

Wheatley Foundation

Annual Highlights 2016–17



Chair's welcome

Sir Harry Burns

Chair, Wheatley Foundation

I am delighted to report on this, the first (partial) year of operation of the Wheatley Foundation, and indeed proud to do so as its inaugural Chairman



Sir Harry Burns
Chair, Wheatley Foundation

The Foundation was created by Wheatley Group to bring together all of its Better Lives programmes and activities under one roof, aligning them strategically in common purpose and monitoring and evaluating them under a rigorous, bespoke performance framework. Its operational focus covers five key areas:

- Poverty: reducing social exclusion and taking people out of poverty
- Employability: helping Wheatley customers find jobs, careers and training
- Education: helping customers into further and higher education
- Digital inclusion: increasing knowledge, capability and access
- Sport/arts: providing the people we work for with opportunities to lead more active, fulfilling lives.

The aim is to support 10,000 people annually, who may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, within Wheatley communities

across Scotland. At the end of the financial year 2016-17, I believe we have made excellent progress towards that ambitious target by supporting 7500 people.

The Foundation was launched in December, 2016, by Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities Angela Constance MSP, at a well-attended event in Wheatley House, Glasgow. Since then the Foundation's dedicated management and staff team has worked hard to embed all of the community renewal and wider-action activities it inherited, ensuring they become even more focused, cohesive and efficient.

Delivered directly or in tandem with local and national partner organisations, these programmes include:

- The Wheatley Pledge
- Modern Apprenticeships
- Changing Lives programme
- Click & Connect digital centres
- financial inclusion schemes
- Home Comforts
- EatWell
- Revitalise exercise and arts and crafts classes for older people
- a range of community activities for young people, from outward bound and football to dancing, music and drama.



BRIGHT START: Foundation Board member Mary Mulligan meeting some of Wheatley's apprentices

The aim going forward is to expand and strengthen these programmes and to pilot new, ground-breaking community and socio-economic initiatives, identifying those with the potential to be mainstreamed as essential wrap-around services and products within Wheatley partner organisations.

In doing so, the Foundation is committed to meeting our ambitious target – as set out in Wheatley Group's Investing In Our Futures strategy through to 2020 – to secure £15 million of external funding to complement the monies donated by the Group's partner organisations.

In seeking this step change in funding, it has been necessary to create and implement a new evaluation model. Conditions of funding are such that the programmes they support need to be closely monitored and performance against agreed targets properly and professionally evaluated. The spin-off advantages include:

- ▶ the collection of compelling qualitative and quantitative data that assures funders and partners of the programmes' effectiveness, efficiency and value for money;
- ▶ enhancement of the Foundation's reputation as a high-performing trust and customer-focused organisation; and

7500

people reached by Wheatley Foundation in its first year

£8.2m

external funding secured to date

- ▶ the provision of a strategic overview of the social value of Wheatley's commitment to "Making Lives Better".

In summary, I believe solid foundations have been laid in our first year and that we are playing our part in enabling Wheatley to live up to the second part of its "Making Homes and Lives Better" motto.

Our highlights



SOLID FOUNDATION: Cabinet Secretary Angela Constance visited Wheatley House in Glasgow to find out how the Foundation is making lives better across Wheatley communities

Minister launches Foundation

The Foundation held its inaugural meeting in May 2016 – but was officially launched by Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities Angela Constance in December 2016.

The minister met some of the 2500 people who benefited from the work of the Foundation in its first three months alone, including Klara Chomicz, who received a bursary that enabled her to study at Glasgow School of Art, and Kaylee Duncan, one of Wheatley Group's Modern Apprentices.

She heard about the ways the Foundation is improving people's lives.

The minister said: "I'm delighted to have seen first-hand today the difference the Wheatley Foundation is making to lives across Scotland."

Support for heroes

The Foundation was awarded over £470,000 to invest in pioneering projects to support ex-services personnel in their homes.

The grant – from the UK Treasury's LIBOR fund, which comprises the fines levied on banks for manipulating lending rates – funds a programme to help veterans making the move from the forces to civilian life.

Edinburgh-based Dunedin Canmore and Loretto Care will be helping around 100 veterans each year with the practicalities of running a home, as well as individual personal development.

£722k

secured through European Social Fund to deliver employability contracts

£470k

awarded from HM Treasury's Libor Fund to support Scotland's veterans



MONEY MATTERS: The My Money service was launched by Glasgow City Council leader Susan Aitken at a support group for lone parents in Cranhill

Money advice helps thousands

A service to give thousands of the most disadvantaged people in Glasgow a personal money mentor is part of a pioneering Foundation scheme to tackle poverty and inequality.

The My Money service – a £4.25 million three-year programme – is the first of its kind in the city and has been made possible thanks to funding secured through the Big Lottery and the European Social Fund. It will give up to 4000 people facing financial hardship tailored help to become more financially and socially resilient.

The service – a partnership between the Foundation, Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership – was launched by Glasgow City Council Leader Susan Aitken and Wheatley staff at a support group for lone parents in Cranhill.

Great start for tenants

My Great Start, a pioneering early intervention project funded by the Foundation, helped almost 2,500 vulnerable and disadvantaged customers. The aim of the service is to tackle issues such as financial exclusion, moving to Universal Credit, fuel poverty, poor health, digital exclusion and unemployment. Customers are given tailored advice at the very start of their tenancy. Just over £450,000 of additional income was secured on behalf of our customers.

Grant for cancer charity

We supported the MacMillian Cancer Money Advice service which helped 830 customers with a cancer diagnosis, and their families, to access financial and housing advice. The service is run in partnership with MacMillian, Greater Glasgow NHS and Glasgow City Council. Over £1.5m of additional income was secured as a result of this service across Glasgow.





WORKING TOGETHER: Housing and Local Government Minister Kevin Stewart at the launch of the Stronger Communities strategic partnership in Gracemount, Edinburgh

£4.2m

awarded from Big Lottery to deliver My Money programme

4000

people to be given financial advice and support through My Money programme

Fund for stronger communities

Housing and Local Government Minister Kevin Stewart launched the first year of our Stronger Communities strategic partnership with the Scottish Government. The partnership has secured £250,000 of funding to help the Foundation support local projects with 600 people benefiting.

The funding prioritises services that local people say they need, including money advice and budgeting support in central Scotland, as well as exercise, art and language classes for older and vulnerable people in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Kevin Stewart enjoyed taster sessions of the activities supported through the investment during a visit to the Gracemount community centre in Edinburgh.

The centre itself will be given £45,000 through the partnership to help pay for a new purpose-built facility for the community.

Help with furniture

Our Home Comforts scheme saw 424 customers on low incomes receive free recycled furniture to help them make their house a home.

The items which are collected and then upcycled are often vital to tenants and include sofas, cookers, washing machines and bed frames.

For customers facing real financial hardship we also fund EatWell, a partnership with Fareshare. This year 459 customers in crisis received up to 8 weeks of support with food packages. Our partnership allows us to access in-date surplus supermarket food that we can then deliver free of charge to customers most in need.



YOU'RE HIRED: Wheatley's apprenticeship programme helps give young people a start in their career



SITE START: Tenant Ryan Docherty landed a job through the community benefit scheme

Twice as many apprentices hired

In 2016-17 we doubled the number of modern apprentices we took on.

A total of 89 young people started studying and gaining work experience with us. This included 42 Modern Apprenticeships who are given the opportunity to study for an SVQ in subjects ranging from housing and business administration to care during the two-year scheme.

We also took on 45 environmental Modern Apprentices for the first time and two horticultural apprentices.

Foundation Chair Sir Harry Burns said: "Our award-winning Modern Apprenticeships are assisting young people across Scotland forge a brighter future for themselves."

Communities feel the benefit

The Foundation is making sure new homes create job and training opportunities as well as modern, spacious places for our customers to live.

The 'community benefit' scheme means Wheatley contractors ensure developments have a positive impact in the local area, from work experience for school pupils to full-time construction jobs and apprenticeships. As a result we helped create 95 new apprenticeships and 71 new jobs in 2016-17.

Tenant Ryan Docherty, from Glasgow, who landed a job as a scaffolder through the scheme, said: "There aren't that many jobs out there so this was a great opportunity."

We also supported 49 jobs or training opportunities through Wheatley Pledge, our scheme which incentivises our suppliers to create more opportunities for people who live in our communities.

89

young people offered apprenticeships

£250k

awarded from Scottish Government to empower our communities

New training opportunities

The Foundation was behind a recruitment drive to strengthen the Group's environmental teams.

Almost 200 jobs, apprenticeships and training places were created in total to complement a £100 million investment over the next five years in maintaining and improving our communities.

The Foundation supported 45 new environmental apprenticeships and 52 training places through the Changing Lives programme for people who need extra support to get into work.

More than half of the opportunities went to customers of Wheatley's subsidiaries and their families.

Minister for Employability and Training Jamie Hepburn, who helped launch the recruitment drive, said: "It's great to see the Wheatley Group recognise the real value of apprentices and how they can help build a skilled, diverse and inclusive workforce for the future."

Breaking down barriers

The Way Ahead project, funded by Wheatley Foundation and the European Social Fund from Glasgow City Council, provided 1:1 support to 50 unemployed Glasgow residents over the age of 29 who are homeless or face other barriers to getting into work.

A team of 10 mentors working across Glasgow will support over 400 people over the next year to help them transform their lives while developing the skills and confidence to find and secure work.



GET CONNECTED: Wheatley staff explaining our Click & Connect service to Cabinet Secretary Angela Constance

Customers get connected

Free computer learning centres mean the Foundation is tackling digital inclusion in our communities.

Click & Connect, a partnership between Wheatley and Glasgow Kelvin College, has seen 38 centres open across the west of Scotland, with free computer access and help to get online and make the most of it.

Tenants get free expert advice and help to write a CV, log on to job sites and much more.

Our latest centre, housed in the Enterprise community payback centre in Bridgeton, Glasgow, offers support to people preparing to leave prison and those on community payback orders.

38

Click & Connect Centres providing free internet access and training

52

training places created through Changing Lives programme



FIRST NIGHT DELIGHT: Wheatley Group Modern Apprentices with Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop to launch the First Nights programme

Stage set for young people

Young people from Wheatley communities are getting the chance to access live theatre, broaden their horizons, and discover new skills and talents.

A partnership with the National Theatre of Scotland will see 200 young people over the next year enjoy a theatre show, meet the production team and get a behind-the-scenes tour of the National Theatre's new facility.

Older people get active

The Revitalise and Silver Deal Active programmes deliver engaging and effective easy exercise and arts classes to older adults. 84 classes each week are supported by the Foundation, with over 750 people regularly attending at church halls, residents centres and community centres. These sessions are inclusive to all levels and led by qualified physical activity coaches with extensive experience of working with older adults. The coaches deliver sessions designed to improve strength and balance which will minimise the risk of falls. They also improve mobility, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness to aid the prevention and management of long term health conditions such as arthritis, osteoporosis and diabetes.

200

young people who will visit the theatre for the first time thanks to First Nights

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