



## Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 29 September 2021

10am – 12 noon

**Chair:** Anthea Coulter (CTSI)

**Attendees Present:**

Lesley Arthur (Reachout with Arts in Mind)  
Alan Clevett (SVE)  
Karen D’Arcy-Kernan (CTSI)  
Julie Haslam (CTSI)  
Ruth Martin (Stirling Council)  
Natalie Masterson (SVE)  
Matt McGrandles (Ceangail CIC)  
Jude Reid (Scottish Sports Futures)  
Lee Robertson (Community Wellbeing and Education CIC)  
Lee Stevenson (SVE)  
Fergus Storrer (Dundee Social Enterprise Network)  
Stephen Sutton (Bailliefields Community Hub)  
Amy Walsh (Wellbeing Scotland)

**Apologies:**

Karleen McClelland (Forth Valley Men’s Shed)  
Gerry McKeown (Camphill Blair Drummond)  
Daniel Rooney (Wellbeing Scotland)  
Dan Rous (Our Place Camelon and Tamfourhill)  
Angela Watt (Resonate Together)  
John Young (Vital Spark Racing CIC)

### Welcome and Introduction

Anthea Coulter, CTSI Chief Officer, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by all.

### FVSEN Directory, Website and Bulletin Update

Karen D’Arcy – Kernan, CTSI, gave an overview of how the new online directory is progressing. 78 social enterprises are currently signed up (30 Clacks, 14 Falkirk, 34 Stirling) and work is ongoing to get other

organisations to fill out the Google form and give their permissions. Karen advised that the current website is a prototype version and is not available to the public at present – CTSI web developer Eilidh is in the process of updating all the details on the site. Anthea also noted that anyone who wishes to be on the directory also needs to be a member of their local TSI and this work is happening in conjunction with receiving directory permissions.

Anyone who has not already filled out the Google form and who wishes to be on the directory can do so by [clicking this link](#). If necessary, Karen will then get in touch with you to advise on your TSI membership status and direct you to the correct TSI.

### Social enterprise consultation update

Anthea advised that representatives of the TSI Scotland Network were part of a small working group who met with Chris Rafferty at Scottish Government to make the case for more involvement with the reference group. The consultation is now closed and Scottish Government is currently assessing comments. SENScot and Social Enterprise Scotland have been approached and asked to merge into a single entity. The process should be completed by the end of January 2022 and TSI Scotland Network has requested to be on the programme board.

### Meet Fergus Storrier – CEO of Dundee Social Enterprise Network

Fergus introduced himself and gave some personal background information – he previously worked as a police officer, in youth justice and in charities before setting up his own social enterprise, Showcase The Street. This complements his work as CEO of DSEN.

DSEN is a code compliant system. They have full members but also engage with ASEs (aspiring Social Enterprises) who are given one year from joining to establish themselves and can then join as full members. There is no charge for membership. They currently have 82 members with a variety of themes e.g. sport, arts, mental health, young people. Working in partnership with Dundee TSI they attend select groups at Dundee Council. They offer funding advice free of charge – 40 members recently received Adapt & Thrive funding totalling over £1 million. They also assist members with Community Asset Transfer and understanding new policies.

Fergus gave the example of involvement in a local project in conjunction with Hillcrest Housing, using social isolation and wellbeing funding to work with 4 sports hubs. Each was given £1000 to run 8 weeks of an activity. 73 people were involved; the activities were for client groups such as men's walking football, veterans and women over 50. The social value of these clubs was calculated at £220,000 which gave a huge saving to the Local Authority. **Social value calculator toolkits can be found here:**

[Social Value Bank](#) – base tool

[Mental Health Calculator](#) – a specialised tool for measuring mental health outcomes in detail

[HACT publications](#) – documents related to social value – background on where the values come from, practical guidance on using the Social Value Bank, etc.

[SFHA Social Value Toolkit](#) – useful set of resources, advice, guidance

Social Enterprise Academy – Fergus noted that social enterprise is not really a subject taught in schools. The SE Academy session approach would not be sustainable long term so DSEN is working on getting members involved to follow up with schools and create sustained relationships. He noted some schools are willing to pay for social enterprises to run these sessions.

He also suggested partnership working and pooling resources can be beneficial for SEs e.g. a mental health SE could work with a non-mental health SE so knowledge and skills can be transferable. Also useful for joint funding applications.

Fergus also advised:

- Constant contact with members for health checks and assessing required support. Speak to each member at least once every 3 months.
- Go to people rather than have people come to you.
- Funding: Wood Foundation programme for schools; YouthLink Scotland for youth work initiatives; Skills Development Scotland apprenticeships; Kickstart funding.

### **Update from Ruth Martin (Stirling Council) on the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Inclusion Workers and Investment Project**

Ruth explained that this project has the potential to create great links between social enterprises, local groups and Inclusion Workers. There are currently 2 Inclusion Workers in post, Hayley Preece and Michele Healy, with recruitment for 2 more workers happening soon. The role involves preparing individuals who may be excluded from other projects' criteria (e.g. Youth Guarantee) to take up places on CRD projects. The IWs work with individuals identifying and working to overcome barriers e.g. digital inclusion, help with volunteering. Target groups are wide-ranging and include but are not limited to: those impacted by the pandemic, women, unemployed young people and those in low paid work, young parents, those with low literacy/digital literacy, disabled people, refugees, those who live in remote or rural areas.

Ruth advised there are not a lot of 'hard' outcomes within the project but that working in a more person-centred manner with individual needs is key. She also advised that some funding may be available for social enterprises to take part but this is dependent on the individual projects.

Natalie advised that being added to the FVSEN directory is important as we will use the directory as a promotional tool for projects such as the CRD.

More information on the CRD Inclusion Workers and Investment Project, including contact details, can be found in [this Powerpoint](#).

### **City Region Deal – Regional Economic Forum**

Natalie gave a brief overview of the CRD – this is an investment piece which has been worked on for the past 5 years and is about improving the environment and future of Stirling and Clackmannanshire. Currently Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils, the Scottish Government, the UK Government and The University of Stirling are involved. £92 million in total investment. Some of the projects include:

- International Environment Centre (part of the University but will be based in Clackmannanshire)
- Work on tourism in Stirling
- Scottish Tartan Centre

An opportunity has arisen for third sector representation on the Regional Economic Forum and it was suggested that expressions of interest from FVSEN members regarding this should be submitted by email. All happy with this suggested process. More information to follow.

## TSI Updates

Lee from SVE gave an update on recent social enterprise activity. Full details of Lee's report can be found by [clicking here](#). An item omitted from the report is Trustees' Week (first week of November) – SVE and CTSI will both provide different events during this e.g. HMRC presentation on GiftAid; OSCR workshop. Keep an eye on our social media accounts for information. Lee also discussed the pathway of support between Business Gateway and SVE which will allow easier advice giving and signposting for social enterprises. Social enterprises can also access 3 days' funded specialist support with Business Gateway.

Julie from CTSI also gave a brief update. She encouraged those present to sign up to the new Finance Forum (please keep an eye on social media for future information). She also spoke about the TSI Practitioners' Forum which has been working to ensure a proper model and referral process for signposting exists and identifying individual SE needs for support and training. Julie's report can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

You can email Lee at [leestevenson@sventerprise.org.uk](mailto:leestevenson@sventerprise.org.uk) or Julie and [julie.haslam@ctsi.org.uk](mailto:julie.haslam@ctsi.org.uk) for any support needs.

## AOB – Member Updates

**Reachout with Arts in Mind** – the organisation works with people with poor mental health and mild physical and learning disabilities. They have a large flexible studio so have been providing both remote workshops and in person working e.g. with local primary schools. There is an opportunity for short-term partnership for maintenance work of a former Japanese garden on the premises – please contact at [lesleyarthur@reachoutwithartsinmind.org.uk](mailto:lesleyarthur@reachoutwithartsinmind.org.uk) if interested.

**Scottish Sports Futures** – works with vulnerable young people who may be disengaged from education, using sport as engagement tool. Based in Glasgow but now have a Stirling hub in Bannockburn Sports Hub. Offering core delivery soon,, also so personal development modules and SCQF accreditation. May consider Clacks based work in future. Please contact at [Jude@ssf.org.uk](mailto:Jude@ssf.org.uk) to connect.

**Community Wellbeing and Education CIC** – a recent CIC based in Falkirk and working Forth Valley wide. Offers Beauty and Holistic Therapies education with a focus on unemployed people, women experiencing domestic abuse, employability issues. [leerobertson79@hotmail.com](mailto:leerobertson79@hotmail.com) for more information.

**Ceangail CIC** – works in young people's employability skills. They deliver the Stirling Highland Games (recently this has been virtual) and are looking to expand to further afield. Also involved in the Stirling Community Builder project and will be staging 'Caledonia Fest' on St Andrew's Day. They will also be further encouraging digital skills work as part of their office will be converted into a community studio. Contact [matt@ceangail.org](mailto:matt@ceangail.org) for more information.

## Date of next meeting

The date of next meeting is currently Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 10am – 12 noon.