

## Our History

With the generous support of our sole funder, Lloyds Banking Group, Bank of Scotland Foundation has been making a significant impact on Scotland's most vulnerable communities since 2010.

Through our Grant Programmes and Matched Giving Programme for Lloyds Banking Group colleagues in Scotland, we've provided **almost £37 million of funding to over 2,600 charities enabling over 1.5 million people to access much needed local services and personal support.**

As our 2019-2023 strategy concluded, we took the opportunity to reflect on the challenges faced by charities and how we could further assist them in supporting their communities. We're thrilled to now embark on a new five year journey, as we strive to make an even greater difference and build a brighter future for Scotland.

# BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR SCOTLAND

In Scotland, social exclusion, disadvantage, and deprivation remain huge priorities to address. Levels of poverty were increasing long before the shocks of the last four years. The impact of the cost of living crisis on quality of life is profound, with a particularly devastating impact on vulnerable people who are more susceptible to experiencing harm, discrimination, or disadvantage.

Through our new five-year strategy – Building a Brighter Future for Scotland – the needs and aspirations of vulnerable people will drive our work as we aim to fund, support and champion the small and local charities that work to improve their quality of life.

### Four strategic aims will determine our programmes of work over the next five years:

- Flexibility and mutual understanding will underpin our work as we make more of **multi-year and unrestricted funding**, enabling charities to use their grants in the way that helps them best.
- Through collaboration with Lloyds Banking Group, we'll be a **source of added value for charities** offering strategic development support and colleague volunteers.
- Working with charities and other funders we aim to become more influential by **championing the work of charities** and raising awareness of the challenges vulnerable people face.
- We'll keep listening and learning, and monitoring and evaluating to continually improve ourselves and ensure we work effectively and efficiently to **maximise our contribution** and the impact of the charities we support.

## Vulnerability

Vulnerable people can be impacted by a range of factors such as their social, economic, geographic location, or physical circumstances. Examples of vulnerability can include education barriers, mobility/transport issues, learning disabilities, family-related challenges, poverty, housing and employment difficulties, and poor mental health and emotional wellbeing. Charities we support will be required to demonstrate that they put vulnerable people at the heart of everything they do.



JANUARY 2024

✱ BANK OF SCOTLAND  
Foundation

# GRANT PROGRAMMES

Three new grant programmes will be launched in 2024, all of which are multi-year, offering stability during these challenging times.

## Empower



- **3 year grant of £150k** (£50k per annum)
- **Unrestricted funding**
- Charity **income must be between £150k - £500k** per year
- Charities must have **a minimum of three years accounts** lodged at OSCR

**Empower** offers real security and certainty for charities with funding over 3 years. Collaborating with Lloyds Banking Group, we aim to identify opportunities to add strategic value for funded charities and help them grow stronger and thrive beyond the lifetime of their grant.

Opens

February 2024

## Energise



- **2 year grant of £20k** (£10k per annum)
- **Unrestricted funding**
- Charity **income must be £150k or less**
- Charities must have **a minimum of one years accounts** lodged at OSCR

**Energise** is a multi-year grants programme supporting small and local charities who are alive to the real issues on the ground. Available to new (and more established) charities, this programme offers unrestricted funding enabling charities to use their grants in the way that helps them best.

Opens

May 2024

## Enable



- **3 year grant of £30k - £90k** (£10k - £30k per annum)
- **Restricted funding for volunteering projects/costs/initiatives**
- Charity **income must be £500k or less**
- Charities must have **a minimum of two years accounts** lodged at OSCR

**Enable** is an innovative, joint grants programme with Lloyds Banking Group aimed at boosting community volunteering. Funding will be provided to charities to support projects delivered through volunteers, with Lloyds Banking Group's colleagues across Scotland volunteering their time and skills to help deliver the projects and support the charities.

Opens

August 2024

# 2019-2023 Supporting Positive Change Across Scotland

By providing 675 grants of almost £17m through our three grants programmes - Invest, Change and Reach - we made significant strides in fulfilling our 2019-2023 strategy, "Supporting Positive Change Across Scotland".



## Invest

£4,331,241  
supporting  
40 charities



## Change

£4,111,619  
supporting  
32 charities



## Reach

£8,476,062  
supporting  
495 charities



## Core Costs

Over the last five years, the Foundation continued to be one of few grant makers to provide funding for much needed core costs.

At a time when charities are finding it more difficult to source the income required to ensure their services continue, **we're proud to offer unrestricted funding** through our new strategy enabling charities to use their funding in the way that helps them best, whether that is towards core costs, delivery costs, project costs or general running costs.

## Spotlight on Reach

Our Reach small grants programme was designed to make positive and lasting change in communities and support people through varying stages of their lives.

Over 70% of charities funded through Reach work in areas of deprivation addressing critical areas such as debt management, fuel poverty, unemployment and poor mental health.

**Between 2019-2023, communities in the top 20% of deprived areas in Scotland received almost 30% of our Reach grant awards.**

Our Reach **grants also supported 678 jobs in Scotland**, with these roles having a substantial impact on their communities **benefiting over 416k people**.

As at the end of 2022, **85% of Reach grant charities have reported increased access to funding as a result of receiving support from us** and have subsequently received grants from other Trusts and Foundations. The charities who secured additional funding reported that **for every £1 of their grant award they were able to secure on average a further £0.84p from other funders**. The total monetary value of our grants for these charities was raised from our contribution of £14.3m to over £26m.



# Responsive Funder

**As a responsive funder, over the last few years we adapted our 2019-2023 strategy and plans to enable us to better support charities through two crises.**

We knew how important it was to get funding to charities during the pandemic and in April 2020, we were **proud to be the first Scottish funder to offer Covid-19 Contingency Fund awards**, providing our grantees with almost £700,000 of additional funding to help them adapt and continue their services.

In response to the cost of living crisis, in August 2022 we awarded uplift funding of £318k to 173 grantees. Then, in November last year, in response to the growing crisis, our Trustees agreed that all **178 of our current grantees should be offered a share of almost £2.5m** enabling them to continue to support challenges such as homelessness, addiction, domestic abuse and family breakdown.

"We are absolutely delighted with your offer of a second year of Reach grant funding. It will make such a difference to our work and our ongoing security.

Although we will use the funds to continue the project that was initially funded, the fact it is unrestricted leaves us free to put it to the best use for the charity's work if need be. For a funder to offer us this is really unusual and yet so beneficial to our work and flexibility with funds."



The Living  
Memory  
Association

"We greatly appreciate the generous support of the Trustees towards supporting our Yard Manager and we can't thank you enough for your unexpected but very welcome support this cold December.



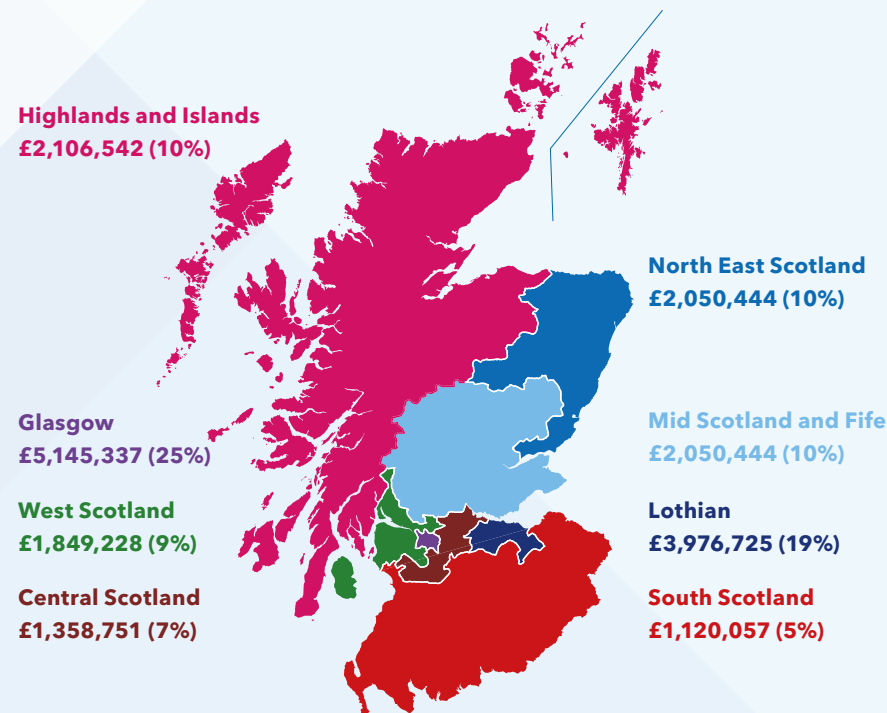
We really appreciate your thoughtfulness in recognising the impact of the Cost-of-Living Crisis on providing equine therapy to Glasgow's disabled community. Your crucial uplift grant will enable disabled participants of all ages to enjoy their own adventures on horseback."

# Our Reach

**Our funding has reached almost 800,000 people over the last five years, supporting charities across the length and breadth of Scotland.**

Communities in all regions of Scotland have benefited with our funding reaching towns from Kirkwall to Wigtown and Dunoon to Dunbar. We're committed to ensuring our funding continues to reach some of the most vulnerable people across Scotland.

In total, through grants and Matched Giving, Bank of Scotland Foundation has provided **£20,788,486** to charities across Scotland between August 2019 - December 2023.



**Bank of Scotland Foundation has also provided £903,099 (4%) to charities working across Scotland.**

Map displays regional breakdown of grants and Matched Giving by **registered region of charity**.



## LLOYDS BANKING GROUP

**We're proud of our partnership with Lloyds Banking Group and together, beyond funding alone, we recognise that there is an opportunity to provide even more support for Scotland's charities. By harnessing the huge talent, energy and commitment of the Group's colleagues we can also provide charities with access to mentors, volunteers and strategic and digital support to help them address the other challenges that they face.**

Our focus on smaller charities is where we believe we can make the greatest impact on those we partner with, and our new combination of multi-year, unrestricted funding and additional strategic support is designed to help them grow stronger and thrive beyond the lifetime of their grant.

Our Enhance Mentoring programme has already **matched 92 charities with 92 colleagues**, based on strategic areas they specifically need support with. Enhance enables charities to draw on the skills and experience of the Group's business professionals, whether it's using them as a sounding board for ideas, identifying new challenges or helping plan a strategy. We look forward to continuing to offer Enhance to the charities that we fund each year.

Our Matched Giving Programme, which matches the fundraising and volunteering activities of the Group's colleagues in Scotland, will also continue. This hugely popular programme has received **over 5,100 claims over the last five years, enabling over 860 charities to benefit from almost £2m**. This programme ensures our funding reaches charities at a grass-roots level across Scotland, creating a lasting positive impact in local communities.



## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

**It's a real honour to hold the role of Chair during such a pivotal moment of the Foundation's history. The team have worked through some of the most challenging years the Third Sector has faced and myself and my fellow Board members are extremely grateful for their huge efforts.**



As a responsive and flexible funder, we're proud to introduce more unrestricted funding and more multi-year funding through our new strategy. We know from talking to charities that unrestricted funding gives them much greater scope to cover all essential costs and deal with challenges quickly and effectively. In addition, multi-year funding encourages a more relational approach to grant-making and offers security and stability, enabling charities to plan and become more sustainable.

We now look forward to building a brighter future for Scotland acknowledging that, of course, our work is only possible thanks to our annual donation from Lloyds Banking Group.

In addition to funding from the Group, we are excited to be collaborating with the Group and engaging colleague volunteers through our Enable programme. We know that Scotland's charities already have some impactful volunteering projects taking place and we look forward to boosting community volunteering even more in some of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities.

In the meantime, in February, we look forward to welcoming applications for Empower, the first of our new funding programmes and the start of our new, exciting chapter.

*D. MacKechnie*  
**Donald MacKechnie,**  
Chair

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