



Economic Resilience & Employment Third Sector Forum
Thursday 18th May 2017
10am – 12pm
CVS Falkirk and District Offices

Present:

David Gardener (DG) (Chair)	CVS Falkirk and District
Laura Jamieson (LJ) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk and District
Annette Tonner (AT)	Forth Valley Community Focus CIC
David Stewart (DS)	Falkirk Football Foundation
Joe Wilson (JW)	Loretto Care
Jo Tibbles (JT)	Falkirk Council's Employment and Training Unit (ETU)
Louise McKnight (LM)	Salvation Army

Apologies:

George Mann (GM)	Cyrenians
Henrietta Black (HB)	Shaw Trust
Lesley Young (LY)	Re-Union Canal Boats
Pamela Smith (PS)	Falkirk Council's Employment and Training Unit (ETU)
Sandra Garner (SG)	The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed forum members to the meeting and introductions were made. The apologies were noted as above.

2. Review of Previous Minutes – 18.05.17

The previous minutes will be carried over to the August meeting for approval, as members attending this meeting had not been present at the February meeting and were unable to confirm the minutes' accuracy.

3. ETU and Employability in Falkirk: Jo Tibbles

JT spoke to the forum about the work of Falkirk Council's Employment and Training Unit (ETU), on behalf of PS.

The following key points were noted:

- ETU's work centres around helping people move into long-term, sustainable employment. They work with lots of people with additional support needs or barriers to employment.
- Their aim is to get everyone they work with into a Modern Apprenticeship.
- People can be with ETU for up to 5 years.
- Third sector support has been invaluable.



- There are different stages with ETU, and different expectations attached to each stage.
- ETU works a lot with community justice and those leaving care; as such, they attend transition meetings at schools in Falkirk, and work closely with Forth Valley College and the Community Learning and Development team (CLD).
- They work closely with the third sector on their work placements and on delivering their programmes; they can also provide support and funding to organisations hosting work placements.
- ETU has a responsibility to ensure everyone has participating in their programmes has a positive experience.
- At any one time, ETU can have 500 – 600 people taking part in its programmes and placements; they expect around 300 school leavers in the next few weeks, and then those who don't initially gain the required qualifications to enter university or college.

A forum member asked how to get involved with ETU's work placements. JT explained that while contact can be made by phone, through their website is best, as registrations have to be completed online. JT also highlighted that there would be more Modern Apprenticeship opportunities announced online soon.

Discussion then moved on to barriers to employment, such as temporary accommodation, and efforts members' organisations had made to work around these barriers. JT noted the importance of supporting individuals to ensure they get the support they need, and that this can take people down many different, valid paths.

The forum then discussed the importance of working together to reach those more isolated in the community, who had been missed by the statutory measures put in place to assist them. DG commented that it was interesting to hear everyone talk on this matter, as the SOLD Plan prioritises reducing inequalities and silo-working, and identifies the work of the third sector as a vital part of this.

DG also informed the group that there would be another employability partnership event scheduled for Friday 24th November, similar to the event in December 2016; DG is hoping to invite different organisations to attend than in 2016. There has also been discussion around the idea of a third sector only event, with statutory partners invited to talk about what they are doing regarding employability.

4. The Four Priorities of SOLD

DG informed the forum that there are currently discussions taking place around whether or not the priorities' workplan will be a public document, and if so, how much will be public.

5. Third Sector Partner Updates

Members discussed ways their organisations could work together, and the various activities, projects and programmes they are currently undertaking in



Falkirk, or planning for the future (including around education and qualifications for those who are unable to learn in traditional environments).

The forum also spoke about the importance of educating people around food and cooking, especially in low income areas. One member highlighted the need to get people thinking “outside the box” and be creative with limited resources, and how community support was essential to that. Another noted the importance of community regeneration

DG informed the group about young mums’ cooking classes he had encountered recently, started by someone who was once a young mum herself in order to help those without any food or cooking knowledge.

Benefits and universal credit were also discussed (including that many people on benefits aren’t always aware of what they are entitled to), and DG highlighted that an [Online Budgeting Tool](#) was recently published on the Falkirk Council website.

DG also spoke of the recent efforts to establish a food activities baseline as part of work under Outcome 4 of the SOLD Plan, and encouraged members to feed into this (where relevant), and broadcast it to their networks.

5.1 Falkirk Football Stadium South Stand Development

Falkirk Football Stadium are currently developing their South Stand, with one third of the space being turned into an Olympic standard gym, which sports clubs will be able to rent out.

The rest of the space will be for the community’s use, including a kitchen space. At weekends, this will be used for hospitality on match days. However, on weekdays the space will be available for the community.

The forum discussed various ways the community could make use of such space, including cooking courses, life skills classes and hygiene classes.

A member asked if the gym would be open to users of Falkirk Community Trust’s Go Card; given that the gym is likely to be unmanned most of the time, and the care needed with the equipment (which will be designed for elite athletes), it is unlikely this will be a possibility.

5.2 Falkirk Football Foundation Update

Falkirk Football Foundation have 3 placements available through Community Jobs Scotland, designed for young people facing some kind of barrier. Through funding from the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL), they also have 8 free courses, which are based around a healthy lifestyle programme, rather than any extreme activity.

6. Update from CVS Falkirk

6.1 Impact Measurement Report

DG spoke about CVS Falkirk's Third Sector Impact Measurement Report, which attempts to measure the financial and economic impact of the third sector in the Falkirk Council area. Interviews are about to begin for an intern to complete the 2016/17 report, and members were invited to take part by completing the surveys which will be sent over the summer.

6.2 Volunteers' Week Activities

As part of Volunteers' Week (Thursday 1st – Thursday 7th June), CVS Falkirk will be running their [#VolunteeringIn3](#) and Volunteer Spotlights online initiatives for the second year. The Volunteer Spotlights are open to volunteer-involving organisations in Falkirk, and will be featured on the [CVS Falkirk website](#) during Volunteers' Week.

Members were encouraged to take part in both, either via Twitter, or by contacting LJ to participate in the Volunteer Spotlights, by email: laura@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

6.3 Scottish Government Consultation on Third Sector Infrastructure

Scottish Government are seeking views from local third sector organisations on third sector infrastructure in Scotland. They believe that it is crucially important that local third sector organisations have an opportunity to input their views into the evaluation process.

As such, they have created [a short survey](#) for third sector organisations to submit their views and opinions.

The deadline for responses is Wednesday 31st May. Further information can be found on the [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

6.4 Prevent E-learning Package

A new e-learning package has been developed around Prevent (one of the 4 elements of CONTEST, the UK Government's counter-terrorism strategy), with different modules available to suit different needs. Prevent covers all forms of terrorism and relies on partnership working with key partners and community organisations, who work together to support people at risk of being drawn into terrorist activity.

For further information, please visit the [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

7. Role of Forum Representative

DG recapped the role of the forum representative, and reminded the forum that being the representative does not necessarily mean being the forum chair. He presented the opportunity to the forum, and invited members to contact him to



find out more about the role, by phone: 01324 692010, or email:
david@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

8. AOCB

DG reminded the forum to contact him there if there were any topics they wished to discuss in future meetings, or any speakers they would like him to invite to the forum.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 17th August 2017, 10am – 12pm.

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