

Falkirk's Third Sector Employability Forum
Wednesday 18 February 2026
10am – 11am
MS Teams Meeting

Present:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Lynsey Hansford (Chairperson) | CVS Falkirk & District |
| Angela Moohan | The Larder |
| Cheryll Bremner | Go! Youth Trust |
| Hannah Wilson | Forth Valley Sensory Centre |
| Jenifer Keenan | Enable Works |
| Karen Wright | Developing Young Workforce (DYW) Forth Valley |
| Lynda McLeod | Into Work |
| Maria Throp | 1 st Step Development Ventures SCIO |
| Natalie Feather | Go Forth and Clyde |
| Peter Bell | Cyrenians |
| Safia Ali | RISE Forth Valley |

Guest Speakers:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Stewart Ritchie | Forth Valley College |
|-----------------|----------------------|

Apologies:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Debbie Hamilton | One Parent Families Scotland (OPFS) Falkirk |
| Hazel Taylor | Cyrenians |
| Laura Jamieson | CVS Falkirk & District |

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lynsey introduced herself, welcomed forum members present, and advised the meeting was recorded via MS Teams, before each member introduced themselves.

2. Review of Previous Minutes and Action Tracker

The minutes of the previous meeting in November, along with these minutes, will be circulated to members for approval by email.

3. Developing LEP Representation Function

Lynsey briefly described the function of the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and its representative link to the Forum, and the importance of engaging with Forum membership to ensure that representation role (fulfilled by Lynsey Hansford and Hazel Taylor) is as effective as is possible.

Lynsey shared that whilst Hazel unfortunately is unable to attend this meeting, she and Hazel had met beforehand and discussed how to strengthen that mechanism, a suggestion was to also include an email request for third sector input ahead of LEP meetings, in addition to Forum discussion and activity.

Key points made by Forum members:



- Good to understand what is working well within that representation role now and what the Forum would like to change/improve
- Opportunities to become more connected with other local third sector organisations delivering/active in the area are appreciated (such as the November 2025 in-person meeting)
- Opportunities to network and discuss what influence we would like to have and the impact of that influence would be welcomed
- Important to consider how the voice of lived experience fits into that third sector role/voice/influence
- A survey would help to identify what works well and what could improve
- New third sector providers could be informed about the opportunity to join the Forum, and a way for the Forum members to hear about who has been awarded those new contracts/projects – a diagram of what is delivered could be really helpful.
- The Forum members would appreciate seeing the LEP papers where possible
- Opportunities to develop partnerships are welcomed

4. Forum Planning for 2026

Ideas shared during the meeting included:

- Invite LEP Chair to a meeting, offer a presentation like in other Third Sector Forums
- Data presentation from SDS
- An in-person networking meeting
- Opportunities to learn more about accessing fully funded and/or affordable training
- Inviting National Third Sector Employability Development Manager (Pegs)

5. Falkirk LEP Updates

Lynsey shared key current updates from Falkirk LEP:

- The LEP Plan is currently being developed, including feedback from both the LEP Workshop, the November 2025 Forum early engagement session and commissioned lived experience engagement sessions.
- The development and finalising of the LEP Investment Plan will be happening imminently.
- Scottish Government have issued a letter of comfort re next year's funding and the LEP are mindful of pre-election period beginning soon.

6. AOCB

With no AOCB, members were thanked for their contributions, and the meeting was closed.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 1 April 2026,
10am – 11am via Microsoft Teams**

www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk | 01324 692 000 | info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk | @CVSFalkirk

CVS Falkirk & District is a Company Limited by Guarantee in Scotland No. SC085838 | Scottish Charity No. SC000312 |
Registered office: Unit 7b, Callendar Business Park, Callendar Road, Falkirk, FK1 1XR