



CVS Falkirk Strategy 2022 - 2024

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CVS Falkirk & 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

Introduction

CVS Falkirk & District is a Scottish company, limited by guarantee, incorporated on 6 December 1983 and is also a registered Scottish charity. The company operates under the names of CVS Falkirk and Volunteer Falkirk.

CVS Falkirk & District has supported Falkirk and District third sector for nearly 40 years with funding, governance, capacity building and volunteering through the provision of information, guidance, and training. We have helped the sector to develop and grow through increasing regulation and in its collaborations with others.

In 2022, more so than ever, we recognise we need to continue to support these needs but that the context has changed, and we are in uncharted waters.

These needs are now deepened by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, unprecedented inequality, austerity policies, and public service reform. It is times like these that require extraordinary vision, positive leadership, and a collective determination to navigate a way through. We know that everyone will be impacted by this journey, and we believe that everyone has a contribution to make to its success.

This strategy outlines how we intend to be part of that over the next two years, and it will guide our work, our collaborations, and our fundraising.

– Chairperson

CVS Falkirk & District

Our Strategic Commitment

We are committed to supporting the development of community empowerment, driven by local communities working alongside public services to improve the lives of people living in the Falkirk and District area.

We recognise that to achieve this requires a very different relationship between people, communities, local government, and local public services.

We think that everyone has a part to play in that change and for our part, **we will lead, broker, and enable that in our role as a Third Sector Interface (TSI).**

We have a strong and evolving vision of what an empowered community looks like, and despite the brutal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities have come together to work and collaborate with both third sector organisations and public sector to deliver services shoulder to shoulder with each other. We must embrace this way of working and strive to create environments and opportunities for community empowerment to continue to flourish.

We imagine strong and independent communities of geography and interest employing their own staff and volunteers in well managed third sector organisations to take forward local and inclusive participation and community development.

Our Vision

We want to see resilient and empowered communities creating a strong, fair, and more equitable Falkirk, with a thriving third sector at its heart.

We aim to achieve this by being:

- **brokers and balancers** of relationships between the third sector organisations and the communities they represent and public sector partners.
- **catalysts and enablers** of well managed community organisations and their activities.

We will do this by focusing our work on developing 6 Strategic Priorities:

1. Well-managed third sector organisations
2. A connected and engaged Falkirk and District region
3. Strong social and community leadership
4. A growing local social economy
5. Shared local decision making
6. CVS Falkirk & District is well governed and managed

In our role as a Third Sector Interface, we will:

1. Be a source of local intelligence
2. Enable community and third sector voices to be heard
3. Connect: leadership, vision, and coordination
4. Build capacity needs of the sector

As a member of the TSI Scotland Network **we will work towards becoming a fairer, more equal Scotland, driving forward positive change** through:

1. An enhanced role for the third sector
2. Implementation of place based approach
3. Volunteering and the empowerment of people
4. A fairer wellbeing society

1. Well-Managed Third Sector Organisations

We will work to enable resilient, well-managed and agile third sector organisations of all sizes and constitutions to take forward their plans from a safe and stable organisational foundation.

We will aim to simplify the bureaucracy of community activity as well as support organisational development and sector growth.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Invest in the continued development of our team's professionalism, technical skills and specialist knowledge and expertise in organisational support and management.
2. Offer guidance, learning and networking opportunities to our colleagues in the third sector.
3. Invest in our fundraising services and guidance.
4. Start a "Get on Board" recruitment and training programme.
5. Explore the need for local third sector payroll and people management services.

2. A Connected and Engaged Falkirk

We want everyone to have the opportunity and be encouraged to participate and volunteer in the Falkirk and District communities.

We will **broker** relationships between communities of geography and interest, third sector organisations and volunteers, local public sector services and Scottish Government.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Develop **Volunteer Falkirk** as a brand and a collaborative service.
2. Develop our third sector intelligence and impact information.
3. Review the impact, purpose, and format of Falkirk's third sector forums.
4. Develop a detailed communication strategy to inform and promote Falkirk's third sector.
5. Ensure our Board is diverse and includes our members, and local community members.

3. Strong, Social and Community Leadership

We support and advocate a community-led model of community development. We will be **catalysts** to help community and social leaders to develop their own networks, local communications, and get others involved in achieving their aims.

We will build the strategic capacity of these leaders to engage in joint working with public services that affect the communities they identify with in an **equal and balanced way**.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Create and develop a local Community Leaders Network
2. Work with this network and Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to develop locality planning and participatory budgeting in Falkirk
3. Support new and developing community-led networks across a range of communities of interest
4. Support third sector services to collaborate and lead in their areas of expertise and focus
5. Be a strong connection and communication vehicle between the public and third sectors

4. A Growing Local Social Economy

We believe that a successful economy is inclusive, shares wealth, has a positive impact on health, and is kind to the planet. We will enable social entrepreneurs to create community wealth and, wherever possible, a sustainable earned income. We will advocate for investment in Falkirk's social economy.

We will bring together and collaborate with third, public and private sectors to promote and achieve our Community Wealth and Health Building aspirations.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Continue to work in partnership with other Forth Valley TSIs (SVE and CTSI) to support and develop the Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network (FVSEN).
2. Work with partners to create a Social Enterprise Strategy/Community Wealth Building Strategy for Falkirk.
3. Devise monitoring framework for measuring Falkirk's social economic growth.
4. Develop the third sector's strategic commissioning and tendering skills.

5 Shared Local Decision-Making

We will broker and enable the development of mechanisms for community empowerment between public sector organisations and communities of geography and interest.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Develop and offer collaborative leadership skills training for third sector community leaders and strategic partners.
2. Work collaboratively with Community Planning Partners (CPP) to develop community led approaches to community development, community engagement and locality planning.
3. Support Falkirk Council in the planning and delivery of mainstreamed participatory budgeting.
4. Third sector organisations are better able to lead and develop shared agendas.

6 CVS Falkirk & District is Well Governed and Managed

To achieve this, we will:

1. Sustain a good working environment, with recognition for people's contributions.
2. Encourage diversity within the Board, which includes our members and local community members.
3. Develop and deliver services in response to community need.
4. Develop partnership approaches to achieve better outcomes.
5. Introduce initiatives to contribute to Scotland's target to be net zero by 2045.

Our Organisational Enablers to this Strategy

1. Improved third sector **information management** and **sharing**.
2. Increase our **digital skills** and **digital services**.
3. A new **Communications Strategy**.
4. **Learning Organisation** culture that works with an enabling management approach.
5. **Collaborative Leadership** and skills development.