

**Funding Officers Network
Wednesday 15 May 2024
Zoom Meeting**

Present:

Chris Gunn (CG)	Falkirk Community Football Foundation
Elaine Grant (EG)	Falkirk Delivers
Girijamba Polubothu (GP)	Shakti Women's Aid
Greg McKnight (GMc)	Cyrenians
Jess Thomson (JT)	Under the Trees
Kevin Ashe (KA)	Polmont Community Council
Kim Edgar (KE)	Freedom Of Mind Community Choir
Laura Anderson (LA)	Transform Forth Valley
Lee Dolby (LD)	Linlithgow Community Development Trust
Lynda Allen (LA)	Baby Steps 20+
Nicola Shanks (NS)	Central Advocacy Partners
Nicole Forsyth (NF)	Enable
Pamela Brown (PB)	Stirling Carers Centre

Apologies:

Dave Cameron	Avonbridge Community Association
Dave Park	Go Forth and Clyde
Jan Wiseman	Quiet Waters
Kirstin Worsley	Breastfeeding Network Forth Valley
Mairi Wright	NHS Forth Valley, Public Health Nutrition Team
Debbie Douglas	Capella

Guest Speaker:

Jack Abbotts	The Clothworkers' Foundation
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1. Welcome and Introductions

TM introduced himself, welcomed forum members present and advised the meeting was recorded via Zoom.

2. Review of Previous Minutes

After due consideration, the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2024 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Guest Speaker – The Clothworkers Foundation

TM introduced Jack Abbotts, Head of Open Grants, with the Clothworkers' Foundation. Jack shared his detailed presentation, which can be found [here](#) on the CVS Falkirk & District webpage. The following points were highlighted:

- I. The Clothworkers Foundation funded capital projects only, this previously included buildings, equipment, and vehicles (including VAT and signage, but not running costs). It was extended in May 2023 to include digital infrastructure, which was predominantly webpages and databases.
- II. It supported organisations in ten programme areas which were detailed on [slide 6](#) of the presentation.
- III. There was no limit on the minimum or maximum grant amount that could be awarded.
- IV. The organisations it supported were charities and social businesses that worked with marginalised and disadvantaged communities and people, and those working towards a more equitable society.
- V. An [Eligibility Quiz](#) was available to use as a first step towards an application, as well as a detailed list on an [exclusions page](#) which illustrated the items, organisations, and types of projects that would not be funded. It was noted that any organisation that had been successful was not able to apply again for a further five years.
- VI. The remainder of the presentation contained details of how to apply, with a focus on considerations, how to present a budget, and application tips. Budget templates were available [here](#).

Jack was thanked for his comprehensive presentation, and he left the meeting.

4. Network Member Updates

Network members were invited to feedback on recent funding experiences, plus any updates they wished to share:

4.1. Linlithgow Community Development Trust (LCDT) – LD provided the background to LCDT and confirmed that although in Linlithgow, a similar Forum did not currently exist there. He outlined that a big challenge the group was experiencing was with back-office systems and that time with this distracted from its work in the community. He had approached the [Scottish Tech Army](#) for support, a volunteer led free service, where the volunteers were IT specialists.

4.2. Freedom of Mind Community Choir – KE outlined that the Choir had secured £71,000 of funding from the Social Isolation and Loneliness fund which was spread over four tax years. It also received just under £5,000 from Community Choices to fund song writing workshops, which had been requested by the choir members. A key challenge in the future was funding for transport, which was essential to many session attendees, as Stay Connected funding would end on 8 May 2024.

4.3. Stirling Carers Centre – PB outlined that its main funders had been the National Lottery and Children in Need, but had also been successful with Creative Breaks, which was through the Scottish Government.

4.4. Cyrenians – As a Community Link Worker, GMc shared that he was not primarily involved in funding but was looking at gaps in provision across the community, and how any ideas would move into seeking funding.

4.5. Falkirk Community Football Foundation – CG outlined that Falkirk Foundation had received funding from the SFA for pre and after school sessions. This extended the school day for parents. Had recently received a Net Zero Report on Woodlands Community Centre Low Carbon Advisory Service from Falkirk Council and was following up on its recommendations.

4.6. Shakti Women's Aid – GP stated that it had one post in Falkirk, supporting BME women and children. Funding from HSCP had been reduced which impacted the children's worker post, so it was looking for alternative funding. Tariq to contact GP offline and encouraged signing up to the e-bulletin and the Grant Funding Portal.

It was noted that Cash 4 Kids did provide some funding for smaller items – such as cinema tickets and toy boxes, but 1:1 support was impacted.

4.7. Falkirk Delivers – EG confirmed that it was just awarded £2,000 from the Falkirk Children's Schools Fund which would be used to benefits all users by bringing events to Falkirk. This award would be used for a Battle of Falkirk event. A hoarding support event was to take place on Friday 17th May [**post meeting note:** details shared via email on Wednesday 15th May]. It was in the process of working with Falkirk Council on an Awards 4 All application. EG encouraged all users to contact her team regarding events in the town centre. She noted that Charities Day would take place on Saturday 27th July 2024. To book a stall or get involved in anyway contact jill@falkirkdelivers.com

4.8. Transform Forth Valley – LA confirmed that Transform Forth Valley ran the Self Neglect and Hoarding Service in Falkirk. She confirmed that a second outreach vehicle had been purchased with a combination of funding from The Clothworkers Foundation, Robertson Trust Vehicle Grant, and the Bloodborne Virus Team.

It was successful in round 3 of the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for its 'Time 4 U' programme which would start soon and was looking for funding to do some work in the rural community. Plus, it was waiting to hear from Vodaphone re charity for free SIM cards. It was running a test of change in line with Police Scotland, working with children and young people. Plus looking for digital infrastructure funding.

EG advised that Virgin Media also offered data and cards for anyone in digital poverty. And to contact her if wish to progress elaine@falkirkdelivers.com.



4.9. Central Advocacy Partners – NS outlined the challenges it was experiencing with funding, particularly regarding timescales.

5. CVS Falkirk & District Update

Tariq outlined that if not already a member of CVS Falkirk & District, then get in touch with kerrie.hoggan@cvsfalkirk.org.uk. And that in the future a number of services available only to members would be launched.

Tariq stated that he wanted to create a focussed measurement of the effectiveness of funding events and support, including the Funders Fayre and membership of the Funding Officers Network, the Network members agreed to respond to a short questionnaire.

Action: Create and circulate a questionnaire on the impact of funding events.

6. AOCB

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

**Dates of Next Meeting:
Wednesday 14 August 2024, 10am – 12pm**

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