



Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum

“Working together, sharing our knowledge skills and resources to support children, families and communities to reach their full potential”.

Monday 25th November 2021

10am – 12pm

MS Teams

Attendees

Allan Robertson	Social Security Scotland
Carrol Wilcox	One Parent Families Scotland
Diane Cairns	Signpost Recovery
Jo McCorrison	Central Carers
Karen Head	Barnardos
Iqbal Mustafa	
Safia Ali	Al Masaar
Winnie Delaney	Aberlour
Scott Malcolm	CVS Falkirk

Minutes

- 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies.**
- 2. Review of previous minutes**

Previous Minutes accepted

Initial Response Team have been helpful, and they are doing things differently which people are finding impressive

Falkirk Equally Safe - new service launching January 2022

Bid from Barnardos, Aberlour and Falkirk Council which was successful. There will be a new domestic abuse service and will support people or families experiencing domestic abuse.

- family group decision making, to come up with a family plan
- trauma support
- safe and together model – development worker to be hired (Aberlour will do this part)



There will be an interactive website – be user friendly Will be about partnering with survivors and where relevant working with perpetrators

Supporting change as an attitude

Service will launch in January

Update from Children's Leadership and Planning Group

Ann McLaughlin – Chair

Mark Meechan – Vice Chair

Now known as **Falkirk Children and Young People's Strategic Leadership Group**

ICSP – now called Our Plan for Falkirk's Children and Young People

Sub-Groups – realigning the reporting process

Family Support Group – Invitations to join from Cathy Megarry will go out to Third Sector soon

GIRFEC Learning Group – link within Scottish government to new post in Falkirk to take this group forwards

Learning and Development Group reforming to reflect emerging needs from different subgroups

Children's rights and engagement group – working on reports as to what activity has taken place with regards to children rights in the Falkirk Area

Diane Cairns

Early intervention service to combat the effects of trauma etc

Social Security Scotland

Local delivery now live – 1 in each area of Forth Valley

- West Advice Hub, Denny, Carronbank House
- Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Camelon
- East advice hub, Grangemouth, York Lane
- Can do home visits

Over last 2 year 11 benefits have been implemented as part of benefits devolution

Child Disability payment now live – replacing DLA for children and people already on this will transfer over automatically and is available up to the child's 18th birthday

Carer's allowance due in December

Allan and Gill always available

Jo McCorrison – Falkirk and Clacks Carers Centre

Been trying to ask services to think about the families you work with and whether there are associated services they could be signposted

Asking services to think whether young carers could benefit from completing Young Carers statements – no minimum age

Some new posts out which Jo will share with me to disseminate

Nice simple online referral process

Al Masaar

Action: Sofia inviting Allan to deliver a presentation to their community

Work across Forth Valley, providing groups:

- Parent Club – upskills parents and looks after their MHWB
- Football Club – to engage people in sport
- Looking to engage with all minority groups through common interest
- Single mums and survivors of domestic abuse



Carrol Wilcox – One Parent Families Scotland – Maddison Family Centre

Support single parents through Grants, connecting Scotland etc

Now back in office and have childcare element running again

A lot of crisis work at the moment

Geographical reach is Upper Braes

Barnardos Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing Service

New service – early intervention mental health and wellbeing one-year pilot with Falkirk Council for children and young people aged 5-24 (26 care experienced) as part of Falkirk's Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Services

- Very early intervention support
- Variety of referral routes

Looking to alleviate the waiting times for mental health support

Service has been inundated and currently has a waiting list - this should be alleviated as more staff come on board in January 2022. Also more interim MHWB services for children and young people in Falkirk due to be launched in spring 2022.

Aberlour

Intensive perinatal support service – for families experiencing problematic substance use - Lower amount of people requiring support but also the number of births has gone down during covid

Sustain Falkirk - Young people on edge of care from being accommodated

Discussion

How do we cross advertise with different communities of interest? How do we improve accessibility of information?

- Can we advertise in different ways?
- Advertise services with audio
- Maybe different languages
- More pictorial
- Pictures of people on adverts of different ethnicities
- Background in different colours
- Immersive readers on websites

Input from Jacqueline Toye and Monique Ferrie – Falkirk Council Social Work

Fostering and adoption - Scrutiny role to help determine whether foster carer applicants have the requirements in place to become foster carers

Panel Membership has been falling and they are looking to recruit

Panels

- The ***Adoption and Fostering Panel*** considers registration for children and young people for adoption or permanence. This follows a multi-agency recommendation that a child or young person requires alternative permanent care away from their birth family. The Adoption and Fostering Panel also considers the suitability of proposed matches of a child with prospective adoptive parents or permanent foster carers as well as the suitability of applicants who wish to adopt or foster.
- The ***Foster Carer Review Panel*** reviews registered carers in line with legislation and national standards.
- The ***Kinship Care Panel*** considers, in line with legislation and guidance, assessments of kinship carers who are caring for, or wish to care for, a looked after child.

Looking for people who could attend 1 meeting per month and some time for reading required.

Training involves coming along and observing then to come on as a full panel member



Panels currently running virtually

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/GirfecFalkirk/corporate-parenting/in-falkirk/adoption-fostering-kinship-panel/>

Application Form -

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/public/GirfecFalkirk/uploads/sites/2017/2021/08/18104740/application-form.pdf>

Could the meetings be facilitated out with working hours or could there be the same kind of association within workplaces as being a member of the Children's Panel

– Civic Duty, learning and development, make up hours through flexible working

AOCB

Next meeting – 20.01.2022 - will be in January and will be a Safe and Together Information Session for the sector