



**My Future's in Falkirk
Tell us.....
Young People's Survey 2005
Interim Report**

Date: 1st February 2006

Version 4



1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 My Future's in Falkirk (MFiF) is the economic regeneration initiative for the Falkirk area. It will change the Falkirk area and make it a better place to live, learn and work.
- 1.2 Young people are a vital part of the future of the area; they are its future. As part of the programme the partners of MFiF (Falkirk Council, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley and BP) decided to find out what young people thought of the area. We asked young people about important aspects of their lives; about leisure, education, employment and their thoughts and perceptions of the area in which they live.
- 1.3 This report highlights the key findings of the survey and will be utilised to inform the development of a young people's strategy for the Falkirk area, as well as tackling key areas for improvement across various services in the Council.
- 1.4 The survey asked over 25 questions of young people aged between 10-15 years and 16-24 years. From our original sample of 3,000 we received 1,970 completed forms. This represents nearly 10% of the young people population of the Falkirk area.

2.0 KEY POINTS

- 2.1 The key points which can be drawn from the initial results are summarised in the following paragraphs. The remainder of the report provides the details of the main findings.
- 2.2 **Perceptions of the Falkirk Area.** Overall, young people's perception of the Falkirk area is encouragingly positive. Of particular note is the confirmation by young people that they feel the Falkirk area is changing and getting better and the majority across both age groups rejected the view that 'the Falkirk area is boring and there are no opportunities for my future'. However when asked about whether the Falkirk area is a great place to grow up in, the older age group were less positive. Most young people were positive about pride in the area but there were mixed views, particularly in the older age group.
- 2.3 **Employment.** A high percentage of young people thought the area offered good opportunities for employment and training however there was a notable number who did not know, including amongst others the older age group. Most school leavers surveyed were students or in employment training. Around 50% of students intended to stay in the Falkirk area after they graduated. Those not staying in the area cited lack of jobs/opportunities as the main reason for leaving. A very small number of respondents were unemployed and the two main reasons given for not being able to get a job were 'there are no suitable jobs' and 'don't have enough experience'.
- 2.4 The results show that choice of subjects is the most important thing about **school** for young people. This was closely followed by teacher pupil relations and how problems are handled. Other important issues included resources, facilities, buildings and security. The vast majority of young people felt that the area is a great place to go to school particularly the younger age group. School pupils were also asked about part-time employment. The most popular forms of employment were paper rounds, working in restaurants/cafes or supermarkets and shops. Mid week work was predominately paper rounds whilst at weekends work in restaurants or supermarkets amounted between 4-6 hours. However there was a significant number working after 7pm on weekdays and further analysis of this data will be carried out to determine age groups working.

- 2.5 **Environment.** There was strong support for the statement ‘the environment and open spaces of Falkirk are important and need further development’, particularly from the older age group. The majority felt safe in the areas they lived in however this was less so when visiting another area especially for the older age group. The challenge for the theme group tackling Environmental Projects in MFiF will be to actively involve young people in developing and improving the environment, for example within the development of the Eco Park.
- 2.6 **Culture and Leisure.** Overall young people feel there is not enough for them to do in and around their area. When asked to respond to the statement ‘the Falkirk area offers a wide range of leisure, cultural and sporting activities/events for young people’ a large majority of the younger age range agreed. The majority of the older age range disagreed with the statement that the area ‘has a lively music and arts scene’. It would appear that despite recognition that there are good facilities within the area, specific interests may not be met locally. Some traditional leisure activities do not feature strongly in their preferred activities, those which do include meeting friends, watching TV/DVDs, using the computer, shopping and visiting the cinema; however reading books and taking part in sport do feature in the top ten.
- 2.7 **Science and Technology.** When asked about the statement ‘science and technology are important to the area and to my future’ the results showed a high proportion of both age groups did not know. The strongest support for this statement was from the younger age range and hence the continued focus will be with the transition group P6 – S1. The results provide a useful base measure from which the Science theme group can target awareness raising work and seek to measure changes.
- 2.8 **Marketing and Communications.** Websites were the most popular way to obtain information although traditional media forms such as radio, newsletters, newspapers and magazines were supported as was receiving information through school. Only 8% of the results favoured e-mail or texting. Communication about My Future’s in Falkirk appears to be successful and the majority of young people surveyed had a good level of understanding of what it means, with the majority across both ages selecting ‘exciting new changes for Falkirk’ and ‘new plans and developments for the area’.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 It is intended to use the survey results to inform a review of the Council’s Young People’s Strategy planned to take place in 06/07 and this process will also draw on a wider range of material such as through Local Community Planning, Youth Link Scotland and information generated as part of the Integrated Children’s Services Plan. The My Future’s in Falkirk theme groups will be integral to this process.
- 3.2 The Young People’s Survey will provide a platform of knowledge and understanding of how young people in the Falkirk area feel about their area, their interests, their school and what they do. It has proven to be a very useful and beneficial exercise clearly demonstrating that young people are feeling good about their area; that it is a great place to grow up and to go to school in, that it is changing and getting better and that it is offering them activities and opportunities for the future.

A. RESPONDENT PROFILE

Number of respondents = 1,970

Gender

Female	53%
Male	46%

Age

10 to 12	42%
13 to 15	17%
16 to 18	28%
19 to 24	12%

Area

Falkirk	38%
Grangemouth	15%
Braes	12%
Bo'ness	7%
Stenhousemuir	7%
Denny/Dunipace	7%
Banknock/Bonnybridge	6%
Larbert	4%
Other	4%

Ethnic origin

White	97%
Asian	1%
Black / Chinese	0.5%
Other	0.5%

Special needs

No	94%
Yes	5%

B. VIEWS OF THE FALKIRK AREA

Number of respondents = 1,166 (aged 10 to 15)

Young people (aged 10 to 15) were asked if they agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
a The Falkirk area is a great place to grow up.	18%	50%	12%	3%	13%
b The Falkirk area is a great place to go to school.	22%	50%	10%	2%	10%
c The Falkirk area is a great place to visit.	24%	42%	16%	4%	10%
d The environment and open spaces of the Falkirk area are important and need further development.	35%	36%	8%	2%	14%
e The Falkirk area has a lively music and arts scene.	12%	26%	28%	9%	19%
f The Falkirk area offers great facilities for young people at school or college.	19%	37%	18%	5%	15%
g The Falkirk area offers good opportunities for employment and training.	16%	37%	10%	3%	28%
h The Falkirk area is changing and getting better.	29%	41%	10%	4%	10%
i The Falkirk area is boring and there are no opportunities for my future.	8%	14%	33%	27%	12%
j Science and technology are important to the area and to my future.	19%	31%	16%	6%	23%
k There is a sense of pride and enthusiasm for the Falkirk area.	18%	40%	13%	4%	19%
l People of Falkirk are proud of their area.	24%	33%	12%	4%	21%
m I am proud of the Falkirk area.	28%	40%	13%	5%	8%
n The Falkirk area offers a wide range of leisure, cultural and sporting activities/events for young people.	29%	38%	15%	5%	8%
o I feel safe in the area I live in.	26%	37%	17%	8%	6%
p I feel safe when visiting a different part town/different area.	18%	37%	19%	9%	11%
q I would like to work in the Falkirk area when I leave school.	17%	21%	14%	11%	25%

B. VIEWS OF THE FALKIRK AREA

Number of respondents = 793 (aged 16 to 24)

Young people (aged 16 to 24) were asked if they agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
a The Falkirk area is a great place to grow up.	7%	45%	22%	6%	16%
b The Falkirk area is a great place to go to school.	6%	53%	18%	5%	14%
c The Falkirk area is a great place to visit.	8%	45%	27%	6%	10.0%
d The environment and open spaces of the Falkirk area are important and need further development.	32%	42%	6%	2%	12%
e The Falkirk area has a lively music and arts scene.	4%	23%	37%	14%	18%
f The Falkirk area offers great facilities for young people at school or college.	10%	37%	28%	11%	10%
g The Falkirk area offers good opportunities for employment and training.	8%	41%	19%	7%	20%
h The Falkirk area is changing and getting better.	12%	46%	17%	4%	1%
i The Falkirk area is boring and there are no opportunities for my future.	9%	21%	41%	12%	11%
j Science and technology are important to the area and to my future.	11%	28%	25%	6%	24%
k There is a sense of pride and enthusiasm for the Falkirk area.	8%	32%	26%	8%	20%
l People of Falkirk are proud of their area.	10%	30%	24%	8%	22%
m I am proud of the Falkirk area.	12%	35%	25%	8%	14%
n The Falkirk area offers a wide range of leisure, cultural and sporting activities/events for young people.	9%	33%	30%	10%	11%
o I feel safe in the area I live in.	12%	40%	23%	12%	6%
p I feel safe when visiting a different part town/different area.	7%	30%	30%	18%	9%
r There are lots of training and job opportunities for my future	7%	33%	24%	6%	21%
s Businesses in the area are supportive of young people and look to offer opportunities and experience	6%	30%	20%	8%	25%

B. VIEWS OF THE FALKIRK AREA

What “My Future’s in Falkirk” means to young people by age:
(Respondents were asked to select their top 3 meanings for this question)

	Age group 10-15 <i>(number of respondents = 1,166)</i>	Age group 16-24 <i>(number of respondents = 793)</i>	Total <i>(number of respondents = 1,970)</i>
Exciting new changes for Falkirk	36%	17%	53%
New plans and developments for the area	31%	21%	53%
A project / scheme	16%	14%	30%
Something I should get involved in	18%	9%	27%
A Council project	13%	11%	25%
Do not know	10%	8%	18%
Big signs	9%	5%	14%
Nothing	4%	4%	9%
No options selected at all	4%	3%	7%
No future	3%	3%	6%

B. VIEWS OF THE FALKIRK AREA

What "My Future's in Falkirk" means to young people in each community area:

	Falkirk	Bo'ness	Braes	Grange-mouth	Denny / Dunipace	Banknock / Bonny-bridge	Larbert	Stenhouse-muir	Other
New plans and developments for the area	21%	4%	7%	8%	3%	2%	2%	4%	1%
Big signs	6%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
A project / a scheme	12%	2%	3%	5%	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%
Do not know	5%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
No future	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
A Council project	10%	2%	4%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Nothing	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Something I should get involved in	9%	2%	3%	5%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Exciting new changes for Falkirk	21%	3%	7%	8%	3%	2%	2%	4%	1%
No option selected at all	4%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%

C. EMPLOYMENT (SCHOOL LEAVERS)

Number of respondents = 467

Are you:

A student	33%
Employed full-time	31%
Employed part-time	17%
Unemployed	11%
On a government training programme	7%
Self employed	1%

EMPLOYED

	Full-time	Part-time
	(number of respondents = 142)	(number of respondents = 80)
In permanent training / employment	53%	49%
Modern apprentice	33%	2%
In temporary employment	7%	40%
A Skillseeker	3%	2%
Office worker	25%	9%
Childcare	15%	3%
Shop worker	11%	31%
Engineer/Technician	8%	5%
Care worker	6%	10%
Factory worker	6%	1%
Other	6%	4%
Construction worker	4%	0%
Leisure worker	4%	16%
Call centre/Telephonist	4%	3%
Food/Hospitality	3%	15%

UNEMPLOYED

Number of respondents = 46

54%	of those who said they were unemployed had had a job before
33%	said they had not had a job before
13%	did not specify

For the respondents who were unemployed:

- their last job ended an average of 7 months ago
- their last job lasted an average of 8 months

24%	of these jobs were temporary
56%	of these jobs were permanent
20%	did not specify

UNEMPLOYED

Number of respondents = 46

The following made it difficult for those unemployed to get employment:

There are no suitable jobs	46%
Don't have enough experience	44%
Don't have any skills	24%
No options selected at all	20%
Don't have the right qualifications	20%
Too far to travel	13%
There is no suitable transport	13%
I'm not looking for a job	13%
I don't know where to go for help	13%
Discrimination	11%
I can't afford to give up benefits	6%
I can't afford child care facilities	4%

ON A GOVERNMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

Number of respondents = 31

Kind of training:

Modern apprenticeship	84%
Skill seekers	10%
Get ready for work	6%
Training for work scheme	6%

97% of respondents said their training was giving them the skills / experience they had hoped for.

97% of respondents said they thought this training would help them to get a job.

STUDENT

Number of respondents = 154

71% of respondents are attending college

25% of respondents are attending university

49% of respondents intend staying in the Falkirk area after they graduate

37% of respondents do not intend to stay in the Falkirk area after they graduate

18% did not specify

Not staying in Falkirk area after they graduate:

Lack of jobs / opportunities	40%
Not local	17%
Going to further education elsewhere	15%
Dislike area	11%
Unknown	6%
Want to travel	6%
Getting married	4%

D. PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT (IF STILL AT SCHOOL)

Number of respondents = 1,970

Type of part-time job:

Paper round	23%
Restaurant / Café	23%
Supermarket / Shop	19%
Other	7%
Selling round doors	5%
Leisure, Tourism and Sports	5%
Manual work	5%
Hairdressing and Beauty	4%
Milk round	3%
Call centre	2%
Carers	2%
Delivering leaflets	2%

Days worked:

Monday	40%
Tuesday	40%
Wednesday	41%
Thursday	41%
Friday	42%
Saturday	67%
Sunday	43%

Hours worked:

One hour is the most popular length of time worked part-time during the week. This is predominantly carrying out a paper round. At the weekends work in restaurants / cafes and supermarkets / shops are the most popular type of part-time work, with between 4 and 6 hours being worked at weekends in these jobs

Time worked

Before school / college	19%
After school / college	47%
Weekends	67%
School / College holidays	51%

Before 7 am	31%
After 7 pm	39%

E. SCHOOL

Number of respondents = 224

Top ten things which young people feel are VERY IMPORTANT about their school are:

Choice of subjects	75%
Respect for pupils from teachers	74%
Respect for teachers from pupils	70%
Resources (computers, books, etc.)	65%
How problems are handled	63%
Facilities in school	62%
Out of school time	62%
Pupils reports	61%
State of building	60%
Physical security	60%

The top ten things which young people feel are QUITE IMPORTANT about their school are:

School based groups	43%
School councils	38%
How information is passed on	37%
Homework	36%
Atmosphere in school	34%
Dress at school	33%
Guidance	33%
Getting information about what is happening in school	31%
Emotional security	31%
School rules	30%

Top ten things which young people feel are NOT IMPORTANT about their school are:

Dress at school	30%
Homework	21%
Exclusion from school	19%
School councils	16%
Food on sale in schools	14%
School based groups	14%
Getting information about what is happening in schools	9%
School rules	9%
How information is passed on	8%
Out of school time	8%

F. LEISURE INTERESTS

Number of respondents = 1,970

Is there enough for young people to do in and around their area?

68%	of respondents feel there is not enough for young people their age to do in and around their area
30%	feel there is
2%	did not specify

The top ten leisure activities which young people ENJOY doing in their spare time are:

Meet friends	97%
Watch videos/DVDs	95%
Listen to music	94%
Watch TV	94%
Go to the cinema	93%
Use the Internet	93%
Use the computer	92%
Go shopping/visit shopping centres	79%
Read books, magazines etc	77%
Take part in sporting exercise	74%

The top ten leisure activities which young people DON'T ENJOY doing in their spare time are:

Participate in religious/church activities	41%
Go to the library	41%
Go to the ballet	39%
Go to the museum/art gallery	37%
Go to uniformed youth organisations	32%
Go to youth clubs	26%
Go to the theatre	24%
Participate in interest groups	24%
Play a musical instrument	23%
Go to the park	23%

The top ten leisure activities which young people HAVE NEVER TRIED in their spare time are:

Work on motorbikes/cars	44%
Go to the ballet	39%
Do voluntary work	38%
Participate in religious/church activities	34%
Participate in interest groups`	33%
Go to uniformed youth organisations	33%
Go to youth clubs	31%
Go to museum/art gallery	24%
Participate in outdoor education/activities	21%
Go to the theatre	21%

The top ten leisure activities which young people WOULD LIKE TO TRY in their spare time are:

Work on motorbikes/cars	15%
Participate in interest groups	14%
Do voluntary work	13%
Play a musical instrument	12%
Go to youth clubs	10%
Participate in outdoor education/activities	9%
Go to uniformed youth organisations	9%
Go to museum/art gallery	9%
Go to concerts	8%
Go to ballet	8%

The top ten activities which young people take part in WEEKLY are:

Watch TV	93%
Listen to music	89%
Watch videos/DVDs	88%
Meet friends	88%
Use the computer	87%
Use the internet	85%
Read books, magazines, etc.	68%
Take part in sporting exercise	65%
Go shopping/visit shopping centres	65%
Play team sports	49%

The top ten activities which young people take part in MONTHLY are:

Go to the cinema	60%
Go to the library	27%
Go to amusements arcades	26%
Go shopping/visit shopping centres	23%
Go to concerts	22%
Go to raves/discos/clubbing	22%
Spectate at sports events	20%
Go to the theatre	16%
Participate in outdoor education / activities	16%
Go to the park	15%

The top ten activities which young people take part in LESS OFTEN are:

Go to the ballet	80%
Go to the museum/art gallery	77%
Work on motorbikes/cars	72%
Participate in religious/church activities	72%
Go to the theatre	71%
Go to uniformed youth organisations	69%
Participate in interest groups	68%
Go to youth clubs	66%
Go to concerts	62%
Play a musical instrument	50%

The top ten additional activities which young people would like access to in and around their area are:

Better parks
Better football facilities
Ice-rink
Swimming pool
Better youth clubs
Cinema
Basketball court
Sport/Leisure centres
More discos/clubs
More shops

Reasons selected by young people that would allow them to do what they want are:

(Respondents were asked to select their top 3 reasons for this question)

If I had more time	57%
If it was available in my area	55%
If I had more money	54%
If I had people to go with	22%
Having friends with the same interests	22%
If there was better transport	21%
If I had more available information	14%
If I had parental agreement	11%
Having care at home when I go out	3%
If I had more adult help	3%

Young people mostly spend their spare time:

On their own	13%
In a friends house	12%
Meeting friends on the street during the day	13%
Meeting friends on the street at night	13%
In their own house with friends	12%
Other	13%

Young people choose to meet their friends on the street because:

Nowhere else to go
To play and/or to be outside
It's fun/good
There is nothing else to do
It doesn't cost anything
It's easier
No parents/adults around
Too many to go into a house
They live too far away

Things which young people do when they are on the streets are:

Walk/talk/have a laugh
Cycle
Play football
Play other sports
Go to the park
Hang about
Drink
Play games

Young people prefer to stay at home or indoors because:

It's safer
It's warmer
More to do e.g. Computer, TV etc.
It doesn't cost anything
It's peaceful/relaxing
Nothing to do outside
It's fun/good
It's more private
I can do what I want to do
If the weather is bad
Friends live too far away
Family responsibilities

Things young people do when they stay at home:

Talk
Listen to music
Play on the computer
Play games/draw/dance
Go on the internet
Watch TV/DVDs
Read books, magazines etc.
Relax
Do homework
Have fun/good time

G. INFORMATION

Number of respondents = 1,970

Young people think that the best ways of getting information to them is through:

	Age group 10-15	Age group 16-24	Total
	<i>(number of respondents = 1,166)</i>	<i>(number of respondents = 793)</i>	<i>(number of respondents = 1,970)</i>
Websites	28%	27%	56%
At school	28%	19%	48%
Radio / TV	9%	15%	22%
Newsletters / Posters	14%	8%	21%
Newspapers / Magazines	9%	10%	19%
No options selected at all	13%	5%	18%
Infotext / Email	4%	4%	8%
Other	0.5%	1%	1.5%

Have you ever visited the Young Scot / Dialogue Youth website?

	Age group 10-15	Age group 16-24	Total
	<i>(number of respondents = 1,166)</i>	<i>(number of respondents = 793)</i>	<i>(number of respondents = 1,970)</i>
Yes	35%	22%	58%
No	7%	9%	16%
Not specified	17%	9%	26%