



INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2015 - Part 3, now means Falkirk Council and NHS Forth Valley have a legal duty to develop the ICSP by engaging with all partners and ensuring much wider engagement than before. Children, young people, parents, services, businesses, and non-formal groups, should have an opportunity to be part of planning for children and young people.

The Falkirk Children and Young People Forum will coordinate participation and engagement of children, young people and other service providers. The plan is on the council webpage for parents to view and a poster to display is on p.2.

More Info (for staff only) can be found on the Practitioner Pages.

ICSP Progress report to CPP Executive:

Progress reports were presented on 29th June [Cover Report](#) [Key Priority 4 report](#) [Outcome 3 report](#) [Covalent Exemplar for future reporting](#)

Updated Delivery Plans for the 4 groups delivering on the SOLD/ ICSP Priorities can be found [here](#).

WHAT IS FALKIRK CHILDREN'S COMMISSION?

The multi agency collaborative that oversees and delivers on the priorities relating to children and young people in the [Falkirk Strategic Outcome and Local Delivery Plan 2016—2020](#), and its sub plan the [Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017—2020](#). Everyone working in services for children or young people, and their families, and related adult services, is part of the Children's Commission.

WHO PRODUCES THE COMMISSION UPDATES?

The Children's Commission Planning Group.

SHARE INFORMATION, GOOD PRACTICE, UPDATES

We are interested in sharing; good practice, 'Did you know' updates and any other information that would be of interest to Commission partners and related services.

Any information you want included in the update, suggestions or comments, please send it to Commission Secretary: lynsey.morrison@falkirk.gov.uk

Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017 - 2020

What is the plan for?

The Integrated Children's Services Plan is the responsibility of Falkirk Council, NHS Forth Valley and children's services providers in Falkirk. Working together they are called Falkirk Children's Commission.

The plan's purpose is to safeguard, support and promote child wellbeing and make sure support is available when a need is identified.

The plan makes sure partners work together so that services promote early support, and improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Children & Young People in Falkirk

Insight Falkirk 2016 Data



Our key priorities are:



#1

Address the impact of poverty



#2

Inclusion - Live, learn and thrive in Falkirk



#3

Be good Corporate Parents for our looked after children



#4

Improve mental health and wellbeing



Want to know more about the plan?

Want to get involved, or be consulted about planning for Integrated Children's Services in Falkirk?

Email: girfec@falkirk.gov.uk

UPDATE FROM SOME OF THE 'KEY PRIORITY' COMMISSION GROUPS

FALKIRK MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING GROUP

The updated delivery plan reflects the new Mental Health Strategy 2017—2027. The [MHWB Delivery Plan](#) is on the practitioner pages.

Stress control is a very successful course that has been supporting adult mental health across Forth Valley. The group is commissioning Stress Control for young people as part of PSHE and training will begin for 5 secondary schools in October 2017,. The course is then rolled out with young people in S4.

Menu of MHWB Resources has been developed for practitioners to be used along with the practitioner pages [A-Z/ M/ Mental health section](#).

The menu of MHWB resources aims to give practitioners practical links, curricular links and contacts like the CAMHS Primary Mental health Worker Helpline where staff can speak (on a no named basis) with mental health workers for advice to help them support young people they are working with. If you have any additions or changes, please email: lynsey.morrison@falkirk.gov.uk

The Scottish Government [Mental Health eBulletin](#) shares information and news from across Scotland. Falkirk has been highlighted for how we've incorporated Mental health into our community planning. MHWB is a key priority on both the SOLD (strategic Outcome and Local Delivery Plan) and the [ICSP \(integrated Children's Services Plan\)](#).

FALKIRK CHILD POVERTY TASK GROUP—(Liz Nolan Aberlour)

The [Poverty Task Group Delivery Plan](#) is well underway and the adult group, Fairer Falkirk is working closely with the Commission Poverty Group.

Summer Food: Food being provided at summer activity programmes and delivery of food boxes will see families with free school meal entitlement receive food over the summer.

Cost of the school day training will take place in September with CPAG.

Awareness raising and training on the impact of stigma: sessions are planned with the Fairer Falkirk Group for the Autumn for staff in children's services and adult services.

Falkirk staff are part of the Scottish Government Group developing the Poverty Bill Guidance. The draft bill can be found here:

['Life Chances of Young People in Scotland](#), A Report to the First Minister' has been published and the recommendations in this report will be considered by the Commission Poverty Group. You can read the report in the link above.

UPDATE FROM SOME OF THE 'KEY PRIORITY' COMMISSION GROUPS CNTD.

FALKIRK CORPORATE PARENTING STEERING GROUP (Vivien Thomson, CS)

We have established a Champions Board with young people who have experience of being looked after, senior officers and elected members. The group will inform our corporate parenting plan by highlighting areas for improvement.

The steering group has been established and delivery plan is being reviewed based on the work of the Champions Board and the 6 duties in Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OTHER GROUPS ACROSS THE COMMISSION

FALKIRK PARENTING PARTNERSHIP

Falkirk has signed a continuing contract with NHS Health Scotland to continue to deliver Psychology of Parenting Programmes (POPP). Multi agency practitioners are delivering IY and Triple P and dates from August 17 to June 18 will be released soon.

[Referral Info](#) can be found on the practitioner pages.

The Family Support review paper has been shared with senior officers and it has been agreed that one service manager should oversee all family support work.

Our plan highlights that parents are the most important resource we have to support our children and young people. As specified in the 'Inclusion' priority in the ICSP, our aim to co-ordinate our family support across the Commission to ensure families can access support from early intervention to crisis support.

As well as PoPP, services are continuing to deliver individual and groups support for families as part of a menu of supports.

FALKIRK CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE (CYPIC) (Matt Davies, CS)

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

Falkirk has put forward 2 nominations for national Quality Improvement Awards:

Langlees Primary for their work in raising attainment in numeracy and how they have spread their learning across the school.

The improvement project began with Nicola Chok in her Primary 4 class working on mental maths and has now been scaled up across the school with greatly improved outcomes for children.

Falkirk Children's Commission Poverty Task Group supported by Aberlour on their work to reduce nursery snack/ lunch debts.

The project began by capturing data in one nursery and has led to Falkirk Council looking at funding all snacks and lunches in our early years settings in the future.

Falkirk Children's Rights Service



Quarriers

To refer just call, email or pop in for a chat – No Paperwork required!

Location: 9c East Bridge Street, Falkirk.
FK1 1YD.

Telephone: 01324 612308

Email: falkirk.childrens@quarriers.org.uk

Who Are We

Our service is funded by Falkirk Council to provide independent **Advocacy & Support** to care experienced children and young people and those affected by disability. We are a small team consisting of a Children's Rights Officer, and Information and Advocacy worker. Together with the Who Cares? advocacy worker we make up the Falkirk Children's Rights Service.

The Team remit is to ensure that children's rights are upheld and to represent their views. We are guided by **THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD** which promotes Human Rights for children. There are 42 articles which promote the rights of the child and the four principles of children's rights:

Non Discrimination: no child should be treated unfairly on any basis (Article 2)

Best interest of the child: When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect those children (Article 3)

The right to Survival & Development: Children have the right to live (Article 6)

Respect for the Views of the Child: In order to know what is actually in the interest of the child it is logical to listen to them & have their opinion taken into account. (Article 12)

What We Do

- Provide information on Rights & Responsibilities
- Support young people to present their views at meetings such as Children's Hearings & Looked After reviews
- We listen and offer advice
- Help children and young people have their say about things that affect them
- Encourage young people to contribute to the improvement of services by supporting their participation in Falkirk's Champion Board

Advocacy is a way of helping children and young people have their say in decisions that affect them. The Falkirk Children's Rights Service is an independent service which offers that support and

Champions Board

The Champions Board young people meet every Wednesday from 6-8pm in Park Street Community Education Centre. The aim of the Board is to provide a platform for Care Experienced Young People aged 13+, to come together to discuss their experiences and opinions about being in care and the services they receive. The group will select members to discuss ideas with the Elected Members of Falkirk Council and other Corporate Parents.

There are opportunities for everyone involved; from participating in fun group activities, to gaining awards and qualifications such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The group has recently returned from a five day sailing trip with the Ocean Youth Trust!

A group for Care Experienced Young People aged 8-13 will begin in the summer holidays.

To find out how you can get involved please contact Emily on 07970739174.

Care leavers don't get sanctioned in Falkirk thanks to Moneywise

Norma Brown, throughcare and after-care worker at Falkirk Council.

Leaving care and going it alone can be really daunting for most young people. There's a minefield of 'adult stuff' to negotiate and care leavers are often ill informed on how to navigate their way through the maze and have no one to turn to. It can be completely overwhelming for some. The Leaving Care Team at Falkirk Council recognised that the risks to the wellbeing of care leavers were really significant. Such as:

- Homelessness
- Escalation of mental health issues including suicidal tendencies
- Alcohol and drug misuse
- Poor Physical health in relation to lack of food/fuel
- Prostitution and sexual exploitation
- Multiple debts

Sanctioning care leavers

We know that young people are disproportionately sanctioned and care leavers even more so. When the project started in 2014, benefit sanctions were hitting care leavers in the area hard, at a time when their lives were already chaotic.

I came on board to work with young people, to help them before it reaches crisis point.

The current amount a young person receives from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is £57.90 a week, and budgeting, something many care leavers have little experience of, can be difficult. They often feel overwhelmed, and rather than face their issues, often 'bury their heads in the sand'. It's not their fault – they're out in the big bad world and just don't know how to cope.

Was Moneywise successful?

You bet it was!

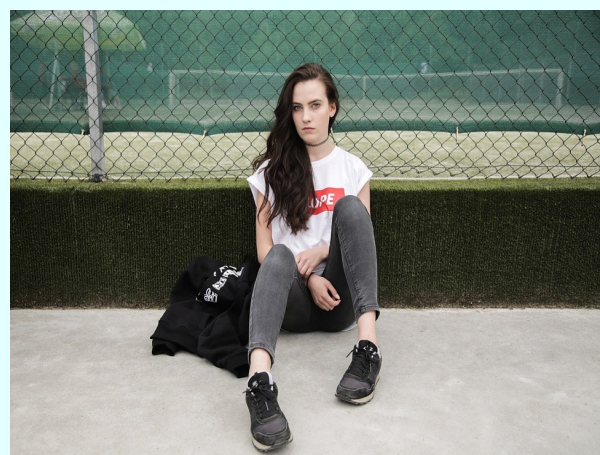
In the 15 months of the pilot project, and in the 18 months since, NO care experienced young people have been sanctioned by the DWP.

While the Moneywise Project has ended, the benefits definitely remain. What the pilot did was give us the evidence we needed to show the approach was working. We were able to show that a saving during the project of £170,000. And the money going to the young people is being spent in the local economy.

We're making real change to real lives and the satisfaction of seeing young people turn their lives around can't be quantified. Around 50 young people have been helped since the project started.

I came across one young man recently who had racked up £1500 in fuel arrears. Under the current system it would have taken him 20 years to repay the money owed and he risked being disconnected. I worked with him and managed to get funding to write the debt off and allow him to start again with a clean slate. A much better outcome!

The success of the project also allowed me to stay in a job I absolutely love – in the front line and making a difference!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM FOSTER CARERS NEWSLETTER CNTD.

Falkirk Children & YP suggested using emoji's during Children's Hearings to help them express their feelings and participate in meetings. This has led to a pilot in Falkirk and Livingston. Once the pilot period has come to an end it will be assessed by studying the feedback gathered from children and young people, and Panel members.


If the pilot is considered a success, it will be rolled out in Falkirk as 'business as usual'. The success of the pilot will then be shared with other SCRA teams around the country and they will be offered the chance to trial it themselves.

If you would like more information about the pilot please contact Jacqui Stephen, Central Locality LSM on 0131 244 8700.

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

Do you know you can use emojis during your Hearing?

There will be '8 emoji cards' in the Hearing room:

Happy		Sad	
Angry		Worried	
Stop		Help	
Listen		Don't Understand	

You can hold up any emoji which shows how you feel.

The panel will see it and ask if you want to say something.

You don't have to use the emojis if you don't want to.

After your hearing the reporter will ask you what you thought about using emojis.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OTHER GROUPS ACROSS THE COMMISSION

REALIGNING CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Realigning Children's Services (RCS) is the Scottish Government funded programme designed to help Local Authorities improve joint strategic commissioning of services for children and young people. Health and Wellbeing surveys with children, young people and parents form one part of the RCS programme to improve Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) understanding of child wellbeing and inequality for children and families in their local area. Survey completion has been fairly high which should generate good, robust data for the CPP to use. We will shortly receive initial feedback on our data.

ScotCen, the research organisation running the survey on behalf of the Government, have captured parent's views by carrying out a door to door survey. The parent's survey is carried out with a sample of 500 parents and was completed mid-May 2017.

All CPP organisations (Health, Education, Police, Voluntary Sector and Social Work) have been attending workshops with Improvement Officers from the Scottish Government to help us understand and maximise the use of the data we will get from these surveys. These sessions are covering topics such as data and evidence use, and improvement science methodology to ensure that in future we target resources according to evidenced need. Further sessions will take place as the data emerges to support the CPP representatives with analysis and improvement planning. The Children's Commission Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative' (CYPIC) (Old EYC and RAFA Group) will become the group that supports the ongoing use of data once the RCS programme is complete. We know we need to make better use of our data to inform our plans and ensure our resources are targeted appropriately and identified this in our self evaluation for our Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People by the Care Inspectorate in 2015.

COMMISSION IMPROVEMENT GROUP: Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People (JISCYP)

Work relating to the JISCYP has continued to have a high profile in the Children's Commission Improvement Group and Community Planning Partnership. Inspected in Nov - Dec 2015, our Joint Inspection Report was published in June 2016. Since then we have worked with Chris Lumb, our link inspector, and our stakeholders to develop an improvement plan [Children's Services Inspection\20161212 Inspection Improvement Plan V7.doc](#). The findings of the inspection have also informed the development of our priorities within the Integrated Children's Services Plan.

The plan addresses the 5 inspection recommendations and a 6th element, children living in neglectful circumstances for too long, which although not a recommendation, was highlighted as an area of concern within the body of the report.

The Commission is working on the identified areas for improvement, and progress against the improvement plan will be reported to the Children's Commission Leadership Group and the Community Planning Partnership. We are developing a set of measures to ensure that we are able to demonstrate progress. If you have any questions or would like specific information to be included in the next e-update, e-mail matthew.davies@falkirk.gov.uk

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OTHER GROUPS ACROSS THE COMMISSION

HIGHLIGHTS FROM HEADTEACHERS BRIEFINGS

The Attainment Challenge/ Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

The Scottish Attainment Challenge is about achieving equity in educational outcomes. Equity can be achieved by ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed, with a particular focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

In February 2017 the share each school will receive for 2017/18 from the [Scottish Government's £120 million Pupil Equity Funding](#) was announced. This funding is provided through the Attainment Scotland Fund and allocated directly to schools, targeted at those children most affected by the poverty related attainment gap.

In Falkirk, any partners wishing to offer services, resources or supports as part of PEF should read the [PEF Guidance for Partners](#) and complete a [PEF Template](#) if they feel they can contribute to PEF planning and closing the attainment gap.

Early Years and Childcare - New Early Years

Resources:



Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate have published new resources to support the development of children's language skills by encouraging reading and enjoyment of texts at an early age. Given the concerns over the vocabulary gap of children living in poverty (up to 18 months), there is a need to revisit our approaches to the development of early language skills. You can access Education Scotland's *Early Learning and Childcare and the Scottish Attainment Challenge* [here: https://education.gov.scot/improvement/elc38elc-and-sac](https://education.gov.scot/improvement/elc38elc-and-sac)

You can access Care Inspectorate's *Getting Ready to Read* [here: http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/3662/Ready%20to%20read%20booklet%20low%20res.pdf](http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/3662/Ready%20to%20read%20booklet%20low%20res.pdf)



is looking for committed and passionate young people (aged 8-26) from all over Scotland to become part of Communic18 – our group for Co-design Champions for the Year of Young People 2018.

The champions will be at the heart of planning and delivering key aspects of the Year of Young People 2018, as well as supporting Children in Scotland, Scottish Youth Parliament and Young Scot to ensure the year is co-designed with young people.

With their leadership the Year of Young People 2018 will provide a platform for young people to have their views heard and acted upon. Interested young people can apply to join Communic18 [here: www.young.scot/communic18](http://www.young.scot/communic18). If you have any questions or require more information about Communic18, please email 2018yoyp@young.scot

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OTHER GROUPS ACROSS THE COMMISSION

Falkirk Children and Young People Forum

The Forum is being developed and will be the centre point for consultation, planning and reporting with children, young people and their families, as well as with organisations that work with, and support them.

Young Scot, Youth link Scotland, Falkirk Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum, Community learning and development, social work, Children's Rights Service, and education have begun the process and are planning a big networking event to kick start the forum.

The forum will involve existing groups like pupil councils, football clubs, statutory services, along with children and young people, to plan, identify areas for improvement and use the data and information we have to best use the resources we have within the current budgets.

Keep your eyes peeled for the FCYP Forum workshop in the autumn. **Any queries please contact: debbie.noble@aberlour.co.uk OR matthew.davies@falkirk.gov.uk**

SHARE INFORMATION, GOOD PRACTICE, UPDATES, NEW POLICY

We want to make sure the Commission newsletter gives you information that is useful and helps you in your day job, and keeps you linked in with planning.

It's a busy time for all of our services and sharing what's going on can be really helpful for staff.

Let us know if you have information that should be shared with the Commission. We are also interested in sharing good practice, 'Did you know' updates and any other information that would be of interest to Commission partners and related services.

If you have any information you want included in the update, suggestions or comments, please send it to Commission Secretary: **lynsey.morrison@falkirk.gov.uk**

You can find electronic copies of the Commission Newsletter on the practitioner pages/ A—Z/ C/ Children's Commission Updates.

FALKIRK WIDER COMMISSION is on the **5th October 2017** in the Park Hotel 09.00—13.00.

The session will provide updates from Commission Groups on how they are delivering the Commission Plan and supporting young people and their families.

To register please email lynsey.morrison@falkirk.gov.uk

