

**Grant analysis
and impact review
Q1 - Q3 FY 19-20
April 2019
to
December 2019**

The *elle*
Community
Foundation

Connecting people who care
with causes that matter

Our Grantmaking



Between **April 2019 and December 2019** we received
1129 grant applications (372 more than FY 18-19)
356 of which were from new applicants



Total amount requested
£6,919,768.65

423 grants awarded
(411 in FY 18-19)

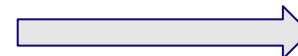


Approval Rate
41%

(51% FY 18-19)

Total amount awarded
£3,729,353.99 (FY 18-19 £1,768,440)
£296,715.62 of which was awarded to new applicants

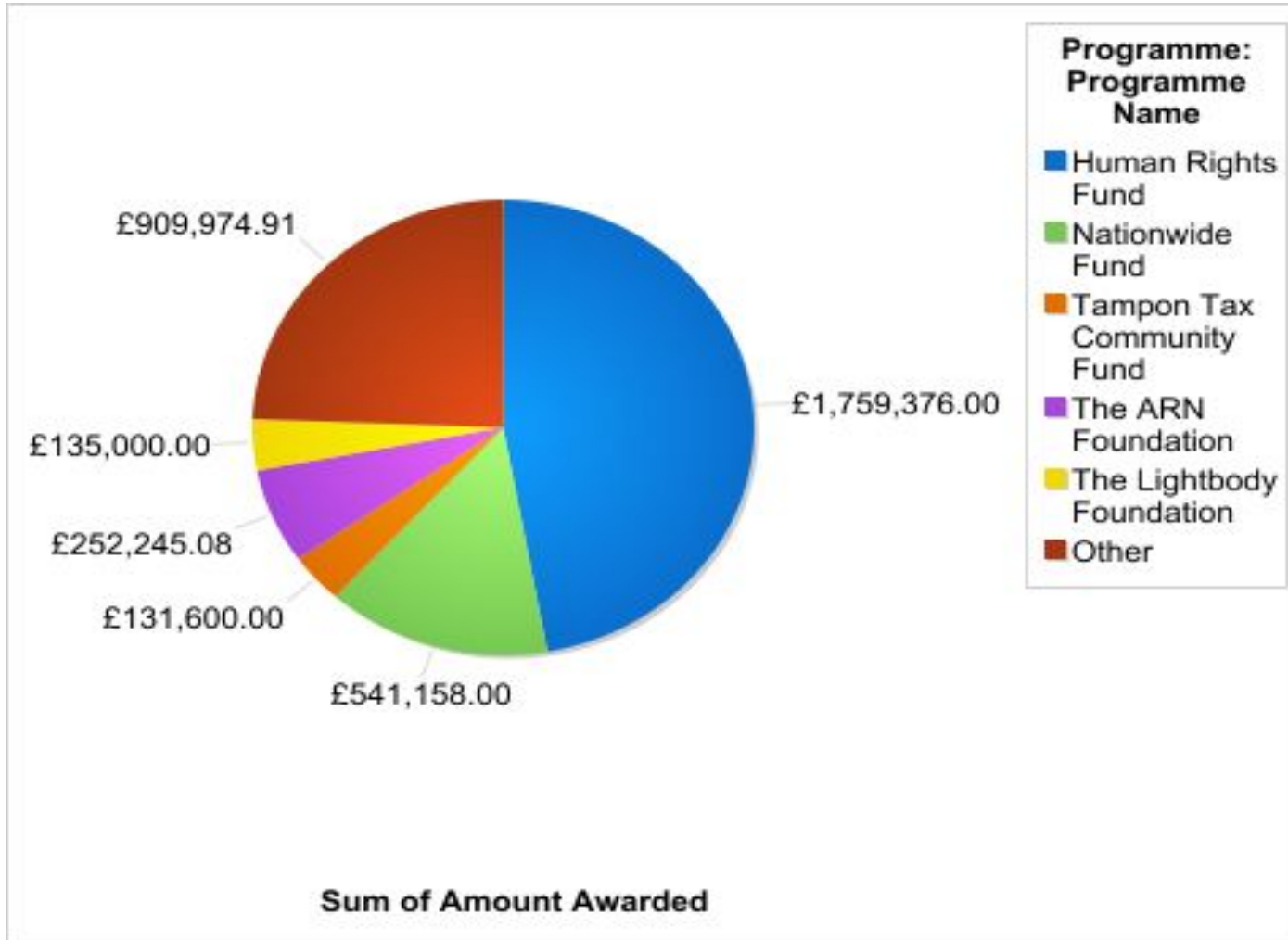
We processed 1035 grant applications
(891 in FY 18-19)



459
communities
supported,
including visits
and roadshows

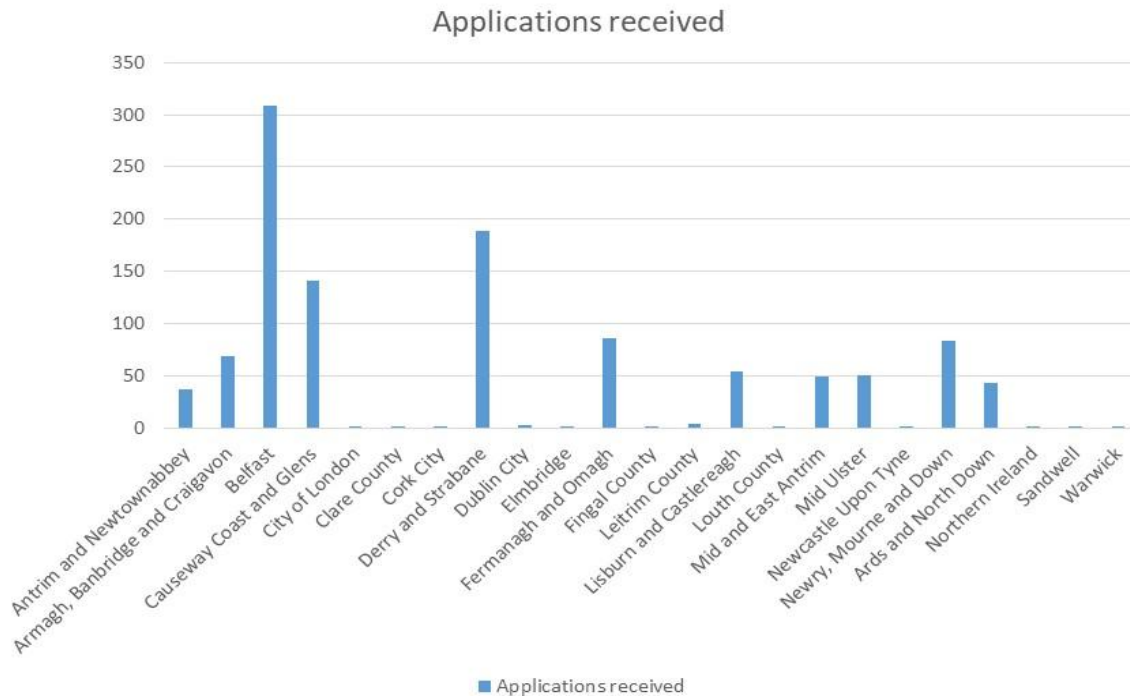
*Note: £1.7million awarded in Q1 to CAJ, PPR, PILS, Human Rights Consortium

Grants awarded by programme

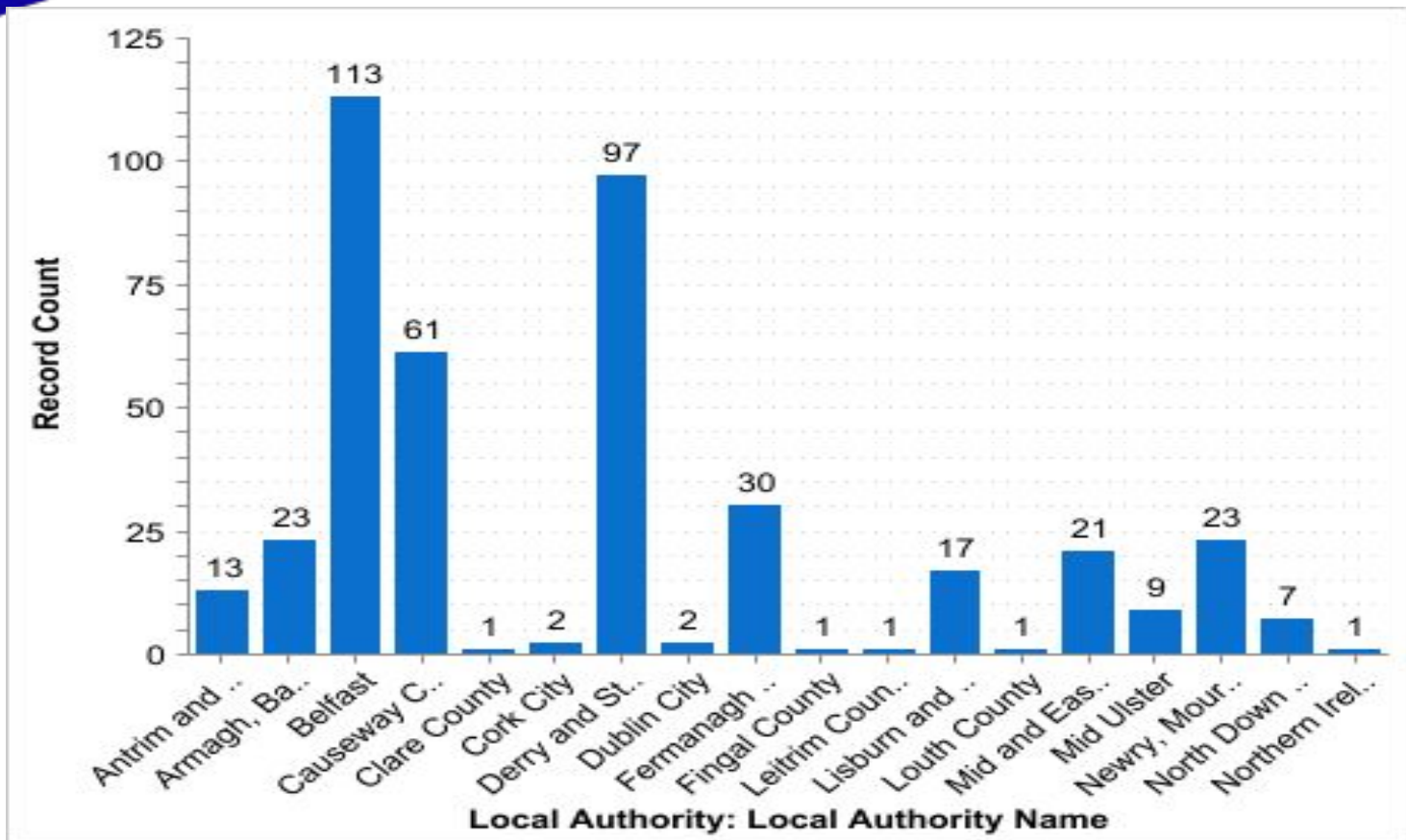


**Average
grant
£8,816.44**

Number of applications received per Local Authority



Approved applications per Local Authority



Top Council for receipt of applications:
Belfast

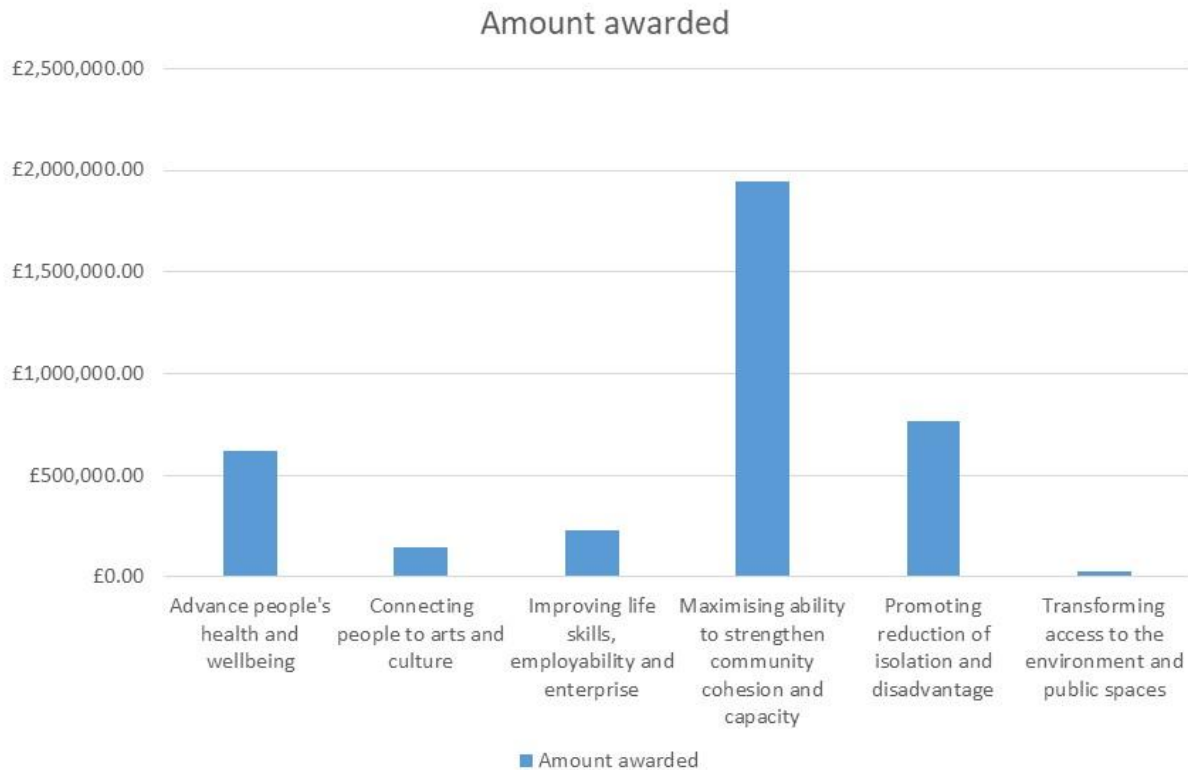
Bottom Council for receipt of applications: Antrim and
Newtownabbey

Top Council for successful applications: Derry and Strabane

Bottom Council for successful applications: Ards and North Down

Our Impact

Amount awarded per impact category





144 projects will advance people's physical and mental wellbeing

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

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

54 projects will strengthen community cohesion and built local capacity

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

11 projects will support engagement with the environment and public spaces

128,336 beneficiaries!

Including 28,267 local residents, 1,530 men, 5,380 people living in poverty, 6,214 people living with poor mental health, 753 refugees and asylum seekers, 445 women, 442 ex offender, offenders, or at risk of offending, 18 LGBTQ, 930 NEETS, and 34,177 older people, 365 black and ethnic minority, 20 carers, 24,094 children and young people, 10,503 families, parents, and lone parents, 570 homeless or at risk of homelessness, 650 people with learning difficulties, 562 living with multiple disabilities

Case Studies

Voices Women's Group, awarded £2320 through the Social Justice Fund, towards the stronger voices programme.

Stronger Voices is an eight-week Social Justice-based programme which will be delivered in a cross-community setting. It will support 20 women from both Protestant and Catholic traditions (equally) to collectively explore local issues that impact upon their lives. Through the process of these explorations, participants will identify similarities regarding the issues examined and perhaps differences in how local issues are being addressed successfully.

Sessions will be hosted in both communities on alternate weeks. This will give both groups a sense of ownership of the project as well as the opportunity to visit communities they have, until recently, heard only negative comments about.

In terms of the Social Justice Small Grants Programme aims and objectives, Stronger Voices will support two local community groups with a project that contributes to peacebuilding, whilst giving a voice to excluded groups.

Both groups are locally based, with an interest in promoting or embedding human rights and social justice in their day to day work for, and with their chosen communities.

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.

**Aspire NI, awarded £10000
Through the Lightbody Foundation, towards the
Aspire Academy for disadvantaged young people**

The support was awarded to develop Aspire Academy, where 5 cohorts of young people to chose to participate in. Business, Art, Music, Hospitality and Youth Work. Aspie will offer the programme to 80 young people from their schools programme and there will be 16-20 places per cohort.

They plan to run monthly workshops facilitated by different experts in each field. The young people will be doing a variety of things.

Business: The business group will have workshops and coaching on setting up businesses primarily online.

Art: There will be training the young people in using design software (indesign etc) and developing art skills.

Music: There will be teaching and lessons in music production, performance etc.

Hospitality: There will be provision of barista training with different experts sharing and teaching around hospitality.

Youth Work: They will be paying for young people to complete OCN level certificates in youth work and providing placement experience for them.

Centred Soul Health and Well-being, awarded £5000 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 £47824 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.

The Bytes Project, awarded £10000 through the Tampon Tax Community Fund, towards the delivery of two Girl Code Clubs in the Ballymoney and Coleraine areas.



Two Girl Code Clubs will be delivered by Bytes on 6-week block basis throughout the first half of 2020. Two community-based venues;

1 in Ballymoney and 1 in Coleraine catchment areas will host 6 x 2-hour creative digital technology sessions for 40 young girls aged 8-14 years old, via two cohorts of 10 in each respective area. Each session will focus on different digital media and technologies including Minecraft & Gaming, Scratch & Animation, Comic Life & Graphic Storytelling, Raspberry Pi & Programming, Micro: Bit & Coding using 'Hour of Code Program and learning how to film using Green Screen.

The programme will involve:

1. Publicity, advertising and recruitment
2. Materials preparation and administration
3. Session Delivery
4. Individual / group competitions
5. Monitoring, evaluation and future planning

The project will involve a Tech competition that will require participants to use using Comic Life and Graphic Storytelling to tell their own story about issues they face in their community and use creative ICT to present their ideas for tackling these issues and create change, for example, using Minecraft to build their version of a safe, inclusive and diverse community online.

Tenx, awarded £2500 through the Mike Moloney Fund, towards storytelling workshops for ex-prisoners.



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 continuing to lead 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. In particular funds with such as the Lightbody Foundation, which is very high profile, and has generated significant interest.
- We are currently reviewing our policies and procedures, and we aim to provide more advice and support for groups who are identified as ineligible for particular funds, or who do not always submit the correct supporting documentation. Guidance will be updated online over the next few weeks, to provide more top tips around applying to our funds, and to ensure that groups have suitable projects for the funds that they are applying for.
- We should continue to participate in events and funding fairs to promote our funds in rural areas, and in particular those areas where we receive a low number of applications, and where there are low success rates. Future Seeing is Believing visits with donors and fund holders should take place in these areas, to try and learn a bit more about the issues they face, and also to showcase potential projects for support.
- We are receiving more and more applications from new organisations, which is a reflection of the times within the sector, and of our improved communications and raised profile.



Vital Issues and Thinking

- We have processed as many applications in Q3, as in Q1 and 2 collectively, with reduced staffing. It would be useful to review the grant schedule for the new financial year, and perhaps encourage donors and fund holders to permit the Grants team to balance the schedule better, and spread the funds in terms of opening throughout the year. The draft schedule for the year includes a more even spread of funds opening and closing throughout the year. In addition the Grants Officers will be allocated responsibility for particular funds only, which will enable better management of resources, and provide clarity on roles and responsibilities. The additional resource of the external assessors will continue in the new financial year, which will also provide additional capacity to the team.
- The additional resources within the team should also enable a less transactional role with our grantees, and will support the team to provide more support, both in person, and through other methods, such as by telephone, and online, to try and reduce the rejection rate, however, it should be noted, that the main reason for rejection is because of the increasing level of interest in funds with limited budgets, rather than poor applications.



Orla Black
Grants Director

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