

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 31st May 2018

2pm – 4pm

CVS Falkirk and District Offices

Present:

Liz Nolan (LN) (Chair)	Aberlour
Hannah Gordon (HG) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk & District
Beverly Isdale (BI)	First 4 Kids
David Gardener (DG)	CVS Falkirk & District
Fiona Bennet (FB)	Barnardo's
Kim Carey (KC)	Aberlour
May Chamberlain (MC)	Relationships Scotland
Norman Phillip (NP)	Barnardo's
Vicky Wan (VW)	National Third Sector GIRFEC Project
Winnie Delaney (WD)	Aberlour

Apologies:

Diane Cairns (DC)	Signpost Recovery
Geoff Reid (GR)	SACRO

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed forum members to the meeting and introductions were made. The apologies were noted as above. DG informed forum members that Debbie Noble was no longer the Chair of the forum as she has left her position at Barnardo's, the role of chair will be discussed at agenda item five.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 07.12.17

The previous minutes were agreed to be an accurate record.

3. Children's Commission – Representative's Updates

DG informed the forum that the last Children's Commissioning Planning Group was cancelled. DG attended a planning day at St Bernadette's Primary School. This planning day was to start the process of updating the Falkirk Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP). Whilst the current plan is due to run until 2020 it has been recognised that due to changes in legislation, local policy and research data, there is a need to refresh the plan to reflect these changes.

As part of this process there might be changes to the sub-groups of the Children's Commission to reflect potential changes in the workstreams. One group that will not change is the Child Poverty Task Group, who continue to look at the data around the cost of the school day and other issues relating to child poverty in Falkirk.

It was discussed that when it comes down to children's record there is no formal guidance in regards to GDPR. There was mention that the time scale for maintaining

records has been increased/amended and there are issues regarding whether information needs to be filed after a client or child has been passed on to another organisation.

There is information regarding GDPR guidance on Children's data which can be found on the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) website.

4. Update on Realigning Children's Services

NP informed the forum that the last two meetings of the task and finishing group have been cancelled. NP is going to be working with the third sector to get information from voluntary organisations about services provided in the Falkirk area which includes age ranges, people, services and what organisations do. He is looking for the best representation of voluntary organisations and has four to five weeks to complete this task.

5. Capacity and the Future of the Forum – discussion

There was a discussion around the current capacity of forum members. Recently the attendance at meetings has dropped, with a reduction in funding and capacity within partner organisations being seen as the main causes. There is also a feeling that some organisations that working with children and young people don't understand the relevance and importance of the forum, both in bringing practitioner's together to share knowledge and experience, and offer training opportunities; but also in representing the third sector across the Falkirk Children's Commission, and allowing third sector colleagues to represent the forum and sector across the different groups.

Forum members discussed that on Thursday 30th August there could be an event held between 4pm – 6pm to raise awareness of the forum that focusses on the importance of play. There could be information stalls and resources taken to raise awareness of different organisation. There would also be role descriptors for Chair and Vice-Chair will also be taken to the event. It was suggested to hold the event at the Laurieston Campus Marnier Support Centre.

There was discussion on what to call the event:

- Nurturing and play
- Relationships and play
- Playful relationships
- Promoting family relationships

The event will be promoted through the CVS Falkirk e-bulletin and Aspiring Communities team in their areas. DG confirmed tea and coffee will be provided by CVS Falkirk.

The roles of Chair and Vice-Chair of the forum were discussed at this point. LN stated that she did not want to take on the role of chair, and felt that the Chair and Vice-Chair roles should be held by local practitioners, rather than being held at Deputy Director level. DG informed forum members that he is happy to offer a greater level of support than previously. This would reflect the work to support the

Chair/Rep of the other third sector forums. DG also put forward to suggestion that rather than having a chair and vice-chair role, two people could share the responsibilities as co-chairs of the forum, meaning less demand on a single person to attend meetings.

6. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of Forum

Following the discussion above, it was agreed by the forum that the decision on a new Chair and Vice-Chair would be carried forward to the final meeting of the year on Thursday 29th November.

7. Update from CVS Falkirk

It was decided at this part of the forum that it would also be good to get an update from everyone in attendance.

7.1 New CEO

The Board of Directors of CVS Falkirk & District are delighted to announce that Jen Kerr will take up the post of CEO with effect from Monday 16th July 2018.

Jen has most recently been the Service Manager for the third sector interface in Perth & Kinross, and has a wealth of experience in the third sector.

CVS Falkirk looks forward to welcoming Jen into post, and working together for the benefit of our local communities.

7.2 Volunteers' Week 2018 Certificates

[Volunteers' Week](#), which runs from Friday 1st June – Thursday 7th June, highlights the variety of volunteering throughout Scotland, celebrating the time and effort given by the unsung heroes who give back to their communities – not for their own benefit, but for other people.

To celebrate Volunteers' Week 2018 and the commitment, time and energy given by volunteers across Falkirk, organisations can now request CVS Falkirk's Celebrating Volunteering Certificates and Long Service badges for volunteers. The certificates will be professionally printed, and can be collected from the CVS Falkirk office.

To receive your certificates, please complete the attached [Certificate Request Form](#) and return it to CVS Falkirk by email: info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

Alternatively, you can send your form by post to: CVS Falkirk, Unit 6, Callendar Business Park, Falkirk, FK1 1XR. All forms must be received by Sunday 20th May.

7.3 Celebrating the Impact of Falkirk's Third Sector

CVS Falkirk is committed to celebrating the impact the third sector has in Falkirk, showing the economic and social impact of the sector.

The 2018 impact survey will be open to all third sector organisations operating in the Falkirk Council area, and continuing the work carried out since 2015. The survey will

be available through SurveyMonkey, or in hard copy, in June, with the final report available in September.

The results of the 2017 research can be accessed on the [CVS Falkirk](https://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk) website.

For further information, please contact David Gardener by phone: 01324 692010, or email: david@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

7.4 CVS Falkirk Communications Preferences

As part of CVS Falkirk's preparations for the upcoming GDPR legislation, they have decided to take the opportunity to refine our e-bulletin and other email communications, making sure the information you want is delivered straight to your inbox.

To help them do so, individuals can select the CVS Falkirk emails Individuals would like to receive included in the Communications Preferences article included in the e-bulletin on Friday 25th May.

CVS Falkirk welcomes your feedback on this process, and on any of your interactions. Individuals can always contact CVS Falkirk by phone: 01324 692000, or email: info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

7.5 Third Sector Upcoming Forums

- **Community Transport Forum** – Thursday 7th June, 10am – 12pm
- **Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Forum** – Thursday 28th June, 10am – 12pm
- **Safer Communities Forum** – Wednesday 18th July, 10am – 12pm
- **Connecting Volunteering Forum** – Wednesday 1st July, 10am – 12pm
- **Community Care and Health Forum** – Tuesday 7th August, 10am – 12pm
- **Economic Resilience and Employment** – Thursday 24th May, 10am – 12pm

7.6 Home Energy Scotland: Helping Families Keep Warm and Well

Home Energy Scotland is the free, impartial energy advice service funded by Scottish Government, managed by Energy Saving Trust. The service is part of Scottish Government's approach to tackling fuel poverty, and aims to help householders save energy, save money and keep warm and well.

As part of a campaign to help households prepare for winter, they are keen to reach out and support families across Scotland. They would welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with local organisations in a range of ways to enable more families to get their free service. This can include attending local events and meeting with groups.

For further information, or to explore joint-working, contact Jacqueline Mackenzie by phone: 07540 719 655, or email: Jacqueline.Mackenzie@sc.homeenergyscotland.org

7.7 Holiday Club Fund Summer

Falkirk Community Planning Partnership (CPP) has announced that grants of up to £1000 are available to help community groups providing Holiday Clubs in the Falkirk area this summer, running from Monday 2nd July – Friday 17th August.

Preference will be given to holiday clubs that:

- Focus on low income families
- Provide good, nourishing food every day
- Coach food prep and cooking skills
- Provide learning programmes
- Promote half an hour of moderate to vigorous exercise every day

Funding decisions will be made by a panel from the Fairer Falkirk Partnership. The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 15th June; however, funding decisions may be made before this date, as the panel will consider applications regularly over the coming weeks, so applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

To request an application form, or for further information, please contact Falkirk CPP by email: summerfoodproject@falkirk.gov.uk

7.8 The Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund (TIF) is now open for applications. Applications are open to organisations across Scotland that are either at the ideas stage with significant substantiation or already delivering interventions that can demonstrate tangible impacts on child poverty. All plans must specifically demonstrate increases in family income or reductions in living costs.

Up to £1 million will be invested in up to ten organisations the support ambitious work tackling child poverty.

To apply, or for further information, please visit the [The Hunter Foundation](#) website.

7.9 New National School Clothing Grant

An estimated 120,000 families will benefit from a new £100 national minimum school clothing grant in Scotland as a result of partnership working between Scotland's Local Authorities and the Scottish Government.

The scheme will open in time for the 2018/19 academic year with eligibility determined at a local level.

Overall annual costs are expected to reach £12 million with 50% of the cost met by additional Scottish Government funding and 50% met by individual local authorities.

The grant will be reviewed every two years to ensure that the amount available remains in line with cost of living.

7.10 PVG and the Disclosure of Criminal Information Consultation

Scottish Government has opened a consultation on Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) and the Disclosure of Criminal Information.

The consultation seeks views on proposals for the reform to the disclosure regime in Scotland. The aim is to focus on what changes are required to make disclosure of criminal convictions fit for the 21st century.

The deadline for responses is Wednesday 18th July.

For further information, including how to submit your response, please visit the [Scottish Government](#) webpage.

8. Third Sector Partner Updates

8.1 Beverly Isdale – First 4 Kids

BS informed the forum that their numbers are dropping substantially and thinks this may be due to economy and a reduction in services. BS is looking to work closely with family support services to help support children. They are currently looking for a graduate intern to work on I.T. and computer systems, if anyone has any information, please make BS aware.

8.2 Winnie Delaney – Aberlour

WD informed the forum that they moved offices to Laurieston last July and the move has been positive. They are unsure when they will receive funding but they have not lost any staff yet but may move in to schools going forward. The Befriender Service continues.

8.3 Norman Phillip – Barnardo's

NP informed that due to funding cuts Falkirk Council have been taking teachers back. New service core funding has been provided for a family network service and a number of people are prepared to be directors. NP will be working with a list of people who are interested.

8.4 Kim Carey - Aberlour

KC informed forum members she is based at the Family Support Centre in Langlees they have lost hours recently but have not lost staff. They are working with children under three eligible twos provision. Langless Primary School will also be moving to a new location. Aberlour have received money because of the new trauma service which is linked with Falkirk and District Association for Mental Health (FDAMH).

8.5 Vicky Wan – National Third Sector GIRFEC Project

VW informed the forum that the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) Project has been extended for another 6 months from April 2018. The Volunteer in Scotland project has changed but the overall aim is still to provide practical support to Third Sector Interfaces and forums. VW is trying to make relationships through third sector organisations and statutory partners is the focus at the moment. VW attends

Third Sector Interface network events and forums to raise awareness and find out information. They have put in a proposal for another 3 years funding.

VW made forum members aware that the [Early Learning & Childcare \(ELC\) Inclusion Fund](#) was open for applications and the deadline is Friday 22nd June. The ELC Inclusion Fund provides funding to ELC settings to support children with additional support needs (ASN) in Scotland access their funded ELC entitlement. It funds staff working in ELC settings to receive appropriate training and fund resources, equipment and adaptations.

8.6 May Chamberlain – Relationships Scotland

MC informed the forum that they are working in partnership with Macmillan nurses around individuals dealing with a condition, bereavement or family issues. There are counsellors going in to local high schools and pupils are going in with issues such as their relationships or having anxiety and this is funded by Perth Money.

8.7 Fiona Bennet – Barnardo's

FB advised the forum that she has taken over from Debbie Noble and wanted to introduce herself.

8.3 Key Messages

The three Key messages that came from the forum discussion were decided by forum members:

- agreeing the continuation of the forum
- find out what organisations get from attending the forum
- how to map the correct volunteer services in regards to children's services

9. AOCB

There was no AOCB.

Date of Next Meeting: TBC