



**Economic Resilience and Employment Third Sector Forum**  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020**  
**10am – 12pm**

**Present:**

Scott Malcolm (SM) (Acting Chair)  
Becca Heggie (BH) (Minute-taker)  
Allan Robertson (AR) (Speaker)  
Hazel Taylor (HT)  
Ciara Gillbride (CG)  
David Stewart (DS)

CVS Falkirk and District  
CVS Falkirk and District  
Social Security Scotland  
Cyrenians  
Social Security Scotland  
Falkirk Foundation

**Apologies:**

Isabel Meikleham (IM)

NHS Forth Valley

**1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

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

**2. Review of Previous Minutes – 22.08.2019**

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

**3. Allan Robertson – Social Security Scotland**

AR introduced himself to forum members as a Client Support Team Leader for Local delivery in Falkirk. AR also introduced his colleague Ciara who is part of the Social Security Scotland team.

AR provided information on the background of Social Security Scotland. In 2014 the Smith Commission recommended Scottish Parliament should be allowed to develop its own range of social security powers. A new law which came under the Scotland Act 2016 to give Social Security Scotland the power for 11 devolved benefits. This will devolve £3bn of benefits from the UK Government to Scottish Government.

AR informed forum members Social Security Scotland administer benefits in accordance with the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018. There are 8 key principles of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018, these are:

- Social security is an investment in the people of Scotland
- Social security is itself a human right and essential to the realisation of other human rights
- The delivery of social security is a public service
- Respect for the dignity of individuals is to be at the heart of the Scottish social security system
- The Scottish social security system is to contribute to reducing poverty in Scotland



- The Scottish social security system is to be designed with the people of Scotland on the basis of evidence
- Opportunities are to be sought to continuously improve the Scottish social security system in ways which
  - (i) put the needs of those who require assistance first, and
  - (ii) advance equality and non-discrimination,
- The Scottish social security system is to be efficient and deliver value for money.

AR presented information on Social Security Scotland's current devolved benefits and the benefits coming into effect in the future, further information can be found on the presentation.

AR informed forum members once Social Security Scotland is fully operational, they will have 1,900 jobs available in Dundee and Glasgow.

Social Security Scotland are available to offer advice and support such as:

- Eligibility of benefits
- Assistance with completion of application forms
- ID and document verification
- Advice and support whilst a client's application is in progress
- Advice on requesting a re-determination or appeal

There are numerous ways to access Social Security Scotland's services, customers can drop into a local site or outreach location for a face to face discussion, contact Social Security Scotland on freephone: 0800 182 2222 Monday – Friday 8am to 6pm, online at [www.mygov.scot](http://www.mygov.scot) or by post PO Box 10301, Dundee, DD1 9FY.

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

### **4.1 Falkirk Foundation**

DS informed forum members Falkirk Foundation's new pitch is open and available to use.

DS informed forum members Falkirk Foundation's two ETU programmes are finishing at the end of February, DS noted all participants are progressing onto positive destinations.

Falkirk Foundation are currently trying to find funding for the next 3 years to extend a project with Forth Valley College to support students with learning disabilities. DS noted the project has been successful and participants have passed more than 250 qualifications.

## **4.2 Cyrenians**

HT informed forum members she oversees the employability services within Cyrenians.

The Employability Programme is designed for those who are unemployed and on a Community Payback Order. The service gives participants the opportunity to gain a qualification as well as developing listening, communication and self-confidence.

HT oversees Cyrenians Lighthouse Service which Supports people who have completed their statutory order to move on from the criminal justice system. This includes linking people up with services they might need and supporting them on to volunteering, training and employment opportunities.

HT provided information about Cyrenians Fair Start programme which involves a range of different workshops linked into the Employment and Training Unit (ETU) such as confidence building workshops and basic ICT skills.

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

### **5.1 Funders Fayre**

CVS Falkirk and Falkirk Council are pleased to announce that we are hosting another FREE Falkirk Funders Fayre on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March on Bowhouse Community Centre, 130 Bowhouse Road, Grangemouth, FK3 0EU.

Falkirk Funders Fayre is an annual event organised by CVS Falkirk and Falkirk Council, designed to give our local third sector the opportunity to meet with a range of diverse funders, and learn about the various grant funding schemes available in from both local and national funders.

There will also be a number of support organisations there on the day, including [THINK Consulting Solutions and Charity Bee](#).

Attendees will have the chance to ask questions of all the exhibitors, and to obtain information on how to apply and learn about their criteria when assessing applications for funding.

Everyone is welcome at the event, though it is aimed at third sector groups and organisations, including charities, social enterprises, community and voluntary groups. Organisations from outwith the Falkirk area are also welcome to attend.

Our exhibitors and funders on the day will include:

- Bank of Scotland Foundation
- Charity Bee
- Corra Foundation
- Community Shares Scotland
- Creative Scotland
- Crowdfund Scotland
- Falkirk Business Gateway
- Falkirk Schools Charity Board
- Firstport
- Foundation Scotland
- Forth Giving (formerly Sons of the Rock)
- National Lottery Community Fund Scotland
- NHS Health Promotions
- Paths For All
- School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) Scotland
- SCVO Funding Scotland
- Social Investment Scotland
- THINK Consulting Solutions

...with more to follow.

We can also confirm that THINK Consulting Solutions will be delivering a presentation at 12:30pm on the subject of "Community Fundraising"; this presentation is now fully booked.

To book your FREE place, or for further information, please visit the [Eventbrite page](#). Alternatively, contact us by phone: 01324 692000, or email: [info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto:info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk)

Please let us know if you have any additional accessibility or support requirements.

Let us know you're coming! Tweet about the event using [@CVSFalkirk](#) and [#FalkirkFundersFayre20](#), or tag us on [Facebook](#).

## **6. AOCB**

There was no AOCB.

**Date of the next meeting is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

DRAFT

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