

Economic Resilience and Employment Forum
Wednesday 12th May 2021
10:30am – 12:30pm
Teams Meeting

Present: Sandra Lyon (The Conservation Volunteers)
Annette Tonner (Community Focus Scotland)
Mhairi McDonald (Community Focus Scotland)
Derek Allison (Falkirk Foundation)
Dianne Dixon (Falkirk Foundation)
Lynsey Hansford (CVS Falkirk)

Apologies: Lynda Ross-Hale (Cyrenians)
Scott Malcolm (CVS Falkirk)

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

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

2. General discussion around below noted points:

- Welcomed new members to the forum, Derek and Dianne from Falkirk Foundation. Derek has been in post as CEO of the Foundation for a month, and Dianne been in post as Operations and Business Manager since January 2021.
- Derek and Dianne gave an overview of the services they are running presently, or will be starting soon, these include: 'Time to Tackle' drop-in (mental wellbeing); Football Fans in Training (health, fitness, weight management); Off the Bench (employability focus for 18-24 year olds); Changing Room; also engage 1100 young people per week who participate in football. They have also been providing online training opportunities for ETU clients since January.
- Annette gave an overview of their local and national activities and services, these include: SQA and REHIS centre related activities; offering training as an ITA provider such as Mental Health First Aid and CSCS; providing catering and construction academies; fulfilling contracts to provide on-site catering for large building projects that also facilitate training, experience and employment experiences.
- Sandra gave an overview of their past and present projects and services, these include: Jupiter Wood Recycling Project, Camelon Engagement project, previous Hen's and Men's Sheds. Sandra noted that they do not take on any/many ETU contracts presently as this often didn't work well for TCV, but that they haven't ruled this out for future.
- Lynsey updated on CVSF's ongoing work around local volunteering and some of the challenges with same, these include: lack of capacity in local groups and organisations to adequately engage with and support volunteers who need help to get and stay

www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk | 01324 692 000 | info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk | @CVSFalkirk

CVS Falkirk and District is a Company Limited by Guarantee in Scotland No. SC085838 |
Scottish Charity No. SC000312 | Registered office: Unit 6, Callendar Business Park, Callendar
Road, Falkirk, FK1 1XR



involved with a meaningful volunteer opportunity, as they are still dealing with the impacts of COVID; many recently advertised opportunities are not 'entry-level' and therefore not suitable for many in the client groups within employability for whom volunteering can be a good first option. Example given of Lynsey's recent engagement with Falkirk High as they are running a Leaver's programme that would usually include some voluntary and/or work experience and they are struggling to secure any such activities with those who would usually provide this.

- Sandra noted that there was so much good work going on, as described in each organisation's overview/update, that it was hard to keep track of all of it. Requested action that Forum members submit a 'blurb' about their offer, ideally can be collated ahead of next Forum meeting to allow discussion about this. Some discussion about other uses for this information, such as making details available for self-referral, where appropriate. **ACTION 1**
- Short discussion about LEP papers, Sandra able to give some background and insight to the workings of the LEP for new Forum members. Sandra has struggled to attend recent LEPs due to not working a Thursday when LEPs take place and requested that some help to get back in to this area of work. **ACTION 2**
- Discussion around content/aim of next Forum meeting: discussion around purpose of the Forum; discussion about who the Forum needs to hear from/work with, being clear about WHO but also WHAT do we want from them (suggested that timely information and updates is one thing both wanted and needed – not being last to know about opportunities); identifying gaps in the LEP, and where the opportunities and resources for the Third Sector to fill these gaps are.

NB: All meeting participants agreed they are happy to have emails/contact details shared with other attendees. ACTION 3

3. AOCB

- None.

4. Actions

Action	To be completed by	By date
1. Request 'blurb' from Forum members about their services and activities	S Malcolm	tbc
2. Contact Sandra re help with getting back into LEP meetings/activities – cc Scott	L Hansford	12/05/21
3. Share email addresses of all present amongst attendees	S Malcolm	tbc



www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk | 01324 692 000 | info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk | @CVSFalkirk
CVS Falkirk and District is a Company Limited by Guarantee in Scotland No. SC085838 |
Scottish Charity No. SC000312 | Registered office: Unit 6, Callendar Business Park, Callendar
Road, Falkirk, FK1 1XR