

Falkirk funders fayre 2026



TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026
Grangemouth Stadium,
238 Kersiebank Avenue,
Grangemouth, FK3 0BS

Bringing Funders Directly to Falkirk District's Third Sector

FALKIRK FUNDERS FAYRE

The Falkirk Funders Fayre is an annual event organised by CVS Falkirk & District, designed to connect local charities, community and voluntary groups, and social enterprises with funders that can support their work. The Fayre is a free, drop-in marketplace where local third sector organisations can:

- Meet national and local funders face-to-face
- Ask questions about eligibility, application processes, and funding priorities
- Discover new grants, programmes, and partnerships
- Network with other local groups and organisations

Within the Fayre, there will be a broad training programme featuring a variety of thematic sessions, each inviting attendees to learn directly from funding experts who will share knowledge, experience and guidance to better support future funding applications.



AGENDA

Event Opens: 10am

Sessions: 10am–12pm; 12pm–2pm; 2pm–4pm

Event Close: 4pm

FALKIRK FUNDERS FAYRE TRAINING PROGRAMME

- 10:30 DEVELOPING COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS AND EVENTS
[CVS Falkirk & District](#)
- 11:15 UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAPITAL AND REVENUE FUNDING
[CVS Falkirk & District](#)
- 12:00 ALTERNATIVE FUNDING MODELS AND ROUTES
[Democratic Finance Scotland \(DTAS\)](#)
- 12:45 USING AI FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS
[Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations \(SCVO\)](#)
- 13:30 TIPS FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM THE ASSESSOR
[Impact Funding Partners](#)
- 14:15 PREPARING FOR FALKIRK COMMUNITIES MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FUND
[CVS Falkirk & District](#)

ABOUT US

Within our role as the Third Sector Interface for Falkirk District, CVS Falkirk & District's work is grounded in four key thematic elements (*Volunteering, Social Enterprise, Organisation Support, and Voice of the Sector*); each aligned to our strategic commitment of empowering communities, fostering social inclusion, and driving positive change through innovative and sustainable solutions.

Through the delivery of bespoke programmes of capacity building, volunteering engagement and participation, and community development, we work to support, develop and celebrate the ambitions and impacts of our Falkirk District third sector. Recent projects have centred around: Rural Community Development, Grangemouth Industries Just Transition Consultation, Volunteering Celebration and Recognition, Community Asset Transfer and Ownership, Third Sector Networks and Forums.

For more information about our work, or for questions, please contact our team by email: info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk or phone: 01324 692000.

Strategic Priorities 2025 - 2030



Capacity

Investing in the skills, leadership, and infrastructure of third sector organisations to meet the evolving ambitions and needs of communities with effective planning.



Collaboration

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



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.



Community Voice

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



Creativity & Innovation

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

VISITING FUNDERS



Asda Foundation offers a variety of funding opportunities available throughout the year. Some of which include Young Futures Fund (£500 – £1,000), Local Community Spaces Fund (£10,000 – £20,000 – open from 14 April), Foodbank Fundamentals Fund (up to £750 – open Autumn 2026), and Local Community Emergency Donations. For more information, please visit: <https://asdafoundation.org>



Bank of Scotland Foundation distributes funding through Grant and Matched Giving programmes. The Empower Programme (3-5 year grant up to £250,000); the Energise Programme (2 year grant up to £40,000 – depending on income); and the Enable Programme (3 year grant between £30,000 - £90,000). The Energise Programme is currently open for applications until Wednesday 1 April 2026. For more information, please visit their website: <https://bankofscotlandfoundation.org>



Business Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government to provide free, impartial support and access to funding to help small and medium-sized enterprises save energy, carbon and money. Whilst not their fund, they offer access to the SME Loan Scheme. For more information, please visit: <https://businessenergyscotland.org/smeloan/>



Corra Foundation is a Scottish grant-making charity that works to strengthen and amplify people's voices and their power to make change. Currently open for applications, the Boost Fund is for small community-led organisations across Scotland supporting local people affected by poverty or disadvantage. They also manage funds that are currently closed for application – for more information, please visit: www.corra.scot/funding/grant-programmes



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Creative Scotland enables people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. Open Funding is one of Creative Scotland's key funding routes, supporting the wide range of activity initiated by organisations, artists, writers, producers and other creative practitioners in Scotland. For more information, please visit: www.creativescotland.com

FALKIRK COUNCIL

The School Holiday Food and Activities Fund is a key programme delivered by **Fairer Falkirk** and provides funding to local organisations to offer healthy meals alongside fun, educational and enriching activities for children from low-income families during the school holidays. Applications for the Summer School Holiday Food and Activities Fund are expected to open in mid-May, with additional funding rounds planned for the autumn school holidays and Easter 2027. For more information, visit: www.falkirk.gov.uk/community-funding/school-holiday-food-and-activities-fund



FEL Scotland projects let communities make everyday changes that are good for them and better for the planet: practical, innovative ways of improving lives and reducing climate impacts that are right up your street. Funding opportunities typically open in mid-late summer. For more information, please visit: <https://felscotland.org>



Firstport provide one-to-one business support, grant funding, investment readiness support, and social investment loans. Firstport facilitates a variety of grants to start and grow a social enterprise, including: Pounds for Purpose, Start It, Build It, Social Enterprise Boost Fund, Social Innovation Challenge and the Community Enterprise Fund. Please note, not all programmes will be open to applications at once. For more information, please visit: www.firstport.org.uk/



In addition to individual assistance (grants of up to £250-300), **Forthgiving** provides grants to local charities and community organisations whose work benefits disadvantaged populations, helping to strengthen the broader safety net within the Forth Valley. For groups and organisations, special importance will be placed on projects that benefit communities impoverished by social or educational need. For more information, please visit: www.forthgiving.org.uk/



Social & Community Capital is a charity funded by Royal Bank of Scotland to help social enterprises, charities and community businesses. As a lender, they are open all year round with funding panels held on a fortnightly basis. Loans they provide include: Property Purchase; Flexible Growth Funding; Working Capital; and Bridging. For more information, please visit: www.rbs.co.uk/business/loans-and-finance/social-community-capital.html

VISITING FUNDERS



The **Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)** is the national membership organisation for Scotland's charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises working to support, promote and develop a confident, sustainable voluntary sector. For organisations looking for funding, SCVO provides Funding Scotland — a free service giving access to over 1,3500 funding opportunities and helping voluntary organisations secure the resources they need to succeed. For more information, visit: <https://funding.scot>



Sportscotland is the national agency for sport in Scotland, working towards their vision of an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport. They offer a variety of funding programmes, with the **Sport Facilities Fund** their main funding programme. Other funds facilitated include: the **Coach Education Subsidy Funding** supporting the development of coaches through financial subsidies and the **National Lottery Awards For All** supporting a wide variety of one-off costs through grant awards of £500 - £10,000. For more information, visit: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/funding>



The **National Lottery Community Fund** supports community projects that help people connect, grow and build a better future. Focusing on supporting people facing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination, open funds currently include **Community Action** (£20,001 - £250,000), **Fairer Life Chances** (£20,001 - £500,000) and **Awards for All** (£300 - £20,000 for projects up to 2 years). For more information, please visit: www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/



The Robertson Trust is an independent grant-making trust working to prevent and reduce poverty and trauma in Scotland, by funding, supporting, and influencing solutions to drive social change. A variety of both revenue and capital funding is available for registered charities and constituted community groups. For more information, please visit: www.therobertsontrust.org.uk/



The William Syson Foundation aims to help provide opportunities for practice and enjoyment of the arts, and to assist and encourage the country's next generation of musical and artistic talent. Opening Monday 23 March, through their Small Grants Fund, they offer unrestricted grants up to £5,000 for arts charities working in any art form (including visual arts, performing arts, poetry, literature, film-making, music, photography, and digital arts). For more information, visit: www.williamsysonfoundation.org.uk



Utility Aid offers funding for customers who are part of The National Charity tender. The funding does not have lengthy requirements and can be used for anything from a new boiler to a ramp to make your building more accessible. For more information, please visit: <https://www.uafoundation.org.uk>



The **Scottish Land Fund** helps urban and rural communities across Scotland become stronger and more sustainable, through grants of between £5,000 - £1 million to buy land or assets. They also provide practical support to help develop ideas into viable, long-term projects. The fund is backed by the Scottish Government and delivered in partnership by The National Lottery Community Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. For more information, visit: www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/funding-programmes/scottish-land-fund



Shared Care Scotland aims to improve both the quality and availability of short breaks for unpaid carers across Scotland. A core part of their role is the delivery of programmes within the Short Breaks Fund, funded on an annual rolling basis. The Creative Breaks Fund will open in March/April, whilst the **Better Breaks Fund** will open later in the year, September/October. For more information, please visit: www.sharedcarescotland.org.uk/short-breaks-fund/



Social Investment Scotland is a social enterprise and charity offering loan funding and business support for social enterprises, charities and community groups. Their core loan offering is the **SIS Community Finance Fund** (£25,001 - £375,000), designed to provide flexible, affordable finance to charities and social enterprises across Scotland. Further loan programmes include the **SIS Bridging Loans** bridging the gap until grant payments arrive, as well as the **Scottish Social Growth Fund**, and the **Growth Guarantee Scheme**. For more information about funding available, please visit: www.socialinvestmentscotland.com/investment/

TRAINING PROGRAMME

Developing Community-Led Projects and Events

Developing community-led projects and events is at the heart of effective third sector work, but turning local ideas into sustainable impactful initiatives takes intention, structure, and collaboration. This session by CVS Falkirk & District explores key things to consider which shape how organisations can plan and develop events and projects that are inclusive, accessible, and rooted in community priorities, along with ways to evidence impact and maintain momentum over time. Attendees will also consider and discuss ways to present events and project proposals to funders in clear and effective ways.

Using AI for Funding Applications

This session will be delivered by Funding Scotland, SCVO's free service offering access to over 1,200 current funding opportunities. Together, you will explore how AI can strengthen your funding applications — from generating clearer narratives and avoiding common pitfalls, to brainstorming ideas and generating unique angles — whilst keeping your voice authentic and accurate. You'll also gain up-to-date insights into today's fundraising landscape, and the challenges organisations are facing. With space for questions and discussion, this session delivers practical, real-world approaches you can use immediately.

Understanding the Difference between Capital and Revenue Funding

CVS Falkirk & District aim to increase general understanding around the difference between capital and revenue funding. Increasingly important for third sector organisations navigating tight budgets, diverse funders, and long-term sustainability pressures, this session unpacks how each type of funding works, what it can (and cannot) be used for, and why funders draw such clear lines between them. Using live examples to illustrate this difference, the session hopes participants will leave with a clearer understanding of how to categorise their project funding, and communicate confidently with funders about both capital and revenue needs.

Tips for Grant Applications from the Assessor

Impact Funding Partners will be drawing on over 40 years of experience to share their insights around what assessors look for in funding applications — and the common pitfalls to avoid. This session will help you boost your confidence, deepen your understanding, and adopt best-practice approaches that get results. Drawing on Impact Funding Partners' experience as a fund manager, the session will share practical tips and guidance to support attendees in writing strong and compelling funding applications. There will also be a Q&A section, offering a chance to ask any questions and receive practical, meaningful answers.

Alternative Funding Models and Routes to Funding

Democratic Finance Scotland (DTAS) aims to introduce organisations to alternative methods of raising finance — from community shares, which have raised over £200m across the UK, to community bonds, an affordable and repayable way for organisations to buy assets, grow businesses, or develop community energy projects. You'll also hear about emerging opportunities, including one-off community lotteries for specific projects, and opportunities for legacy giving, which has the potential to support long-term community sustainability. This session is ideal for any organisation looking to diversify income streams and boost local ownership.

Preparing for Falkirk Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund

The Falkirk Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing (CMHW) Fund aims to support community based projects and initiatives which help address local mental health and wellbeing needs for adults across Falkirk communities. This session with CVS Falkirk & District will detail how and what groups can apply for, helping participants to consider an application for Round 6. By the end, attendees should feel more confident shaping ideas and preparing detailed applications.



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