



**Funding Officers Network (FON)**  
**Wednesday 19 November 2025**  
**10am – 11am**  
**Zoom**

**Present:**

Euan Robertson (Chairperson)  
Iain MacIntyre (Chairperson)

CVS Falkirk & District  
CVS Falkirk & District

Blair Cremin  
Ken Greenshields  
Kirsty Nicolson  
Pauline Jackson  
Nicole Forsyth  
Robert Archdeacon  
Safia Ali  
Samina Ali  
Sarah Kernahan  
William Shreenan

Stenhousemuir Football Club CIC  
Link Living  
Grangemouth Community Care SCIO  
Forth Valley College  
Enable Scotland  
Go Forth and Clyde  
RISE Forth Valley  
Rainbow Muslim Women's Group  
PLUS Forth Valley  
Quiet Waters

**Guest Speakers:**

Rebecca Heggie

The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland

**Apologies:**

Kim Edgar  
Laura Anderson  
Maria Ford  
Suzanne Grant

Freedom of Mind Community Choir  
Transform Forth Valley  
Bo'net / Bo'ness Car 4U  
Long Covid Cuppa (C-19 Cafe) Central Scotland

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Euan and Iain introduced themselves as the new chairs of the forum, welcomed forum members present and speaker Rebecca, and advised the meeting was recorded for the purpose of the minute.

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

The minutes of the August meeting will be distributed, reviewed and approved by email.

**3. “The National Lottery Community Fund in Falkirk”: Rebecca Heggie, The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland (TNLCFS)**

Rebecca introduced herself as the new funding officer for the Falkirk District, and touched briefly on her background as someone who lives in the area, and has worked in the local third sector prior to her current role.

She then gave an overview of [TNLCFS' available funding programmes](#), including (all linked to their respective pages for your convenience):

- [Awards for All Scotland](#)
- [Fairer Life Chances](#)
- [Community Action](#)
- [Young Start](#), which will pause to new applications at 12pm on Friday 19 December 2025, as a result of research to improve the fund; Young Start will reopen with a refreshed funding offer in Spring 2026.
  - Further information on this pause is available via the [CVS Falkirk & District](#) website.

She also spoke about Community Asset Transfer (CAT), and noted that (due to the increase of community ownership locally as a result of the Strategic Property Review) TNLCS has seen an increase in applications regarding community ownership. Rebecca advised that as CAT applications are based on a contingency, and that the situation can change quickly and substantially, groups should wait until the property is completely owned by them before submitting applications for large capital grants.

This is in order to avoid having been granted funds for a large capital project which cannot be completed if the CAT has been unsuccessful.

Rebecca then highlighted that previously, TNLCS had struggled to award funding in the Falkirk District as they received so few applications. However, after working closely with CVS Falkirk & District, the local sector's knowledge of their funding offers has grown exponentially, and in the last year, TNLCS has awarded **£1.4 million** to the Falkirk District third sector.

Rebecca finished by welcoming groups to contact her to ask any questions or discuss projects, by email: [Rebecca.Heggie@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Heggie@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

Questions:

- Any tips to for people and groups who are completely brand new to applying for funding?
  - To get in touch with TNLCS about the project, especially regarding larger application amounts, as the team is happy to work with groups and build a relationship with them.
- For those groups who already have funding from TNLCS, can they apply for another stream? And if so, what is the timescale before they can do? Are there funding streams which can be awarded at the same time?
  - For the Standard Grants (ie. Fairer Life Chances and Community Action), groups can only have funding from one or the other at the same time. However, in addition to one of these Standard Grants, they can also have funding from Young Start (when it reopens) or Awards for All (again, one or the other).
  - TNLCS cannot duplicate its funding awards – eg. if a group applies for funding for a new pilot project through Awards for All, and already receives funding for a specific project through Fairer Life Chances, TNLCS will have to look very carefully at the new application to ensure the new project is not something they have already been funding (or is expected to be funded) through an existing project.



- The timeline between applications is very much project dependent (possibly 6 months), and Rebecca would advise contacting the local funding officer (eg. Rebecca herself for Falkirk District).
- Is the Improving Lives funding stream definitely ending in May 2026? Is there any opportunity for continuation funding?
  - Yes, Fairer Life Chances and Community Action have been created to replace the Improving Lives grant. As these streams are similar to Improving Lives, groups looking for continuation funding should contact their local funding office up to 6 months before the stream ends – as May is exactly 6 months from the meeting, Rebecca is happy to speak with groups operating in Falkirk District about this.
- If you have an Awards for All grant, can you apply for the Sports and Arts Projects grants, or vice versa?
  - Unfortunately no, as while the Sports and Arts Projects grant is funded with partners at Creative Scotland and sportscotland (and therefore applications go to different committees than Awards for All applications), the awards are still delivered from the Awards for All funding stream, which would be duplication.
- Do Creative Scotland and sportscotland measure these applications against their own criteria, or against TNLCFS criteria?
  - There are specific Awards for All priorities, but the priorities for the Sports and Arts Project grants are slightly different within that, with different criteria:
    - arts priorities: removing barriers and supporting diverse communities, and areas which have not received Creative Scotland funding before
    - sports priorities: young people, enterprise areas, girls and young women, and young people with disabilities

Rebecca's presentation is available to view or download from the [CVS Falkirk & District](#) website (linked for your convenience).

#### **4. Member Updates**

Elaine highlighted [Falkirk Delivers' festive activities](#) in Falkirk town centre, including its Santa's Post Office and the Festival of Trees.

#### **5. AOCB**

- Euan asked members to think about anything they would like to see featured or included at the 2026 Falkirk Funders Fayre, as planning will begin soon.
- Iain informed members that applicants to the Falkirk Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund should be informed of their outcome by the end of the year.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 4 February 2026,  
10am – 11am, via Microsoft Teams**



**[www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk](http://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk) | 01324 692 000 | [info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto: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