



Falkirk Labour Youth Manifesto 2022

We are the future.



Young People and Future Generations

Young people have put up with a lot in the last few years, from reduced youth service budgets, education cuts, the SQA exams scandal, worries about jobs and the pandemic. That is why, for the first time, Falkirk Labour is producing policies specifically for young people. They make clear what a Scottish Labour-led council will do for them, addressing the issues they face every day. We want to see young people do well and get the support they need when they need it. Too often young people feel politicians do not listen to them, leaving them out of decision-making. Young people want to be involved in the decisions that affect them day to day. If Falkirk Council is to be 'A Council of the Future' it must involve young people. They are the future of Falkirk after all.

Falkirk Labour will:

Stand up for Young People and their rights

We will introduce a Children and Young Persons' Champion on Falkirk Council to be a point of contact for young people just as we have a champion for older people. Our Children and Young People's Champion will be their advocate. They will engage with children and young people about issues that affect them and make sure they are involved in the decision making process, standing up for their rights.

Support for students to gain opportunities

Falkirk Labour wants to see students thrive and give them education and the opportunities they need to gain skills and experiences. So we will make sure all high school students continue to be offered work experience to give them insight into fields they would like as a career and to build the skills they will need. We also want to make sure everyone gets the same opportunities, so we will extend this to home schooled students so they are not left out.

Making sure the council is being held accountable for you

We will submit a binding policy motion for council to make sure future generations of young people are taken into consideration in decision making, just like we do with climate change.

Climate Change

Falkirk Labour knows that there is no Planet B so we must do what we can now, protect our home, address the climate change crisis and reduce our net zero targets by 2030.

In recent years, especially during COP26, we have seen how passionate young people are about climate change. That is why Falkirk Labour will propose young people are involved in council discussions around climate change. We know they are the future. They have great ideas and new perspectives on many issues, especially regarding climate change.

Fighting for inclusiveness in our communities

The Scottish Youth Parliament has in its manifesto "a message from Scotland's young people" with things they would like to see change over the next five years. One of these is: "The Scottish Government should encourage and provide funding to local councils to work with young people with disabilities to design and maintain more accessible parks." Falkirk Labour will invest in play parks, making them accessible for all children and young people in our communities. We will also seek to ensure disability-friendly play park equipment is installed so children and young people with a disability can enjoy them.

Address the growing mental health crisis

Falkirk Labour will therefore invest in employing more youth workers and CLD workers to ensure community groups, clubs and projects for children, young people and their families continue in order to reduce loneliness and isolation among young people.

Falkirk Labour will address the growing mental health crisis by making sure every high school has a dedicated mental health counsellor to give young people someone to talk to when they need. We will make sure the government keeps its promise to place these counsellors in our schools.

Invest in opportunities for young people

We will create five-year apprenticeships for young people aged 16 to 25 years old so they can get the opportunity to start a job in the trade or sector they would like to work in. We will also help young people get back into work through these apprenticeships. We will deliver these apprenticeships for young people, working through the council and its partners.

Defend young people with additional support needs

Over the past few years Falkirk Council has cut investment in children and young people with additional support needs. We believe those with additional support needs should not be left behind in this way. Falkirk Labour will invest in children and young people with additional support needs and make sure they get the vital support they need in our schools.

Transport

Falkirk Labour will help make sure families and young people under 22 are supported in applying for the National Entitlement Card to receive free bus travel. Only five per cent of young people in Falkirk have been able to access this. Falkirk Labour will make sure all young people get support applying for these cards.

Pledge to defend The Promise

Falkirk Labour will defend and make sure Falkirk Council keeps 'The Promise Scotland' which works with other organisations to support shifts in policy, practice and culture so Scotland can #KeepThePromise it made to care-experienced infants, children, young people, adults and their families to ensure that every child grows up loved, safe and respected, able to realise their full potential

Support for young carers

Falkirk Labour wants to see young people who are carers thrive. We will make sure young carers receive the support they need from the council and schools especially in achieving their goals and career aims.