

Working with Private Landlords

A New Partnership

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Housing & Social Work Services

Content

- Initial Contact
- Commitment
- Landlord Forums
- Falkirk's Accreditation Scheme
- Training
- Advice & Assistance
- Partnership working



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Initial Contact

- Set up a series of Informative meetings with Landlords & Agents prior to registration
- Held a number of drop in sessions at Local Area Housing Offices
- Invitations to drop in to meet Private Sector Team
- Advertise the Private Sector Section in the local media
- Developed a web page on Falkirk Council's Web site
- Developed a number of informative leaflets



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Commitment

- Gave a commitment to
 - Develop landlord forums
 - Develop an accreditation scheme
 - Develop and deliver training programmes
 - Provide updated advice and information
 - Develop partnership working



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Landlord Forums

- Launched Falkirk's Landlord Forums in February 2006
- Wide range of speakers both external and internal
- Cover a wide range of topics
- Encourage feedback and suggestions for future forums
- Changed the layout of the room
- Trained staff to be facilitators
- Staff and speakers available for individuals to approach
- Well attended averaging 70 attendees
- Holding our 7th Forum on 16th September 2008 at Falkirk Lesser Town Hall



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Falkirk's Accreditation Scheme

- First 18 Landlords/Agents Accredited at the Landlord Forum In January 08
- Included a key element of compulsory training
- Training sessions had the dual role of also shaping Falkirk Council's accreditation scheme based on the contributions from the group
- Still envisage a role for the Local Scheme working within the National Accreditation Scheme's guidelines



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Training

- Developed and delivered training to Central Scotland Police, RSL's and internal departments within the Council
- Developed and delivered a number of training sessions for Landlords and Agents both In-house and in partnership with John Blackwood.
- Developed and delivered training at Local Forums
- Developed and distributed informative leaflets etc



Advice and Assistance

- This is ongoing and is often included within the presentations at Landlord Forums, leaflets, information sheets etc
- Unique e-mail address to the Private Sector Section
- Applies to Tenants as well as Landlords
- Currently developing a Good Practice Lettings Guide for landlords



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Partnership working

- Meet regularly with our partnership group to establish the issues for the sector within Falkirk
- Work in partnership with the sector to raise standards to ensure the Private Rented Sector within Falkirk becomes a recognised quality housing option for people who want to live within Falkirk
- Currently Working with LAS and Falkirk's accredited Landlords to pilot a leasing scheme



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And Finally

- Falkirk Council has embraced the opportunity to gain an understanding of the private sector within Falkirk by working with the sector to help encourage and promote quality standards.
- It is important for Council's to engage with landlords, agents and tenants to ensure that ongoing work reflects the future ongoing changes within the sector.



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