The Bank of Scotland Foundation Small Grants Programme provides funding to local, regional and national charities across Scotland. We aim to make a tangible difference to individuals by developing and improving communities and increasing financial literacy and financial inclusion.

In 2012, £829,850 was invested in charities through the Small Grants Programme, helping communities across Scotland to flourish.

The Foundation provided funding to 105 charities in 2012. The average grant size was £7,903. The awards ranged from £2,000 to £20,000 with applications being received from all regions in Scotland.

Funding where it is needed
A number of charities working in areas of deprivation received funding from the Bank of Scotland Foundation in 2012. Communities in the top 30% of deprived areas in Scotland received over 43% of our grant awards.

Who we support
The Bank of Scotland Foundation awarded grants to a large number of charities supporting different areas of need across Scotland.

In 2012 over 68% of our funding went to charities supporting Advocacy & Outreach, Children and Young People and Financial Literacy and Financial Inclusion. The diverse nature of the projects supported by the Foundation allows the charities to apply for the funding that will make the greatest impact on the people they support.

Support where it matters
1. Purposes of grants
In 2012 over 50% of the funding provided by the Foundation was awarded to charities for salaries. Our investment of £417,303 supported 66 jobs in Scotland, allowing those roles to make a substantial impact on their communities by supporting over 16,000 people in the year.

2. Breakdown of core costs
The Foundation runs a straightforward grant process and continues to be one of few grant makers to provide support towards much needed core costs. In 2012 over 23% of the funding provided by the Foundation was awarded to charities for core costs.

At a time when charities are finding it more difficult to source the income required to ensure their services continue, the provision of core funding provides the stability for many charities to continue offering their services and identify opportunities for future funding.

Through the funding of core costs the Foundation was able to help 47 charities to continue to provide their much needed services to communities across Scotland.

“This year we have answered 5,515 phone calls, replied to 224 emails and 47 text messages with our funding of £2,000 from the Foundation.”

Samaritans of Dunfermline
Breakdown of applications and grants by registered region of charity

Highlands and Islands
52 applications / 8 grants / £94,996

North East Scotland
50 applications / 5 grants / £32,600

Mid Scotland and Fife
58 applications / 14 grants / £79,816

Lothians
126 applications / 33 grants / £278,552

Glasgow
104 applications / 26 grants / £208,527

West Scotland
57 applications / 8 grants / £52,247

Central Scotland
26 applications / 5 grants / £42,056

South Scotland
41 applications / 6 grants / £41,055

Total applications: 514 / Total grants: 105 / Total amount of grants: £829,850

Making our funding go further

Over 30% of charities who applied to the Bank of Scotland Foundation reported an increase in their access to funding in 2012 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 a further £2.84 from other funders. The total monetary value of our grants for these charities was raised from our contribution of £279,625 to over £1,048,000.

Our reach

Through our funding, charities were able to positively affect almost 40,000 people in 2012. Having a direct impact on so many people across Scotland is a key indicator that our grant awards are being used effectively and making a tangible difference to communities.

Most of the charities supported were able to exceed the aims of their project and demonstrate the real difference our funding is making in communities.

The future

The Bank of Scotland Foundation continues to make a significant impact on communities throughout Scotland through the Small Grants Programme. Providing funding to those charities that need it the most, allows our funding to make a tangible difference to people across Scotland allowing them to flourish. However, the success of the Foundation is only possible through the great work of the charities we support and the incredible difference they make to their communities.

We look forward to supporting these and many other charities in the future.

Case Study – Bannockburn Group of Riding for the Disabled

In the current climate, it is increasingly difficult for charities to raise funds to maintain their services. As one of a small number of funders to provide grants towards the running costs of charities, the Foundation received an application for core cost funding from Bannockburn Group of Riding for the Disabled in 2012.

Our grant of £5,000 helped to meet the Bannockburn Group’s funding shortfall and enabled them to continue to provide therapeutic contact with horses for over 330 children, young people and adults who have a range of physical disabilities, learning difficulties and social and emotional issues.

Through the Bannockburn Group, service users can develop equestrian as well as social skills, gain experience, confidence and self-esteem, and fulfil their personal potential.

For more information on the Bank of Scotland Foundation please visit www.bankofscotlandfoundation.org, call 0131 655 2599 or email enquiries@bankofscotlandfoundation.co.uk