Falkirk Suicide Prevention Fund: Application Guidance

Background

A Limited recurring budget of £23,800 and non-recuring budget of £92,890 is available to establish the Falkirk Suicide Prevention Fund (formally Choose Life) which will be targeted towards suicide prevention in Falkirk. The fund will be allocated by the Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership.

The funding programme has been developed and will be commissioned by representatives from health and social care and third sector who are part of a Mental Health Planning Group.

According to published data, since 2014 suicide rates have been rising and Falkirk has the fifth highest suicide rate in Scotland. The Community Planning Partnership’s Falkirk Plan highlights that there has also been a rise in young people who display suicidal thoughts. Covid has also had a significant impact on mental health and as a result, services consistently report demand outweighing capacity.

Fund Outcomes

The fund aims to develop and increase the capacity of services that support suicide prevention in Falkirk, and support the implementation of priorities addressed in the new national suicide prevention strategy, [Creating Hope](https://www.gov.scot/publications/creating-hope-together-scotlands-suicide-prevention-strategy-2022-2032/documents/) Together.

The outcomes of the fund are:

* Reduce the rate of suicide in Falkirk
* Reduce the rate of self-harm in Falkirk
* Increase access to services
* Strengthening Falkirk's awareness of and responsiveness to suicide prevention
* Promote and provide effective, timely and compassionate support that promotes well-being and recovery
* Support for individuals and families that have been impacted by suicide
* Services are informed by lived experience

To achieve these outcomes, four programme priorities are:

* Suicide Prevention
* Self-harm Prevention
* Suicide Awareness: To encourage others to understand and talk about suicide
* Postvention Support: Support for people that have been impacted by suicide

 Applicants must support at least one of the priorities or all four.

Basic Eligibility Criteria

* Projects provide support for all ages but we would particularly welcome projects that focus on areas of high deprivation/ people with lower socio-economic backgrounds
* New projects can apply but added value to existing projects that have increased capacity due to demand
* Statutory services, third sector and constituted community groups
* As fund are limited, applications will be accepted for up to £25,000 single year/one-off costs. This criterion will be reviewed regularly in relation to demand on programme.
* Projects provide support for at least one of the four risk factors identified by [Health Improvement Scotland](https://www.healthscotland.scot/health-topics/suicide/suicide-prevention-overview):
	+ Pressures within communities including stigma, poor social cohesion, deprivation and lack of safety
	+ Pressures within Scottish society including inappropriate reporting and representation of suicidal behaviour by the media
	+ the quality of response from services including insufficient focus on the prevention, Identification and assessment of needs
	+ Pressures on individuals including family breakdown, low educational qualifications, insecurity of employment and alcohol and substance misuse.

Funds CANNOT be used for:

* Un-constituted groups
* The sole benefit of one individual
* Private companies or sole traders
* Activities promoting religious or political beliefs
* Activities supporting people not resident or employed within the Falkirk Local Authority area
* Replacing Statutory Funding

Application Process

Funding proposals will be assessed by a Commissioning group of representatives from Falkirk HSCP, health and social care and third sector who are a part of the Mental Health Planning Group. The panel will make funding recommendations and Falkirk HSCP Senior Leadership Team will take final award decisions.

Applications will be on-going with no deadline set however applications will close when budget has reached capacity. Applications will be assessed on own merit, regardless of applicant i.e., no priority will be applied to either statutory or third sector applications. Priority though will be given to projects that require funding to cope with increased demand on their service or projects that focus on areas with higher deprivation.

Monitoring & Evaluation

As a condition of your award, you are required to monitor and report on how the funding has been spent and the impact that it has had. Monitoring will include what difference the funding has made to the community and progress made in achieving the outcomes as set out within your proposal. Evaluation will include information about the number and types of people who benefited but will mostly concentrate on qualitative information including snapshots or case studies.

How to Apply

Please complete the application form and submit your proposal along with any supporting documents via email to: integration@falkirk.gov.uk.

APPENDIX

Include Guidance Note, Application Process

Since 2014 suicide rates have been rising in Falkirk and it now has the fifth highest suicide rate in Scotland. There has also been a rise in young people who display suicidal thoughts. As a result of covid the mental health of the community has been impacted and services stretched to capacity. [The Falkirk Plan](https://falkirk.gov.uk/services/people-communities/community-planning/docs/The%20Falkirk%20Plan.pdf?v=202111100919)  identified that an outcome for the plan would be to reduce the number pf deaths caused by suicide and to have children and young people’s mental health services well resourced. In 2022 The Scottish Government published their Suicide Prevention Strategy [Creating Hope](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2022/09/creating-hope-together-scotlands-suicide-prevention-strategy-2022-2032/documents/creating-hope-together-scotlands-suicide-prevention-strategy-2022-2032/creating-hope-together-scotlands-suicide-prevention-strategy-2022-2032/govscot%3Adocument/creating-hope-together-scotlands-suicide-prevention-strategy-2022-2032.pdf) Together where they outlined a whole-system approach to suicide prevention and that it was everyone’s business. It also outlined that death by suicide is three times more likely for those in lower socio-economic positions. In Falkirk, 16 small are in the top 10% most deprived areas in Scotland meaning more people in lower socio-economic positions, creating a direct link between Falkirk and suicide rates.

| Organisation | Report | Priority |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Scottish Government | [Creating Hope Together: Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022 to 2023](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2022/09/creating-hope-together-scotlands-suicide-prevention-strategy-2022-2032/documents/creating-hope-together-scotlands-suicide-prevention-strategy-2022-2032/creating-hope-together-scotlands-suicide-prevention-strategy-2022-2032/govscot%3Adocument/creating-hope-together-scotlands-suicide-prevention-strategy-2022-2032.pdf) | Build a whole of Government and Society approach to address the social detriments which have the greatest link to suicide |
|  |  | Strengthen Scotland’s awareness and responsiveness to suicide and people who are suicidal |
|  |  | Promote and provide effective, timely, compassionate support- That promotes wellbeing and recovery. |
|  |  | Embed a coordinated, collaborative, and integrated approach |
| Falkirk Council | [The Falkirk Plan 2021-2030](https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/people-communities/community-planning/docs/The%20Falkirk%20Plan.pdf) | Theme 3: Mental Health & Wellbeing |
| (Page 22 onwards outcomes relating to substance use) |  | Outcome 9- There are fewer deaths due to suicide |
|  |  | Outcome 10- Children and young people’s mental health services are well-resourced and have reduced waiting times |
|  |  | Outcome 11- People struggling with their mental health can access support early in their journey, and services will adopt a whole-person approach. |
|  |  | Outcome 12- Fewer people struggle with feeling socially isolated or lonely |