

Fair Start Scotland

Factsheet

August 2022

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that everyone in Scotland has the opportunity to fulfil their potential and is using powers devolved under the 2016 Scotland Act to ensure that no one is left behind as we aim to deliver a fairer, more inclusive society.

Introducing Fair Start Scotland

- Fair Start Scotland (FSS) launched in April 2018 and is the first iteration of devolved employment support.
- It is **managed by the Scottish Government** (SG) and delivered collaboratively across a range of private, public and third sector delivery partners including specialist providers
- The service **provides flexible, person-centred one-to-one support**. At the end of June 2022, there were 48,223* starts to FSS and 16,485* job starts.
- FSS aims to **support to people further removed from the labour market**, including, disabled people and those at risk of becoming long-term unemployed.
- **Participation is completely voluntary** and choosing to take part will not affect a persons existing benefits.

About Fair Start Scotland

- It has been **developed by listening to the views of people** who use employment support services.
- It is designed to be **adaptable to local needs** and labour markets and is delivered across Scotland in 9 geographic areas.
- With **dignity and respect at its core** – FSS provides **access to a dedicated adviser** who will listen, guide and help individuals achieve their employment goals.
- Crucially, FSS **provides 12 - 18 months pre-work support along with a further 12 months of in-work support** which is tailored to suit the individual.
- To be able to take part in Fair Start Scotland, individuals must be living in Scotland and be eligible to work in the United Kingdom.
- Eligible individuals **must not** be in paid work of any kind at point of referral, including permitted work.

Who is eligible for Fair Start Scotland?

Groups eligible from **Day 1 of unemployment** include:

- Lone Parents
- Care experienced young people
- Person with a conviction
- Refugees
- Unemployed with a health condition that is a barrier to work
- Ethnic minorities
- Resident in 15% most deprived SIMD areas
- Anyone who has a health condition and is found to have a limited capability for work (LCW) or a limited capability for work-related activity (LCWRA) following a Work Capability Assessment
- Anyone who is Disabled as defined by the Equality Act 2010
- If none of the above categories apply, **people are also eligible as they reach 12 months unemployment.**

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Getting in touch to make a referral : Many of the referrals to Fair Start Scotland will come from Jobcentre Plus, however other organisations can contact FSS Providers directly to let them know about potential participants. Individuals can also contact Providers themselves directly. Below is a breakdown of the contract areas and the Providers delivering in those areas.

Lot	Contract Area	Local Authority Area	Lead Provider	Contact Number
1.	Glasgow	Glasgow	People Plus Group Ltd	0141 471 5056
2.	Lanarkshire	North and South Lanarkshire	Remploy Ltd	0300 456 8050
3.	Tayside	Angus, Dundee City and Perth and Kinross	Remploy Ltd	0300 456 8085
4.	Forth Valley	Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire	Falkirk Council	01324 504408
5.	East	City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, Scottish Borders, West Lothian, Fife	Start Scotland Ltd	0800 049 7061
6.	Southwest	North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway	Start Scotland Ltd	0800 049 7061
7.	Northeast	Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	Start Scotland Ltd	0800 049 7061
8.	Highlands and Islands	Argyll and Bute, Eilean Siar, Highland, Moray, Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands	People Plus Group Ltd	0141 471 5056
9.	West	East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde	The Wise Group	0300 303 3381

More information on Fair Start Scotland and Local Providers is available using the Local Authority search tool at <https://www.mygov.scot/help-find-job/>. Alternatively, phone the FSS information line on **0800 804 8108**. The lines are open from 10am – 4pm Monday to Friday.