AGENDA ITEM 3

MINUTE

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AGENDA ITEM 3

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL) held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 7 JANUARY 2016 at 9.30 a.m.

COUNCILLORS:	David Balfour Gordon Hughes Steven Jackson (Convener) Charles MacDonald Brian McCabe Depute Provost John Patrick
OFFICERS:	Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Technology & Improvement Jack Frawley, Committee Services Officer Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning & Resources Iain Henderson, Legal Services Manager Mark Meechan, Community Learning & Development Manager Andrew Wilson, Policy & Community Planning Manager
ALSO ATTENDING:	Chief Inspector Damian Armstrong, Police Scotland Detective Superintendent David Gordon, Police Scotland Detective Chief Inspector Wilson Gill, Police Scotland Chief Superintendent John Hawkins, Police Scotland Inspector Amy McGregor, Police Scotland Detective Chief Inspector Laura McLuckie, Police Scotland Superintendent Mandy Paterson, Police Scotland

SE20. APOLOGIES

An apology was received on behalf of Councillor Murray.

SE21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SE22. MINUTE

Decision

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee (External) held on 12 November 2015 was approved.

Councillor Hughes entered the meeting during consideration of the following item of business.

SE23. FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND 2014/15 MONITORING REPORT – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the work of external organisations in receipt of funding to provide services to children and young people and who fall within the Following the Public Pound (FPP) reporting and monitoring arrangements. Gary Greenhorn provided an overview of the report.

The committee then heard from officers in relation to the individual reports.

(a) Denny Community Support Project

Mark Meechan provided an overview of the report, advising that Denny Community Support Project received a direct grant of £29,250 in the period and a grant of £22,000 from the Community Safety Partnership.

The committee discussed the monitoring of organisations within FPP and the role of joint working agreements. Mark Meechan advised that joint working agreements were developed through negotiation with funded organisations and provided an understanding of actions which would be taken along with outcomes which should be achieved. In response to a question on the structure of monitoring, Mark Meechan advised that there were monitoring officers who were responsible to their normal line managers and directorate. He stated that monitoring was also achieved through the presentation of reports to the committee and auditors, while voluntary organisations of a charity nature also submitted their accounts to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Fiona Campbell advised that all monitoring officers were provided with a risk assessment framework which informed the risk rating which is then presented in the reports to committee. Further, the budget process includes a review of external funding and makes recommendations.

Decision

The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by Denny Community Support Project in meeting Council priorities.

(b) Dennyloanhead Community Project

Mark Meechan provided an overview of the report, advising that Dennyloanhead Community Project had received £12,561 of Council funding in the reporting period.

The committee asked about digital learning opportunities and who had benefited. Mark Meechan highlighted, as an example of those accessing the courses, that the volunteers and parents who ran the playgroup had used a number of other classes at the project. Further, a number of parents from the playgroup had enrolled their older children in other classes.

Members asked about the accreditation available through courses at the project. Mark Meechan stated that there was an SQA qualification available for IT but that it required completion of ten, one hour units which was not what the learners wanted as it was too much of a time commitment. For young people he advised that the Duke of Edinburgh and Saltire Awards were available.

The committee asked about the provision for older people and what IT courses they accessed. Mark Meechan advised that older people were welcome to participate in any class and that there had been demand for an iPad training course. This had been offered at the Wider Access to School Project.

Decision

The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by Dennyloanhead Community Project in meeting Council priorities.

(c) The Powerstation

Mark Meechan provided an overview of the report, advising that The Powerstation received £10,620 of Council funding and £3,500 of in-kind support in the reporting period.

The committee asked for information on the role of community education workers in supporting the project. Mark Meechan advised that there were three Community Learning and Development staff involved with the project, one had a specific focus on capacity building. There had been work undertaken with the management committee which had developed specific skills. The organisation had received funding from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust for a period of three years to train a local person to be a community worker which would build community capacity. The funding would be on stream in early 2016.

Decision

The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by The Powerstation in meeting Council priorities.

(d) Workers Education Association

Mark Meechan provided an overview of the report, advising that the Workers Education Association received £49,635 of Council funding and £8,000 of in-kind support for the reporting period.

Members asked about lifelong learning and if the skills developed in adult literacy were found to benefit others and spread through communities. Mark Meechan stated that there was improved confidence in a community where adult literacy improved and that more people were able to participate more widely. He highlighted direct benefits such as the ability to participate in a child's homework and having more confidence in dealing with banks and utility bills.

Decision

The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by Workers Education Association in meeting Council priorities.

(e) Dobbie Hall Trust

Mark Meechan provided an overview of the report, advising that Dobbie Hall trust received £14,356 of Council funding for the reporting period.

The committee asked for further information on the repair works required to the fabric of the building. Gary Greenhorn stated that officers from Children's Services and Development Services were looking at the issue to identify costs. It would cost approximately £200,000 to make the building wind and water right. Therefore the service was working to identify priority areas of work to best utilise the £60,000 which was initially available from the capital programme. Further, the service was working to identify external funds to assist in the repair works due to the historical importance of the building.

Members asked if the most recent accounts for the organisation had been audited. Gary Greenhorn stated that many organisations did not hold their annual general meetings until August and September and that the accounts would be provided to the Council subsequent to this.

Decision

The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by Dobbie Hall Trust in meeting Council priorities.

(f) CVS Falkirk & District

Andrew Wilson provided an overview of the report, advising that CVS Falkirk & District received £113,748 of Council funding for the reporting period.

The committee asked for further information on the decrease to Trading Income. Andrew Wilson advised that he did not have further information available but that the Chief Executive had put in place measures to focus on the organisations core activities and funds were aligned to that. The Council was satisfied with the reserves position of the organisation.

Decision

The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by CVS Falkirk & District in meeting Council priorities.

SE24. POLICE SCOTLAND – FALKIRK AREA COMMAND PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing as an appendix the local police performance report by the Local Commander.

Local Commanders are required, in terms of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, to report performance of local policing as measured against the Local Policing Plan and to provide information about complaints against the police or in regard to policing.

The committee received a presentation by Detective Superintendent David Gordon, Detective Chief Inspector Wilson Gill and Detective Chief Inspector Laura McLuckie providing information on the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) – Forth Valley Division. The presentation covered the aims of the department; the service structure; CID operations, and the public protection unit.

The committee thanked the officers for their presentation and commented on the positive work which had been undertaken by CID locally.

Chief Superintendent John Hawkins then provided the committee with an overview of the Falkirk Policing Performance Scrutiny Report for 1 April to 30 September 2015.

The committee discussed the role of ward based officers and commented that they had made positive contributions including regular attendance of community councils. Members also discussed the role of schools based police officers. Mandy Paterson stated that a new model for ward officers had been introduced. Officers who were well known in local areas had been selected and where there were officers who were less well known meet and greet sessions had been put on. Police Scotland was keen that there would be consistent representation at community events and that people would get to know all levels of management in communities. John Hawkins advised that the changes to the model had been brought in as officers desired more clarity on their role and time dedicated for community work.

Members discussed counter terrorism and asked if this area was overseen nationally. John Hawkins stated that counter terrorism was an area where the benefit of a national service delivered locally was seen as there was national command but with local officers involved in delivery. Further, he highlighted the CONTEST strategy and that additional information could be provided to members if desired.

The committee discussed the enforcement of parking restrictions at schools. Mandy Paterson advised that the issue had been raised on multiple occasions but that there were not sufficient resources to attend all schools during peak times. She stated that where officers had issued warnings drivers had taken notice of these and that when officers were present restrictions would be enforced. However, she stated that enforcement was not the long term answer and that a change of culture was required to modify behaviours. The police were looking to work with Falkirk Community Trust and Children's Services to encourage more people to walk to school.

Members asked if the use of mobile speed indicator signs could be increased as they were felt to be an effective tool in combating speeding. Mandy Paterson stated that it would be looked at and that such signs had previously been used in Bainsford.

The committee asked if any of the reported deaths relating to drug use were due to the use of legal highs. Mandy Paterson advised that there were no confirmed instances but that one of the deaths may have been related to the use of legal highs. She advised that in most cases deaths relating to drug use were the result of a lifestyle of abuse and that multiple substances were involved. She commented that there was a belief that there was an increased number of hospital admissions relating to the use of legal highs and that in other Council areas there had been a rise of violence associated with legal highs. Fiona Campbell stated that the Falkirk Drug & Alcohol Partnership would provide further information on legal highs to members in the future.

Decision

The committee noted the report.

AGENDA ITEM 4

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – FALKIRK & WEST LOTHIAN COMMAND PERFORMANCE REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 4

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – FALKIRK & WEST LOTHIAN COMMAND PERFORMANCE REPORT**
Meeting: **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL)**
Date: **10 MARCH 2015**
Author: **DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES**

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Following the establishment of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on 1 April 2013 under the provisions of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, local senior officers are required to report on performance with regard to progress being made on the local fire and rescue plan as well as the provision of local services. A new local Fire and Rescue Plan covering the period 2014 – 2017 was considered and approved by Falkirk Council on 14 May 2014.

1.2 The local fire and rescue plan sets out a framework of local priorities for the Falkirk Council area. This is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. The plan takes account of the following:

- The Scottish Government's overarching vision for public services;
- Strategic priorities set by Scottish Ministers;
- National outcomes within the National Performance Framework; and
- The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013. This sets out 4 strategic aims for the service and 7 national equalities outcomes.

1.3 In addition to this the plan sets out 7 local priorities. The following sets out a list of these priorities and what will be achieved as a result:

- **Priority 1 - Local Risk Management and Preparedness**
  - Ensuring training, staff development and equipment is fit for purpose to meet the current risk profile and adaptable to changing circumstances;
  - Ensuring all known risk information is obtained, communicated and tested;
  - Working locally with partner organisations and agencies to ensure effective response plans are developed for identified risks; and
  - Fulfilling statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

- **Priority 2 - Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires**
  - Active participation in Falkirk Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to risk reduction;
  - Leading the Safety Work-stream of the Falkirk Community Safety Partnership;
  - Contributing to the monthly/fortnightly Tasking & Coordinating process;
  - Sharing information with Health Care, Social Work and relevant partners to help protect the most vulnerable, young and elderly;

- Developing new partnerships to identify and support at risk groups;
- Identifying opportunities for engagement with all members of the community to promote fire safety and good citizenship; and
- Delivery of fire safety related educational programmes and community engagement activities.

- **Priority 3 - Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties**
  - Active participation in Falkirk Council Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to risk reduction;
  - Continued delivery of the Home Fire Safety Visit programme to households within the Falkirk Council area, with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable in our community;
  - Targeted Home Fire Safety Visit referrals from partner agencies;
  - Promoting healthier lifestyles through encouraging a reduction in alcohol, drugs and cigarette use;
  - Ensuring our Community Safety Strategy considers all persons at risk from fire; and
  - Citizens and communities shall be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and well-being.

- **Priority 4 - Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting**
  - Engaging in a multi-agency approach to tackle deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour by the targeting resources to areas of demand;
  - Leading the Safety Work-stream of the Falkirk Community Safety Partnership;
  - Contributing to the monthly/fortnightly Tasking & Coordinating process;
  - Deliver youth engagement programmers to reduce anti-social behaviour through diversionary activities and education;
  - Identify and develop partnerships with organisations who engage with young people; and
  - Providing an enhanced level of fire Investigation within the Falkirk area.

- **Priority 5 - Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property**
  - The audit of business and commercial premises by Fire Safety Enforcement Officers using a risk based approach;
  - Work with the Falkirk Council licensing department to ensure all multiple occupation houses comply with the required standards in relation to Fire Safety;
  - Carrying out Post Fire Audits following any fire within a relevant premise;
  - Work in partnership with the Falkirk Business Panel, through the Falkirk Council's Economic Development Service;
  - Consultation with Falkirk Council Building Standards Officers and architects; and
  - Participation in major incident preparedness and exercising.

- **Priority 6 - Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies**
  - Continuing educational programmes, such as Safe Drive Stay Alive, particularly aimed at high risk groups within local communities;
  - Develop innovative ways of reducing accidents in collaboration with partners; and

- Working with partners within the Falkirk Council area to ensure that all agencies are aware of road incident hotspots.

- **Priority 7 - Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals**
  - Working with the business and commercial sector to provide advice and guidance in relation to the management of unwanted fire alarm signals.
  - Ensure premises with unwanted fire alarm signal occurrences comply with the British Standard 5839 Part 1 & 6 current edition.

2. REPORT CONTENT

2.1 The Senior Local Officer has provided the following reports and appendices for Members to consider and report on progress and performance towards the attainment of local priorities, as follows:

- Falkirk performance report, covering the period 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2015 – appendix 1;
- Contextual appendices containing supplementary information, supporting the performance report – appendix 2;
- Report on Bonfire / Firework for 2015 Across the Falkirk Council Area – Appendix 3

2.2 A local officer from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will attend Committee to present these reports and answer questions from Members.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 This report provides an opportunity for Members to fulfil their scrutiny role on local fire and rescue services as set out in the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, and take a view on the submitted reports.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee:

4.1 Note the performance report and supporting information.

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES

Date: 14 August 2015

Ref: ABC0316AW – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Cover Report

Contact Name: Andrew Wilson

Appendix 1 – Local Plan Performance Report

Appendix 2 – Supplementary information, supporting the performance report

Appendix 3 – Bonfire/Firework Activity 2015

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Local Plan 2014 – 2017, Falkirk Council, 14 May 2014

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506046 and ask for Andrew Wilson.

Appendix 1

LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR FALKIRK

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Year To Date Report, 1st April – 31st December, 2015

Working together for a safer Scotland

Falkirk Council

DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.
The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

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Introduction

This performance report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within the Falkirk Council area over the year to-date period 1st April – 31st December 2015.

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision is supported by 16 National Outcomes which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes in the Falkirk Council area by contributing to the Community Planning Partnership arrangements across the area.

The national priorities for the SFRS are set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The SFRS Strategic Plan outlines how the SFRS will deliver against these priorities and the outcomes against which this delivery can be measured.

The priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Falkirk Council area reflects the Falkirk Council Strategic Community Plan 2010-2015, the Falkirk Council Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2011-2014 and the Falkirk Council Community Planning Partnership, Single Outcome Agreement 2014-17. The Single Outcome Agreement includes a range of key themes focused on delivering improved outcomes for communities of the Falkirk Council area. The key themes that this plan contributes to are;

- Economic Recovery and Growth,
- Early Years, Children and Young People,
- Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending,
- Health Inequalities and Physical Activity,
- Outcomes for Older People,
- Poverty and Welfare Reform.

The aims of the local Fire & Rescue Service in the Falkirk Council area are to reduce deaths, injuries and damage to property from fires and other emergency events. We aim to achieve this by working in partnership, being pro-active and targeting our prevention and protection activities to where they are most required, based on evidence.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Falkirk Council 2014 - 2017, 7 priorities for the local Fire and Rescue Service have been identified;

Priority 1. Local Risk Management and Preparedness,
Priority 2. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires,
Priority 3. Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities,
Priority 4. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting,
Priority 5. Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property,
Priority 6. Reduction in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies,
Priority 7. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Area Manager Gary Laing
Local Senior Officer for Falkirk & West Lothian
Gary.laing@firescotland.gov.uk

Performance Summary

We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

	Apr to (& incl.) Dec					RAG rating
Key performance indicator	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	YTD
All accidental dwelling fires	75	67	98	79	92	◆
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	20	9	27	22	26	◆
All deliberate fires	472	346	428	319	301	●
Non domestic fires	47	45	57	36	53	◆
Special Service Casualties - All	35	56	37	51	48	●
False Alarms - All	982	977	926	859	814	●

RAG rating - KEY		
◆	RED DIAMOND	10% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
▲	YELLOW TRIANGLE	Up to 9% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
●	GREEN CIRCLE	Equal to or improved upon the previous equivalent quarter (or YTD period), or local target achieved.

Note

Quarterly comparison RAG Rating = the reporting period compared to the average of the three previous quarterly reporting periods.

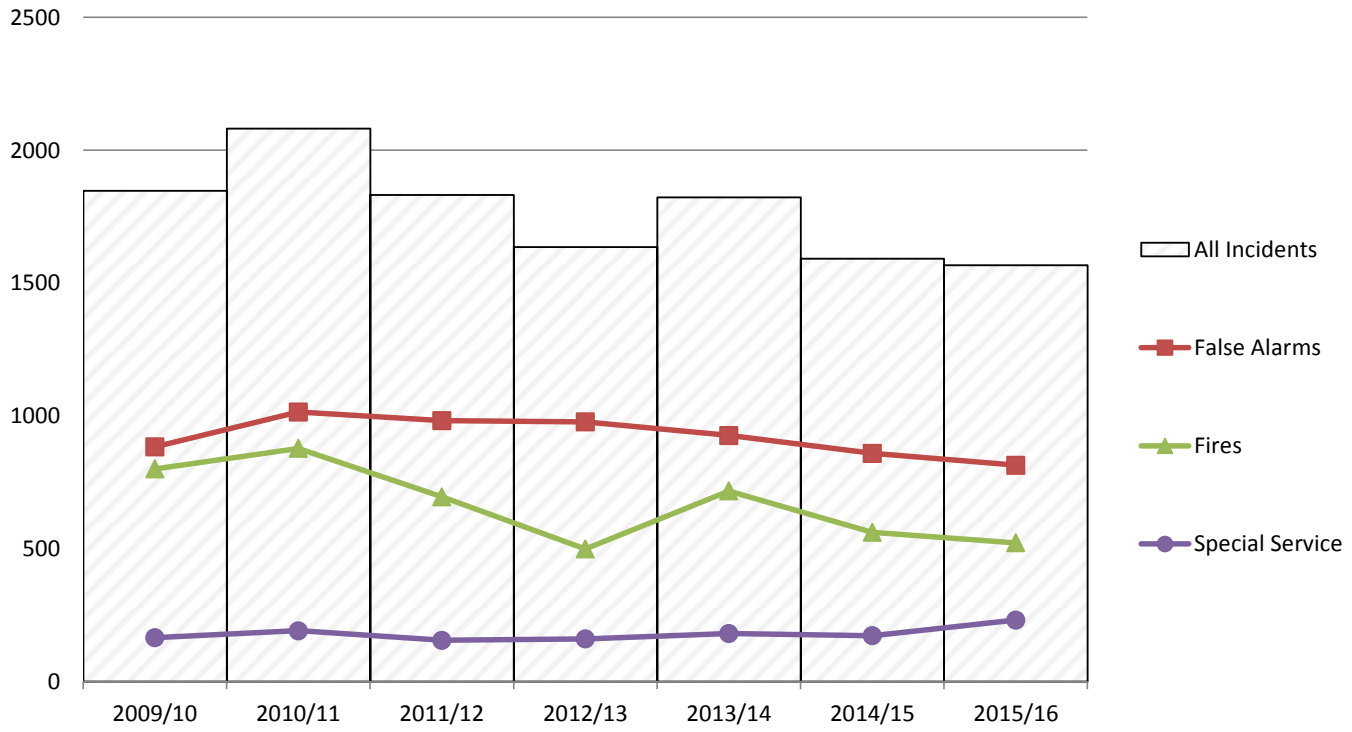
Year to Date RAG Rating = the cumulative total of all quarterly performance in current year compared to cumulative total of all quarterly performance in previous year.

Incident Overview

Year to date, SFRS have responded to a total of 1570 incidents within the Falkirk area.

This is a 1.38% decrease compared to year to date 2014 - 15

The chart below illustrates incidents YTD attended within Falkirk council over the last 6 fiscal years



Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities

Local Risk Management and Preparedness

The Service must identify, prioritise and plan to meet the risks in each local community.

We said we would:

• train our staff to deal with our local risks

• gather and analyse risk information

• work with partners to mitigate risks

• deal with major events.

Train our staff to deal with our local risks

Our operational staff continue to undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training.

During 2015-16 all firefighters will participate in the Maintenance Phase Development Planner for firefighters. Completed modules during the year to date period are based around incidents involving: radiation, refuse, acetylene, protecting the environment, aircraft, silos, trenches and pits & wells, retail warehouses, animals, pubic entertainment venues, dynamic risk assessment and casualty care. Firefighter safety is always a priority and this theme is underpinned within all activities. Theorectical inputs are confirmed with practical sessions and exercises. Regular exercising at the Grangemouth complex is also a priority.

Gather and analyse risk information

Our operational staff continue to gather and analyse local risk information and operational intelligence which is used in our preparations to resolve incidents.

We conduct Post Incident Debriefs through the use of a Structured Debriefing process, to identify any lessons that can be learned from our preparedness and response to emergency events.

We use Urgent Operational Intelligence Briefings to inform our operational staff of any safety critical information.

Work with partners to mitigate risks

We continue to be an active member of the Forth Valley Local Resilience Partnership.

We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders (e.g. Police Scotland) to ensure emergency event risks are mitigated.

Deal with major events

During this reporting period, the SFRS did not respond to any major fire or significant emergency events.

Reduction of 'All accidental dwelling fires'

Accidental dwelling fires can have devastating effects on our community. The SFRS is committed to keeping people safe in their homes. We share information with partners to make sure that the right people get the right information they need, particularly those who are vulnerable due to age, isolation or addiction. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of; Early Years, Children and Young People, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending, Health Inequalities and Physical Activity, Outcomes for Older People, and Poverty and Welfare Reform.

Results

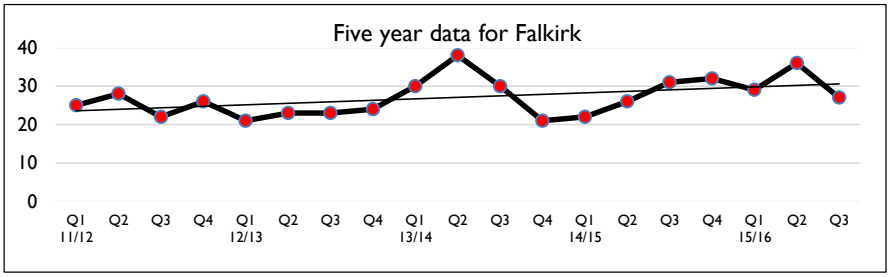
Against a local target of continually reducing Accidental Dwelling Fires on a year on year basis that contributes towards the SFRS target of a 10% reduction over a three-year rolling period, we have seen an increase of 13 incidents compared to the same year to date period in 2014/15. This is an increase of 16.45%. The trendline over the previous 5 years shows a slight increase. The number of incidents /10,000 population is lower than that of a comparator local authority and Scotland.

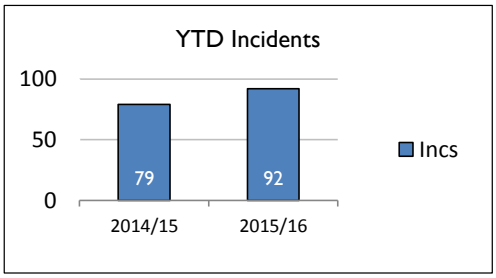
Reasons

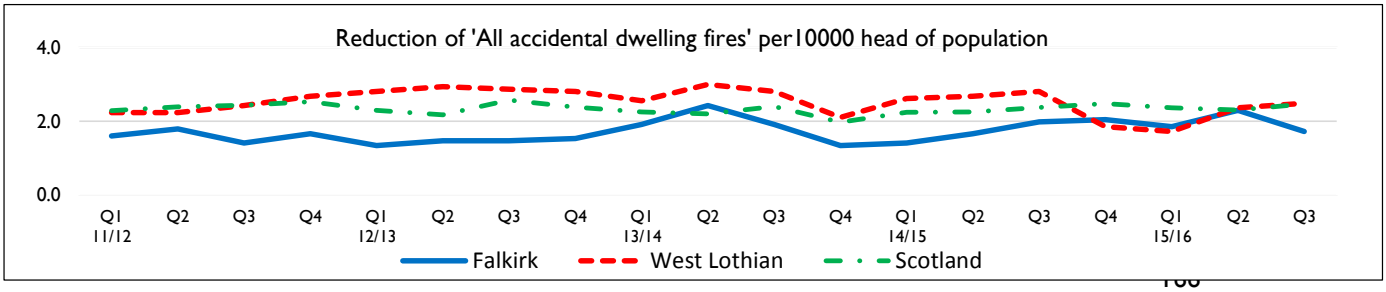
The majority of incidents attended relate to fires in kitchens whilst cooking, with burning food stuff being the main cause of the fire. The majority of incidents were caused by a lone person over pensionable age.

Actions

The Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) target areas where accidental dwelling fires have occurred and are intended to reassure the local neighbourhood and prevent further incidents occurring in the surrounding area.We continue to deliver our Home Fire Safety Visit programme to reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires.
Appendix 1 provides further details on our prevention activities in relation to this priority.







YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 10	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	75	67	98	79	92	
Bo'ness and Blackness	9	7	11	12	9	
Grangemouth	9	8	16	10	10	
Denny and Banknock	9	7	11	9	13	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	8	7	8	8	10	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	5	2	10	8	8	
Falkirk North	11	15	17	15	11	
Falkirk South	10	10	11	6	16	
Lower Braes	5	5	4	5	5	
Upper Braes	9	6	10	6	10	

Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))'

Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life-threatening injuries that occur due to fire. This can indicate not only the success of SFRS in reducing the number of life risk fires through community fire safety and similar activities, but also their success in response activity in saving lives.

Results

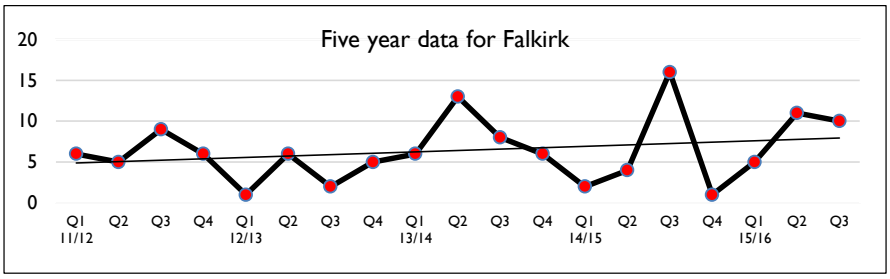
Against a local target of continually reducing Fire Casualties on a year on year basis that contributes towards the SFRS target of 5% reduction, per year over a three-year rolling period, we have seen an increase from to 22 to 26 casualties reported from the same period last year, this is an increase of 18%. There are no fire related fatalities YTD. The five year trendline in number of fire casualties has risen slightly but it is noted that the number of casualties/1,000,000 population is almost identical to that of a comparator local authority and Scotland.

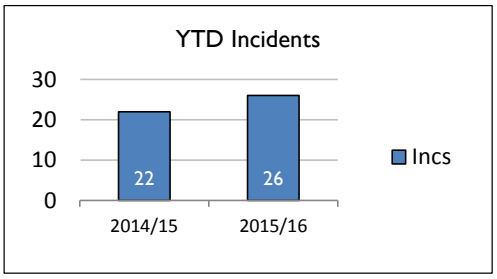
Reasons

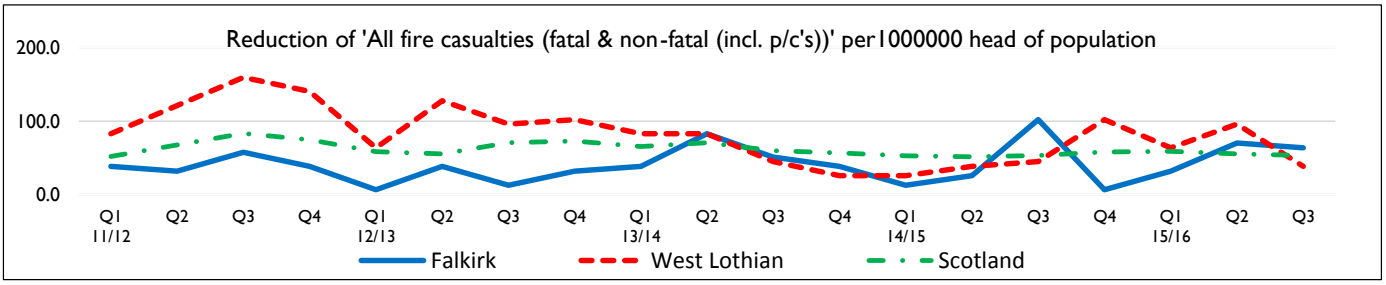
The number of persons reported as sustaining injury due to fire remains small. 4 casualties can be attributed to a small fire within a local nursing home with all casualities suffering from slight smoke inhalation, which required precautionary checks at hospital. There was a slight peak of 8 fire casualties in November, but analysis of the incidents where casualties occurred indicates there is no overall trend or pattern. (3 causalties were linked to careless handling of smoking materials and 2 deliberate ignitions).

Actions

Appendix 1 provides further details on the preventative initiatives we undertake in relation to this priority.







YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 3	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	20	9	27	22	26	
Bo'ness and Blackness	5	0	2	6	3	
Grangemouth	0	0	2	7	5	
Denny and Banknock	1	0	5	1	5	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	4	0	4	0	1	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	2	0	5	5	1	
Falkirk North	4	1	6	1	3	
Falkirk South	0	1	1	0	3	
Lower Braes	0	3	1	2	2	
Upper Braes	4	4	1	0	3	

Reduction of 'All deliberate fires'

Deliberate fire setting is a significant problem for the SFRS and in the Falkirk Council area. In the main, deliberate fires are secondary fires whose categories are; refuse, grassland and derelict buildings incidents. There is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of; Economic Recovery, Growth and Employment, Early Years, Children and Young People, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending and Outcomes for Older People.

Results

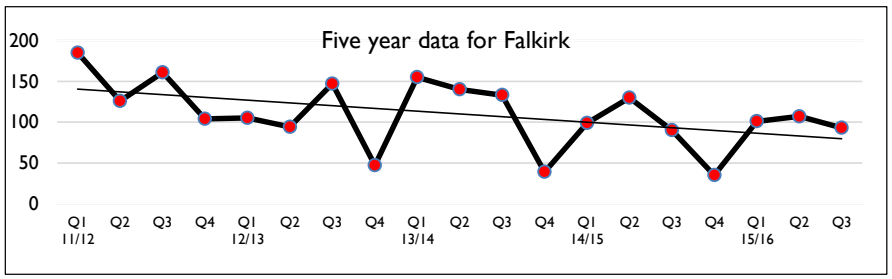
Against a local target of continually reducing Deliberate Fire Setting on a year on year basis, we have seen a 5.6% decrease in the number of incidents compared to YTD figures in 2014/15. The five year trendline continues to show a significant decrease in this type of incident for the Falkirk area. It is noted that Deliberate Fire Setting /10,000 population trendline is below a comparator local authority and Scotland.

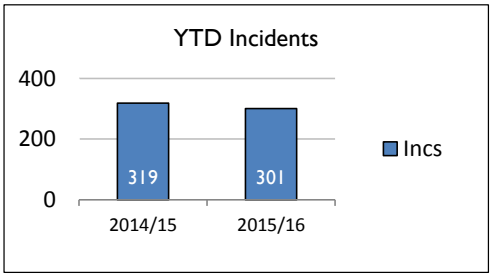
Reasons

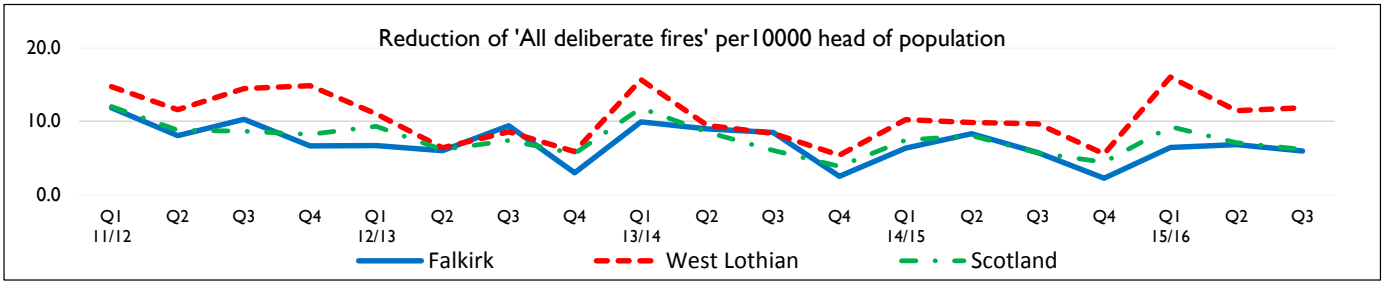
The majority of deliberate fires continue to involve refuse or grasslands, which are recorded as deliberate secondary fires. Deliberate secondary fires accounted for 76% of all deliberate fire during this period. The SFRS attended 81 incidents involving refuse, this accounted for 29% of all secondary fire incidents. 142 incidents involved outdoor fires which equates to 47% of secondary fires. Other types of fires which were deliberately started involved motor vehicles, dwellings and other buildings.

Actions

SFRS along with multiagency partners, continue to support the twice weekly 'Tasking and Coordinating Group', They undertook a number of events across the Falkirk area in relation to educating young people in the dangers and consequences of deliberate fire setting. This educational initiative aim at targetted local schools includes imparting knowledge and information on preventing fires within derelict properties, grassland fires and fires involving refuse and wheelie-bins. Details of these are provided in Appendix 2.







YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 33	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	472	346	428	319	301	
Bo'ness and Blackness	70	77	73	65	40	
Grangemouth	58	38	34	27	15	
Denny and Banknock	48	53	38	30	13	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	35	18	22	13	16	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	17	14	28	15	43	
Falkirk North	68	46	89	49	45	
Falkirk South	67	43	71	66	51	
Lower Braes	66	32	32	26	41	
Upper Braes	43	25	41	28	37	

Reduction of 'Non domestic fires'

Fires in Non Domestic Property can have a detrimental affect on the built environment and the prosperity of the local area. Non-domestic fires are classed as fires which took place in buildings that are not domestic households. Reduction of Non Domestic Property contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of; Economic Recovery, Growth and Employment, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending and Outcomes for Older People

Results

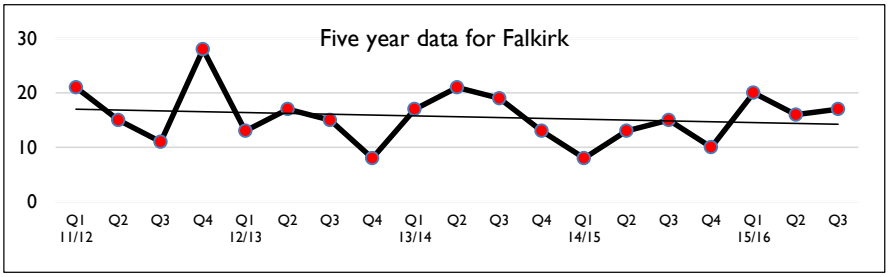
Against a local target of continually reducing Non Domestic Property fires on a year on year basis, that will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of fires in Non Domestic Property, there has been an increase of 17 incidents compared to this YTD period in 2014/15 which reflects a 47% increase. The five year trendline remains on a downward trajectory, all be it slight. It is noted that Fires in Non Domestic Property /10,000 population trendline in the Falkirk Council area is at this point similar to a comparator local authority and Scotland.

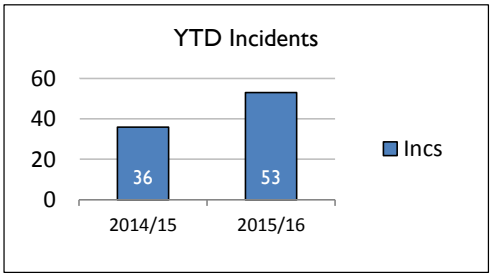
Reasons

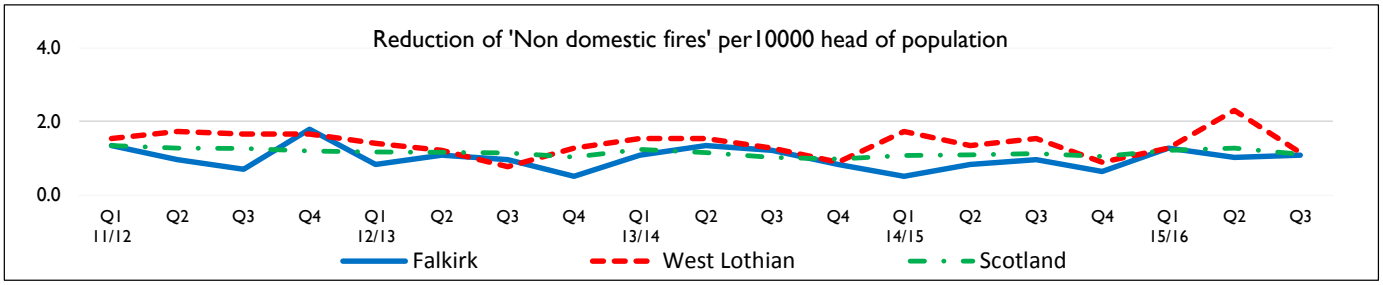
There are no specific trends emerging from Fires in Non-Domestic Property. The greatest number in this category (6 incidents) comes from Hospitals with cooking materials named as cause. Agricultural barns are placed next (4 incidents) with Parkhall Farm appearing twice, Parkhall farm is derelict and will hopefully be demolished soon. There has also been 3 small fires in schools with malicious malicous ignition being the cause.

Actions

We continue to work with duty holders and persons responsible for non domestic proprties to prevent fires occurring or to prevent reoccurences. We undertake post fire audits of non domestic properties that have had a fire to determine if any lessons can be learned. Appendix 3 provides further details on our prevention activities in relation to this priority.







YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 6	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	47	45	57	36	53	
Bo'ness and Blackness	7	4	7	1	6	
Grangemouth	8	3	5	3	2	
Denny and Banknock	3	6	9	4	3	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	3	4	0	2	3	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	7	2	4	8	11	
Falkirk North	7	9	9	7	12	
Falkirk South	2	2	6	4	3	
Lower Braes	7	13	13	4	9	
Upper Braes	3	2	4	3	4	

Reduction of 'Special Service Casualties - All'

While much of this risk is outwith SFRS control, responding to Non Fire Emergencies is a key part of our activities. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in this area. Reduction of Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of, Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending, Health Inequalities and Physical Activity and Poverty and Welfare Reform.

Results

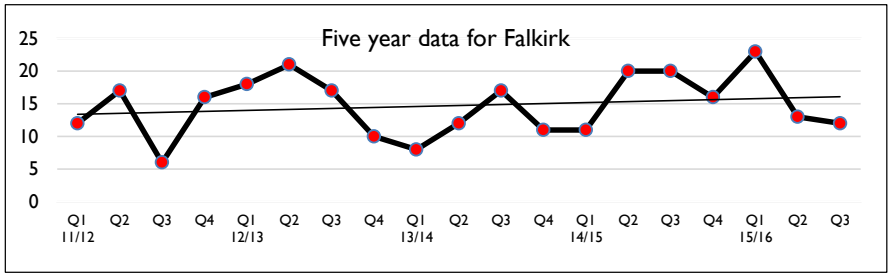
Against a local target of continually reducing Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies on a year on year basis, that will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies. We have seen a YTD decrease of 6% compared to this reporting period in 14/15. It is pleasing to report that we have seen a gradual decrease in the number of casualties reported from the start of this year.

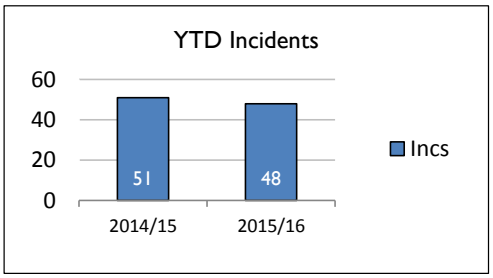
Reasons

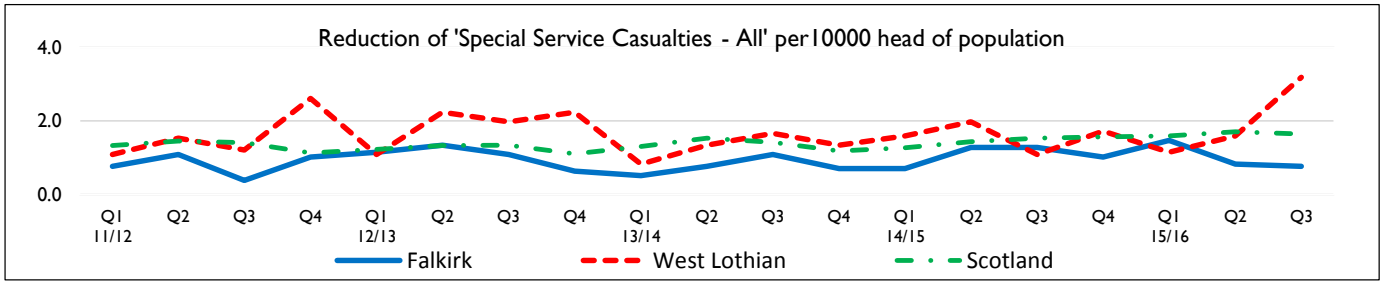
During this period, the SFRS reported 15 casualties as a result of Road Traffice Collisions (RTC's). We continue to respond to calls that involve medical emergencies, providing our support to the Scottish Ambulance Service when required. These types of call can require the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) which are carried on our fire appliances. This type of call can also be attributed to a request from Police Scotland to gain entry to properties were there has been concern for the occupant(s) with our crews then discovering individuals in need of medical assistance.

Actions

Through a partnership approach we continue to target the education of young people to reduce road traffic collisions and we continue to resource this, looking at other ways of furthering this work. Other initiatives have been delivered to reduce Special Service casualties. Appendix 4 provides further details on our prevention activities in relation to this priority.







YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 5	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	35	56	37	51	48	
Bo'ness and Blackness	6	5	2	5	7	
Grangemouth	2	5	2	5	3	
Denny and Banknock	4	12	6	5	7	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	3	5	4	1	6	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	10	10	9	4	7	
Falkirk North	7	3	3	7	4	
Falkirk South	1	5	6	7	3	
Lower Braes	1	7	2	7	6	
Upper Braes	1	4	3	10	5	

Reduction of 'False Alarms - All'

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents (UFAS) are those occasions when an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals which contributes to the Falkirk Council CPP Single Outcome Agreement of, Economic Recovery, Growth and Safer, Stronger Communities and Reducing Reoffending.

Results

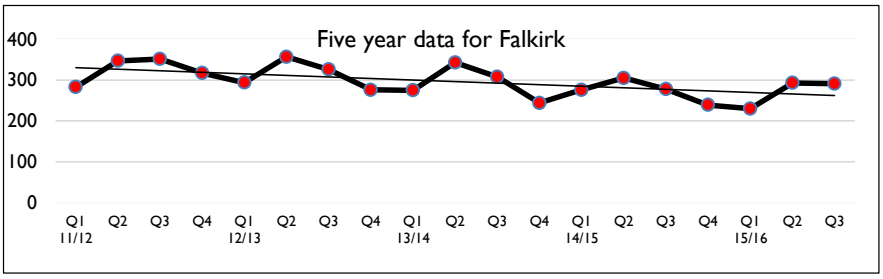
Against a local target of continually reducing UFAS incidents on a year on year basis, that will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of UFAS incidents, the SFRS reported a total of 814 false alarms for this reporting period. This a 5.24% decrease overall YTD compared to 14/15. It should be noted that the 5 year trendline for Falkirk continues to drop with the number of false alarm incidents/10,000 population in this area lower than that of a comparator local authority and Scotland.

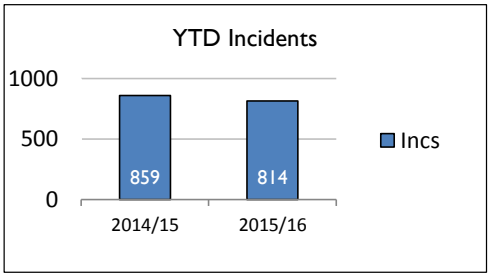
Reasons

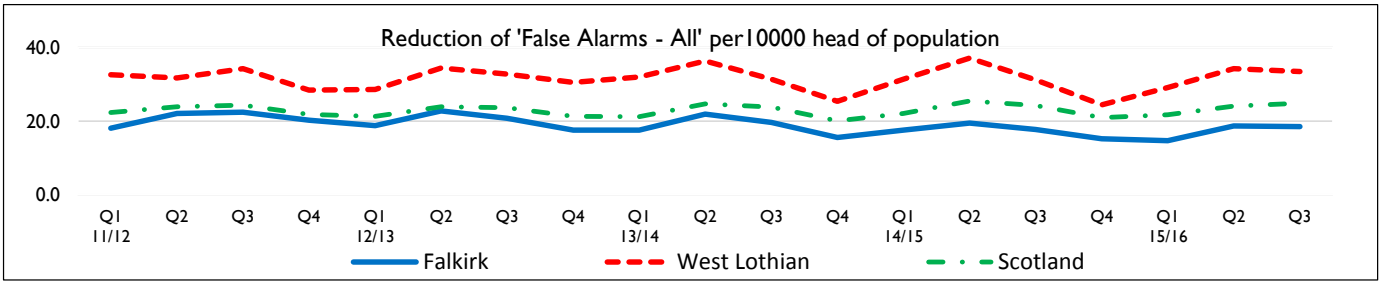
UFAS - Equipment failure incidents tend to be allied to premises which are categorised as a 'sleeping risk'.

Actions

We continue to proactively monitor UFAS incidents and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises to reduce further UFAS incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future UFAS incidents. Over the last 12 months, the SFRS has introduced a new UFAS policy, designed to promote business continuity, reduce the road risk from 'blue light' journeys and reduce the demand placed upon SFRS by these types of incidents. This should help to reduce UFAS incidents going forward. Appendix 5 provide further information.







YTD ward ave. for Falkirk - 90	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Sparklines
Falkirk	982	977	926	859	814	
Bo'ness and Blackness	55	40	49	51	55	
Grangemouth	99	94	72	97	100	
Denny and Banknock	58	70	64	48	50	
Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	71	83	67	71	75	
Bonnybridge and Larbert	236	210	238	204	202	
Falkirk North	205	217	193	210	157	
Falkirk South	100	98	84	90	79	
Lower Braes	113	109	109	35	51	
Upper Braes	45	56	50	53	45	

Reduction of 'All accidental dwelling fires (ADFs)' & Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. precautionary check ups)'

A primary activity related to improving the safety of our communities is the carrying out of home fire safety visits. Evidence collated identifies that dwelling fires occur more frequently in premises occupied by those who are most vulnerable, such as the elderly and those with drug and alcohol dependencies.

As such, the focus of our Home Safety Programme continues to focus on those premises identified as 'high' or 'medium' risk.

Home Safety Programme visits completed (Year to date).

Year to Date Activity	Low	Medium	High	TOTAL
Total HFSVs	537	511	289	1337

During this reporting period, SFRS continue to work with multi-agency partners including Social Work, Housing and MECS Telecare in order to target those most vulnerable within our communities. Enhanced referral pathways have been established with the aforementioned partners and strong links have been developed with Polmont Young Offenders Institute. This 'link' enables SFRS to assist clients due for release by delivering knowledge input to inmates and nominated vulnerable groups to ensure their safety when returning to their homes.

As part of the SFRS commitment to safeguarding individuals, frontline SFRS staff have submitted a number of 'Adult Protection' referrals to our partners within the Social Work Department. This further enhances 'outcomes for older people' and may assist in reducing the burden on partner agencies.

SFRS continue to focus on preventative approaches with partners and continue to improve on the quality and quantity of Home Safety Visits requested and conducted. A pilot programme with MECS is being delivered in January/February 2016. This will allow SFRS to collaborate with partners by referring vulnerable adults who may be susceptible to slips, trips and falls at home. This provides another level of Home Safety and may reduce hospital admissions, easing the burden on NHS partners.

SFRS have developed a referral process with Alcohol and Drugs agency namely, 'Signpost Recovery' and have also engaged with Housing Associations to attract appropriate referrals for vulnerable families.

Reduction of 'All deliberate fires'

Deliberate Fires

Whilst Deliberate Fires in the Falkirk Council Area align with the Scottish average it remains lower than ‘neighbouring local authorities.’ SFRS have adopted a more targeted approach in dealing with deliberate secondary fires and anticipate that the revised approach will realise a reduction in the coming months.

Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (TAC)

During this reporting period SFRS along with multiagency partners, continue to imbed the twice weekly ‘Tasking and Co-ordinating Group’. This groups primary focus is on addressing tactical level issues using information sharing, problem profiling and the implementation of measures to reduce both fire related and other anti-social behaviour issues. This process greatly assists with addressing areas of high operational demand for a number of partners. SFRS have initiated a project to share facilities with our partners in the task and co-ordinating group. It is anticipated that this will enhance the work already undertaken by the TAC.

Youth Engagement

During this reporting period, SFRS undertook a number of events across the Falkirk area in relation to educating young people in the dangers and consequences of deliberate fire setting. This included a visitation to all primary schools and targeted visitations to secondary schools including the on-going delivery of Youth Engagement activities within Polmont Young Offenders Institute. SFRS analyse trends and direct resources as appropriate ensuring a cohesive approach with partners in identifying solutions.

Appendix 3

Reduction of 'All non-domestic fires'

Fire Safety Enforcement Activity

A Pre-Programmed Audit is an audit programmed at the commencement of the fiscal year, selected from premises held within the Service's database, based on a risk assessment as defined in the Service's Enforcement Framework.

A Non-Programmed Audits occurs throughout the year. This type of audit would be undertaken as a result of either: fire safety complaints; requests from partner agencies or joint initiatives with partners; Post Fire Audits within relevant premises and the targeting of specific premises type in line with the Service's Prevention and Protection (Enforcement) Framework.

Audits activity Year to Date Dec 2015

FSEC Code	Premises Type	Number of premises in Local Authority area as of 31 March 2014	Number of premises subject to pre-planned audit 2014*	Number of premises audited 2014 YTD	% of Target Premises achieved YTD**
A	Hospital	5	5	11	220%
B	Care Home	49	49	52	106%
C	House of multiple occupation (HMD) Tenement	35	16	16	100%
E	Hostels	1	1	1`	100%
F	Hotels	57	25	25	100%
H	Other sleeping accommodation	1	1	2	200%
J	Further Education	2	0	0	-
K	Public Building	32	2	7	350%
L	Licenced Premises	307	10	26	260%
M	Schools	127	6	23	383%
N	Shops	1064	12	18	150%
P	Other premises open to public	167	9	17	188%
R	Factories & Warehouses	330	12	30	250%
S	Offices	635	3	10	333%
T	Other Workplace	52	2	10	500%
	Total	**2864**	**153**	**242**	**158%**

*Pre-planned targets are only set for Hospitals, Care Homes, HMO's classed as 'high' risk or in line with licence renewals and other premises classed as 'high' or 'very high' risk.

**Where target is exceeded this is due to non-programmed auditing such as thematic auditing, fire safety complaints or post fire audits.

Enforcement/Prohibition Notices

Whilst there have been a number of 'Action Plans' requested from Duty Holders in relevant premises, there have been no Enforcement or Prohibition Notices served within the Falkirk Area during this reporting period. Whilst SFRS are the Enforcing Authority, the Local Falkirk Fire Safety Enforcement Officers develop good working relationships with relevant premises ensuring issues are managed using action plans to address issues.

Appendix 4

Reduction of 'Special Service - casualties (fatal & non-fatal)'

Members of the local Community Action Team delivered ‘Make it or break it’ events within Polmont Young Offenders Institute. This targeted pre-release detainees, giving them the knowledge on how to remain safe and avoid injury to others on our roads.

This reporting period finalised the preparation for the highly acclaimed “**Safe Drive Stay Alive”** road safety initiative aimed at contributing to reducing the number of road casualties and fatalities on Falkirk’s roads. Over 2000 young people from within Falkirk will have attended this event in January. An evening performance will also be delivered for parents and guardians of the young people to assist in reinforcing the message. There may be a funding issue moving forward and therefore this valuable intiative will need reviewed for the coming years.

Appendix 5

Reduction of 'False Alarm - Equipment failure'

Fire Safety Enforcement Officers and Operational Crews address the issues of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) through engagement with the appropriate duty holders and the application of the UFAS policy.

Fire Safety Enforcement Officers engage with the relevant duty holders to educate on the logistics responsible for activation. This approach has been successful in reducing the UFAS incidents within the Falkirk Council Area. This reduces ‘Blue Light Journeys’ on local roads and reduces the disruption to local business.

Daily Incident briefings allow SFRS to analyse trends and engage with the duty holder timeously.

Glossary

Primary Fire

Primary fires include all fires in non-derelict buildings and outdoor structures or any fires involving casualties or rescues or any fires attended by five or more appliances.

Secondary Fires

Secondary fires are the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or if five or more appliances attend. They include fires in derelict buildings but not chimney fires.

Accidental Dwelling Fires

Building occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. In 2000, the definition of a dwelling was widened to include any non-permanent structure used solely as a dwelling, such as caravans, houseboats etc. Caravans, boats etc. not used as a permanent dwelling are shown according to the type of property. Accidental includes fires where the cause was not known or unspecified.

Fire Fatality

A person whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if the death occurred weeks or months later.

Fire Casualty

Non-fatal casualties, injured as a direct result of a fire attended by the service. Includes those who received first aid at the scene and those who were recommended to go for a precautionary check. Does not include injuries to fire service personnel.

Deliberate Fire

Fires where deliberate ignition is suspected

Special Services

Special Services are non-fire incidents requiring the attendance of an appliance or officer. The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 placed a statutory duty on FRS to attend fires and road traffic accidents. It also included an additional function order that covers non-fire incidents such as rescues from collapsed buildings or serious flooding

CPP

Community Planning Partnership.

SOA

Single Outcome Agreement.

Year to Date (YTD)

Year to date is calculated from 1st April on the reporting year

RTC

Road Traffic Collision

UFAS

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Seasonal Community Safety Calendar

The seasonal calendar depicts a range of initiatives and activities that the SFRS and CPP partners will undertake throughout the year as part of our preventative strategies. SFRS deliver Thematic Action Plans relevant to seasonal trends.

SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Appendix 3

Report to:

Falkirk Council Scrutiny Committee

SUBJECT: REPORT ON FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA BONFIRE / FIREWORK ACTIVITY FOR 2015

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report provides members of the Falkirk Council Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the preventative and operational response activities conducted by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Falkirk Community Safety Partners during the Bonfire/Firework period 2015.

1.2 A partnership approach to dealing with the Bonfire / Firework period was adopted, and as per previous years, SFRS participated in a Task and Finish Group as part of the tasking arrangements within the Falkirk Community Safety Partnership.

2. PREVENTATIVE ACTIVITIES

2.1 A number of multi-agency preventative activities were employed to raise awareness of the potential dangers of fireworks and bonfires. SFRS were involved in the following initiatives as part of the multi-agency approach:

Demand reduction education plan

- Targeted educational inputs were offered/delivered to all secondary schools within Falkirk
- All primary schools were provided with interactive educational resources through 'Go Safe Scotland' and were given the opportunity for face to face input from SFRS
- Delivery of educational inputs to primary schools within areas known to be problematic, identified through daily TAC and trend analysis
- Supply of 'awareness raising posters' to all schools.
- Residents within problematic areas issued with guidance re refuse uplift.

Identification of unlicensed bonfires

- Reporting unlicensed bonfires to Waste Services through the Daily tasking process and by direct contact with Falkirk Council
- Visitations to potentially 'dangerous bonfire sites' were carried out by representatives of the daily TAC.
- 11 referrals to partner agencies of fly tipping and poor presentation of waste possibly causing a fire hazard, which were subsequently removed by waste services.

Community engagement

- Visitation to Youth Groups and drop in centres
- Contribution towards multi-agency press release
- Provision of safety advice through twitter @scotfire_FlkWL
- Safety advice at SFRS website www.firescotland.gov.uk
- National TV and radio campaign.

Operation Alamo Meetings

- Operation Alamo meetings were carried out prior to 'Bonfire Night' and were well attended by all partners. This gave a greater awareness and assisted in identifying proactive activity required and potential resolutions.

3. OPERATIONAL RESPONSE ACTIVITY

3.1 This years' fire and anti-social behaviour activity around bonfire night was greatly reduced. This was a consequence of the cohesive partnership approach resulting in a '5 year low' across the Falkirk Wards between 30th October to 9th November 2015 and the comparative period in 2014.

3.2 Secondary Fires recorded during the 15/16 Bonfire Period showed a significant reduction in Falkirk Wards compared to the same period last year. SFRS attended 20 incidents compared to 40 in the same reporting period last year.

3.3 One fire related offence was recorded in Rannoch Park Grangemouth under the "compliance with firework legislation"

3.4 There were seven reported incidents of fire related anti-social behaviour (wheelie bins and refuse) in the following areas:

- Westquarter and Millhall Reservoir.
- Westray Terrace
- Whitecross

4. VIOLENCE TO CREWS

4.1 There were 2 reports of violence to SFRS crews, at incidents during the period 31st October to 9th November 2015.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 There has been a continued reduction in emergency calls over the aforementioned period to bonfires and firework related incidents. Activity on 5 November 2015 has shown a decrease compared to last year and continues to show a downward trend.

5.2 The continued partnership working within Falkirk Community Safety partnership has had a positive impact on public awareness and the approach to bonfire celebrations.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Falkirk Council Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

Acknowledge and make comment on the contents of this report.

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Local Senior Officer
Falkirk and West Lothian
February 2016

AGENDA ITEM 5

FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND (FPP): MARGINALISED GROUPS

AGENDA ITEM 5

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: **FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND (FPP): MARGINALISED GROUPS**
Meeting: **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**
Date: **10 MARCH 2016**
Author: **DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND HOUSING SERVICES**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the work of the external organisations which receive funding, in whole or in part, with a focus on marginalised groups and which fall within the 'Following the Public Pound' (FPP) reporting and monitoring arrangements. In addition, this report provides Members with an update regarding the ongoing commissioning process for services for Survivors of Trauma.

1.2 With regard to funding, Members are provided with information on the funding agreements in place with external organisations during the periods 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015 and 1 April 2015 – 31 December 2015, in line with the FPP and Council procedures.

2. CONTRIBUTION TO OUTCOMES

2.1 The organisations that we fund make a significant contribution to our local outcomes, as outlined in our Single Outcome Agreement, and to key commitments within the Corporate Plan.

2.2 One of the key areas these organisations make a significant contribution towards is our Poverty Strategy – Towards a Fairer Falkirk. The strategy aims to reduce poverty and its impacts on individuals and communities across our area. This is so that everyone living in each of our communities has the same opportunity to reach their full potential and access all the services our public agencies provide to support daily life. We aim to help those who may experience disadvantage through disability, socio-economic status, ill health etc. to fully participate in community life. The strategy seeks to:

- Maximise the number of people in better paid, secure employment
- Reduce levels of debt across the population and maximise the income of households who rely on benefits
- Increase the financial choices available to our population and increase people's understanding of the consequences of financial choices.

2.3 The strategy seeks to support some of the most marginalised groups in society. Marginalised groups often consist of the most vulnerable and at risk individuals who can feel excluded, insignificant or peripheral to decision making. This might include people who are economically excluded because of poverty, socially excluded because of disability or other health issues; or culturally excluded because of ethnicity or religion. Examples of some of the marginalised or hard to reach groups that we work with can include people reliant on benefits for income, lone parents, elderly, disabled and people from black and ethnic minority groups. The groups the poverty strategy specifically targets include:

- Lone parents with dependent children;
- Single working age people without children, who are either in receipt of benefits or in low paid work;
- Single pensioners
- Households with younger children and with more that 2 children, who are either in receipt of benefits or in low-paid work;
- Households affected by disability, including those with mental health problems;
- Looked after children and care leavers;
- Households affected by homelessness;
- Households affected by drug and alcohol use; and
- Offenders and ex-offenders and their families.

2.4 Some of the work undertaken by these organisations also makes a direct contribution to our aspirations on equality and diversity. This work facilitates citizens having equality of opportunity, equity of access to services, and being able to play an equal part in all aspects of community life. We are particularly keen to address circumstances where any group may feel marginalised or excluded, perhaps influenced by factors such as education, economic, environmental or social circumstances.

3. SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF TRAUMA

3.1 In June 2015, the Executive agreed that a new service for survivors of trauma be commissioned, using the principles of the Public Social Partnership (PSP) approach and with a view to having the new service in place by April 2016. In September 2015, the Executive confirmed that the budget to be allocated to the new service for survivors, would comprise the amounts previously allocated to Open Secret and Rape Crisis, thereby allocating a maximum budget of £102,783. It should be noted that the budget for 2016/2017, is subject to Member approval within the Council's budget setting process.

3.2 In October 2015, £35,000 was awarded by the Scottish Government (Survivor Scotland Development and Innovation Fund) to the council, to support the development of the new commissioning process. This funding has been used to secure short term, dedicated resource to develop a new service model, by working with partners including NHS Forth Valley, Falkirk Council, Police Scotland and Third Sector agencies within the Falkirk area. This dedicated support will end on 31 March 2016.

3.3 In order to align the new service with statutory and local priorities, the scope of the new service is defined as trauma informed services for adults who have been affected by abuse.

This scope means that the service will be available for people who have experienced trauma in childhood and also people who have experienced trauma as an adult. The intention being that as the service is developed, there will be further alignment to the adult support and protection agenda, in addition to early intervention and prevention, positively impacting on statutory service provision.

3.4 An ambitious vision has been set for the new service, which will result in survivors of trauma being able to access a range of services in line with their own personal outcomes, across the domains of wellbeing, which may include psychological and therapeutic intervention, as well as support towards training, employment and sustained tenancy. The change to the current service will rely on organisations collaborating effectively through shared assessment and a referral protocol, ensuring supported transition between services. The rationale for this being that the sum of the expertise available across services is greater than its parts, therefore joined up service provision will mean better and more efficient service provision and thus improved support and outcomes for survivors.

3.5 To enable this transition, it is proposed that using the budget noted in 3.1, the new model of service be piloted during 2016/2017. This will allow for the model to be tested, adoption of agreed quality standards to be embedded across the partnership and for formal collaboration between agencies to be fully realised, with a focus on the needs of survivors. The service would then be procured through a formal tendering exercise, commencing in 2017/2018.

4. OVERVIEW OF ORGANISATIONS WHO RECEIVED FUNDING

4.1 The table below shows the 5 external organisations, supporting marginalised groups that received Council support during 2014/15, either via 'in kind' support or by direct financial support. It should be noted that some external organisations received more than one source of support from Falkirk Council and where this is the case, it is noted within individual reports.

Appendix	Organisation	Report Period	Funding Purpose	Total Support Received 14/15
1	The Action Group	April 14 –Dec 15	Real Jobs Falkirk	£90,000
2	Salvation Army	April 14 –Dec 15	Soup Kitchen	£10,745
3	Central Scotland Regional Equality Council	April 14 –Dec 15	Central Scotland Regional Equality Council	£10,200
4	Falkirk & District Women's Aid	April 14 –Dec 15	Falkirk & District Women's Aid	£244,170
5	Linkliving	April 14 –Dec 15	Smartmove project	£14,114
	Total Funding			£369,229

4.2 Falkirk Council values the services provided by external organisations, including those from the Third Sector. However given the continuing financial pressure the Council is experiencing, there is a need to continually review the funding provided to external organisations. This means that every budget needs to be reviewed over the coming years. In some cases this means that funding to organisations reduces. We appreciate the services delivered are often valued but in some instances are no longer affordable given the fiscal pressures we face.

5. ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATIONS PERFORMANCE

5.1 An individual report is attached for all of the external organisations shown above. Each report provides an overview of the service provided, the agreed objectives or outcomes, performance information during the reporting period and a financial overview based on audited accounts or where these have not yet been published for 2015/2016, financial monitoring arrangements that are in place.

5.2 As part of the support allocation 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 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 information. Monitoring officers are also required to hold meetings with the external organisation throughout the year.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 This report demonstrates the continuing contribution which external organisations make towards our local outcomes. Members are therefore invited to consider each organisation's report and select from the following options for each external organisation:

a) Approve report and acknowledge progress by the external organisation in meeting Council priorities;
b) Request further information on specific aspects of the service provided; or
c) Request action with follow-up for subsequent Scrutiny Committee consideration.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

7.1 **Consider individual reports for external organisations and select an option from those presented in 4.1; and**

7.2 **Note progress in relation to the commissioning process for Services for Survivors of Trauma.**

.....……..

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES

Date: 04 February 2016

Ref: ABC1016LM – FPP Report – Marginalised Groups

Contact Name: Fiona Campbell

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506004 and ask for Fiona Campbell.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FALKIRK COUNCIL
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2014/15

Organisation Name	The Action Group
Project	Real Jobs Falkirk
Agreement Dates	1 April 2014 to 31 December 2015
Name of Lead Officer	Elaine Costello

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

The aims of The Action Group are to provide a service which will assist disabled young people, especially those attending Carrongrange School, to choose their post-school direction and to make a successful transition into sustainable employment, voluntary work placements, training or further education.

List of Agreed Outcomes

Outputs	**Annual Target 2014/15**	**Achieved 2014/15**	**Annual Target 2015/16**	**Achieved To December 2015**
The number of young people completing a Vocational profile	24	**24**	26	**18**
The number of young people supported to undertake a work placement or voluntary work	28	**31**	20	**18**
The number of households seeing their household income increase as a result of intervention by the Real Jobs Falkirk service and Falkirk Councils	10	**12**	8	**4**
The number of people with support needs that will be supported into employment	7	**7**	5	**7**
The number of people with support needs who will sustain employment for over three months	4	**7**	4	**8**
The number of young people with support needs sustaining employment for linger than six months	5	**8**	5	**15**
The number of people participating in supported work placements at the Steadings Café in Muiravonside Country Park and the Tryst Café in Stenhousemuir	60	**81**	50	**58**
The number of young people with support needs that will be supported into Education or Training which will be sustained for at least three months	20	**50**	20	**23**
The number of young people with support needs that will be supported to achieve a work related qualification	12	**17**	10	**8**

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

The project focuses on young people with a range of disabilities who are often hard to access and who find it difficult to use mainstream services. Young people with learning disabilities and other support needs attending Carrongrange school often feel excluded by the actions of others and self select not to participate. Project workers are skilled at working with these groups and have established effective partnerships across the council area. The project works with ETU and a member of ETU attends monitoring meetings to ensure that relevant links are made between young people involved in the project and the employability skills pipeline.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

2014/15 finished strongly with Real Jobs Falkirk meeting, or exceeding, the targets for getting people with learning disabilities and other support needs into employment, and sustaining people in work.
The service continues to support the 13 final year pupils participating in Learning Works and we are beginning to prepare for the next cohort with site visits, applications and interviews in advance of next year.
The Learning Works programme continues to work closely with Carrongrange school and the three local employers: The Inchyra Grange Hotel (MacDonald Hotels chain); Malcolm Allan Manufacturing Meat Suppliers and Serco, the facilities provider at the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Falkirk, as well as with Forth Valley and Cumbernauld Colleges.
Feedback from all of our partner employers remains very positive and the good news is that it looks as though some of the young people completing their work experience this year will be kept on as paid employees when they leave school, although exact numbers have still to be determined.
This has been a very positive experience for all concerned and has raised the outcome numbers of young people getting into work. We want to continue to work with the school in order to develop this further, subject to staff capacity.

Muiravonside
Muiravonside café continues to provide invaluable work experience. The benefit to service users comes out in outcomes achieved with not only Carrongrange pupils benefitting but also those with Grangemouth, Denny and The Braes schools. The café has now been repainted by students from Forth Valley College and staff and the chairs have been reupholstered. It now looks like a new café!

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

Staffing and Funding issues remain but the project is hopeful that providing these areas remain relatively stable that it should be in position to cope with increasing demand.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The project has contributed to the Council's Poverty Strategy outcomes in:

- Employment by increasing the number of young people participating in post 16 learning; and increasing the proportion of school leavers entering a positive destination.
- Financial Security: By maximising the income of households that rely on benefits.

25% of the projects service users reside in SIMD areas.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

There has been no shortfall in targets being achieved in 2014/2015

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Six monthly.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Total Support Provided (Financial & In-Kind Contributions)

£118,378 Falkirk Council Contribution 14/15
£50,000 Big Lottery Funding to December 2014
£100,621 Falkirk Council Contribution 15/16
£85,621 Falkirk Council Contribution 16/17

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 – no qualifications/issues.

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

Lack of continued funding from the Council and other sources would risk the ongoing delivery of the project.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Medium
Due to ongoing fiscal constraints and a further reduction in funding of £15,000 from Falkirk Council in 2016/17.

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year

The project is effective in carrying out the type of work that bridges the transition from school to employment for young people with learning disabilities and other support needs, including those leaving care, from an ethnic minority background or with a background of offending behaviour.

To date the project has successfully met targets and has the support of parents, teachers and employers.

E COMPLETED BY

Name	Elaine M Costello
Designation	Integration Support Manager
Date	18 February 2016

FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2014/15

Organisation Name	Salvation Army
Project	Soup Kitchen
Agreement Dates	1/4/14 - 31/3/15 & 1/4/15 - 31/12/15
Name of Lead Officer	Joanna Stewart

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

The Falkirk Drop in service has been running for a number of years now with one full time Drop in Coordinator and relying on a number of volunteers. The project has the following core objectives to;

- provide a Place of Safety
- keep the ethos of a Healthy person at the project core
- ensure the Welfare of clients
- develop the service to ensure that it meets the changing needs of the client

The drop in service provides a nutritious meal Monday to Friday as well as showering and washing facilities and food parcels and hygiene packs for those in emergent need.

The client group come from a variety of backgrounds from those who have been affected by recent benefits cuts, to those with enduring mental health needs to those with addictions. Fundamentally the project provides signposting and support to help the most vulnerable individuals in the Falkirk area access other statutory and third party services that will address their needs.

The project delivers services under the following Corporate Plan goals:

- Continuing to improve the health, safety and well-being of our citizens and communities;
- Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination; and
- Enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live, work and visit

List of Agreed Outcomes

- To provide a drop in facility will be provided to assist homeless and vulnerable people access services in the Falkirk Council area
- To offer services which will support clients and assistance with referrals to additional agencies are facilitated and/or accompany clients to interview and appointments on request
- To provide Nutritional meals, and cooking sessions will be provided within the drop in centre and food parcels will be provided

- To provide Hygiene packs, showers and washing facilities are available to all those who require them
- To raise awareness of the service to the community
- All volunteers are given appropriate training and will have a volunteer handbook once training is complete
- Monthly staff supervision and weekly staff meetings will ensure that staff practices and activities are monitored monthly
- All staff will receive an annual staff development review
- The management committee will monitor staff activities and performance
- Information about the service is printed in various formats and is distributed widely.
- To liaise with other relevant voluntary services

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

The project is a jointly funded initiative through Falkirk Council and NHS Forth Valley. The project relies on and thrives on the volunteers and the donations that it receives. It requires dedicated individuals who build relations and rapport with service users and agencies to ensure that service users can access the services they require.

Originally soup kitchens were set up by voluntary organisations, usually churches, taking food to the needy in inner cities. This model had changed significantly over the years and now looks at not just providing one healthy meal a day but also providing additional health services and signposting to appropriate services encouraging people to move away from dependency on social services and address their housing and health issues. To this extent soup kitchens need to be flexible and have a multi-disciplinary approach to meet the varying needs of service users.

This approach can often require a substantial amount of investment in building relationships with service users the often local authority officers do not have the luxury of due to time restraints but also because service users often see then as an authority figure and will sometimes fail to engage. To this extent a voluntary organisation provides a more flexible and less authoritarian approach for service users to effectively engage with.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

In 2014/15 11746 meals were provided which is an average of 45 meals a day and 256 food parcels. From April to December 2015, 3635 meals have been provided which is an average of 19 meals a day.

As well as providing the core meals at the drop in service those attending have also been assisted with harm reduction, mental health services, accessing employability programmes and the Keep Well health project.

It is clear that in the current welfare reform climate that the drop-in service provides assistance to those who may otherwise accumulated more debt and perhaps turned to crime to feed themselves or in gone hungry. In addition to this may service users are effectively engaging in the services and are for example accessing addictions service to address their needs. This has helped a number of clients to move on from the service and establish positive outcomes with

several service users have returning to the project as volunteers or on employability placements.

The project relies greatly on the food donations from local business and the volunteers that help run the service. In addition to this other agencies such as Sign Post, NHS Forth Valley, Falkirk Councils Rough Sleepers worker and the Debt and Welfare Team and Women's Aid all assist in supporting clients that attend the service.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

One of the key challenges in 2014/15 will be for the Salvation Army to actively support clients accessing the service who have particular issues. By accessing appropriate services service users are able to make positive moves towards addressing addiction or mental health issues.

As with all organisations continuous funding is an issue. If donations and funding from NHS Forth Valley were to be dropped or cut would have a substantial impact on the project. Falkirk Council are working with the organisation to see if additional funding can be sought to help establish and deliver discrete activity programmes that will complement the current project and address some of the issues identified above.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The Soup kitchen strives to attribute to the following goals of the Corporate Plan.

- Continuing to improve the health, safety and well-being of our citizens and communities;
- Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination; and
- Enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live, work and visit.

They achieve this by working closely with NHS Forth Valley to deliver Keep Well Appointments and handing out oral health packs and speaking to those begging on the streets to ensure that they are accessing services.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

There have been no issues in regards to a shortfall in performance. The project is a drop in service therefore numbers can fluctuate.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

The Lead office meets quarterly with the project and holds an annually review meeting to discuss the next year's priorities.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

The majority of funding comes from funding from Falkirk Council (£10,475 per annum) and NHS Forth Valley (£27,000 per annum). Any additional funding for the project comes from

donations (approximately £9,361, this includes donations from the general public, trust income and legacies). The kitchen relies on local food business's donation food on a regular basis.

The soup kitchen management costs come from national funding, although this is not specified within the project running costs. The community café which is based within same facility has a source of income and this likely covers the running of the community café and any deficits from the soup kitchen.

Falkirk Council funding contributes to approximately 22% of the soup kitchens overall funding.

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

2013/14

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

Risk rating was assessed as Low for the grant funding however there is a financial risk with the level of overspend by the project to maintain the levels of service users attending.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Low

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year

During 2014-15 the service has worked well in establishing contacts with other agencies which they refer onto to assist clients to resolve their crisis as well as maintaining funding for specialist posts to deal the alcohol misuse and debt and welfare issues. Colleagues within the health service are also providing assistance to ensure that clients have healthy and nutritious meals and have access to education about how to cook healthy meals themselves.

The project will need to monitor closely, along with the council the demands on the service to ensure that capacity is not overstretched and that the service can meet the needs of its clients. This will be a difficult balancing act if numbers increase however clear planning will ensure that the best is made of the resources available and thereby utilising other services in the area to assist in the delivery of the service.

E COMPLETED BY	
Name	
Designation	
Date	

FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2014/15

Organisation Name	Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC)
Project	Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC)
Agreement Dates	April 2015 – March 16
Name of Lead Officer	Fiona Campbell

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

- To promote equality of opportunities for all through various projects and outreach work
- To support victims of discrimination and harassment by the provision of advocacy, representation, information and advice.
- To encourage community cohesion and good relations through community development and projects designed to promote active, participative citizenship among diverse communities, thus enabling them to contribute fully to community planning and other consultations.
- To acquaint organisations and employers of any discrimination experienced by any group in any field, but especially in social welfare, housing, employment, education and health care.
- To provide programmes of public education and information, through seminars, forums and other means.
- To maintain a local library service for school pupils, students, teachers, voluntary organisations and other agencies, providing a comprehensive source of information for the purposes of anti-discrimination and harassment education.
-

List of Agreed Outcomes

- Develop an annual work plan which will be approved by the CSRECL Board
- Demonstrate increased Director involvement in the strategic management of CSRECL by:
  - Developing the knowledge and understanding of the Board of Directors in relation to their roles and responsibilities
  - Expanding the expertise, experience and skills of the Board in areas identified as 'protected characteristics' within the terms of the Equality Act 2010
- Demonstrate organisation management by:
  - Ensuring that all Board papers are ready in good time prior to the Board meeting.
  - Ensuring that relevant financial reports are available to aid Director decision making
- Conduct a review of current staffing structure against agreed service delivery
- To explore the feasibility of extending current projects into Stirling
- To develop a relevant equality service across the Council areas
- Recruit and appoint staff and volunteers to deliver against the work plan where funding

has been secured.
  - To establish a system of staff performance appraisal

- To develop a communication strategy with a focus on:
  - Quarterly newsletter
  - Website development

- CSRECL will continue to develop a client support service by:
  - Signposting individuals to the appropriate advice and representation where this is provided by other agencies.
  - Providing a direct advice service where this is appropriate and within the current knowledge base
  - Exploring the feasibility of expansion into Stirling

- Keeping accurate records of all complaints dealt with and their outcomes and publish statistics on an annual basis. This will include establishing and implementing case study reviews e.g.: Providing quantitative data and qualitative information to demonstrate numbers and results

- Refer to, and work closely with, other relevant agencies such as MAHRS partners providing statistical reports to contribute to the capture and analysis of discrimination / harassment related incidents and crime.

- CSRECL will conduct an annual user survey and provide information to the Councils on the results.

- Liaise with the two nominated officers within local authorities to identify and contribute to education, awareness and promotion activities.

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

CSREC is a very long standing voluntary organisation initially supported by the Equality & Human Rights Commission and is evolving from a Race Equality Council to a Regional Equality Council with a wider focus across the whole equality spectrum and all of the protected characteristics.

The role and function of CSREC does not come within the statutory service remit of the Council however the Council is expected to demonstrate how it meets the general equality duty which includes evidence of work to: eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. In this capacity the funding support to SCREC would act as evidence in this regard.

As an external voluntary organisation CSREC is able to draw down funds (Voluntary Action Fund; Awards for All etc) which is funding Council's would not be able to do. The total amount of external funding in place up to March 2015 is in the region of £159k which will result in the creation of jobs as well as activity to address e.g. sectarianism; cultural diversity etc. However at present this is expected to reduce significantly. The only guaranteed funding for the coming financial year is £25 275 (£7275 +£18 000). 18K is unrestricted money from Forth Valley Language support are £7275 is restricted funding to deliver awareness events on sectarianism, discrimination and hate crime by March 2016. CSREC. will also expect to receive approx. (8,670 from Falkirk Council and approx. £6 000 from Stirling Council depending on successful applications to each Council.

B	**ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES**

Summary of Key Achievements

- Develop an annual work plan which will be approved by the CSRECL Board *Completed.*

- Demonstrate increased Director involvement in the strategic management of CSRECL by:
  - Developing the knowledge and understanding of the Board of Directors in relation to their roles and responsibilities *(Board Member training delivered. Continuing development)*
  - Expanding the expertise, experience and skills of the Board in areas identified as 'protected characteristics' within the terms of the Equality Act 2010 *Invitations to co-optees with knowledge / skill in different equality areas. Limited involvement to date; continuing development.*

- Demonstrate organisation management by:
  - Ensuring that all Board papers are ready in good time prior to the Board meeting
  - Ensuring that relevant financial reports are available to aid Director decision making *Some finance information accompanies the project performance reports.*

- Conduct a review of current staffing structure against agreed service delivery. Manager appointed.

- To explore the feasibility of extending current projects into Stirling & Clacks. *In development – likely to be subject to successful funding bids.*

- To develop a relevant equality service across the funding Councils' service and geographic areas *In development, limited progress to date but an improvement on previous years*

- Recruit and appoint staff and volunteers to deliver against the work plan.
- To establish a system of staff performance appraisal *(in development*)
- To develop a communication strategy:
  - Produce a quarterly newsletter,
  - Develop website (*in progress*)

- CSREC will continue to develop a client support service by:
  -Signposting individuals to the appropriate advice and representation where this is provided by other agencies.
  -Providing a direct advice service where this is appropriate and within the current knowledge base

- Keeping accurate records of all complaints dealt with and their outcomes and publish statistics on an annual basis. This will include establishing and implementing case study reviews e.g.: Providing quantitative data and qualitative information to demonstrate numbers and results *All projects producing quarterly performance reports on progress for the Board quarterly meetings.*

- Refer to, and work closely with, other relevant agencies such as MAHRS partners providing statistical reports to contribute to the capture and analysis of discrimination / harassment related incidents and crime. *In place and on-going although this work will stop as all recording should now be undertaken by Police Scotland*

- CSREC will conduct an annual user survey and provide information to the Councils on the results. *Some preparatory work is underway on this objective.*

- Liaise with the three nominated officers within local authorities to identify and contribute to education, awareness and promotion activities.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

The leadership issues and governance challenges reported to the last Scrutiny panel remain. Board members have attended training which was delivered by an external consultant. Observations suggest that there is still patchy understanding and engagement with the various projects for which they are accountable. There remain a number of concerns over the governance of this organisation.

In the previous report it was mentioned that the Board recognised that there was not the wide range of equality skill and knowledge given CSREC's aspiration to provide support across the whole equality protected characteristic spectrum. To support this gap effort was made by the Chairperson to co-opt people with this additional knowledge and expertise. Since the last report more is required to develop this initiative.

CSREC receives core funding from Falkirk and Stirling Council's. In the coming year Falkirk has set aside funding of £8, 670 for CSREC. However this is dependent on a successful application to the Council. Stirling have continued to allocate funding in the region of £6000. Clackmannanshire Council conducted a funding review last year and has now stopped funding CSREC effective from October 2014 which leaves Falkirk and Stirling funding in place up to March 2016..

Income generation possibilities are being explored in terms of developing training packages however this is in the developmental stage. CSREC have organised two training sessions in the Stirling Council area.

The challenge for CSREC is that there is a limited financial cushion resulting in a great deal of energy going into funding search. They are relying heavily on their reserves to support the organisation. Additionally they have an outstanding debt of £47 000 to pay to the Falkirk Council Pension fund. A payment plan has been agreed.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The Council is expected to demonstrate how it meets the general equality duty which includes evidence of work to: eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

CSREC has contributed to this by acting as co-ordinator of racial incident reports and production of quarterly reports for the MAHRS group.
Developing a complainant aid service and liaising where appropriate with relevant Council Services.

Working in tandem with Council Services e.g. Education / CLD to deliver activities as part of externally funded project objectives around anti – sectarian work, cultural diversity and an emerging Equality Forum.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

Encouraging co-optees with wider equality knowledge / skill / expertise on to the Board.
Finance reports being ready in time for Board quarterly meetings
Developing work across Stirling and Clackmannanshire
Developing a source of equality community contacts
Annual user survey

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Quarterly with the Chairperson; this will now continue with the newly appointed Manager.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years over next two years

Falkirk Council funds CSREC on an annual basis:

Falkirk Council contribution - £10 200
Accommodation is also provided by Falkirk Council in kind, with an estimated value of £10,000.

The total funding (financial and in kind) for the past 3 years has been: **£70,600**

Future funding is agreed on an annual basis subject to a Joint Working Agreement. Funding based on the above estimating continuance at new levels: £17, 340 + £20,000 (in kind) over the next 2 years totalling = **£37 340**

Falkirk Council funding expressed as a percentage of CSREC's **total** funding over the financial year 2014/15 = 6.2% This calculation has been worked out against all of the funding received including that from external sources and not just the 2 local Councils.

The organisation having came out the local authority pension scheme has spent a significant amount of time negotiating a cessation fee and a repayment plan for this. The agreed repayment amount is £47 000. The first of seven payments is due on 1st October 2016 for £6714. This repayment plan represents a significant reduction in the amount owed. The amount of money given to CSREC falls below the amount where a Joint Working Agreement and FPP requirements are necessary.

CSREC's funding situation for the coming financial year is that they will receive £18 000 from Forth Valley Language Support which is unrestricted and approximately £6000 from Stirling Council , in addition to the £8 670 from Falkirk Council, this is a total of £32 670. Both Local Authorities require successful applications for funding.

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

2014/2015

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

Structural:
The leadership issues, governance challenges as well as knowledge and skills gap across the wider equality agenda reported to the last Scrutiny panel remain. Board members have attended training which was delivered by an external consultant. Attempts at improving the Board membership through co-optees have also yet to be realised.

While CSREC has been successful attracting external funding it is unclear if the search for funding is within an overall operational strategy. The risk is that energy and effort is put into chasing funding without having a sense of how this is contributing to CSREC vision and plan. This issue is unresolved with no improvement.

Operational:
SCREC has been previously been successful in drawing down **external funding** totalling £159k. The previous report outlined the work being carried out by the externally funded projects

Anti-Sectarian Project (funded up to March 2016 by Voluntary Action Fund) was able to demonstrate an impact through its work with schools and engaging a significant number of primary and high schools pupils in discussion and activity.

The Mainstreaming Equality Project (funded up to March 2016 by Scottish Government**)** had been without a member of staff for some months.

The new Manager has a dual role in that he is responsible for the delivery of the mainstreaming project and has produced a short term work plan for the remaining funding period which has as its focus the establishment of a central regional equality forum. The contacts and discussions thus far (supported by a positive working relationship with CLD staff) suggest that this has the potential to engage new people from the various diverse communities across Falkirk. This is being launched in March 2015.

Core funding project work: Advice and Support Service (local authority funding) confirmed up to March 2015. This project is being re-established and while the numbers were small over 2013/14 (36 clients) this is being monitored over the current financial reporting year. A **Part – time Manager** (local authority funding contribution) confirmed up to March 2016. This is a position which has recently been created to fill the void arising from the resignation of the previous post holder.

Financial:
External funding ends in March 2016. Continued efforts are being made to identify funding beyond this timeframe. CSREC have received funding of £7275 from Scottish Government's Community Safety Unit funded Tackling Sectarianism Small Grant Fund through Voluntary Action Fund for awareness events on sectarianism, discrimination, prejudice and hate crime to be completed before 31 March 2016.

CSREC has received £12,600 during the current financial year from the community interest company, Forth Valley Language Support, of which CSREC is the sole beneficiary. They anticipate this amount to go up to £18,000 for 2016-2017. This is 'unrestricted money' to meet the budget shortfalls the organisation meets.

The following funding bids have been submitted and await decision:

CSREC have applied to the Big Lottery's Investing in Ideas fund for £10,000 through the Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils (SAREC) in partnership with the three other regional equality councils that will lead on to a larger application to develop a support and advice service in our areas for victims of hate crimes and those facing discrimination.

The total funding received from Stirling, and Falkirk Council's is
£24 670 (£10k in kind) up to March 2016. This is subject to successful application processes. This money has been used to lever in external funding however given the current actual reduction and future uncertainty it is unknown how this leverage can / will continue. External funders may also be wary of providing funds to an organisation that has a significant level of debt.

A further contributory factor is the lack of clarity at the moment from funders which includes Scottish Government and large voluntary sector funds about how much money will be available for next year.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

The risk is being assessed across the following areas:

Leadership and governance – Knowledge and expertise skills gap across the equality protected characteristics
Ongoing issues in relation to governance of organisation

Funding:

- External funding comes to an end March 2016
- Debt of £47 000
- Reliance on reserves to meet funding shortfalls

For these reasons and at this point in time the overall risk rating is considered to be **High**.

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year

There is no doubt that the successful bids for external funding have allowed CSREC to develop local projects dealing with a range of issues and which in terms of the external funder assessment have been successful. The external funding has also encouraged links with Council Services e.g. youth service; schools and community learning and development. The main geographic beneficiary being Falkirk district.

Project sustainability is a key concern and one which the voluntary sector in general struggles with; where seeking funding to survive can come at the expense of ongoing impact and community sustainability.

E COMPLETED BY

Name	Linda Gilliland
Designation	Team Leader Policy and Community Planning
Date	March 1st

FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2014/2015

Organisation Name	Falkirk and District Women's Aid
Project	Domestic Abuse Support Services
Agreement Dates	1 April 2014- 31 March 2015 & 1 April 2015- 31 December 2015
Name of Lead Officer	Elizabeth Hood

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

Falkirk and District Women's Aid provides a responsive service to women who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse through practical and emotional support.

The aim of the service is not just to ensure the woman is safe but also to understand the trauma that they have experienced to allow then to take charge of their recovery. The service is very much lead through a multi-agency responsive ensuing that the service works closely with the Domestic Abuse Unit, Housing Service, Drug and Alcohol Services and other third sector partners.

Below illustrates the core aims of the service.

- Creating Safety for women and their children
- Establishing Care and Wellbeing including access to accommodation
- Establishing Routines of Daily Living
- Socialisation
- Children and Young People
- Provide Support and advice is to statutory and voluntary agencies and the wider community

List of Agreed Outcomes

The following agreed outcomes for 2014/15 are

- Women have clear safety plans where risks are reduced
- Women are free from abusive partners
- Women are no longer roofless/homeless
- Children protection issues are addressed and resolved
- Parenting is improved
- Reduction in self-harming & increase in self esteem
- Effective financial management
- Able to communicate effectively with partner agencies
- Reduction in contact with health services
- Healthy eating patterns

- Improved coping mechanisms
- Service is accessible regardless of age, belief, disability, ethnicity & sexual orientation

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

This service that requires the coordination of a number of disciplines to deal with the complex issues that those affected by domestic abuse experience. The organisation also offers additional psychological services providing counselling services through Big Lottery funding. Due to the nature of the organisation they are able to access additional funding streams to augment and enhance the service that the local authority may not otherwise be able to access.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

Last year Women's Aid supported 486 women in 2014/15 and has supported 272 women so far this year (figures to December 2015).

Referrals by agency - April - Dec 2015	No.	%
Self	81	30%
Health	9	3%
Housing	50	18%
DAU/Police	63	23%
CYP	0	0%
Social Work	17	6%
Other	52	19%
Total	272	100%

During 2015 the service was awarded Leading Lights Accreditation, which is a specific quality assurance accreditation for Domestic Abuse services.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

As the instances of domestic abuse reporting increase, and women have more choices to leave their abusive partners, there will be an increase in demand for the service. Also the new welfare reform regime will mean that Universal Benefits will be paid to one named person in the household which potentially could be the abuser in the household. This may deter women from leaving their abusive partners due to lack of financial support. This is a significant challenge to the organisation in supporting women through to leave when they have no financial means.

As with all voluntary organisations they often rely on short terms funding streams with little security of long term income. This is a threat to the delivery and continuity of services.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

In essence they contribute to the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities and the aims of the community safety partnership.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

None

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Quarterly meetings with Service Manager

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

Grants and Donations (miscellaneous services) £244,170 per annum has been paid over the last three financial years which is 56% of organisations income. 42% of the organisations funding comes from the Community Safety Partnership, Big Lottery Funding, and Scottish Government Grants. The remainder of funding comes from trusts and donations.

The organisation has been made aware of the cuts to Funding from Falkirk Council. It is clear that they will need to make some difficult decisions and prioritise services to reflect these cuts.

The proposed reduction to funding for 2016/2017 is £24,417 reducing their budget to £219,753.

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

2013/2014.

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

The projects monitoring officer is working closely with the service manager and board to ensure that clear priorities are set for 16/17 to ensure that core services can be delivered in light of the budget cuts. This will ensure that service user's safety is paramount.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Medium

D CONCLUSIONS
Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year Falkirk and District Women's Aid continue to make significant progress in delivering services that meet the needs of the community which are more responsive and accessible to those in crisis. They continue to review and seek opportunities for improvement within their service provision to identify gaps. This is highlighted through the achievement and on-going work towards Leading Lights accreditation.

E COMPLETED BY	
Name	Joanna Stewart
Designation	Senior Service Development Officer
Date	February 2016

FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE AND HOUSING SERVICES FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT 2014/15

Organisation Name	LinkLiving
Project	Smartliving
Agreement Dates	1 April 2014 – 31 March 15 & 1 April 2015 – 31 December 2015
Name of Lead Officer	Joanna Stewart

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

The Smartliving project (run by the Link Group) was established in collaboration with Falkirk Council in 2006 to engage with young people in secondary schools to dispel the myths of homelessness and prevent young people from becoming homeless.

Information sessions are delivered by Peer Educators as it is recognised that this an effective means of information-sharing for young people who are learning from their peer group. All of the Peer Educators recruited to the project have expertise and knowledge as a result of their own experience of homelessness or housing problems and Smart Living trains and supports them to deliver key messages in a way that encourages their target audience to both learn and empathise.

Since the project began it has evolved and adapted to a changing environment and a number of external factors including changes to the delivery of education services through Curriculum for Excellence and the more recently the changes to Welfare Reform.

List of Agreed Outcomes

The following outcomes were agreed with the project for delivery in 2014/15

- To recruit peer educators who will delivered housing advice to other young people across the Council area
- To work in partnership with other agencies in the area such as Housing, Social Work Services, Falkirk Community Trust, Education Services and other housing support services
- To raise awareness of the issues of youth homelessness
- To liaise with other relevant voluntary organisations
- To collate client feedback and assess this information to help identify issues that need to be addressed in the monitoring of the Falkirk Local Housing Strategy
- To evaluate the service offered and assess this information to improve the delivery of services and identify needs

The project delivers services under the following Corporate Plan goals:

- Continuing to improve the health, safety and well being of our citizens and communities;
- Increasing our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination; and
- Enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live, work and visit.

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

Initially the project was established by Link Living with Voluntary Action Funding. When this funding came to an end they approached Falkirk Council for match funding for the project. The project was considered a good model for homeless prevention for young people and therefore match funding was granted.

Presently the project is a part funded through the Scottish government People with Communities funding, Falkirk Council and Link Group. If Falkirk Council were to fully fund the project we would need to resource the full project to an amount to the value of around £48,547. This is currently not feasible within the Housing Service Budget. In addition to this the project is facilitated across two local authorities (Fife and Falkirk) therefore there are cost savings in terms of staff costs and overheads which benefit both authorities.

To effectively engage with young people they need an approach that works on their level. The approach that Smartliving takes with Peer Educators ensures that its young people talking to young people on their level and not an authority figure. To this extent this voluntary organisation facilitates a more flexible and less authoritarian approach for young people to effectively engage with.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

A total of 49 young people engaged with Smart Living throughout the year, delivering sessions to over 2000 young people in Larbert High, Graham High, Forth Valley College (7 peer education sessions were delivered at Forth Valley College in January to young people with learning and physical disabilities), CVS and Falkirk Young Carers.

Of the young people that volunteered with the Smart Living project, 38 have successfully engaged with employability programmes resulting in 15 achieving employment, 3 moving into further education, 4 continuing to carry out volunteer work and 6 working with other training providers across the Falkirk area. In addition to those that delivered the peer education sessions a total of 32 young people also attended the project.

The project aims to continually promote its service to raise awareness and recruit new volunteers. Posters and flyers were distributed to Job Centre Plus, Forth Valley College, Citizens Advice Bureau, Garry Place and handed out to young people in town centre by SmartLiving Volunteers. Peer Educator opportunities have been advertised with CVS and Volunteer Scotland. Articles have also been printed in Falkirk Herald promoting SmartLiving services.

Each SmartLiving session is evaluated before and after the session. Before the sessions 29% did not know where to go if they became homeless, after this session this decreased to 5%. They were also asked if it was helpful that the sessions were delivered by Peer educators. 97% reporting that they understood the issues surround homelessness with many quoting "I will be staying at home as long as I can".

A recent independent evaluation report funded by Link Group by ConSUlt recognised the high retention rate of young people volunteering with the project (over 80%) which is unusual for this client group. As a result of recommendations from the evaluation the project has restructured its activities to ensure that the Peer Education and Employability are separate entities but that they still work together to achieve the personal goals for young people. This seems to have proved effective for the organisation thus far.

The organisation worked towards its SQA accreditation during 2014/15 and is now recognised as an SQA learning centre. This means that they will deliver employability and volunteer awards as well as the possibility of tenancy and citizenship awards in 2015/16.

The success of this project has also been recognised across other local authorities (Edinburgh, Fife and North Lanarkshire) where similar projects have now been established.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

To deliver the project successfully it requires constant review to ensure that it is up to date with legislative and local changes as well as looking at innovative methods of delivery that captures the attention of the audience. Ensuring that young people interact with the sessions is the biggest challenge. Using multimedia and varying methods of delivery ensure that both the participants and young volunteers continue to engage.

To allow young people to deliver sessions in schools they are required to have PVG certificates. In order to apply for these, photo identification is required. For some volunteers to the project who may have had a chaotic lifestyle this can prove challenging and the process can be lengthy. There is little can be done to improve process however they are fully supported from their project workers until their PVG is granted.

As with many projects continuous funding is an issue. Link Group are very supportive of the project.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The Smartliving project assists in the continuing improvement of the health, safety and well being of our citizens and communities by teaching young people the importance of keeping a home safe and secure whilst teaching them about the responsibilities of having a home of their own.

Through participation in volunteering and access to employability programmes the project is increasing Falkirk Council's efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination. This also assists in enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live, work and visit.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

The project has successfully engaged with over 2000 young people throughout 2014/15 through various venues and groups. Unfortunately sessions have not been delivered in all the High Schools in the district. The project has sought to look at other avenues to engage with young people especially those who may be at risk and therefore deliver sessions in different settings to ensure that those at risk individuals receive information to prevent future homelessness.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Quarterly Review meetings are held with the Lead Officer to discuss the projects quarterly performance report submissions based on their set objectives. An annual report is also compiled summarising performance.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

FC funding, in £s and also as % of organisation's income, (Financial & In- Kind Contributions) provided in past three years, and £s FC funding committed to next two years

Falkirk Council contributes £14,114 of funding to the project which amounts to around 29% of their overall project budget. To run the current project amounts to around £48,500. Additional funding is currently received form the Scottish Government's People and Communities funding of £14,433 for 2015/16 and Link Group contribute any shortfall. The People with Communities funding stream will expire on 31st March 2016. The project will be looking to submit an application for 2016/17 however they have been informed that providing their submission is approved, funding will continue for 2016/17.

During the budget setting process in February 2015, Members agreed that funding from external grants and funding will cease for this project in 2016/17. This was confirmed in February 2016, as indicated within the Revenue Budget Framework report (http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/coins/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=e%97%9Db%91i%7D%8D). This leaves a significant shortfall in funds to continue the project. Additional funding will need to be sourced from other avenues if the project is to continue however funding from Falkirk Council will cease.

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

2013/2014

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

Ongoing funding will be a future risk for the project. As mentioned, Falkirk Council will cease to fund this project.

Additional funds are sought currently from the Scottish Government People and Communities and Linkgroup. The People with Communities funding will expire in March 2015. People and Communities funding has confirmed additional funding has been confirmed for 16/17 although the amount has not yet been finalised and is subject to approval of an application.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Low

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/ opinion of organisations overall progress carried forward from last report, and also during this year

As a result of Falkirk Council's decision to stop funds to this service Falkirk Council will no longer support the project. It is uncertain whether they can continue to run the service until additional funding steams are confirmed and shortfalls are addressed. It may be that the employability portion of the service may continue however the peer education work within secondary schools may not continue.

E COMPLETED BY	
Name	Joanna Stewart
Designation	Senior Service Development Officer
Date	February 2016

AGENDA ITEM 6

FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND REPORT: FALKIRK ENVIRONMENT TRUST / FALKIRK TOWNS LTD

AGENDA ITEM 6

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: **FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND REPORT: FALKIRK ENVIRONMENT TRUST / FALKIRK TOWNS LTD**
Meeting: **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**
Date: **10 March 2016**
Author: **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the work of the above external organisations which received funding, in part, from Development Services and which fell within the 'Following the Public Pound' (FPP) reporting and monitoring arrangements.

1.2 Falkirk Environment Trust (FET) is a charitable organisation able to provide a range and quality of service that would not otherwise be provided. Falkirk Towns Ltd is a company limited by guarantee which provided town centre management services and runs the Falkirk Business Improvement District (BID).

1.3 This report seeks to provide Members with information on the funding agreements which Development Services had with these external organisations covering the period 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015, in line with the FPP and Council procedures.

2. OVERVIEW OF ORGANISATION

2.1 The table below shows the funding the organisations received from the Council during 2014/15, for which Development Services was the lead monitoring Service. It should be noted that an organisation may have received funding support from another source as described in the appendices.

Organisation	Report Year	Funding Purpose	Support Received 13/14	Support Received 14/15
Falkirk Environment Trust (FET)	14/15	Core funding to support community led environmental projects	£27,450	£27,450
Falkirk Towns Ltd	14/15	Improving the economic performance of town centres	£188,890	£188,890

3. ASSESSMENT OF ORGANISATIONS' PERFORMANCE

3.1 Appendices 1 and 2 give an overview of the services provided, the agreed objectives or outcomes, performance information during the reporting period and a financial overview based on audited accounts and financial monitoring arrangements.

3.2 As part of the support allocation 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 (FET and Falkirk Towns Ltd in this case), are monitored at least annually. Monitoring is recommended to take the form of reports which measure performance against outcomes and/or objectives and provide financial monitoring information. Monitoring Officers are also required to hold meetings with the external organisation throughout the year.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 As set out within the 'Following the Public Pound: Scrutiny Committee Role and Reporting Schedule', Members are invited to consider this report and select from the following options:

A. Approve report and acknowledge progress by the external organisations in meeting Council priorities;
B. Request further information on specific aspects of the service provided; or
C. Request action with follow-up for subsequent Scrutiny Committee consideration.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Members are asked to consider this report on Falkirk Environment Trust and Falkirk Towns Ltd and select an option from those presented in paragraph 4.1.

.....……..
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Date: 2nd March 2016

Contact Name: Ian Edwards, Ext 4714 / Jacquie MacArthur, Ext 0973

APPENDIX

1. Following the Public Pound Annual Reporting Statement: Falkirk Environment Trust.
2. Following the Public Pound Annual Reporting Statement: Falkirk Towns Ltd

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Falkirk Environment Trust Accounts and Annual Report 2014/15
2. Report to Policy and Performance Review Committee 19 March 1998.
3. Falkirk Environment Trust Business Plans (2009-14 and 2015-20).
4. Falkirk Environment Trust – Project Files.
5. Falkirk BID Business Plan 2011 – 2016
6. Falkirk Towns Ltd – Project File

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 504714 and ask for Ian Edwards or 01324 590973 and ask for Jacquie McArthur

APPENDIX 1

FALKIRK COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2014/15

Organisation Name	Falkirk Environment Trust
Project	Annual Progress Report
Agreement Dates	Annual – August
Name of Lead Officer	Ian Edwards, Falkirk Environment Trust Monitoring Officer

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

- During the reporting period, Falkirk Environment Trust (FET), established in 1998, was a charitable company established to disburse monies available from the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) to local agencies and community groups engaged in appropriate, qualifying environmental improvement works.

List of Outcomes

The principal outcomes of the agreement during the relevant period were:

- To develop and fund projects that meet the requirements of the Landfill Tax (1996) Regulations as set out in guidelines produced on behalf HM Revenue and Customs by ENTRUST.
- To publicise and promote the availability of landfill community funds to local agencies and community groups.
- To assist local agencies and community groups with applications for landfill community funds through FET.
- To advise successful applicants on the procedures and administrative requirements that require to be fulfilled before funds can be claimed.

These outcomes were achieved through the Falkirk Environment Trust Board and other projects relating to the work of FET.

How is FET Funded?

The Council provided £27,450 annually to core operating costs. This equated to 55% of direct salary costs of the Development Manager, plus accommodation and administrative overheads.

The remaining 45% of salary cost was met in full by FET through fee income. Fee income was based on an hourly rate for time spent on project administration.

The working partnership with the Council was subject to a Joint Working Agreement

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

The figures for financial year 2013/14 are provided below for information and comparison purposes.

Funds allocated by FET to Projects 2013/14 – Main Grants Scheme

Project	Organisation	Amount FET £	Total Project Value £
Kinneil LTFP	CSGN Trust	75,000	167,106
Bespoke Alpine Tractor	Bespoke	15,540	31,080
Blackness JMT Phse 1	Blackness Comm Council	32,000	450,000
Larbert Cycle Track	Tryst Comm. Sports Hub	50,000	254,400
Helix Adventure Zone	Falkirk Community Trust	40,000	295,378
Camelon War Memorial	Camelon War mem. Committee	36,000	127,981
Muiravonside Access	TCV Scotland	5,320	10,640
Bothkennar Pools	Falkirk Council	7,000	16,608
Kinneil Foreshore	Falkirk Council	17,489	25,624
Skinflats Bioremedy	RSPB	5,000	45,000
Carron Invasives	River Forth Fisheries Trust	6,500	13,000
Polmont Wood Habitat	Falkirk Council	4,968	12,111
TOTAL		**294,817**	**1,448,928**

Funds Allocated by FET to Projects 2013/14 – Small Grants Scheme (up to £2000)

Project Name	Organisation	Amount FET £
Langlees Orphan Land Project	Brighten Up Langlees and Bainsford (BULB)	2,000
Upper Avon Restoration Project	River Forth Fisheries Trust	2,000
Muiravonside Wildlife Survey and Bioplan	Falkirk Community Trust	1,900
The Letham Cairn	Letham Tenants and Residents Association	1,215
Muirhouses Amenity Enhancement	Muirhouses residents Group	2,000
John Muir Bioblitz	Lionthorn Comm. Woodland Group	450
Jupiter Sheds	TCV	1,625
Carron Dams Renovation Project	Communities Along the Carron	1,000
Westquarter Bioblitz	Westquarter Wildlife Group	1,200
Blackness Amenity Improvements	Blackness Community Council	600
CATCA/FNH Publication	CATCA/ Forth Naturalist and Historian	1,000
Bespoke Path Maintenance Tools	Bespoke Community CIC	3,000
Falkirk Nature Festival	Forth Naturalist and Historian	1,000
TOTAL		**18,990**

APPENDIX 1

The figures for financial year 2014/15 are provided below.

Funds allocated by FET to Projects 2014/15 – Main Grants Scheme			
Project Name	**Organisation**	**Amount FET £**	**Total Project Value £**
Larbert To Dorrator Link	CSGN	15,000	164,200
Denny Memorial Garden	Falkirk Council	31,812	95,185
Lionthorn to Cleuch Access	Bespoke	38,480	76,961
The Bespoke Skills Track	Bespoke	23,237	56,474
Slamannan Parish Church	Slamannan Parish Church	20,000	487,920
Muiravonside Invasives 3	TCV	10,890	21,680
Bo'ness to Blackness JMW 2	Blackness Comm Council	35,000	305,158
Lionthorn Bridge Project	Lionthorn Comm Woodland	6,408	12,816
Avonglen Great Crested Newts	Froglife	5,650	11,300
Muiravonside Newts	Froglife	6,057	12,114
Kinneil Drystane Wall	Falkirk Council	15,000	61,715
Kinneil Kerse Lagoons	RSPB	6,000	25,000
Callendar Park invasives Project	Falkirk Community Trust	28,100	56,200
Bridgeness Wildflower Meadow	Buglife	11,453	22,906
TOTAL		**253,087**	**1,409,629**

Funds Allocated by FET to Projects 2014 / 15 – Small Grants Scheme (up to £2000)		
Project Name	**Organisation**	**Amount FET £**
Macaras Park Road safety track	Macaras Park TRA	2,000
Rugby Club Paths and Hedge	Falkirk Rugby and Sports SCIO	2,200
Brightons Amenity Improvements	Brightons Environmental Group	1,800
Kinneil Picnic Tables	Friends of Kinneil foreshore group	511
Airth War Memorial Enhancement	Airth Community Council	1,690
Shieldhill Butterfly Garden	Butterfly Garden Group	1,050
Westfield Disabled Enhancements	Westfield Community Group	2,000
Insurances for Volunteering	CATCA	300
Carron River Clean up	CATCA	2,000
TOTAL		**13,551**

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

A continuous flow of qualifying and deliverable applications from local agencies and community groups into FET was essential to stimulate provision of monies from landfill operators.

The Landfill Communities Fund was dependent on the amount of waste going into landfill. This was dependent on national and international waste management strategies, markets and demand for recycleable material.

Responsibility for landfill tax was devolved to the Scottish Parliament in April 2015. A Scottish Landfill Communities Fund subsequently was established and a 10% increase in the tax 'credits' available to bodies like FET for environmental project work was made available. The impact of this change will be seen in the subsequent reporting period.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

FET grants enabled a wide range of organisations to carry out a wide range of work that fit with the aims of the following Council strategies and plans – Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Local Development Plan, Community Plan, Outdoor Access Strategy.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

None

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

The FET Board met quarterly. The Planning and Environment Manager represented the Council on the Board.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Total Support Provided (Financial & In- Kind Contributions)

Falkirk Council - £27,450.00

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

The audited accounts for 2014 – 2015 were available for the FET Board meeting in December 2015.

Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation
See Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation above.
Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)
Low

D CONCLUSIONS
Summary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year
FET is a key player in the delivery of natural and built heritage projects throughout the Council area. Without Landfill Community funding many of the successfully completed projects to date would not have been carried out.

E COMPLETED BY	
Name	Ian Edwards
Designation	Environment Co-ordinator, Planning & Environment Unit
Date	11.02.16

APPENDIX 2

FALKIRK COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2014/2015

Organisation Name	Falkirk Towns Ltd
Project	Falkirk Business Improvement District (BID) Delivery & Promotion of Town Centres
Agreement Dates	1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015
Name of Lead Officer	Jacquie McArthur

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

During the reporting period, Falkirk Towns Ltd was a company limited by guarantee. Its principal aim was to contribute to the economic performance of town centres in the Falkirk area (Falkirk, Grangemouth, Denny, Bo'ness and Stenhousemuir). In Falkirk it managed and delivered the Falkirk Business Improvement District, considered nationally as best practice in achieving and delivering the Scottish Government's Town Centres First principle objectives.

The service provided by Falkirk Towns Ltd contributed towards the following goals of the corporate plan which were:.

- To further develop a thriving, sustainable and vibrant economy.
- To continue to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities.
- To increase our efforts to tackle disadvantage and discrimination.
- To further enhance and sustain an environment in which people want to live, work and visit

List of Agreed Outcomes

The principal outcomes of the agreement during the relevant period were:

- To enhance the cleanliness and attractiveness of town centres
- To enhance safety and security in town centres and improve night time economy
- To promote and encourage footfall to the Falkirk area's town centres
- To provide additional services to town centre businesses

These outcomes were achieved through the Falkirk Business Improvement District (BID) Business Plan and other projects relating to the district town centres.

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

The Council provided a funding contribution of £188,980 to Falkirk Towns Ltd in 2014/2015.

The operation of a separate company for town centre management enabled a range of town centre businesses, as Members of the company, to play a direct part in the management of the company and to direct activities which benefitted the town centres.

The model of town centre management has been replicated in many Scottish towns following its early introduction in Falkirk by the then Falkirk District Council. It enabled businesses to have direct control and influence over how the town centre operated, presented itself and improved its performance.

The BID model of delivery is rapidly expanding across Scotland. Delivery of a BID needs to be managed separately from Council operations and the Company provided the vehicle for doing this. During the reporting period the Falkirk BID generated additional income for town centre management activities through a business rates levy as well as being a recognised organisation and structure able to apply for external funding opportunities to the benefit of the area.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs OBJECTIVES/AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

The Company undertook a wide range of activities to deliver the agreed outcomes of the Joint Working Agreement. The Company's activities are summarised below. The Company has also worked closely with the Council's Growth & Investment Unit in supporting delivery of town centres regeneration initiatives with part of the company's activities having delivered or supported elements of regeneration.

Cleanliness and attractiveness of town centres – this strand of activities comes under the heading of **Taking a Pride in Falkirk**. The Company employed a handyman who carried out small repairs, maintenance and clean-ups, including removal of graffiti and fly posters. The Company worked closely with the Council's Litter Strategy Team and Keep Scotland Beautiful. In its audit of cleanliness, Falkirk achieved the highest score of any town centre in Scotland. For its gum reduction campaign, the Company, using its own machines engaged operatives from the Council's Criminal Justice service. Floral displays, holly balls, seasonal clean-ups and empty shop window displays are further examples of the Company's activities which contributed to Taking a Pride in Falkirk.

Safety and security of town centres – safety and crime reduction were the key elements of the Company's operations. It operated one of the biggest radio link schemes in Scotland which enabled businesses to keep abreast of any security issues as they happened. It also operated a Child Safe Scheme for lost children in the town centre. The Company employed street ambassadors who patrolled the town centre to assist and support the public and liaise with local businesses. Sense of security is particularly important for expanding the night time economy and the company's Taxi Marshal Scheme, Pubwatch scheme and seasonal Safe Zone/Safe Base all made valuable contributions. 14 licensed premises participated in the national Best Bar None accreditation scheme. This strand of activities came under the heading **It's Friendlier in Falkirk.**

Promoting town centres – Let's Shout About It – the town centres were strongly promoted to increase footfall, spend and customer loyalty. Among the initiatives in the period under review were many events including Farmers' Markets, Christmas events and street parties. The Company introduced an annual comedy festival Funny in Falkirk in 2010 and this has proved itself as an annual event in the Falkirk calendar. A pilot, Free After 3 car parking initiative operated for a 9 month trial run and local businesses reported an increased level of footfall during its duration. The company continued its long standing relationship with The Falkirk Herald to ensure that regular good news stories were featured about the town centre businesses, sponsorship of the Shop Local, Eat Local and Play Local campaigns and as media partner for the Comedy Festival - Funny in Falkirk. The Business Grants Scheme proved to be a popular support to local businesses wishing to make small improvements to their premises. In collaboration with partners, the company delivered projects which stimulated visitor numbers and linked the town centre with other local attractions like the Kelpies and the Falkirk Wheel. Falkirk Towns worked collaboratively with the Growth and Investment Unit, Visit Falkirk and delivered a number of tourism initiatives for the area.

District Centres – many of the above initiatives were replicated in the district towns of Grangemouth, Bo'ness, Denny and Stenhousemuir. The company supported events included the Victorian Street Fair in Bo'ness, the Grangemouth Festival of the Sea, Denny Day and Love the Lido Day in Stenhousemuir. Funny in Falkirk also featured in each of the district towns and each of the district centres had a programme of Christmas events which included Christmas Light Switch Ons and Aviemore Reindeer. The company employed an Assistant District Town Centre Manager to deliver these events and other initiatives aimed at promoting footfall and loyalty to the local businesses such as the Shop Local, Eat Local, Play Local campaign. Local business groups have been re-established in the district towns to further support trade in the districts. The company handyman service also operated in the district town centres. The Assistant District Town Centre Manager provided support to many local groups and organisations who sought to strengthen footfall and the profile of the area.

Additional activities – the company supported a range of initiatives which helped to improve visitor numbers and raise the profile of the area and liaised with a number of organisations including Falkirk Business Panel, the Community Planning Partnership, and Community Councils. The company made presentations at many local and national meetings.

Falkirk Towns Ltd and the Falkirk BID – during the reporting period, the Company's board of directors was responsible for the Falkirk BID as well as the company. The company's BID activities were carried out under the name Falkirk Delivers.

Summary of Key Issues/Challenges Facing Organisation

In managing town centres, the company faced considerable difficulties arising from the loss of town centre footfall and trade which has been prevalent nationally in recent years. In common with the rest of the UK, the continuing drift to internet shopping and the popularity of out-of-town retail presented the company with many challenges. Nevertheless, the company's very active presence and operations have addressed many of these challenges and have helped engage many town centre operators in ensuring the town centres sustain their scale of trading and performance to the best possible degree. The Council's Growth & Investment Unit including Business Gateway and the town centres regeneration and tourism teams worked closely with Falkirk Towns Ltd to support new and existing businesses.

How Has the Organisation Contributed to Council/Service Priorities

With its long history of co-working with Falkirk Council, the company has integrated well with Council activities. The Council benefitted from this established and mature relationship, with many activities undertaken with the minimum of administrative effort, which ensured resources were applied to front line delivery.

List the areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

N/A

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

The Lead Officer met with the Company on a regular basis, at least monthly with regular weekly, often daily contact made on day to day issues. The meetings focused on a range of different joint and individual projects, as well as the overall management of the Joint Working Agreement. The monitoring work was augmented by a series of other meetings which the company held with other Council contacts.

C FINANCIAL/RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Falkirk Council provided £188,980 in funding in 2014/15. The company generated other income from projects (£20,500) and from the BID levy (£189,000). Therefore the Council's contribution was 47% of the company's total income.

Falkirk Towns Ltd generated a significant level of activity which promoted the town centres and which maintained strong interest in these commercial sites from both consumers and businesses. The company has calculated that it generated positive media coverage to the value of around £1:1.4 from its activities and only a very small proportion of this comes from paid for advertising etc. The company was seen to be delivering value for money.

The Company's accounts for 2014/15 were finalised, audited and lodged at Company's House by the due date 31 December 2015.

The Company's financial performance in 2014/15 showed a reduction in reserves to £14,215 (from £40,321 in 13/14) and net current assets of £9,505.

The company anticipated a small, planned deficit in the 2014/15 accounts and the company continued to be solvent. The company sought to use all resources at its disposal annually and did not attempt to build up reserves.

There were no issues of financial concern for the reported period.

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

Financial – none in period under review with current Council budget savings accommodated in the year of trading. Falkirk Council budget savings for the period 2016-17 have been confirmed to the company. There is a risk that additional budget savings proposals will be necessary in 2017/18.

The BID approaches reballot for a further five year term in May 2016 and this may affect leverage of funds. These issues are being actively considered by the company's Board.

Operational – performance is to a great extent dependent on the economic climate but the company is showing much determination and success in difficult circumstances.

Structural – none, the Board has operated satisfactorily with key staff in position. Alistair Mitchell, the longstanding manager of the company retired in 2015 and following an open recruitment and interview process has been replaced by Alex Fleming as the new Manager, formerly an assistant town centre manger within the organisation.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/medium/High)

Low/medium

D CONCLUSIONS

Summary/Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year

Falkirk Towns Ltd has delivered a wide range of activities and contributed greatly to sustaining town centre activity and trading in very challenging circumstances.

Falkirk Council's commitment to the concept of town centre management is considered to be working well for the benefit of the local economy, providing value for money and recognised as national best practice in BID delivery outputs.

Future risks relating to the performance of the town centre and the availability of future funding from the Council and BID are being actively considered by the Company's Board.

E COMPLETED BY

Name	**Jacquie McArthur**
Designation	**Economic Development Officer**
Date	**29 January 2016**