

**Funding Officers Network
Wednesday 15 November 2023
Zoom Meeting**

Present:

Tariq Mahmood (TM) (Chairperson)	CVS Falkirk & District
Kerrie Hoggan (KHo) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk & District
Dave Cameron (DC)	Avonbridge Community Hall
Harrison Crawford (HC)	My Global Family
Blair Cremin (BC)	Warriors in the Community
Kim Edgar (KE)	Freedom of Mind Community Choir
Elaine Grant (EG)	Falkirk Delivers
Chris Gunn (CG)	Falkirk Community Football Foundation
Rebecca Heggie (RH)	Cyrenians
Laura Kearney (LK)	PLUS Forth Valley
Sandra Lyon (SL)	TCV Scotland
Stephen Sutton (SS)	Bailliefields Community Hub SCIO

Guest:

Kirsty Hood (KH)	The National Lottery Community Fund
------------------	-------------------------------------

Apologies:

Louise Hendrie	Cross Reach
Kirstin Worsley	Breastfeeding Network Forth Valley

1. Welcome and Introductions

TM introduced himself, welcomed forum members present and advised the meeting was recorded via Zoom. Apologies were noted as listed above.

2. Review of Previous Minutes

After due consideration, the minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Guest Speaker – The National Lottery Community Fund

TM introduced Kirsty Hood (KH) the Falkirk Funding Officer for The National Lottery Community Fund. KH drew attention to her presentation, available on the [CVS Falkirk webpage](#) and the following additional points were noted:

The following additional points were noted:

- I. A new funding strategy had been launched, which would be in place until 2030 and included an increase on the maximum funding amount under 'Awards for All' to £20,000 from £10,000 and grants available for up to 24 months (previously 12 months), although 12-month funding was still available. The exception was funding via Sportscotland and Creative Scotland, which remain capped at £10,000.
- II. It had been developed through c. 18,000 conversations and interactions with a number of bodies.
- III. The focus of the new strategy was on people, places and community that experience poverty, disadvantage, and discrimination. With an emphasis on connection and utilising people's strengths to enable those who would benefit from the project to be meaningfully involved in its development, design, and delivery.
- IV. As a result, questions would be asked about how referrals work, collaboration and project working.
- V. Cost-of-living support fund applications had reduced but were still live for revenue costs.
- VI. Young Start was funded from dormant bank accounts and people led, not top down.
- VII. Community Led and Improving Lives would be reviewed, but at least six months' notice would be given to the team before any changes were put in place.
- VIII. Scottish Land Fund was in partnership with the Highlands and Island Enterprise and funded by the Scottish Government.
- IX. It is possible to hold multiple awards with the National Lottery for different initiatives, this would be considered along with the volume and type of other applications in this area. KH encouraged members to connect her in connection with this.
- X. Any updates would be available on the [newsletter](#), which members were encouraged to sign up for.

Network members including SS, DC, CG and BC commented on the value and helpful support each had received from KH and encouraged others to contact her.

KH was thanked and left the meeting. A discussion took place on the current challenges network members had experienced within the funding landscape, including the complexity within the process.

4. CVS Falkirk & District Activity

TM provided an update on activity within CVS Falkirk & District (CVS), the following points were noted:

- i. Iain McIntyre was now in post with CVS as Development Officer Community Ownership with a role to support the third sector on Community Ownership, providing capacity building support and helping organisations navigate the process with Falkirk Council. This work was funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- ii. To support organisations considering community ownership, a Community Empowerment Grant of £300,000 was in place, managed by Falkirk Council. More details, including how to apply, could be found [here](#).

- iii. The CVS AGM would take place on Tuesday 28th November at Bonnybridge Community Centre. Steve Kent, Policy Manager with OSCAR, would be the guest speaker covering the system and process impact on charities of the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023.
- iv. CVSF was in the process of recruiting more staff, including a Capacity Building Development Officer [**Post meeting note:** Euan Robertson was recruited into this role in January 2024].
- v. The Clothworkers' Foundation. had recently expanded the eligibility criteria for their Open Grants Programmes, and now offer capital grants for digital infrastructure projects. They will also consider applications for products and software (such as websites, databases, and apps).

5. AOCB

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

Dates of Next Meetings:
Wednesday 14 February 2024, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom