



**Safer Communities Third Sector Forum**  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**10am – 12pm**

**Present:**

Scott Malcom (SM) (Chair)  
Becca Heggie (BH) (Minute Taker)  
Arun Gopinath (AG)

Bill Gray (BG)

Donald Johnston (DJ)

Geoff Reid (GR)  
Lynda Ross-Hale (LRH)  
Maria Ferrari (MF)  
Nicola Bruce (NB)

CVS Falkirk and District  
CVS Falkirk and District  
Central Scotland Regional  
Equality Council (CSREC)  
Neighbourhood Watch  
Scotland and Denny  
Community Council  
Scottish Fire and Rescue  
Service (SFRS)  
SACRO  
Cyrenians  
Cyrenians  
Falkirk Council

**Apologies:**

Allan Young (AY)  
Brian Mackie (BM)  
Damian Armstrong (DA)  
Lisa Marie Pert (LMP)

Margo McAlpine (MM)  
Mary Penny (MP)  
Nancy Keenan (NK)  
Scott Williamson (SW)

LGBT Youth Scotland  
Police Scotland  
Police Scotland  
Committed to Ending  
Abuse  
Conduit Scotland  
Conduit Scotland  
Richmond Fellowship  
Fire Scotland

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed forum members present, introductions were made and apologies were noted as above.

**2. Review of Previous Minutes – 16.01.19**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

### **3. Arun Gopinath – CSREC – Hate Crime Awareness**

Arun Gopinath introduced himself to the forum and then gave an informative presentation on Hate Crime Awareness.

CSREC are an equality and human rights charity established in 1984 as a race equality community group. They work in Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire council areas. The main aims of CSREC are to promote equality, fight discrimination, promote community cohesion and build partnerships. CSREC worked in partnership with 210 organisations last year. The projects and services CSREC offer are:

- Dementia and Care In Our Communities
- Employability club
- Equality in the community
- Forth Valley Communities for Conservation
- Peoples rights and equality groups
- Support and advice service
- Third party reporting
- Training and consultancy
- Volunteering

AG continued to speak about Hate Crime Awareness, hate crimes are crimes committed against someone because of their disability, race, religion, gender-identity, beliefs or sexual orientation. AG highlighted an underreporting of hate crime and barriers to reporting hate crime. In 2017/18 there were only 5336 Hate Crime charges recorded in Scotland. AG highlighted some of the barriers people face when reporting hate crimes:

- Accessibility issues
- Communication issues
- Did not know a crime had been committed
- Fear or mistrust of the police
- People are scared they aren't taken seriously due to mental health problems

AG also highlighted the importance of reporting hate crime whether you are a victim or witness. To find out more about how to report hate crime



visit the [CSREC](#) website. The full presentation is available on [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

Action – GR to contact CSREC about becoming a third party reporting centre.

CSREC are hosting a free Brexit awareness session in partnership with the Civil Society Brexit which will take place, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 6pm-8pm, studio Room, Falkirk Town Hall Theatre, FK1 5RS

To book your place or for further information please visit the [Event Bright](#) page, call 0132 610950 or email [admin@csrec.org.uk](mailto:admin@csrec.org.uk)

Action – SM to promote via E-bulletin

Action – LRH to contact AG about equality training

## **4. Third Sector Partner Updates**

### **4.1 SFRS**

Fire Scotland has new kit for CPR training which works with an App that connects to the mannequin, the app provides CPR instructions with live feedback on the learners CPR performance. DJ informed organisations that they are still working with social services to educate children and young people who are showing signs of dangerous behaviour such as playing with matches. DJ highlighted that a high number of wheelie bins have been set on fire in Camelon, they are aware this is an ongoing issue. Action – DJ to send details of community council meeting to BG.

### **4.2 Falkirk Council**

NB started in post last week as Community Justice Co-ordinator with the Falkirk Council previously NB was working with Community Justice in the Lothian. NB highlighted she was keen to meet with organisations to find out more about progress being made in the Falkirk area. Falkirk Council had a statutory partner meeting last week, where NB outlined four key points that the partnership needs to do this year:

- Self-Evaluation on how things are going
- Strengths assessment
- Writing an annual report for Community Justice Scotland
- Developing a new plan



NB highlighted the third sector will be key to this as they have a good awareness of strengths and needs in the Falkirk area.

### **4.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

BG informed forum members that he has recently joined the Neighbourhood Watch board. BG informed forum members that he will be working in conjunction with Police Scotland and crime stoppers for the annual fraud initiative "Shut out Scammers" which will run from Monday 15th April 2019 until Sunday 21st April 2019

They attempt to get the relevant messages to as wide an audience as possible as the effects on members of the public from fraud can be extreme in terms of finance and wellbeing.

The message would be as follows:

Two words that will help us and you beat Doorstep Crime:  
No thanks

Anyone can be the victim of household scams:  
Be wary of cold callers at the door and on the phone, scammers can appear genuine, but just remember you are in control.

If in doubt, keep them out:

- Keep front and back doors locked
- If you have a door viewer or window within view of the front door check who is there.
- If you have a door chain, use it before opening the door
- Only allow persons into your home if you have a pre-arranged appointment and you are sure they are genuine
- Always ask for identification
- Check the company phone number provided in the phone directory, never use a number provided by the caller.

BG continued to talk about the community email box which is an email address available to local residents in the Denny area. Residents are able to report minor crimes via email; these emails are accessible to community police officers who are able to respond to local problems in the area.

#### **4.4 SACRO**

GR informed forum members that Craig French a member of the management team is no longer with them.

#### **4.5 Cyrenians Update**

Cyrenians have moved into new premises Arnotdale House, Camelon, FK1 5SQ. The services Cyrenians are currently focusing on are working with criminal justice. Cyrenians have just had an additional six months funding for The Lighthouse project. The aim of Lighthouse project is to support people with criminal convictions who are coming to the end of their criminal justice order to gain employment, get into voluntary work, or engage with additional services. NB contact details available on request.

### **5. Update from CVS Falkirk**

#### **5.1 Safer Communities Safer Scotland**

This is an information booklet packed with practical tips on how to keep you, your family and your community safe – from protecting your home and possessions to helping your children enjoy the benefits of the internet in safety.

To view or download the documents refer to the [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

#### **5.2 Forth Valley Adult Support and Protection Multi Agency Guidance**

Many organisations are aware and have robust child protection policies but are not so aware of the issues surrounding adult protection. To find out more the Forth Valley Adult Support and Protection Multi Agency Guidance is available on our website if you would like to find out more.

To view or download the document, refer to the CVS Falkirk website.

#### **5.3 Police Scotland**

The following information was recently circulated by Police Scotland Fraudsters and scammers use a variety of methods when they target victims. Recently we've seen members of the community fall foul of a telephone gift card scam.

The fraudsters claim to be from a Government Department and allege the victim owes money and demand payment. We want to highlight this scam so we can all help prevent it and keep each other safe.

Please click the following link to hear how you can avoid becoming a victim of this type of scam: - <https://youtu.be/yRBjwNIQFHs>

#ShutOutScammers

## **5 Three Key Messages**

- Encourage organisations to sign up as third party reporting centres
- Joint home fire safety visits, including referrals
- A tool for directing people to report to local authorities rather than social media

## **6 AOCB**

None

## **7 Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 10am – 12pm at CVS Falkirk and District offices, Unit 6, Callendar Business Park, Callendar Road, Falkirk, FK1 1XR

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