

**Grant analysis  
and impact review  
Q1 - Q2 FY 19-20  
April 2019  
to  
September 2019**

The *elle*  
Community  
Foundation

Connecting people who care  
with causes that matter

# Our Grantmaking



Between **April 2019 and September 2019** we received  
**614 grant applications (249 more than FY 18-19)**  
**190 of which were from new applicants**



---

Total amount requested  
**£4,790,274**

---

206 grants **awarded**  
**(181 in FY 18-19)**



**Approval Rate**  
**44%**

**(42% FY 18-19)**

---

Total amount awarded  
**£3,049,200 (FY 18-19 £698,708)**  
**60 of which were awarded to new applicants**

---

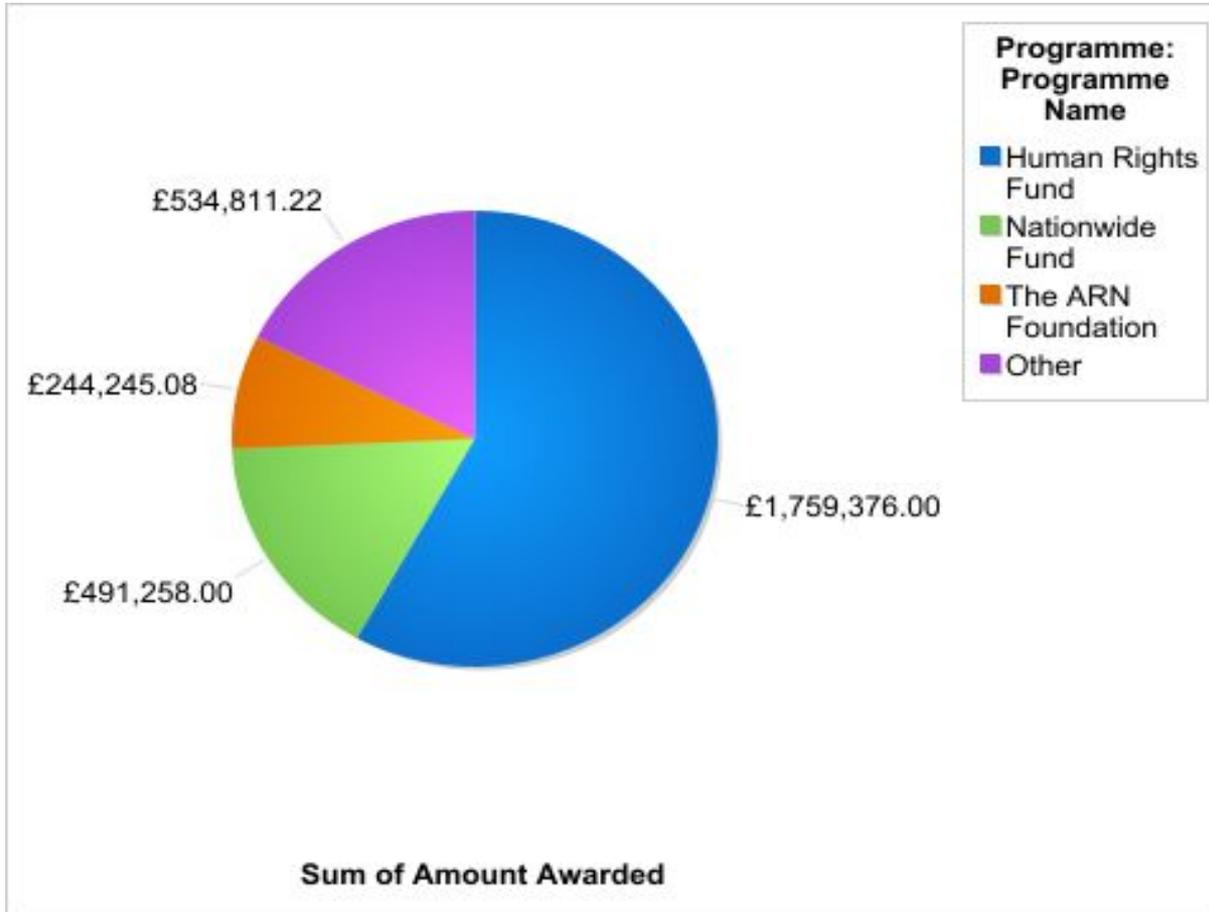
We processed 472 grant applications  
**(468 in FY 18-19)**



**339**  
**communities**  
**supported,**  
**including visits**  
**and roadshows**

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

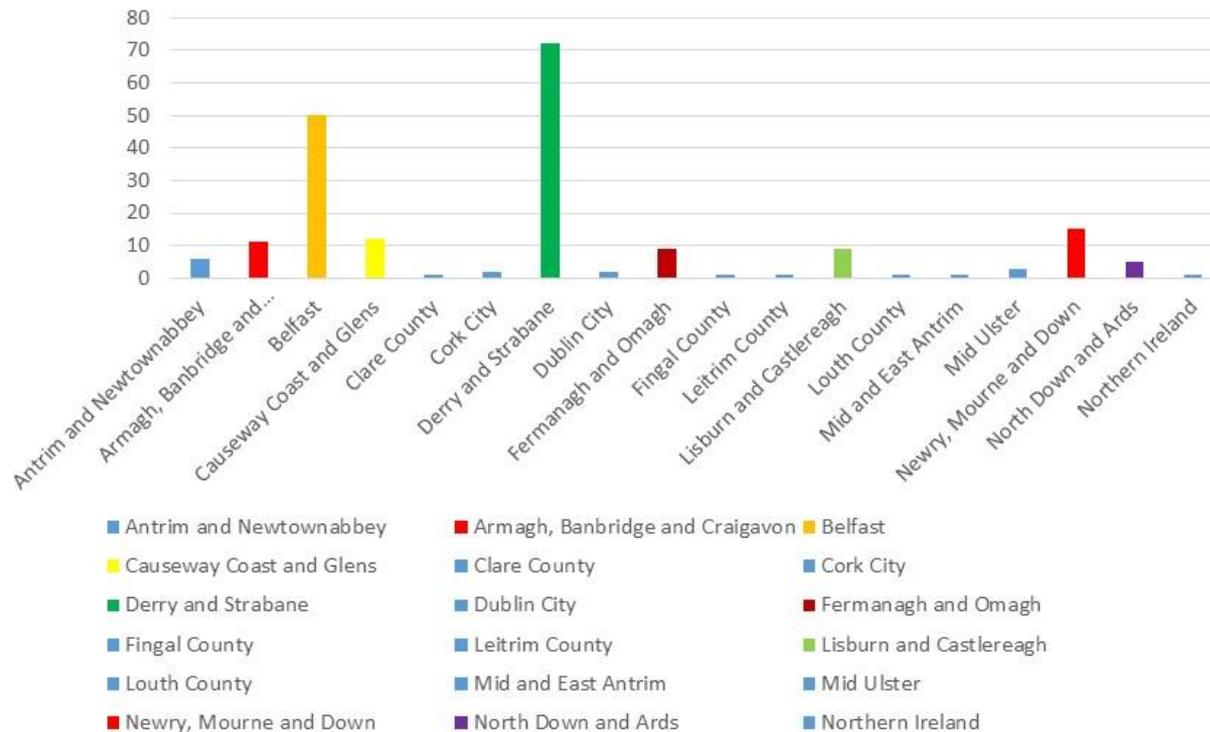
# Grants awarded by programme



**£3+m  
awarded**

**Average grant  
£6,171**

Successful apps by Local Authority



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

**Bottom Council for receipt of  
applications:** Mid and East Antrim

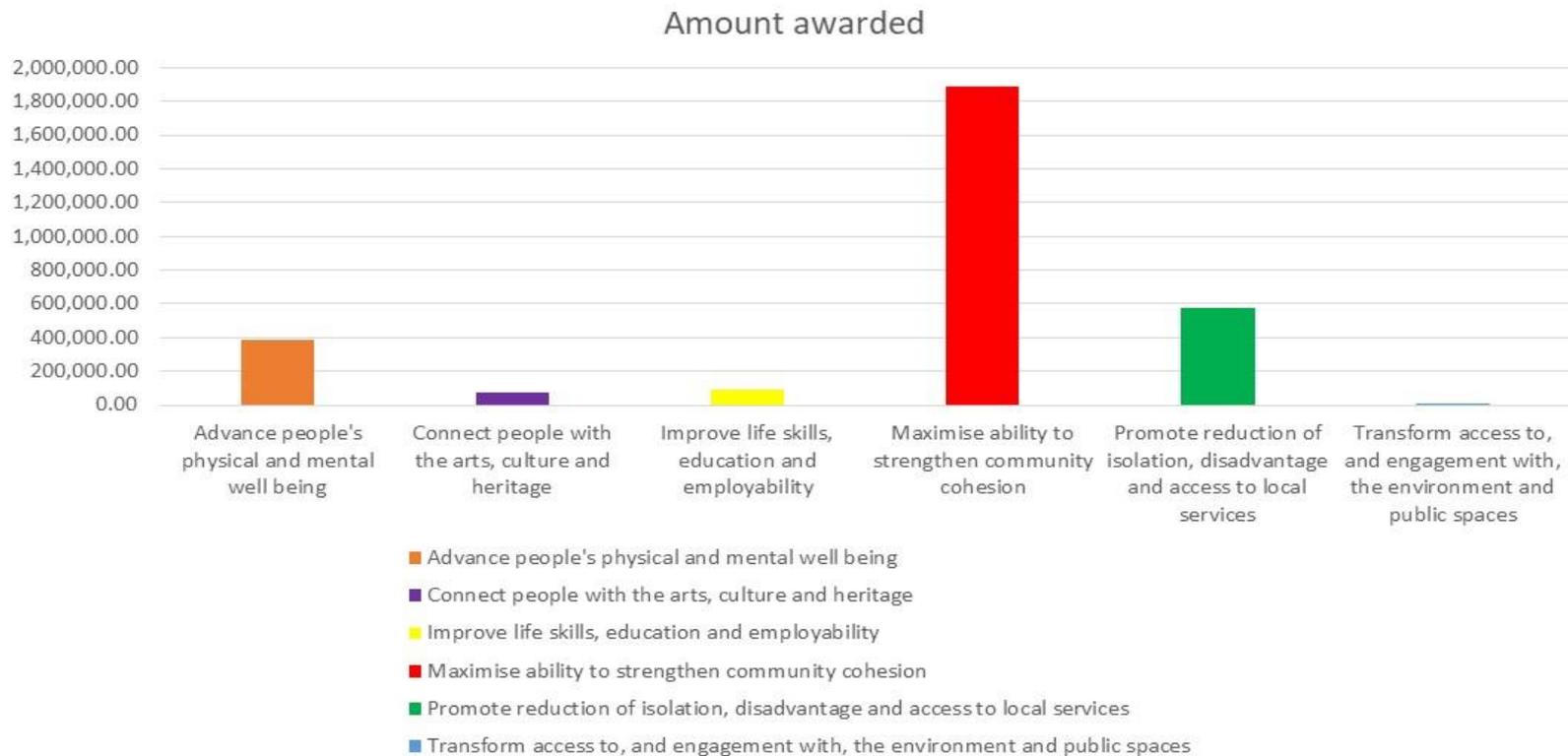
**Top Council for successful  
applications:** Derry and Strabane

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

# Our Impact



# Amount awarded per impact category





**63 projects will advance people's physical and mental wellbeing**

**34 projects will connect people to the arts, culture and heritage**

**39 projects will support life skills, education, employability, and enterprise**

**32 projects will strengthen community cohesion and built local capacity**

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

**5 projects will support engagement with the environment and public spaces**

**41,055 beneficiaries!**

Including 2,880 people living in poverty, 5,934 people living with poor mental health, 319 refugees and asylum seekers, 445 women, 209 ex offender, offenders, or at risk of offenders, 18 LGBTQ, 930 NEETS, and 4,175 older people

# Case Studies

## **Antrim Glens Tourism, awarded £1242 through the Telecommunity Fund, towards storytelling in care homes.**

The grant will be used to fund storytellers to go into nursing homes, Folds and Sheltered Housing and to target the elderly and those experiencing dementia. The following nursing homes will be included, Glens Nursing Home, Leabank (Ballycastle), Glenmona Resource Centre, Glenshesk Court (Ballycastle), Rowendale (Carnlough), Innisfree Residential Home (Buckna), Curran Court (Larne), Glenarm Fold, Whitehead Private Nursing Home, Glenariffe Luncheon Club

Storytelling has been proven to help strengthen mental health and wellbeing. Over the past three years, the following impact has been noted:

- \*Storytelling can give a voice to those whose voices are often not heard
- \*helps link, past, present and future
- \*stimulates memory, facilitates reminiscence, encourages conversation
- \*creates social interaction
- \*encourages inter-generational connections
- \*combats loneliness
- \*promotes social inter-action between the generations

The storytellers who participate in this project have all completed an OCN level 2 qualification in storytelling under the expert guidance of Liz Weir.

**Centred Soul Health and Well-being, awarded £5,000 through Comic Relief Programme, towards the enhancement of support services that contribute to enhanced mental health and well-being for those who have experienced perinatal mental illness, birth trauma, pregnancy and infant loss.**

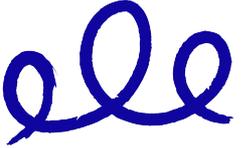
Centred Soul-Health & Well-being for all the Family, a Community Interest Company established in November 2017 to support individuals and families to self care, with a particular support in place for those who have been affected by perinatal mental illness, birth trauma, pregnancy and infant loss. With no statutory provision for such help and support the group membership comprises of people, all of whom have a lived experience of mental illness, perinatal mental health issues and birth trauma.

Following consultation with their members the group is seeking support from the Comic Relief Programme to carry out a range of programmes and activities that cover a spectrum issues encountered pre-conception, to antenatal stages through to postnatal stages) that include the following: (i) Pregnancy relaxation courses to include education on perinatal mental health and birth trauma, with educative sessions from Physiotherapy and Midwifery. (ii) Parent and child massage and yoga classes, to include specific classes for fathers. (iii) An available counselling/psychology service, for those affected by these issues- with a view of offering 8 funded counselling sessions to each referred individual. (iv) 4-6 weeks music therapy programmes. (v) First aid programmes for parents. (vi) Education programmes for Fathers- on how to support their partners and themselves during pregnancy, birth and postnatally. (vii) Monthly support gatherings/meetups for new parents. (viii) Monthly Monthly support group for those affected by Perinatal Mental Illness and Birth Trauma.

**Women's Tec, awarded £47,824 through Nationwide, towards the Her Space Project, working with vulnerable women with potential housing issues.**

Participants will learn new skills in carpentry, electrics, plumbing, tiling and painting and decorating, on an 'applied' project, transforming an empty shipping container into a fully-functioning living space with a bathroom, kitchen, bedroom and living area. The two-year project will be delivered in stages (12 weeks x 7) to ensure it is manageable and accessible for participants and will include five trade skills courses delivered over 10-week periods (per course) by female trade tutors and a planning and evaluation stage. The project team will consist of a project manager, trade manager, trade tutors and volunteers, with ongoing technical support from Fabraco Ltd who will supply the shipping container. A project plan has been developed and monthly meetings will ensure the project is meeting its objective and any issues are identified and mitigated against. In addition to the practical skills, the project will incorporate 8 workshops (4 per year) for participants covering home and life skills such as managing personal finances / budgeting, stress management and coping skills, basic home DIY skills, healthy living and wellbeing (cooking, exercise etc.) and universal credit support. The workshops compliment the practical skills, by providing support in areas which will help women thrive in their homes and enhance their skills to help prevent them from losing their homes. The project will conclude with a celebration event for participants and partners, and an official handover to the Welcome Organisation, who will manage it, as emergency living accommodation for vulnerable women who find themselves without a home.

**Tenx, awarded £2,500 through the Mike Moloney Fund, towards storytelling workshops for ex-prisoners.**

The   
**Community  
Foundation**

Tenx9 is a live storytelling event which allows nine people up to ten minutes each to tell a true story from their own life. Tenx9 particularly focuses on recruiting first timers to tell their story and to help them do that. For this application, they plan to provide in-depth support to individuals who have served a custodial sentence in advance of them telling stories at Tenx9 events over the course of the next 12 months. These stories may feature in the tenx9 podcast (subject to consent) which has 5000+ subscribers and each speaker will be given a sound file of their own story to keep. Tenx9 has always sought out the nervous, the uncertain & even the reluctant to empower them to engage in the arts and tell a story about an experience from their own life. They offer help to all contributors, but many first timers need extra help & they wish to deliver that face-to-face. They recognise too that some people face social, structural and other impediments — and in this realm they particularly are interested to focus on supporting individuals who have come from a prison experience.

Tenx9 has strong connections with people who are a/ recently come to the end of being involved in the care system b/ recently moved to Belfast from overseas c/ seeking or having been granted asylum d/ have been recently released from a custodial sentence e/ members of the Deaf community. The aim is to support people to engage with an artform that will give them confidence in their artistic capacity, showing in particular that their work is relevant, strong, moving and causes audience impact.

## Vital Issues and Thinking

- The level of subscription for some funds is quite high, which is leading to a high rejection rate. The Foundation should continue to discuss opportunities for donors and funders to potentially solicit applications (where appropriate), rather than opening for applications, where there is potential for significant levels of interest. This advice should also include more focus on fund criteria and themes of interest, and confirmation of eligibility criteria, to enable further clarity for applicants and prevent ineligible organisations applying. The new website layout should hopefully help groups confirm eligibility prior to application.
- It will however, be important for the Grants Department to be an integral part of developing new fund agreements and criteria with donors and fundholders, as early as possible, to reflect our learning, and help shape appropriate plans for fund spend, and give advice on areas and themes of need.
- 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 particularly focus on Mid and East Antrim in Q3. Attendance at the Northern Area Community Network funding fair will take place on 15-10-19, where we will meet with over 80 groups from the MEA area. Further events and meetings will be organised to discuss potential outreach. This will include liaising with the Development Department of Mid and East Antrim Council to help further promote our funds.

## Vital Issues and Thinking

- Cognisance should be taken of areas where there are high levels of applications, as well as high success rates, when developing initiatives and programmes such as Circle of Change, or with new donors and funders, to perhaps focus on developing initiatives in specific areas more in need of support.
- Feedback from the County Visits proved that it is useful and important to visit communities throughout NI, when possible. It is particularly useful to visit projects and communities with donors and fund holders, and the visits have helped provide an opportunity for us to review fund criteria, and priorities, to ensure that funds are actively meeting community needs, particularly for wind farms. Further clarity on community needs will also be provided when reviewing the grantee survey results. Visits and consultations with communities should therefore be integrated into the organisation's annual activity, with visits organised throughout NI.
- It may also be useful to carry out a survey with our donors and fund holders, to provide an opportunity to further reflect on our donor service, alongside our grantee service. It would be recommended that this survey is carried out in Q4 of this year, in advance of the new FY 20-21, and reviewed in line with the grantee survey results. To be discussed.



Orla Black  
Grants Director

The *elle*  
Community  
Foundation

Connecting people who care  
with causes that matter