



Foundation Scotland

Scotland's Community Foundation

COVID Community Context: lessons from our work in communities

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March 2020 – Response, Recovery and Resilience Fund announced

£7.8 million awarded to 1190 organisation working to support communities through the pandemic

Evaluation of our funding by Scottish Community Development Centre near the start of the first lockdown and 15 months on.

Lessons Learned

- A need to focus on helping support the delivery of activities and services that meet the immediate needs of isolated people, tackle loneliness and improve mental health and wellbeing.
- Most organisations have seen an increase in demand for their services. They've had to adapt and expand at a rate they wouldn't typically experience within such a short space of time.
- One very positive aspect of the community response to Covid-19 has been an increase in volunteering. However, this also presents a challenge in sustaining this involvement and responding to volunteer development support. Support staff volunteer development and training
 - Flexible or unrestricted funding needs to be made available.

Lessons Learned

- Collaboration and cross referral are hugely important, and we should look for ways to enable and encourage more of this within communities.
- Unsurprisingly, sustainability and the fragility of some charities and community organisations was highlighted during 2020.