



Compassionate and Included Communities Forum
Wednesday 24th February 2021
2pm – 4pm
Zoom Meeting

Present:

Hannah Gray (HG) (Chairperson)	Strathcarron Hospice
Laura Jamieson (LJ) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk and District
Alex Fleming (AF)	4 The Benefit of All
Dani Lisney (DL)	Outside the Box
Donna Laidlaw (DL)	Community Link Worker (Strathcarron Hospice)
Eleanor Davis (ED)	Strathcarron Hospice
Geoff Reid (GR)	Sacro
Jennifer Faichney (JF)	Falkirk Council
Julie Ryan (JR)	Forth Environment Link
Martin Allen (MA)	Forth Valley Sensory Centre
Sandra Lyon (SL)	The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) Scotland
Scott Malcolm (SMa)	CVS Falkirk
Susan Docherty (SD)	Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers Centre

1. Welcome and Introductions

HG 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.

HG then spoke about the format of the day's meeting, which would again be using the [Camerados](#) model (aiming to get people to talk openly to each other, using "spoon rooms" as a way of making video calls slightly less awkward). HG also highlighted the [Camerados principles](#), which would be used throughout the meeting.

2. "What is making you hopeful now spring is round the corner?"

HG invited members to speak on the above topic, with 4 minutes each to share their updates (per the Camerados model). Members were encouraged to share whatever they felt they needed to, whether personal, professional, or a mix of the two.

Attendees then provided updates, both personal and professional, on their recent activities. Many spoke about signs of spring (including flowers and longer days) and COVID-19 vaccines as things that gave them hope.



Action: HG to send LJ information on the storytelling activities and events Strathcarron is involved in, via email: laura@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

3. CVS Falkirk Update: Virtual Falkirk Funders Fayre

LJ updated the members on the Falkirk Funders Fayre, which will take place virtually for 2021.

Booking is now open [via Eventbrite](#) for the completely free 3 day event, which takes place Tuesday 9th March – Thursday 11th March via Zoom.

CVS Falkirk knows how important funding is to local groups, especially this year, and they have adapted their normal Funders Fayre to provide an online programme of webinars with key grant funders. The Virtual Falkirk Funders Fayre will feature 3 one hour sessions each day – at 11am, 1pm and 3pm. You only need one ticket, and you can attend as many sessions as suits you.

During the event, there will be 6 leading grant funders and 3 funding-related technology companies, who will each be delivering a session. CEO, Victoria McRae will open the event at 10:45am on Tuesday.

The full programme:

- Tuesday 9th March:
 - 10:45am – Welcome and Introductions from Victoria McRae, CVS Falkirk
 - 11am - [Brevo](#), Single Online Grant Application
 - 1pm – [National Lottery Grant Programmes](#)
 - 3pm – [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)
- Wednesday 10th March:
 - 11am – Robertson Trust, Funds Under [New Strategy](#)
 - 1pm – [Corra Foundation, Henry Duncan Grants 2021](#)
 - 3pm – [Beacon CRM](#), Modern CRM For a Modern World
- Thursday 11th March:
 - 11am – [Grantsonline](#), CVS Falkirk free [Funding Portal](#)
 - 1pm – [Tudor Trust](#), 2021 Grant Programme
 - 3pm – [Foundation Scotland](#), Funding Opportunities

As in previous years, presenters will be a mix of Funders Fayre regulars, and those attending for the first time.

The Virtual Falkirk Funders Fayre is designed to give third sector, charity and voluntary organisations the opportunity to meet with a range of diverse funders and to learn about the various grant funding schemes that are available and to find out more regarding funding related technology, there will be opportunities to ask questions as well.



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.

To book your free place, or for further information, please visit the [Eventbrite](#) page.

4. Community Choices Initiative

Members discussed [Falkirk Council's Community Choices initiative](#), which closes for initial expressions of interest on Friday 5th March.

Community Choices is Falkirk Council's [participatory budgeting](#) initiative, where members of the local communities help choose the projects which will receive funding in their area.

Members highlighted the difficulties presented by the tight timeline, with multiple concerned that this would have an impact on smaller groups and organisations and their ability to submit an application, in addition to a system which already seems to be based against them in favour of bigger (possibly national) organisations with more established profiles.

One member noted that the timescales meant groups had been given only 4 weeks out of the full year to apply for these funds. They were also worried that, instead of working with established groups, the approach would mean many people in the community would approach the funding with a mindset of, "What group can I form to do something to make use of the money, rather than it going to waste?" Other members agreed with this point.

Another highlighted that they had struggled to find information on the Falkirk Council website, and had instead passed people the CVS Falkirk link (available above) when sharing the information.

Action: SM to compile anonymised list of comment, criticisms and feedback from members to pass on to Falkirk Council.

5. AOCB

SL noted that this forum had a good format, as it ran to time and still had discussion points covered, and wondered if this was because everyone was given space to speak.

AF and 4 The Benefit of All are also working with final year psychology students from Stirling University on homeworking, and asked if members would either participate in in the survey, or pass it along to those who would be interested.

The survey aims to review the impact on people's physical and mental health while working from home since lockdown was first introduced. All questions



compare home working to working in a traditional office space, and should only take 2 – 3 minutes to complete. Answers are strictly confidential and will be used for research purposes only.

For further information, please visit the [Google survey](#) page.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 24th March 2021,
3pm – 5pm, via Zoom**

DRAFT

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