



COVID-19 Third Sector Response Forum
Wednesday 14th October 2020
3pm – 5pm
Zoom Meeting

Present:

Claire Bernard (CB) (Chairperson)	CVS Falkirk and District
Laura Jamieson (LJ) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk and District
Barry Jordan (BJ)	LGBT Youth Scotland
Claire Houston (CH)	NHS Forth Valley
Donald Park (DP)	Forth Valley Voluntary Sector Group
Duncan Hearsum (DH)	Dial-a-Journey
Geoff Reid (GR)	SACRO Forth Valley
Gilly McWhirter (GM)	Bo'ness & Blackness Community Response
Hannah Gray (HG)	Strathcarron Hospice
Jessie Anne Malcolm (JM)	NHS Forth Valley
Lynsey Hansford (LH)	CVS Falkirk and District
Maria Ferrari (MF)	Cyrenians
Richard McLennan (RM)	Falkirk Safebase
Scott Malcolm (SM)	CVS Falkirk and District
Susan Docherty (SD)	Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers Centre
Yvonne McIntosh (YM)	Maggie's Forth Valley

1. Welcome and Introductions

CB introduced herself, welcomed forum members present and advised the meeting was recorded via zoom. Introductions were made by forum attendees, along with background on their roles and what their organisation had been focusing on during the pandemic.

2. School Meals Access

LH spoke about the work being done to get meals to school children during the holidays, and the current discussion taking place around children who can't be in school during term time (such as those self-isolating, or high-risk, etc) and are therefore not able to access school meals (free or otherwise).

Currently, those involved are working to gauge the amount of interest from other groups, but they are looking at the period between the October and winter holidays.

LH asked members interested in taking part in the discussion to contact her by email: lynsey.hansford@cvsfalkirk.org.uk



3. Forum Direction

Forum discussion mainly focused on what direction members would like to see the form take in future.

Members discussed the upcoming Falkirk Plan and the possibility of matching its priorities, along with the benefits and drawbacks of thematic forums (as previously held). Many members felt that while thematic forums were useful, a general forum like this was even more so, as it allowed any member to bring up any topic, which is especially useful for situational awareness during this period of ongoing change.

There was also discussion around the amount of support available from strategic partners, and that due to the situation changing regularly, it was hard for them to plan too. Members said they found it hard to know what these partners were thinking and what their groups should be doing.

SM and CB asked the forum if this format and frequency was agreeable, and highlighted a number of resources available, including the TapaTalk forum. Discussion then turned to the previous thematic forums held, which had been paused in March due to COVID-19; CB and SM informed members that they were looking at possible ways to take these forward again, including:

- prioritising which forums are brought back first
- combining forums and dedicating the last meeting point to a specific theme, which members do not have to stay for if not relevant to them
- breakout rooms (via Zoom) within the thematic forums

CB encouraged members to contact herself and SM by email if they had any ideas:

- CB email: Claire.Bernard@cvsfalkirk.org.uk
- SM email: Scott.Malcolm@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

4. AOCB

4.1 Update on Wellbeing and Mental Health Group Meetings

CB informed members that Scottish Government had announced wellbeing and mental health services were not bound by the latest household rules, and there was new guidance to support groups providing those services.



4.2 Adult Protection Campaign

A new flyer and radio campaign and online survey has been launched to find out more about public and volunteer confidence in Adult Protection during COVID-19, which CB will send to members. CB also spoke about reports submitted to the Adult Protection Committee over the summer, and the possible next steps.

Action: CB to send survey to members for both they and their service users to complete.

Action: MF to send CB the anonymous data from the Cyrenians trustee report, regarding services during COVID-19.

4.3 Flu Vaccination Programme and Cancer Patients

JM spoke about the work being done in Forth Valley to ensure everyone who should receives a flu vaccine. This winter, vaccinations are being held at community locations (eg. Falkirk Town Hall) October 2020 – March 2021, and patients issued an appointment by letter. This is being done in phases based on the patients' level of priority, and will be a socially distanced experience.

For further information on the flu vaccination programme, please visit the [NHS Forth Valley](#) website.

JM also raised the number of cancer patients she spoke with while working during one of the sessions, many of whom just wanted to talk, or were scared. She referred a number to Maggie's, and noted that a number hadn't wanted to contact Maggie's as they feared the service would be too busy. YM confirmed that this is happening on a regular basis, and highlighted a support group for those with prostate cancer.

Action: YM to send LJ details of the prostate cancer support group (and any other Maggie's information) for promotion, by email: laura@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

4.4 Funding Opportunities

- Funding to Buy In Mental Health and Wellbeing Services

LJ highlighted that [funding was available](#) for community groups and organisations to buy in mental health services from social enterprises as part of a pilot project, with a deadline of Friday 23rd October.

For further information, please visit the [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

- Cancer Screening Inequalities Fund

CB spoke about Scottish Government's £350,000 for projects aimed at increasing the uptake of cancer screening programmes in those experiencing deprivation and health inequalities.



They are now inviting proposal submissions; proposal should be ready to start by the end of this calendar year, and should be expected to complete by April 2021.

The deadline for proposals is Thursday 5th November.

For further information, please visit the [CVS Falkirk](https://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk) website.

Action: CB to send information on the Cancer Screening Inequalities Fund to DH and GM.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 11th November, 3pm – 5pm
via Zoom**

DRAFT