



Wheatley Group Community Benefits Annual report 2022-23

www.wheatley-group.com/better-lives/wheatley-foundation



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How we help people reach their potential

Wheatley is Scotland's leading housing, care and property management group. It owns and manages around 95,600 homes and delivers award winning services to over 210,000 people across 19 local authorities in Scotland.

The Group's partner organisations – Wheatley Homes Glasgow, Wheatley Homes East, Wheatley Homes South, Loretto Housing Association, Lowther and Wheatley Care – remain firmly rooted in their local communities, while drawing on the strength, size, scale, and resources of the Group to contribute on a regional and national level to affordable housing, care and community regeneration across Scotland.

Over the next five years, Wheatley aims to build over 4,000 new homes at over 59 sites across Scotland, from Annan to Helensburgh to South Queensferry. This is the biggest social housing construction programme in Scotland and follows the 3,177 new homes Wheatley has built over the past five years.

Wheatley Foundation, established in 2016, is the Group's charitable trust which aims to help thousands of disadvantaged or vulnerable people each year to reach their full potential. The Foundation's work focuses on two main priorities:

- maximising access to employment, training and learning opportunities; and
- tackling social exclusion and alleviating the impacts of poverty.

The Foundation delivers customer-focused programmes and invests in Wheatley communities to help create local opportunities, remove barriers and increase access to wider support services which help build lasting resilience and improve quality of life.

The Group's investment and new-build contracts include 'community benefit' clauses, which secure real economic and social benefit for our customers and communities. Wheatley's procurement team works closely with business leads and the Foundation to support these community benefit aims.



How better homes lead to better lives

Maximising job and training outcomes for customers remains a key community benefit priority. To support this, the Foundation runs Wheatley Works, which provides one-to-one support for customers to develop the skills they need to take up training, work experience and job opportunities, including community benefit opportunities.

In 2022-23, the Foundation continued to focus on providing practical financial support and advice to households struggling through the cost-of-living crisis, supporting our customers to access training, employment and educational opportunities and delivering a range of education and learning projects to give children and young people in our communities the chance to thrive.

Wheatley's contractors and suppliers have supported the Foundation by donating financial support, goods, items, and expertise to the value of over £190k in 2022-23. These donations helped the Foundation deliver a range of programmes for our customers and communities including:

- Providing over 90 people with an educational bursary to help alleviate the financial impact of studying at university or college. Bursaries are awarded over a two-year period and can help customers with travel expenses, the cost of books, digital items, and other equipment. Students supported were studying subjects including Psychology, Nursing, Business Management and Law.





- Delivering 6400 free books to 600 children under five through our partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative.
- Supporting over 800 households access free recycled furniture, white goods and electrical appliances through our Home Comforts service.

Donations from contractors also helped the Foundation deliver vital support to customers most in need. This included:

- supermarket vouchers for customers who had been homeless and are now receiving support through the Housing First initiative;
- funding for a local charity to provide Christmas dinner for vulnerable families and older people in Dumfries; and
- eight second-hand washing machines provided to our Home Comforts service

Contractors also provided vouchers and donated items to several Wheatley Care support services including:

- Kingseat Homeless Support Service in Falkirk to buy toys and food;
- Seaforth House Homeless Support Service in Falkirk to buy gift packs for young people;
- Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline support services to deliver festive activities;
- personal care and starter packs, including items such as bedding, crockery and cleaning products, provided to residents with Alcohol-related Brain Damage at the Tollcross service.

Jobs and training opportunities

In 2022-23, Wheatley Group contractors supported 63 jobs, training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Of that 63, 60 (95%) were taken up by priority groups, including new entrants, defined as new and continuing apprentices started because of a contract, new trainees and people who were previously unemployed or had left education or training before starting employment.

Wheatley also encourages opportunities for priority groups who have barriers to employment, such as lone parents, BME groups, and people who have experienced homelessness, have past criminal convictions or experience of addiction issues.

Jobs and training supported through Wheatley contracts 2022-23:

Number of jobs	18
Number of apprenticeships	11
Number of work placements	34
Total training and employment opportunities	63
Jobs filled by priority groups	18
Apprenticeships filled by priority groups	11
Work placements filled by priority groups	31
Total opportunities filled by priority groups	60

Subcontracting with SMEs, Social Enterprises/Supported Businesses

These new-build sites completed in 2022-23:

- Hurlford, which ran from November 2020 to April 2022
- Gilwood Road, Eastriggs, June 2021 to May 2022
- Hallrule Drive, November 2020 to June 2022
- The Wisp Phase 3c, March 2020 to August 2022
- Queens Quay, November 2020 to August 2022
- Nursery Avenue, May 2021 to September 2022
- Almondvale, July 2019 to November 2022
- Dargavel Village, February 2021 to December 2022

The value of works subcontracted to SMEs/Social Enterprises/Supported Businesses throughout the duration of these contracts was **£1,519,395**.



David Evans

Case studies

Jobs and training

In June 2022, Wheatley Works piloted a Trades Taster programme in partnership with Glasgow Clyde College and McTaggart to support customers into training and employment.

A total of seven Wheatley Homes Glasgow tenants completed a four-week training programme which included practical trades experience in joinery, plumbing, roofing and slabbing; a site visit; employability skills; a construction industry overview; health and safety and Construction Skills Certification Scheme training and testing; and manual handling training. This was followed by a five-day work experience placement on construction sites with McTaggart. This resulted in five tenants securing paid employment.

Tenants were very positive about their experience. One described the training as ‘outstanding’, while another said the experience was ‘superb’.

David Evans, a Wheatley Homes Glasgow tenant referred to the Trades Taster programme by Love Milton, had been out of work and on Employment Support Allowance for nine years. After completing the programme, he landed a job as a labourer with McTaggart Construction.

He said: “The Wheatley Foundation course was really important in getting me mentally ready for work. That was invaluable. I’ve now got a lot more belief in myself. Anything I need, I know I just need to pick up the phone. That was more beneficial to me than anything else - just knowing there was someone there to talk to if I had any issues. The job is still a challenge, but that’s probably part of the appeal of it. I am trusted to get things done on sites. It makes me feel part of the team. I want to keep developing and getting involved as much as I can.”



Case studies

Community engagement

Community benefit requirements add value to our neighbourhoods by allowing us to deliver customer engagement events. Our 'You Choose Challenges' allow customers to vote on local projects benefiting their community, such as environmental upgrades, or gardening projects. This approach engages customers and communities directly by allowing them to prioritise the type of community benefits they most want to see and empowering customers to take the lead.

A total of five You Choose Challenges were underway in 2022, including a Wheatley Homes Glasgow community in Scaraway, Milton, and a Loretto community, Westcliff, in West Dunbartonshire. Donations from contractors were allocated to the areas surrounding recent new build sites. From customer consultation and suggestions, options were presented for community vote, with the winning ideas granted £5000.

Residents in Westcliff voted for a project to improve the area for local children. A donation from CCG helped create a new activity trail which features games such as hopscotch and snakes and ladders.

Nicola Rennie lives in the area with her two daughters Holly, seven, and Lucy, six.

She said: "My daughters love it. We use it daily and it's become part of our routine on the way to and from school. It's a focal point of the day and a great addition to the neighbourhood."

Residents in Scaraway voted to use a donation from McTaggart to support a range of community organisations to provide activities for local people. Activities included high teas for older tenants, a Halloween party, a Christmas party, new equipment for a toddler group and a PlayStation, board games and healthy snacks as part of youth diversionary sessions.

A donation from CCG helped Loretto organise a community day for tenants moving into new homes at Queens Quay in Clydebank in May 2022. Housing officers were on hand to help them get to know the community and how to make the most of their new home.

More than 25 customers attended on the day, engaging with housing staff as well as their neighbours, with stalls from West Dunbartonshire Leisure and Gym81, Scottish Fire and Rescue and local employability and learning groups.



Improving lives

Home Comforts

One tenant, Fiona, was referred to Home Comforts in July 2022 as she needed a bed and chest of drawers to help furnish her home. She said: "I am delighted with the support I received. All the staff were all really nice and I'm gobsmacked at the quality. I am over the moon and really appreciate the help. I would give the service a 15 out of 10 if I could!"

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Wheatley Homes South tenant Lyndsay Calderwood has been registered with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and receiving the books for three-year-old son Alfie for around a year.

She said: "It's a really good service. I love it and he loves it. He gets really excited when the books are delivered and we read them all together all the time. I'm so glad we were signed up"



Lyndsay Calderwood

Education bursaries

Michael McMillan, a Wheatley Homes Glasgow tenant from Cranhill, received a bursary to study for a degree in TV Production and Script Writing. He said: "I'm really keen on a career in the television industry. The course is based in Ayr, so the bursary has been a god send. Without it I would have struggled to afford the cost of travel to Ayr for my classes. Having the bursary removed any worries about money and has been a massive help."



Future plans

In 2023-24, the Foundation will continue to work with contractors to support people living in our communities, including through donations to community projects and supporting Foundation programmes.

We would like to thank all our contractors and suppliers for their support throughout 2022-23.

