



Economic Resilience and Employment Third Sector Forum
Thursday 23rd May 2019
10am – 12pm
CVS Falkirk and District Offices

Present:

Scott Malcolm (SM) (Chair)	CVS Falkirk and District
Laura Jamieson (LJ) (Minute-taker)	CVS Falkirk and District
Cheri Ann Kerr (CAK)	Cyrenians
David Stewart (DS)	Falkirk Football
Hazel Taylor (HT)	Community Foundation
Jennifer Kerr (JK)	Cyrenians
Jennifer Robertson (JR)	CVS Falkirk and District
Lynsey Hansford (LH)	CVS Falkirk and District
Nicola Lockwood (NL)	CVS Falkirk and District
Sandra Lyon (SL)	Falkirk and District
	Association for Mental Health (FDAMH)
	The Conservation Volunteers

Apologies:

Joseph Wilson (JW)	Loretto Housing
Lesley Young (LY)	Re-union
Vicki Ferguson (VF)	Forth Environment Link

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

The Chair welcomed forum members present and introductions were made. The apologies were noted as above.

2. Review of Previous Minutes – Thursday 21st February 2019

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

3. Falkirk Football Community Foundation – Falkirk Cleaning Academy – David Stewart

DS introduced himself to forum members present then proceeded to give a presentation on The Falkirk Cleaning Academy, with information on its background, aims and outcomes. The Falkirk Cleaning Academy is a social enterprise led by the Falkirk Football Community Foundation (FFCF) and one of the education and employability projects FFCF run. The key aim of The Falkirk Cleaning Academy is creating a cleaning company which will provide individuals with employability skills, work experience and in-house training, which could lead to potential employment. DS informed forum members he is keen to create partnerships with organisations, charities, employability providers and housing associations within Falkirk and across Forth Valley.

4. Third Sector Partner Updates

4.1 Falkirk Football Community Foundation

DS informed forum members that FFCF are working in partnership with Falkirk Football Club to install a new football pitch at the Falkirk Stadium, installation will be completed in September. This will lead to new volunteering opportunities.

DS also informed forum members their current projects are going well, their students are progressing and they are making inroads with the Alternative Academy.

4.2 The Conservation Volunteers

SL informed forum members The Conservation volunteers (TCV) have received funding for their new disability project and a new post holder has just started. The project is not yet delivering but will begin soon. TCV have other new starts based in Edinburgh but working in areas including Falkirk.

4.3 Cyrenians

CAK informed forum members Cyrenians Lighthouse Project are trying to create links and pathways with different organisations regarding volunteering opportunities in the Falkirk area. HT mentioned that Cyrenians Falkirk employability project is now based at Arnotdale House. HT informed forum members that they work with Criminal Justice three days a week and with Fare Start three days. They have a new community enterprise manager and a new garden cart selling produce grown by those on unpaid work orders.

5. Update from CVS Falkirk

5.1 Falkirk Employability Tender – Collaboration Networking Event

JK asked members if they had attended the event and some said they didn't as there were no opportunities for partnership working. There was a discussion around the current employability set up and JK asked if it worked for the members present or they would like to explore new options. A range of opinions were expressed, and no consensus reached. For those showing interest in a consortia model, Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network will invite the Fife Consortium to deliver an information session. It was noted that Partnership for Procurement (P4P) supported the event and are a national body that provide free support around tender matching and preparing to put in a tendering bid. They work closely with Scottish Government on tendering.

Action: SM to send details of when the new tender opens to forum members and add it to the minutes.



Action: JK to ask Falkirk Council if organisations have to join the tendering framework to keep their current funding.

5.2 Social Security Benefits Delivery Stakeholder Toolkit

Scottish Government has published a stakeholder toolkit on the delivery of devolved social security benefits.

The toolkit is for all public, third sector and charitable organisations who are involved in the delivery of, or providing advice on, the new social security benefits which are being devolved to Scottish Government, under the Scotland Act 2016.

The toolkit provides resources and information to help communication with staff and clients about the significant changes happening regarding social security in Scotland.

To view the toolkit, or for further information, please visit the Scottish Government website.

Alternatively, contact Scottish Government by phone: 0300 244 4000, or email: CEU@gov.scot

5.3 Falkirk Job search Skills Workshops

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) in Falkirk holds Job search Skills drop-in workshops every Wednesday, 2pm – 3pm at their office, 100 Manor Street, Falkirk, FK1 1NU.

The workshops will cover how to look for vacancies online, how to connect with employers and use social media for job searching. During these workshops, attendees should learn how to identify their own strengths, complete CVs and applications, and develop their interview skills.

As these are drop-in workshops, there is no need to book a space.

For further information, contact SDS in Falkirk by phone: 01324 620311.

5.4 CVS Falkirk strategic Plan

JK informed forum members we are now reviewing our strategic plan and how we work for the third sector to gain a better sense of what the sector wants from us. The work will be done over the summer until our AGM in November, beginning with our staff then taking it to our members and the wider sector. JK mentioned we were looking for honest feedback.

5.5 Aspiring Communities Update

JK confirmed that the AC project and staff finish at the end of June and ongoing work will be passed to other CVS Falkirk staff or our relevant CLD



partners. JK noted she felt the project went well and has given us more visibility in communities and that as part of the project there has been lots of technical interesting work done.

6 Three Key Messages

- Possibility to raise opportunities for tendering.
- Clarification around whether organisations have to sign up to the new tender to keep their current funding.
- Business opportunities provided via Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network and the Buy the Good Stuff brand.

7 AOCB

JK informed forum members of a new Scottish Government/EU fund called Inspiring Communities fund which offers £250,000 over a number of years to address inequalities with dignified responses the deadline for applications is Friday 14th June 2019.

Date of the next meeting is Thursday 22nd August 2019

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