,

The Who Cares? Advocacy worker will work with approximately 25 young people over each quarterly reporting period, and had over 400 interactions in the reporting year.

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 young people looked after away from home, 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
- Direct link in to the National Care Review
- 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, within which is embedded our Corporate Parenting 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 work. The original Life Changes Trust funding for the Board ceased in summer 2019. Subsequent but lower short term funding has been accessed which is supplemented by support from our Children's Rights Service.

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

The service reports quarterly to a Steering Group with cross discipline and agency membership, on the themes and feedback from each individual who receives a service, thus influencing priorities and actions in line with the agreed 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.

From March 2019, where relevant, themes arising from the Children's Rights Service which may require particular policy or practice work in relation to care experienced children and young people will be taken to the Champions Board for consideration.

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 the Service Manager (Children and Families) meets 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 are joint with Quarriers and for Who Cares? and demonstrate:

- Over each quarter Falkirk Children's Rights and Who cares? Scotland support approximately 57 children and young people from Falkirk with a range of advocacy issues to ensure that children and young people's views and rights are at the heart of decisions
- This equates to 104 individual advocacy or support interactions by Who Cares? with young people.
- Rate of new referrals for each quarter is 24 – 27
- Themes are collated against the service priorities and reported to the Steering Group and include issues related to out of council placements, contact and additional support needs.
- 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 future of the Champions Board, joint allocation and project monitoring reports and provision of training to staff. Both parts of the service are now co-located with the Champions Board staff, and provide additional support to this area of work.

Additional support and activities included:

- 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 purchased placements out with the Local Authority area to ensure that young people's rights are upheld.
- 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.
- 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.
- Our young people have been supported to attend and take part in events such as the Rally for Love, Time to Shine, Global Gathering and Who Cares? Summer camp.

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

Feedback from young people who access the service is universally positive. Falkirk Councils partnership approach to children's rights is viewed nationally as best practice.

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

Date of most recent review

22nd August 2019

Next planned review

27th November 2019

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

This funding covers one half time post, and has been recognised as insufficient for the need for some time. Efficiencies have been realised by imaginative use of the whole Children's Rights Service resources, as per the FPP report on Quarriers. Reduction of this funding would make the post non-viable, with related loss of the service, including the additional funding which can be attracted by having the service provided externally.

Work is underway on a procurement exercise to place the Children's Rights Service as a whole on a stronger footing, and ensure that both this statutory duty and the continuation of the Champions Board work are fit for the future.

- 6. 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.

D. FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

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

Who Cares? is a national organisation with an income of £2,574,507

Falkirk Council provide funding of £27,970

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

Who Cares? nationally also receive funding from other local authorities, and organisations such as 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.

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

£480,103. This is below their target of £550,000 or 8 weeks operational costs.

Their annual accounts indicate that their level of reserves is not a concern.

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

The annual operational costs of Who Cares? Scotland is £4,080,944. Reserves are £480,103

- 5. Last period of submitted audited accounts**

Year ending March 2018

- 7. 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>8. Future sustainability- Are there ways in which the organisation can improve resilience and decrease the money required from the Council?</p> <p>As noted also in the Quarriers FPP report, the stand still nature of the funding since the inception of the service means there is no 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>9. How can reductions in funding be achieved?</p> <p>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>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>10. What is the risk to the Council if these services are not funded?</p> <p>The Council would fail to meet our statutory duties in terms of provision 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>11. Overall risk rating (Low/Medium/High). Please note this should note the risk to the Council not the organisation.</p> <p>High</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>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.</p> <p>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 as part of 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.</p>
<p>F. Monitoring Officer Details</p>
<p>Name: Vivien Thomson</p>
<p>Designation: Service Manager</p>
<p>Service: Children's Services, Children and Families</p>
<p>Date of Report: 18-09-2019</p>

