



Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Third Sector Forum
Thursday 21st March 2019
10am – 12pm
CVS Falkirk and District Offices

Present:

Scott Malcolm (Chair)	CVS Falkirk and District
Megan Hamilton (Minute-taker) (MH)	CVS Falkirk and District
Becca Heggie (Trainee Minute-taker) (BH)	CVS Falkirk and District
Cheri-Ann Kerr (CAK)	Cyrenians
Claire Bernard (CB)	CVS Falkirk and District
Gillian Winters (GW)	Social Security Scotland
Laura Mallis (LM)	Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC)
Margo McApline (McA)	Conduit Scotland
Mary Penny (MP)	Conduit Scotland

Apologies:

Ann Kerr (AK)	WESLO Housing Management
Arun Gopinath (AG)	Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC)
Carrol Wilcox (CW)	One Parent Families Scotland
Isabel Meikleham (IM)	Forth Valley College
Kate McKeown (KMck)	Conduit Scotland
Kim Carey (KC)	Aberlour
Margaret Gray (MG)	Denny CAB
Naomi Kenny (NK)	Falkirk Community Trust
Susan Morris (SM)	Kids Love Wellies

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 13.12.18

The minutes of the previous meeting will be carried forward to the June meeting due to lack of members from the previous meeting in attendance.



3. Gillian Winters (Social Security Scotland) – Devolved Benefits

GW introduced herself to the forum and then proceeded to give her presentation.

Social Security Scotland is an Executive Agency of the Scottish Government. In Scotland there are a number of devolved benefits, and Social Security Scotland have been given the responsibility to ensure that the devolved benefits are managed correctly and to administer the new Scottish Social Security System in accordance with:

- The Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018
- The Charter

At the current time Social Security Scotland has distributed the following devolved benefits;

- Best Start Grant
- Carer's Assistance
- Carers Allowance Supplement
- Cold Spell – Winter Heating Assistance
- Disability Assistance for Children and Young People (new claims)
- Disability Assistance for Older People (new claims)
- Disability Assistance for Working Age People
- Funeral Expense Assistance
- Winter Heating Assistance
- Young Carer Grant

Social Security Scotland is still currently developing their services with their project team to provide a high quality experience for their service users across Scotland. Their services will include;

- Advising on eligibility criteria for the devolved benefits
- Assisting the completion of application forms
- ID and document verification
- Benefit Maximisation
- Advise and support whilst applications are in progress
- Along with any further assistance for queries and information

Social Security Scotland are currently in the process of setting up their Local Delivery team. The Local Delivery team are hoping to have one representative for all 32 local authority areas in Scotland. The Local Delivery teams will provide face to face pre-claims support via co-located services, regular 'drop in' sessions, visits to prison/hospitals and home visits.



Social Security Scotland is currently looking to develop partnerships with different organisations across Scotland to help let service users know of their services.

For further information about Social Security Scotland or devolved benefits visit their [website](#).

Action: CB to help GW contact Forth Valley Sensory Centre and NHS Public Partnership Forum.

Action: GW to contact MP to discuss future partnership.

4. Third Sector Partner Updates

4.1 CSREC

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre (MWRC) and Rainbow Muslim Women's Group, in partnership with the Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC), are holding an upcoming Forth Valley Ethnic and Religious Minority Women's Engagement Event.

The event will take place on Wednesday 27th March, 5:30pm – 9pm at Grangemouth Town Hall, 27 Bo'ness Road, Grangemouth, FK3 8AN, with a variety of workshops and discussions on different relevant topics.

There will also be a crèche available, along with food and the opportunity to socialise and network with other women.

For further information please visit CSREC's [website](#).

4.2 Conduit Scotland

Conduit Scotland's Dunfermline shop will now be co-locating with Dunfermline Advice Hub.

Conduit Scotland's Falkirk shop also has a room available for organisations to use for free when meeting with service users in the Falkirk area.

For further information please visit their [website](#) or call the Falkirk shop on 01324 464946.

Action: GW to contact Conduit Scotland.

4.3 Cyrenians

Cyrenians in Falkirk have now settled into their new premises at Arnotdale House, Dollar Park, Camelon Road, FK1 5SQ.

With the move to their new premises, Cyrenians' are now offering their Lighthouse Service which supports people moving on with their lives and

away from the criminal justice system. They are a new service for people with convictions who wish to access employment, volunteering, training or services in the Falkirk area.

Support is open to anyone who has been involved in the criminal justice system.

For further information please contact the Lighthouse Service by phone: 01324 633413, or email: falkirk@cyrenians.org.uk .

5. Update from CVS Falkirk

5.1 Help to Save

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have launched [Help to Save](#), a type of savings account that allows certain people entitled to Working Tax Credit, or receiving Universal Credit, to be given a bonus of 50p for every £1 they save over 4 years.

Bonuses will be paid at the end of the second and fourth years, and are based on how much is saved. This means that, for example, a saving of £2,400 over 4 years would result in a bonus of £1,200.

Help to Save is backed by the government, so all savings are secure. Individuals can apply [online](#), or via the HMRC app.

For further information, including how money can be paid into a Help to Save account, please visit the [HMRC](#) website.

Alternatively, for those without internet or to speak to a helpline advisor, contact HMRC by phone: 0300 322 7093.

5.2 John Watson Trust Grant

Funding Scotland have recently announced a new grant for educational purposes to children and young people under the age of 21 who have a physical or learning disability, or who are socially disadvantaged. Grants are available to individuals or organisations working with eligible children and young people. Funding includes support for school, youth trips and residential experiences.

Application deadlines for 2019 are: 15th March, 24th May, 2nd August and 1st November.

For further please information visit Funding Scotland [website](#).

5.3 Volant Charitable Trust

The Volant Trust are open for funding applications Scottish charities and projects, that alleviate social deprivation, particularly supporting women, children and young people at risk.

Projects must demonstrate a strong focus on supporting women and children affected by hardship or disadvantages and on tackling the issues they face in order to make a lasting difference to their lives and life chances.

For further information on how to apply for funding visit the Volant Charitable Trust's [website](#).

5.4 Third Sector Forum Survey

CVS Falkirk want to ensure that the [Falkirk third sector forums](#) are relevant and useful to our sector, and have launched an [online survey](#) to gather your feedback.

We're looking to hear from all members of the sector, particularly those who have attended forums before, on what you would like to achieve and learn from them. The survey should only take 5 minutes to complete.

The forums are open to staff and volunteers from all third sector organisations and groups working in Falkirk (including social enterprises, voluntary organisations, charities and community groups). You can attend as many forums as you wish.

Please share this survey with your networks, as we are keen to have input from as many people as possible, including those interested in joining the forums.

The deadline for responses is **11:59pm on Sunday 31st March**.

To submit your response, please visit the [SurveyMonkey](#) page.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, or any of the forums, please contact SM by email: scott.malcolm@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

6. Three Key Messages

The purpose of this agenda item is for CVS Falkirk to feedback into the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) in Falkirk Council as the third sector forum are recognised as the link to the third sector. CVS Falkirk will serve as the third sector representative at the CPP meetings and feedback on behalf of the third sector forums any issues or queries.



If you have any questions about CPP please contact SM by email:
scott.malcolm@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

7. AOCB

There was no AOCB to be discussed.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Tackling Poverty and Inequalities forum will take place on Thursday 27th June 2019, 10am – 12pm at the CVS Falkirk offices.

DRAFT

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