

Representation

CPP (Community Planning Partners)

We are active members of the Falkirk CPP, and engage with our statutory partners in a range of areas that aim to improve the quality of life in our area. During the coming year, significant changes are happening within the CPP structure, and our role in the partnership will enable us to participate fully in the improvement process, and to better ensure that the voice of the sector is heard in the development of local strategic plans in coming years.

NHS

We have worked in partnership with the third sector interfaces in Stirling and Clackmannanshire to develop an engagement matrix with NHS Forth Valley, looking at points of collaboration and opportunities to build on existing good practice, and to better embed the third sector in future plans and work. This will be expanded in the coming year, as we continue to build on the good progress in joint working under the Reshaping Care for Older People agenda, where Self-Directed Support becomes more mainstream, and also the new challenges we face as a partnership with Health and Social Care Integration.

Community Care and Health Forum

The forum has a diverse membership of 65, who meet regularly to discuss local and national issues, exchange information between the third sector and colleagues from Social Work, CHP and other public services and provides the opportunity for consultation and genuine partnership working. The forum recently undertook a review of its role and support to our third sector colleagues. From the survey in January, 97% of respondents said that the forum was informative and useful and had also met their expectations; 63% of respondents had taken up opportunities to work in partnership with colleagues who have met through the CCHF.

I expect the CCHF to inform me of relevant legislative change, local practice and key challenges faced by stakeholders across Falkirk. I think the CCHF does a very good job of doing all of these."

It is an opportunity for organisations to network with other organisations and to share skills and experiences.

It is an excellent forum for highlighting events in the area and invites guest speakers to provide important and relevant information."

Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum

The forum and its members work closely with Falkirk Council and other Community Planning partners to implement best practice, develop staff and volunteers and find solutions to local issues. The forum plays an important role in representing the third sector at key partnership meetings driving forward local and national strategies including Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), Early Years Intervention Public Social Partnership and Self Directed Support. The forum has developed a handbook for its members, and is currently evaluating their action plan and progress to date.

Additional Activities

Partnership Innovation Fund

The Partnership Innovation Fund provides funding for innovative partnership projects led by third sector organisations contributing to the Falkirk Change Plan, Reshaping Care for Older People. Our Capacity Building Officer provides support to the organisation from initial application through to monitoring and evaluation. This year:

- **11 projects supported**
- **4 organisations supported in developing new proposals**
- **6 short term extension requests**
- **7 applications received for Year 2 funding**
- **£325,884 granted**

Broadening your Horizons

Contributing to the local youth employability agenda we delivered two programmes of **Broadening your Horizons** with 22 young people participating. Broadening your Horizons is a bespoke training programme for young people currently unemployed and seeking opportunities to learn new skills and improve their employability. During the programme the young people participated in placements with third sector organisations. We are most grateful to our third sector colleagues who hosted these. On completion of the programmes **80% of the young people went onto positive destinations.**

This was an example of good partnership working with ETU, SDS, FV College and the Third Sector.

Flexible office space

With additional office space we can offer room hire and desk space to local organisations and groups at a heavily discounted rate. We have had more than 114 bookings throughout the year to use our office space for consultations, development meetings, training sessions and interviewing.

Graphic Design Service

From initial concept to finished product we worked with clients and completed projects from designing new logos to annual reviews, leaflets and banner stands.

Financial services

For many years we have offered payroll services to third sector organisations. This year we have provided payroll services to four clients and accountancy services to two clients prior to reviewing the viability of these services.

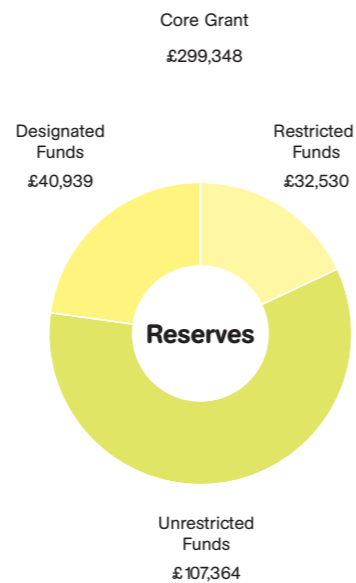
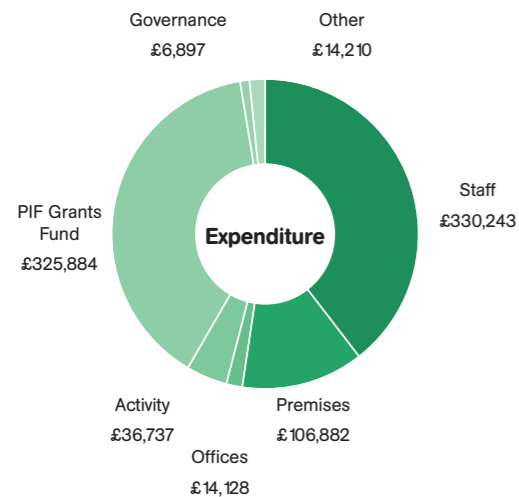
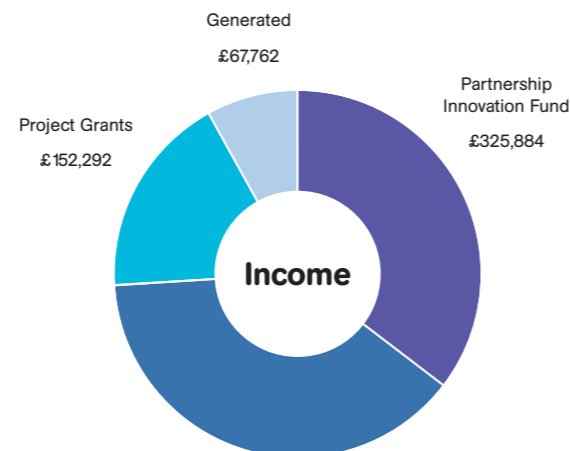
Administration services

Eight administration projects were completed with one client receiving admin support on a weekly basis for nine months

Financial Summary

Our financial performance in 2013/14 has continued to be strong in terms of increasing our unrestricted general funds position despite operating in a climate of significant reductions in both charitable activities and generated income, which reflects the more difficult economic climate we are all operating in.

As with other third sector organisations, we have had to look to making significant savings in our costs to offset the reduction in income.



Due to the short-term nature of the projects we undertake it can be difficult to compare our performance across years; this year we have again seen a significant contribution to our total income with the Partnership Innovation Fund, which has been paid out to a number of successful applicants to the fund.

Our trading income saw significant reductions this year, leading to a decision to cease a number of these functions at the close of the year. We continue to generate income from tenants and room hire.

Despite reporting an increase in our unrestricted general funds for the year, we again must reflect that in large part this is due to having a number of staff posts unfilled for a significant part of the year. This has been redressed, and we should not look to this recurring in future years.

During the year we had two critical IT and telephone infrastructure failures which incurred immediate costs to repair, and we have made provision through increasing designated funds to invest in upgrades in the coming year which should mitigate against future problems.

We anticipate another challenging year during 2014/15 with additional pressures on our income and continued increases to our costs in line with other organisations in our sector.

We will make available our Audited Accounts and Directors Report for the year to any person wishing to see them. They are available on request and to download from our website www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk.

Thank You

The Board of Directors would like to express their thanks to those who have worked with us during the year. We'd particularly like to thank the volunteers and third sector organisations that work tirelessly to improve our communities and the opportunities for local people. We'd also like to thank our funders and strategic partners for their continued support.

The Directors are particularly appreciative of the hard work and commitment of the skilled staff, placements and volunteers who have made all of our achievements possible.

Funders

Our main funders during the year were:

The Scottish Government, Falkirk Council, NHS Forth Valley, Scottish Canals

Directors

- Bill Kelly** Chairperson
- Iain Opray** Treasurer
- Elaine Costello**
- Paul Mooney**
- Rosie Murray**
- Sandy Milne**
- Debbie Noble** (Appointed August 2014)
- Margaret Torrance**

Staff Team (as at October 2014)

- Andrea Smith** Volunteer Coordinator (HELP)
- Carolyn Dick** Volunteering Development Officer
- Claire Kennedy** Development Officer – Capacity Building
- Ewen Cameron** Finance Officer
- Fiona Wilson** Volunteer Coordinator (Forth Valley Top Toes)
- Jennifer Robertson** Development Officer – The Helix Social Enterprise Zone
- Jim Thompson** Community Care and Health Development Officer
- Karen Herbert** Chief Executive Officer
- Katherine Day** Youth Volunteering Development Officer
- Natalie Cunningham** Saltire Awards Administrator
- Nicola Cox** Administrator
- Nina Kowal** Capacity Building Officer – Services for Older People
- Tariq Mahmood** Development Officer – Capacity Building
- Victoria McRae** Operations Manager

The Directors would like to recognise the service and contribution given by two long-serving Directors: Isa Breen and Stuart McAllister who both stood down in November 2013.

Pam Dixon, Finance Officer is currently on maternity leave, and had a baby girl, named Lucy on Thursday 5th June 2014.

Debbie Black, Elisha Kimani, Dave Park, Diane Stewart, Alison Fordyce and Ashleigh Burt left the staff team during 2013/14 and we'd like to wish them every success for the future.

Thanks also to Nina, Stewart and Carol for their volunteering during the year and to the Partnership Innovation Fund Panel for their continued support.

This year we hosted our first student internship with Will Blair undertaking a project to help us redevelop our new brand, including marketing and publicity materials as well as contributing to the redesign of our new web site.

To find out more about the work of your local third sector interface, how we can help you, or to make any comments about what we do then please get in touch with us.

tel: **01324 692000**

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The Third Sector Interface for Falkirk and District



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