



Connecting Volunteering Network
Wednesday 2nd November 2022
10am – 12pm
Zoom Meeting

Present:

Lynsey Hansford (LH) (Chairperson)
Laura Jamieson (LJ) (Minute Taker)
Erin Sweeney (ES)

CVS Falkirk and District
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Allan Robertson (AR)
Isobel Callaghan (IC)
Karen Taylor (KT)
Lindsay Daniels (LD)
Sandra Lyon (SL)

Social Security Scotland
Marie Curie
Forth Valley Advocacy
dates-n-mates Falkirk
The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) Scotland

Apologies:

None.

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. Introduction to New Third Sector Forums and Networks

LH spoke about the [new third sector forums and networks launched](#) by CVS Falkirk; this is the first meeting of the refreshed Connecting Volunteering Network.

The new forums have been designed to be dynamic, and take forward the learning from the COVID-19 pandemic and the [Third Sector Response Forums](#), along with the [Falkirk Plan](#). LH explained that while colleagues from other sectors may join the forums, as part of a more flexible and collaborative approach, they will still be third sector only when appropriate.

3. Members' Updates

LH invited members for updates on their own work, and any points they wanted to raise or issues they had encountered. This resulted in offers of support and collaboration amongst members; key points and actions are noted below.

- dates-n-mates Falkirk: the team are looking for more volunteers to support their monthly inclusive club nights.
 - LD highlighted their weekly members-only events, and their regular open events, which are open to non-members (including their upcoming [Christmas Party](#)).
- TCV Scotland: SL noted that while they had no shortage of volunteers willing to get involved with one-off events and on an ad hoc basis, they had experienced more difficulty in recruiting more regular volunteers who could take on more responsibilities.
- Social Security Scotland: there are a number of changes to benefits managed by Social Security Scotland: the [Winter Heating Payment](#) will be available later in November, and [the](#)



[Scottish Child Payment increases to £25 per child](#) next week. Locally, their team is able to visit people in their homes, and also at their outreaches throughout Falkirk, at the Grangemouth and Denny [Advice and Support Hubs](#), and at Forth Valley Sensory Centre in Camelon.

- AR is keen for the Falkirk team to make themselves known, as it is their job to help people access the support and benefits they are entitled to.
- AR also highlighted the [Stakeholder Resources](#), with information on all the benefits managed by Social Security Scotland, and those who are eligible for them (including a [specific guide](#)). He also advised other members to sign up to [their newsletter](#) (at the bottom of the page), which includes the most up to date information on benefits available.

Action: ES to follow up with LD and SL, and promote opportunities.

4. Updates from CVS Falkirk

4.1 Introducing Erin

LH introduced ES, who is the new Volunteering Administrator at CVS Falkirk. ES spoke about her role and the support she will be able to offer members, and the wider Falkirk third sector.

4.2 Upcoming Training and Events

- Talk Money Week: Cost of Living Workshops

CVS Falkirk is hosting a series of online workshops via Zoom during Talk Money Week (taking place Monday 7th November – Friday 11th November), with the aim of providing information to third sector staff and active volunteers relating to the Cost of Living Crisis.

Workshops include presentations from Utility Aid, Falkirk Council's Fairer Falkirk team, and the Scottish Gambling Education Hub.

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

- Getting on Board: Trustees Training

Later this month, CVS Falkirk will also launch their new programme: "Getting on Board: Trustees Training".

The programme consists of FREE one hour online training sessions, aimed at trustees, board members, and senior managers of Forth Valley third sector groups and organisations, from a range of sector experts:

- Monday 21st November at 11am: "**Recruitment and Selection of Senior Roles**" with Ann Young, Lead HR Consultant at Roots HR CIC
- Tuesday 22nd November at 2pm: "**Developing an Organisational Strategy**" with Philippa Bonella, an independent consultant with Consultants for Good CIC



- Wednesday 23rd November at 11am: **“Conflicts of Interest”** with Emma Moody, Head of Charities, Womble Bond Dickinson

These sessions are open to all third sector organisations across the Forth Valley area.

To book your place, or for further information, please visit the [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

4.3 CVS Falkirk 2022 AGM

The CVS Falkirk 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place in-person on **Thursday 24th November** 2022, at St Francis Xavier’s Church Hall (across from Morrison’s Petrol Station), 1 Hope Street, Falkirk, FK1 5AT.

The hall will be open for registration, food and refreshments from 1:15pm, with the AGM beginning at 2pm – an opportunity to celebrate last year’s work, and looking forward to plans for the future. This is why we’ve organised some incredibly interesting presentations, which we hope will be useful for you all.

Following the AGM business, our team will speak about our new initiative, **“Finding Funding for Falkirk”**: an overview of support, guidance and resources available from CVS Falkirk.

We are delighted to confirm our guest speaker, Jennifer Mitchell (Funding Manager at **The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland’s Central Team**), who will deliver a presentation on the various funding streams available through the National Lottery, and the strands they’re working on around cost-of-living response.

To register your attendance, or for further information, please visit the [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

5. Scotland’s Volunteering Action Plan: What Does this Mean for Falkirk?

[Scotland’s Volunteering Action Plan](#) is the new volunteering strategy from Scottish Government.

Launched in the summer, the plan *“aims to create a Scotland where everyone can volunteer, more often, and throughout their lives. Designed to provide actions over a 10 year period as a living plan. It seeks to raise the profile of volunteering and its impact on society.”* (Source: [Scottish Government](#).)

Members were due to discuss the plan and its impact on volunteering in the Falkirk District, both for individual volunteers, and groups and organisations who involve volunteers. However, due to technical issues, it was agreed that LH and LJ would send members the link to the plan, for discussion at the next meeting, along with the [Volunteering For All framework](#). Members are also welcome to contact LH with any thoughts or concerns they have before that point, by email:

lynsey.hansford@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

Action: LH and LJ to send link to members.

6. “Testing Our Resilience: The impact of the cost of living crisis on volunteering and volunteers”

Members were due to discuss the report from Volunteer Scotland, released in September: [“Testing Our Resilience: The impact of the cost of living crisis on volunteering and volunteers”](#).

However, due to the aforementioned technical issues, it was agreed that LH and LJ would send members the link to the report, for discussion at the next meeting; as before, members are also welcome to contact LH with any thoughts or concerns they have before that point.

LH noted that the “Top 10: Areas for Action” section would provide a good overview of the report, and encouraged members to read this section in particular, or if they were short for time.

7. AOCB

7.1 Update for VSDS Signatories (PVG)

In her following email, LH highlighted the update from Volunteer Scotland’s Disclosure Services (VSDS):

“As of Thursday 1st December 2022, VSDS will be issuing email certificates for most PVG disclosures. When email certificates are issued you will not be provided with a paper copy of the certificate. The exception to this is where Disclosure Scotland is unable to issue the certificate to VSDS by email. All certificates will be issued to the signatory who signed the request form. Email certificates will not include the organisation name or the position applied for. Certificates for standard and enhanced disclosures will continue to be issued by post.

If you would like to check your current signatory email address, or update your email address, please email us at certificates@volunteerscotland.org.uk by Wednesday 16th November 2022 to enable you to benefit from this new service.”

7.2 Volunteer and Volunteer Management Training

LH closed her email to members by asking them about the training they would like for volunteers, staff who engage with volunteers and around volunteering in general.

She noted that CVS Falkirk is considering running their volunteer management course again, but would like to make sure this would be useful for the sector, and find out more about preferred formats (such as in-person or online, short, bitesize courses or full days). Those with thoughts or requests should contact LH by email: lynsey.hansford@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 1st February 2023,
10am – 12pm, via Zoom**