

Voice of the Sector Case Study

Falkirk Foodbank

Falkirk Foodbank, part of the Trussell Trust, has its origins in CVS Falkirk's Community Care and Health Forum(CCHF), which brings together members of the third sector with an interest in health and wellbeing in the Falkirk community.

The Foodbank itself began as a group of 10 churches, looking to help those suffering from food poverty in Falkirk. Representatives from the group attended CCHF, where they met people and organisations who could help with storing and transporting food donations.

Since then, the Falkirk Foodbank has grown to become part of the Trussell Trust's network, providing food and support in the Falkirk area.

Effie Confrey has worked closely with CVS from when she started with the Foodbank. "Everyone's been absolutely amazing – they've all gone the full mile and more to help."

Effie's first contact at CVS was the Social Enterprise Development Officer, who worked with Effie to identify appropriate funding sources for the Foodbank. When the Foodbank decided to apply to the Big Lottery Fund, CVS helped Effie with her application, and the various forms involved. She was successful.

"CVS was great, especially with the forms. They knew all the relevant key words and phrases that would help our application stand out, which was a huge help."

CVS also helped put Effie in touch with a volunteer, a skilled accountant who revolutionised the Foodbank's books, transferring them all to a new, computerised system, which was no small feat.

But now, Effie says, they have an effective, efficient system, rather than relying on vulnerable hard copies. "It all works so well now. Our volunteer's almost put themselves out of a job!"

Effie met CVS Falkirk's Capacity Building Development Officer at the 2015 Funders' Fayre. The Fayre gave those looking for funding opportunities the connect with those who offered funding; through this, Effie and the Foodbank were put in touch with, and applied for funding from, both the Robertson Trust and the Henry Smith Charity.

"CVS was a big help with those too," Effie says. "They supported us through the application process, and all the different forms."

The Foodbank is reliant on donations, which, as Effie points out, are not reliable or consistent. "People's circumstances change so easily," she says. Donations are

always appreciated, though, she points out, especially with foodbank use still on the rise in Scotland.

As a result, she especially appreciates all of CVS Falkirk's support. "It feels like everyone is there at CVS because they *want* to be. It isn't just a job to them, they want to help."

"They're all so nice, and the support has been incredible. We wish we could have this kind of support from everyone."