

**FALKIRK COUNCIL
CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2013/14**

Organisation Name	CVS Falkirk & District
Project	Core Support Funding
Agreement Dates	1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014
Name of Lead Officer	David Tollick, Corporate Policy Officer

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

To support, develop and represent Third Sector organisations so that they can participate positively in the planning and delivery of high quality services across the Falkirk Council area, for the benefit of local people and communities.

List of Agreed Outcomes

A Joint Working Agreement, signed by the Council and F-CVS, is now in place for the 2014-15 period, replacing the previous one which lapsed 31st March 2013.

The tacit outcomes, inherited from the previous agreement, for the period covered by this report 2013-14 are as follows:- .

1. Improved mutual understanding between the Council / CPP and Third Sector organisations across the Council area.
2. Better participation by the local Third Sector in CP and partnership working, thus securing more effective contributions towards our SOA.
3. Support the sector in providing high quality services which represent Best Value.
4. Stimulate participation by the public in volunteering.
5. Develop & enhance the Community Care and Health Forum
6. Continue to develop CVS Falkirk & District so that it secures sustainable and continuous improvement.

The 2014-15 JWA is presently operating with a much revised set of outcomes, based on the current need for F-CVS to undergo significant development activities, beyond simply 'operations as usual'. The progress against this new JWA is referred to at times below, although it will also be fully reported against at next year's scrutiny of this organisation.

Why Service/Project is Funded Externally Rather than by the Council

This isn't an area of service the Council can directly provide, as representation of Third Sector interests needs to be undertaken by an independent and impartial organisation. F-CVS also fulfil the role as the Third Sector Interface for the area

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMESSummary of Key Achievements

- Room-hire, payroll, accountancy, admin support and graphic design provided to client organisations
- Funding Fayre (20 funders, 180 attendees) and Charity Fayre (33 organisations, 250 visitors) events, signposting to and delivery of funding and capacity building opportunities, Partnership Innovation Fund activities
- Large numbers of volunteers registered (877) and matched (739); events included Volunteer Recruitment Fayre and Volunteer Awards Ceremony. Individual support to organisations on volunteering issues such as policy development, identifying suitable roles, recruiting and managing volunteers etc
- 18 Social Enterprise start-ups supported, engagement with the new The Helix Social Enterprise Zone, signposting of organisations to specialist business support services.
- Hosting the Community Care and Health Forum, the Social Enterprise Forum and the Children's Services Forum. Representing the sector on Community Planning Partnership board, and several other local and national partnerships.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

- The long-term sustainability of existing levels of funding and funding sources.
- The growing levels of demand being placed on the sector and CVS in particular.
- Service continuity in light of vacancy levels
- Speaking as the voice of a sector which is varied and, of necessity, independent minded
- The F-CVS organisational workplan is very much led by the national common services framework for Third Sector Interfaces, which is planned and monitored by the Scottish Government independently of the Councils JWA, even though F-CVS is jointly core-funded by both Falkirk Council and the Scottish Government.
- Balancing core-funded Social Enterprise work with the funding coming to F-CVS through its involvement with the Helix Social Enterprise Zone.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

CVS continues to offer services to the local community in connection with volunteering, social enterprise and developing community organisations.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

CVS has continued to experience staff vacancies, leading to capacity issues and delays in progressing its work across the Council area.

Website – until this summer the organisation was beset by an inability to manage its own website, which totally undermined the web-presence of the organisation, notwithstanding work-arounds that F-CVS put in place among its contacts.

There is a need to better evidence that F-CVS is a credible voice of the local third sector. Some significant developments have been agreed, in the 2014-15 JWA, to address this.

Mapping of the Social Enterprise Sector and the development of a Social Enterprise Strategy, both jointly with Falkirk Council, have not significantly progressed.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Once per quarter with meetings minuted.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Total Support Provided (Financial & In- Kind Contributions)

Excluding the £325,884 Partnership Innovation Fund income, for further distribution by F-CVS as grants, F-CVS's 2013-14 incoming resources amounted to **£519,402**, of which 25% was covered as follows by the JWA:-

- **£113,748 per annum, Core Support funding**
- **£19,400, Social Work funding for Community Health & Care Support**

Falkirk Council awarded a further 15% of this income, as contracts and other awards

Broadening Your Horizons - a bespoke training programme for young people currently unemployed and seeking opportunities to learn new skills and improve their employability. £38,334

Employment and Training Unit £5,815

Helix Social Enterprise Zone £35,000

TOTAL **£79,149**

The remaining income was made up of Scottish Government Grant (36% = £185,600) and other income streams to F-CVS (24% = £122,475).

The Falkirk Council awards have been the same for the previous two years and are on a one-year-only basis.

Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts

2013/14 – on-going financial position is monitored on a quarterly basis.

Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation

The organisation is vulnerable should any of its key funders significantly reduce funding. This would have a direct impact on the number of people employed by CVS and present serious challenges in being able to deliver core services within the current agreement and in line with current demand.

Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)

Medium – reflected in the regime of quarterly meetings which continues to monitor key risks.

D CONCLUSIONSSummary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year

CVS has had considerable organisational change over the period, significantly a new CEO in post since July 2013. From March 2014 onwards, there was further vacancies and re-alignment of posts, with two key staff recently recruited. The organisation needs a period of sustained stability, while still being able to embrace the changes required to fulfil its interface role. The Board and the CEO are critical in delivering what is needed.

The updated Joint Working Agreement for 2014-15 better aligns CVS activity with the key outcomes in Falkirk's Single Outcome Agreement.

E COMPLETED BYName

Dave Tollick

Designation

Corporate Policy Officer

Date

20 October 2014