

DRAFT

FORTH VALLEY WELCOME 2018 AGM

19 June 2018, 19:30 in Alloa Ludgate Church

2018 Stats: Attending 53 (Trustees 7/7, Patrons 2/2, Staff 2/2, Service Users 7.)

2017 Stats: Attending 33 (Trustees 6/7, Patrons 2/2, Staff 1/1, Service Users 2.)

FVW Personnel attending:

Trustees: Abby Moriarty, Alan Howes, Donald Black (Secretary), Hugh Grant (Treasurer),
Jean Evans, Savi Maharaj (Chair), Susan Mitchell (Strategy).

Staff: Rebecca Dadge, Michelle McAdoo

Patrons: Ayman Jarjour; Sir George Reid.

Note of the meeting

1. Welcome from the chair
2. Welcome from Provost Depute of Clacks, Donald Balsillie. [Clr. Balsillie emphasised the commitment of Clacks Council to the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme and welcomed the contribution of Forth Valley Welcome.](#)
3. Apologies: [Jill Keegan, Anne Tierney, Stephen Kerr MP, Alastair Williamson, Jill Buckley, Barbara Malcolm, Kath Arton, Cameron Reid, Jeremy Fox.](#)
[Message of good wishes from Graham Morton, one of the founder members of the charity, now in exile in England.](#)
4. Approval of minutes - [Approved](#)
5. Matters arising - [None](#)
6. Report on activities, year to 31 March 2018 (see below)
7. Treasurer's report, year to 31 March 2018 (see below)
8. Strategy year to 31 March 2019 (see below)
9. Forth Valley Welcome Personnel
Volunteer Coordinator (Rebecca Dadge) and Support Worker (Michelle McAdoo) introduced themselves.
10. Discussion
4 from our Syrian family were interviewed by Susan Mitchell with the help of Ayman Jarjour and Alyson King as translators. They expressed warm appreciation for the work of Forth Valley Welcome. A strong desire to be able to work was clear but English Learning was highlighted as a key issue, particularly for those who are not studying (e.g. not at school). From the floor, the question was asked what would help with English learning, more language teaching being the response. Susan announced that, from August 2018, English Teaching hours in Clacks for adults to would increase from 2 to 8 hours per week.

No other discussion matters were raised.
11. Close / refreshments.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES (Savi Maharaj)

Brief history

- June 2015 – started campaigning in Stirling
- Sept 2015 – COSLA announces participation in Syrian VPRS scheme
- Oct 2015 – started to recruit volunteers
- Dec 2015 – First Syrians arrive in Clackmannanshire
- Feb 2016 – First Syrians arrive in Stirling and are met by our volunteers.
- March 2016 – register as a charity (SCIO) called Stirling Citizens for Sanctuary
- April 2016 – SCfS extends services to Clacks

- June 2016 – First “Snack and Chat” event
- Nov 2016 – Volunteer and Project Coordinator recruited (Rebecca Dadge)
- Feb 2018 – Support Worker for Clackmannanshire recruited (Michelle McAdoo)
- Mar 2018 – “Snack and Chat” moves to Alloa
- April 2018 – We become Forth Valley Welcome

Board of Trustees

Donald Black (Secretary)

Jean Evans (Language and Life Skills)

Hugh Grant (Treasurer)

Alan Howes (External Affairs)

Savitri Maharaj (Chair)

Susan Mitchell (Strategy Coordinator)

Abigail Moriarty (Material Needs)

2017-2018 in facts and figures (Part 1)

- 20 Syrian households in Clacks (up from 16 in March 2017)
- 5 Syrian households in Stirling (up from 4 in March 2017)
- 70 active volunteers (up from 64 in March 2017)
- Befriending:
 - 12 families have at least 2 befrienders in regular contact
 - 5 families have only 1 befriender
 - 3 families have no befrienders (due to lack of volunteers)
- Snack and Chat: 6 events held (most recently in Alloa Ludgate church)
- Material Needs:
 - “Stirling Cares and Shares” Facebook group
 - Dunblane storage visited by Syrians and befrienders
- Positive Activities Fund
- Language and Life Skills:
 - Driving test passes
- Some volunteering, but English and employability remain a big concern

April 2017

- Visit to Flanders Moss, invited by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
- Snack and Chat

May 2017

- Ramadan – no planned activities, though some befriending activities continue

June 2017

- Volunteer Network meeting
- New Volunteer Induction meeting
- Syrian Culture session

July 2017

- Eid-ul-Fitr party, Bowmar Centre (organised by Clacks Council)
- Self-defence class for Syrian women, Bowmar Centre

August 2017

- Befrienders take families on outings to local attractions

September 2017

- Walk and Talk with SNH and SEPA

- Snack and Chat at Allan Park South Church
- Volunteer Network meeting
- New Volunteer Induction meeting

October 2017

- Snack and Chat at Allan Park South Church
- Material Needs team responds to Halloween costume requests!

November 2017

- Fundraising concert in Gargunnoch
- Snack and Chat at Allan Park South Church
- New Volunteer Induction meeting
- Macrobert pantomime trip (attended by 50 Syrians and volunteers)
- Yoga class for women, Bowmar Centre

December 2017

- Snack and Chat Christmas Party at Allan Park South Church
- Volunteer Network meeting

January 2018

- A busy month holding interviews for our Support Worker for Clacks – Welcome to Michelle!
- Some of us had fun with the snow

February 2018

- It's all go, getting ready for our name change and moving our Snack and Chat activities to Alloa
- Befriending and material needs activities continue as usual
- Igloo building thanks to Beast from the East

March 2018

- Snack and Chat moves to Alloa Ludgate Church!
- Learn to Ride, with Stirling Cycle Hub – 3 women had a go
- Two of our volunteers are nominated for Clackmannanshire Citizen of the Year!

TREASURER'S REPORT (Hugh Grant)

It cost £23,982 to run FVW in 2017-18

£636 Materials

£1,589 C&C / Positive Action Fund

£618 Snack & Chat / Walk & Talk

£1,168 Activities / Outings/Gifts

£1,001 Admin / PR £832 + Training £169

£18,970 Salary, Pension, Pay Admin, Travel (incl. £118 volunteer travel)

Total income was £25,756

£16,625 Grants *

£3,944 Donations (general)

£3,400 Donations (restricted)

£1,581 Fund-Raising Events

£207 Other

* Grants: RT £7,000 VAF £7,125 SCVO £2,500 (and HDG last year £3,500)

Current Position

£16,074 Balance at 31 Mar 2017

£1,774 Surplus, 2017-18

£17,848 Balance at 31 Mar 2018 (more than 6 months' running costs)

Special thanks to: standing order payees, Tilli Baptist Church, West Moss-side, Julie & friends, APS concert, event organisers, individual donors, Sir George Reid, Rodger Lyall (independent examiner)

2018-19 funding: support strategic aims

- Continued funding for staff positions
- Recruit/ train / coordinate volunteers, esp. Clackmannanshire
- Recruit trustee(s) from Clackmannanshire
- Involve service users
- Support men and women to achieve self sufficiency
- Support for young people

STRATEGY REPORT (Susan Mitchell)

What is a strategy?

- Strategy is about shaping the future and bringing about change
- It is the human attempt to get to desirable ends with available means.

Strategy generally involves

- setting goals,
- determining actions to achieve the goals, and
- mobilizing resources to execute the actions

Strategy is important because the resources available to achieve the goals are usually limited – money, people and time

The Strategic Planning Process

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| ▪ What do we stand for? | Vision, Mission and Values |
| ▪ What do we do? | Service delivery, Liaison and Governance |
| ▪ What do we want to achieve? | Setting achievable goals |
| ▪ How will we get there? | Activities and Resources |
| ▪ How will we know what we have done? | Measuring outcomes |

What do we stand for?

Our Vision:

- We are welcoming to people seeking sanctuary and support them towards a settled future within our communities.

Our Mission:

- To enable families to be welcomed and build their own networks and to become integrated within our communities.
- To work in partnership with stakeholders to provide support towards education, language learning and employment.
- To advocate on behalf of people seeking sanctuary for provision of comprehensive local and national services that meet their needs.

Our Values:

- Compassion: We show concern for the sufferings and misfortunes of others.
- Integrity: We believe in the importance of being honest, truthful and consistent in all our activities.
- Respect: We show due regard for the feelings, wishes, or rights of others.
- Inclusion: We actively seek to welcome and include those of diverse beliefs and backgrounds.
- Fairness: We strive to be impartial in our actions and deliver services without favouritism or discrimination.

What do we do?

- Service Delivery
- Liaison with other agencies
- Governance and Risk Management

What do we want to achieve?

Setting goals (outcomes)

- Syrian families will feel more confident in their new surroundings, and be more at ease in the company of local residents .
- Syrian families, both adults and children, will become more aware of the options available in the community and will have improved involvement in local activities.

Activities and Resources needed:

- Service Delivery
 - Workers – ensure funding – secure grants
 - Volunteers – recruitment – leaflets, advertising, training
 - Snack and chat – planning and organisation - volunteers
 - Walk and talk – planning and organisation - volunteers
 - Service user involvement – encouragement - interpreters
- Liaison with other agencies
 - Councils – regular meetings – available time
 - Schools – raise awareness – presentation materials
 - Media – regular information – time and skills
- Governance and risk management
 - Funding – generate funds - funding team
 - Policies – regular reviews - time and skills
 - Monitoring and evaluation – outcomes – data collection

Priorities for next year

- Funding to ensure continuation of Support Worker post
- Recruitment of volunteers to continue befriending and other vital roles especially in Clackmannanshire
- Recruitment of Trustee(s) from Clackmannanshire
- Involvement of service users in decision making and volunteering
- Supporting men and women to achieve self sufficiency
- Support for young people