

**Safer Communities Third Sector Forum**  
**Wednesday 15th January 2020**  
**10am – 12pm**  
**CVS Falkirk**

**Present:**

Lynda Ross-Hale (LRH) (Chair)  
Chris Stewart (CS)  
Claire Bernard (CB)  
Donald Johnston (DJ)

Kirstin Abercrombie (KA)  
Maria Ferrari (MF)  
Nicola Bruce (NB)  
Nicola Lockwood (NL)

Sarah McHardy (SM)

Cyrenians  
Police Scotland  
CVS Falkirk and District  
Scottish Fire and Rescue  
Service  
SACRO  
Cyrenians  
Community Justice  
Victim Support Scotland  
Partnership  
Families Outside

**Apologies:**

Nancy Keenan (NK)  
Debbie Jupp (DJ)

The Richmond Fellowship  
Committed to Ending Abuse

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed forum members present and introductions were made.

**2. Review of Previous Minutes – 23.10.2019**

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

**3. Nicola Bruce – Community Justice Partnership**

NB informed forum members at the previous Safer Communities forums she has given updates on what the Community Justice Partnership have been working on since she came into post as Community Justice Co-Ordinator in April 2019.

NB noted the last update she gave was regarding the Community Justice Partnership Consultation to review their Outcomes Improvement plan and communicate and engage with third sector organisations involved in Community Justice.

NB went onto give forum members a presentation of the [Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment](#) this gave forum members an opportunity to look at the evidence and needs identified, discuss the upcoming plan for 2020 to 2023 and to give input on whether the right priorities have been identified.

The Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment draws upon local and national data and information and involvement from a range of community justice stakeholders.

The key points highlighted in the presentation:

- The rate of reconvictions and the number of reconvictions per convicted individual in Falkirk are higher than the national average. It is necessary to look at supporting individuals in communities to avoid re-offending.
- There are Falkirk residents in every prison outwith the area presents a challenge upon release.
- The main community based sentence imposed is a Community Payback Order, 587 were imposed in 2018/19.
- Reoffending is complex and a range of social inequalities contribute to this. As a partnership we will look at what we need to address.
- Increase in violence mainly connected to drugs influencing robberies and violent crimes.
- Drug related deaths appear to be consistent with last year.

Identified Strategic pathways aim to address complex needs through a partnership approach.

#### **4. Forum response to presentation and discussion**

##### **4.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

DJ informed forum members he recently completed a mental health first aid course. DJ highlighted that participants on the course expressed a concern that mental health budgets have been cut.

Scottish Fire and Rescue will receive training to recognise signs and symptoms of mental health issues to signpost people to appropriate services. It was noted it can often be difficult to signpost appropriately due to waiting lists.

##### **4.2 Police Scotland**

CS informed forum members Police Scotland are now becoming first responders to people with mental health issues as there is a safety issue.

CS noted once Police have made sure the person is safe and there is no criminal activity, they are finding it difficult to signpost people to the appropriate agency.

It was noted Police aren't the right service to support with mental health issues and this results in less opportunity for the police to do preventative proactive work as threat to life is prioritised.

### **4.3 Community Justice Partnership**

NB informed forum members the Community Justice partnership had also asked about unpaid work during the consultation and what people would like to see in their communities through this disposal. There was a high number of responses received for support for vulnerable groups such as elderly, young people, people on low income and animals.

There was also responses received for education and skill building elements which should be an element of unpaid work so people have a better opportunity to move onto employment after using justice services.

### **4.4 Cyrenians**

MF informed forum members she has been working with Low Moss prison and the Falkirk Council Homeless team. They are currently linking in with prisoners who are allocated back to the Falkirk area to support homelessness.

Cyrenians are offering support to signpost people to appropriate services for further support.

It was highlighted there is a Rapid Re-housing service to support low level offenders when exiting prison to maintain a tenancy.

There was a discussion around the importance of mediation services.

### **4.5 SACRO**

KA informed forum members the funding for Throughcare Support Officers has stopped which adds additional pressure to the third sector to fill as statutory services have been withdrawn; this has an impact on third sector capacity.

### **4.6 Families Outside**

A suggestion was made to raise awareness for families around community payback orders. A Community Payback Order is an alternative to custody designed to ensure that you payback to the community. It was noted family influences can affect an individual's actions such as breaking curfew which can lead to a breach and potentially another prison sentence.

Families outside run a volunteer led service for families affected by imprisonment this includes support with financial hardship, relationship breakdowns, anxiety, and health issues.

#### **4.7 Community Justice Partnership**

NB advised Criminal Justice social work are looking at how Families Outside can be involved with the custody hub and arrest referral. Also considering Scottish Families Affected by Drugs and Alcohol.

### **5. Third Sector Partner Updates**

#### **5.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

DJ informed forum members that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have been delivering CPR training in all high schools. CPR is a lifesaving medical procedure which is given to someone who is in cardiac arrest.

DJ informed forum members CPR kits are kept at the fire station and are available for organisations free of charge to provide training.

**Action: Information to be distributed in e-bulletin.**

DJ informed forum members Scottish Fire and Rescue service have just held interviews for their volunteer service, if successful volunteers will be helping the fire service with training young people on a SVQ qualification course.

Volunteers will also have an opportunity to help with specialised home safety fire visits.

DJ informed forum members about the educational theatre project, Safe Drive Stay Alive. This is an annual project which involves a sequence of films and live speakers, designed to make young people aware of their responsibilities as drivers and passengers on the road.

#### **5.2 Police Scotland**

CS informed forum members about True Call which is a device that blocks unwelcome callers and asks unrecognised callers to identify themselves before it puts them through. CS informed forum members about the Friends Against Scams website currently have scheme where people can apply for a free true call device.

**Action: Information to be distributed in e-bulletin.**

CS informed forum members nationally it will be a busy year for Police Scotland which could have effects locally. The Euro 2020 championship will take place this year and the Climate Change Conference in November; CS noted this will detract a lot of resources from local policing across the country.

CS informed forum members Police Scotland are working with Claire Dempsey on the Social Inclusion Project, this service offers an opportunity for vulnerable individuals in Falkirk to access community

services and support in relation to issues such as, mental health, offending behaviour and anti-social behaviour.

### **5.3 Victim Support Scotland**

NL informed forum members Victim Support Scotland is one of the main victim support services to which Police Scotland refer victims and witnesses. They offer a free and confidential volunteer led service to people affected by crime throughout Scotland.

### **5.4 Cyrenians**

MF noted she was keen to get in touch with forum members to get input regarding training or information. Cyrenians would like to raise more awareness of working with people with convictions the challenges and success stories.

LRH informed forum members she is currently working on funding negotiations, evidence in services and working being done.

### **5.5 SACRO**

KA informed forum members she is the lead for the Restorative Justice Services in SACRO. SACRO are currently working with the Scottish Prison Service to train all their new recruits in restorative justice approaches. SACRO have received funding from the Scottish Government to do a restorative justice service for adults in Clackmannanshire which will be the first service like this in Forth Valley, SACRO currently only work with youths.

### **5.6 Community Justice Partnership**

NB informed forum members draft actions were completed by Community Justice Partnership, five Strategic Pathways to focus on and themes to be addressed:

- Learning and development
- Relationships and making connections
- Information sharing and communication
- Service mapping and evaluation
- Supporting transitions

NB informed forum members she will distribute CJP draft plan and would appreciate all feedback by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January.

### **5.7 Families Outside**

Families outside run a volunteer led service for families affected by imprisonment this includes support with financial hardship, relationship breakdowns, anxiety, and health issues.

Families outside run a cross-party group on Children and Families Affected by Imprisonment. The last meeting was due to take place in November

with the justice secretary to take forward their #NoAddressInThePress campaign but this was cancelled. There was a new meeting held in January.

### **5.8 CVS Falkirk**

CB and LRH are jointly leading one of the strategic pathways, currently called Relationships and Making Connections which focusses on reintegrating individuals into the community with aims of reducing re-offending. CB and LRH will provide feedback and seek input through the Safer Communities forum. Once they have the terms of reference they will seek representation from partners and the third sector.

### **5.9 Falkirk Adult Protection Committee**

Falkirk Adult Protection Committee are looking to form a group to work on the problem of elderly abuse and the lack of reporting.

Dewis Choice are a Big Lottery funded project have been engaged by the APC to facilitate what this might look like in Falkirk. Dewis Choice provide new solutions to addressing conflict and difficulties people aged 60 years and over face within their relationships with friends, family and intimate partners. Through active involvement with people who have first-hand experience we are able to ensure their voice is at the heart of the solution.

CB will be on the group actively involved in engaging communities and individuals and will keep Safer Communities Forum involved and updated with this work.

## **6. Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 10am – 12pm  
at CVS Falkirk and District offices, Unit 6, Callendar Business  
Park, Callendar Road, Falkirk, FK1 1XR

**[www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk](http://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk) | 01324 692 000 |  
[info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto:info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk) | @CVSFalkirk**

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