

**Falkirk's Third Sector Employability Forum**  
**Wednesday 29 May 2024**  
**10am – 11am**  
**MS Teams Meeting**

**Present:**

Lynsey Hansford (LH)(Chairperson)	CVS Falkirk & District
Kerrie Hoggan (KH) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk & District
Cheryll Bremner (CB)	Go! Youth Trust
Claire Meikle (CM)	Career Ready
Fiona Welsh (FW)	Christians Against Poverty
Frankie McKittrick (FM)	Volunteering Matters
Karen Wright (KW)	DYW Forth Valley
Maria Throp (MT)	1st Step Development Ventures
Sandra Lyon (SL)	TCV
Julia Duncan (JD)	TCV

**Apologies:**

Allan Robertson	Social Security
Hazel Cunningham	Health Improvement Service, Falkirk HSCP
Garry Walker	The Larder
Natalie Graham	LinkLiving
Stuart Matson	Routes To Work
Hazel Taylor	Cyrenians
Zareen Iqbal	HSCP – Health Improvement
Lynda Allan	Babysteps 20+
Jen Finnimore	Volunteering Matters

**Guests:**

Ian Gilchrist	Employment and Training Unit (ETU)
Kim Blagg	Employment and Training Unit (ETU)

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

LH introduced herself, welcomed all attendees and outlined two key points:

- i. Sharing national information with Forum members: For the 2024-25 financial year only 25% of the Scottish Government 'No One Left Behind' employability funding had been issued and it was unclear when the remainder of the budget would be released. This had already resulted in some redundancies nationally and the closure of one training provider.

- ii. A national Third Sector Interface (TSI) Employability Partnership Manager, Pegs Bailey, has been appointed. Her role is to review employability in the third sector throughout Scotland and report on what was working well and the challenges that existed. She would also gather data on the impact on the third sector in relation to above noted funding challenges.

LH outlined some funding opportunities that exist to help individuals get back into work.

Access to Work: This was to help individuals with a physical or mental health condition or disability. More details could be found [here](#).

Public Health Scotland – Ill Health Assistance Programme: Under Working Health Services Scotland (WHSS), this was available for self-employed, or someone employed by a company with 250 employees or less. More details could be found [here](#).

Workers Support Centre Scotland: This service provided support, advice and information to temporary migrant workers in Scotland. More details could be found [here](#).

## 2. Review of Previous Minutes and Introduction of Action Tracker

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2024 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

## 3. Falkirk Council's Employment and Training Unit (ETU)

LH introduced Ian Gilchrist and Kim Blagg from Falkirk Council's Employment and Training Unit (ETU).

Kim opened by speaking about the [Parental Employment Support Fund](#) (PESF) which aimed to support working parents and kinship carers of children under the age of 18, with no cap for a child with a disability, who aimed for the next step onto or up the career ladder, whether in work or not. There were three main aims:

- Training, in a broad range of areas including food hygiene, SVQs, and apprenticeships
- Overcoming challenges in keeping a job (through such as caring responsibilities)
- Solidifying current position through such as promotion or increased hours.

The parents also got access to a benefits expert who provided to support to ensure that all benefit entitlements were covered. The benchmark for support was those with a household income of less than £24,000 per annum.

All support was provided based on individual circumstances.

Ian outlined details of the other services and support provided by the ETU, the following points were noted:

- The ETU was now connected to the income maximisation and debt advice service.
- As well as supporting the development of individuals, it also supported businesses, with grants and upskilling through some current funding streams.
- It supported the 'Multiply' numeracy programme which offered a practical approach to numeracy.
- The People and Skills funding stream offers non-financial support to businesses in upskilling employees to sustain employment. This had been very successful, with over 250 employees upskilled and over 70 jobs safeguarded. And there was an unexpected byproduct of creation of entry level jobs and apprenticeships. This had taken place in partnership with Business Gateway.

#### **4. Any Other Business**

The next Forum meeting would take place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August in person, details to follow, Pegs Bailey would be at this meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
9.30am to 12.30, location tbc**

**[www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk](http://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk) | 01324 692 000 | [info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto:info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk) | @CVSFalkirk**

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