

Highlights of the year 2020/21

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better lives**

Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership
www.dghp.org.uk

Wheatley
Group





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Highlights

Wheatley Foundation is Wheatley Group's charitable trust, set up to tackle poverty and disadvantage in our communities across Scotland. 2020/21 was our fifth year of operation – and it proved to be a year like no other.

The pandemic left many Wheatley customers facing severe financial hardship this year, and the Foundation's emergency food service EatWell and Emergency Response Fund were at the forefront of Wheatley Group's customer support package, particularly during the first six months of the year.

24,000

people facing hardship supported



£1.9m

raised in external funding to help improve lives



£3.7m

invested in projects in Wheatley communities



The Foundation in words



Sir Harry Burns,

Chair of Wheatley Foundation

When the pandemic struck, Wheatley Foundation stepped up as never before to help communities in their time of greatest need.

Whether it was food, furniture, jobs and training or free

books for under-5s – supporting people at every stage of their life is vital and letting them know someone cares about them can make a very big difference.

The scale of what we achieved this year is truly remarkable, and we will continue to do all we can to help support those who experience hardship or isolation or find themselves in crisis.



**Aileen Campbell
MSP**

Former Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Communities

It was a pleasure speaking to staff from Wheatley and hearing about their incredible response to the coronavirus pandemic.

With support from the Scottish Government's Food Fund and Wellbeing Fund, Wheatley ensured that a huge number of individuals and families received the help they needed at a critical time.



**Kevin Stewart
MSP**

Former Minister for Local Government Housing and Planning

I wanted to let you know how much the Scottish Government appreciates what you've done.

Wheatley Group has been quite exceptional in terms of supporting people and keeping them safe during this very challenging time. Staff should be proud of all the work they are doing.

The Foundation in numbers

33,000

Food parcels or vouchers delivered to 11,325 households experiencing significant hardship

844

People supported with digital items including tablet computers, phones and top-ups, laptops, Wi-Fi and printers

5800

Free books sent to 619 children through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library

188

Jobs, apprenticeships and training opportunities created

The Foundation big five



Poverty and social exclusion



Employability



Digital inclusion



Education



Sport and arts

Restrictions caused by the pandemic meant we concentrated on supporting customers through our poverty and social inclusion, employability and education programmes this year.

Poverty and social inclusion

In 2020/21, we supported 18,000 people facing hardship or financial difficulty through our Poverty and Social Inclusion programmes.

This included:

15,798

Supermarket vouchers worth £30 sent to 8266 households through our Christmas vouchers scheme

6751

Customers supported with one-off purchases ranging from mobile phones to fridges via the Emergency Response Fund

1692

People supported with financial advice through **My Great Start**

£1m

Financial gain for customers secured through **My Great Start**

442

Households supported with 1626 items of free, up-cycled furniture through **Home Comforts**



Poverty and social inclusion

33,000

Food packs or supermarket vouchers delivered to 11,325 Wheatley households through the Foundation's emergency food parcel service **EatWell**



Poverty and social inclusion



“We’re so thankful for the donation from Wheatley Foundation. We’re providing hot meals to vulnerable people in the run-up to Christmas and this will make such a difference.”

Gordon Scobie, the Fed Up Café, Stranraer, one local group who received Christmas funding from the Foundation.

“It’s brilliant. This has made life easier for me. I’m really grateful for the help.”

Dunedin Canmore tenant **Irene Brown**, from Hyvot Park, Edinburgh, who received a new cooker through the Emergency Response Fund.

“It was a really nice surprise and the kids love them. It shows how much you care.”

Loretto tenant **Lisa Samazie**, from Wishaw, who received activity packs for her children through the Emergency Response Fund.

“It has been a very stressful time and without the support, I would have struggled to cope. I’m very thankful.”

GHA tenant who got help with backdated benefit payments through My Great Start.



“I can’t leave the house, so the food parcels are a big help to me. I really appreciate it. It shows you are really looking out for us.”

GHA tenant, and army veteran **Joe Stevenson**, 92, who received emergency food parcels through EatWell.

Employability

188

training and employment opportunities
created this year

The pandemic meant **Wheatley Works** was suspended for much of the year, which significantly reduced our level of activity. Nevertheless, we continued to pass referrals to our delivery partners and some local employability projects continued to support young people in our communities.

As a result, we secured **188** training and employment opportunities this year, including young people who joined Wheatley's apprenticeship programme, our partners City Building's apprenticeship programme; the community benefit clauses in Wheatley's new-build and investment programmes; and Environmental Roots, our four-week pre-employment training programme in environmental maintenance.



Employability



“They’ve spoken with me about a possible job with them after the summer which involves training and possibly college again. I’m feeling optimistic and I can really do youth work as a career which is what I really want to do.”

Dunedin Canmore tenant Ellie, who received employability support through DC youth projects.

“This is dream for me as I thought I would be unemployed in April when my apprenticeship with Wheatley ended. I now have the chance of having a great job and security for my future.”

GHA tenant Michael, who started a Facilities Management Engineer apprenticeship through our community benefit scheme.

“When the staff came to our town to let us know about the apprenticeships they made us all feel really welcome. After starting, my confidence has grown a lot and I have met a great bunch of people.”

DGHP tenant Kian, who recently started an apprenticeship with Wheatley Group



Education

5251

Children across the country who accessed wider learning activities through the Children's University Scotland, supported by the Foundation

619

Children under five who received free monthly books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, with 5800 books delivered in total over the year

115

Customers supported with an education bursary of up to £1500 to help with the costs of college or university – 77 new students and 38 second-year students



Education



“The bursary has really made a difference. The financial side of things can be a big burden, and the bursary has meant not having the stress of worrying about my finances and has let me focus on my studies.”

GHA tenant **Sameer Khalid**, 18, who received a bursary to study medicine at the University of St Andrews.

“It is an excellent programme. The books arrive addressed to your child, which really makes it special. The books are perfect for sitting down and reading together – it keeps my daughter happy and occupied, which is always welcome.”

DGHP tenant **Hayley**, from Dumfries, whose daughter receives a free monthly book through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

“Rachael loves the idea of sitting on my knee and reading and looking at pictures. It’s real quality time without modern technology getting in the way. Reading is so important. It’s giving her a head start for when she starts school later.”

GHA tenant **Hazel Dykes**, from Scotstoun, whose daughter Rachael is signed up to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.



“The bursary has been an absolute god send. It’s made a big difference to us as a family, and took away some of the stress and worry about our finances while I was studying.”

WLHP tenant **Jennifer Kennedy**, 34, from Blackburn, who recently completed an honours degree in Business Management after receiving an education bursary.



The Foundation would like to thank all our partners, supporters, contractors and suppliers for their generous support this year.

They include: Scottish Government; Glasgow City Council; City of Edinburgh Council; Dumfries and Galloway Council; Foundation Scotland; Groundwork UK; Dunedin Canmore Foundation; Energy Saving Trust; Morrison's Foundation; Barclays;; Cash for Kids; Lintel Trust; Cycling Scotland; Creative Scotland; SCVO; Big Energy Saving Network/Citizens Advice Scotland; Somme Association; Chatham Financial; G3 Consultancy; Hypostyle; CF Furnishing; Walker Love; Bell Group; Unison Housing and Care Scotland; Brodies; Sheppard & Wedderburn; Unico; RSM Risk Assurance Services; Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd; MAST Architects; Mercer Ltd; the Wylie family; Smith Scott Mullan; SERS Energy Solutions (Scotland) Ltd; Utility Aid; and Virgin Media.

