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
   The previous minutes were agreed to be an accurate record and passed by the forum members.

3. The Work of Committed to Ending Abuse
   CM gave the forum members a brief overview of the work they do at Committed to Ending Abuse (CEA). CEA used to be named Woman’s Aid and has rebranded over the past 2 years. They work within the Falkirk area providing support to women, men and children who are involved in any sort of abuse within their life and at home. They help the person by creating safety plans if they chose to stay with their partner, in case the abuse happens again they have resources available and a plan in place to ensure their safety as well as any children that may be involved.

   The change of name to CEA is to reflect the broader remit of offering support to all victims of domestic abuse and trauma, not just their traditional role of just supporting women who were victims of domestic abuse. This change of remit was research-led, which shows the of the 59,000 reported abuse cases from the police and social work, 18% were abuse against men.

   There is a three stage programme that the CEA have in place when dealing with a person who is experiencing domestic abuse, the stages are as follows:
Stage 1: Stability and Safety – being able to provide a safe standard of basic living, weather they need help with housing, benefits, legal advice if there is joint property etc.

Stage 2: Therapeutic Counselling – there is a specialised professional phycologist who helps in this stage of recovery who is also trained in play therapy to help children who may be suffering after abuse.

Stage 3: Life after abuse – being able to move on from the CEA and have a proper life, volunteering, employment, friends and new relationships.

These three stages help individuals through their experience of domestic abuse and help them to have a life after the abuse has ended. There is also a peer support group of survivors who are available to help those in the three step programme.

CEA have a wide range of resources available to help these people who are suffering to get help in a discreet and safe manner. Leaflets were given to forum members, and they were advised if they would like more to distribute to any one they work with CM will provide extra to the organisations in need of them.

CEA have also been awarded the following awards for their services which they are very proud of:

- LGBTI Silver Charter Mark
- Leading Lights Accreditation – Lasts 3 years and are regularly inspected for this accreditation
- Care Inspectorate Care and Support – Level 6 which is the highest award possible.

CEA also have a website which has a wide range of information available and can be read in different languages, they also use an interpreter service when needed for use in face to face meetings. BC advised that they have an interpreter service which may be of use, if there is a need he should be contacted to discuss.

4. Third Sector Partner Updates
   Brian Combe - CSREC Update

BC explained that they are in the process of having an audit of the skills they have in their volunteers to help them recruit more with the missing skills they require and to build on existing ones. They would be happy to share volunteers with any other third sector organisations who are happy to, as it can be a good way of sharing information and skills between organisations.

They will also be attending an event which will be facilitated by the Rainbow Muslim Woman’s group, the event is a multicultural event and will have food, dancing and poetry. This will be held on 11th November between 3.30pm and 7pm. All are welcome at this event. More information is available on CSREC website.
Martha O’Carroll - Cyrenians Update
MO gave an update of the pilot project which is currently in progress. They are currently in the first stage of the project which is the research and consultation part. They are looking to increase the opportunities available to people coming out of the criminal justice programme to get them back into employment or volunteering programmes. Also trying to find out what barriers and issues they have which is preventing these people from joining their organisation.

Cyrenians will work together with CVS to help the organisations with support in making roles and breaking down the barriers affecting people who are in the criminal justice programme. They are also trying to raise awareness to what skills and benefits these people may bring to the organisation which will benefit them.

They are also helping the people in the criminal justice programme understand the PVG checks a lot of organisations ask them to complete, and help understand which convictions need to be informed of in the report. DG informed them that CVS facilitate a PVG information sessions within the office and he can provide more information on request.

5. Review of Terms of Reference
DG informed the forum members that the terms of reference for the forum is reviewed each year, and this will be reviewed at the first meeting of 2018. The forum members should read through these and bring forward any questions or comments they may have.

6. Role of Forum Rep
LH has volunteered to be the forum rep for 2018, there were no objections from the other members present, and this was approved. LH will work alongside DG and chair the meeting and help with speakers and meeting content, she will also represent the forum at wider meetings.

7. Dates of Forums in 2018
The following dates have been set for the forum in 2018.

- Wednesday 17th January
- Wednesday 18th April
- Wednesday 18th July
- Wednesday 25th October

They will all take place between 10am-12pm at CVS Falkirk. These dates will be published on the CVS Falkirk website and on the weekly e-bulletin.

8. Forum Themes and Speakers
DG informed the forum members that they have a say in who comes to the forum meetings to provide presentations or information on specific subjects. Any forum member who has something they would like to know more about or that the forum would find useful should get in touch with DG so that this can be arranged.
Cyrenians would like to have a slot on the January meeting to go over their update for the PSS project they have ongoing at present. CSREC would like a slot in the April meeting to go over their project findings.

9. Update from CVS Falkirk

Third Sector Conference
The conference will be held on Tuesday 13th February 2018, at Forth Valley College Campus, Falkirk. The conference is being organised by three of the TSI’s, Stirling, Clacks and Falkirk. More information will be available on the e-bulletin prior to the event.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)
This year’s AGM will be held at St Xaviers Church Hall, Falkirk on Wednesday 22nd November. The Registration will be open from 1pm with the AGM beginning at 2.30pm; further information will be found on the weekly e-bulletin. Any forum members who wish to attend should notify us by phone 01324 692000 or email info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk.

Third Sector Impact Report
The 2017 third sector impact measurement report has been published on the CVS Falkirk website.

The main findings of this year’s research was:

- In 2016/1, Falkirk’s third sector has a collective income of £89.3 million
- 26 organisations brought £3.4 million of grant funding to the area
- 2,921 volunteers and 701 employees engaged in 58 organisations
- There was an average of 2,105.5 volunteer hours donated per week, with an annual worth of £925,156.70

DG informed the forum members that there were people who did not provide feedback, and he hopes for a better response to the impact report of 2018.

New Development Officer Positions
There are currently four new positions being advertised by CVS Falkirk for Community Development officers. There will be three posts covering specific communities, and one post focusing on sports and wellbeing across the communities involved.

Local knowledge and experience in community activity and engagements is more important than formal qualifications as training will be provided. For the sports and wellbeing post, knowledge of community sports programmes is essential.

Closing date for applications is Thursday 9th November 2017, with interviews being held in CVS Falkirk offices on Thursday 23rd or Friday 24th November 2017.
For an information pack and application form, please contact Victoria McRae or Claire Bernard by phone: 01324 692000, or by e-mail: info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

10. Three Key Messages
DG informed the forum members that the key messages were information that the members feel needs to be addressed by CVS Falkirk or anyone else out with the forum. There can be up to three messages to take from each meeting. The forum members present have raised the following points to be taken as key messages:

1. A need for organisations to offer additional support for volunteers who have experience of the criminal justice system
2. Raising awareness of Cyrenian’s PSS Project to colleagues to take part in the online survey
3. If any third sector colleagues have ideas for speakers or themes in 2018, they are to contact DG by email

11. AOCB
Financial Harm Seminars
The two Forth Valley Adult Protection Committees’ are hosting a series of 3 seminars titled “working together to protect you from financial harm”. These events are focussed on helping to protect vulnerable people from becoming at risk of financial harm and are aimed at service users and their carers.

There will be seminars held in Clackmannanshire, Stirling and here in Falkirk, with the Falkirk Seminar being held on Monday 13th November, 2.30pm-4.30pm at the Forth Valley Sensory Centre in Camelon.

If you know anyone who might be interested in attending, please contact Ian Kinsley, Lead Officer for Adult Support and Protection by email: Ian.Kinsley@falkirk.gov.uk; or by phone 07786 704 111.

Gift Card Scam Update – Police Scotland
Police Scotland have recently become aware of another iTunes scam along the same lines as previous incidents, where members of the public, usually the elderly and more vulnerable within the community, have been receiving phone calls from persons claiming to be from government departments such as HMRC or similar type departments. These groups are targeted as they would often worry if they owe money to the Government.

The method of payment they generally request is by the way of Store card vouchers or gift card vouchers such as iTunes or similar. The scammers would generally call back once the person as bought these vouchers and would ask for the validation or identifier codes generally found on the back of the vouchers.

Police Scotland have asked people to continue to be vigilant about this, as with all other scams targeting vulnerable people, and to consider elderly or vulnerable
family members when reading about this cam and advise them of its existence, encouraging them not to engage with any requests of this type.

They would also encourage people to highlight this issue via social media that they have access to.

For further information or advice on this matter, please contact Police Scotland by phone: 101 (the non-emergency number)

**The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 17th January 2018 at CVS Falkirk.**