



Funding Officers Network (FON)
Wednesday 4 February 2026
10am – 12pm
MS Teams

Present:

Euan Robertson (Chairperson)	CVS Falkirk & District
Iain MacIntyre (Chairperson)	CVS Falkirk & District
Laura Jamieson (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk & District
Blair Cremin	Stenhousemuir Football Club
Chris Gunn	Falkirk Foundation
Elaine Grant	Falkirk Delivers
Ken Greenshields	Link Living
Laura Anderson	Transform Forth Valley
Lia Jarvis	Polmont Playgroup and Falkirk Braes Grange Centre
Pauline Jackson	Forth Valley College
Sarah Kernahan	PLUS Forth Valley
Stephen Sutton	Bailliefields Community Hub SCIO
Safia Ali	RISE Forth Valley
William Shreenan	Quiet Waters

Apologies:

Maria Ford	Bo'net / Bo'ness Car 4U
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1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Review of Previous Minutes and Action Tracker

Review and approval of the previous meeting's minutes was conducted via email; the minutes are now available to view or download from the [CVS Falkirk & District](#) website (linked for your convenience).

3. Developing the Network Together

As the new chairs, Euan and Iain described the meeting as a discussion opportunity, for members to speak about what they found most valuable previously, and what they would like to see from meetings going forward. Members raised the following points:

- Opportunities to hear from funders directly were agreed to be useful.
- They would like to hear about any available AI tools to help with funding applications or finding funding.
 - Euan, Iain and Laura, and other members, highlighted the upcoming workshop at Falkirk Funders Fayre, along with the Grantsonline search tool and courses from Charity Excellence, the Code of Fundraising Practice, and the Institute of Fundraising.



- Members are keen to hear about opportunities to fund core costs (especially digital licencing, infrastructure and maintenance, sustainability, and service enhancement).
- Hearing from other members about their successful funding bids is beneficial, as there is a lot to be learned from each other, given that members are mostly local (or at least working in Falkirk District), and applying for the same funding; the network is an opportunity to collate their learning.
- Space for sharing issues, successes, concerns, and other updates is useful, and will continue as a standing agenda item going forward.
- The network provides peer support, and an opportunity for partnership working, which more funders are looking for in applications.
 - *“Unless we work in partnership, we’re isolating ourselves, and will not be successful.”*

Members also discussed ways of coming together strategically; Euan and Iain noted that CVS Falkirk & District is happy to help facilitate or help link people together (including through the [existing forums and networks](#), and the [Social Enterprise Breakfast Club](#)).

Regarding meeting format, it was agreed that two meetings this year would be held online, and two in person, with the next meeting on Wednesday 13 May 2026 being held as a hybrid meeting.

4. Member Updates

- Transform Forth Valley has been successful in two applications for core costs.
- Falkirk Delivers has received £20,000 from Awards for All for free Easter activities in the town centre, another Enchanted Market for small businesses (with sessional workers), and an Emergency Services Day event.

5. CVS Falkirk & District Updates

- [Falkirk Funders Fayre](#) on Tuesday 17 March 2026, Grangemouth Stadium: Euan and Iain encouraged members to sign up to the event in March, given it matched a number of points raised during the meeting.
- [Organisational Resilience and Capacity Assessment \(ORCA\)](#): CVS Falkirk & District has organised two sessions on ORCA, an online tool designed to help groups complete a full organisational review, highlighting areas of strength and opportunities for development. Sessions take place on Thursday 19 February 2026, 6pm – 8pm, and Thursday 5 March 2026, 2pm – 4pm at the CVS Falkirk & District office; those interested should contact Euan by email: euan.robertson@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 13 May 2026

10am – 12pm

hybrid via Microsoft Teams and at the CVS Falkirk & District office

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