

Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum (VSCSF)

"Working together, sharing our knowledge skills and resources to support children, families and communities to reach their full potential."

Wednesday 17th May 2023

10am – 12pm

Zoom Meeting

Present:

Norman Philip (NP) (Chairperson)	Barnardos
Laura Jamieson (LJ) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk & District
Jade Harley (JH)	CVS Falkirk & District
Lynsey Hansford (LH)	CVS Falkirk & District
Alice Wadkin (AW)	Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers Centre
Beverley Isdale (BI)	First4Kids
Karen Bradley (KB)	BBC Children in Need (CiN)
Sandra Rankin (SR)	Home-Start Falkirk
Sarah [last name needed]	Al Masaar
Saadia Ahad (SA)	Al Masaar

Apologies:

Angela Hendry (AH)	One Parent Families Scotland (OPFS)
Diane Cairns (DC)	Transform Forth Valley

1. Welcome and Introductions

NP and LH introduced themselves, welcomed forum members present and advised the meeting was recorded via Zoom. Introductions were made via the Zoom chat function.

2. Minutes of Previous Minutes and Action Tracker

The previous minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting. Updates were given as available on the actions assigned at the previous meeting.

3. Karen Bradley, BBC Children in Need (CiN)

KB delivered a presentation on [the newly revised CiN funding](#), which is available to view or download via the [CVS Falkirk](#) website (linked for your convenience). The key points have been noted below:

- KB manages the fund in the Falkirk District area, where there are currently 2 awardees.
- While the fund's processes have changed, the fund itself is still similar to before in that it still works with not for profit organisations and charities supporting children and young people.
- The fund continues to have a strict remit, due to being sourced from donations.
- CiN funding aims to prioritise smaller, local organisations, but recognises that sometimes, larger organisations are better placed to carry out the work, which is reflected in their new commitment to those organisations with under £100,000 per year.
- They will now fund core costs and projects (including youth club activities, counselling support, mentoring support, and Stay & Play sessions, amongst others), along with their new areas: **geographical** areas of interest, and **thematic** areas of interest.

- CiN funding is a rolling programme, with no deadline, but organisations can only receive one grant from the fund at any time.

One member asked if they would be able to apply for funding again as a previous awardee of the CiN funding, referring to the phrase “[we will not fund] work that has already taken place” (slide 3); KB clarified that this was in relation to retrospective funding, and that previous awardees could indeed apply again as long as their previous grant had ended.

KB also encouraged members to contact her team with any questions, or queries about applying:

- by phone:
 - 0141 422 611
 - 0345 609 0015 (option 2)
- by email:
 - cin.scotland@bbc.co.uk
 - pudseygrants@bbc.co.uk

4. Updates from Local Meetings

4.1 Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

NP informed members that the application form for the fund is now ready (which will be circulated to members), and gave a quick run-through. He noted that members had expressed concerns at the last meeting, and that the Promise Implementation team at Falkirk Council had taken these on board and adapted the form and process accordingly.

Funding is to be allocated as soon as possible, and members will be able to start their applications once they receive the application form. Members discussed the best ways to approach the an application, with queries raised about the possibility of ongoing evaluation – NP clarified that nothing specific had been mentioned at this point.

4.2 Test of Change

NP spoke about the Test of Change process about to begin in Grangemouth around poverty, which aims to break down silos (focusing on collaboration and early intervention), and how to develop accessible services in the third sector. Key will be doing things in unison, targeting people who need support.

Members discussed work done previously, and how this would differ, while recognising the 4 main areas of deprivation. NP will update the forum after the next meeting.

4.3 Employability

- **Parental Employment Support Fund**: Falkirk Council’s Employment and Training Unit (ETU) has provided funding for pre-employment projects, with 4 taking place in targeted areas, led by Home-Start Falkirk, OPFS, Aberlour and Barnardos’ Central team. These will likely take place in the winter, and will engage with parents around wellbeing and training, with the possibility of assigned key workers. The projects are aimed at unemployed and

underemployed parents, with space for 12 – 15 people each course. Courses will include first aid and REISS, and last for 8 weeks; ETU will provide childcare costs during the courses.

- **Falkirk's Third Sector Employability Forum May Meeting:** The next meeting of the Employability Forum, taking place Wednesday 31st May, will feature information on the new **Working Families 2023 Index Report.**
 - The report spotlights lower income families (defined by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) as a total household income of under £50,000). The meeting will look at the report's main points, and its recommendations in these areas.
 - LH extended an invitation to all VSCSF members to attend the meeting, and will include meeting details (including Zoom link) in her follow-up email.

5. VSCSF Strategy Groups

NP and LH will arrange for the strategy group updates to be written up and shared with members in advance, along with being included in the minutes.

6. Social Outcomes Contracting

LH gave a brief explanation of **Social Outcomes Contracting**, an idea which Scottish Government has made a commitment to explore and develop, though nothing is set in stone at the moment.

Social Outcomes Contracting is a form of investment, where payments are only made by investors once outcomes have been achieved. One of the main organisations in this area, the Growth Partnership, has reached out to CVS Falkirk as they are keen to meet the local third sector to help them learn more.

LH asked members if they would be interested in a one hour information session with the Growth Partnership, which will likely be open to the wider Forth Valley sector. Members agreed, and LH will set up the session and invite members.

7. Terms of Reference (ToR)

Discussion on the ToR was postponed until the next meeting.

8. AOCB

Members discussed funding queries, including funding for accessible toilets in community buildings and support with childcare for children with disabilities, and respite for their parents, families and carers.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th August 2023,
10am – 12pm, via Zoom**