

CVS Falkirk & District Community Leadership Network
Wednesday 1 May 2024
10am – 11am
Held via Zoom

Attendees

Tariq Mahmood (TM) (Chairperson)	CVS Falkirk & District
Kerrie Hoggan (KH) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk & District
Elaine Grant (EG)	Falkirk Delivers
Jessica Gillespie (JG)	Cyrenians
Janice Donoghue (JD)	Falkirk CAB
Chris Gunn (CG)	Falkirk Foundation
Stephen Sutton (SS)	Bailliefields Community Hub SCIO
Elisabeth Campbell (EC)	Paragon Housing Association

Apologies

Colin Crabbe	Dunmore Village Association
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Guest

Stephen Cahill	Cranfield Trust
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1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on 17 January 2024.

3. Presentation, Cranfield Trust

TM introduced Stephen Cahill, Regional Manager for Scotland with the [Cranfield Trust](#). Stephen shared his presentation, which could be found [here](#).

The following points were noted:

- i. Cranfield Trust was a fund-raising charity, established 35 years ago out of Cranfield University, that offers pro bono support to charities that worked within the field of human welfare. It does not ordinarily work with environmental or arts-based organisations.
- ii. It has 1500 volunteers across the UK, with c. 130 in Scotland.
- iii. It offers Management Consultancy and ‘On Call’ services; Mentoring and peer to peer based support for charity leaders; and web-based support and education to the wider population.
- iv. All of these were offered free of charge.
- v. It supported c. 500 projects per annum in the UK, with each project averaging six months in length.

- vi. Under the banner of management skills, the support it offered covers Strategic Thinking/Planning; HR/People Management; Financial Management, including forecasting; IT and Technology Support; Internal and External Communications; Marketing; Digital Skills; and Impact Management.
- vii. Although it didn't offer support with funding applications, it had found that Marketing and Impact Management in particular, had positively input into these areas.
- viii. When surveyed, 99% of respondents stated that they would not hesitate to recommend its support to other groups.
- ix. It was looking to increase the amount of work undertaken in the Falkirk area and was open to enquiries from local groups which work in the field of human welfare.
- x. Support could be provided face to face or online, with online enabling access to volunteers across the UK.
- xi. It had a relationship with some of the larger national funders to offer support under the banner of 'Funder Plus', a model which offered services beyond the financial grant.

Stephen was thanked for his informative presentation, and he left the meeting.

A discussion took place about how the services could be used across Falkirk, by those attending the Network and by other groups they connected with. Two attendees reported successful similar experiences with [Sported UK](#), which enabled an invaluable external perspective on organisational business planning.

4. CVS Falkirk Update

TM provided an update on CVS Falkirk & District activity and that any questions should be directed to him:

- I. He noted that support similar to that offered by Cranfield Trust was provided by a small CVS Falkirk & District team under the Empowering Communities Programme. As this was focussed on organisations contemplating a Community Asset Transfer (CAT), consideration was being given to how CVS Falkirk & District could act as a conduit for the Cranfield Trust to enable organisations not involved in CAT to get access to support.
- II. TM had been approached by Falkirk Council to offer management committee training to Residents' Committees within the High flats in Callendar Park. And he offered to contact other housing associations to offer support, in line with a request from EC.
- III. Work continued on the development and enhancement of the CVS Falkirk & District membership proposition and increasing the number of members.
- IV. Network members whose organisations were involved in enterprising activity were encouraged to join the upcoming Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network (FVSEN) meeting which would be held online on Thursday 23rd May.



- V. The Funding Officers Network meeting would be held online on Wednesday 15th May where a representative from [The Clothworkers' Foundation](#), a capital funder, would present.

5. Member Updates

Network Members shared the following updates on recent activity:

- I. SS outlined that the renovations were on track for the end of July 2024 and that Bailliefields had secured funding from the Land Fund to purchase adjacent land, with support from Falkirk Council to develop the footpath and bridge for accessibility.
- II. CG shared that Falkirk Foundation was working in local schools providing an SFA supported programme of football activity, as well as its holiday camps.
- III. JD stated that the Citizens Advice Bureau was very busy due to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on the community, and it was recruiting more staff as a result.
- IV. JG shared Cyrenians were running an eight week UK Government sponsored practical numeracy skills programme, with the next programme starting in July. CG and JG agreed to speak offline on how to support each other, as the Foundation was also offering the programme.
- V. EG asked all members to encourage their users to attend a town centre family event on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th May the '[Enchanted Market](#)'. EG would also share a calendar of future events, all of which were free, and she encouraged any organisations that were thinking of events to contact Falkirk Delivers as joint funding applications could potentially be constructed.

Action: EG to share Falkirk town centre events calendar.

Post Meeting Note: This was circulated via email on 10 May 2024

6. Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 24 July 2024

10am – 12pm, tbc