

Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum

"Working together, sharing our knowledge skills and resources to support children, families and communities to reach their full potential."

Thursday 7th December 2017
10am – 12pm
CVS Falkirk and District Offices

Present:

Debbie Noble (DN) (Chairperson)	Barnardo's
Karen Head	Barnardo's
David Gardener (DG)	CVS Falkirk & District
Stacey Munro (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk & District
Liz Nolan (LN) (Vice Chairperson)	Aberlour
Kim Carey	Aberlour
Diane Cairns	Time 4 Us
Jo McCorrison	Young Carers Project
Anne Stewart	Falkirk Council

Apologies:

Winnie Delaney	Aberlour
Alison Girdwood	Barnardo's
May Chamberlain	Relationships Scotland

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 22.06.17

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

2.1 Matters Arising

DG informed the forum that CVS Falkirk Whistle blowing policy is currently in the process of being written.

3. Children's Commission – Representative's Update

DN spoke to the forum about recent updates. She informed the forum members that the last leadership meeting was cancelled due to availability issues of the members. The director of the Children's services has been seconded to a project along with a senior manager from each collaborative in the Forth valley area.

DN provided brief update on Realigning Children's Services initial data set.

The child protection committee held Safe and Together training which is a four day Domestic abuse course was held for practitioners and senior managers which was very well attended. This is helping how to change the language for the way practitioners engage with families.

Child protection partnership is looking at the children who are being taken off the child protection register and are being re-registered a short time after again. This is an ongoing area which is being looked into.

Children's commission improvement group are looking at admin support and how to get the information to people more quickly and efficiently. They are awaiting more information from a practitioner's level.

The commission event in October asked for people to pledge to consider the impact of the costs of a school day. There has already been a policy put in place for teachers to not accept presents from pupils as this creates a stigma which parents feel they need to buy bigger and better things, when they cannot afford the basics of life essentials. The other general costs of school, with uniforms and trips as examples have also been in debate to make these things less expensive. Along with charity days in school which should be less expensive due to some families having more than one child which makes it a lot more expensive for them. Some schools have already put in place strategies for example that suggested donations are per family as opposed to per child. Schools have also been asked to consider the colours of their uniforms, as some school colours are harder to find and have to be bought at the more expensive shops that embroider the badge on. Whereas some of the more popular colours are found in the supermarkets at a fraction of the price. This will continue to be a priority going forward for the Child poverty task group.

Tackling child poverty group have had a good report on the summer food project. There are 200 food parcels available for families in need before Christmas and some families are unaware of this process. Agencies need to have the correct information to best benefit families over the Christmas period. The criteria will be sought and provided to agencies as appropriate. There are also volunteers needed for the 21st to help deliver the packages to those in need. The foodbank are also involved with this and any information needed will be sent out separately after this meeting.

GIRFEC implementation group are exploring the named person issues through the sub group, and are progressing in the quality assurance research.

Children and young people's improvement collaborative (CYPIC), Falkirk have been highlighted for learning and development. They are looking at working on improving attendance.

The learning development group are waiting on a strategy being signed off and are already seeing the benefit of the group being more proactive in the work they are carrying out.

4. CVS Falkirk – Representative and Development Updates Third Sector Impact Report

The 2017 Third Sector Impact Measurement Report is now available.

The report shows that:

- in 2016/17, Falkirk's Third Sector had 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

To view the full report, or the report infographic, please visit the CVS Falkirk website.

CVS Falkirk Annual Review

We at CVS Falkirk are pleased to announce we have released our [2016/17 Annual Review](#).

The review, launched at our recent AGM, details our activities throughout the last year, and reiterates our commitment to supporting a strong, vibrant third sector in Falkirk, and improving the lives of the people who live and work here, through our 4 key areas of work:

- [Volunteering](#)
- [Social Enterprise](#)
- [Organisation Support](#)
- [Voice of the Sector](#)

To view or download our 2016/17 Annual Review, please visit the [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

Alternatively, for further information on the support we offer the third sector in Falkirk, contact us by phone: 01324 692000, or email: info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

Save the Date: Forth Valley Third Sector Conference

CVS Falkirk, Stirling Voluntary Enterprise (SVE) and Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI) are hosting their Forth Valley Third Sector Conference on Tuesday 13th February 2018 at Forth Valley College, Falkirk Campus.

The focus of the event is to help community groups, charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises throughout the Forth Valley area to flourish and develop in an ever changing landscape.

There will be workshops, stalls and guest speakers, all designed to highlight the activities and role of the third sector in Forth Valley. Booking will be essential.

Further information about the event will be available soon. To book your places use the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/forth-valley-third-sector-conference-tickets-39827426906>.

Should you have any queries, please contact us by phone: 01324 692000, or email: info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland

Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS) are opening their new store and community hub on Thursday 16th November from 11:30am at 1A York Square, Grangemouth, FK3 8BB. Councillor Allyson Black will attend to officially open the hub.

Everyone is welcome to the opening event. The hub combines retail space with additional areas for community use for in community activities, education or training, or to simply meet up socially for a coffee.

The new space consists of a discount store, a community coffee corner, offering free tea, coffee and Wi-Fi as well as a community room which is available to use free of charge.

To attend, or for further information, please contact CHSS by email: pr@chss.org.uk

CVS Falkirk - Free Items

CVS Falkirk currently has 3 office partition screens or dividers available to anyone who would make use of them. There is one smaller screen, and 2 large ones.

Further details, including measurements, are available on request. The screens are available for collection up to Friday 8th December, from the CVS Falkirk office, Unit 6, Callendar Business Park, Falkirk, FK1 1XR.

To collect this item, or for further information, please contact Laura on: 01324 692000 or email: laura@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

VSCSF Survey

At request of forum steering group, I have put together a short survey on the forum and what you would in the content of the forum agenda. The survey can be accessed on through the link on the screen and will be open across the holiday period and I will feedback on the results to the steering group through Liz prior to the first meeting of 2018.

CVS Falkirk New Staff

CVS Falkirk currently have 4 new four Community Development Officers starting in January 2018.

Three posts covering specific communities, and one post focusing on sports and wellbeing across the communities involved, which include: Bainsford, Bo'ness, Bowhouse, Camelon, Denny, Dunipace, Kersiebank, Langlees and Maddiston.

New officers will be based here but will have offices within the communities they are working in as well and will be focused on the empowering and strengthening communities.

5. GIRFEC & Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Update – Anne Stewart, Falkirk Council

AS gave a presentation around GIRFEC and the Children and Young People Act 2014. The key messages that were discussed were as follows.

- The act that links to government aims to make Scotland a safe place for children. Spans a wide range of services not just GIRFEC.
- They are focusing on named person element for children
- GIRFEC was initially created by parents
- Point 4 – Provision of named persons, and point 5 – the child's plan are the GIRFEC main provisions.
- All elements regarding children's rights are fully legislative
- They aim to get full legislation by autumn 2018 for the named persons act.
- GIRFEC have the overarching policy with all tasks underpinning
- Falkirk District are doing well and are up to speed with the process
- There are 10 core components to GIRFEC
- The commission group is going back to basic
- They are looking to reinvigorate learning cafes around GIRFEC
- Looking into information sharing and the issues that have been faced around it.
- A lot of information sharing is done through families, instead of professionals, which is then assessed to see what further needs can be identified.
- The child's plan should be a single plan, not every child needs to have one only those with an identified need.
- The named person is not just for younger children, it can be for 16-16 years old as well
- 16-18 years old are identified as a vulnerable group.
- They are looking at gathering data around the 16-18 year old group due to the circumstances that can change between those ages, which can make them very vulnerable.
- Prison services have changed their approach to the named person.

6. Future Forum Meetings

The dates for next year's forum meetings are as follows:

- Thursday 1st March
- Thursday 31st May (2-4pm)
- Thursday 30th August

- Thursday 29th November (2-4pm)

These will all be held in the CVS Falkirk office.

7. Forum Chair

DN advised that as this is her last meeting and is now stepping down as chair. LN has agreed to cover as chair in the short term, however there will need to be a chair selected in the coming months. Anyone interested in this position should contact LN.

8. AOCB – Including Organisation Updates & Developments

LN gave a huge thank you to DN for her service as chair of the forum, and expressed best wishes for her future.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 1st March 2018, CVS Falkirk Offices.

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