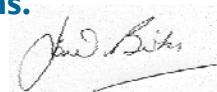


# Newsletter

## PLANS FOR 2007 FROM FALKIRK CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

Welcome to the second edition of the "for falkirk's bairns" newsletter. We hope you all had a good festive break and a happy new year. Firstly, let's remind ourselves of why we are doing this. "We want every child and young person to have a happy, healthy, safe and interesting life." To make this possible all young people need to have different opportunities and experiences. Within our second edition of ffb we will update you on our progress. Again, all our partner agencies have committed time, energy and enthusiasm to moving forward the reshaping of Children's Services. I look forward to a positive year for Falkirk bairns.



## What's Been Happening

From the first newsletter you will recall that the next steps were:

- 1) Analysis of information gathered;
- 2) Further consultation with communities;
- 3) Consultation with staff on models for delivering services locally.

Commitment was made by all partner agencies to offer staff to assist with these tasks.

This resulted in identified staff from Health, Police, Education, Housing and Social Work, Community Services and four Voluntary Sector providers committing to work one day a week from January 2007.

These staff will be involved in all aspects of the process but are, at the moment, focusing on consultation with children, young people and their families.

## Analysis of Information Gathered

Analysis of information gathered from the matching needs and services process is presently being undertaken. The completed document will be available with narrative by March. The process of aggregating and analysing data has taken longer than anticipated, however, it is important that the document is meaningful and of value to services and agencies.



## Further Consultation with Community

The staff met initially in December 2006 and discussed ways to engage with children and young people in order to gather the following information:

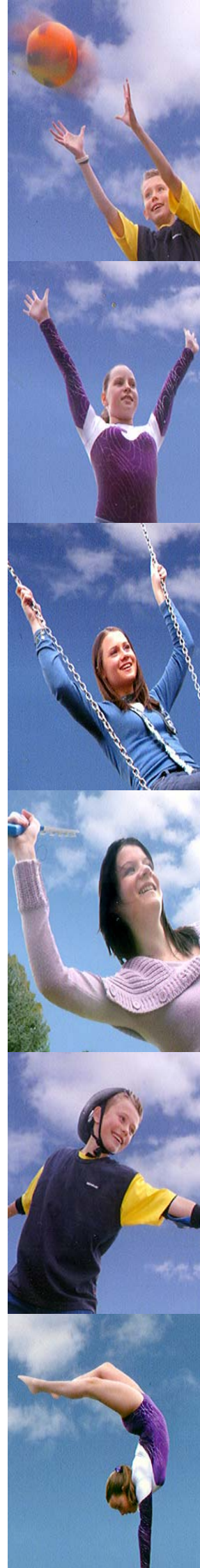
- 💡 What services do young people want?
- 💡 Where do young people expect to find information about services?
- 💡 If services could be delivered differently:
  - ❓ Where would young people choose to access them?
  - ❓ How would young people choose to access them?
  - ❓ When would young people prefer to access them?

Given the tight deadlines for the consultation, some members of staff designed questions that day, and four groups of young people were identified to consult with during the first week in January 2007.

A flyer was produced that would give a brief explanation about the consultation for the young people involved. This process will be piloted over the second/third weeks in January 2007 with another four groups of young people and parents, then rolled out over the following few weeks for a broader consultation. Timescales are tight but all partners have shown real commitment to making the consultation worthwhile and real for young people. The process will also inform the updating of the Integrated Children's Services Plans which is due for submission to the Scottish Executive by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

## Staff Consultation

Following this initial consultation we will be consulting with key groups of staff in all agencies and will propose several models for implementing services at a local level, based on information from the matching needs and services process and the consultation.



## Getting It Right For Every Child – Domestic Abuse Pathfinder Pilot

The core message of GIRFEC is that:

“Everyone has a responsibility to do the right thing for each child and we must work towards a unified approach, with less bureaucracy and more freedom to get on and respond to children. This will mean earlier help and the child getting the right help at the right time packaged for their particular needs”.

A national pathfinder project was launched in relation to Domestic Abuse and GIRFEC by the Scottish Executive last year, to run over two years with four local areas participating. Falkirk Council is one of those areas with the local pilot co-ordination being carried out by the Police. The three other areas are being led by SCRA, Social Work and the Voluntary Sector.

The ultimate aims of the pilot are to:

- ✦ Reduce the bureaucracy and simplify systems that get in the way of helping children affected by domestic abuse

- ✦ To improve the standard/quality of information gathering and decision making about children affected by domestic abuse.
- ✦ To reduce time from the point children are identified as needing help to the point when they receive it.
- ✦ To ensure that children's views and experiences are reflected in the actions which take place to help them.
- ✦ To improve the quality of help that children receive.

The pilot is therefore about Prevention, Protection and Provision for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. Dougie Howie was appointed in November 2006 as the local Pathfinder Co-ordinator and will be based at Haypark Business Centre, Polmont with the Children's Services Team. This will offer Dougie an opportunity to work within a multi-agency team which will assist in the development of the pilot. If you have any queries contact Dougie on 01324 506706.



## So What Next?

### Falkirk Assessment Framework

Another development from the Children's Commission is the Falkirk Assessment Framework. The development of the framework is the initial stage of moving towards wholly integrated and seamless services for children. The ultimate aim of the framework is that a common format for assessment be agreed by partners eg Health, Social Work, Education, Police etc. When assessing children and young people the development of a single assessment would reduce repeated history taking, prove efficient, effective and enhance information sharing. The DRAFT Falkirk Assessment Framework is very much a work in progress, however, the Children's Commission agreed that a working group would be formed with representatives from Scottish Children's Reporters' Administration, Social Work, Health, Police, Education and Community Services to further develop this work.

Four Social Work Team Managers have agreed to pilot the Framework (in its present form) in their teams. This will be reviewed at the end of February 2007. Further developments and feedback will be reported in the next newsletter.

We are committed to keeping you informed through the ffb newsletter. Keep your eyes peeled for our next edition.



If you have any comments or queries re the ffb newsletter please contact the Children's Services Team:



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