

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 29th November 2018

10am – 12pm

CVS Falkirk & District Offices

Present:

Scott Malcolm (SM) (Chair)	CVS Falkirk & District
Nicola Cox (NC) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk & District
Claire Bernard (CB)	CVS Falkirk & District
Dani Lisney (DL)	Woodcraft Folk
Karen Head (KH)	Barnardo's
Winnie Delaney (WD)	Aberlour

Apologies:

Diane Cairns	Signpost Recovery
Jen Kerr	CVS Falkirk & District
Kim Carey	Aberlour
Liz Nolan	Aberlour
May Chamberlain	Relationships Scotland
Vicky Wan	Children in 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 – 31.05.18

The previous minutes were agreed to be an accurate record based on the following amendment:

- Item 5, Capacity and the Future of the Forum – amend the word relevance to value so that the sentence reads “There is a feeling that some organisations working with children and young people don't understand the value and importance of the forum”

2.1 Matters Arising

5. Capacity and the Future of the Forum

The event to raise awareness of the forum did not take place as there was not enough capacity between forum members to plan the event.

3. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum

4. Future of the Forum Discussion

Agenda items 3 and 4 were jointly discussed by members present.

WD gave attendees present some information of the history of the forum and noted the following points:

- The forum Chair would generally be a Manager of a third sector service
- The forum was supported by CVS Falkirk on an admin basis only, it's not a CVS Falkirk forum it is a Children's Services forum
- Communication was a lot better, agenda, minutes, dates of meetings and any other information that was relevant was sent via email to the VSCSF mailing list
- It is felt that the attendance has dropped due to a number of reasons such as, communication, staff/volunteers not having the capacity to attend meetings

Scott informed forum members of a [survey](#) which has been created to gather thoughts from third sector organisations and groups in Falkirk on how they participate in any of the third sector forums, and if they do what they would like to achieve and learn from participating in them. Scott went through the survey with members present and a variety of informative conversations were held.

Discussions around how bigger organisations can help and support smaller organisations have a voice in strategic discussions were held.

Discussions around how to engage people to come back to the forums were held and the following suggestions were made:

- No one is engaging in the online discussion boards on CVS Falkirk website, having a mailing list and sending emails directly to forum members will help to improve attendance
- Creating an agenda item for forum members to discuss what has been uploaded onto the online discussion boards
- Creating a forum app that members can access and get notifications etc. of forum meeting dates, agenda and minutes of previous meetings, members present agreed this was a good idea
- Alternate the times of the forum between 10am - 12pm and 2pm – 4pm
- The forum want the Chairperson to be a forum member and not a CVS Falkirk employee
- We need to know what Falkirk Council expect from the forum/organisations
- Link in with Jude Breslin from Falkirk Council to re-establish some of the working groups
- Re-introduce the forum Handbook
- Forum members encourage people they know from other organisations to come along
- An email on behalf of the forum from Karen and Winnie to be sent to previous forum members

A decision was made to hold off discussions of the new Chairperson to the next forum meeting in February.

Action: Winnie and Karen to send an email to the old distribution list invited them back to participate in the forum.



The forum member who is appointed Chairperson at the February meeting to contact Jude Breslin from Falkirk Council to re-establish links with Falkirk Council and any working groups.

5. Third Sector Partner Updates

5.1 Woodcraft Folk

Dani provided an overview of the Woodcraft Folk organisation and provided the following information:

- Children's organisation created in 1925
- The organisation is for both boys and girls
- They provide children led activities
- Dani is a Development Officer who also volunteers with the organisation
- The organisation splits the project into groups defined by children's ages; under 6's, 6 - 9 year olds, 10 – 12 year olds, 13 – 16 year olds

5.2 Barnardos

Karen provided the following update for Barnardo's:

- Axis, a substance misuse service for young people has been set up since April
- Staff members work across Primary and High Schools delivering various services such as a listening service, supporting young people from exclusion and support to families in and out of school
- Their Family Network Service will move to a different model in the new financial year called Family Group Decision Making, this service will work with families to bring them together to come up with a plan to try solve whatever challenges they are facing
- 35 referrals have been received for the Family Network Service so far

5.3 Aberlour Early Year's Outreach

Winnie provided the following update for Aberlour:

- A new part of the Early Year's Outreach service is that they now work with 4 schools providing support depending what the teaching staff have identified as issues
- The organisation has been providing outreach services for 18 years
- Due to funding cuts they have lost 90 hours per week in early years services and had to decide what services they would have to reduce, rather than stopping services the organisation reduced the amount of times they could deliver them
- Funding from Comic Relief has been granted up to 2019
- Family Centre in Langlees service used to work with children up to the age of 12 but due to cuts now only work with children up to the age of 3 years old

6. Update from CVS Falkirk

The CVS Falkirk update will be available on the [VSCSF online discussion board](#).

7. AOCB

7.1 Closer to Home

Winnie provided the Closer to Home – better outcomes, sustainable services document to forum members present and highlighted the following points:

- The document has been provided by the Monitoring Officer for Barnardo's, Aberlour and Home Start
- This document is one of Falkirk's strategic objectives
- Children's services need to be working towards Falkirk's agenda and evidence how they are working towards this work
- The document has went out to Schools for consultation

The document will be uploaded to the [VSCSF online discussion board](#). If anyone has any feedback on the document, they should contact Winnie: Winnie.delaney@aberlour.org.uk or Karen: Karen.head@barnardos.org.uk; additionally organisations can speak with their own funders to ask what this means for their service. Action: Scott to upload the document onto the Online Discussion Boards.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 28th February, 10am.

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