Think Poverty Follow-up

What support is available?

Benefits Calculator - Benefit calculator (entitledto.co.uk)

- Anyone can find out what benefits they are entitled to.
- If someone needs help with this, Advice and Support Hubs can assist.

Falkirk Council Benefits Support - Benefits & support | Falkirk Council

- Help with paying your rent
- Help with welfare benefits → Welfare and Benefits team available to help someone claim benefits.
- Help to manage your money → Debt advice.

Cost of Living Support - Benefits & support - Cost of living support | Falkirk Council

- Overview of support available broken down by theme (energy, money, food, wellbeing, family).

Energy Grants - Benefits & support - Energy grants | Falkirk Council

- Overview of support available to help pay energy costs.

Scottish Welfare Fund - Scottish Welfare Fund | Falkirk Council

1. *Crisis Grants:* these grants are to meet an urgent need that poses an immediate and substantial risk to health and safety. These grants can help provide access to essential items such as food and energy supply.
   Example: You're experiencing domestic abuse and you need finances to help move you away from an abuser.

2. *Community care grants:* These grants are to help people remain in the community or move back into the community or help ease exceptional pressure. These grants can help provide access to a wide range of basic household items.
   Example: Someone could apply for new carpets if their house has been flooded.

Free period products - People & communities - Free period products | Falkirk Council

- Anyone can order free period products and have them delivered to their home.

Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF):

Eligibility:

- Lone parent
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
- Youngest child under 1 year
- Parent aged under 25
- Disabled parent
- Parent with 3+ children
- Parents who are accessing funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)

Employment and Training Unit can help people with the following:

- Support to gain a qualification
- Help with improving skills or work experience
- Money advice
- Motivational support
- Self-employment support
- Access to affordable childcare
- Enhanced key worker support
- Health and well-being support

Who to go to?

Advice & Support Hubs:

- In person, over the phone, email
- Anyone who wishes to access benefits administered by Council but can't do so online (Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefits, Discretionary Housing Payment, Education Maintenance Allowance, Free School Meals, Clothing Grants)
- Anyone needing help or advice in relation to council rent or Council Tax
- Anyone in need but not sure what help/support they may be able to access
- Anyone wanting help to use online benefits calculator
- Anything else not covered elsewhere
- Hubs would refer on to range of services including Community Advice

Community Advice Services:

- Debt Team
    - Those who are at risk of losing home
    - In a situation where cannot currently/manage debt payments
    - In need of budgeting support/advice

- Welfare & Benefits
    - Those who have no income

- Those who have been refused benefit, or had benefit withdrawn, and need help to appeal
- Those who need help to claim a specific benefit
- Those who need income maximisation advice, beyond basic benefits calculator

- Scottish Welfare Fund

Libraries – PC & Internet Access, Device Charging, Free Hot Drinks

- Books, audio-books and e-books for adults, children and babies – available in various languages. We have no overdue fines.

- Regular Bookbug Sessions – stories, songs and rhymes to encourage bonding, reading and language development – for babies, toddlers and parents/carers.

- Hundreds of e-magazines and e-newspapers from the UK and Worldwide. Available in 65+ languages and with lots of accessibility functions.

- PCs, internet and WiFi in all libraries. Printing and photocopying facilities are available in each library at a small charge.

- A warm, safe and comfortable space to sit and relax, study, be creative or be entertained. We have eight libraries across Falkirk and you can find the opening hours and locations here.

- Free hot drinks.

- Power banks to charge up your smart devices (phones, tablets, laptops etc.)

- Trained staff to help with digital access and digital skills.

- Trained staff providing information or signposting to the relevant organisation/Council department.

- Bus pass service in Falkirk Library to get or renew your bus pass.

- Hearing aid battery replacement –available in all Libraries to save people travelling to FVRH Audiology Department.

- Home Library Service – books delivered to you - for anyone who is unable to travel to the Library due to illness, disability, caring responsibilities or temporarily following an operation etc.

- Libraries also have an extensive programme of groups, activities and events throughout the year. Many of these are free to access – some have a small charge. You can find further details for the groups, activities and events on the website here.

Our Falkirk Map – map of community food provision, warm spaces, digital access, council help, community information

One Parent Families Scotland - The leading charity working with single parent families in Scotland. They provide expert advice, practical support and campaign with parents to make their voices heard to change the systems, policies and attitudes that disadvantage single parent families.

- Helpline for single parents (benefits, budgeting, childcare, any questions parents might have) 08088010323. Interpreters are available in up to 250 languages.
- Live chat function
- Forums for parents to discuss issues and find support

Employment & Training Unit:

We can help local people find a job or training opportunity to progress their careers.

Our Employment and Training Unit (ETU) provides its services to all ages, whether leaving school, returning to work or changing career; we are here to help. The service is person-centred and needs-led, meaning we work with you to support you into employment in a way that works for you. You may need a more tailored training and support service due to your current circumstances and we can ensure you get all the specialist support and advice needed to move into the right job at the right time.

Adult Numeracy programme:

Funded by UK Government

Multiply

What do shopping, cooking, DIY, children's activities, managing your money, taking part in sports or simply getting on a bus, all have in common? They are all packed full of numbers.
Numbers are everywhere so love them or loath them, we just can't ignore them.
Multiply is a new UK Govt funded adult numeracy programme offering FREE short courses to adults across the Falkirk area. The courses are practical, activity based and focused on the numbers we come across daily.

So if you'd like to:
make more of your money
brush up on your number skills
find easier, fun ways to help your children with numbers
take part in a cooking, gardening or DIY with numbers
or get a qualification

why not join a group of like minded people on a Multiply course.

For more information contact multiply@falkirk.gov.uk
Or Shona Keenan on 07483 153059

Additional information:

Report-of-the-inquiry-into-stigma-CPG-on-Poverty.pdf (povertyalliance.org)