

Social Work Services in Fife

Social Work Services in Fife for Children, Young People and their Families



UPDATED April 2007
To be reviewed April 2009

Fife 
COUNCIL

Introduction

This leaflet gives general information about services that may be available to children, young people and their families provided by Fife Council Social Work Service. Other leaflets are available, which provide details about other areas of the Service – for example “Services for Older People” and “Criminal Justice Services.” If you would like copies of these leaflets or if you have anything specific you would like to ask, please contact your local social work office – contact details are listed at the end of this leaflet.

Our purpose in the Social Work Service is to ensure the provision of services that strike an appropriate balance between protecting children and young people who need support, and enabling them to enjoy ordinary home and community living.

Other statutory services such as Health, Education, Housing, Community Services, together with carers, voluntary organisations, the private sector and volunteers all complement the work we do.

The services that you will receive will depend on your particular needs.

We hope you find this leaflet useful and informative.

How can you access Social Work Services?

When a social work service is requested, we call this a referral. You can request a service yourself or various people can make a referral for you by contacting us by telephone, by writing to us or by coming into the office (contact details are provided at the end of this leaflet).

What is an assessment?

Once we have received a referral, we will need to collect more information about you and your family; we will discuss this with you and agree what should be done. This process is called an assessment.

Collecting information:

The social worker will ask for information from you and your family; and will also ask your permission to talk to other professionals who know you and your children (for example health visitors, teachers, doctors). Any information you provide will normally be held in confidence. Only in exceptional circumstances, e.g. if there is a concern that your child may be harmed, would information be shared without your permission. In these circumstances you will be informed of what is happening and your rights will be explained.

Your part in the assessment:

The social workers and other professionals involved in the assessment should help you to have your say and encourage you to take part. When children are old enough, the social worker will encourage and help them to take part in the assessment. The social

worker will probably meet with you and members of your family a number of times. The assessment will take account of your ethnic and cultural background and if necessary, information will be provided in your first language. The social worker will tell you what s/he is doing and thinking. If you do not agree with what the social worker says in the assessment, you will be encouraged to write down your point of view, which will be taken into account.

We know that parents want to do the best for their children: the assessment will enable the social worker to record your strengths as well as your difficulties. It will help the social worker if you tell us both what you do well and what you find difficult. The assessment is a very important part of our work with you. Your children's safety is our first concern. Please ask your social worker to explain this to you: you have a right to know.

At the end of the assessment:

We will listen carefully to what you have to say, offer advice, and where necessary support for you to care for your children. We know that with a little help most families can sort out their own problems and our aim is to help you do that. We will do our best to offer you the services you need as soon as possible, however, there are often more people needing help than there are services to give. This means that although sometimes everyone is agreed that you need a particular service, it may not be available immediately. If this happens, we will always look for an alternative, but we cannot

guarantee to provide a particular service.

Services for Children, Young People and their Families

The Social Work Service offers two types of help to children and their families in Fife:

Assessment of need and risk: time with a social worker who may provide information, advice and a planned, assessed analysis of difficult situations in order to improve a child's and/or family's difficulties.

Direct service provision: care, protection, support and accommodation (including residential houses and family placements with foster carers).

Our highest priority is the protection of children who may be at risk of harm, and the support of families to allow children to remain at home wherever possible. Where this is not in children's best interests, our focus is on providing the best quality of care away from home for children and young people.

Social Work staff work closely with colleagues in other services and agencies in providing an integrated approach that seeks to meet the range of different and complex needs that vulnerable children and their families experience.

Child Assessment Teams

Social workers in the Child Assessment teams provide information and planned help to meet assessed need. They provide access to services for children in need, as well as

protection for children at risk of abuse and neglect.

Any concern about a child who may be being harmed should be reported to the Child Assessment team for the relevant area:

Rosyth	01383 602203
Dunfermline	01383 609111
Kirkcaldy	01592 583322
Cupar	01334 659322
Cowdenbeath	01383 602201
Glenrothes	01592 583321
Leven	01334 659323

Looked After Children Teams

Social workers in the Looked After Children teams provide care and support to children and young people who are either away from home with foster carers or in residential care, or to those who are at home but need supervision from a social worker.

There are other social work teams in the Children and Families Service with a more specialised role:

Children with Disabilities

A team of specialist staff offers social work help to children and young people affected by disability and their families.

Throughcare and Aftercare

A range of services are provided to help young people aged between 15 and 21 to live independently, and to support them when they leave care. This includes help with finding the right kind of accommodation, assistance with further education or finding work.

Fife Youth Drugs Team

Fife Youth Drugs Team is a multi-disciplinary service consisting of representatives from Social Work, Community Services and NHS Fife. The team works with young people aged 12 – 18 and provides information and early, short-term or intensive intervention to young people experiencing substance misuse difficulties. The team offers two groupwork programmes which are age specific as well as a range of other programmes and one-to-one individual work.

Fife Youth Justice Team

Fife Youth Justice Team supports young people aged 12 – 18. The team consists of representatives from Social Work Services and Fife Healthcare. The team provides structured programmes to persistent young offenders in the community covering topics such as anger management, problem solving, moral reasoning, social skills, victim awareness and offence analysis. Work can be undertaken with young people on a one-to-one groupwork basis.

Family Placement

Social workers in 2 teams (West and East & Central) assess people who wish to become foster carers and support them while they are caring for children who are accommodated by the Council because they are unable, either temporarily or permanently, to live with their own family.

Adoption

The service assesses the suitability of people who wish to adopt and arranges placements for children who need adoptive parents. The service provides post-adoption support to people who have been

affected by adoption. This can include adopted people, birth parents, brothers and sisters and adoptive parents.

Residential Resources

Residential accommodation in Fife is mainly provided in houses for four or five children and young people who cannot live with their own family and for whom a foster placement is not possible. The Service Manager is also responsible for the operation of the residential respite units for children with disabilities, and for the co-ordination and overview of residential placements for Fife children in provision that is not directly managed by Fife Council (purchased placements).

Services for Young Carers

Young carers are children and young people who provide care for a sick or disabled relative, including those with drug or alcohol problems. The needs of young carers are assessed alongside the person they care for. A range of services are available as required, including advice, counselling, befriending and additional support where necessary.

Transitions Team

The Transitions Team provides additional resources to children and families when an emergency admission to accommodation is likely for a child who is currently living at home. The aim is to prevent the admission wherever possible as long as this is in the best interests of the child or young person. Where it is not, the team makes arrangements for the child to be accommodated appropriately and undertakes a comprehensive assessment of his/her needs. The

team offers a 24/7 support service and has a small group of specialist foster carers (Home Assessment Team Carers) who offer placements in an emergency.

Child Support Service

This is a small team providing a social work service to children and young people who display sexually problematic behaviour. The team carries out assessments on children referred by Police, Health, Education and other Social Work teams, and works directly with children to address their behaviour.

Domestic Abuse Service

This is a joint service with the police, located in Fife Constabulary's Family Protection Unit at Dunfermline Police Station, providing support and advice to victims of domestic abuse, irrespective of age or gender.

Our Commitment To You

Equality

We are committed to ensuring that our services are open to all, regardless of race, religion, culture, disability, language, sexuality or age.

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading this leaflet or know someone who may have difficulty, it is also available, on request on tape, CD disc, in Braille, large print, British Sign Language Interpretation and in different languages. If you would like a copy in one of these formats please telephone 01592 583321.

Confidentiality

Staff will respect your confidentiality, taking into account your ability to make an informed decision. Where we need to share information about you with other people involved in your services, e.g. your doctor, we will make sure that you are aware of this and take your wishes into account.

In an Emergency

The Social Work Service has an Emergency Out of Hours service from 5 pm to 9 am Monday to Friday and all weekend/public holidays. The contact number is 08451 55 00 99.

Suggestions/Complaints

If you have a complaint or suggestion, please tell a member of staff or ask to speak to a manager. If you are not able to do this yourself, please ask someone to contact us for you. Our contact number is 08451 55 00 00. If you are Deaf you can use BT Text Direct - 18001 08451 55 11 00.

Where to Find Us

Social Work Offices in Fife

- Social Work Office, 70 Stenhouse Street, Cowdenbeath
Tel: 01383 602201 Fax: 01383 602202
- Social Work Office, Castlehill, Cupar
Tel: 01334 659322 Fax: 01334 659464 Textphone: 01334 659466
- Social Work Office, 12 Station Road, Leven
Tel: 01334 659323 Fax: 01334 659465 Textphone: 01334 659467
- Social Work Office, Park Road, Rosyth
Tel: 01383 602203 Fax: 01383 602205 Textphone: 01383 602206
- Social Work Office, 390 South Street, Glenrothes
Tel: 01592 583321 Fax: 01592 583262 Textphone: 01592 583264
- Social Work Office, East Fergus Place, Kirkcaldy
Tel: 01592 583322 Fax: 01592 583263 Textphone: 01592 583265
- Social Work Office, New City House, 1 Edgar Street, Dunfermline
Tel: 01383 609111 Fax: 01383 600010
- BT Text Direct for Textphone Users – 18001 08451 55 55 00

Language Lines

- Urdu/Punjabi Language Line
Tel: 08451 55 55 66
- Arabic Language Line
Tel: 08451 55 55 77
- Chinese Language Line
Tel: 08451 55 55 88

You can also call any Fife Council Local Office.

In an emergency outwith office hours please call:
The Emergency Out of Hours Service:
Tel: 08451 55 00 99

Useful Numbers and Organisations

www.whocarescotland.org

Who Cares? Scotland 0141 226 4441

Who Cares? Scotland is an independent organisation, which is not part of social work, providing advocacy and support for young in care. Who Cares? Scotland Young Persons Workers are based throughout Scotland and make contact with young people who are looked after by councils. This includes young people in residential units, foster care, residential schools, secure units and care leavers.

www.sclc.org.uk

Scottish Child Law Centre 0131 667 6333

The Scottish Child Law Centre provides legal advice to children and young people and the professionals working with them.

<http://www.childline.org.uk>

ChildLine 0800 1111

ChildLine is the free, 24-hour helpline for children and young people in the UK. Children and young people can call the helpline on **0800 1111** about any problem, at any time - day or night. Children who are deaf or find using a regular phone difficult can use the textphone service on 0800 400 222. ChildLine's counsellors are there to help you find ways to sort things out.

www.scotland.gov.uk/library/documents/youfc.htm

This is the Scottish Executive web-site about families and the problems they face.

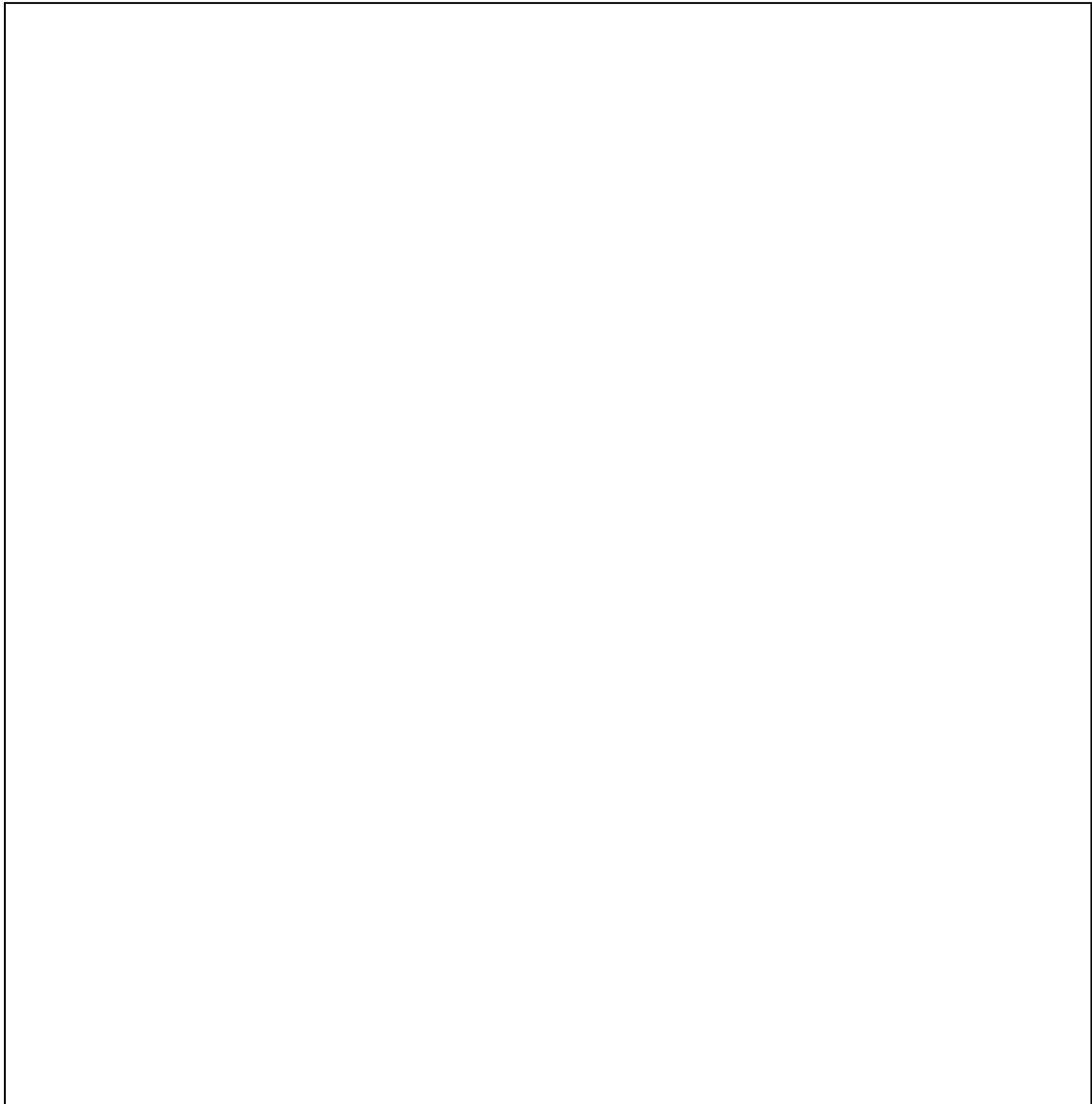
Other Leaflets in this Series

- Social Work Services in Fife for Children, Young People and their Families
- Criminal Justice Social Work Services
- Social Work Services in Fife for People with Learning Disabilities
- Social Work Services in Fife for People with Mental Health Problems
- Social Work Services in Fife for Older People
- Social Work Services for People with a Brain Injury in Fife
- Social Work Services for People in Fife who have a Physical Disability
- Social Work Services in Fife - Support for Carers
- Social Work Services in Fife for People with Substance Misuse Problems
- Social Work Services in Fife for People with a Sensory Loss or who are Deaf

Feedback

We are always trying to improve the information available to you and **you** can help. If you have any comments about this leaflet or suggestions about how it can be improved, please write it on this sheet and return it free of charge to:

Pauline Doherty
Planning and Performance Officer
FREEPOST
Room 601 Social Work Department
Fife Council
Fife House
Glenrothes
Fife
KY7 5LT

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their feedback on.