



# creative communities programme

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE NOTES



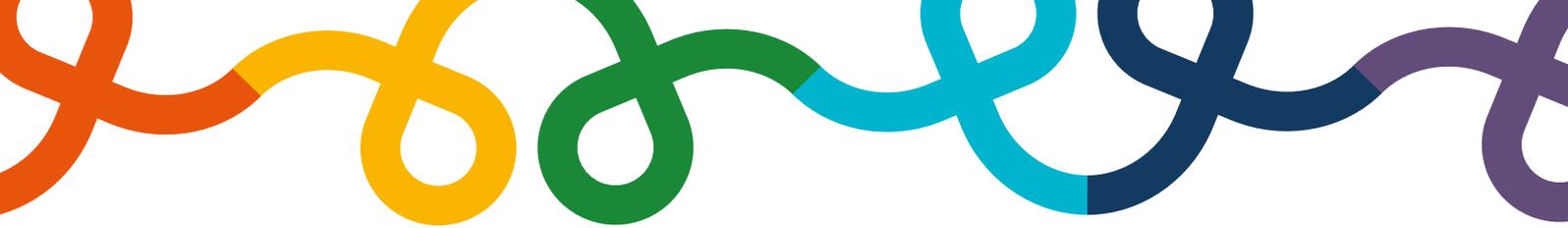
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**creative**  
communities

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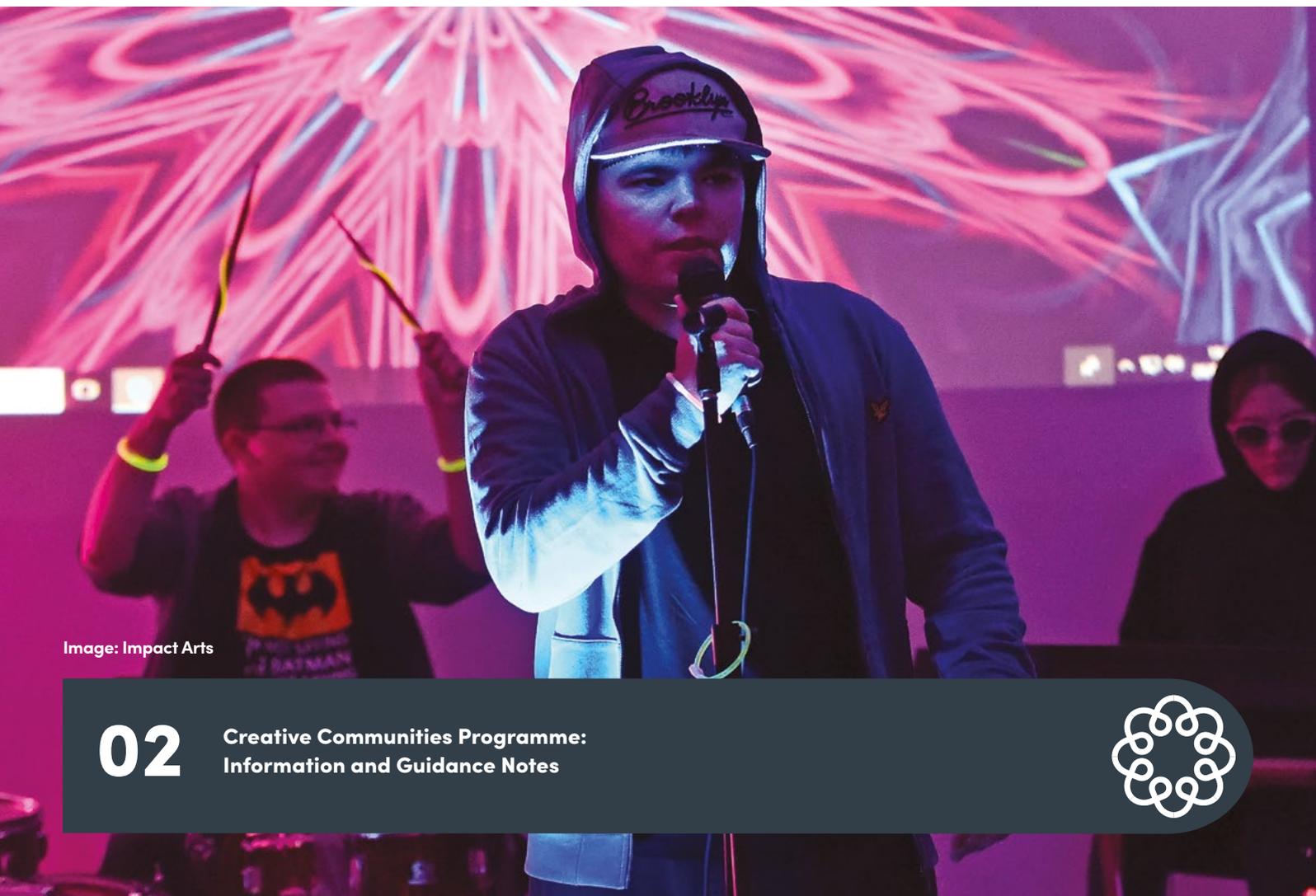
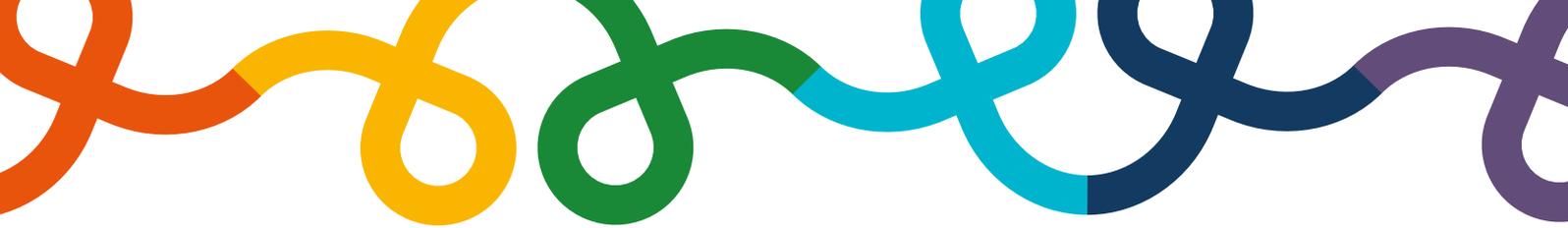


Image: Impact Arts

**02**

Creative Communities Programme:  
Information and Guidance Notes



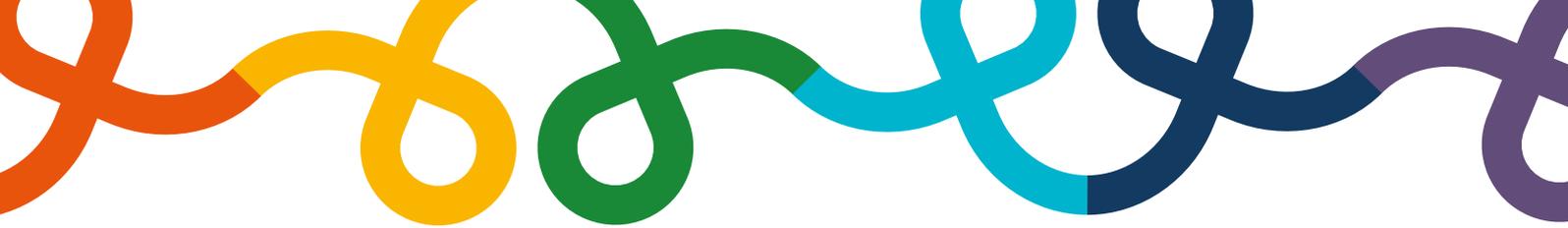


# About the Programme

**The Culture Strategy for Scotland** is centred on a vision which recognises the intrinsic value of culture and the power of culture to inspire, enrich and transform people's lives. Culture is a part of every community. It is essential to our lives and wellbeing, and is to be celebrated, supported and developed.

The Creative Communities Programme is funded by Scottish Government's Culture and Justice Directorates and aims to extend opportunities for people to take part in culture throughout their lives. We recognise each community's own local culture in generating a distinct sense of place, identity and confidence and want to support and empower individuals and communities to further develop their own cultural activities.





We are looking to support communities to develop and implement programmes of cultural activity. Support will be focused on communities where social or geographical circumstances make engaging with cultural activities more challenging. Place-based, interest-based and virtual communities are eligible. We are looking for proposals for community arts initiatives which can be delivered in line with Scottish Government social distancing guidelines, and, ideally, have delivery models which can adjust in line with the different stages. We welcome proposals in which communities partner with artists and/or arts organisations, however all applications must have a community element.

Originally scheduled for launch in April 2020, the Creative Communities Programme was paused in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. We have sought to re-work the programme to reflect the new realities. We are looking to support communities and the creative sector as we move from crisis to recovery, and to recognise the role creativity can play in instilling hope and joy during a difficult time. The fund is intentionally flexible, with the ability to adapt to existing and emerging priorities and to support a range of different types of initiatives.

The Creative Communities Programme is based on the belief that cultural activity has broad, interlinked benefits for people and communities. These include, but are not limited to, improved mental wellbeing, reduced loneliness and diversion from criminal activity. Communities themselves are best placed to articulate their needs and how to meet those needs, so we are not specifying target outcomes. We do expect that proposals will set out clear benefits for their communities that align to the [National Performance Framework](#) outcomes.

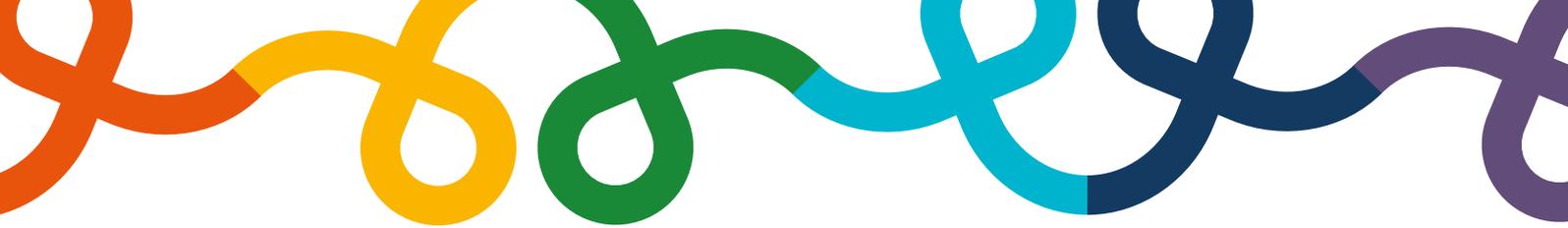
We expect to fund 10-15 initiatives requiring between £10,000 and £40,000, to be delivered between October 2020 and June 2021. There may be the option for funding to be renewed thereafter. We are also looking to support early-stage ideas which are not yet ready for implementation with seed funding and development support.

Creative Communities is being delivered by Inspiring Scotland. Inspiring Scotland strives for a Scotland without poverty or disadvantage, where everyone, no matter who they are, has the same opportunities to reach their potential and lead happy and healthy lives. We have a long track record of working with communities to build on their strengths, maximise their impact and deliver lasting change.



All images: Impact Arts





# What Proposals are Eligible?

Creative Communities initiatives must be:



**New**



**Community-led**



**In Scottish communities where social or geographical circumstances have made engaging with cultural activities challenging**



**Involve some aspect of culture or the creative arts**



**Compliant with Scottish Government social distancing guidelines**

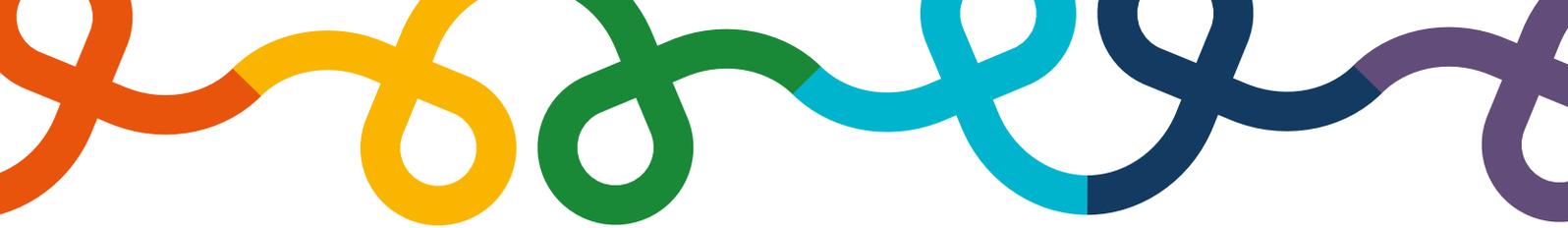


**Deliverable between October 2020 and June 2021**

Proposals must be community-led. That is, they must involve the people served from conception to development and delivery. We expect that many communities will look to partner with organisations and/or individuals with expertise and skills in the creative arts to deliver their ideas. Lead applicants must be not-for-profit and based in and/or primarily operating in Scotland.

We are asking applicants to explain how their proposal will benefit their community. There are no specific required outcomes, reflecting the ethos that creative endeavours can have a broad positive impact across multiple factors. The [National Performance Framework](#) sets out broad outcomes for a better Scotland. As this programme is funded in part by the Justice Directorate we expect that some of the successful applications will be for activities which aim to divert people away from criminal behaviour. In your application it would be useful to talk about how your proposal links to the National Performance Framework outcomes.





# What Can You Apply For?

**This programme is to support communities to develop new initiatives involving culture and creative arts for the period October 2020–June 2021.**

We expect to fund 10–15 initiatives requiring £10,000–£40,000 for this 9 month period. There may be the option of further funding in year two, however this is not guaranteed, so applicants should ensure their idea is deliverable within these limits.

In addition to proposals which are ready for implementation we will accept applications for ideas still at the early, conceptual stage. For successful early stage initiatives we will work with you to help you build your initiative to a point where it can be funded.

This funding is only for new initiatives. We are not able to fund existing programmes.

## Application Process and Timeline

**July**

Application process will open **1 July**. To request an application form please submit an [expression of interest here](#)

**August**

Applications must be submitted by **5 p.m. 12 August**

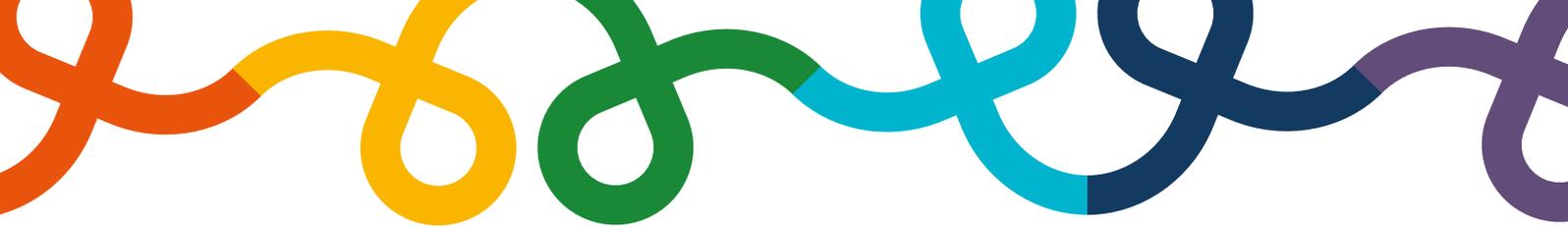
**September**

Selection will be by a panel. We expect to announce selected organisations by the **end of September**

**October–June**

Funded initiatives are to be delivered during the period **October 2020–June 2021**





# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do you define community-led?

By community-led organisation we mean one that is predominantly made up of and run by the people it serves. For place-based organisations this means local people. For non-place based and virtual organisations supporting for example young people, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, or marginalised groups, this means people from those groups.

## What if I don't have a fully-formed idea?

We know that most communities will not have projects waiting, ready to be implemented. Perhaps your community has a group of people who need support. Or members with skills and experience they would like to share but are not sure how. In addition to funding ready-to-go initiatives we will provide support to selected organisations to help develop their good ideas into fundable proposals the community will value and benefit from. To be considered for this funding tick the box on the application and answer the application questions to the best of your ability with what you do know.

## Who can apply?

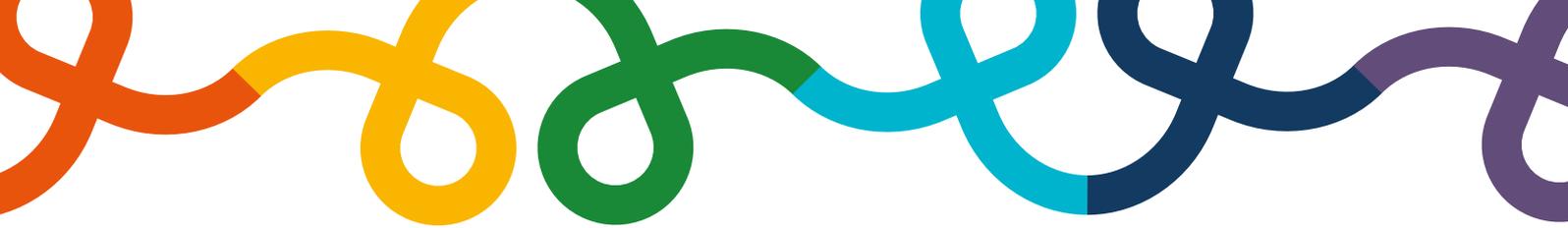
Lead organisations should be not-for-profit and based in and/or primarily operating in Scotland. It is not a requirement that the lead organisation is community-based but all applications should include a partner based in the community and be able to demonstrate expertise in creative arts. Individuals such as artists and community development workers can be included as partners or be employed by the lead organisation for the purpose of the project.

The fund is targeted at communities where social or geographical circumstances make engaging with cultural activities more challenging.

## What can the money be spent on?

The funding is to be used for a new initiative, based in your community, which involves culture and the arts. The money is to be spent on the operating costs associated with the development and implementation of the initiative, to include resource, supplies, and support from partner individuals and organisations. This includes, where applicable, any additional technology and/or PPE required to deliver the programme in accordance with Scottish Government social distancing guidelines. Up to 10% of funding can be used to cover core expenses. It is not expected that this funding would cover major capital expense. The funding is not available for existing activity. It is not to be used for religious activity or party political advocacy or activity.





## What outcomes are you looking for?

The Creative Communities Programme is based on the belief that engagement in culture has broad, interlinked benefits for people and society. It is communities themselves which are best placed to understand their strengths and meet their needs, when empowered to do so. We are looking for applicants to tell us what outcomes they think are most important and most likely.

Creative Communities Programme outcomes may include, but are not limited to:

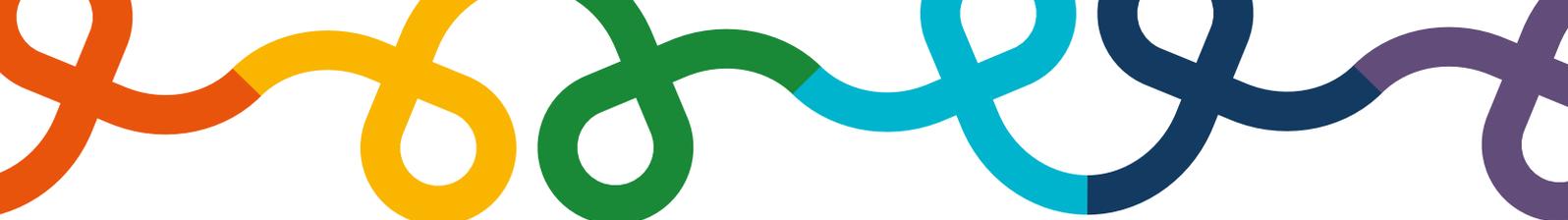
- Participation in cultural activities
- Attendance at cultural events or places of culture (including via digital access)
- Improved mental wellbeing
- Reduced loneliness
- Diversion from criminal behaviour or involvement with the criminal justice system

In your application it would be useful to talk about how your proposal links to the National Performance Framework outcomes.



Image: Impact Arts





## Do we have to be ready to start in October?

Announcements are planned for the end of September. We recognise that in many cases there will be some lead time to get a programme up and running. However successful initiatives will need to be developed to a state where they can be implemented and supporting the intended communities by December 2020 at the latest.

## Is payment in advance or in arrears?

Payments will be made quarterly, in advance.

## Will there be funding after June 2021?

The intention is for the Creative Communities Programme to extend beyond year 1, however funding beyond June 2021 has not been committed.

## What is Inspiring Scotland's role?

All successful organisations will receive support from the Inspiring Scotland Creative Communities Performance Advisor. Performance Advisors are highly skilled and experienced staff recruited from senior positions across the private, public and third sectors. The Performance Advisor will support capacity building among participating organisations by sharing learning and best practice. Funded organisations will also have use of the Inspiring Scotland Knowledge Hub and Health Check tools, and access to the Inspiring Scotland network of specialist volunteers.

## How can I contact you to get more information/support?

For further questions about the Creative Communities Programme or the application process please contact [creative@inspiringscotland.org.uk](mailto:creative@inspiringscotland.org.uk).

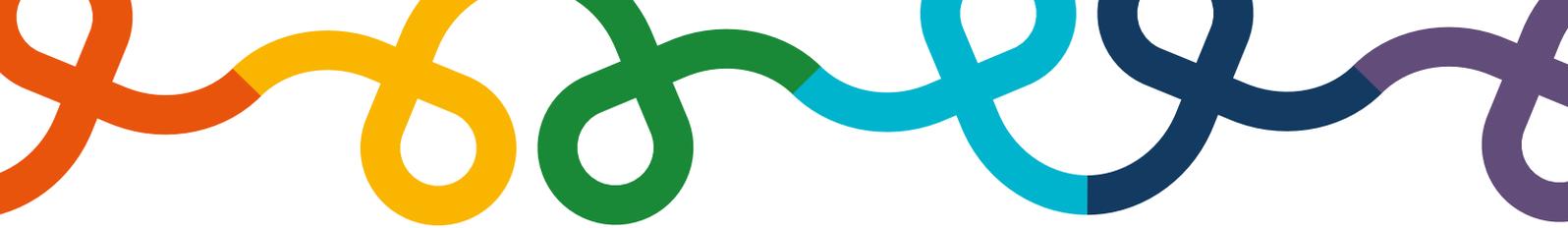
We are hosting a webinar on 15 July and will cover the programme, its aims, applications and assessment process and FAQs raised. [Register here to attend the webinar](#). A recording and updated FAQs will be circulated after the event.

In July we are hosting surgeries for applicants to discuss their project and any questions they may have. [Book your 30 minute appointment slot via this link](#).



Images right: Impact Arts



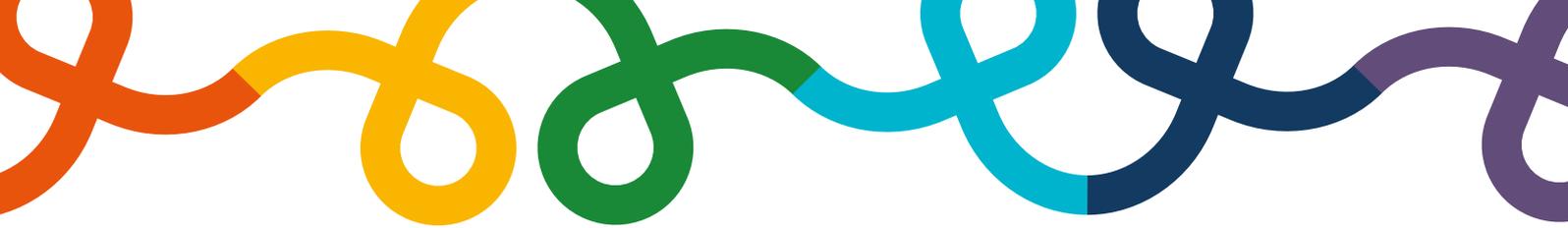


# Useful Links

The links below may be helpful in preparing your application:

- **Culture Strategy for Scotland**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/culture-strategy-scotland/>
- **Justice In Scotland Vision and Priorities**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/justice-scotland-vision-priorities/>
- **Scotland's COVID-19 Route Map**  
<https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-scotlands-route-map/>
- **National Performance Framework**  
<https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>
- **Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)**  
<https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>
- **Scottish Household Survey**  
(See Section 12, "Culture and Heritage", page 238 in PDF)  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-people-annual-report-results-2018-scottish-household-survey/>





# About Inspiring Scotland

**Inspiring Scotland strives for a Scotland without poverty or disadvantage.**

**Inspiring Scotland was formed in 2008 to identify and solve the entrenched social problems faced by Scotland's people and communities. We want to create a Scotland where everyone, no matter who they are, has the same opportunities to reach their potential and lead happy and healthy lives.**

We work with visionary entrepreneurs, business people, philanthropists, charitable trusts and Scottish Government to design and implement bold, long-term solutions – drawing on expertise and experience from across disciplines and sectors.

We identify organisations tackling deep social issues and invest time, money and expertise in them, establishing close working relationships and cooperative networks. We help organisations to maximise their social impact in these areas and rigorously evaluate performance to continuously improve and develop.

We help essential charities to become extraordinary charities, allowing them to better help the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities and transform our society.

Since 2008, we have worked with more than 300 charities across 10 funds, managed more than £140m in funding and transformed the lives of more than 200,000 people.

The Programme will be delivered by an Inspiring Scotland Performance Advisor. Performance Advisors are highly skilled and experienced staff recruited from senior positions across the private, public and third sectors. They include former managing directors, civil servants, social entrepreneurs, risk practitioners, lawyers, bankers and accountants, investment managers and charity sector leaders. Each organisation we support within a portfolio is allocated a named Performance Advisor who works with the organisation to build their capacity and capabilities. The Performance Advisors can also draw on the experience within Inspiring Scotland's central functions including communications, project management, IT, finance and strategy.





# INSPIRING SCOTLAND

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