

CVS STIRLING

CVS Stirling is a Company with Charitable Status Limited By Guarantee.
Company Number SC169437.
Charity Number SC016980.

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Tenth Annual General Meeting
21st September 2007
Guide Hut, Glebe Avenue
Stirling



Chair's Report

It is with pleasure I present this annual report for 2006 07. This is our tenth anniversary and we have decided to produce an additional snap shot document, highlighting organisational activity, over the period, for your information.

It is easy to forget just how much activities have taken place, as we strive to be an outward looking organisation. So in researching this piece of work, I got the opportunity to reflect and look back with fond memories, on a host of past achievements that may have otherwise slipped to the back of my mind.

CVS Stirling has faced a challenging year. The European funded post finished in June 2006. We then recruited a new development worker and unfortunately this post became vacant also. Funding cuts and Political change has had an impact on the organisational development.

CVS Stirling continued to soldier on and make the most of the funding available to us. Although it has been more difficult, due to the staffing resource cuts, we have maintained a full and productive work programme, wherever possible.

As a CVS we strive to develop services to meet the needs of the sector we support. This can be evidenced throughout the report, but especially in the Membership Survey Summary.

We are very optimistic about our future direction, we are confident that the next financial year, will see many new changes. The Big Lottery has endorsed the excellent work of CVS and has agreed a significant investment of finance to facilitate this change culture and strengthen Local and National Partnerships. We have an opportunity to present a full CVS Network Business Plan to the Scottish Government, in the hope of securing 3 year funding agreement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board Members, for their help and support over the past year, and echo this thanks to the Director and her staff for their hard work.



Core Activities

CVS Stirling, along with all the CVS in the Network, delivers its services via the Core Activities Framework which focuses on 6 key areas:

- Understanding the voluntary sector
- Communicating with the voluntary sector
- Representing the interests of the voluntary sector
- Providing support services
- Promoting good practice
- Growing the sector

CVS Stirling has 3 broad aims which reflect its Mission Statement:

- to support, advise and develop the voluntary sector within the Stirling Council area
- to increase membership and representation of the voluntary sector agencies
- to form effective partnerships and develop purposeful networks with other agencies

CVS Stirling is committed to its mission statement and working within the three broad aims. The work of the organisation is regularly reviewed with these in mind and they form the basis of any information and publicity material.

Treasurer's Report

The past year has been somewhat challenging. The Scottish Executive and Stirling Council continued to support the organisation, and we extend grateful thanks to both. The BVOC project has ended, with the end of funding there by European Social Fund Objective 3.

We were able to employ Lyndsay Macadam as a development worker, sadly for only nine months, as she moved to a post in Fife, nearer to her home.

Because of reduced available funding we have been unable to replace her, which means that Marina, our Director, has had an increased workload.

Fortunately there is the prospect later this year of funds from the Big Lottery. This would ease the present constrained financial situation.

However, we have weathered similar difficulties in the past, and I remain cautiously hopeful.

Deirdre Sprunt

Treasurer

During 2006-07 CVS Stirling received funding from Mission Statement



Mission Statement

CVS Stirling shares a common mission statement with all other CVS operating in Scotland which is:

"Councils for Voluntary Service exist to represent and support the voluntary sector, to assist organisations in coming together for common purposes, and to enable local people to gain access to decision-making processes which affect their communities."

"Councils for Voluntary Service aim to present the common policies and concerns of voluntary organisations, to develop new ways of responding to need in partnership with statutory agencies who are also concerned with social and economic regeneration."

During 2006-07 CVS Stirling received funding from



Children in Need

This year has seen some changes to the Grant System which began following a radio appeal in 1927.

The contract for administration of funds to distributing organisations in Scotland was awarded by the BBC Children in Need Trustees to the Scottish Welfare Awards Network, based at the Renfield Centre in Glasgow.

There are currently 22 distributing organisations throughout Scotland - most of which are under the CVS banner. Although each area distributor is entitled to a fee for administration costs - which can be significant - all have agreed to waive this charge as it would be deducted from the amount of grant allocated.

The terms and conditions will generally remain the same and at present the level of funding to each organisation is unchanged - this will be reviewed towards the end of the year.

Key Information

Since Christmas 2006

240 children helped

78 children in Falkirk receive grants totalling £4,564

22 children were helped in Clackmannan, receiving £1,530 in grants

126 children in Stirling receive a total of £3,014 in grants

One other difference is that applicants are now required to complete an Application Form on behalf of clients - this should make applications more straightforward and will also help with recording and monitoring information.

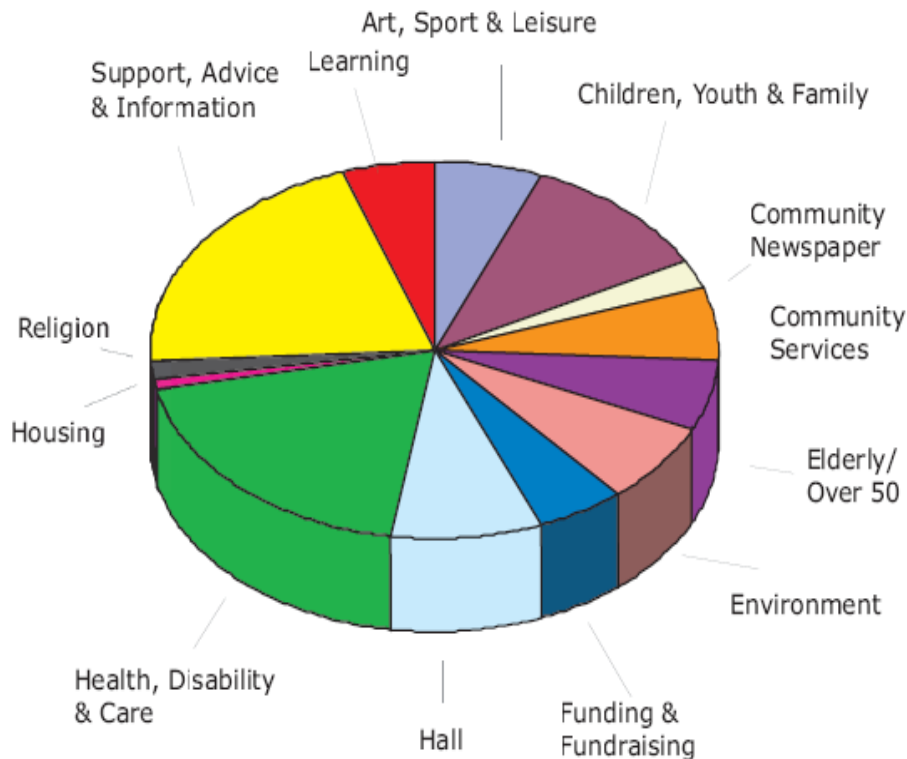
CVS Stirling's grant allocation for 2007 is £15,150. The number of children who benefited in 2006 was 288 - not surprisingly the total climbs each year.

It is heartening to receive feedback from applicants - even modest amounts of funding can make a huge difference to the lives of some children caught in adverse circumstances who, despite their difficulties, can display courage and a determination to enjoy life.

Tom Murray
Convener
Children in Need



CVS Stirling Membership



Key Information
Membership was kept up-to-date with sector news Through out the year.
1 Membership Survey Undertaken
7 groups helped with Constitutions
13 Funderfinder Searches
16 e-bulletins distributed

In November 2006, CVS Stirling undertook a membership survey to gauge the voluntary sector in the Stirling Council area. The results of the survey will be the base for CVS Stirling's activity over the next year.

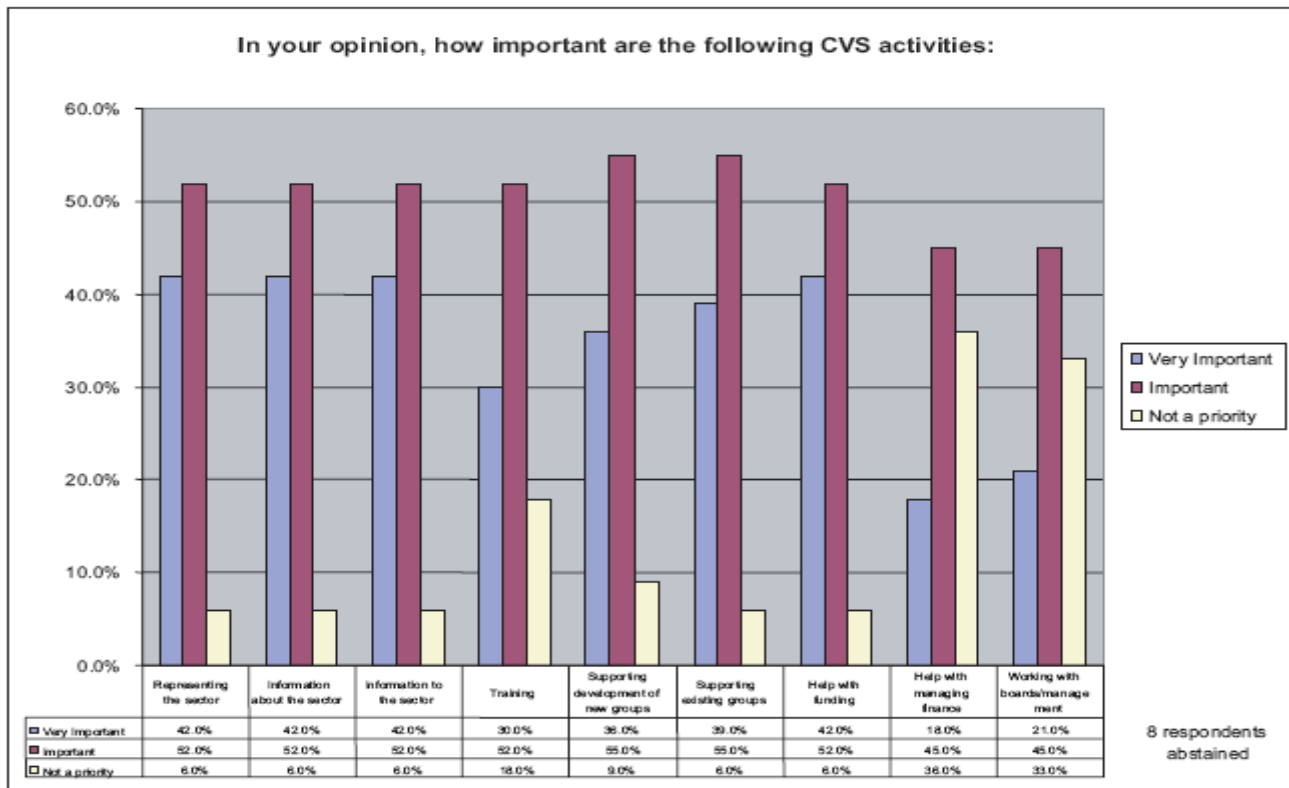
Summary of CVS Stirling Membership Survey

Results showed that most of the groups that hold membership with CVS Stirling are smaller groups, with a few medium and larger based groups that are branches of nationwide organisations - **almost 70% said their organisations were classed as being small.**

It is evident that a large number of organisations would like some kind of assistance with funding applications - whether it is funding searches, training in writing applications, or in most cases, a funding fare to be held for the sector.

Amongst our members there was also a clear indication that some groups were in need of training in various aspects of running an organisation. There was also significant interest expressed in CVS Stirling's plans to initiate voluntary sector forums on key community planning issues with more than 55% saying they would more than likely participate in such forums on either a bi-monthly or quarterly basis. All of the membership was happy for CVS Stirling to continue to act as an intermediary and represent the Stirling voluntary sector at strategic meetings.

CVS Stirling Membership



The key areas that CVS Stirling can assist their membership is in representing the sector; distributing information throughout the sector; training needs; supporting the development of new groups and supporting existing groups; and assisting groups with funding issues.

CVS Stirling Charities Christmas Sale

The 2006 event was a great success with 35 charities taking part, raising over £11,000.

This is an important occasion in the charities' calendar, both for fund-raising and public awareness. Many charities are encouraged to see loyal customers returning each year - it's good to see familiar faces!

CVS Stirling would like to say a big 'thank you' to the charities and their volunteer helpers - we recognise the huge amount of commitment from all those involved, both in the preparation and staffing the stalls on the day. We return home tired and with sore feet, but mostly with a feeling of satisfaction!

Stirling may be a city now, but all those involved in the sale, volunteers and public alike, contribute to a warm smalltown community atmosphere which makes it all worthwhile.

Key Information

CVS Stirling has been running organising the Christmas Sale for the past 10 years

35 participating Charities in 2006

Raising over £11,000

Over 1,000 visitors on the day

Partnerships and Activity

Building Voluntary Organisations Capacity (BVOC Project)

This was a partnership project between CVS Clackmannanshire and CVS Stirling. This project was part funded by ESF European monies. The project started in July 2005 and ended in July 2006. This project worked with individual voluntary groups who wanted to enhance both their strategic and operational performance. A major success of the project was the peer support networks which were established and are ongoing. And was attended by 25 people. 4 Groups presented there experience of taking part in the year long project at the celebration event. Although this project is know longer funded to carry on, the training material and evaluation of such, has been used with other voluntary groups, post July 2006. This is part of the sustainability aspect of the project and will continue to be updated and developed as required.

Stirling Community Health Partnership

CVS Stirling has been an active member of this partnership for the past 2 years. The partnership consists of a range of health care professionals, voluntary sector and Public Partnership Representation. The partnership meets bi-monthly and always has a very full agenda. The role of CVS Stirling has developed alongside the embryonic grouping. It is hoped that a mechanism by which CVS Stirling can capture voluntary sector views and feed them into the structure, is developed and funded over the next financial year.

There currently is no additional funding for this involvement. All the minutes and reports are held within the office so information, and can be accessed by all. M McGuire (CVS Stirling), is the Voluntary Sector Representative for this year, with 2 additional voluntary sector deputies.

Supporting Voluntary Action - BIG Lottery Fund

The BIG Lottery Fund in Scotland is investing £20 million over a four year period in a programme known as Dynamic Inclusive Communities (DInC). There are three main areas to the DInC investment programme

1. Strengthen and Connecting Wider Networks
2. Strengthen Community influence and
3. Strengthen the core - supporting voluntary action.

The third area - SVA (Supporting Voluntary Action), entails a commitment to Scotland's CVS network. "We will invest substantially in the CVS network because we recognise its unique and vital role at the heart of the voluntary sector."

So the best news ever is that half of the £20 million has been agreed in principal to SCVO as part of a solicited bid, to allow CVS and intermediary bodies to participate in better collaboration and connectivity across the support infrastructure. Portfolio projects - ten individual projects are to be commissioned from within and outwith the existing SCVO and CVS support infrastructure. Each strand will focus on an area that will contribute to strengthening the infrastructure and significantly improve the quality and range of support services provided to the voluntary and community sector. The ten strands are: Quality Matters, Leading the Change, Mainstreaming Equalities, Strengthen Voices, Collaboration and Connectivity, Proactive Partnerships, Managing Intelligence, Developing Organisations, Supporting Sustainable Growth and Investing In Volunteers.

Partnerships and Activity

Voluntary Sector Hub

This is a partnership initiative which is looking at the potential purchase of property to home a one stop shop, for Voluntary Organisation. The idea has been driven by the Local Volunteer Centre, CVS Stirling, Volunteer development Scotland and SCVO.

Finding suitable premises was highlighted by a host of local voluntary group, as a major issue to organisational accessibility and affordability. The Hub project would maximise the sharing of some central services at the same time allowing the sector the autonomy, which is an essential element of the role and function of the sector, at a local level and National level.

A questionnaire survey of interested organisations provided the management group with a synopsis of the needs of the sector and from this an action plan has been identified. The Volunteer Centre manager has been instrumental in developing a Community of Interest Company. This will be the delivery vehicle for future developments. It is anticipated that funding will be secured to enable all the potential plans to be put into place. This could eventually help organisation sustainability for all concerned.

Stirling Area Access Panel

Scottish Disability Equality Forum has been instrumental in facilitating the gathering of this grouping. The new committee formed and CVS Stirling developed a supporting role in this embryonic committee. Money from a Scottish Executive grant, paid for the setting up of a small office and for vital training and development of the group. CVS Stirling premises home the administrative base of this organisation. The group will concentrate on developing a realistic, achievable work plan for the year ahead and will consult widely with all key partners on issues affecting all access related concerns.

Rural Stirling and Lomond LEADER+ Local Action Group

CVS Stirling has worked on the Local Action Group from the onset of this European Union Community Initiative, aimed at promoting economic and community development within rural areas. The focus is on improving the economic position of an area, by supporting small scale projects within the community and demonstrating a community-based approach to such. CVS has played a role in identifying and supporting local voluntary groups to access this funding opportunity. In this financial year, voluntary/ community sector managed to attract £73,847

LEADER+ will only support up to 50% of the project costs. A new development group has been established to prepare a business plan to bid, to strengthen and develop the LEADER concept, in the hope of attracting funding post 2007.

Forth Valley Joint Working Health Group

This grouping comprises of representation from:
3 Forth Valley CVS and Volunteer Centres, and the NHS Forth Valley.

We are currently writing a paper outlining a funding proposal to develop and strengthen the role of the Forth Valley NHS and the need to integrate the voluntary and volunteering sector in all health related agenda

CVS STIRLING STAFF 2007

Marina A McGuire Director
Lyndsay Macadam* Development Worker
Alan Struthers ICT & Advice Worker
Linda Flockhart Senior Administration
* Lyndsay left her post in March 2007

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006/07

Colin Newman Chairman
Ronald Skinner MBE Vice-Chair
Deirdre Sprunt Treasurer
Tom Murray Company Secretary
Mike Stone
Cathy Traynor
Rev. Brian Webster

Thank You

We'd like to thank all our member organisations and colleagues in networks, forums and agencies who have worked with us to develop the voluntary sector in the Stirling area.

More Information

If you would like more information about what we do, or would like to know how we can help your organisation please don't hesitate to contact us.

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