

CVS Falkirk & District Community Leadership Network
Wednesday 16 October 2024
10am – 11am
Held via Zoom

Attendees

Tariq Mahmood (Chairperson)	CVS Falkirk & District
Safia Ali	Al Maasar
Carolyn Dick	Dates n Mates
Mary Taiwo	Families and Friends of Children with Disabilities Group
Jamie Fotheringham	Transform Forth Valley
Ania Sandland	Central Wellbeing
Elisabeth Campbell	Paragon Housing Association
Beatrice Uwadiale-Odigie	
Adelola	

Guest

John Fitzgerald	Digital Evolution Manager, SCVO
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1. Welcome and Introductions

Tariq introduced himself and welcomed Network members to do the same. He outlined that the meeting would be recorded via Zoom. He outlined that the meeting invitation was extended to non-Network members to enable them to access this important topic.

2. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on 1 May 2024.

3. Presentation, SCVO

Tariq introduced John Fitzgerald, Digital Evolution Manager with SCVO. John shared his presentation entitled 'Apocalypse Incoming, or Additional Interns? Making Strategic use of AI', which could be found [here](#).

The following additional points were noted:

- i. It is possible to look at AI as 'Automation' which framed the fact that someone invented it, it might have flaws, and it is not an entity that is working by itself without human input.
- ii. It does not match human performance in the same way.
- iii. The way to become experts is by using existing knowledge on current work, this will inform organisations about where AI could help.
- iv. Looking at big picture ethical issues, a significant challenge was the energy use, which was far more than a simple search engine. Also, as it uses data it is susceptible to bias and discrimination which may be pre-existing from historical practice and data.

- v. Data could be used by the provider in its training modules, which leads to a risk of personal or confidential data being leaked.
- vi. Sample Policies can be found on the SCVO webpage. Putting a policy in place would enable guardrails around those keen to use the tool and allows practical experience for all.
- vii. John introduced the metaphor of a 'minibus full of interns' who would bring enthusiasm, but not the background expertise on a particular organisation. He recommended at present to use for basic support to allow more time for complex work with reduced risk with a list of suggested uses outlined in the presentation.
- viii. Some tasks could be performed just as well with existing tools, such as excel, AI was not necessarily always the best option.
- ix. Make sure that all website content is up to date, as AI will pull all available information.

A discussion took place about how to use AI including day to day for accessibility to communications, including emails. Together with limitations on what it can do currently, so being mindful of this and reviewing results carefully.

John was thanked for his informative presentation and left the meeting. Tariq encouraged organisations to consider joining SCVO.

4. CVS Falkirk Update

Tariq provided an update on CVS Falkirk & District activity:

- I. On 4th November 2024 an online session with counterparts in Clackmannanshire and Stirling was being hosted to deliver a session on trustee regulation following the changes introduced by OSCR, including the disclosure of a register of trustees. Details of the session would be circulated offline as well as in the chat.
- II. The fourth round of the Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund was live with a deadline of 6th November 2024.
- III. A wider support hub has been created, which includes an online health check for organisations ('ORCA').

Action: Tariq to produce and circulate a survey on the effectiveness of the Network.

5. Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 15 January 2025
10am – 12pm, via Zoom**