



**Safer and Empowered Communities Forum**  
**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**  
**10am – 12pm**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Present:**

Lynsey Hansford (LH) (Chairperson)  
Laura Jamieson (LJ) (Minute Taker)

CVS Falkirk and District  
CVS Falkirk and District

Allan Robertson (AR)

Social Security Scotland

Barry Jordan (BJ)

LGBT Youth Scotland

Carolyn Dick (CD)

dates-n-mates Falkirk

Derek Allison (DA)

Falkirk Foundation

John Hosie (JH)

Our Place Camelon and Tamfourhill

Maria Ferrari (MF)

Cyrenians

Miranda Wilson (MW)

Falkirk Council

Nicola Bruce (NB)

Community Justice Co-ordinator

Rayana Mohammed (RM)

Corra Foundation

**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 Safer and Empowered Communities Forum (previously the Safer Communities Forum).

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. Funding Opportunities**

**3.1 Corra Foundation: Household Hardship Fund**

RM spoke about Corra's efforts to tackle the current cost of living crisis, and delivered a short presentation on the Household Hardship Fund. Key points are noted below:

- The Household Hardship Fund is administered by Corra Foundation on behalf of the National Lottery Community Fund. Its purpose is to provide small grants to charities, organisations and community groups across Scotland, who can pass the funding on directly to families and individuals on low incomes. This is the fund's second round.



- Groups can apply for up to £500 – £5,000 to provide families and individuals with cash or vouchers to meet pressing needs such as food, fuel, household items or clothing.
- All funds must be passed on to families and individuals by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- Groups should only apply for the amount of money they are confident they can distribute by that point.
- All successful applicants in this round will receive a further 5% “on top” of the amount they are awarded. While the main grant is for distributing to families and individuals, the extra 5% can be put toward the costs of the applying group, or they can distribute it to the people they support; it is entirely the group’s decision.
- RM noted that foodbanks can apply to the fund, but not to distribute food – only cash or vouchers through the fund’s “cash first” approach, in line with Scottish Government’s policies around dignity.
- Eligibility:
  - Individuals cannot apply for support through the fund.
  - Groups applying should have an annual income below £100,000 (not including any COVID-19 emergency grants they received) – however, if an applicant’s income is slightly over this, they should be explicit about why this is, and it will be taken into consideration.
  - Successful applicants from the previous round are not eligible to apply again. This is to ensure that the money supports as many different communities as possible.
  - Corra has created videos covering [who can apply](#), and [who cannot](#) (linked for your convenience).

As in the previous round, it is expected that applications will be received very quickly; RM advised those interested to apply as soon as possible (ideally the same day as the meeting) – the fund had only opened the day before, and already had 180 applications before the meeting. She explained the application form is brief, but requires very clear answers.

Once applications worth the total amount available have been received, the Fund will close to new applications.

Members also had the opportunity to ask questions, including:

- Would it be possible to apply as a smaller branch (with less than £100,000 annual income) of a larger organisation (with over £100,000), with separate bank accounts?
  - RM: Yes, as long as this is noted on the governing documents; if these groups are interested in applying, they should be very clear about this in their application, explaining how they set up their bank account and how they work with communities.
- Some of the eligibility criteria sounds somewhat restrictive.
  - RM: It does, but while Corra does support individuals in other ways, they have found that people are more likely to go to smaller groups when they are struggling, and so Corra are trying to support those groups.

For further information on the Household Hardship Fund, please visit the [dedicated page](#), or [RM’s video introduction to the fund](#).



### 3.2 National Drugs Mission Funds

Corra Foundation is also administering Scottish Government's National Drugs Mission Funds, which aim to improve lives, backed by [significant additional resources](#). The funding streams include:

- Local Support Fund (a rolling fund, with grants of up to £50,000 per year for up to 3 years, focused on community-based organisations which deliver frontline services to support people who use drugs, people who are in recovery and their families)
- Local Support Fund Micro Grants (as above, with micro grants of £1,000 – £10,000 per year for up to 3 years)
- Improvement Fund (closing Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December)
- Children and Families Fund (closing Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December)

Corra has created a [flowchart around eligibility](#) (linked for your convenience).

For further information, including how to apply to any of the funds, please visit the [Corra Foundation](#) website, or contact Corra's Grant Advisors by email: [wellbeingteam@corra.scot](mailto:wellbeingteam@corra.scot)

### 3.3 Poverty Alliance "Get Heard" Lived Experience Group Discussions

The Poverty Alliance is looking to recruit people with lived experience of poverty, or living on a low income, to take part in group discussions focusing on health, transport and how the economy works, as part of their "Get Heard" programme.

"Get Heard" aims to help people affected by poverty to have their voices heard in the decision-making process around policies and responses to poverty at all levels. Participants would attend online discussions, taking place November 2022 – March 2023, and will receive £30 (for every 2 hours) in supermarket vouchers for taking part.

Members were advised to contact LH or LJ by email if they wished to explore this with any of the people they support:

- [lynsey.hansford@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto:lynsey.hansford@cvsfalkirk.org.uk)
- [laura@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto:laura@cvsfalkirk.org.uk)

### 3.4 Nourish Scotland's Dignity Peer Network

MF highlighted the Dignity Peer Network, after the discussion turned towards food and food provision. Their next meeting takes place [via Zoom](#) on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 3pm – 4pm: "Levers on food insecurity of asylum seekers – how can community organisations truly work towards social justice?"

The meeting will be led by one of the team from Central and West Integration Network, who will cover the different ways they work to help their community members (predominantly asylum seekers) spend what money they have on the food they want. They will also discuss the question, "does this approach create more justice or more injustice?" Attendees will reflect on their practice, thinking about how they can best align their work with the dignity principles, and how to motivate their organisations to keep working towards best practice.



MF noted that, as this is a national network, it would be interesting to hear from different areas about their solutions and the challenges they encountered.

#### 4. Topical Discussions

##### 4.1 How might the third sector engage with individuals in the justice system who would like to volunteer?

Members discussed various opportunities, including experiences of working with those on Community Payback Orders, and their path to volunteering, and the forum's role in this area, and its link to strategic decision-making, especially the Community Safety Partnership (which NB acts as a link to for the forum).

##### 4.2 16 Days of Action

[16 Days of Action](#) is a global campaign calling for the elimination of gender-based violence (GBV), which runs every year, 25<sup>th</sup> November (International Day Against Violence Against Women) – 10<sup>th</sup> December (International Human Rights Day).

LH highlighted the upcoming online workshop (via Teams) from the Improvement Service, taking place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 10am – 12:30pm ([booking form](#) linked for your convenience), along with the National Violence Against Women Network (NVAWN) [online toolkit and resources](#). LH then asked if any members were doing anything locally, or anything they would like CVS Falkirk's support with in promoting; members discussed an event taking place at the Kelpies.

**Action:** NB to enquire about the Kelpies 16 Days of Action event and pass information on to the forum.

#### 5. Forum Member 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, as well as introductions and explanations of their roles; key points and actions are noted below.

**Action:** LJ to speak to BJ about LGBTYS' experiences of hosting an exhibition locally.

**Action:** MW to send LH and LJ the community resilience survey to pass on to the forum, and promote through CVS Falkirk's communication channels.

#### 6. AOCB

##### 6.1 CVS Falkirk AGM

The CVS Falkirk 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place in-person on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November**, 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.

During the AGM, the team will look back at their work during 2021/22. Following the AGM business, they will speak about a new initiative, "**Finding Funding for Falkirk**" (an overview of support, guidance and resources available from CVS Falkirk). Attendees will then hear from 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.

For further information, including how to book your place, please visit the [CVS Falkirk](https://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk) website.

## **6.2 Recruitment: CVS Falkirk Deputy CEO**

CVS Falkirk is looking to recruit a Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

The position is 35 hours per week, with a salary of £35,000 per annum and a permanent contract.

The successful candidate will be a consummate networker, politically astute, with experience of business development, being able to quickly operationalise ideas, problem solve and get things done in collaboration with others. Applications are welcomed from individuals currently working in the public, private and third sectors, from people in underrepresented groups, and from those looking to work flexibly.

The deadline for applications is 11:59pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

For further information, including how to apply, please visit the [CVS Falkirk](https://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk) website.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February,  
10am – 12pm, via Zoom**