



# Grant analysis and review April 2018 to March 2019

The   
Community  
Foundation

Connecting people who care  
with causes that matter

# Our Grantmaking

Between **April 2018 and March 2019** we received  
**954 grant applications (6 fewer than FY 17-18)**  
**317 of which were from new applicants**

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Total amount requested  
**£6,599,682 (£3,892,918 in FY 17-18)**

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**531 grants awarded**  
**(473 in FY 17-18)**



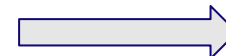
**Approval Rate**  
**50%**  
**(54% in FY 17-18)**

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Total amount awarded  
**£2,023,231 (FY 17-18 £1,412,586)**  
**148 of which were awarded to new applicants**

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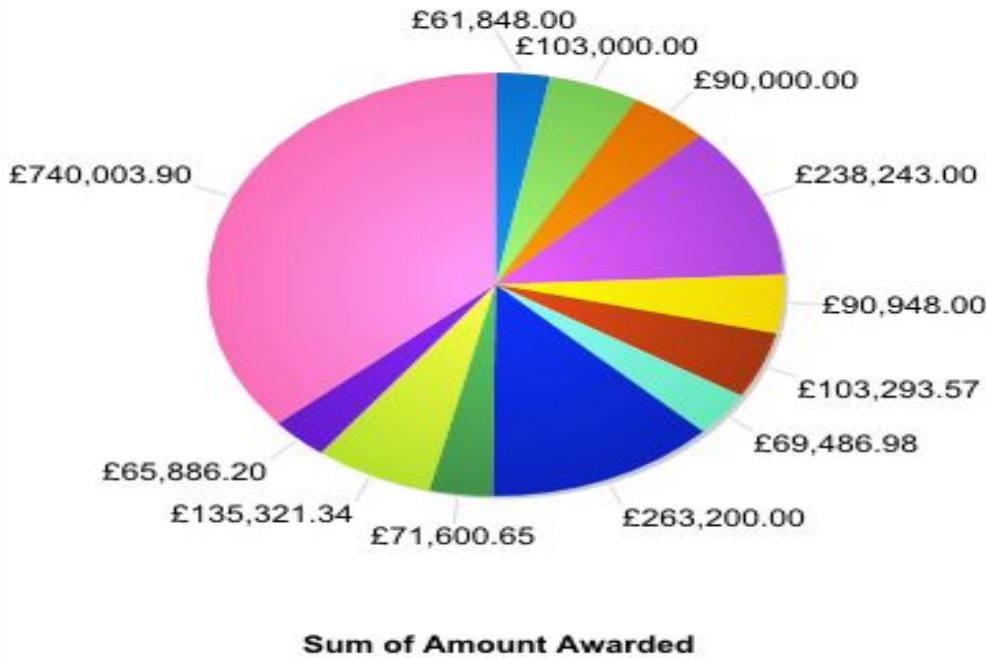
We processed **1123** grant applications  
**(889 in FY 17-18)**



We supported  
**792**  
communities

# Grants awarded by programme

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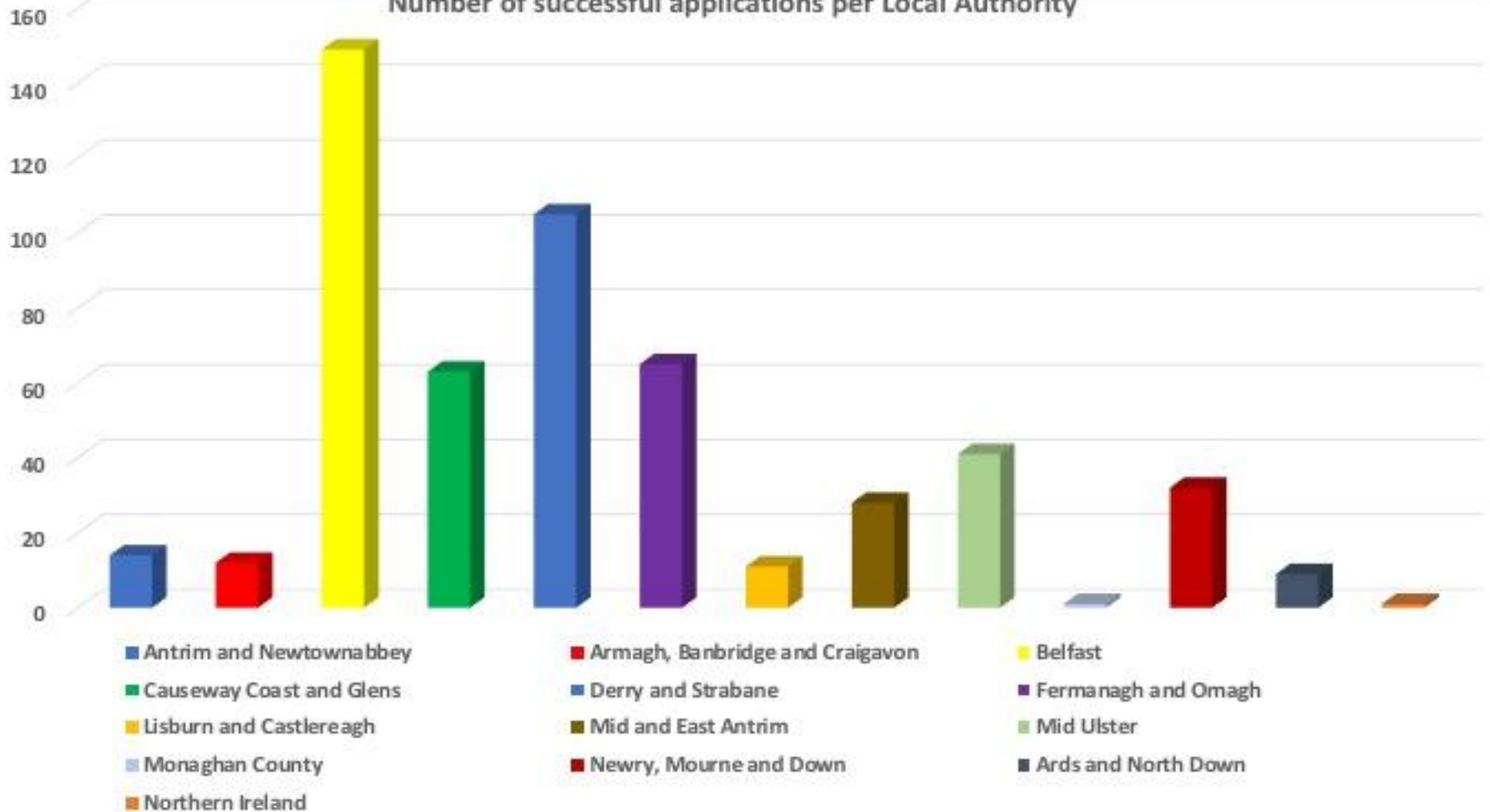
- Programme:  
Programme  
Name**
- Energia Long Mountain Community Benefit Fund
  - Human Rights Fund
  - Keadue Community Grants Fund
  - Nationwide Fund
  - Oak Foundation - Transformation and Growth
  - Social Innovation
  - Social Justice Small Grants Programme
  - Tampon Tax Community Fund
  - Telecommunity Fund
  - The ARN Foundation
  - The Older People's Fund (Previously Turkington Fund)
  - Other

**£2+m  
awarded**

**Average grant  
£3,828**

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Number of successful applications per Local Authority



**Top Council for receipt of applications:**  
Belfast

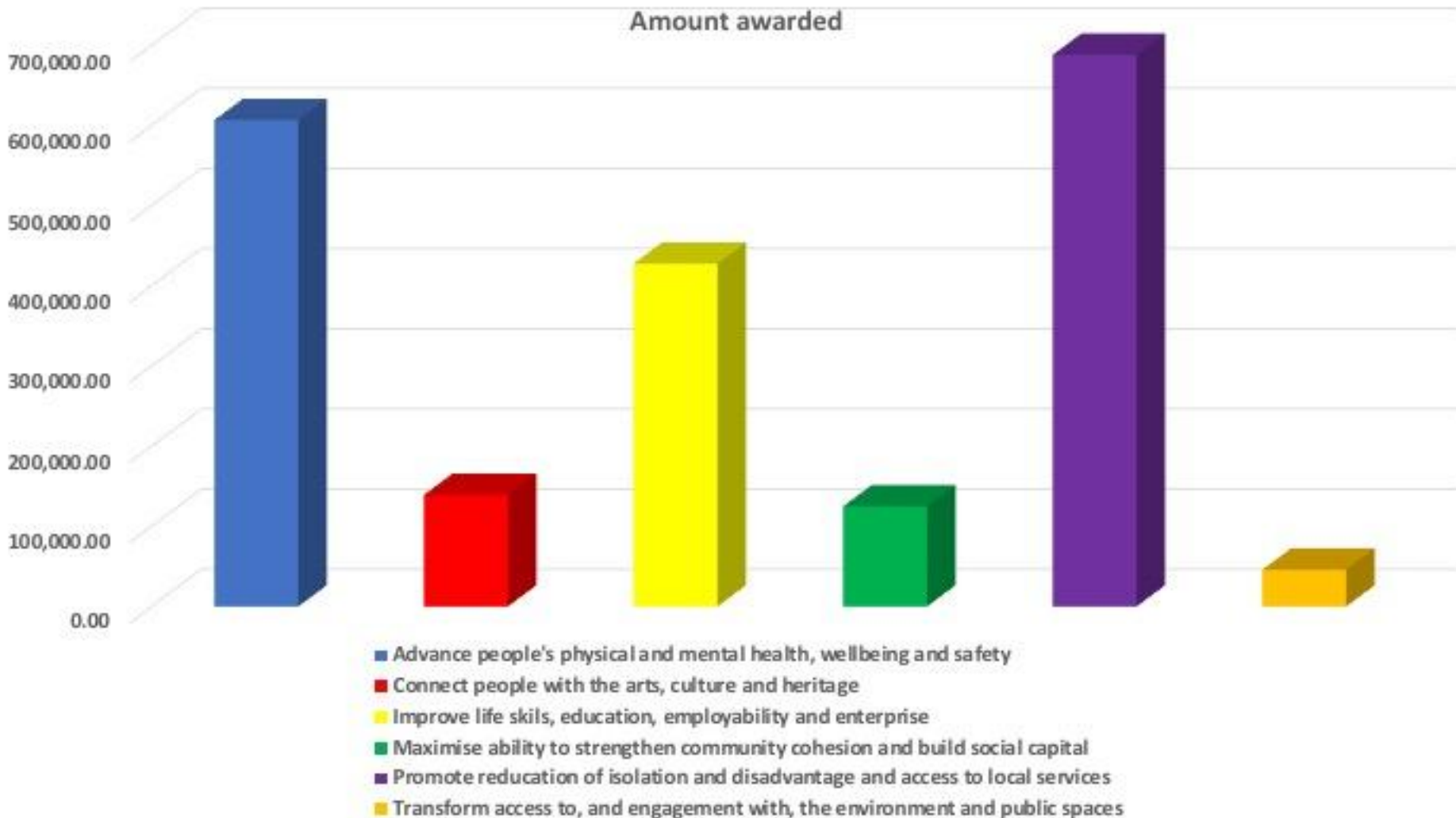
**Bottom Council for receipt of  
applications:** Lisburn and Castlereagh

**Top Council for successful  
applications:** Belfast

**Bottom Council for successful  
applications:** Armagh, Banbridge and  
Craigavon

# Our Impact

# Amount awarded per impact category





**167 projects advanced people's physical and mental wellbeing**

**66 projects connected people to the arts, culture and heritage**

**100 projects supported life skills, education, employability, and enterprise**

**56 projects strengthened community cohesion  
and built local capacity**

**125 projects reduced isolation, disadvantage  
and lack of access to services and facilities**

**17 projects supported engagement with the  
environment and public spaces**

**246,914 beneficiaries!**  
**(£8.19 awarded per  
beneficiary)**

Including over 100,000 people with poor mental health, 16,000 older people, over 7,000 people in poverty, 2,500 women, 1,730 NEETS (Not in Education or Employment)

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**8,771 people benefited from improved community cohesion**

**16,473 people had improved access to community facilities**

**10,074 people had access to improved quality of environment and public space**

**2,373 people participated in training, education and accreditation**

**7,055 people had more opportunities to engage in culture and heritage**

**898 people increased their qualification and skills**

# The Community Foundation

**572 people participated in promoting human rights and equality**

**6,446 people felt their isolation was reduced**

**8,571 vulnerable people were directly supported**

**311 organisations strengthened their community capacity**

# Vital Signs

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Arts and Culture



Community Safety



Economy



Work



Civic Engagement



Health and Wellbeing



Housing and  
homelessness



Poverty



Education and Skills



Environment

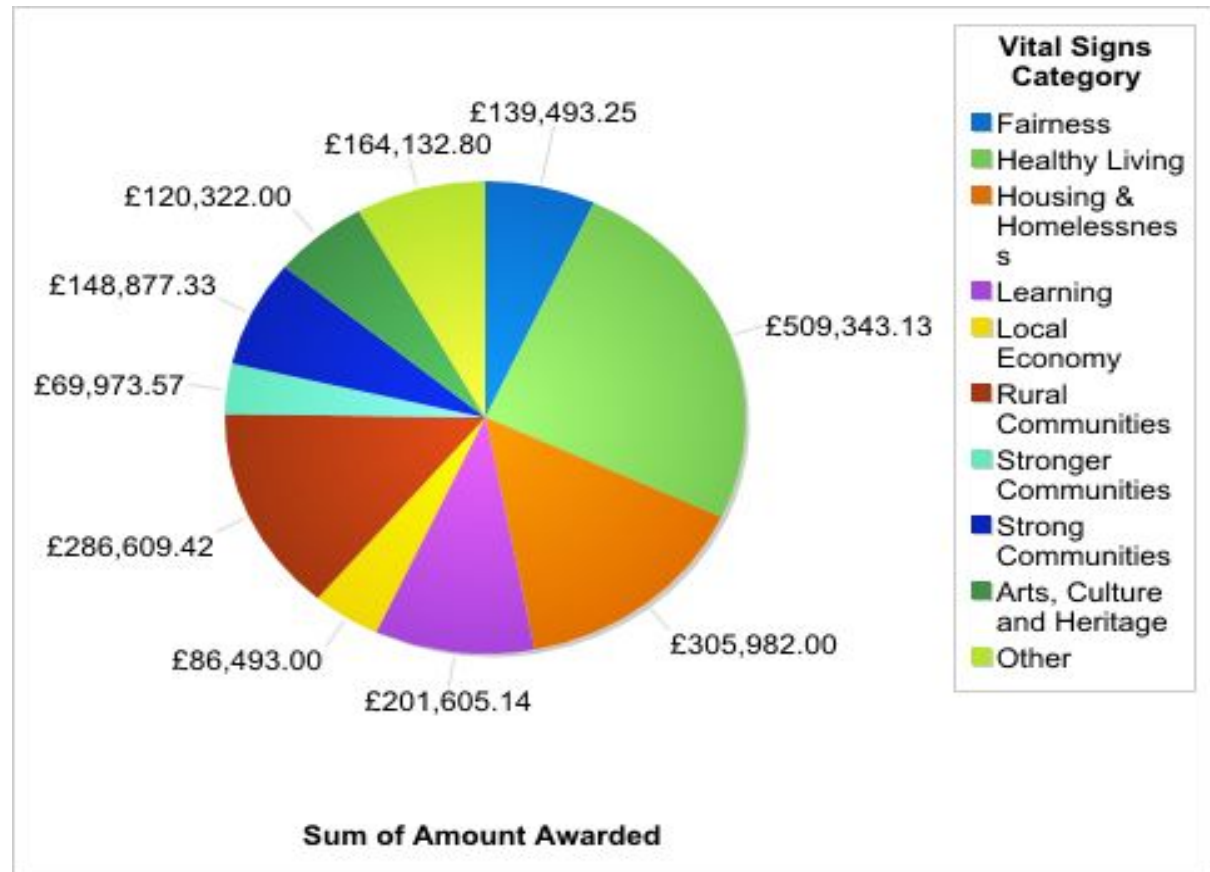
# Vital Signs

**Top theme:**

Health and  
wellbeing

**Bottom theme:**

Economy and  
work



# Case Studies



**Cloughmills Community Action Team, Mars Goodness Knows**

**Amount awarded: £5,000, towards, development of activities at Mill Site, Vital Signs Theme: Environment, and Health and Wellbeing**

To broaden the appeal of the Mill site, which provides a variety of activities including, allotments, community space for people living in a rurally isolated area. The funds will make the site more accessible and help develop a range of activities to support and benefit women with caring responsibilities, as well as those on lower incomes. The group plan to develop a Library of Things, the first in Northern Ireland, which will make tools and equipment available to local people, at a nominal cost. This means people will be able to access tools and equipment without the burden of having to purchase. They will also deliver a skill sharing programme as part of the project, beginning with cooking techniques and skills, to promote a more cooperative spirit in the local community. The group will upgrade their path network to ensure it is accessible to those with mobility issues. They will also be delivering a gardening and food growing project solely focused on women with caring responsibilities. This will include women of all ages, and will be delivered by a female tutor with modules adapted to suit the requirements of participants. Part of this will include modules on preparing and storing food, in which participants will learn new techniques around fermenting and dehydrating foods. The project has three key elements with all three expanding the numbers of people using and benefiting from the Mill site in different ways.

**ESC Ltd, ARN Foundation**

**Amount awarded: £10,000, towards the Second  
Chance for Change Film Project, Vital Signs Theme:  
Health and Wellbeing, and Community Safety**

This project creates real and lasting positive changes for people living with a learning disability. The participants in the group learn how to express themselves in a way they haven't experienced before. They learn what it is to have their voice and their stories heard and seen through film. They experience a positive group experience, which helps to reduce the social isolation and social anxieties that many of the participants face. The project will involve team building and collaborative aspects to allow the participants to build their self-confidence and belief that they are capable of more than they thought.

The process of dealing with their traumatic experiences, or the difficult decisions they have taken in their lives helps to give them a sense of control over their own lives in order to make more positive choices in the future. The therapeutic nature of the work helps with reductions in self-harming incidents and participants become less reliant on substance misuse as ways to cope with their lives. The organic, participant-led approach to the group helps to create a therapeutic community where participants can make friends and build up their social circles, improving their outlook for life beyond the course. The changes are mapped through pre and post psychometric assessments carried out by the mental health professionals who partner with us in running the course. ESC films will run a 20-week in-depth therapeutic film-making project which has proven hugely successful in helping people with learning disabilities and severe and enduring mental health problems, including those with involvement in the criminal justice system. In essence, the project helps participants to tell their stories and share their experiences through the medium of short film.

**The Ryan McBride Foundation, Keadue Fund  
Amount awarded: £10,000, towards the costs of Project  
Co-ordinator salary over two years plus programme  
costs including entrance fees and overheads of participating in sports activities e.g.  
kayaking. Vital Signs Theme: Health and Wellbeing**

The Ryan McBride Foundation was founded in remembrance of former Derry City captain, Ryan McBride who passed away suddenly in March 2017. The aim of the foundation is to help young people to realise their full potential through community programmes across Derry.

The project will engage with young people within the Brandywell, Creggan and Bogside areas of Derry city. The area is made up of four Neighbourhood Renewal Areas which span 80% of the area of the city. The project will also address high levels of identified mental ill-health in the area experienced by young people. Northern Ireland has the highest suicide rate in the UK and has a 25% higher overall prevalence of mental health problems than England (Action Mental Health, 2018). In a study with 2,194 young people across Northern Ireland, the Prince's Trust (2017) found that 44% said they had experienced a mental health problem, while 68% revealed they always or often feel stressed.

The project will have three strands: Education, sports activities and engagement, and mentoring.

Beneficiaries will include young people in the Derry area who have experienced one or more of the following; high levels of disadvantage, poverty, social deprivation, family breakdown, low educational attainment, involvement in crime and mental ill-health.

The Coordinator will plan all the project activities, manage volunteers and liaise with external support providers, as well as recruit participants.

**Voluntary Arts Ireland, Pressure Group Fund,  
Amount awarded: £500, towards, Collaboration for  
Change, Vital Signs Theme: Civic Engagement**

CfC is a citizen-led initiative hosted and facilitated by Voluntary Arts

Ireland. It will galvanise individuals and groups who have different areas of interest to build a movement of movements united behind the single objective of a more just society. Many of the people already involved in helping to make change in specific areas of interest are the most disadvantaged and discriminated against and are normally excluded from taking part in public life. Instead of these individuals and groups continuing to work in separate silos, CfC brings them together to work in mutually supportive ways.

The impact of the award will help develop an agreed programme for change, created collaboratively, will not only enhance each groups specific work but will make real transformation more likely by making our collective voice better heard and the network of change-makers stronger. Without a programme for change we can neither expect to work effectively together for the common good, nor influence public policy makers in the Northern Ireland Assembly or the UK Parliament. The programme for change will present radical but practical alternatives to what exists today in response to the needs of the most vulnerable and in response to the greatest challenges facing society; that will put in place the building blocks for a sustainable future. Without pre-empting the contributions from people attending our events, the programme for change will contain alternative economic, social, cultural and environmental initiatives that address wealth and income inequality, fuel and food poverty, environmental protection, global warming, and sustainable steady-state economy.

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## **DePaul, Nationwide Fund**

### **Amount Awarded £24,969, towards the appointment of a Community Integration and Befriending Worker. Vital Signs Theme: Housing and Homelessness**

The Housing First model is an innovative approach to tackling homelessness. It takes the traditional model of making people 'housing ready' by placing them in temporary accommodation and turns it around. The two key principles of Housing First are:

- Housing is a basic right, not a reward to clinical success
- Once the instability of homelessness has been addressed through housing, clinical and social stability occur at a faster pace and in a much more stable and enduring manner
- 

The organisation plans to accelerate the innovation and success of the model through a Community Integration and Befriending Worker who will provide: Practical Assistance – support with the practical pieces of helping to move people into new homes, Befriending – with one-to-one weekly support, and Social Connectedness – working and advocating over the longer term to build a network of support around the individual.

**Ulster Orchestra, Tampon Tax Fund**

**Amount awarded: £6,050, towards working with the**

**Shankill Women's Centre. Vital Signs Theme: Arts, Culture and Heritage**

This project aims to work with 2 groups from the Shankill Women's Centre, with different age profiles, coming together to create an intergenerational group. Shankill is one of Northern Ireland's most deprived areas as shown in the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017 by NISRA (Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency).

The primary objective is to build skills and confidence and develop creative writing skills, with secondary objectives in relation to improving health and well-being and building social networks for women. Evidence shows that there is a connection between arts and mental and emotional health. Arts participation will lead to improved motivation, increased social engagement, enhanced self-confidence and self-esteem, increased resilience and a more relaxed state of mind, better concentration, increased self-expression and self-understanding; and a stronger more positive sense of self.

- Improved communication skills
- Increased confidence and self esteem
- Improved mental and emotional health
- Established intergenerational networks

**Garvagh Development Trust, Community Innovators  
Seed Fund**

**Amount awarded: £5,000, towards a Social Innovators Seed Fund project  
to explore a “Green Care” Social Prescribing Network.**

**Vital Signs Theme: Civic Engagement, and Health and wellbeing**

The focus will be on designing and delivering a pilot across the Causeway Coast & Glens & Mid Ulster Council areas to explore how a “green care” social prescribing network might work locally and within the Northern HSC Trust, for people suffering from poor mental health.

Social prescribing is “where an individual is connected to services or activities in the community which are likely to help with the health problems they are experiencing. These activities are prescribed as a non-clinical alternative to a medical prescription.”

The idea is to connect those suffering from poor mental and physical health to existing activities and programmes taking place across a network of providers using a number of ‘green spaces’, testing how a consistent delivery approach might work.



**Vital Issues and  
Thinking**

- We are receiving a lot of new applications, a total 317 this FY which evidences that we are getting better at raising our profile, and may be as a result of improved communications, and links with local Support Networks, who are promoting our funds.
- There continues to be higher levels of success with applications in urban areas, particularly Belfast, and Derry and Strabane, while less success in more rurally isolated Local Government areas.
- The Foundation should continue to focus promotion on rural areas through attending local funding fairs and liaison with Rural Support Networks and local Councils. Targeted areas for promotion and outreach should include Lisburn and Castlereagh, Ards and North Down, and Mid and East Antrim. The new Comic Relief programme may help address the gaps in these areas, with roadshows planned in each Local Authority. Community engagement visits are also planned as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations, and should include visiting groups in the areas where success rates are low.
- Given the level of subscription for funds such as Keadue and the Tampon Tax, this may suggest that grants of around £10-15,000 may be most needed. A survey of grantee needs and priorities should take place in the new FY, to identify future priorities for focus for any new funds where we have the flexibility to suggest grant sizes. Where possible, a more targeted approach to applications may also be beneficial.





Orla Black  
Grants Director

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