



Compassionate and Included Communities Forum
Wednesday 2nd September 2020
3pm – 5pm
Zoom Meeting

Present:

Hannah Gray (HG) Chairperson	Strathcarron Hospice
Barry Jordan	LGBT Youth Scotland
Carol Wylie (CW)	Cycling Without Age
Claire Bernard (CB)	CVS Falkirk and District
Eleanor Davis (ED)	Strathcarron Hospice
Geoff Reid (GR)	Sacro
Martin Allen (MA)	Forth Valley Sensory Centre
Miranda Wilson (MW)	Falkirk Council
Sandra Lyon (SL)	The Conservation Volunteers
Scott Malcolm (SM)	CVS Falkirk
Susan High (SH)	Strathcarron Hospice

1. Welcome and Introductions

HG introduced herself and informed new attendees this is a sub-forum for the Covid-19 Community Response Forum. Attendees were advised to ensure their zoom names include the organisations they are representing.

2. Starting a New Normal

Discussions took place around “starting a new normal” and what this means to us as organisations and the people we are supporting going forward.

Topic for discussion was “what opportunities are arising for organisations and the people we support, the following points were noted:

- TCV are looking at the new Scottish Government (SG) employability funds programme for 16-24-year olds which was released today.
- Forth Valley Sensory Centre (FVSC) have campaigned in the past as they feel the Scottish Government are not so good at looking to support groups with people who have specific needs such sensory impairment or loss.
- Some organisations are finding it difficult to engage with people to attend sessions being carried outdoors as people are not willing or have concerns about going outside.



- There is a lot of confusion around guidance from SG about what sector some organisations fit into and what services and activities they can provide. People who are shielding are particularly feeling less confident and anxious.
- Cycling Without Age have recently re-started their service and are operating with one volunteer and one participant at a time. They would be willing to help organisations to identify some people who would benefit from their service by taking them out into the community and try to build their confidence of being outdoors.
- FVSC will have some socially distanced groups re-starting over the next few weeks, some of their service users have anxiety around returning to groups within the service. Younger service users have been meeting online but the older generation tend to prefer to meet face to face but are concerned about returning with social distancing measures.

3. What Support Do We Need?

HG asked the forum, with the changes of new rules from the SG meaning we can do more activities what support do we need to carry these out or what support can we offer each other?

TCV have seen various opportunities relating to Covid-19 funding but have queries around how they plan for the number of participants they are working with and sizes of groups they can work with. Outcomes will have to be reduced due to reduced participation in services. Other issues TCV face include their volunteers relying on transport to use the service, but for now they are unable to transport volunteers.

It is difficult for organisations to make long term plans, particularly when rules are regularly changing and affect sectors and geographical areas differently.

Without support from larger organisations some smaller third sector organisations will not survive this pandemic.

Access to grants and funds is the main source of income for some organisations at the moment as they are unable to fundraise etc. To bring in other monies.

Organisations may be able to work together and release resources for other organisations to access in a bid to help each other during this pandemic.

The forum helps to bring organisations together and share experiences, for example SL and MA discussed working together in relation to FVSC garden. MA will discuss this opportunity further with SL colleague.



4. How Can We Support Each Other

Discussions around ways in which we can support each other's organisations were held.

CVS Falkirk host a [service directory](#) on their website which could be used to map services and their current offering of services.

The forum is a place where issues can be resolved. Attending the meetings and taking part in discussions is agreed to be beneficial although some feel the forum is not very action orientated. A suggestion was for homework to be completed in advance of next meeting. This way attendees will carry out work in advance of meetings in relation to topics raised at previous forum meetings. Other suggestions for the forum going forward are:

- Have a standing agenda item for following up on previous actions.
- Plan ahead for forums, send the agenda out in advance so that people can think about their responses before the meeting.
- Plan for uncertainty, having a robust plan in place which adapts to different situations.
- Using Tapataalk for discussions in between meetings

LGBT Youth Scotland have decided not to return to face to face working for the rest of this year and are now focussing on digital youth work. They have changed their communications strategy to suit this and are working on updating internal processes. They have analysed their social media which showed age ranges of people accessing their platforms to be able to target their communications appropriately. They have a dedicated digital youth team and digital youth worker.

A forum member suggested LGBT host a session to show the forum the various digital methods they use. It is believed a lot of younger people not using Facebook anymore.

Action: HG to introduce BJ to the Carers Centre for potential Partnership working.

A forum member has noticed a lack of transparency around mental health support for young people and wondered if this is an ongoing thing or due to Covid-19. It was suggested that FDAMH could offer advice on whether this is due to an overwhelming number of referrals. Young people are feeding back that Woodlands Resource Centre have been the organisation in which they are having difficulty receiving support from.



5. Support Going Forward

The forum discussed what support we need from elsewhere and how we can ask for it?

Attendees felt continuing these types of forums is good to be able to network with peers and get advice from other third sector organisations.

Going forward it would be good to identify possible issues which could be encountered and think of solutions in advance of meetings and suggest what services can help with support.

CB informed the forum about the Understanding Crisis-Response Measures Matrix and also the Covid-19 Scenario Planning for the Third Sector.

Actions: CB to share information on the above.

SM to support TCV in finding out if Dial-a-Journey can support them with their transport issues. SM to follow up with SL.

6. Date of Next meeting

The next Compassionate and Included Communities Forum will take place on Wednesday 30th September, 3pm-5pm, via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 916 7492 851

Passcode: 515062

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