



Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum (VSCSF) 01 November 2023

Key updates for the Forum and wider network



Content

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Information session on new Falkirk Anti-Poverty Strategy Consultation

- The Fairer Falkirk team are beginning the process of creating a new anti-poverty strategy to replace the current 'Towards a Fairer Falkirk' strategy and Falkirk's Child Poverty Action Plan.
- The new strategy, which will launch in Spring 2024, will have a broader scope, aiming to tackle the impact of poverty in all its forms whilst still retaining a focus on child poverty.
- Hosted by CVS Falkirk & District, the Fairer Falkirk team invites staff and volunteers from across Falkirk's third sector to an **online information session** where you can find out more about the new anti-poverty strategy and consultation process.
- Takes place online via **MS Teams** from **10:30am – 11:30 am** on **Monday 6th November 2023**.
- RSVP by emailing: Eloise.wilson@cvsfalkirk.org.uk



Joint Adult/Child Protection Practitioner Forum – October 23

- **Public Protection Approach:** Joining up Adult Support and Protection and Children Services to streamline support and make referral processes easier.
- **Forth Valley Vulnerable Young Person's Protocol:** Increased recognition about the number of 16 – 17-year-olds who are at possible risk of harm, are not receiving the right support that they need, and end up falling through the cracks.
- The Protocol is intended to give guidance for the assessment, decision making and co-ordination of a multi-agency response to the needs of this group of young people. It is planned to assist agencies and professionals to plan and work together to help reduce risk to the young person or others affected by their behaviour.
- Possible topic for next VSCSF?



I Was Gonnae – Musical Experience Offer

- Scottish charity, I Was Gonnae, is looking to hear from interested third sector groups in Falkirk District to support their clients in a 4 week course which introduces participants to the basics of music, such as chords, melodies, and lyrics, with the guidance of a professional musician. There is an offer to hold up to 7 workshops locally.
- I Was Gonnae is a provider of musical workshops for various groups of clients including adult learners, young adults with learning difficulties, adult drop-in centres, judicial groups, carers, visually impaired, veterans, and youth groups. Their aim is to foster engagement, contribution, and participation among the participants, as well as to improve their confidence, teamwork, and wellbeing.
- The programme is designed to be beneficial for those who have underlying needs or face barriers and aims to enable other support agencies to collaborate with participants who are already engaged. At the end of the course, each participant receives a copy of the song they have created, which should develop a great sense of achievement.
- If you are interested, or know of a group that may be interested in taking part, please contact Stuart McDonald by phone: 07921 387 242, or email: stuart.mcdonald@iwasgonnae.org.uk



Funding Opportunities

- [Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund](#): Last days to apply!
Deadline: **12pm** on **3rd November 2023**.
- [Community Empowerment Grant](#): Provides a range of capacity building support to third sector groups and organisations and has a particular focus on helping groups who have Community Asset Transfer or other community ownership aspirations. The fund is open until **March 2025**.
- [Community Choices programme](#) is Falkirk Council and Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership's participatory budgeting programme. Projects must aim to make communities in Falkirk District fairer, healthier, more connected, or more inclusive. Two type of grants are available and information sessions are taking place across November. Deadline is **11:59pm** on **Friday 1st December**.



Funding Opportunities

- The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation's [Major Grants Fund](#) provides grants of up to £100,000 are available for community groups, social enterprises and smaller third sector organisations with a focus on family support. Services can include family support such as early intervention, families coping with addiction, and prisoners' families. This is a rolling programme with no submission deadline.
- The [Essentia Foundation](#) is looking to provide financial support to charities and community groups that will help achieve the following objectives:
 - Improved health and social welfare of children and young people up to the age of 25 years old
 - Increased opportunities for training, enhancing learning, upskilling, and developing career opportunities, and supporting young people up to the age of 25 years old to move towards employment
- This round of funding is aimed at supporting grassroots community organisations across Scotland. Apply by **Thursday 30th November 2023**.



Funding Opportunities

- The [Weavers' Benevolent Fund](#) aims to help disadvantaged young people, especially those at risk of offending, and to address problems faced by offenders, ex-offenders, and their families. There is a preference for supporting smaller charities which provide direct services. Various application deadlines across 23/24.
- [The Youth Scotland Rural Action Fund](#) is a micro-grant fund supported by The Gannochy Trust and will make small awards to enable youth groups operating in rural communities to provide more and/or better youth work opportunities for young people. Deadline: **12pm on Friday 24 November 2023.**
- [The Steel Charitable Trust's](#) current round of funding asks for applications to fall into one of these five categories: Arts and Heritage, Economic or social disadvantage, Education, Environment, and Health. Deadline for applications is **12pm on Thursday 11th January 2024.**
- Foundation Scotland's [Mary Janet King Fund](#) supports piano scholarships at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow but also welcomes applications from community groups working with young people in arts and music. They are particularly interested in projects which are helping young people to take up music. Priority will be given to grassroots organisations. Up to £5,000 available and there is no set deadline.



Other national updates

- **BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme supports** children and young people who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances and is delivered by Family Fund Business Services. The programme provides items that meet a child's most basic needs such as a bed to sleep in, a cooker to provide a hot meal, and other items or services critical to a child's wellbeing.
- It is a referrer only programme and applications can only be made by registered referrers (who is part of an organisation that is supporting the family or young person and capable of assessing their needs. The referrer's organisation should also be able to administer and supervise the grant on our behalf). You can register as a referrer [here](#).
- Families Outside is offering three **CPD-accredited online training modules for professionals**, running in November and December 2023. Costs are £55 per person per module:
 - Module 1: Understanding the issues for families affected by imprisonment - Tue 21 Nov, 9.30am - 12.30pm (online)
 - Module 2: Supporting children and young people who have a family member in prison - Wed 29 Nov, 9.30am - 12.30pm (online)
 - Module 3: Prison and prison visiting - Thu 7 Dec, 9.30am - 12.30pm



Other national updates

- The Scottish Government published its [Statement of Intent for the National Transitions Strategy for Disabled Young People](#) on 28 September, alongside an [online survey](#) which is open until 30 November. ARC Scotland and the Divergent Influencers will be leading a session for young people to seek their feedback on the Statement of Intent on Saturday 18 November in Edinburgh, from 12:30-16:30. Details for signing up can be found in the Eventbrite link [here](#).
- Children in Scotland now offer [free membership to organisations](#) with an annual income below £50,000. This provides interesting learning, knowledge sharing, and collaboration opportunities for smaller groups.
- NSPCC Learning have published a report about [Together for Childhood](#), a long-term approach bringing together families and local partners to make communities safer for children. The project is being developed and tested in Glasgow, Grimsby, Plymouth, and Stoke-on-Trent using place-based approaches to prevent child abuse.
- [New research](#), published in October 23 by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, shows that the number of people experiencing destitution increased by **61%** from 2019 to 2022, with an even larger increase in the number of children experiencing destitution. This follows another rapid acceleration in the level of destitution from 2017 to 2019.