



# **Safer and Empowered Communities Forum – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

Updates for the Forum and wider network



# Be Part of Forth Valley's Whole Systems Approach to Tobacco and Vaping

- Forth Valley's Health Improvement Services and the Forth Valley Tobacco Action Group are delighted to invite you to participate in developing a Whole Systems Approach to Tobacco and Vaping in Forth Valley.
- Tobacco and vaping may not be obvious parts of your work; however, a healthier, happier and thriving Forth Valley is a core part of many of our ambitions or values. The damaging, enduring effects of tobacco and vaping can be seen across whole communities and across generations living in Forth Valley; harming finance, health, environment and wellbeing.
- To tackle this complex issue, you or a representative of your organisation/department are invited to attend an online workshop to explore the impact of Tobacco and Vaping for Forth Valley and begin the journey to create a Whole Systems Approach together. There will be further events as the Whole Systems Approach progresses and there will be opportunities to be involved at all stages.
- **How to Take Part:**
  - For more information, please visit [CVS Falkirk & District's website](#).
  - To sign up to the Whole Systems Approach to Tobacco and Vaping Conference (**30 May 2024, 9:15am-12:30pm, Online via Microsoft Teams**), please click [here](#).



## Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) - Conversation Café

- Falkirk ADP are hosting a Conversation Café to gather insight and feedback from the recovery community.
- The café takes place from **10am – 12pm** on **30<sup>th</sup> May 2024** at **Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Redbrae Rd, Camelon, FK1 4DD.**
- Over the next few months, they will be developing a three-year strategy and delivery plan, this event is an opportunity for us to take stock of what we're currently doing well and talk about what needs to change moving forward.
- They will also be sharing more information about the development of a Lived Experience Panel.
- This event is for service users, their carers and families as well as staff with lived experience of accessing treatment and recovery services.
- You can sign up for the event [here](#) or via email: [HSCPComms@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:HSCPComms@falkirk.gov.uk)
- They will also accept walk-ins at the event.



## Learning to work with LGBT+ people in tackling poverty

- Our understanding of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans- (LGBT+) people's lives has been historically limited due to discrimination in the law, prejudice, fear, stigma and shame. Activism by LGBT+ people has argued that we need to make all services and spaces inclusive of their differences. However, many organisations still do not know what proportion of their service users are LGBT+, and most Equality Impact Assessments state there is “no information” when they get to the boxes on sexual orientation and gender diversity.
- In this interactive, online workshop, participants will be invited to work with the Poverty Alliance and researchers from the University of Stirling to identify the practical information and training needs they could benefit from to make their services and spaces truly inclusive.
- The workshop takes place from **1:30pm – 3:30pm** on **5<sup>th</sup> June 2024** and you can book a place [here](#).



# Funding opportunities

- [The Denny and District Community Fund](#) is inviting local groups and organisations to apply for funding.
  - There are four funding rounds throughout the year, and the next deadline is the **18<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.
  - Grants of up to £10,000 are available.
  - Groups could request funding to help enhance existing activities or provision, or to create new local services or opportunities.
  - Funding could support a wide range of costs, including equipment, staff/sessional workers, consultations, running costs for local groups, maintenance, or refurbishment of community facilities.
- [The Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund](#) seeks to inspire, encourage, and enable communities to explore and deliver ambitious ecosystem restoration projects locally. It also seeks to raise awareness about the importance of local ecosystem restoration and address barriers faced by community-led efforts. Applications close at **11.59am** on **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024**.
- [The Wolfson Foundation's](#) main grants programme provides support for places. These grants are for capital initiatives, i.e. buildings (new build or refurbishment) and equipment. They fund a broad range of organisations working across the fields of education, science and medicine, health and disability, places of worship, heritage, and arts and humanities. Applications close on **1<sup>st</sup> July 2024**.



# Funding opportunities

- **Take a Break** provides cash grants to carers of disabled children and young people, aged 0 to 20, who have complex additional support needs. The grant can be used to contribute towards things like day trips, a short break away, an additional carer, travel costs, clubs and activities. Applications close at **5.00pm** on **24<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.
- Falkirk Council make a number of different grants available to community groups, voluntary organisations and third sector organisations across the Council area. If you are planning, delivering or expanding a community project and would benefit from public funding, please take a look at what is available from various teams within the Council [here](#).
- The Scottish Government has launched a **new grant fund** to establish a national voluntary throughcare partnership of third sector organisations to provide support to people leaving prison after a short-term prison sentence or a period on remand:
  - Community Justice Scotland is conducting the grant process and assessment on behalf of the Scottish Government. Their webpage contains all the relevant documents for the grant process and will be updated periodically with new information as it becomes available.
  - Applications close at **3pm** on **9<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.



# What's on in Falkirk

- Westfield Park Community Centre are playing host to a [series of events for all ages](#) – including morning activities for wee ones, a pantomime in June, and youth club.
- A full list of successfully funded organisations awarded under round 3 of the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund can be found on our [website](#).
- ‘Building a Fairer Falkirk’ is Falkirk Council’s new anti-poverty strategy and sets out how the Council can expand on previous work with renewed efforts to address poverty over the next five years. The Strategy was presented to elected members at a recent Executive meeting. You can read the full Strategy [here](#).
- [Falkirk Community Safety Partnership Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2023-2028](#) was published in March 2024 and offers an overview of the issues affecting our communities and the way Falkirk Council along with our partner agencies and our communities are planning on addressing antisocial behaviour over the next five years.



# Have your say

- As part of Scotland's National Adaptation Plan and their wider Just Transition commitments, the Scottish Government is developing a Flood Resilience Strategy which will focus on what is needed to do to make communities more flood resilient over the coming decades. They are seeking views to inform this strategy via a [public consultation](#) which closes on **13<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.
- Until the **!!28<sup>th</sup> May 2024!!**, Disclosure Scotland are [seeking views](#) to enable them to consider fee discounts for certain groups applying for Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme membership disclosures and views on the fees applied to organisations acting as accredited bodies. CVS Falkirk & District ran a feedback event for this consultation on 21<sup>st</sup> May, but we encourage local third sector groups to submit their own response by the above closing date.



# National updates

- A [website](#) has been launched by the charity Next Chapter Scotland to help people who've been in touch with the justice system get their lives back on track. It aims to support people who have been involved with the criminal justice system to overcome stigma and discrimination and provide them with information they need to help break the cycle of re-offending and make a positive contribution to their communities.
- Many third sector organisations provide support or run services that prevent bad things happening to people. However, prevention is hard to evaluate. Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) works with third sector organisations and funders so that they can measure and explain their impact. This [guide](#) shares learning from our work about how to evaluate prevention.
- PATH (Scotland)'s [Women's Network](#) (online network) is for black women and women of colour who want a safe space to talk, listen, and to get support. At each networking event, there will be a guest speaker to inspire and recharge your batteries.