



**Grant analysis
and impact review
FY 19-20**

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

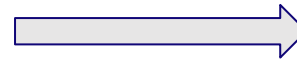
**Our
Grantmaking
Year One -
2019-2020**

Between **April 2019 and March 2020** we received **1768 grant applications (814 more than FY 18-19)**
566 of which were from new applicants



Total amount requested
£19,234 million

711 grants awarded
(531 in FY 18-19)

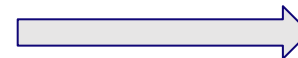


Approval Rate
46%

(50% FY 18-19)

Total amount awarded
£4,075,979 (FY 18-19 £2,023,231)
£571,828 of which was awarded to new applicants

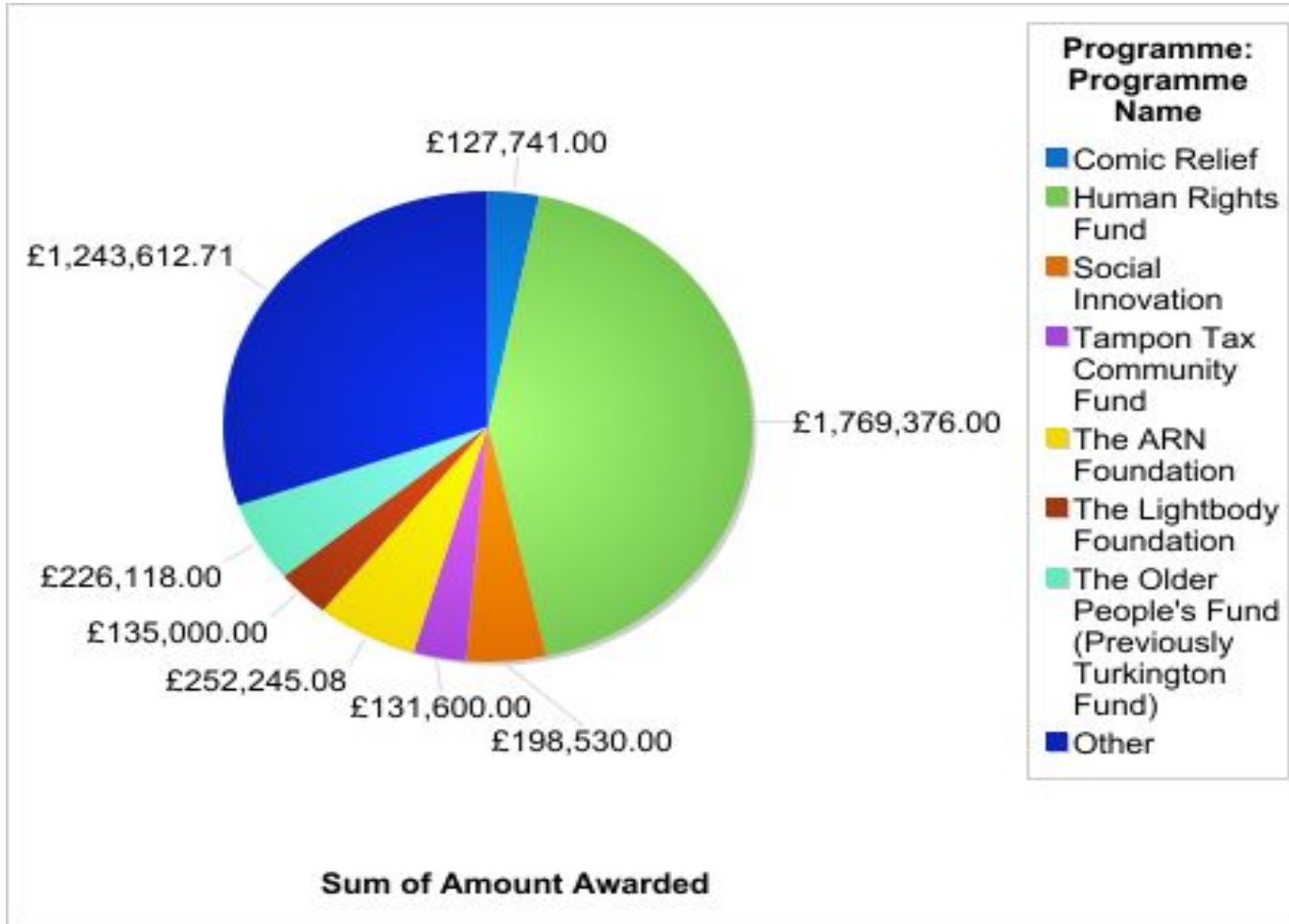
We processed 1637 grant applications
(1123 in FY 18-19)



800
communities
supported,
including visits
and roadshows

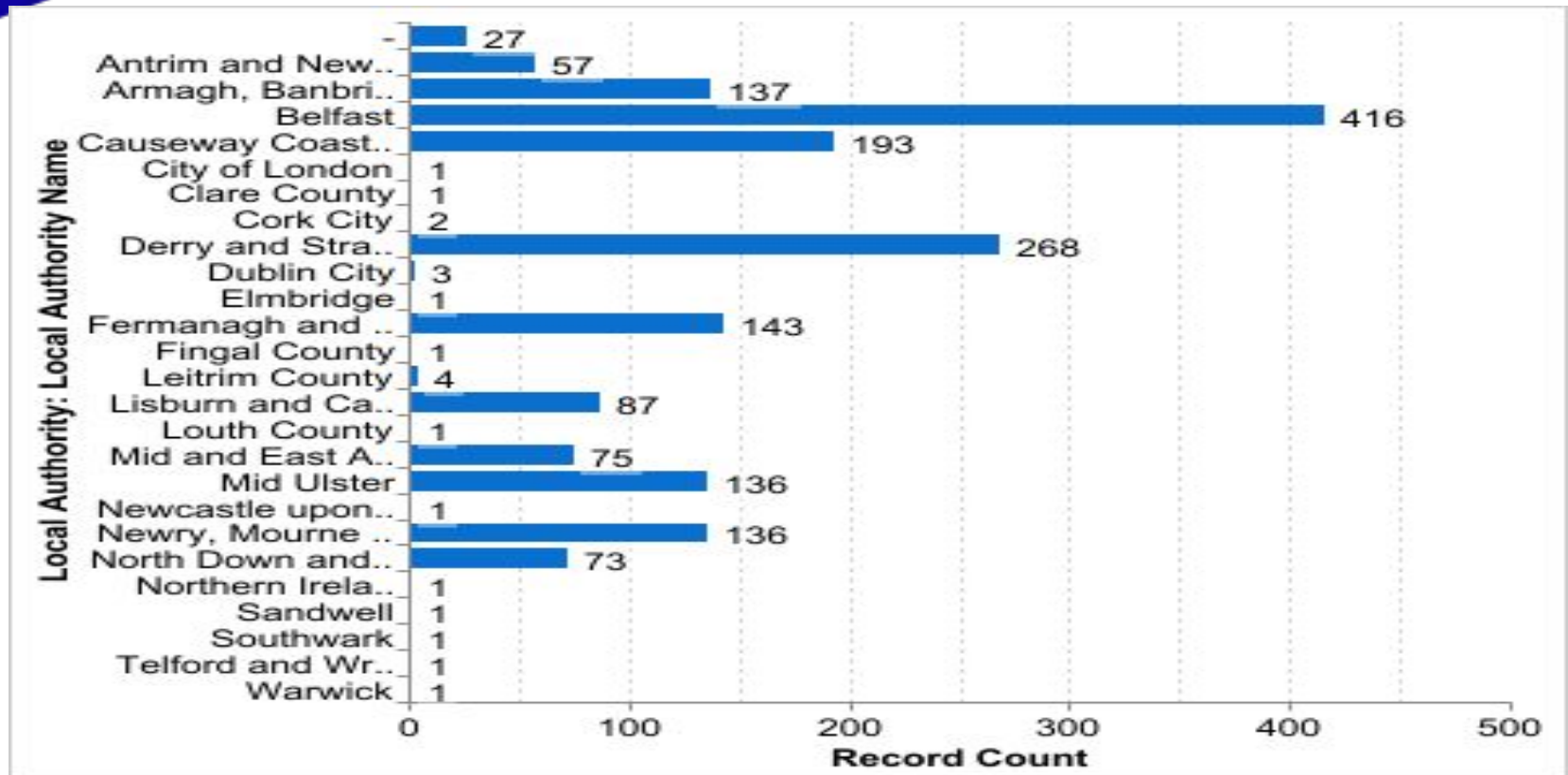
*Note: £1.7million awarded in Q1 to CAJ, PPR, PILS, Human Rights Consortium

Grants awarded by programme



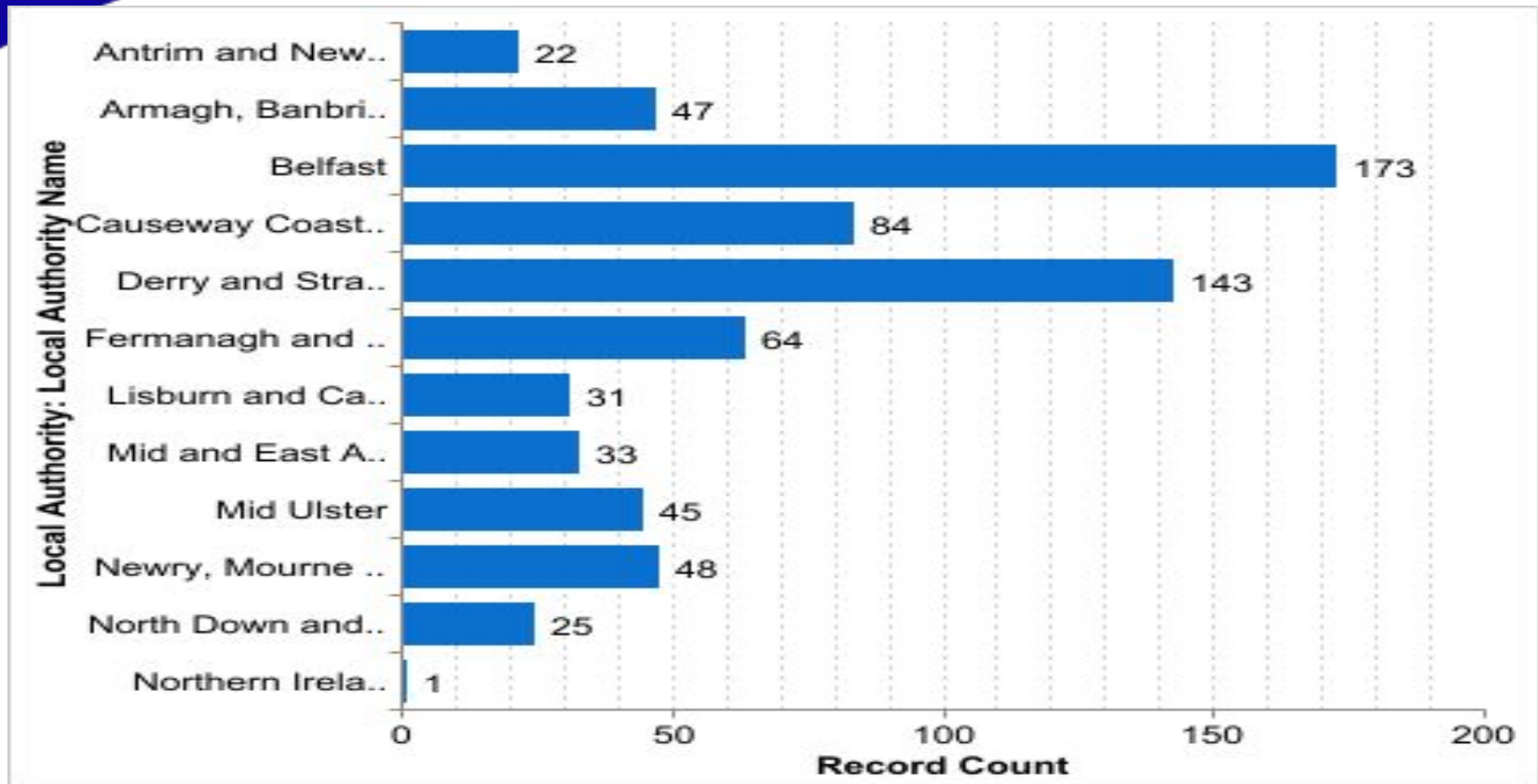
Average
grant
£5,703

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: Antrim and
Newtownabbey

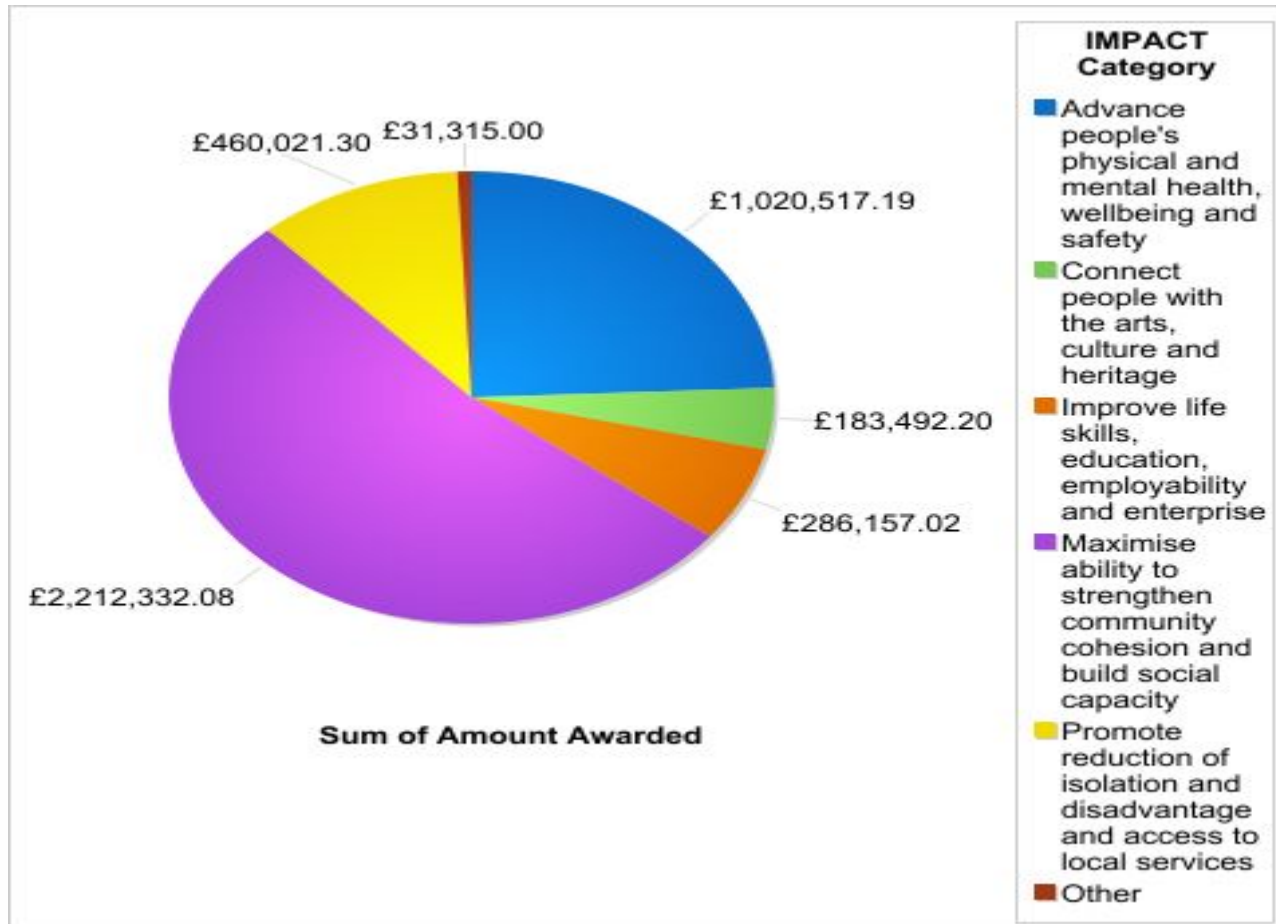
Top Council for successful applications: Derry and Strabane

Bottom Council for successful applications: Antrim and
Newtownabbey

Our Impact Year One 2019-2020



Amount awarded per impact category





284 projects will advance people's physical and mental wellbeing

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

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

84 projects will strengthen community cohesion and built local capacity

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

16 projects will support engagement with the environment and public spaces

We supported 383,644 beneficiaries!

Including 72,456 local residents, 1,530 men, 18,280 people living in poverty, 11,733 people living with poor mental health, 753 refugees and asylum seekers, 24,977 women, 442 ex offender, offenders, or at risk of offending, 18 LGBTQ, 930 NEETS, 195,560 older people, 1,166 black and ethnic minority, refugees and asylum seekers, 68 carers, 33,469 children and young people 782 in care, 13,194 families, parents, and lone parents, 2,254 homeless or at risk of homelessness, 955 people with learning difficulties, 792 living with multiple disabilities, 500 long term unemployed

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

- 13 New Funds secured
- £1.1m new funding raised
- Match Funding and Philanthropy Capacity Building Programme secured.
- Celebrated 40th Anniversary
- Positive Review of Donor Care
- First Trust Transfer Completed
- Seeing is Believing Events, including visits to every County in Northern Ireland as part of our 40th anniversary celebrations

People on the edges

- Support given to develop number of sub-regional self-support groups for the LGBTQ+ Community
- Funding won from Garfield Weston for 'Confident Communities' project
 - funding workshops
 - Mentoring support and capacity building for groups
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers
 - Destitution Fund
 - Volunteer Awards
 - Supporting expansion of Housing 4 All
 - Supporting collaboration / scoping

Building sustainable communities

Engaged with 6 organisations exploring potential new approaches to suicide prevention, building capacity of families in early help seeking behaviours

Supported 17 organisations representing 32 communities to engage in activities and programmes that challenge perceptions and usages of community spaces

Supported community inclusion programmes for local people with both seen and unseen disabilities

Supported 5 organisations challenging gender norms currently experienced by their members

Supported organisations to explore “shifting the power” both internally and externally to local communities

Contributing to international conferences and thinking on #ShiftThePower

Thriving after the conflict

- Within Peace Impact Programme - £4.3m managed; 1,199 events and activities have taken place, 13,360 people participating in peacebuilding for the first time, 100's of cases of paramilitary threats successfully mediated
- £1m funding secured from Porticus to develop a Grassroots Emerging Leadership Programme and Social Justice Flagship Fund along with the work under civic and social innovation
- Social Justice Fund- funding to projects that have increased awareness & contributed to building a culture of rights within and between communities, support for communities and marginalised groups to find joint solutions to contentious issues, strengthened local capacity to advocate, increased number of marginalised individuals and groups involved in local community activity.
- Foundations for Peace and ongoing work representation of the Foundation on this International Network and contributing to articles on peacebuilding globally

Innovation & voice

- £900,000 secured from a consortium of funders to deliver a new Civic Innovation Programme, supporting initiatives that give the public a greater voice in decision-making
- 13 new collaborations, comprising more than 30 organisations, now being developed through the Civic Innovation Programme - public participation projects around justice, environment, youth, community cohesion and community planning
- £183,000 secured for two cycles of the Community Innovators Programme and Seed Fund which provided support to 25 organisations to think differently and redesign their support and services - 18 of these organisations have now received a Seed Fund award to deliver their idea
- One cycle of Techies in Residence - supporting third sector organisations to develop new software for direct social impact - delivered with £25k Seed Fund from Bank of Ireland distributed in May 2019. A further £200,000 has been secured from Comic Relief for a new cycle of the programme in FY20/21

Case Studies

Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network, awarded £6700 through the Coronavirus Community Fund, towards the "Rural Connections" project supporting rural women's project to access information and find support on the ground.



'Rural Connections seeks to address the concerns of their membership at this time of crisis through a 4 strand approach:

- 1) NIRWN's Engagement Officer regularly phones/emails groups directly re: their issues (also recording good practice initiatives). As a point of contact and signposting support The Engagement Officer will also record and collate key issues of concern for sharing and advocacy purposes.
- 2) Social Media Channels: NIRWN starts a mental health and well-being focus for every day based on the PHA Take 5 approach. This will be very positive and interactive; vlogs, relaxation techniques/activities; FB Live sessions; asking people to share their tips etc
- 3) A new weekly E-zine with serious updates on financial/employment info.; support organisations and good practice sharing (what communities are doing to support each other) and an element of no 2.
- 4) Website-Create a dedicated page within their website with links to up to date info and links to support organisations.

The specific beneficiary group they intend to support is rural women. They also believe that supporting rural women supports their families and communities. In addition the information they gather and collate from their membership will be a resource for others who wish to deliver support for rural women.

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 Fabbraco 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.

The 
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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 continue to process more and more applications each year, and to receive applications from new organisations. The new model of working using external assessors, as well as the lean review update has been particularly beneficial and has helped manage this workload. We should continue to adapt and use different, and more efficient ways of working to enable us to deliver on this increasing demand.
- We have adopted new procedures to support grantees, and this will help reduce the level of bureaucracy when applying to the Foundation's funds, and will enable our funds to be more accessible to all; in particular the lower capacity groups. We will require as close as possible to have the same policies and procedures for all the funds that we manage, unless a particular funder specifies otherwise. If a funder does require additional information and procedures, we should make this clear to all potential applicants, within the fund guidance and criteria.

Vital Issues and Thinking

- The Community visits, consultation and survey, proved to be particularly valuable in connecting us to our grantees, and hearing about the issues that communities face. We should ensure that we build on these connections and learning, to help inform both our work and our processes, as well as future direction.
- A further survey should take place this year, with our donors and fundholders, to enable us to focus on continued improvement of our donor care offering.
- The sudden impact of coronavirus towards the end of the financial year was significant and unforeseen. Whilst the Foundation was well placed to adapt, other community sector organisations were not. The impact on the sector has been quite significant in terms of loss of income, and inability to support beneficiaries as a result of government restrictions. We opened our Coronavirus Fund just prior to the end of this financial year; and we should be particularly proud of how we have been a flexible and empowering funder, and been able to support communities most marginalised and in need at this time. Recovery funds should follow with the same principle of support and flexibility, and enable communities and community organisations to adapt and continue to support those most in need. Recognition of the sector, and its role in leading on emergency responses will be important, and there is an opportunity for the Foundation to continue to participate in forums with government and other funders, to ensure that we all can work well together to help Northern Ireland build back stronger.



Orla Black
Grants Director

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