

CVS Falkirk & District Community Leadership Network
Wednesday 17 January 2024
10am – 12pm
Held via Zoom

Attendees

Tariq Mahmood (TM) (Chairperson)	CVS Falkirk & District
Kerrie Hoggan (KH) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk & District
Euan Robertson (ER)	CVS Falkirk & District
Colin Crabbe (CC)	Dunmore Village Association
Janice Donoghue (JD)	Falkirk CAB
Chris Gunn (CG)	Falkirk Foundation
Alan Reed (AR)	Bailliefields Community Hub SCIO
Stephen Sutton (SS)	Bailliefields Community Hub SCIO

Apologies

Karen Murdoch	Includem
Hazel Taylor	Cyrenians

Guest

Steve Kent	OSCR
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1. Welcome and Introductions

TM introduced himself and welcomed Network members to do the same. He outlined that the meeting was recorded via Zoom.

2. Review of Previous Minutes and Introduction of Action Tracker

2.1 The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on 12 July 2023 and it was confirmed that no minutes were taken at the meeting held in October 2023, as the space was used for a training session on Appreciative Inquiry, provided by Philippa Bonella.

2.2 It was noted that there the only open action for the network was the creation of a finalised Terms of Reference (ToR). The scope of the Network was being considered by CVS Falkirk, and once this consideration was completed, a draft ToR would be presented to the group.

3. OSCR Presentation – Changing charity law in Scotland

TM introduced Steve Kent, Policy Manager with the Scottish Charity Regulatory, OSCR. He shared his presentation ‘The Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023 and what it will mean for charities and charity trustees’, which was available on the [CVS Falkirk webpage](#). The following additional points were noted:

- i. The new legislation, The Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023, represented the biggest change in charity legislation in 18 years, over which time a number of changes had taken place, particularly related to the digital landscape.
- ii. The key drivers behind the update were public expectation of trust and confidence in the charitable sector, together with alignment and parity with other parts of the United Kingdom.
- iii. Slide 4, titled 'What will be changing?' outlined the main impacts:
 - a. OSCR will hold confidential database of all charity trustees in Scotland, only the names of the trustees will be publicly available, no other personal information.
 - b. The purpose of the database was to carry out necessary verification checks, plus hold contact information and to link charities where a trustee sat of the board of more than one.
 - c. Where there was a risk to a trustee in making their name known publicly, a special dispensation could be sought to hide it online.
 - d. Accounts would now be made public, again with the option to request dispensation that a name was not shared. It would be the responsibility of the charity to ensure that the accounts would be 'publication ready'. The requirement is not retrospective. It would only apply to accounts signed off once the requirement was in place.
 - e. As accounts could be viewed publicly, it would be expected that they did not include sensitive information, such as beneficiaries, images of signatures etc...
- iv. Slide 8, titled 'Automatic disqualification of charity trustees' outlined the additional conditions for the disqualification of a trustees, this would extend to senior managers within a charity.
- v. Steve noted that there was no one place to conduct due diligence checks on a new trustee, and recommended when conducting background checks, that all organisations ask for a completed and signed self-declaration, which covered all the conditions for disqualification. This would illustrate a reasonable level of care and diligence.
- vi. OSCR would also have discretionary power to waive disqualification in exceptional circumstances, such as the use of unique insights through lived experience.
- vii. The changes would be put in place in two stages, Spring 2024 and Summer 2025.

In response to a question, Steve confirmed that any organisation that was considering changing its status to a charity, would have three months from date of application to confirmation of registration. Once registered all the requirements would apply.

Steve confirmed that new posts were being created to provide charities across Scotland with support on the changes, this support could be provided in person and digitally. Information on this would be provided to the TSI Governance Forum and rolled out by CVS Falkirk. TM outlined that a number of organisations were seeking to change their structure

to enable asset transfers to take place. Steve confirmed that some of the changes do not apply to SCIOs.

Steve was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting.

4. CVS Falkirk Membership

KH, as Third Sector Engagement Officer, noted that each organisation represented at the meeting was already a member of CVS Falkirk & District and that it wanted to continue to grow the membership, with more details of the membership offering to follow in 2024. This would include a digital offering as a priority piece of work.

5. Get on Board Programme

TM outlined that during 2015/16 a programme titled 'Get on Board' was run by CVS Falkirk, the aim being enable effective board recruitment by third sector organisations.

This was refreshed and will be relaunched in March 2024, with priority access to CVS Falkirk members, the core aim being to support the need for organisations to have in place a diverse and skilled board. The duration of the programme would be in the region of 7-9 months and would consist of, but was not limited to, increasing the skill set of the board and its working practices; producing a bespoke skills and diversity matrix for the participating organisations; and creation of useful support materials.

TM encouraged Network members to sign up by emailing him.

6. Funders Fayre

The, free, 10th [Funders Fayre](#) would be taking place on **Tuesday 19th March 2024** at Bowhouse Community Centre, Grangemouth. At the time of the meeting, c. 22 stallholders, including 16 funders, were confirmed, together with other supporting organisations, such as Utility Aid.

TM encouraged all Network members to [book a place](#).

7. Any Other Business

TM canvassed the group for its preference for online or face to face meetings in future. It unanimously agreed that a mix of both was preferable. TM asked the members to email him ideas for topics and points for discussion for future meetings.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 1 May 2024
10am – 12pm, tbc**

