



Safer Communities Third Sector Forum
Wednesday 23rd October 2019
10am – 12pm
CVS Falkirk

Present:

Lynda Ross-Hale (LRH) (Chair)	Cyrenians
Becca Heggie (BH) (Minute taker)	CVS Falkirk and District
Ewan Wilson (EW)	Police Scotland
Bryan Mackie (BM)	Police Scotland
Bill Gray (BG)	Denny Community Council
Sarah McHardy (SMcH)	Families Scotland
Mark Armstrong (MA)	Neighbourhood Watch Scotland
Martin Fotheringham (MF)	Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC)
Nicola Bruce (NB)	Falkirk Council

Apologies:

Geoff Reid	SACRO
Lisa Marie Pert	Committed to Ending Abuse

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed forum members present and introductions were made.

2. Review of Previous Minutes – 23.10.19

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

3. Bryan Mackie – Police Scotland

BM introduced himself to members of the forum as the Crime Prevention Officer for Forth Valley division; he then proceeded to give a presentation on raising awareness of financial harm and ways to prevent it.

BM gave a run through of some of the projects Police Scotland are currently working on to prevent financial harm. A campaign was launched by Police Scotland #Shut Out Scammers which involves raising awareness of offenders who cold-call people at people's homes and scam them out of money.



BM informed forum members the Shut Out Scammers campaign runs for the two weeks and involves providing people with numerous resources and information on doorstep crime and ways it can be prevented.

BM spoke about an increase in phone and computer scams in the Forth Valley area such as romance fraud, investment fraud and Facebook lottery wins.

The main scam Police Scotland are currently tackling is the HMRC voucher scam. This is a new scam which involves scammer's cold calling people pretending to be a member of staff at HMRC. They tell people that they owe large amounts of tax which they can only pay off through digital vouchers and gift cards, including those used for Apple's iTunes Store and Amazon.

There has also been an increase in computer scams such as job offers, fake coupons, or cheques that say they're sponsored by SurveyMonkey they are sent by scammers using the SurveyMonkey name to trick people into sending personal information such as bank details.

BM informed forum members that TSB have recently introduced their Fraud Refund Guarantee, anyone who banks with TSB that has fell victim to fraud will have their money refunded.

BM went on to talk about the protective measures Police Scotland are currently putting in place to prevent financial harm. Police Scotland have been working with supermarkets in the Forth Valley area to raise awareness of the HMRC scam, Morrison's have put a fifty pound credit limit on any iTunes card. If a customer wants to put more credit onto the card they have to engage with a manager as to why they want a larger amount of credit.

BM began talking about the Banking Protocol which is an initiative between the police, banking institutions and Trading Standards. The aim of Banking Protocol is to identify vulnerable victims who are in the process of being defrauded of funds from their bank accounts. These crimes often involve an individual encouraging a victim to attend their bank or post office in person and withdraw or transfer cash.



MA informed forum members that Trading Standards Scotland has put together a list of local vetted traders on their website. Schemes are Council backed and supported by Police Scotland and Citizens Advice. MA also went on to talk about True Call which is a device that blocks unwelcome callers and asks unrecognised callers to identify themselves before it puts them through.

MA informed forum members about the [Friends Against Scams](#) website currently have scheme where people can apply for a free true call device.

4. Nicola Bruce – Falkirk Council

NB gave a brief update on what the Community Justice Partnership are currently working on. One of their main focuses right now is communication and engagement with stakeholders to develop a new plan.

NB went on to talk about the distinction between the community justice partnership and the criminal justice service. Justice Services are there to manage and support people who have been sentenced to a community sentence, have been realised from prison with a licence condition or have opted to take up voluntary through care on leave from a short term prison sentence.

Justice Services core focus is to support an individual to address the factors that led them into offending and maximise their chances of reintegration.

Justice Services is only one part of the Community Justice Partnership; the Community Justice Partnership is made up of a collection of agencies such as Police Scotland, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service and the NHS.

In 2017 the Community Justice Scotland Act was introduced to transfer responsibility to agencies to reduce reoffending in the local areas. Local partnerships put in interventions that will work for their area to tackle causes of offending and also ensure disposals are proportionate and maximize changes for reintegration.

The community Justice Partnership ensures all individuals within Falkirk have an equal opportunity to live a positive life away from crime; their



main focuses are strategic planning and bringing together all the agencies that have a stake in improving things for their community.

The Community Justice Scotland Act recognizes there is a need for prison for people who have caused serious harm in their community or pose a significant risk but also recognise that prisons are overused and used for crimes that were not proportionate. NB noted this takes individuals away from their community where they could have potentially had opportunities to address their needs.

NB informed forum members one of the main focuses for the Community Justice Partnership is moving away from short term prison sentences that would be better served in the community. The advantages of this are minimising the distribution that going in and out of prison causes to people's lives. It also looks at the factors behind peoples offending such as physical health, mental wellbeing, family life and how services can support these needs.

The Community Justice Partnership is currently reviewing their Outcomes Improvement plan to address the needs of people with convictions, victims and witnesses, families and communities. They have launched a [consultation](#) to include views on Community Justice in local communities.

Action: NB to email link to consultation to forum members.

5. Third Sector Partner Updates

5.1 Denny Community Council

BG informed forum members he attended a community council conveners meeting recently promoting the Scottish Community Safety Network. There was a discussion at the meeting regarding the alert system which is delivered by Police Scotland and a number of other partners, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland then deliver this local safety information to individuals by text phone and email. The feedback received was the public would like to see results or responses from the alerts published by the police.

5.2 Police Scotland

EW informed forum members about the free car winter road safety checks that are taking place in Falkirk outside of Halfords Unit 7, Central Retail Park, Grahams Road, Falkirk FK1 1LW in November.

EW spoke about another project Operation Alamo which runs up until November the 5th. Police Scotland and Falkirk Council are visiting all premises that are selling fireworks to make sure they have a fireworks license and all fireworks are authorized and compliant with health and safety standards. Police patrols will also monitoring areas to prevent illegal bonfires. BM noted there is an ongoing issue in local communities with illegal bonfires.

Another Project Police Scotland are working on is Operation Christmas which will be based in Falkirk town Centre and include the safety panel and Police Scotland Youth Volunteers they will be handing out leaflets and offering advice on winter safety.

5.3 Families Outside

Families Outside have launched a new campaign #NoAddressInThePress with an online petition aiming to change Scottish legislation and prevent private addresses being published in the media.

A number of families using these services have reported issues where, after their family member has been sent to prison, the family name and address has been published in the press (both local and national). These issues can often include social stigmatisation, targeted harassment and child protection concerns.

Action: SM to email link to campaign to forum members.

5.4 Neighbourhood Watch Scotland

MA introduced himself as the new Community Development Officer for Neighbourhood Watch Scotland after a period of 30 years working for Police Scotland. MA informed forum members over 750 people in Falkirk have signed up for the alert system. Neighbourhood alert system is a service which posts warnings of scams and doorstep crime locally.

5.5 CSREC

MF informed forum members the majority of the people CSREC engage with are from an ethnic minority background and often find it difficult to engage with statutory bodies such as the police and council. MF highlighted there is often barriers such as language and culture. MF informed forum members he is keen to try and get the community groups and networks he works with to engage with the alert system.

MF informed forum members hate crime and discrimination is still an ongoing issue and requested that this be added as an agenda item for future Safer Communities forums.

5.6 Cyrenians

Cyrenians deliver a number of services for people from a diverse range of backgrounds. They support people to build confidence and skills and support people to become part of their communities.

Cyrenians are currently raising visual awareness about positive work that can be done being part of a community pay back order. LRH noted the floral clock has been a massive positive in raising awareness.

Cyrenians services in Falkirk have moved to Arnotdale House, Dollar Park, Camelon Road, Falkirk, FK1 5SQ. LHR noted Cyrenians social enterprise café is now open 5 days a week; the café is closed on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

Cyrenians have rooms available for letting out for weddings, training, conferences and events and as part of their social enterprise they provide reduced rates to community groups.

6. AOCB

None.

7. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 15th January 2020, 10am – 12pm at CVS Falkirk and District offices, Unit 6, Callendar Business Park, Callendar Road, Falkirk, FK1 1XR

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Actions List

Action	Person	Date	Notes
email link to campaign to forum members.	Scott		Complete
NB to email link to consultation to forum members.	Scott		Complete

DRAFT