

Local Food Bank and Crisis Support

**Main Purpose – Tackling Rural Isolation Service:** to break the cycle of food bank dependency by building financial capacity, energy capability and independent living skills within the target community; reducing social isolation, tackling poverty and inequality, reducing social drift,

building community cohesion and developing community capacity and resilience.

**Tackling Rural Isolation (TRI) – Initiative**

**Background**

The Tackling Rural Isolation (TRI) Outreach Support Service builds on the independent experience and learning our respective organisations have gained from initiatives like Citizens Advice (CAB) Bureau outreach via Stirling Council library network, reactive CAB advice at the front line of Food Bank and the Start Up beyond the food bank Client Support Groups located initially in Stirling Town Center and Callander.

The aim of this collaborative initiative is to integrate a number of key elements of these respective services to create a more effective and sustainable model for supporting individuals and groups, who due to geographical and social isolation, would not otherwise be able to access or benefit from the crucial assistance we are able to provide.

This has been a successful integrated proposal for which both organisations held a series of developmental meetings. We recognise the value of working together to address poverty and support people within our communities to be more resilient and less reliant on crisis food and CAB support. We have reached a partnership agreement on the key elements (data sharing, client confidentiality, insurance, employer duty of care etc.). with a view to providing a sustained service to the community and continuity for individual clients. We have also made a joint commitment that the evidence of impact, learning and community stakeholder engagement which will support an anticipated joint proposal for further funding initially beyond April 2021, however, this may be further delayed to accommodate the startup delay experienced from the pandemic, by further extending beyond March 2021 but this is unknown at this time. Priority now is to progress with the delivery of the new appropriate service, which is adapted sufficiently to ensure we are managing at a time of uncertainly with the continuing pandemic. CAB’s Finance/Energy Capacity/Life Skills Worker is now in post and will align and coordinate their work with our new Food Bank & Client Services Manager and Client Support Worker.