Inspiring Scotland







When Inspiring Scotland was formed in 2008, we wanted to tackle some of the long-term, entrenched social problems faced by Scotland's people and communities.

Problems such as poverty and longstanding deprivation have caused deeprooted, self-perpetuating inequalities among our communities, leading to long-term unemployment, poor health, and diminished opportunities. We wanted to change that.

To do this we adopted the venture philanthropy model of long-term financial support matched with tailored development support to the charity sector – and pioneered it in Scotland. This model helps charities to increase the scale of the work they do and therefore have a greater impact on the people they help.

We knew to make this model successful we would need to build networks and foster greater collaboration between organisations and the people who work for them, to build long-term strategic partnerships between the voluntary, public, private and academic sectors, and to increase long-term funding and develop skills within the voluntary sector.

We raised money from private individuals, businesses, trusts and foundations, Scottish Government and local authorities and invested it in funds addressing specific themes, nurturing partnership through shared goals and interests.

We identified organisations tackling these deep social issues and invested time, money and expertise them, establishing close working relationships and cooperative networks. We helped organisations to maximise their social impact in these areas and rigorously evaluated performance to continuously improve and develop.

We did all this with the aim of helping essential charities to become extraordinary charities, enabling them to deliver the greatest possible social impact and change the lives of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities in Scotland.

And we still do.

2017 Snapshot

14:19 FUND

We believe in opportunity for all.

Established in 2008 as our first ten-year thematic fund, 14:19 helps some of the most disadvantaged young people aged 14 to 19 in Scotland who struggle to access employment, education or training, giving them the chance to transform their lives. Over 25,000 young people have been helped into sustainable employment, education or training and thousands more have the confidence and skills to change their own lives for the better.

SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT

Helping people have choice and control over their lives.

Self-directed Support empowers people across Scotland to be equal partners in their care and support decisions and lead independent lives. Working with a portfolio of projects, we are supporting the performance management, monitoring and evaluation of Scottish Government's two Self-directed Support Funds.

AUTISM INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

Opportunity, independence, choice and control.

We are supporting people with autism and their families and carers to lead more meaningful and satisfying lives. As part of Scottish Government's Innovation and Development Fund, we work with a portfolio of organisations who are delivering support and help them improve and develop services, ensure resilience and sustainability, and foster collaboration and innovation.

14:19Fund

SDS

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Autism Scotland

> Survivor Support

SURVIVOR SUPPORT

For happy and healthy lives.

Survivor Support helps the victims of childhood abuse, ensuring they have access to, and control over, support and services to help them enjoy a healthy, happy life. We work with Scottish Government to expand the capacity and capability of survivors' charities, allowing them to better respond to the negative impact on life chances that survivors often experience.

INSPIRING SCOTLAND

We believe in the strength of people and communities.

Through Link Up, people living in 10 of Scotland's most deprived communities are working together to end generations of disadvantage and stop the cycle of poverty. Link Up is for the community, by the community and because it takes the time to work with anyone in the community, it can engage the most marginalised and vulnerable people who have for so long been left behind. When people and communities are connected and energised, radical change can and does happen.

link Up

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Securing children's right to play.

Play is vital to a child's health and well-being and has a tangible effect on their life chances. We have designed and implemented programmes of free outdoor active play in schools and communities which help children to develop emotionally, socially, cognitively and physically. We want every child in Scotland to have the best possible start in life.







Everyone should have someone who is always there.

For too many young people a challenging home life can lead to a spiral of negative behaviour which can have a lasting effect on their future life chances. In 2016, we began working with Scottish Government to design and deliver a national mentoring programme for young people aged between 8 and 14 years who are looked after by their local authority but living at home.

Mentoring Scotland's young people



CASHBACK FOR COMMUNITIES

Investing in Scotland's young people.

CashBack for Communities is a Scottish Government programme which takes funds recovered from the proceeds of crime and invests them in opportunities for young people. Since 2012, Inspiring Scotland has been the delivery partner, helping partner organisations to increase their capacity and have greater impact for Scotland's young people.

OUR MISSION

We bring together people, communities, organisations and government to drive social change and transform lives.

What's next?

We want to build a better Scotland and we are committed for as long as it takes, whatever it takes.

We believe our vision is achievable, but it will require bold and innovative ideas and actions to make it happen. Over the coming years, we will strengthen our work with extraordinary people and charities to develop solutions to deep-rooted social problems.

We are committed to making Scotland a better place and believe a strong and collaborative charity sector is integral to that aim. We will expand on our delivery of expertise to the charity sector to help maximise impact and to transform the lives of more of Scotland's disadvantaged people.

Youth Employability

When it comes to youth employability, we don't just want to get young people into work, education or training; we want to inspire ambition and foster aspiration so those young people can fulfil their true potential and look forward to a brighter future.

We have learnt a great deal through our 14:19 Fund. Together with partner charities, investors and experts, we are identifying the barriers young people may face over the next ten years, and exploring what else can be done to help young people in Scotland to break through the cycle of poverty and inequality.

People and Communities

Our commitment to a better Scotland is embodied in our belief in the strength of people and communities.

We want to end the poverty of opportunity that continues to exist in too many of our cities and towns. Link Up is bringing local people together to help make this happen in 10 communities, but we know we can do more. We want to expand Link Up to operate across Scotland.

We know when people and communities are connected and energised, radical change can and does happen and we believe, with the right support and investment, Link Up can continue to flourish.

Play and Early Years

Our commitment to a better Scotland begins at an early age with the health and well-being of our children. We will continue to build on our seven years' experience developing the play sector.

We know that young children learn through play and that playing helps develop problem-solving and creative thinking. We know that being outdoors leads to higher levels of physical activity and a healthier lifestyle. We know that engagement with nature and the outdoors has a positive effect on mental and emotional well-being.

We are helping Active Play become a regular part of the school day in primary schools and are helping to develop outdoor nurseries in some of the most deprived areas of Glasgow.

We are committed to doing all we can to improve the health and well-being of Scotland's children.

This is just the beginning. Together, we are committed to a Scotland without poverty or disadvantage.





so many generous and warmhearted supporters, investors, partners, friends and colleagues that we have been able to do so much.

Thanks to you, we have been able to build networks and foster greater collaboration between organisations and the people who work for them. Long-term strategic partnerships between all sectors have been made possible, and thanks to you, we've helped to increase long-term funding develop sustainability and resilience within the voluntary sector.

We are proud of our work and we are inspired by the extraordinary commitment, compassion, professionalism and drive of the people we have worked with. Thanks to you, a better Scotland is possible; a Scotland without poverty; a Scotland opportunity for everyone.

We still have much to do and hope that everyone who has shared our journey so far, will continue to do so.

With your help, we will continue to build partnerships and strengthen existing relationships, tapping into the knowledge and experience of Scotland's people, communities and charity sector.

Thanks to you, our vision is achievable. When we all work together we can accomplish remarkable things. We look forward to continuing to work with you to build a better Scotland.

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