



**Funding Officers Network (FON)**  
**Wednesday 13 August 2025**  
**10am – 11am**  
**Zoom**

**Present:**

Lynsey Hansford (Chairperson)  
Laura Jamieson (Minute Taker)  
Iain MacIntyre

CVS Falkirk & District  
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CVS Falkirk & District

Rowan Ferguson  
Jacinta Jaylo Barker  
Lorraine Mackenzie  
William Shreenan  
Steve McQueen  
Chris Gunn  
Gail Morrison  
Pamela Brown  
Sarah Kernahan

Forth Valley Sensory Centre  
RISE Forth Valley  
Freedom of Mind Community Choir  
Quiet Waters  
Sustainable Thinking Scotland CIC  
Falkirk Foundation  
Falkirk's Mental Health Association (FDAMH)  
Stirling Carers  
Scottish Huntingdon's Association/PLUS Forth Valley

Girijamba Polubothu  
Stephen Sutton  
Sarah Edwards  
Beth Welsh  
Elaine Grant  
Pauline Jackson

Shakti Women's Aid  
Bailliefields Community Hub SCIO  
The Breastfeeding Network  
SACRO  
Falkirk Delivers  
Forth Valley College

**Apologies:**

Angus Maclean  
Kim Edgar  
Laura Anderson  
Maria Ford

Westfield Park Community Centre  
Freedom of Mind Community Choir  
Transform Forth Valley  
Bo'net / Bo'ness Car 4U

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Lynsey introduced herself, welcomed forum members present and advised the meeting was recorded via Zoom.

**2. Review of Previous Minutes and Action Tracker**

The minutes of the previous meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**3. Upcoming Funds from CVS Falkirk & District**

This meeting will be an opportunity to learn more about CVS Falkirk & District's role as a funder, the online support tools for local groups (such as the [Grant Funding Portal](#) (GFP) and the ORCA function), and the live and upcoming funds the team manages (linked for your convenience below):



- the [Kelvin Valley and Falkirk Community Led Local Development \(CLLD\) Fund](#), (closing at 12pm on Thursday 21 August 2025)
- the [Falkirk Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund](#) (launching on Thursday 21 August 2025, and closing at 12pm on Thursday 2 October 2025)

Lynsey noted that CVS Falkirk & District is uniquely placed in communities, which is an advantage as a grant giver. She then went through the application process for funds managed by CVS Falkirk & District, which all use the GFP.

The GFP is an online application tool designed to streamline the application process, part of CVS Falkirk & District's online offering to the local third sector. All groups and organisations applying to the funds mentioned above must do so through the GFP.

### **3.1 Kelvin Valley CLLD Fund**

Lynsey provided background and key points on the fund for members, including how the fund came to be managed by CVS Falkirk & District.

Colloquially known as “the Rural Fund”, this fund was previously available through LEADER via an EU funding stream. The current fund is provided by Scottish Government to replace this, and is therefore very similar to the LEADER fund in types and locations of funded work. It will be overseen by the Kelvin Valley and Falkirk Local Action Group (LAG) and administered by CVS Falkirk & District. Key points include:

- Geographical eligibility is key to this fund; applicants must be based in defined Kelvin Valley and Falkirk communities.
  - 2025/26 communities are: Airth, Avonbridge, Baldernock, Banknock, Banton, Bonnybridge, Colzium, Croy, Denny, Dennyloanhead, Dunipace, Fankerton, Kinneil, Kirkintilloch (north of the Canal only), Lennoxton, Milton of Campsie, Queenzieburn, Shieldhill, Slamannan, Torrance, Twechar, Waterside, and Whitecross
- While in previous rounds the CLLD fund was revenue funding only, in this round, 75% of available funding has been allocated to capital applications.
  - Lynsey noted that capital applications often have a revenue element to them; she is waiting to find out if they will be able to fund any revenue-only applications in this round.
- The fund priorities are rather broad, covering a large range of possible community activities.
- There is no age limit to those who can benefit from this fund.

One member raised the short timeline of the fund, with the deadline just over a week from the meeting. Lynsey explained that the fund had been promoted extensively over the last month via CVS Falkirk & District's communication channels, and that the team will always try to give as much time and notice of funds as possible. In this instance, they were keen to give local groups one last opportunity to ask questions before submitting their application.



Laura also linked the CVS Falkirk & District e-bulletin [sign-up form](#) for anyone who did not already receive it, to help everyone stay up to date on its activities (as a funder, and in general as a Third Sector Interface). Previous editions are also available via the [online archive](#).

Members also asked:

- When can applicants expect to find out the outcome of their application?
  - The aim is the end of September 2025 – beginning of October 2025.
  - Lynsey noted that full defrayal evidence is needed when reporting (eg. receipts); she acknowledged that this can be unusual for smaller grants to community groups.
- What is the maximum amount which can be applied for?
  - £15,000

### **3.1 Falkirk Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund: Round 5**

This year's round has been selected to be part of Scottish Government's Fairer Funding pilot, meaning some successful applicants will receive an offer letter for 2 years. As a result, there have been some small changes to the fund guidance.

Lynsey highlighted that the fund has been announced earlier than in previous years, which is a result of CVS Falkirk & District's review (as part of its work to streamline its processes). The main outcome revealed was that an earlier start to the fund, and earlier decision-making, is better for organisations. However, this may mean that CVS Falkirk & District will need more information from applicants, and quickly. Other key points included:

- The fund's core purpose has not changed.
- There is an increased focus on cost of living and poverty and support for priority family types, which Lynsey expects to continue as Scottish Government recognises the link between them.
- While who can apply to the fund has never been, and is not, restricted, Scottish Government's focus is shifting: this fund has always had a focus on grassroots groups and organisations (with a turnover of under £1 million), and Scottish Government has issued a directive that larger organisations should only be funded by exception (eg. they are the only providers in the area).
- While CVS Falkirk & District recognises costs have increased for various reasons, the fund value has not increased, the fund tiers have also not been increased.
- As the round is part of the Fairer Funding pilot, applicants will be asked if they are applying for one or 2 years' funding; there is no pressure to answer either way.
  - This means awards could be up to £50,000 over 2 years.
  - Those receiving a 2 year award will be asked to sign a commitment to this effect.
- A new priority group has been added, based on evidence that their mental health has become increasingly poor: young people aged 16 – 24 years old.

Members then asked:

- If they received funding in Round 4, can they still apply to Round 5?

- Yes.
- How will CVS Falkirk & District monitor inclusion?
  - Proportionate to the fund tier; most evidence submitted is documentation (eg. impact reports, case studies, policies).
  - Lynsey gave a detailed explanation of CVS Falkirk & District's due diligence process, and noted that positive funding relationship also relies on building positive relationships and an expectation of engagement, transparency and honesty from all.
- Would children's activities which benefit parents be eligible?
  - Lynsey noted she would be surprised if applications were funded without any direct benefit to adults; it is unlikely that the Falkirk District funding panel will fund by proxy benefits for adults.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 19 November 2025,  
10am – 11am, via Microsoft Teams**