

Bank of Scotland Foundation has been working hard to ensure our funding helps as many charities as possible through the challenging months that Covid-19 has created. No one could have foreseen the impact that lockdown would have on so many people, and on the charities that ordinarily provide so much vital practical and emotional support.

The energy and determination of charity staff and volunteers has been inspirational, from quickly adapting to providing services online, distributing hundreds of food parcels to those most in need and tackling isolation in their communities.

With funding from Lloyds Banking Group, we have been able to continue to support charities and communities through these difficult times.

Grants Programmes



We quickly recognised that Covid-19 would have a huge impact on charities throughout Scotland and that in many instances, charities would be more crucial than ever as they responded to the changing and increasing needs of service users.

With charities facing unprecedented financial pressure we revised our grants programmes to ensure our funding could support a greater number of charities and be distributed quickly. Deferring this year's Change and Advise programmes meant our quarterly Reach programme could become more frequent for the remainder of 2020 and the Reach eligibility criteria was broadened enabling more charities to apply and for larger amounts of funding. So far this year we have awarded £1,636,888 of funding to 139 charities through our Reach programme.

The Invest programme made awards in May as planned. Eight charities across Scotland shared £859,581 through this multi-year grants programme, providing certainty and enabling sustainability in these challenging times.

Healthy Valleys Contingency Award

As a current Bank of Scotland Foundation grantee, Healthy Valleys is one of 147 charities who received a Covid-19 Contingency Award from the Foundation to help support them during these exceptional and difficult times. They provide a range of community led health improvement projects in the Clydesdale area of South Lanarkshire and are at the forefront of supporting rural communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Healthy Valleys were extremely quick to respond flexibly, innovatively and sensitively to the crisis and redesigned their support programmes which help to tackle loneliness, isolation and food poverty. Their skilled and

committed workforce continues to work tirelessly to support those in need of extra support and they are using their contingency award of £17,946 to help disadvantaged individuals and families, by providing hundreds of food parcel deliveries and delivering health and nutrition advice remotely.

Living in a rural setting can sometimes exacerbate the feeling of loneliness and isolation for those living there, but with their volunteer buddy scheme, Healthy Valleys have also been able to ensure that isolated elderly residents get some much-needed social interaction through a weekly support phone call.

Contingency Awards Update



In response to the increasing financial challenges that charities were facing due to Covid-19, we established a Contingency Fund in April 2020 for current grantees.

In all, 153 charities were contacted and offered a contingency award of 20% of their current grant value. This award could be used to continue to carry out the original purpose of their grant, or if this was not possible, as a contribution to their general costs.

Of those charities, 147 have replied so far (96%), enabling us to award a total of £666,326.

The response from charities to the Contingency Fund has been truly humbling. The vast majority have used their funding to support their service users in new and innovative ways, whilst others have used their funding to plan for the key recovery and rebuild phases that will follow.

"Bank of Scotland Foundation's Covid-19 Contingency Award is helping us support those most in need in Clydesdale during the Covid-19 pandemic by tackling food poverty and promoting good health and wellbeing during this difficult time. As with many charities, this has been a challenging period for us, but our energy and commitment to supporting, enabling and empowering communities hasn't been diluted."

Julia Miller
Operations Manager, Healthy Valleys



Next tranche of Reach opens 12 noon Monday 5 October 2020 and closes 12 noon Thursday 8 October 2020

News Flash

Enhance Charity Mentoring



Our Charity Mentoring Programme is continuing to offer Foundation funded charities support, direction, advice and motivation through a colleague mentor from Lloyds Banking Group. Colleague mentors encourage and empower charity staff helping them to prioritise problems and opportunities and develop and maintain a broader perspective. As this is undoubtedly a time of uncertainty for many charities, the support from colleague mentors is more valued than ever. There are currently 32 charities being mentored by 33 Lloyds Banking Group colleagues, all of which are being carried out remotely due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Matched Giving



Our Matched Giving Programme encourages Lloyds Banking Group colleagues in Scotland to become involved in the voluntary sector by fundraising or volunteering for a charity that is close to their hearts.

We continue to match every pound Lloyds Banking Group colleagues raise, or donate £8 per hour of voluntary time given, to a maximum of £500 for eligible fundraising and/or £500 for eligible voluntary time given.

Lloyds Banking Group colleagues are finding innovative ways of fundraising and volunteering for charities during these difficult times and our Matched Giving Programme provides a valuable source of additional unrestricted income for charities.

A word from our Chair

Over the past five months we have been thinking carefully and creatively about the best ways that we can support charities across Scotland. We have provided options and reassurance to our current grantees and have redesigned our Reach programme and processes to support new charities applying for funding.



2020 has been an incredibly difficult year for everyone, not least of all the vulnerable people that charities support who have been adversely affected by a variety of issues such as isolation, poverty, mental health and homelessness. Our Reach programme is helping to address these issues and I am delighted that we have funded 139 charities so far, enabling over 100,000 vulnerable people to benefit from befriending projects, financial advice, online workshops, food parcel delivery and other innovative services.

Awarding almost £2.5m of grant funding already this year is testament to the huge efforts of the Foundation team and the Trustees who have displayed great resilience during a challenging time. Their dedication is very much appreciated.

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

Philip Grant, Chair

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**2020
Figures at
a Glance**

Contingency Awards

£666,326

provided to **147 charities** that are current grantees

Grants Programmes

£1,636,888

of Reach funding to **139 charities**

£859,581

of Invest funding to **8 charities**

Mentoring

32

charities being mentored by **33 colleagues** from Lloyds Banking Group