

**PE1470/E**

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

CONSIDERATION OF PE1470 – FALKIRK COUNCIL RESPONSE

**Local Authority Q1 – What are your views/experience on the issues raised in the Petition?**

Response

The issues raised within the Petition are not issues that have been highlighted within Falkirk Council area. Falkirk Council would support any effort to ensure young carers are identified and supported both emotionally and financially. We feel that we are unable to comment at this time on specific benefit issues given the lack of clarity around how the current changes are likely to impact on the general population including young carers.

Falkirk Council recognise the importance of identifying young carers at an early stage in their education to ensure that they can be appropriately supported into further education.

**Local Authority Q2 – How well do the policies aimed at supporting the needs of young carers work in practice?**

Response

The experience in Falkirk is that the young carers strategy has significantly assisted greater identification of young carers and has highlighted awareness of the needs of young carers and been a focus for more effective intervention. Falkirk Council was pleased to participate in the recent Forth Valley-wide launch of the Young Carers Card.

We believe that where young carers are identified appropriate supports are provided via Education, Social Work Services and the voluntary sector locally.