



Community Leaders Network
Wednesday 12th October 2022
10am – 12pm
Zoom Meeting

Present:

Tariq Mahmood (TM) (Chairperson)
Gail McLinton (GM)

CVS Falkirk and District
CVS Falkirk and District

Alan Gray (AG)
Ann Taylor (AT)
Carolyn Dick (CD)
Dave Cameron (DC)
Elisabeth Campbell (EC)
Jen Curran (JC)

Forth Valley Migrant Support Network
Falkirk Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)
dates-n-mates Falkirk
Avonbridge Community Hall
Paragon Housing Association
Wren and Greyhound

Apologies:

Sylvia Kay Scott (SKS)
Elaine Grant (EG)

Etrick Dochart Community Centre
Falkirk Delivers

1. Welcome and Introductions

TM introduced himself, welcomed forum members present and advised the meeting was recorded via Zoom. Members introduced themselves to each other and gave a summary of their work.

2. Review of Previous Minutes

As this is the first meeting of the new network, there are no previous minutes to approve.

3. Introduction to the Network

TM gave a quick overview and introduction to the Network, which was set up to bring together the individuals and groups driving their communities forward. Facilitated by CVS Falkirk (along with [8 other forums and networks](#)), the Community Leaders Network (CLN) is a space for community leaders to share their learning and experiences from difficulties face by communities in recent years, but also an opportunity for:

- peer support
- mentorship
- training and development
- skills and knowledge sharing
- supporting each other and championing the local third sector in Falkirk District

A number of members present completed the Lasting Leadership Training (LLT) in May, which is one of the launching blocks for the CLN. While the network is linked to the LLT, people do not need to have completed the LLT in order to become members of the network.



TM noted that this meeting would act as an informal get together of network members, to scope out the network's development, including the structure and format of meetings, and its aims and objectives.

3.1 Older People's Network

TM spoke about another network CVS Falkirk helped set up, the Falkirk Older People's Network (OPN), which started in a similar way to the CLN. The OPN is now an independent, autonomous network and constituted group, with its own presence and membership, governing documents, connections, and voice at decision-making levels.

This year, they are taking the lead on an event previously facilitated by CVS Falkirk, Older People's Day, which will be held on Tuesday 25th October in the Howgate Shopping Centre. EC expressed an interest in further details of the event, to disseminate amongst her contacts.

Action: TM to send Older People's Day flyer to all network members.

4. Background and Terms of Reference

TM recapped some of the work done by the third sector and CVS Falkirk during the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the creation of the CLN.

CVS Falkirk is keen to develop a written, formal Terms of Reference (ToR) defining the network, its membership and those it is open to, along with its remit. TM will circulate the template ToR the Falkirk OPN used to members, which the CLN can then fit to their own needs.

The possibility of appointing a Chair was also raised; TM will highlight what this role would involve when circulating the template ToR.

Members then spoke about what they would like to see included in the ToR, and what they would like to see from the network:

- EC: "This is an amazing gathering of different groups, with different ways of bringing things to the table."
 - "We're till gathering information and learning about how things look post-COVID, and if there was something tangible like a charter, setting out where we are, who we are, and what we're doing, that would be useful. As would more publicity – because we might not be unique, but we're pretty special, as not many other areas have this kind of network. Because while we all have the needs of the people we support, those are our individual concerns, but bringing them together is what this group is all about."
- AT: "It's a really good opportunity for all of us – it helps keep us from working in a vacuum and getting stuck in our ways, we get new ideas and learn from others. I think it's a great opportunity to learn from each other and access support at the same time."
- AG: "For me, it's about uniting the community; we saw unified communities at start of COVID, and we had to figure out how to keep that going. So for me, it's wanting to know what others are doing and unify, and representing the people we support, but also helping each other out to have a bigger voice, and backing each other up."
- CD: "A ToR would be useful, as it keeps us on track and we know how to stick to that."



- “I’m part of the Connecting Together network in Falkirk, which is full of leaders from many organisations – while it’s focused more on childhood transition for those with learning disabilities, I think this network would be really useful for some of its other members, and I’m happy to share it with them.”

Action: TM to send members the template ToR originally used by Falkirk OPN.

Action: Members to review and contact TM with any comments or things they would like to see included.

Action: TM to highlight what the role of CLN Chair would involve.

Action: TM to create and add members to an email group, with their permission.

5. LLT Recap with Jen Curran

Members welcome JC, and TM passed on the members’ thanks for the LLT sessions she conducted, how much they enjoyed it and that they felt it had been “incredibly important”.

Members then had the opportunity to speak with JC about the LLT sessions, how it’s benefitted them in their role, and anything they have taken away from the training, along with any further or complimentary training available.

The delegate slides from the LLT are available to view or download from the [CVS Falkirk](#) website (linked for your convenience).

6. Funding Opportunities

6.1 Falkirk Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

CVS Falkirk is delighted to again be managing the distribution of the Falkirk Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. Charities, social enterprises, community and voluntary groups, parent councils, and other third sector organisations operating in the Falkirk Council area can apply for 3 grant types:

- Small Grants: up to £2,000 for unconstituted groups; up to £5,000 for constituted groups
- Medium Grants: up to £10,000
- Large Grants: up to £25,000

Previous applicants (both successful and unsuccessful) are welcome to apply again, however please note that this second investment will not provide a continuation of any awards made from the previous round of the Fund. The Fund can only provide additional funding, not replacement funding, and any application made to support additionality for existing projects and services must demonstrate this clearly.

The Fund will close, and all applications must be submitted by, 12pm on Tuesday 15th November 2022.

To build on their offer of funding support for the third sector, and to make applying to their funds quicker and easier, CVS Falkirk has developed an online Grant Funding Portal (GFP) for groups and organisations to use. Applications to the CMHW Fund should now be made [through the GFP](#).

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

7. Trustees' Week 2022 and Get on Board

TM spoke about the annual [Trustees' Week](#) and its background, and CVS Falkirk's plans.

To celebrate Trustees' Week, and their first in-person AGM since 2019, CVS Falkirk is launching [Get on Board](#), their new programme of unique training for trustees, board directors and management committees, with online Zoom sessions this year from expert SENIOR consultants in their field, including:

- Ann Young, Lead HR Consultant at Roots HR CIC
 - Monday 21st November at 11am
 - Ann will be speaking about **Board Recruitment and Selection of Senior Roles**, an increasingly important topic as we all work to make our third sector more sustainable, and make sure groups can continue after the time comes for us to leave the role.
- Philippa Bonella with Consultants for Good CIC
 - Tuesday 22nd November at 2pm
 - Philippa's workshop will look at the importance of **Developing an Organisational Strategy**, and how to create them – especially as they're now often a requirement of funding!
- Emma Moody, Head of Charities at Womble Bond and Dickinson
 - Wednesday 23rd November at 11am
 - Emma will cover how charities can ensure they are prudently managing **Conflicts of Interest** and loyalty, protecting the integrity of their decision making in the process – another area being looked at closely by regulators more and more.

Members interested in attending any of these sessions should contact TM by email: tariq@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

8. Future Meetings

TM will circulate the next meeting dates of the CLN, which will take place quarterly on:

- Wednesday 19th April 2023
- Wednesday 12th July 2023
- Wednesday 11th October 2023
- Wednesday 17th January 2024
- Wednesday 10th April 2024

9. AOCB

9.1 Pride in Falkirk

CD is looking to set up a new project for LGBT people in Falkirk District, with dates-n-mates Falkirk currently taking the lead. They are looking for other organisations to partner up with and develop a Pride Falkirk parade.



The project would run over 2 years, with year one setting up LGBT Community Chats, bringing the community together in a safe space, and how they would want Pride to look. Members interested in working with dates-n-mates Falkirk should contact CD via the email group TM will create.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 19th April 2023,
10am – 12pm, via Zoom**

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