



CVS Falkirk & District

Strategic Plan



**Our strategic commitment is
to empower communities,
foster social inclusion, and
drive positive change
through innovative and
sustainable solutions**

**2025
- 2030**

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to CVS Falkirk & District's Strategic Plan. This document outlines our vision, mission, and strategic objectives for the coming years, providing a clear roadmap to guide our efforts in achieving meaningful impact in the communities we serve.

As a third sector organisation, we are deeply committed to addressing societal challenges and creating sustainable solutions. This plan represents our collective aspirations, grounded in our values of inclusivity, collaboration, and social justice. It serves as both a blueprint for our growth and a framework for ensuring we remain accountable to those we serve and to our stakeholders.

Over the course of this strategic period, we will focus on strengthening our capacity, enhancing our partnerships, and driving innovative approaches to fulfill our mission.

The ever-evolving landscape of the third sector requires us to be agile, resilient, and forward-thinking in order to continue to meet the needs of those who rely on our services and advocacy.

In this plan, you will find our key priorities, the actions we will take, and the outcomes we aim to achieve. We are excited about the opportunity to build on our past successes and to address new challenges, with the unwavering goal of creating a more equitable, sustainable, and inclusive future for all.

We invite you to read through our strategic plan and join us on this journey. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CVS Falkirk & District". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. To the left of the signature is a horizontal line that starts with a small dash and extends to the left.

"This strategy marks a significant moment in time for our organisation. We have come together to shape a clear, ambitious path forward.

With tangible, motivating goals at its core, this strategy will not only guide our actions, but will also enable us to better demonstrate the achievements and impact we're delivering for our members, stakeholders, partners, and communities.

It's a shared vision, built together, for lasting change."

Victoria McRae,
CVS Falkirk & District



STRATEGIC COMMITMENT

Our strategic commitment is to empower communities, foster social inclusion, and drive positive change through innovative and sustainable solutions. We are dedicated to supporting the Falkirk District third sector who seek to improve the lives of individuals of people living in the Falkirk District area facing inequality, providing support, advocacy, and resources that create opportunities for all. Through collaboration, compassion, and commitment, we strive to build a more equitable and just society where every person can thrive.

By partnering with both public and private sectors we will advocate and promote the third sector in their efforts, while actively seeking opportunities for, local, regional and national collaboration.

We aim to achieve this by being:

- Brokers and Balancers of relationships between the third sector organisations and the communities they represent and relevant partners
- Catalysts and Enablers of well managed community organisations and their activities
- Facilitators of meaningful opportunities for community groups and third sector organisations to collaborate, align their efforts, and achieve shared goals
- Champions and advocates of community voice, empowerment and action
- Connectors between the community and key decision-makers, empowering people to take ownership of their own narratives and advocate for positive change

In our role as a Third Sector Interface, we will:

- Be a source of local intelligence
- Ensure community and third sector voices are heard
- Connect: leadership, vision, and coordination
- Build capacity needs of the sector

As a member of the TSI Scotland Network, we will work towards becoming a fairer, more equal Scotland, driving forward positive change through:

- An enhanced role for the third sector
- Implementation of place-based approaches
- Volunteering and the empowerment of people
- A fairer wellbeing society



VISION

A vibrant and resilient future for Falkirk District: one where the third sector plays a central role in shaping positive, community-driven change. Strengthening the third sector's capacity to lead and deliver progressive change is essential, fostering a unified voice that contributes to building stronger and more inclusive communities, promoting fairness and equity for all.

To achieve this, we will focus on five strategic priorities:



Capacity

Investing in the skills, leadership, and infrastructure of third sector organisations to effectively plan to meet the evolving ambitions and needs of communities.



Collaboration

Brokering connections between people, ideas, and resources to create opportunities for innovative and sustainable solutions.



Community Voice

Encouraging local leadership and decision-making ensures that the voices of those most impacted by issues are heard and acted upon.



Community Led Change

Ensuring the local third sector and its communities are supported to engage and benefit from the transformation of the Falkirk Industrial Clusters.



Creativity & Innovation

Through change and innovation, organisations can better adapt to shifting landscapes, remaining buoyant and resilient while seeking new opportunities.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. CAPACITY

Investing in the growth of third sector organisations to meet evolving community needs and ambitions. To achieve this, we will:

- **Develop Skills and Capacity:**

Offering training and workshops on leadership, financial sustainability, governance, strategic planning and volunteer management to strengthen local organisations' abilities to respond, adapt and manage change.

- **Support Strategic Development:**

Guiding organisations to become financially sustainable and resilient through strategic planning.

- **Expand the Finding Funding for Falkirk Initiative:**

Promoting funding options, guidance and support through facilitated forums and bespoke action plans with the aim to become a key Grant Giver.

- **Enhance Digital Capabilities/Knowledge:**

Supporting organisations to embrace digital transformation increasing organisational efficiency, improved service delivery and higher digital engagement.

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Fully funded training sessions per year



£2.5m

Additional Falkirk District Third Sector Investment





STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2. COLLABORATION

By brokering connections between people, ideas, and resources, we can create opportunities for innovation and sustainable solutions. Facilitating spaces for dialogue, idea sharing, and collaboration will help bring together the right stakeholders to address the challenges faced by communities

To achieve this, we will:

- **Build Cross-Sector Alliances:**

Connecting third sector organisations with third sector, public and private sectors and educational institutions, to leverage resources and share expertise

- **Create Shared Platforms:**

Establishing hubs for collaboration, knowledge sharing for nurturing and incubating new initiatives

- **Collaborate Regionally:**

Working with neighbouring TSIs to bring opportunities for funding, shared learning and increased visibility for the sector while bringing a third sector perspective and leadership role to Revitalising the Forth Valley Region through community wealth and health building

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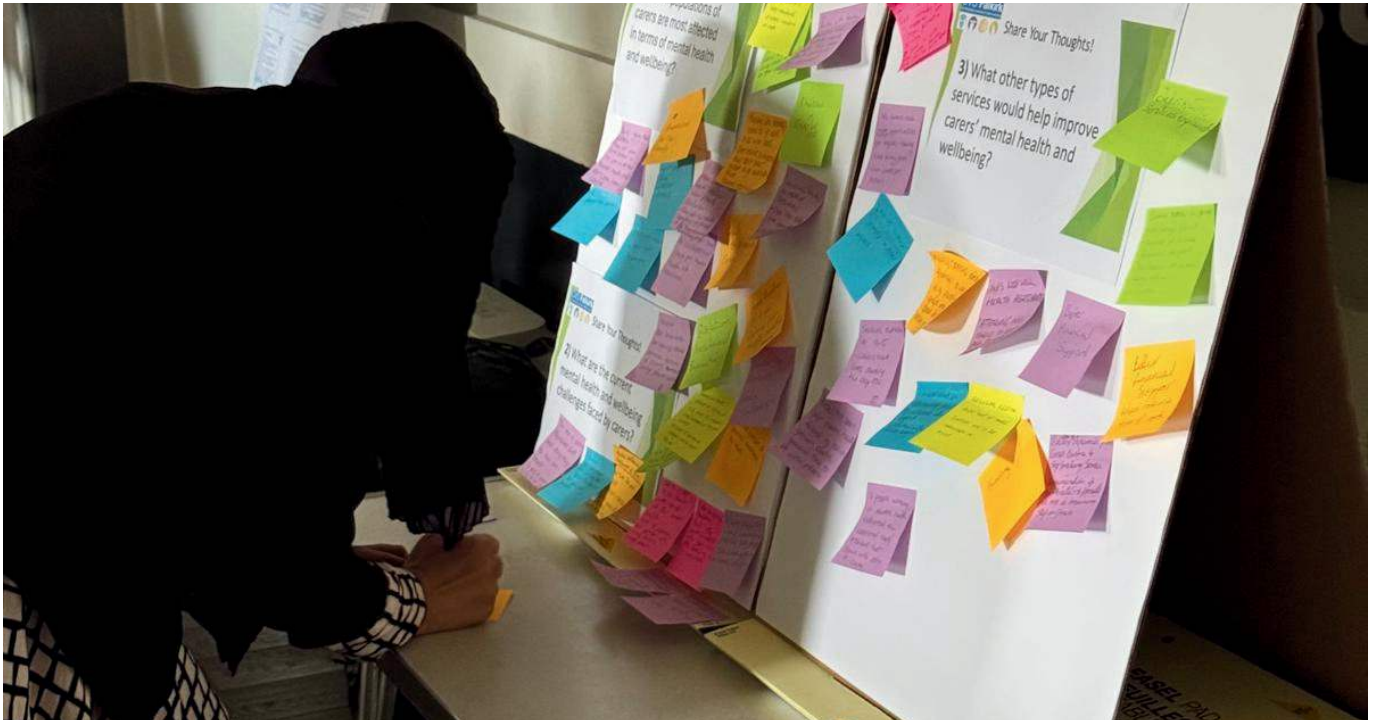
New Partnership
Initiatives Supported



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Regional Events Inviting
Community Collaboration





STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

3. COMMUNITY VOICE

Encouraging local leadership and decision-making ensures that the voices of those most impacted by issues are heard and acted upon. This community led approach will foster resilience and help communities thrive on their own terms and increase volunteering and participation.

Creating pathways for increased community involvement can be achieved through:

- **Leadership Training:** providing development programmes for volunteers and community members keen to take a more active role in shaping their communities
- **Recognition and Empowerment:** acknowledging and celebrating the contributions of volunteers to inspire others to get involved
- **Volunteering and Participation:** promoting clear and supportive pathways to be more involved in their communities through volunteering, community leadership and participation
- **Inclusive Dialogues:** engaging local communities in conversations on the transformation of Falkirk District's industrial clusters and what it looks like for them
- **Community Wealth and Health Building:** fostering community-driven economic development that seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of the community

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New Volunteer Falkirk Awards Achieved



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Communities Engaging in Inclusive Dialogues





STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

4. COMMUNITY LED CHANGE

Encouraging local community members work together to identify goals that are important to them, develop and implement plans to achieve those goals, and create collaborative relationships building local community wealth and health assets.

● **Community Engagement:**

Overseeing community involvement and creating pathways for local perspectives to be integrated into the work of the Community Planning Partnership

● **Active Presence:**

Establishing a visible, on-the-ground presence in rural areas, building relationships across all sectors of the community, ensuring seldom heard voices are heard, and encouraging collaboration across various networks

● **Project Development:**

Bringing together community groups and individuals who wish to explore and develop community led solutions to address local community issues

● **Community Ownership:**

Ensuring that local groups and organisations have the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to successfully manage community assets

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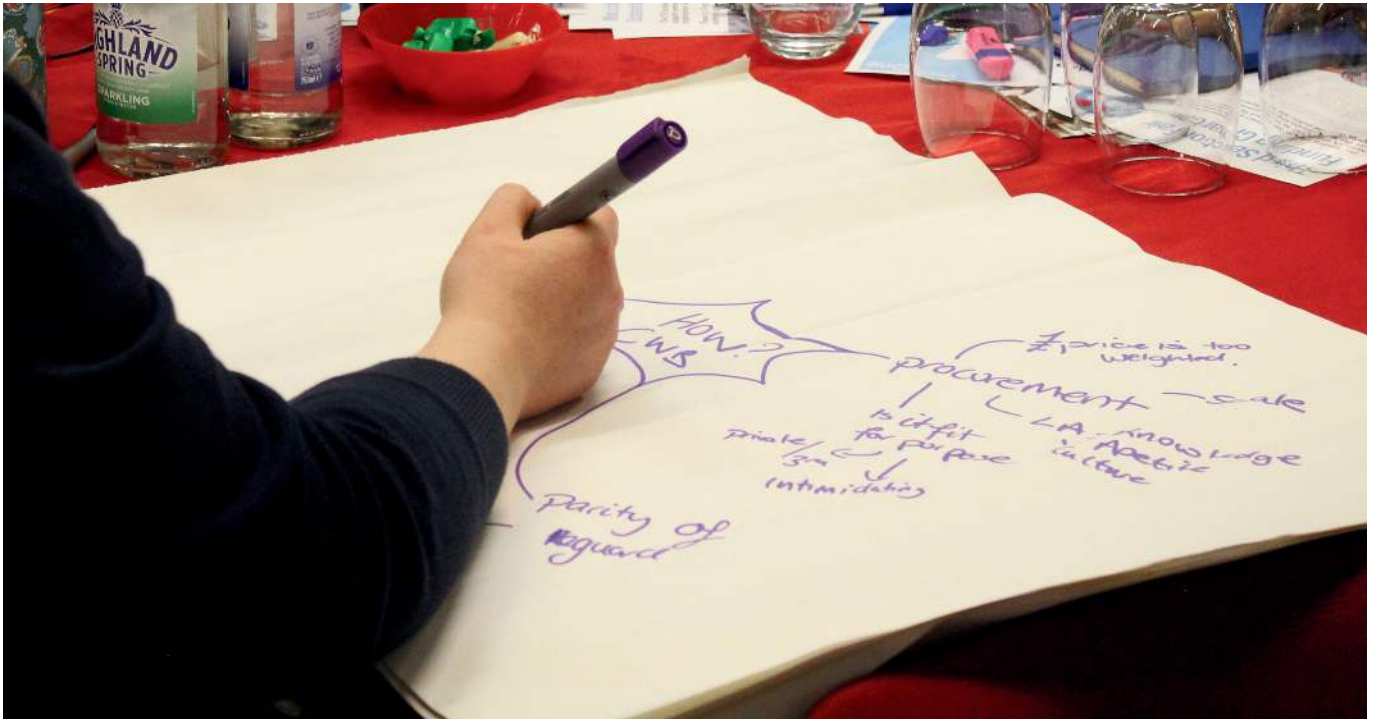
Communities Benefiting from Additional Active Presence



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Thriving Community Ownerships





STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

5. CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Encouraging a culture of innovation where third sector organisations can adapt quickly to crisis and change (shifting landscapes), drive forward creative solutions, while seeking continuous improvement and sustainability.

- **Encouraging innovation:** where third sector organisations feel empowered to propose new ideas and new ways of working, have the resources to pilot new projects (without fear of failure)
- **Embracing Digital and Technological Advancements:** improving organisational effectiveness through fostering digital literacy, utilising data for informed decision making and being able to connect with a wider audience
- **Agility and Adaptability:** enabling organisations to be prepared to respond swiftly to sector changes, client need, unforeseen challenges and crisis
- **Leadership and Change Management:** developing structured leadership programmes and change management strategies to support organisations through transitions of change and periods of innovation
- **Measuring Success:** defining metrics for evaluating the success, impact and operational effectiveness of new and existing initiatives

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New Start Ups Supported



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Organisations Mentored through a Leadership and Change Programme



OVERVIEW OF CVS FALKIRK & DISTRICT

CVS Falkirk & District is an independent, registered charity and company limited by guarantee, serving as the Third Sector Interface (TSI) for the Falkirk Council area. As a key player in the community empowerment landscape, CVS Falkirk & District is committed to supporting local communities by fostering partnerships, strengthening the third sector, and contributing to the broader community planning processes.

The organisation's mission is to build a strong, independent third sector that works alongside public services to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities across Falkirk and District. By continuously enhancing its services, CVS Falkirk & District ensures that its initiatives deliver the greatest possible impact and value to local stakeholders.

KEY PRIORITIES & AREAS OF FOCUS

1. Strengthening Role as an Anchor Institution:

CVS Falkirk & District is dedicated to supporting and empowering communities by leveraging its role as an anchor institution. The organisation works to build a sustainable and independent third sector that can play a central role in the local community's development. This includes facilitating collaboration and offering resources to local organisations to support their growth and impact.

2. Supporting Volunteering and Social Enterprise:

One of the core pillars of CVS Falkirk & District's work is fostering volunteering and social enterprise. The organisation works to develop and enhance volunteer programs that encourage community participation and ensure that volunteers are well-supported and valued. Additionally, CVS Falkirk & District plays a vital role in supporting the growth of social enterprises that can offer sustainable solutions to local challenges.

3. Organisational Development and Third Sector Partnering:

CVS Falkirk & District is committed to providing organisational development support to third-sector organisations. This includes helping local charities and community groups strengthen their operations, improve governance, and access funding. Furthermore, the organisation fosters third-sector partnering to encourage collaboration and ensure that community-based organisations can achieve collective impact in delivering on local priorities.

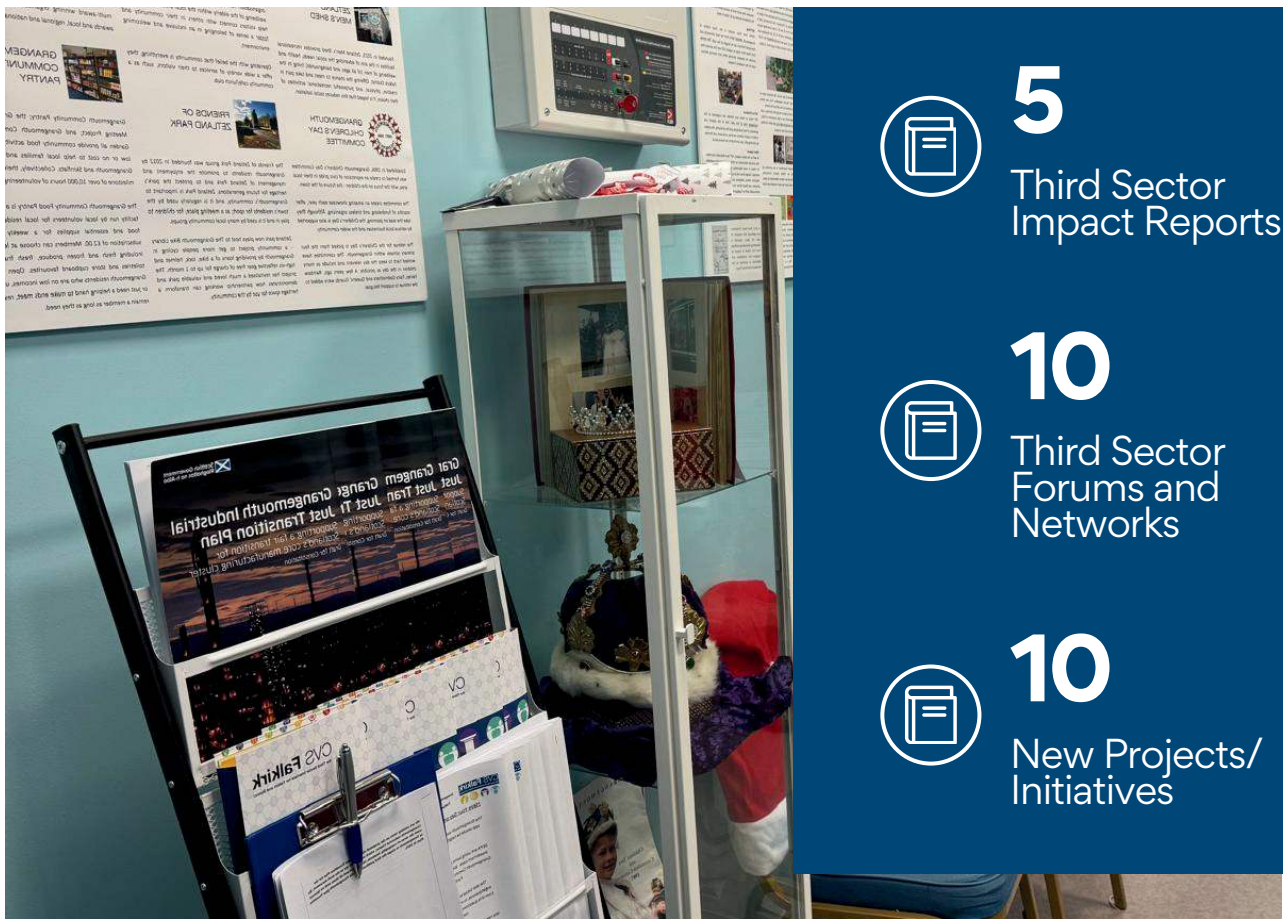
4. Contributing to the Falkirk Plan and Community Planning:

CVS Falkirk & District plays an integral role in bringing the third sector together through thematic forums and community leadership. This collaboration helps to shape the delivery of the Falkirk Plan, ensuring that the needs of local communities are addressed within the framework of community planning. The organisation advocates for the inclusion of third-sector perspectives in the design and implementation of community strategies, ensuring that local voices are heard in decision-making processes.

5. Continuous Service Improvement:

CVS Falkirk & District is committed to continuously improving its services, ensuring that it offers best value to its clients, stakeholders, and the broader community. The organisation regularly evaluates its operations and seeks out opportunities for innovation to enhance its impact, responsiveness, and value for money. This ethos of continuous improvement helps maintain the relevance and effectiveness of the organisation's work.

CVS FALKIRK & DISTRICT'S ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY



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Third Sector Impact Reports



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Third Sector Forums and Networks



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New Projects/ Initiatives

By fulfilling these priorities, CVS Falkirk & District contributes to a sustainable and vibrant third sector that is capable of addressing the challenges facing Falkirk's communities and creating lasting, positive change.

Third Sector Interface: CVS Falkirk & District is a vital link between the third sector and

- public sector bodies, advocating for the needs of local charities, social enterprises, and volunteer-led initiatives

Community Empowerment: Through its initiatives, CVS Falkirk & District empowers local

- communities to take charge of their development, working alongside statutory services to improve lives in the Falkirk area

Collaboration and Partnership Building: The organisation is a key player in fostering

- partnerships within the third sector and with public and private sector organisations, ensuring that community planning is inclusive, effective, and based on collective needs

Service Development and Delivery: CVS Falkirk & District supports the delivery of key

- community services, such as volunteer-led projects and social enterprises that address gaps in local provision

GET INVOLVED



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New Members Registered



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New Volunteering Opportunities



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Supported Work Placements

WHY BECOME A MEMBER?

Our membership community is at the heart of strengthening the third sector—helping to drive social change, secure sustainable funding, and create lasting impact. As a member, you gain a platform to influence decisions, contribute to meaningful causes, and be part of a collective voice advocating for transformation and systemic change.

KEY BENEFITS

Voice of the Sector: Play an active role in shaping local policies, strategies, and initiatives. Represent your community and contribute to decisions that matter.

Community & Networking: Connect with like-minded peers through our forums and networks. Share knowledge, collaborate on solutions, and build partnerships that advance your mission.

Purpose & Impact: Join a group of passionate individuals and organisations committed to social justice and equity. Membership offers a sense of belonging and a chance to make a tangible difference.

ORCA: Complete the online self assessment review of your organisation receiving an in-depth report and tailored action plan for improvement.

Learning & Training: Enhance your knowledge through short “lunch and learn” webinars, practical workshops, specialist training sessions, and customised organisational learning. Our training supports both personal and professional development.

Resources: Access a tailored and in-depth collection of resources through the Knowledge Hub, up-to-date funding opportunities, and personalised, specialist support.

Mobile Technology: Access our digital library to borrow/hire a range of equipment, including hybrid conferencing, projector and screens, sound systems, and hearing loops.

GET INVOLVED

CVS Falkirk
The Third Sector Interface for Falkirk & District

Home Membership Grant Programmes Support & Guidance Contact [Login](#) [Register](#)

Welcome to the CVS Falkirk Support Hub

Supporting, developing and representing community groups, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and volunteering

Organisational Resilience And Capacity Assessment (ORCA)

CVS Falkirk & District guided support to help you complete a full organisational review. Click the button below to begin your first ORCA Self-Assessment, you need to become a member first.

[View ORCA](#)

Live Grants Available Now

Grant funds managed by CVS Falkirk & District, currently open for applications. Click the button below to find out more about our current funding opportunities.

[View Live Grants](#)

MEMBERS ONLY SUPPORT HUB

Access to Resources: While our website hosts a comprehensive resource library accessible to all third sector organisations, our members-only Support Hub offers enhanced benefits. Within the Support Hub, members gain access to a tailored and in-depth collection of resources through the Knowledge Hub, up-to-date funding opportunities, and personalised, specialist support. Members also receive exclusive content such as newsletters, sector insights, and updates on emerging trends and opportunities not available to the general public.

ORCA is a comprehensive online self-assessment tool available through our Support Hub, designed to support third sector groups and organisations. It guides users through an in-depth review of their organisation across 11 key areas, including Governance & Leadership, Finance, and Volunteer Management. Upon completion, ORCA generates a detailed report that highlights strengths and identifies areas for development. This report can be reviewed with one of our Development Officers, who will work collaboratively with the organisation to create a tailored Action Plan with clear priorities and timelines for improvement. Organisations are encouraged to update their ORCA assessment regularly, allowing them to monitor progress and stay aligned with their development goals.

Learning and Training: We provide a diverse range of learning and training opportunities throughout the year. These include short “lunch and learn” webinars, practical workshops, specialist training sessions, and customised organisational learning. Our training supports both personal and professional development, covering areas such as leadership, professional skills, and sector-specific knowledge to help individuals and organisations grow and thrive.



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