



**Economic Resilience and Employment Third Sector Forum**  
**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019**  
**10am – 12pm**

**Present:**

Scott Malcolm (SM) (Acting Chair)  
Becca Heggie (BH) (Minute-taker)  
Alan Forrester (AF) (Speaker)  
Charlie Lyon (CL)  
Colette Lowe (CLo)  
Hazel Taylor (HT)  
Maria Ferrari (MF)  
Senga Armstrong (SA)

CVS Falkirk and District  
CVS Falkirk and District  
Keep Scotland Beautiful  
Keep Scotland Beautiful  
Link Living  
Cyrenians  
Cyrenians  
Newbattle Abbey College

**Apologies:**

Sandra Lyon (SL) (Chair)

The Conservation  
Volunteers (TVC)

**1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

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

**2. Review of Previous Minutes – 23.05.19**

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

**3. Alan Forrester – Canal College – Keep Scotland Beautiful**

AF introduced himself and colleague CL to members of the forum then proceeded to talk about Canal College.

Canal College is a free 14 week outdoor heritage and environmental skills training programme, it gives people aged 16 and over the opportunity to gain new skills and accredited training as well as earn recognised awards.

The project has been set up to help tackle the high youth unemployment amongst people living within the deprived areas.

Canal College offers a variety of practical projects which involve conserving and enhancing the canals:

- Canal side archaeology
- Forestry and conservation
- Canal side maintenance
- Stone carving and stone repair
- Path work and woodwork
- Management of vegetation and invasive species



Participants take part in these practical projects outdoors on the Forth and Clyde Canal, Union Canal and Caledonian Canal.

Canal College also provide employability training which includes:

- interview skills
- CV writing
- problem solving
- support with practical job seeking

As well as providing young participants and their local volunteer mentors with practical, on the job experience and skills training in the canal environment, Canal College also offer the opportunity for individuals to work towards awards:

- SQA qualification in Cultural Heritage
- SQA qualification in Working Safely
- Heritage Heroes Award
- Canal College Certificate
- Saltire Volunteer Award
- John Muir Award (Discovery level)

The Canal College training programme is available in three areas across Scotland:

- Falkirk
- West Dunbartonshire
- Inverness

AF went on to show forum members a [video](#) about an Award's Network participant named Aiden and the value of non-academic awards for young people.

CL noted he is currently looking for participants for the programme.

Canal College youth outreach workers are available to contact for further details: [Charlie.lyons@keepscotlandbeautiful.org](mailto:Charlie.lyons@keepscotlandbeautiful.org)

Action: MF to visit AF and CL to find out more information about Canal College.

Action: SA to send details of Newbattle Abbey College courses to AF

Action: SA to send SM information about Adult Achievement Awards for distribution.

Action: CL to send out recruitment information on Canal College to SM.

## **4. Third Sector Partner Updates**

### **4.1 Link Living**

CLO informed forum members Link Living are currently recruiting for their Steps to Resilience course which is aimed at 16 to 24 year olds.

The course aims to help develop tools and resilience skills for those who have experienced trauma, including anxiety. Participants will be supported by Link Living in developing resilience through engaging and interactive health and wellbeing training.

CLO also informed forum members Link Living are currently focusing on Techy Tea Parties. This will involve working with older people to help them learn more about technology.

### **4.2 Cyrenians**

Cyrenians have launched new personal development workshops to support people going through the criminal justice system. These workshops will support people to develop their confidence, motivation and basic ICT skills.

Cyrenians also do one to ones with criminal justice clients to support to them to build confidence, skills and qualifications to move into employment.

HT informed forum members Cyrenians are also focussing on their Fair Start programme which involves a range of different workshops linked into Employment and Training Unit. (ETU)

HT informed forum members they are aiming to open their new social enterprise café at the end of September. The café makes use of produce grown within the garden and their farm which is located just outside of Edinburgh.

MF spoke about The Floral Clock within Dollar Park which was created by criminal justice clients and people completing their community payback orders.

## **5. Update from CVS Falkirk**

### **5.1 Age Is Just A Number Event**

CVS Falkirk will host their annual event celebrating the national Older People's Day which will return as "Age Is Just A Number" on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October at Falkirk Trinity Church.

CVS Falkirk are focusing on "Keeping Safe and Well in Your Community". Confirmed activities include blood pressure and hearing checks.



They are especially looking for organisations who support this year's theme, to participate.

If your team delivers activities or services in the Falkirk area to older people, their families, friends, carers and wider social circles, get in touch! To request a stall, or for further information, please contact Laura Jamieson by phone: 01324 692003, or email: [laura@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto:laura@cvsfalkirk.org.uk)

Action: SM to email Age Is Just A Number Poster to CL.

## **6. Three Key Messages**

This agenda item was not discussed.

## **7. AOCB**

There was no AOCB.

**Date of the next meeting is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

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