



Newsletter 7

GIRFEC in Action: Whole-Family Support and Early Help

Spotlight: Intensive Family Support – Housing Needs.

This edition focuses on early, joined-up support for families

Over the past year, Falkirk Council's Intensive Family Support Worker (IFSW) service has shown how early, joined-up support can make a real difference for children and families at risk of homelessness.

Historically, too many children in Falkirk were living in temporary accommodation, often arriving there during family crises that had a direct impact on their wellbeing.

The IFSW role was created to intervene earlier, working alongside families before situations escalated and housing stability was lost

By working across Housing and Children & Families Social Work, the service provides holistic, whole-family support. This includes practical help with routines, budgeting, parenting and tenancy sustainment, alongside emotional support, advocacy and coordination with education, health and community partners.

Over the last 12 months, the number of children living in temporary accommodation reduced dramatically – from 197 in March 2025 to 100 by December. This reduction represents fewer children experiencing instability and trauma linked to homelessness.

Why this matters

- Children experience greater stability and improved wellbeing
- Families receive support earlier, not just at crisis point
- Services share responsibility rather than working in isolation

This is GIRFEC because...

support is timely, coordinated, whole-family, and focused on improving wellbeing before harm occurs

