

**Grant analysis
and impact review
Q1- Q3
FY 20-21**

The *elle*
Community
Foundation

Connecting people who care
with causes that matter

Community Foundation for Northern Ireland Our 5 Year Strategy ~ 2019-2024



In a society where everyone can prosper and live in peace; the Community Foundation encourages and supports those who want to give and empower the local community to effect change.

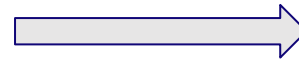
Over the next 5 years we aim to achieve: -

- £30m raised to support local charities
- A stronger, more sustainable, more innovative community sector
- Local communities who have been helped to find their voice and use it
- Safer, stronger, confident individuals and communities who can move forward leaving the past behind them
- A safer NI for people living on the edge

**Our
Grantmaking
Q1-Q3
FY 20-21**

Between **April 2020 and December 2020** we received
2311 grant applications (1182 more than FY 19-20)
754 of which were from new applicants
(356 new applicants in FY 19-20)

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Total amount requested
£14,734,729
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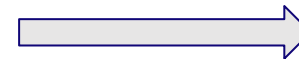


Approval Rate
60%

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1193 grants awarded
(423 in FY 19-20)
—————

(44% FY19-20)

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Total amount awarded
£7,385,959 (FY 19-20 £3,729,353)
£1,301,329 of which was awarded to new applicants
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1500
communities
supported

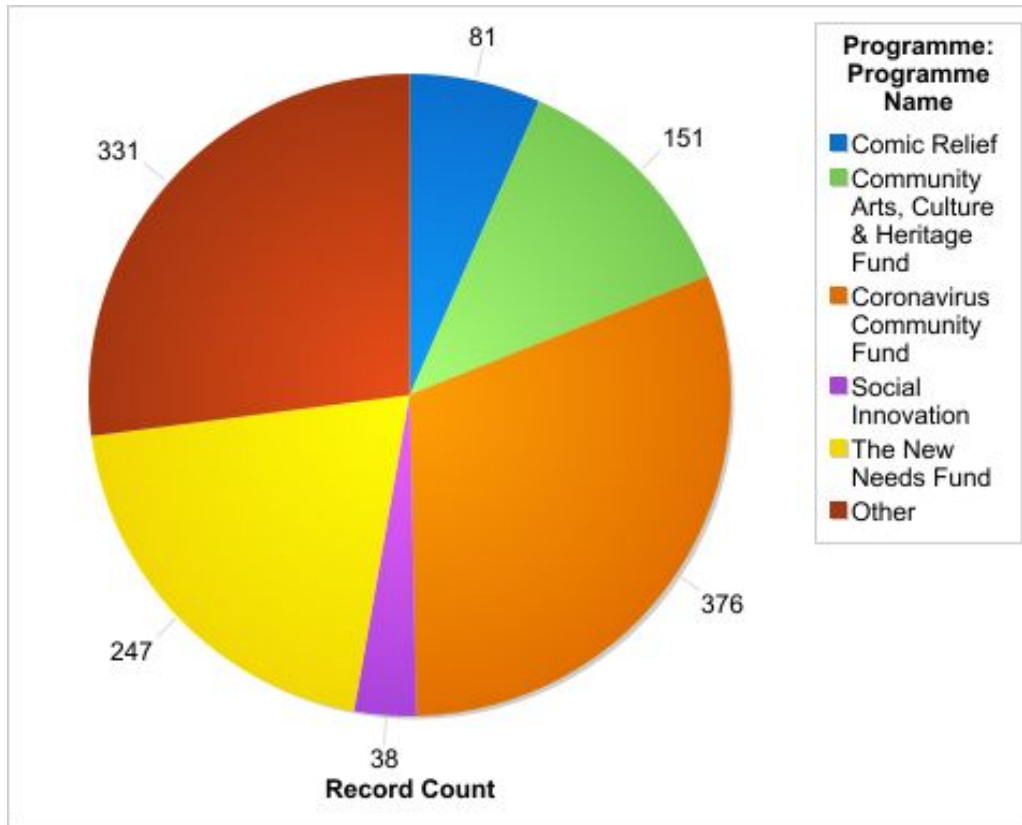
*Note: £1.7million awarded in Q1 to CAJ, PPR, PILS, Human Rights Consortium

Grants awarded by location

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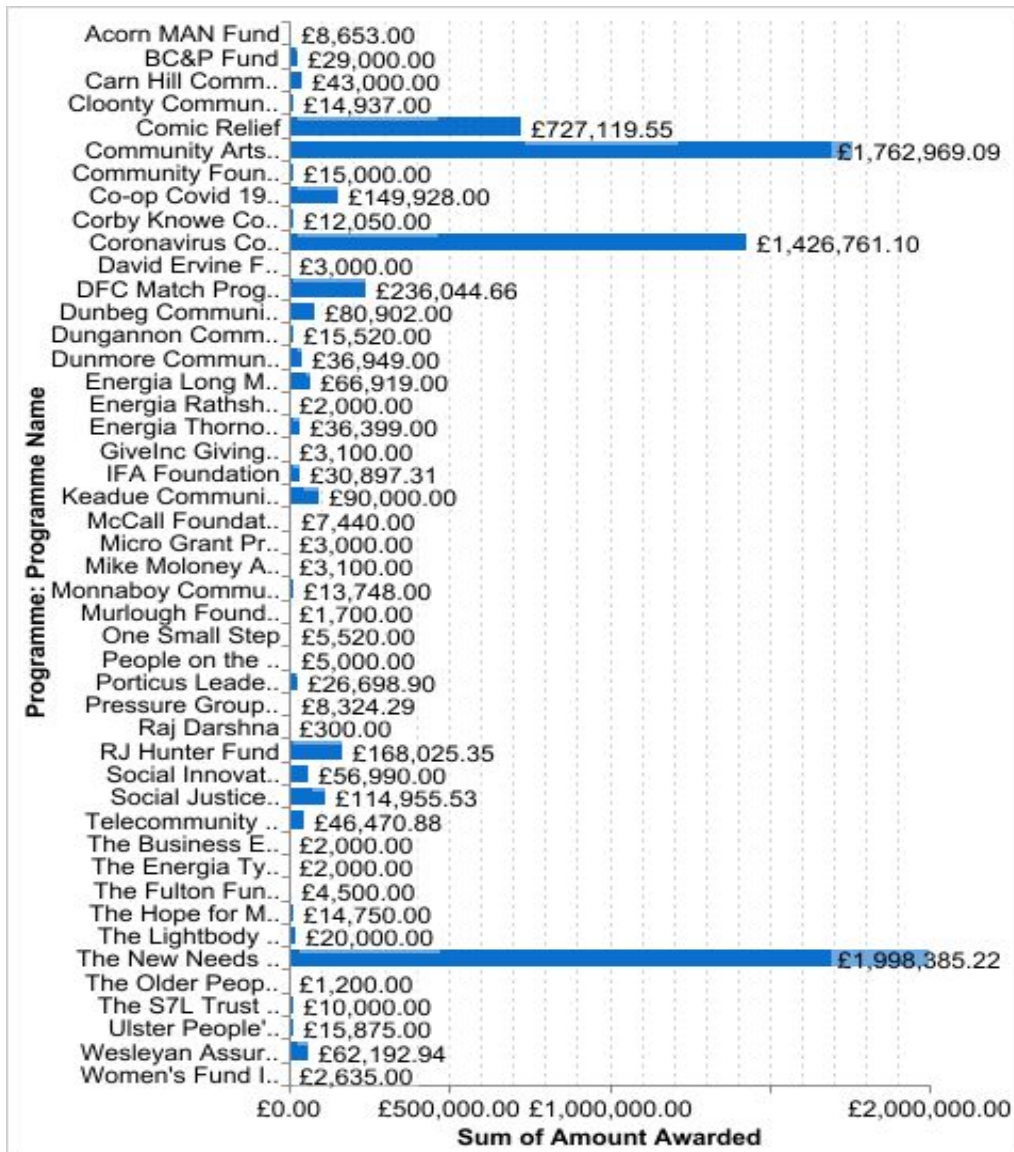


Number of awards per programme

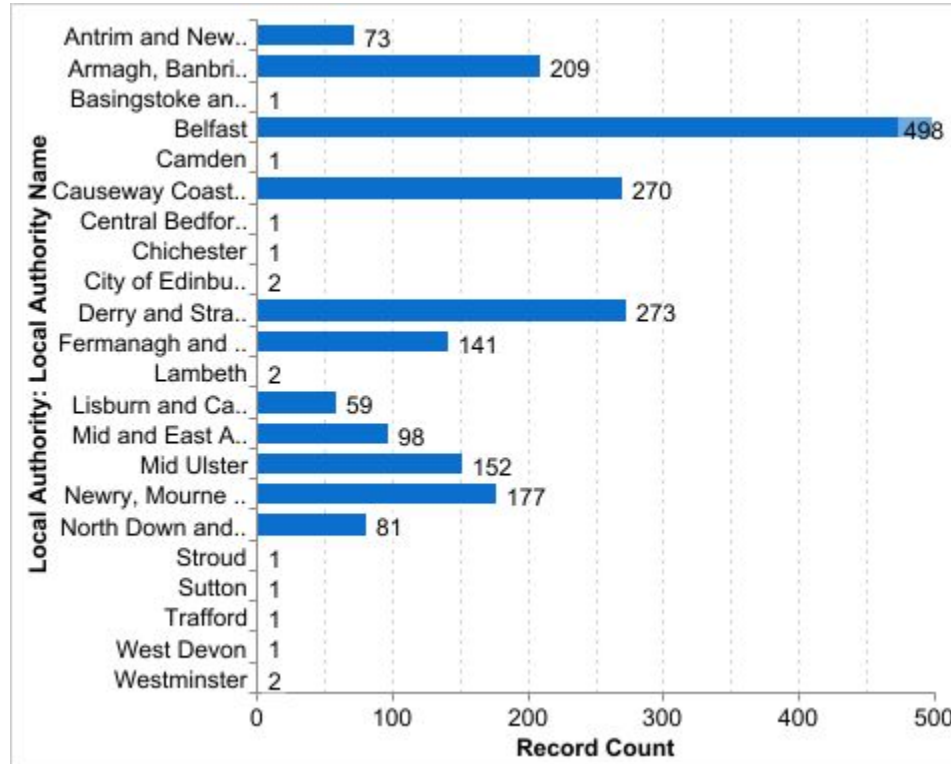


Average
grant
£6,055

Value of awards by programme

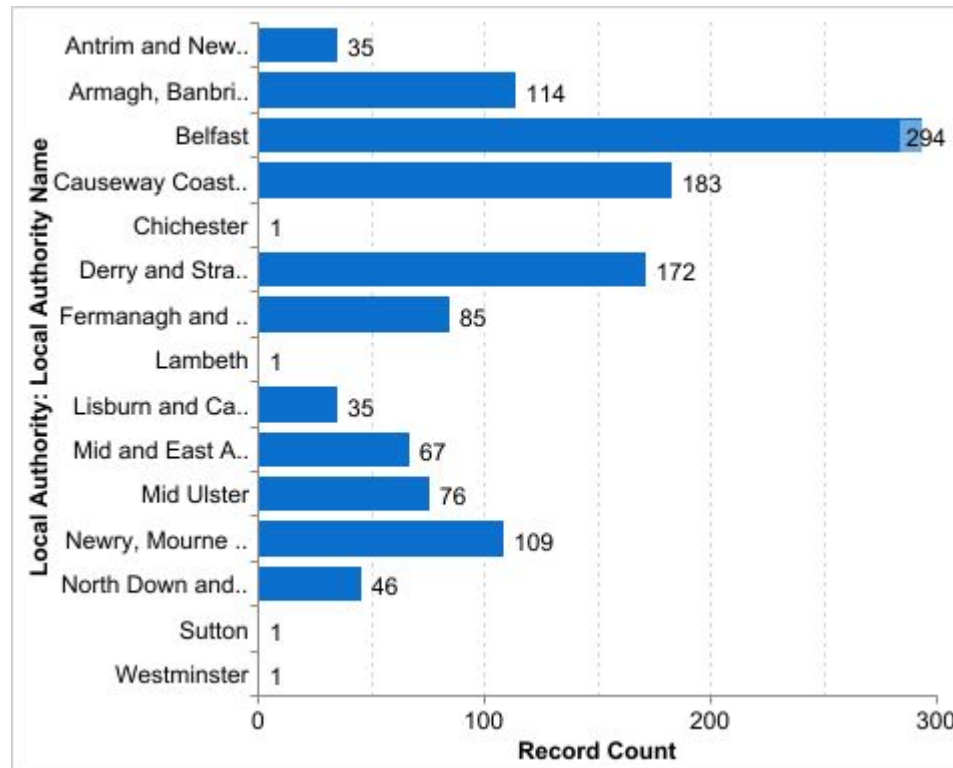


Number of applications received per Local Authority



*Note the UK mainland Councils reflect the Local Authority the applicant organisations are based in.

Approved applications per Local Authority



Top Council for receipt of applications:
Belfast

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

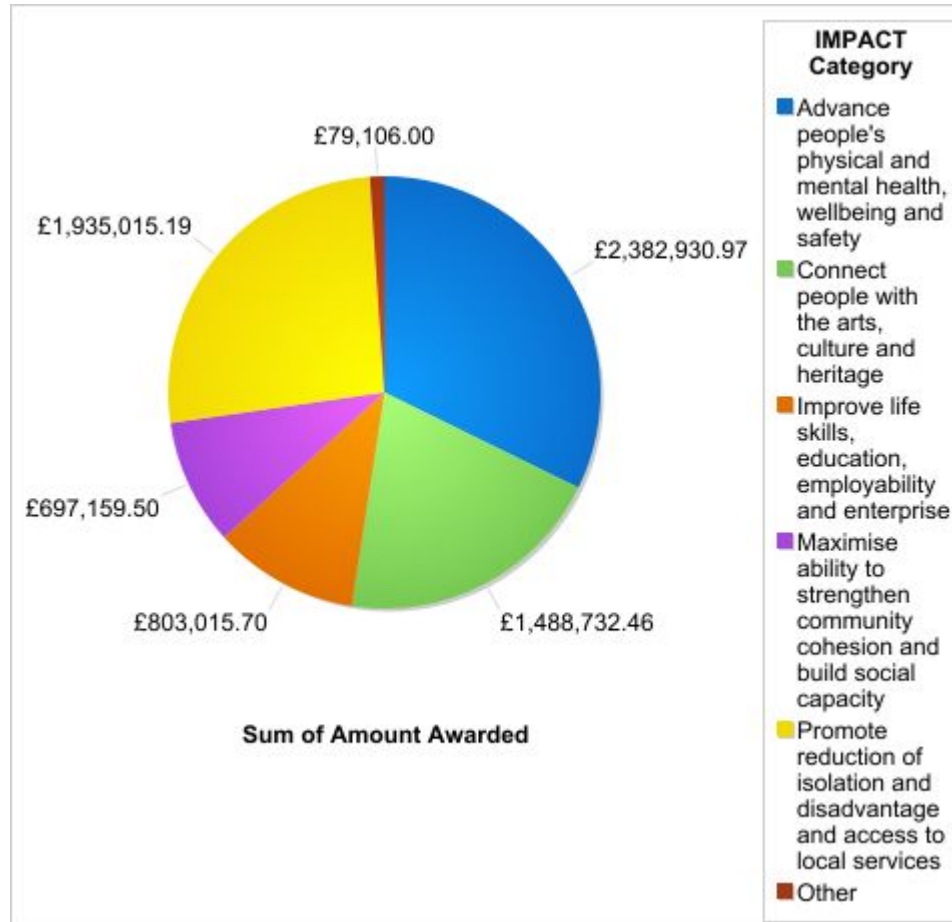
**Top Council for successful
applications:** Mid and East Antrim

**Bottom Council for successful
applications:** Antrim and
Newtownabbey

Our Impact



Amount awarded per impact category





431 projects will advance people's physical and mental wellbeing

147 projects will connect people to the arts, culture and heritage

103 projects will support life skills, education, employability, and enterprise

121 projects will strengthen community cohesion and build local capacity

373 projects will reduce isolation, disadvantage and lack of access to services and facilities

11 projects will support engagement with the environment and public spaces

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**We supported 776,062
beneficiaries!**

Our Team



We are lucky to have a fantastic team of staff who are passionate about making a difference to local people in Northern Ireland.

We regularly see examples of our staff 'living' our values of Generous, Thriving and Together.

Generous -We encourage generosity in everything we do; we look out for each other; we deal with everyone with compassion, empathy and understanding. We are flexible in how we work with staff, donors and grantees.

Thriving - We see the potential within both our staff and the communities we work in and are committed to help both reach their full potential.

Together - We will only make the change we want to see together. We value participation, working with others and bringing people together.

Over the past year, we have continued to focus on these values and embed them in our culture. We expect a lot from our staff, so we look after them as well as we can, by offering good terms and conditions of employment, encouraging professional development and supporting staff to look after their health and wellbeing. We are very proud of the way our team has worked together, particularly during the Coronavirus Crisis, to connect people who care to causes that matter and support the most disadvantaged communities in Northern Ireland.

Encouraging generosity

- Our promotion of philanthropy in NI continued. We launched eight new funds during the period which in total will provide investment of £3.94m of new income to the voluntary sector.
- Our giving network selected and awarded the first Philanthropist of the Year in NI and continues to encourage, share and learn about best practice giving.
- Through our Covid response, we worked in partnership with other funders (individuals, families and corporates) to ensure funding is reaching those most in need.
- We launched a series of podcasts, seeing in believings, and have embarked on a campaign to encourage a Citizens' Assembly in NI.
- Our Accelerator Programme delivered by NICVA is very popular, with over 210 people attending a series of seminars to date. Alongside this we will pair 35 groups with a mentor to support them with capacity building by March 21.

People on the edges

- New Voices Programme funded by Garfield Weston: Invite to 25 groups to take part with 12 registering interest. Mentors agreed with first phase to commence during January 2021 and run over a 6 week period offering each group 40 hours of support. It is likely that this support will be complete using digital communications
- Number of targeted applications supported through Comic Relief Community Support Programme with specific focus on the BAME community including developing awareness of foster caring for BAME children and raising awareness within schools of the issues of human trafficking and modern day slavery.
- Initial contacts have been made with number of Irish Traveller support organisations to commence discussion in January 2021 on possible programme of work
- Structural racism discussion facilitated by Fozia Irfan commenced our work supported by Comic Relief on how organisations discuss and take action to address racism within their own organisations. We were joined in this discussion by NLCF, Building Community Resource Centre and Corrymeela

Building sustainable communities

- Participated via zoom in the Nebraska CF Dreams Welcome 3 day conference and community celebration learning more about the value of local community endowments in engaging and empowering communities. Learning will help shape our 2021 applications to funders to support 4 year pilot programme in NI.
- Additional support given to number of groups to bring forward targeted application for support via the Comic Relief Community Support Programme. Groups supported represented BAME, LGBTQ+ and refugee and asylum seekers.
- Worked with CRCSP Support Team and number of grantees to co-design evaluation, learning and storytelling tools. Developed a Support workshops for grantees to commence in January 21 and will run to April.

Thriving after the conflict

- Many of the communities & organisations we support have continued to provide vital support to communities as we work our way through the pandemic
- Our leadership programme continues to go from strength to strength with the participants delivering their Leadership In Action projects and completing their accredited training. We are now planning for an online event in April which will look at transformative leadership
- We will also be recruiting for year two of the Leadership Programme
- 2021 will be another difficult year for Northern Ireland in terms of peacebuilding and community relations with the centenary of Northern Ireland, as we better understand what the impact our exit from the EU will mean and as we work through the challenges that covid 19 restrictions bring

Innovation & voice

- **Civic innovation Programme:** 12 prototype grants made valuing £56,990 to cross-organisational teams exploring public participation in decision-making around issues such as community planning, victim support, educational segregation and climate change. The prototype phase concluded on 30th November with applications for main grants of up to £100k open from early December.
- **Techies in Residence:** the fifth cycle of the programme launched in July 2020; 7 projects selected at a pitching panel on 15th October each exploring digital solutions to issues including refugee support, mental/physical health, intergenerational working and the environment. Each project was then matched with a tech developer and work got underway at the online 'residential' in December 2020.
- **Community Voice advocacy:** engagement with government and elected representatives making the case for public participation in post-COVID Recovery via citizens' assembly and participatory budgeting

Case Studies

Encouraging generosity



- £9793.66 awarded to Parenting NI to be used towards an extended free telephone support line, monthly, issue-based, online seminars & social media support for families in County Antrim. Funded through the Mc Call Social Care Fund (DFC Match Fund).
- £9201 awarded to Hands That Talk to towards a programme of health & wellbeing activities / courses for deaf people. Funded through the Wesleyan Fund.
- £15,000 awarded to Crisis Cafe CIC towards a twice weekly friendship cafe in Newry providing mental health support for children and young people. Funded through the New Needs Fund.
- £12004.85 awarded to Diverse Youth NI towards online tutoring for children in North Belfast, primarily from BAME communities as they transition back to school and prepare for exams Funded through the New Needs Fund.

Building Sustainable Communities



- £2,000 awarded to Carnagat Area Community Association, towards aid packages for families in need living in their catchment area. Funded through the No Child Goes Hungry Comic Relief Programme.
- £2,000 awarded to Black Mountain Shared Space Project towards a child food provision programme in the the local area. Funded through the No Child Goes Hungry Comic Relief Programme.
- £2,000 awarded to Fountain Street Community Development Association to purchase nutritious food from a local source and deliver to the local community. Funded through the No Child Goes Hungry Comic Relief Programme

Innovation and Voice



- £5,000 to Compass Advocacy Network (in collaboration with Big Telly Theatre Company and Dee Harvey,) through the Civic Innovation Prototyping Grant to explore the use of online participatory theatre to stimulate public deliberation about the social welfare system
- £1,000 awarded to the Glencolin Residents Association through the Pressure Group Fund. Towards training and development courses for the Youth Beyond Conflict programme, for the development of skills and knowledge relating to civic activism and community voice.
- £1,000 awarded to Larne House Visitor Group through the Pressure Group Fund. Towards the recruitment of volunteers and raising public awareness of the role of the Larne House Visitor Group; through improved digital communications and marketing materials.

People on the edges



- £5,000 awarded to Embrace NI towards supporting people seeking asylum and transitioning refugees in the midst of the current situation through the EMBRACE Emergency Fund.
- 9 awards of £500 each, awarded to destitute asylum seekers who are volunteering in the community, and who have no recourse to public funding.

Thriving after the conflict



- £5,000 awarded to Community Restorative Justice Newry/Armagh funded through the Social Justice Fund towards the running costs of community training programme within the community sector comprising a number of community groups, schools and organisations, including one ex prisoner group, Newry Felons.
- £4,950 awarded to Community Dialogue, funded through the Social Justice Fund, towards the running costs of 30 consensus building dialogues in targeted areas of Northern Ireland which will involves the following groups:
 - Women's groups
 - Community groups
 - Residents groups
 - Ethnic minority groups
 - Members of the LGBT community



Vital Issues and Thinking

- We continue to process more applications, particularly as a result of our covid focused funds, than we have done in previous years. Our new systems and processes have really been invaluable in terms of supporting the administration of these funds, and ensuring that we can deal with the high volume of applications. We will continue to adapt and use different, and more efficient ways of working, to enable us to deliver on this increasing demand, and to build on the profile we have gained in recent months as a flexible funder.
- Our map shows that we have a wide geographical reach and spread of funding throughout the whole of Northern Ireland. We will continue to work with Support Networks to ensure we promote our funds across all areas of Northern Ireland.
- We continue to make more strategic awards through our Comic Relief programme, focused on emerging areas of need as a result of the pandemic.
- Our New Needs funding was particularly successful, with the priorities pitched at the right level, to enable community organisations to adapt and work in different ways, and to continue to support those most in need at this time. The fund was well subscribed, awarding £2 million, at pace, to enable groups to reopen community facilities safely.
- Our average grant remains quite low, which is perhaps indicative of the need for the sector, in particular for low level funding to meet immediate needs.



Vital Issues and Thinking

- The DFC Arts fund was a tremendous success, spending just under £2 million in just over 5 weeks. Our systems and processes can accommodate working at such pace, which has contributed significantly to us being able to offer to make grants quickly to those most in need, and manage funds on behalf of others.
- We have signed up to a Call to Action with IVAR, committing to making grants in a way that reflects the realities facing VCSE organisations, now, and for the foreseeable future. This will involve adopting eight principles primarily based on the following:
 - Developing clear grant criteria, aimed at trusting applicants to identify best way to address particular issues
 - Only asking relevant questions on our application forms
 - Assessing based on trust, risk taking and flexibility
 - Simple acceptance of terms of offer of funding to enable fast payments
 - Minimal reporting
- Many of the funds that we have allocated have come from Government, with tight deadlines for spend. Our focus over the next few months will be to support grantees with this spend, particularly as restrictions continue, and as groups find that they are unable to deliver projects as anticipated.



Vital Issues and Thinking

- Covid19 has undoubtedly shone a spotlight on deep and long standing inequalities and poverty within our society, and on the fragility of many support services. It is also evident that whilst the initial 'emergency phase' may have passed, a number of other crises are coming to the fore:
 - A lot of the organisations who provided emergency support and who continue to deliver vital community services are facing a funding crisis and may not be available to help in future.
 - The end of the furlough scheme and other government support initiatives may see a significant rise in unemployment, with associated issues around poverty, health and wellbeing.
 - Food fuel and digital poverty are very real and increasingly concerning issues, even amongst the employed.
 - The impact on people's mental health is only gradually becoming evident as lockdown lifts, and educational inequalities have been exacerbated.



Vital Issues and Vital Thinking

- The impact on the most marginalised and at-risk within our society is a growing concern, and whilst we have a resilient voluntary sector, it will need further longer support for sustainability. For this reason we are encouraging some of our donors and fund holders to think about longer term, and more strategic financial support, which may include support for core costs, with minimal restrictions. In addition, we are soliciting applications, targeting particular issues that have arisen, and that have been further exacerbated as a result of covid. This includes domestic violence, development of skills for young people, long covid, and the impact of covid on mental health.
- The commitment and generosity of those people on the ground, who have helped deliver the emergency and renewal support, has been really quite significant. Many of those people have only become involved in voluntary activity for the first time. There is a real opportunity to build on this community activism, and support those people to continue to engage in community activity. To enable this we have progressed with development of a Network of grantees. This will also enable us to build more of a relationship with our grantees, to develop opportunities to learn and share best practice, and perhaps develop the network into a vessel to measure impact, and inform our future strategic direction.



Orla Black
Grants Director

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