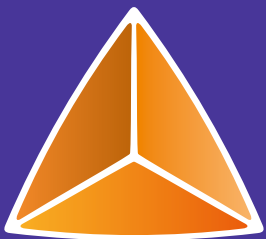


Flash Report

October - December 2023



**Foundation
Scotland**



Welcome to our Flash Report for October - December 2023

As 2023 was drawing to a close, we at Foundation Scotland were able to pause for thought, and spend some time reflecting on and celebrating a year that brought with it many highlights and milestones – including passing the £170 million mark in funds distributed since the Foundation began 25 years ago – and a year where we welcomed many others on our journey: new donors, new colleagues, new funds and new friends.

One of the highlights of the last quarter for us was our Annual Gathering event, which we held at the end of October. We called it **'Bringing Communities Together.'**

The event was attended by stakeholders, friends and partners from across Scotland and it gave us a chance to demonstrate how we continue to put people and communities at the heart of our work.

We explored our work through three themes that underpin much of what we do: **tackling inequalities; increased access to education, learning and employment; and supporting resilient, thriving and empowered communities.** For each of these themes, we brought together a discussion panel that included award holders, the organisations who walk beside them and our ever-important donors.

The intention was to tell the story of Foundation Scotland – what we do and how we do it – through their voices. But as is often the case, their stories became so much more important.

It was an absolute privilege to be in the room.

We met a young man named Jamie, who talked about his journey with the Kingdom Offroad Motorcycle Club, a recipient of one of our Tackling Inequalities awards. Jamie spoke about how the organisation had helped him to find confidence, understand self-worth and make better choices in life. You could see that the support he had received, alongside his own courage and resolve, was life changing. He finished his story to spontaneous and prolonged applause.

Another panellist, Cari, talked candidly and honestly about her experience with an organisation called Positive Changes and how they helped her regain a life she thought was lost.

They showed her that everyone deserves a second – and third and fourth – chance in life. Cari had touched the criminal justice system after a turbulent time in her life. Thanks to support from Positive Changes, a wonderful woman named Joyce, and her own determination and fortitude, she now has qualifications in Patisserie with Business Management and is a chocolatier. Her incredible story also provoked heartfelt applause.

When Jamie and Cari were speaking, you literally could have heard a pin drop. Everyone was completely lost in their stories.

We were joined by so many panellists that day who had compelling things to say, we thank you all. You remind us time and again why we do the work that we do as funders.

Lastly, we would like to say a special thank you to Edinburgh's Ukrainian Society Choir who opened our event. They were, simply, brilliant.





Community-Led Funding

Over the last 15 years or so, **community benefit funds** from renewable projects like wind farms and hydro schemes have become a valuable source of independent funding into some of Scotland's communities.

Community benefit funds come in different shapes and sizes, and can vary in how they are set up and operate, how the area of benefit is determined, who administers the annual payments, and how funding decisions are made.

But what many have in common is that communities themselves decide how funds are used.

Foundation Scotland is the leading administrator of community benefit funds in Scotland by volume, and the only fund administrator operating nationally. We work alongside projects and communities to provide specialist supports in community engagement, fund design, grant-making, facilitation and fund management services to name a few. We currently support more than 350 communities to distribute around £7million annually, from over one hundred different community benefit funds.





Spotlight on: The Great Glen Energy Co-operative

In October, we welcomed a brand-new Community Benefit Fund, courtesy of the Great Glen Energy Co-operative. The new fund was set up to support projects and groups which benefit people living around Loch Ness, and supports charitable activity that provides community benefit under three themes: environment, education and equality.



The Fund has two award programmes. Community groups can apply for larger grants of up to £20,000, and individuals and groups can also apply to a small grants programme, which provides up to £2,500 under the same themes.

The Fund took off quickly and, barely a month later, the first two awards were made from the small grants programme. The first was to Glen Urquhart Childcare Centre, which received a grant of £2,500 to purchase sensory soft play and other equipment to support children with additional needs in the childcare setting.

Small grants can also be awarded to individuals who are studying or training for subjects relating to the environment and equality, and the second award of £2,500 was made on those grounds, to an individual from Fort Augustus, to support her studies in Environmental Science at the University of Highlands and Islands.

More awards will be made soon, ensuring that local people and communities benefit directly from this form of funding. Read more here: [Great Glen Energy Co-operative fund | Foundation Scotland](#)



Social Investment – a unique programme of support

At Foundation Scotland we have a social investment programme which, over the last 11 years, has invested over £14 million in more than seventy organisations around Scotland. What makes our programme different to other social investment offerings is our unique form of blended grant and loan. We offer 25% grant with a 75% loan, and our interest rate on loans is not linked to the base rate.

Until recently, we offered social investment support in eighteen local authority areas in Scotland. We are now pleased to be able to extend this support to **all thirty-two local authority areas across the country**. We want to continue to grow our social investment portfolio so we can support even more grass roots organisations to deliver social impact locally and develop a thriving, sustainable business.

[Find our more here](#)





Spotlight on: Fairfield Sport and Leisure Club

The Fairfield Sport and Leisure Club in Dundee was founded in 2008 by a committee of dedicated volunteers from local housing schemes. Operating in the centre of seven residential areas of multiple deprivation, the area struggled with large overgrown spaces, disused buildings, crime and antisocial behaviour creating general safety issues for local people. The committee set about changing this for the better.

In 2013, the committee registered the organisation as a new charity, 'Fairfield Community Sports Hub' with a vision of offering year-round sports, activities and social facilities for the benefit of everyone in the community and surrounding areas.

They recognised that the area needed an accessible, central safe space for local people to positively come together, enjoy sports with others and take part in activities. The vision was that, through the creation of a central hub, they would help bring back a sense of pride, enthusiasm and connectedness to the community.

The passionate and determined group created a community Sports and Social Hub which, for ten years has provided an essential safe space to meet and enjoy activities, while also creating employment opportunities for local people.



Foundation Scotland and Fairfield Community Hub first met in 2019. We discussed the needs of the area with the Committee and their ambitions for the future. Through these early conversations it was clear the leaders at Fairfield had the drive and enthusiasm to continue to make positive changes and a positive partnership was formed. Foundation Scotland's Social Investment programme supported Fairfield Community Hub with £80,000 in blended grant and loan support.

Jim Sorrie, Project Manager at Fairfield Community Hub, has witnessed the difference this support has made:

"Foundation Scotland played a huge part in our continued growth. Securing the funding for the 3G pitch was a big moment for us. It was something we always wanted to do, but the costs involved had held us back. The new pitch means a lot to lots of local people. All generations meet here to enjoy football throughout the day and right into the evening, all year round. Exercising outdoors, enjoying activities with others, and becoming part of a team brings important physical health and wellbeing benefits. Thanks to this new pitch hundreds of local people reap these benefits every week. This is where our hugely successful Mental Health Walking Football takes place, where our St James para football group meets, where pre-schoolers get to safely run around and we've recently seen a huge surge in the numbers of girls joining our female teams. We're delighted that we can offer local people these important opportunities."

At Foundation Scotland we develop strong partnerships, just like the one we have with Fairfield. We listen to and get to know each organisation and we care about the future of the projects we support. We are encouraging all interested groups to visit our website or contact the Foundation Scotland team directly to discuss eligibility for our Social Investment programme.

Get in touch: socialinvestment@foundationscotland.org.uk



Philanthropy and Fund News

The Philanthropy team supports individuals, families, companies and charitable trusts so that their giving reaches the causes and communities they care about, addressing some of the challenges facing Scotland's communities - from children's health and wellbeing to food poverty.

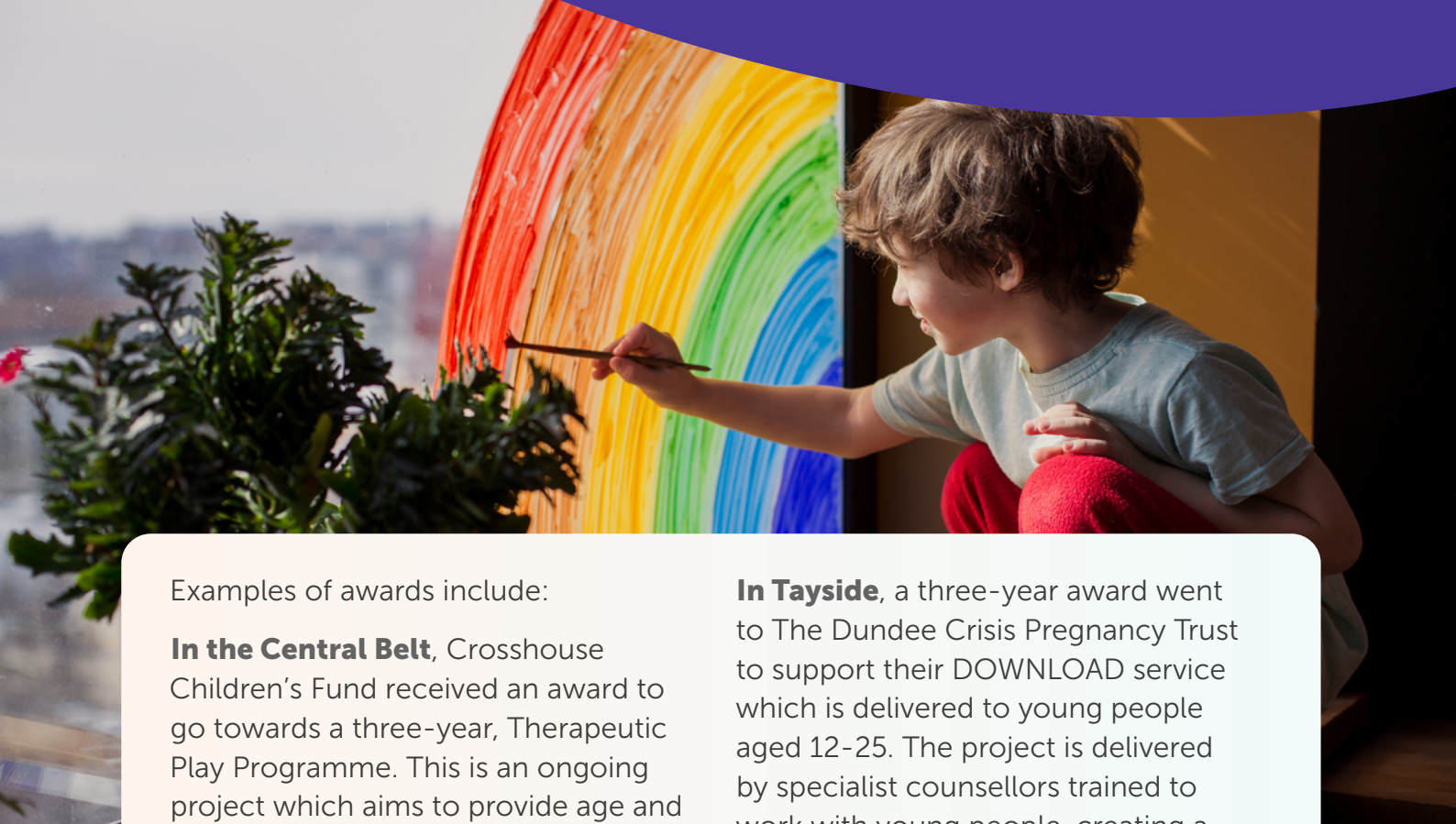


Spotlight on: The Essentia Foundation

The Essentia Foundation was established some years ago, as a charity that operated Health and Social Welfare telephone counselling and information services in the field of public information. Their clients included HEBS, the Scottish Government, the Department of Health and the Central Office of Information as well as pharmaceutical companies. When the company was sold, the Essentia Foundation was established as a Trust.

The Essentia Foundation provides financial support to charities and community groups that focus on the improved health and social welfare of children and young people, and enhancing opportunities for training, learning, and developing career opportunities for young people up to the age of twenty-five.





Examples of awards include:

In the Central Belt, Crosshouse Children's Fund received an award to go towards a three-year, Therapeutic Play Programme. This is an ongoing project which aims to provide age and needs appropriate play and events for children in Crosshouse Hospital and Ayrshire Maternity Hospital. It is hoped that over one hundred children will stand to directly benefit from project activities.

Further north in the Western Highlands, ATLAS Arts received an award for their School of Plural Futures project. This is a youth-led creative learning programme that looks to explore climate justice from a rural and island perspective. As part of the project, 15-20 young people (aged 16-25) who live across Skye, Raasay and Lochalsh will work alongside a lead artist to co-develop, design, and deliver an alternative 'school' programme spanning three years.

In Tayside, a three-year award went to The Dundee Crisis Pregnancy Trust to support their DOWNLOAD service which is delivered to young people aged 12-25. The project is delivered by specialist counsellors trained to work with young people, creating a safe space and trauma responsive setting, giving young people access to important mental health support.

As well as supporting the distribution of funds from the Essentia Foundation, working in partnership we also embarked on a journey across Scotland to find out the regional issues that young people across the country are facing and the ways in which Essentia grants are helping to tackle them.

We did this through a series of exploratory reports and blog posts. We have now published the findings from these journeys, split into four areas: the Highlands and Islands; the South of Scotland; Dundee City, Tayside and Fife; and the Central belt. [You can read them here](#)

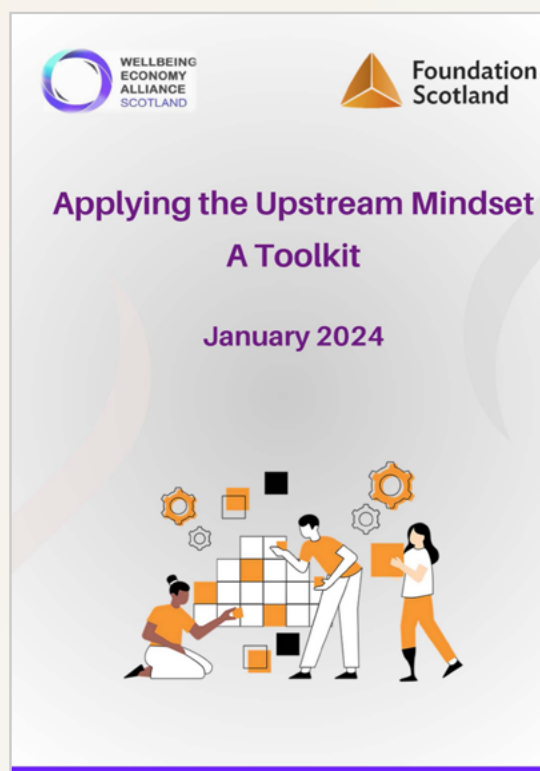
To learn more about the Essentia Foundation [please visit their website.](#)

And finally...

Foundation Scotland is encouraging more investment in community action that enables people and places to flourish. That's why we worked with the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) Scotland to build our collective understanding of how we can work as individual organisations - and together - to change how systems work, and to evolve our practice of thinking and acting for the long term.

During 2022, a team of our colleagues considered what it would mean for Foundation Scotland to put more emphasis on addressing the root causes of problems and investing in systems and practices where people can thrive. The project team developed our collective 'Upstream Mindset.' On the back of this collaboration, we have published some guidance that explains what the Upstream Mindset means and offers four practical tools to help apply it in a funding context.

You can read it here: [Applying the Upstream Mindset - A Toolkit](#)



OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023



VALUE OF NEW DONATIONS:
£5,175,774



TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS PAID:
1210



TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS PAID:
£7,373,861



TOTAL VALUE OF LOANS PAID:
£279,373




TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW FUNDS:
14


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Foundation Scotland

Scotland's Community Foundation