

Funding Officers Network (FON)

Wednesday 12 August 2026

10am – 11:30am

Hybrid: MS Teams and CVS Falkirk & District office

Present:

Euan Robertson (Chairperson)
Iain MacIntyre (Chairperson)
Laura Jamieson (Minute Taker)

CVS Falkirk & District
CVS Falkirk & District
CVS Falkirk & District

Alan Ross
Carole Hendrie
Jackie Crombie
Kirsty Nicolson
Scott Spowage

Falkirk Braes Grange Centre
Community Wellbeing & Education CIC
Falkirk's Mental Health Association (FDAMH)
Grangemouth Community Care CIC
Scots Recovery from Childhood Abuse

Attended online via Teams:

Ailsa Christie
Ania Sandland
Chris Gunn
Fiona Fadian
Girijamba Polubothu
Janet Crawford
Juliet Sebley
Ken Greenshields
Laura Anderson
Pauline Jackson
Safia Ali
Sandra Lyon

Momentum for Women
Central Wellbeing SCIO
Falkirk Foundation
Baby Steps 20+
Shakti Women's Aid
Freedom of Mind Community Choir
Mellow Parenting
Link Living
Transform Forth Valley
Strathcarron Hospice
RISE Forth Valley
The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) Scotland

Apologies:

Derek Forrest
Janet Crosthwaite
Kim Edgar
Kirstin Worsley

Airth & District Senior Members
Polmont Sports Centre Community Group
Freedom of Mind Community Choir
The Breastfeeding Network Scotland (Forth Valley)
Bo'net / Bo'ness Car 4U
LGBT Youth Scotland

1. Welcome and Introductions

Euan Robertson and Iain MacIntyre welcomed members to the Funding Officers Network meeting and introduced themselves as the Forum Chairs. Members attending both in person and via Microsoft Teams were welcomed.

Members were advised that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of preparing the minute. Attendees were given the opportunity to introduce themselves

2. Review of Previous Minutes and Action Tracker

Review and approval of the May minutes was conducted via email; the minutes are now available to view or download from the [CVS Falkirk & District](#) website, via the dedicated [Funding Officers Network](#) page.

3. “Kelvin Valley & Falkirk Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Fund”: Euan Robertson, CVS Falkirk & District

Euan Robertson provided a [presentation](#) on the [Kelvin Valley & Falkirk CLLD Fund](#), managed by CVS Falkirk & District. The application deadline is **1pm on Thursday 20 August 2026**, noting that late applications cannot be accepted.

The presentation covered the Fund’s eligibility requirements, priorities, examples of previously funded projects and a live demonstration of the application process through the CVS Falkirk & District Grant Funding Portal. Key points included:

- Grants of up to **£15,000** are available for eligible applicants and projects supporting defined Kelvin Valley and Falkirk communities.
- Eligible communities include 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.
- Members were advised to contact CVS Falkirk & District to clarify or confirm if their community would be eligible.
- The Fund is open to third sector organisations, including constituted community groups, registered charities, parent councils and social enterprises. Public sector organisations, including local authorities, schools, early learning centres and NHS boards, may also apply.
- Partnership applications are welcomed but are not a requirement.
- Applications must meet at least one of the Fund's four priorities:
 1. Supporting community facilities and eligible organisations to contribute to net zero.
 2. Sustaining, improving and adding initiatives in isolated, disconnected or disadvantaged rural communities.
 3. Supporting communities to address the cost-of-living crisis and eradicate poverty.
 4. Enabling research, engagement, feasibility studies and other activities supporting rural community development.
- Both revenue and capital projects are eligible. It is anticipated that the majority of funding this year will support revenue projects, although capital applications remain welcome.
- Capital applications require additional supporting information, including evidence of permission to undertake the work and three supplier quotations.
- Applicants must retain receipts and invoices as evidence of expenditure for monitoring and evaluation.
- Decisions are expected by the end of October 2026, with funded projects to be completed by the end of February 2027.

Euan demonstrated the application process, including registration and completion of an application through the [Grant Funding Portal](#).

CLLD Questions and Discussion

Members asked a number of questions regarding eligibility and the application process:

- **Staffing costs and quotations:** Quotations are not required for staffing costs, as these are revenue expenditure. Quotations are required for capital expenditure.
- **Board membership:** The required number of board members depends on an organisation's structure and governing documents. Registered charities, CICs and SCIOs should generally have at least three people.
- **Location of applicant:** An organisation does not need to be based within an eligible area, provided the proposed project will benefit people living in eligible communities.

4. “Falkirk Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing (CMHWP) Fund”: Iain MacIntyre, CVS Falkirk & District

Iain MacIntyre provided [an overview](#) of the [Falkirk Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund](#). The Fund will open for applications on **Tuesday 1 September 2026**, closing at **1pm on Tuesday 13 October 2026**. Members were reminded that late applications cannot be accepted and were encouraged to submit applications at least one day before the deadline to allow time to address any queries or seek support.

The Fund is Scottish Government funded and managed by CVS Falkirk & District. It supports community-based projects addressing local mental health and wellbeing needs among adults across Falkirk District, with a particular focus on prevention, early intervention and mental health inequalities. Priority areas include:

- social isolation and loneliness
- suicide prevention
- poverty and inequality

Three levels of one-year funding are available:

- **Small:** up to £5,000, or up to £2,000 for unconstituted groups.
- **Medium:** up to £10,000.
- **Large:** up to £25,000.

Iain also highlighted the two year funding awarded through the previous round as part of the Scottish Government's Fairer Funding trial. At the end of the funded period, data will be collected to assess the impact of multi-year funding. Organisations that received a two year grant offer in the 2025/26 round are not eligible to apply for the forthcoming round.

The application process will be similar to the CLLD Fund and will also use the CVS Falkirk & District Grant Funding Portal.

CMHWP Questions and Discussion

- **Organisations with separate services:** A member asked whether an organisation with a two year grant for a young people/young adult service could apply for a separate adult service project. Iain agreed to clarify this point.
- **Income limits:** The Fund has an income cap, reflecting its focus on grassroots organisations. Larger organisations may apply by exception and were encouraged to contact CVS Falkirk & District to discuss eligibility.
- **Previously unsuccessful applicants:** Iain and Euan offered to review previous applications and provide feedback to organisations seeking to improve future applications.
- **Projects involving people in prisons:** No projects based within prison are generally not eligible for this fund. The fund is designed for community led initiatives operating within community based settings.
- **Large grants:** Applicants seeking larger awards should provide clear evidence demonstrating the need for the funding, how it will benefit local people and why the requested level represents good value and the best use of available funds.
- **Award amounts:** The panel may offer a lower amount than requested where it considers this appropriate.
- **Early intervention:** The Fund has a broad remit. Applicants should clearly explain what early intervention means within the context of their project and target group.
- **Match funding:** Match funding is not a requirement and should not provide an advantage in assessment.

ACTION: Laura to include the e-bulletin sign-up link in the follow-up email to members.

ACTION: Iain to clarify whether an organisation receiving two year funding for one service can apply for a separate project under the new round.

4.1 CMHWP Fund Panel Members

Iain outlined the opportunity for Network members to join the CMHWP Fund assessment panel. He explained the role and confirmed that organisations can still apply to the Fund if an individual from the organisation sits on the panel.

Members who received two year funding in the previous round were highlighted as particularly suitable potential panel members, as they are not eligible to apply for the forthcoming round.

Several members expressed an interest in joining the panel. With their permission, their details will be shared with Eloise Wilson, Partnership Development Manager at CVS Falkirk & District, who supports the panel. Further expressions of interest can be sent directly to Eloise by email: eloise.wilson@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

ACTION: Laura to send Eloise the names and contact details of members who expressed an interest in joining the panel, with their permission.

5. CVS Falkirk & District Updates

- **[Connecting Volunteering Network](#)**: The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 26 August 2026** and will focus on CVS Falkirk & District's new Volunteering in Practice Award (ViPA), recognising excellence in volunteer management and inclusive volunteering.
- **[Falkirk District Older People's Network \(OPN\)](#)**: The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 3 September 2026, 10am–12pm**, at 1st Falkirk Scout Hall. The meeting will include information on Power of Attorney and Wills from Solicitors for Older People Scotland, discussion of Falkirk Older People's Day 2026 and consideration of priorities for older people across Falkirk District.
- **[Safer and Empowered Communities Forum](#)**: The next meeting is on **Wednesday 9 September 2026** and will include a session on Prevent with Laura Dunabie, Team Manager, Forth Valley Child Interview Team, and an update from Volunteer Scotland on work to develop a checklist supporting staff and volunteers working in hostile environments
- **[Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network](#)**: The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 8 October 2026, 10am–1pm**, at Arnotdale House, Dollar Park, Falkirk. The programme will include a Learning from Experience panel, tabletop discussions and discussion of a new social enterprise brochure.
- **CVS Falkirk & District AGM**: The 2026 AGM will take place towards the end of October; further information will be circulated through the e-bulletin and all other communications channels.
- **Falkirk Social Enterprise Breakfast Club**: The next meeting will take place in November, and will provide an opportunity for Falkirk District social enterprises to network, connect, share ideas, and learn about support available; those interested in attending should contact Euan by email: euan.roberston@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

ACTION: Euan, Iain and Laura to organise the November meeting as a hybrid meeting.
ACTION: Laura to circulate details and links for upcoming forum and network meetings to members.

6. Member Updates

Members shared the following updates:

- **[Community Wellbeing & Education CIC](#)** has received Foundation Scotland funding to provide beauty training opportunities for young people living in Limerigg and Slamannan.
- **Falkirk Braes Grange Centre** has received **[CARES](#)** funding to install solar panels, forming the third phase of improvements to make the centre more sustainable.
- **[RISE Forth Valley](#)** will hold its 2026 AGM from **10:30am on Monday 31 August 2026**, at Polmont Community Hub, Greenpark Drive, Polmont, FK2 0JT.

7. Any Other Business

No further matters were recorded.

8. Actions Summary

Agenda Item	Action	Responsible	Timescale
4	Include e-bulletin sign-up link in follow-up email.	Laura	19/8/2026
4	Clarify eligibility for organisations with two year funding for one service seeking funding for a separate service.	Iain	Following meeting
4.1	Send details of members interested in joining CMHWP panel to Eloise Wilson.	Laura	19/8/2026
5	Organise November meeting as a hybrid meeting.	Euan, Iain & Laura	31/8/2026
5	Circulate upcoming forum and network meeting details and links to members.	Laura	19/8/2026

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 17 November 2026

10am – 11:30am

**Hybrid, in person at the CVS Falkirk & District office,
with the option of joining via Microsoft Teams**

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