

Organisation Support Case Study

Carron Connect Partnership: SOFIA Project

As Secretary of the Carron Connect Partnership, Val Hunter has been involved with CVS Falkirk for many years and in many ways. But it has only been in recent years that both organisations have begun to work together quite so closely.

The Partnership's SOFIA Project works to fill the gap in provisions for older people, identified during a Community Planning Partnership consultation, with engagement events and activities.

The SOFIA Project had previously secured funding from Awards for All, which Val applied for without external support. However, they struggled to find any additional funding.

The Partnership first met with CVS Falkirk's CEO to identify what local groups, like Carron Connect Partnership, needed from CVS Falkirk.

"Going to that meeting helped us see that there was someone in place, with different ideas on how to go forward," says Val.

The Partnership began working with the Development Officer for Capacity Building, and together, they focused on defining the needs and aims of the SOFIA Project.

"The Capacity Building Officer is an excellent worker," Val says. "Very organised, and very supportive. They make suggestions, not demands, which we've had from other people in the past, and are a tremendous help in identifying funding opportunities for us."

In the last year, CVS Falkirk has helped the Partnership with multiple funding applications, in addition to support in other areas of governance.

After discussing the matter with Age Scotland, the Partnership decided to put together a document summarising the SOFIA Project's aims and activities, which could then be used with funders who required applications by letter, instead of as a form.

Val took the matter to CVS Falkirk, and together with one of their funders, they were able to create a document that could be used repeatedly, in future applications.

Val describes the document as a "brilliant piece of work." "It gets straight to the point," she says, "but it still manages to include a lot of information, without being too dense."

Val describes CVS Falkirk as having continued to develop the strong impressions and relationships they have built in the last few years. "We're happy to tell people how much CVS have helped us, and direct people to them."

“We’ve never had this kind of support before.”