

HELPING SCOTLAND RECOVER

JUNE 2021

As Scotland begins to ease out of lockdown, Bank of Scotland Foundation is focused on supporting charities through the ongoing challenges they face and Helping Scotland Recover.

We're delighted to announce our grant programmes for the rest of 2021 which see a mix of our Reach and Change programmes. We're also offering funding for unrestricted core costs through our Change programme for the first time. Over £690,000 of Reach grants have been awarded to 50 charities in 2021 so far, making a strong community impact across Scotland. Charities who applied to our multi-year Invest programme will be notified mid-June of their outcome when we expect to distribute a further £1.5m.

In addition to financial support, Lloyds Banking Group colleagues continue to mentor some of the charities we fund, providing strategic support and expert guidance to strengthen their services.

This year our strategic offering is set to be enhanced with our collaboration with the Bank of Scotland Academy – an online resource to improve the skills of charities, businesses and people through lessons and webinars.

Our first ever Online Event in May this year saw many of our funded charities hear from a panel of speakers sharing examples and learnings on the strategic topics of 'Digital' and 'Building Resilience'. We know from feedback from charity attendees that the two sessions were of great value, so we're making our Online Event highlights video available to all [here](#).

We have a long journey ahead for all of us and funding, as well as strategic support, will be as crucial as ever for charities as the impact of the pandemic continues. Working in partnership with Lloyds Banking Group, we're proud to play our part in Helping Scotland Recover.

 BANK OF SCOTLAND
Foundation



OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH LLOYDS BANKING GROUP

In February 2021, our annual donation from Lloyds Banking Group was almost £5m, enabling us to confidently plan the ways that we would support charities during 2021, both through our grants programmes and by providing support beyond funding alone.

Our Matched Giving programme continues to be a valuable source of income for charities thanks to the fundraising and volunteering efforts of Lloyds Banking Group colleagues. Colleagues have found innovative ways to support charities during lockdown including virtual bucket collections, solo marathons and selling recipe books they have created, raising funds for small, local charities as well as larger, national charities close to their heart.

Our Charity Mentoring programme has also continued throughout lockdown, with the Group's colleagues and the charities they help moving to remote mentoring until such time that restrictions ease and face-to-face meetings can take place again.

Our partnership with the Group also gives us access to new initiatives and we are pleased to launch our collaboration with the Bank of Scotland Academy. The Academy offers charities a huge variety of online lessons and webinars in digital, life and work skills and is an exciting opportunity for us to help charities and their beneficiaries develop and improve.

We are very proud of our partnership with the Group and look forward to continuing this relationship throughout 2021 and beyond.



Reach

Reach will make positive and lasting change in communities across Scotland. Charities with an income of £1.5m or less can apply for £1,000-£25,000 over one year to support people through varying stages of their lives.



Change

Change will have a large-scale, long term, positive impact on charities and communities across Scotland. Charities with an income of between £500k - £2m can apply for capital costs, project costs or unrestricted core costs of £50,000-£100,000 per annum over 1-2 years to ensure they can provide continued, reliable support for people.



GRANT PROGRAMMES JUNE - DECEMBER 2021

In the first five months of the year we have awarded over £690,000 of grants to 50 charities through our Reach programme, addressing areas such as mental health, financial vulnerability and social isolation.


The second half of the year will see us focus on a grants programme strategy that will Help Scotland Recover from the pandemic with a mix of Reach and Change programmes.

For the first time, charities will be able to apply for unrestricted core costs through our Change programme. We hope that unrestricted core cost funding will give charities greater flexibility over how they use

their resources, allowing them to respond quickly to a changing environment and deploy resources accordingly.

Offering up to £200k over two years, our Change programme will extend a lifeline to charities allowing them to apply for whatever is their greatest priority and area of need - whether that be capital costs, project work or unrestricted core costs.

Programme Dates June - December 2021

PROGRAMME (Charity income criteria)	OPEN	CLOSE	GRANTS AWARDED
 Reach (Less than £1.5m)	12 Noon Thursday 3rd June	12 Noon Tuesday 8th June	Mid-July 2021
 Reach (Less than £1.5m)	12 Noon Monday 26th July	12 Noon Thursday 29th July	Mid-September 2021
 Change (£500k-£2m)	12 Noon Tuesday 31st August	12 Noon Thursday 9th September	End of November 2021
 Reach (Less than £1.5m)	12 Noon Monday 20th September	12 Noon Thursday 24th September	End of November 2021



MAXWELLTOWN INFORMATION CENTRE

The Maxwelltown Information Centre is a community centre and garden based in the heart of Dundee's Coldsides. They are committed to improving the quality of life for the local community and to combatting social exclusion, poverty, disadvantage, and discrimination. The centre provides a welcoming and empowering environment, open to everyone, to socialise, access information and learn new skills such as creative gardening, cooking and upcycling.

The charity received a grant of £15,140 from the November Reach programme in 2019 to fund the salary of an existing part-time Project Worker and enable them to continue supporting up to 750 people who were facing financial crisis and food insecurity.

When Covid lockdowns prevented people accessing the centre for help, the charity quickly adapted, switching mainly to telephone support. This way, they could continue to help individuals take control of their lives by addressing the day to day issues affecting them, such as poverty, debt, unemployment and poor health.

The initial role of the Project Worker was to support those in the local area, but during the pandemic the charity was supporting people Dundee-wide through its call line. Every individual who contacted them was able to access emergency food within that working day and offered support for the reasons that lead to food insecurity. The majority of these people received further support, including access to local food larders that provide low cost, nutritional food; help applying for fuel vouchers to

negate the need to decide between heat and food; signposting to mental health organisations; financial support and much more.

Alison Goodfellow, Project Manager at Maxwell said, "Due to the pandemic, more people have needed to access food than ever before and have had more issues to contend with too. However, we've learned that we can adapt when needed and still maintain support for those who need it.

"Thanks to the funding from Bank of Scotland Foundation, our Project Worker has been able to support a wider range of people across Dundee, rather than just our local community and enabled our vital service to continue to help people access food and mitigate food insecurity.



continue transforming services using digital tools to break down barriers and improve accessibility.

Hosted by our Chair, Phillip Grant, our guest speakers included **Ross McCulloch**, Founder Third Sector Lab; **Sally Dyson**, Head of Digital Participation, SCVO; **Nancy Campbell**, Strategic Development Manager, MS Therapy Centre; **Jemma Waters**, Head of Responsible Transformation, Lloyds Banking Group, **Frances Simpson**, Support in Mind, **Anna Fowlie**, SCVO and **Kirsty McNab**, Scottish Sports Futures who all provided different perspectives relating to their expertise in regards to Digital and Building Resilience.

During our Digital Session our panel gave wonderful perspectives covering the ways organisations can use digital solutions to overcome challenges, how organisations are promoting digital inclusion to break down

barriers and improve accessibility and the strategies charities are implementing to develop the skills necessary to embrace long-term digital change.

Throughout the Building Resilience Session our panel provided real insight and food for thought as they talked through ways in which charities can provide well-being support to their staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, how charities can use partnership working to capitalise on one and others capabilities and information relating to the wealth of resources available to support well-being and resilience.

As part of the event, we welcomed Sistema Scotland for our 'Bringing Funding to Life' section, to demonstrate the impact of their Bank of Scotland Foundation funding of over £184k in 2019. Sistema Scotland is a charity based in Govanhill transforming the lives of

children and young people through music. Elanor Gunn, Acting Head of Centre from Sistema Scotland provided an overview of how the charity adapted their Big Noise project over the last 12 months to continue supporting their children and young people and shared a wonderful video showcasing their hard work. (The 5-minute video can be viewed on our [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) pages.)

The key take-way and most common piece of advice that emerged from our Online Event was the importance of embracing new challenges and focussing on what you can do, rather than what you can't do.

We thank everyone for joining us and helping shape the discussion of the event. Our 25-minute highlights video can be viewed via this [link](#).

On the 19th of May, we hosted our very first Online Event to give charities and third sector leaders the opportunity to share the excellent ways they have overcome challenges, adapted services and built resilience throughout the pandemic. The conversation was both reflective and forward thinking, looking back over the last twelve months but also looking at ways the third sector can



BANK OF SCOTLAND ACADEMY

We are excited to announce a new collaboration with the Bank of Scotland Academy, which provides further opportunity for us to offer charities support beyond funding alone.

The Academy aims to help Scottish charities, businesses and people with their confidence and capability by offering a huge variety of lessons and webinars in digital, life and work skills. The Academy is open to everyone, easy to follow, and completely free. Jemma Waters, Head of Responsible Transformation, Group Transformation, Lloyds Banking Group said "We're delighted to be working with Bank

of Scotland Foundation, giving charities across Scotland the skills and confidence to thrive and help their users at this unprecedented time."

The Academy offers a range of topics including:

- Finding and securing your perfect job
- Managing your business' finances
- Building a social media and marketing strategy
- Keeping an organisation safe and secure

You can access the academy at www.bankofscotlandacademy.co.uk

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

The last year has been one of the most challenging years faced by the Foundation and indeed the whole of Scotland. I must recognise at the outset the huge efforts from the Foundation team and the Board that ensured we could continue to support Scotland's charities throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. I am hugely grateful for their dedication and professionalism throughout the year.

In the last twelve months our strategy has been adapted to ensure we can distribute our funding effectively, efficiently and quickly to charities - including increasing the frequency of our grant funding, amending the income criteria to enable more charities to apply and allowing charities to apply for larger amounts of funding. Our changes have brought stability to charities during very challenging months and helped them meet the immediate and longer term needs of some of Scotland's most vulnerable people.

The energy and determination of charity staff and volunteers throughout the pandemic has been inspirational, from moving to providing services online, distributing hundreds of food parcels to those most in need and tackling isolation.

As we look towards Helping Scotland Recover, I'm pleased to offer charities, staff and volunteers access to the new Bank of Scotland Academy where they can learn new skills to develop and improve themselves and their organisations.

Lastly, I must acknowledge the support of our sole funder, Lloyds Banking Group. We are hugely grateful for the Group's annual donation that has enabled us to offer a range of grants programmes to charities across Scotland that will help to provide people with opportunity and equality and make positive, sustainable change.

From everyone at Bank of Scotland Foundation, we hope that you stay safe and well.



Philip Grant,
Chair



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