

Falkirk Third Sector Forum on Tackling Poverty & Inequalities

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose of the Forum

The purpose of the Falkirk Third Sector Forum on Tackling Poverty & Inequalities is to facilitate representatives from the Third Sector coming together to discuss issues of common interest, share knowledge and experience, and identify areas of good practice around issues of poverty and inequalities.

The forum will provide a stronger voice and greater representation on relevant issues with statutory agencies, through engaging in participative consultation.

Members of the forum will be encouraged to involve their users in planning of their own services, and through the auspices of the forum, to seek to influence the planning of relevant statutory services for the Falkirk Council area.

2. Scope of Activity

The Forums' scope of activity is limited to issues of poverty and equalities. The forum is linked with one of the priorities and one of the outcomes of the Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery (SOLD) Plan: the priority is Addressing the impact of poverty on children and young people; and the outcome is Outcome 1 – Our area will be a Fairer and more Equal Place to Live.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Child Poverty
- Poverty
- Equality Issues
- Welfare Reform
- Financial Inclusion and Capability
- Housing and Homelessness
- Fuel Poverty
- Equity of Access to Services

The full Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan can be accessed on the [Falkirk Council](#) website.

3. Function of the Forum

- To consult and represent on behalf of the third sector on issues relating to the Community Planning Priorities and Outcomes listed in section 2
- To hold representatives to account on behalf of the sector
- To provide information and support to the third sector on the issues in the Scope of Activity
- To share common understandings and views on behalf of the sector in Falkirk
- To promote peer support and review within the sector
- To provide a forum for training opportunities and quality improvement
- To provide a sector wide opportunity for engagement and information exchange between the sector, the Community Planning Partnership and lead public agencies.

4. Forum Attendance

The forum is open to representatives of the third sector, waged and unwaged, who provide services relating to, or have an interest in the remit of this forum in the Falkirk Council area.

The third sector comprises of community groups, voluntary organisations, charities, social enterprises, co-operatives and individual volunteers.

Attendance will be limited to one representative per group or organisation.

There will be no charge for membership.

Representatives of relevant public and private sector organisations, including Falkirk Council may also attend by giving notice of their intent to attend to CVS Falkirk in advance of the forum.

5. Administration

- The forum will meet at least 4 times per year. Further meetings may be called as required. All meetings will be advised with at least 21 days' notice, and dates for the coming calendar year will normally be advised at the start of each year.
- The forum will have a Representative to be chosen by the members of the forum on an annual basis. The Representative will be required to:
 - Agree an agenda in advance of each meeting.
 - Attend the Community Planning priority and outcomes meetings alongside a representative from CVS Falkirk (where applicable).

- Contact details for the forum rep can be found on the dedicated forum webpage at <https://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk/voice-of-the-sector/tackling-poverty-forum/>
- CVS Falkirk will administer the forum, including:
 - Co-ordinating Agenda
 - Taking and distributing minutes of the meetings
 - Arranging training opportunities and other speaker/presentations
 - Undertaking and collating results of consultations
- All minutes, reports and presentations from the Forum will be available online at <https://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk/voice-of-the-sector/tackling-poverty-forum/>
- All forum communications will be via CVS e-bulletin and the CVS Falkirk website (<http://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk>).
- The forum is also supported by a dedicated Online Discussion Board for the continuation of discussions outwith the forum meetings, and to allow for the sharing issues or asking questions between forums. The Online Discussion Board is available to facilitate people who can't attend forum meetings to be involved in the forum, and will be used to help inform the agenda of meetings. The Online Discussion Board is available online at <https://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk/voice-of-the-sector/online-forums/tackling-poverty-online-forum/>

6. Review

The remit and membership of the forum will be reviewed by the forum on an annual basis, unless exceptional circumstances occur.

www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk | 01324 692 000 | info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk | @CVSFalkirk
 CVS Falkirk and District is a Company Limited by Guarantee in Scotland No. SC085838 | Scottish Charity No. SC000312 | Registered office: Unit 6, Callendar Business Park, Callendar Road, Falkirk, FK1 1XR