



**COVID-19 Third Sector Response Forum**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021**  
**3pm – 5pm**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Present:**

Lynsey Hansford (LH) (Chairperson)	CVS Falkirk and District
Laura Jamieson (LJ) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk and District
Ania Sandland (ASa)	Outside the Box
Annette Tonner (AT)	Community Focus Scotland CIC
Angela Smith (ASm)	Corra Foundation – Dawson Centre
Carolyn Dick (CD)	dates-n-mates Falkirk
Dave Cameron (DC)	Avonbridge Hall
Dianne Dixon (DD)	Falkirk Foundation
Donald Park (DP)	Forth Valley Voluntary Sector Response Group
Donna Laidlaw (DL)	Strathcarron Hospice
Gemma Ritchie (GRi)	Falkirk Council – Adult Support and Protection (ASP)
Geoff Reid (GRe)	SACRO Forth Valley
Janine Reilly (JR)	Symington Drive Residents' Association
Jennifer Faichney (JF)	Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
Jessie-Anne Malcolm (JM)	NHS Forth Valley
Kelly Tulloch (KT)	Health Improvement Scotland
Mairi Wright (MW)	NHS Forth Valley
Margaret Coutts (MC)	Falkirk and Central Scotland Samaritans
Maria Ferrari (MF)	Cyrenians
Marie Kennedy (MeK)	NHS Forth Valley Health Promotion Service
Martin Allen (MA)	Forth Valley Sensory Centre
Martin Kenny (MnK)	Royal Voluntary Service Forth Valley
Mhairi MacDonald (MM)	Community Focus Scotland CIC
Scott Malcolm (SMa)	CVS Falkirk and District
Steve McQueen (SMc)	Sustainable Thinking Scotland CIC
Susan Docherty (SD)	Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers Centre

**Apologies:**

Claire Bernard (CB)	CVS Falkirk and District
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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

LH introduced herself, welcomed forum members present and advised the meeting was recorded via Zoom. Introductions were made via the Zoom chat function.

**2. Review of Previous Minutes (Wednesday 15/9/2021)**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the previous meeting, with the following amendment:



- 3.2 “Falkirk and Central Scotland [Member Update]”: Vikki Wilson has not left Samaritans, only stepped down as Falkirk director

### **3. Member Updates**

#### **3.1 Symington Drive Residents’ Association**

JR informed members that the group is currently in the process of closing down, but that they are starting a new group which will not be a residents’ association, with further scope beyond one small geographical area. This new group will still focus on creating a no car zone at the local schools, and Falkirk Council’s flat allocations.

LJ thanked JR and the rest of the committee for their work on behalf of CVS Falkirk, and offered their support in helping set up the new group.

#### **3.2 Forth Valley Voluntary Sector Response Group**

The group has been fairly quiet – they haven’t been called out so far for any incidents, but are on stand-by. Many of their groups have restarted in-person training, though with social distancing in place, while continuing monthly Zoom training courses too. They are also recommencing their winter training, and can provide tips and hints on winter driving.

The regional group is looking at a short-term working group to establish a wider group membership to include the emergency services, local authorities, and third sector interfaces in a more formal way.

#### **3.3 Falkirk HSCP**

The Partnership is working to prepare for the winter, and learning more about the issues and stressors impacting local communities and groups. JF has also been working closely with LH on the [Community Opportunities Resource Pack](#).

#### **3.4 dates-n-mates Falkirk**

The Falkirk team have been busy delivering events – as their membership has doubled in the last few months, they are holding roughly 3 events per week, which CD sees as evidence of the need for the events and the dates-n-mates group as a whole.

One of their upcoming events is the dates-n-mates Scotland [“Spooktacular Virtual Halloween Party”](#) on Thursday 28th October, 7pm – 9pm, via Zoom. The event is open to both members and non-members, with a prize for best costume.

CD also highlighted upcoming Teams sessions on the 2022 Scottish Census, for groups and organisations who support different groups of people; the next session takes place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, with further information (including all session dates) available via the [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

#### **3.5 Community Focus Scotland CIC**

Community Focus Scotland has also been very busy – they are currently moving back into their old premises, and are looking for funding to replace their furniture. They also have a number of new staff working with them through the Kickstart scheme, and have catering cabins on 2 new sites.



AT also noted that it would be good to organise a new food providers group or network, in order to prepare for winter and how COVID-19 will impact people during this time. She highlighted current food supply issues, even before winter, due to COVID-19 and Brexit, and that while supermarkets are currently well-stocked, both she and other food providers' suppliers have been struggling to provide basic items (including eggs and hot dogs).

At the time of the meeting, Community Focus Scotland had also been nominated for the Community Award of the [2020 Scotland's Business Awards](#). After a period of public voting, at a ceremony on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October, Community Focus Scotland was [confirmed as the winner](#).

### **3.6 Avonbridge Hall**

The hall is beginning to achieve full occupancy again, although DC noted it can be difficult to get people to complete the required documentation. However, the hall has been kept in good order throughout the pandemic, and they now have a community café one day a week. DC explained that the committee is currently subsidising this café due to low numbers (they currently have around 10 people per day, and need around 20). They hope this increases, and that they can get a few more activities running, once people are out and about more.

They are also continuing their kids' food cafes from during the summer holidays.

### **3.7 Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers Centre**

Centre activities are continuing, with Adult Carer Support Workers very busy with support plans and one to one support. They also have 2 new telephone workers, and held activities for young and young adult carers during the October holiday (including zoo and Wonderworld Falkirk visits). Care with Confidence sessions are still being held on various topics, both in-person and over Zoom.

Regarding the National Care Service (NCS) consultation. SD has held an informal, internal engagement with local carers, as well as the centre promoting national on social media. SD also attended the Coalition of Carers meeting on the NCS that morning, which mirrored the thoughts and views of carers she had spoken with. The centre is submitting an organisational response; SD will be finalising her report for submission, and sharing this with SM and LH for their information.

### **3.8 Strathcarron Hospice**

As the Community Link Worker (CLW) for Denny and Bonnybridge, DL's focus right now has been in keeping in touch with people and connecting them with local groups and services useful to them, especially ahead of winter.

### **3.9 Sustainable Thinking Scotland (STS) CIC**

STS has been operating as usual, providing fresh food to local food providers in and around Bo'ness. They also recently received the first investment from [Firstport's new Catalyst Fund](#), which enables them to bring their biochar technology to market.

### **3.10 NHS Forth Valley**

JM has been very busy with work on the [new masterplan for Falkirk Community Hospital](#); they are currently working on a proposal, but it is "very early days". JM will share with the forum when she has more information.

She has also been involved with the current review of occupational therapy in Forth Valley. The project team are looking to engage with users, and JM will share the questionnaire with CVS Falkirk and the forum for distribution.

MW is mainly involved in training and development, but has been working on Why Weight, a healthy weight programme for children and young people in Forth Valley, delivered in partnership with [Children's Health Scotland](#) (pages 6 – 7 at the link).

Families, young people and children up to 18 years old can self-refer, or be referred by an appropriate professional, by email: [fv.whyweight@nhs.scot](mailto:fv.whyweight@nhs.scot)

### **3.11 Falkirk Council ASP**

Falkirk Council is currently inspecting its Adult Support and Protection services; they have created a survey, and are keen for the third sector to complete and submit their views, especially on responses to COVID-19.

GRI also highlighted that [copies of the ReConnect DVD](#) are available for people living with dementia (including families and carers) at all libraries in Falkirk; if organisations would like to organise copies for people using their services, they can do so by contacting GRI by email: [Gemma.Ritchie@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:Gemma.Ritchie@falkirk.gov.uk)

### **3.12 SACRO Forth Valley**

GRe noted that most of SACRO's services have returned to in-person delivery, and that their referral numbers have continued to be steady.

### **3.13 Falkirk and Central Scotland Samaritans**

The Falkirk branch are currently busy with calls, especially due to COVID-19 and its impact, but MC highlighted that more and more people want to volunteer, and they have had to operate a waiting list, with ongoing training arranged months in advance (which contributes to volunteers' CPD).

Their newest volunteers have completed all initial training and inductions and are now "going solo" on calls; additionally, they have some outreach sessions starting up, including lots planned at local train stations.

### **3.14 Falkirk Foundation**

All groups at the Falkirk Foundation (either run by themselves or using their space at Falkirk Stadium) have restarted. Their current focus is on mental health and wellbeing, and as such have signed up to the SAMH Charter, in addition to their work locally.

### **3.15 Royal Voluntary Service Forth Valley**

RVS Forth Valley's services are all still very active; they are currently preparing for winter like many others, and have a new campaign launching next week; MnK will share details with the forum once the campaign is live.



### 3.16 NHS Forth Valley Health Promotion Service

MeK highlighted that the [COVID-19 Grants Scheme](#) is still open and ongoing, along with places remaining on the next [Ask, Tell mental health training sessions](#). She also spoke about the review of their Health Improvement Resource Service within Health Promotion.

### 3.17 Outside the Box

ASa confirmed that their final peer support group, the [Forget Me Not Café](#), is reopening after being closed due to COVID-19. The group meets weekly at Denny Library, and is open to everyone living with or affected by dementia.

ASa also provided an update on the new charity, Central Wellbeing, which she has spoken about at previous meetings: the charity is now [registered with OSCR](#), with the first board meeting due to take place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

### 3.18 Forth Valley Sensory Centre

The centre is currently busy with classes and activities – they have a new British Sign Language (BSL) class starting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October, which isn't an accredited course but offers people a chance to learn the basics of signing, and their [Halloween Quiz](#) on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October. They are also still running their employability and energy projects.

### 3.19 Cyrenians

Cyrenians are currently recruiting for a general manager at their social enterprise, Arnotdale Café, and recently took part in a community safety event with Our Place Camelon and Tamfourhill, which involved speaking with local people. MF reported that people's views are that there is still a lot of work to be done to "get back to normal", and there is a lot of frustration with Falkirk Council and anti-social behaviour, amongst other factors.

### 3.20 CVS Falkirk

LH spoke about the work being done by Falkirk Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to set up [Community Action Plans \(CAPs\)](#), which look at specific areas and challenges across Falkirk; LH sits on the Bainsford and Langlees CAP working group, and Falkirk CPP have recently put out a call for groups to get involved in the refresh of [Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead's](#).

LH also advised that the [COVID-19 Public Inquiry](#) response, which was collated at the last meeting, had been sent to the team at Scottish Government, as emailed to forum members.

- Recruitment: Freelance Community Development Officer – Limerigg and Slamannan

Funded through the [EDF Renewables Burnhead Moss Community Fund](#), CVS Falkirk is recruiting a **Freelance Community Development Officer within Limerigg and Slamannan**.

The position is 25 hours per week, with a salary of £30,940 (pro rata) and some evening and weekend work, with a fixed contract of one year (with potential for continuation).

The role is offered on a freelance (self-employed) basis and will ideally be fulfilled by someone familiar with or already living in or relatively near to Limerigg or Slamannan.

This role will support the delivery and further development of new and nascent projects and priorities in the area, building on the ideas and energy of local residents. The Community Development Officer will also be directly involved in supporting and encouraging community activity, community capacity building, and the formation of community groups.

The deadline for applications is 11:59pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

For further information, including how to apply and a full role description, please visit the [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

- CVS Falkirk 2021 AGM

LJ informed attendees of [CVS Falkirk's AGM](#), which will take place virtually on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 2pm via Zoom. Those interested in attending can confirm their intentions by email: [info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto:info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk)

#### 4. Funding Focus

##### 4.1 Community Opportunities Resource Pack

JF and LH spoke with members about the [new resource pack](#) and funding offer for community-led support services for vulnerable people, developed by Falkirk HSCP and CVS Falkirk.

The aim of the pack is to make it more straightforward for people to get involved in leading projects and activities in their local community. This pack is intended to give people the information, tools, and resources to get started, or restart their activities.

The resource pack is designed to help whether you are beginning your journey in setting up a local group or organisation, or restarting after COVID-19 and lockdown, and is full of sample policies, templates and risk assessments, which can be amended as needed.

Further information is available via the [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

JF confirmed that the funding offer included in the pack is currently being finalised; this will be promoted once available.

LH also highlighted that this pack will continue to develop and grow as the recovery from COVID-19 does, hopefully resulting in more and better-supported activities throughout Falkirk. GRi then offered her support around safeguarding information within the pack.

**Action:** GRi to contact LH by email: [lynsey.hansford@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto:lynsey.hansford@cvsfalkirk.org.uk)





#### 4.2 Victim Centred Approach Fund

Scottish Government has announced their new Victim Centred Approach Fund (VCAF), which will invest at least £30 million over the next 3 years to better help the victims of crime.

The fund will open for applications from third sector organisations, community interest companies (CICs) and public sector bodies, including local authorities, later in October 2021. Organisations considering applying to the fund are able to register their interest now.

To register your interest, or for further information, please visit the [Scottish Government](#) website.

Alternatively, for further information, contact the VCAF team by email: [VCAFund@gov.scot](mailto:VCAFund@gov.scot)

#### 4.3 Postcode Dream Fund

LH informed members of the Postcode Dream Fund, which is delivered by the People's Postcode Lottery, with a total award fund of £3,500,000 for charitable organisations to deliver projects within Great Britain from 2022-2025.

Charities will be able to apply for up to £1,250,000 for an innovative, impactful and collaborative project. The focus of this year's Dream Fund is projects looking to deliver systemic change in the following funding categories:

- Environment/conservation
- Social inequality
- Pandemic recovery

There is also an [Innovation Toolkit](#) to help develop original, impactful and innovative projects, which contains tools to help applicants:

- identify the problem they want to solve
- understand their audience and its needs
- develop and build ideas

For further information, including how to apply, and all eligibility criteria and guidance notes, please visit the dedicated [Dream Fund](#) page.

#### 4.4 Tiny Changes Fund

The Tiny Changes Fund is a new national small grants programme from [Tiny Changes](#), which supports innovative ideas, new and existing projects, with up to £10,000.

Funded projects will make tiny changes towards equality and mental health for young people in Scotland. Everyone is welcome to apply, including people of all ages.

The deadline for applications is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

For further information, including how to apply, please visit the [Tiny Changes](#) website.

#### 4.5 Ross Liddell Community Bursary

Ross Liddell's Community Bursary is now open for 2021 applications.

The programme was launched in 2011 as a means of offering support and funding to local groups and organisations, to have a positive impact on communities. More than £75,000 has now been awarded to over 150 applicants from across Scotland.

To apply, or for further information, please visit the [Community Bursary](#) page.

#### 4.6 Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

The [Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund](#) has been established with £15 million allocated to support mental health and well-being in communities across Scotland.

The fund aims to support adult community-based initiatives to help address the impact of distress and mental ill health caused by social isolation and loneliness, as well as addressing the mental health inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CVS Falkirk will administer funds for the Falkirk and District area. We are currently working on the application process and will shortly announce further details through [their e-bulletin](#).

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

#### 5. Cyber Resilience Training

The first of CVS Falkirk's cyber resilience training for the local third sector took place before the meeting, with future training scheduled for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

LH and LJ encouraged members to sign up for the training, which is delivered by LH, and confirmed that the training is not incredibly technical, but rather is based on human behaviour, and what people can do.

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

#### 6. COVID-19 Challenges: Sharing Space and Resource

LH informed members that CVS Falkirk had received a request for information on space available for third sector groups to hotdesk. Discussion then took place amongst members, and in the chat, where members spoke about their needs, along with what they could offer the rest of the sector, and various venues available locally. There was also hope expressed for more Falkirk Council services based locally and visibly.

LH and LJ will take forward CVS Falkirk's role in facilitating the sector's offer and needs, and find a way to present this coherently and usefully.

**Action:** LH and LJ to investigate ways to present this information in a way useful to the sector.





## 7. AOCB

A member requested that hyperlinks to other documents, or websites and email addresses in the minutes, be shown in bold for accessibility and visibility. LJ confirmed this would be done going forward.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 3pm – 5pm,  
via Zoom**

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