

**The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland
Consultation Response to Falkirk Council budget proposals for Children's Services
2017/18.**

1. CILIP in Scotland (CILIPS)ⁱ is the Scottish arm of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. CILIP is the leading professional body for librarians, information specialists and knowledge managers. Many of our members work within local authorities.
2. We welcome the opportunity to comment on the options for the School Library Service (SLS) contained in the Council's recent budget proposal.
3. The new proposal follows extensive reductions to the service in recent years and we find it difficult to envisage how the savings can be achieved without severe detriment to current service levels. We believe some more detail on exactly how services are to be co-ordinated by schools would be helpful here.
4. CILIPS recognises that Falkirk Council, as a result of significant financial pressures, is facing difficult choices regarding where to reduce spending on services. However, CILIPS maintains that the School Library Service provides expert support for curriculum development and is key to realisation of the Scottish Government's aim of raising attainment levels. The SLS contributes to delivery of curriculum outcomes, promotion of literacy and reading, information literacy skills and technology use and should therefore be retained.
5. The school library service has already suffered considerable budget savings in recent years having been reduced from 15 FTE to 2 FTE. Despite this reduction the service has been reorganised and continues to provide resources and staff expertise.
6. As part of the Attainment Challengeⁱⁱ the service has been running a targeted outreach programme in nursery and primary schools in areas of deprivation.
7. CILIPS holds that the concept of 'literacy across the curriculum' within CfE is best supported by access to information in a wide range of formats, and with the support of trained information professionals. The SLS is a key player and partner in the delivery of the Falkirk Council's Literacy Strategy and the service delivers the RED Book Award for secondary schools and leads and supports literacy events (local and national) in nurseries and primary schools.
8. CILIPS contends that this pool of expertise and resources needs to be safeguarded from closure because it is a cost effective method of developing,

extending and exploiting the material available to educational establishments across the authority.

9. The SLS in Falkirk underpins the objectives contained within Scottish Government policies for a smarter Scotlandⁱⁱⁱ, the Literacy Action Plan^{iv}, Scotland's Digital Future^v and by providing professional support in preparing children for the challenges of life in the 21st century in areas such as literacy, internet safety, information and digital literacy, and encouraging reading for pleasure.
10. CILIPS hopes that Falkirk Council will be mindful of research which highlights that school libraries impact positively on educational attainment, a Scottish Government priority^{vi}, as well as successful learning outcomes and positive attitudes to learning.^{vii}
11. In conclusion, CILIPS believes that the School Library Service is unique in its ability to support teaching and learning and should be retained.

ⁱ <http://www.cilips.org.uk/>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inclusionandequalities/sac/index.asp>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/Strategic-Objectives/smarter>

^{iv} <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/ACE/Literacy3>

^v <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Economy/digital/Digital-Dialogue/ExploringDigitalDialogue>

^{vi} <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Raisingeducationalattainment>

^{vii} http://www.scottishlibraries.org/storage/sectors/schools/SLIC_RGU_Impact_of_School_Libraries_2013.pdf