



Queens
Cross
**Community
Foundation**

Queens Cross Community Foundation Impact Report 2023 – 24

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Queens Cross Community Foundation (QCCF) is a charitable foundation and is part of the Queens Cross Group. 2023/24 was another exciting year for the Foundation which saw us continue with John Gray Bursary Scheme for a second year, revise the criteria for our grants, and continue to fund a broad range of community projects and activities benefitting local people in our communities.
- 1.2 Founded in 2004 and formerly known as the Garscube Community Foundation. QCCF shares the Queens Cross Group's vision and values. The Group's **vision** is "Excellent Housing in Vibrant Communities", and our **values** are Respect, Integrity and Aspiration. Our shared vision and values are at the heart of our approach to target support in our local communities where it can make a positive difference.
- 1.3 Reflecting on 20 years of charitable grant giving work. Our funding continues to be targeted at those most in need and where our funding can have a clear and positive impact. Over the past six years the Community Foundation has distributed more than £120,000 to local causes. The Foundation provides grants to support community projects, voluntary organisations and individuals living in northwest Glasgow. It is an OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) registered charity run by local people working to address poverty, inequality of opportunity, disability, disadvantage and discrimination.

The Foundation's strategic objectives are to:

- ***Improve life opportunities, enhance wellbeing and challenge poverty, and;***
- ***Be a respected partner capable of getting funding to where it is needed most in the community***

- 1.4 The running costs of Queens Cross Community Foundation are covered in kind by Queens Cross Housing Association. This includes all administration costs, support with governance and staff support to help the board deliver their objectives such as processing grants and organising community events. This means the Foundation itself employs no staff directly, so that virtually all donations and funding received by the Foundation can go directly to our grant giving schemes.

2.0 Operating context

- 2.1 The cost-of-living crisis, following from Covid, continues to make life challenging for many people throughout Scotland. Moreover, the economic crisis has a greater impact on the communities we serve, some of which are ranked amongst the most deprived areas in Scotland, as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Our own social research tells us that in

our neighbourhoods, families struggle to buy clothes and food, let alone pay for extra-curricular activities for children. Our foundation is about getting targeted help to where it's needed, with small grants helping both individuals as well as local groups and organisations.



Sadie Gordon, Chairperson of the Community Foundation, sums up what the organisation is trying to achieve:

“For over 20 years, the Community Foundation has been making lives better in Queens Cross. Everyone needs a bit of help from time to time and the Foundation aims to give a helping hand when it’s needed.”

2.2 Small Grants can make a big impact.

2.3 The Queens Cross Community Foundation operates in communities where there are clear indicators of multiple deprivation. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation lists some of the communities in our area of operation as amongst the most deprived in Scotland. In addition, we know from our close links with the Housing Association and the research they have conducted, that many people face a daily financial struggle, which directly impacts on the choices they can make for themselves and their families. Our foundation seeks to target resources towards people and groups where we can make a positive impact. The Foundation understands that a lack of money can exclude people in many ways, limiting life chances and access to opportunities. Throughout the course of 2023/24, the Foundation awarded approximately **£30,000** in grants which benefited over **300** people.

2.4 The Foundation operated 3 separate Grant Schemes in 2023/24:

- **Community Chest***: small grants of up to the value of £150 that help young people access extra-curricular and personal development opportunities.
- **Small grants**: grants for people of any age or for groups or organisations. Our small grants can meet individual needs or provide financial support for projects that will benefit local people.
- **John Gray Bursary Scheme**: financial support for local people entering training, higher or further education.

2.5 Community Chest



First launched in 2018 as part of the Queens Cross Group's response to challenge poverty, our Community Chest grants are available for young people aged up to 25. These are grants with an upper limit of £150, can make a big difference. A total of 104 Community Chest Grants were awarded in 2023/24, totalling **£14,164.22**. This is an increase from the previous year where 71 Community Chest grants were awarded.

Anonymised extracts from successful Community Chest application forms provide an insight into the need for the small grants and how they can help people:

Help to pay for football coaching in Easter holidays. A Community Chest grant paid for two children who love playing football to participate in football coaching during the holidays. For one of the children participating, structured football coaching has helped manage and improve challenging behaviour.

Play equipment for a young child to use in their back garden: A parent struggling with social anxiety and experiencing financial difficulties was able to access the Community Chest to buy some outdoor equipment including a swing for their back garden. Their young child is now able to play outdoors and enjoy their garden. The equipment is positive for the health and wellbeing of child and parent who does not always find it easy to go to busy places such as parks.

Funding for an 11-year-old to attend art classes at the Glasgow School of Art summer school. Parents applied on her behalf, the child has had a lifelong interest in art and was interested in going to art school when they are older. Community Chest support helped to feed this passion for which they have shown such skill in already. The parents also said that art helped with their child's mental health.

The Community Chest was also accessed to help people buy basic equipment and footwear to get outdoors: hiking boots, running shoes etc, gym wear, boxing resource, helmets for cycling. People also received support to attend language classes, buy digital devices and get help with the cost of attending classes to learn a different language.

2.6 Other examples of how the Community Chest has been used.

- 2.7 The Community Chest is accessed by local people struggling to meet everyday costs to buy items that can make a big impact on people's lives. For example, it's been used to help someone buy clothing to start their first job, and to pay for a passport when someone needed official identification. Examples like these have recurred every year since the Community Chest launched.
- 2.8 The Foundation understands that helping people to meet the costs of small but critical costs can make help to make a big impact on people's lives. One of the challenges of poverty, is that lack of money can be a persistent barrier to accessing opportunities. This is where the Community Chest aims to target its resources. Furthermore, the Foundation involvement in extracurricular activities is possible for young people for both social interaction and educational attainment.

When considering this impact, we ask the reader to remember that for every young person helped, other family members can benefit too. For example, a Community Chest award may help by removing the stress of finding money to pay for fees, equipment or an activity. Similarly, an award may also mean a parent is able to say "yes" to a request, rather than the answer always being "no" to their children. Indeed, if a piece of equipment has been purchased, then other family members may get the opportunity to try this too, or hand it down when they no longer need or use it.

Shona Stephen, Queens Cross Group Chief Executive, says:

"Times are difficult just now for people across the country. This often means it is the enjoyable things in life like hobbies, going on trips or learning new things that are missed out on. At Queens Cross we want to do our bit by making it easy to apply for our small grants so that our residents and their children can access the opportunities they choose and not miss out"



2.9 Small Grants

- 2.10 Small grants totalling £ **5,760.00** were awarded in the year 2023/34. This was for a combination of individuals and community organisations. Targeted funding saw the following projects and activities delivered in the community:
- Funding for people supported by Queens Cross Wellbeing services: including help for a supported tenant to buy plants to improve a shared back court, assistance with funeral costs, help to buy household goods and financial support to buy bicycles for the wellbeing for young people service.
 - Funds to support a local BB group to go on a residential trip to Tighnabruaich.
 - Financial support to help a tenant taking up their first job.

- Grant award to support a local youth group take a residential trip to an Edinburgh based scout camp for 20 children aged 10-13. The award was given to support children to participate, as their families experienced financial hardship. Activities at the residential included horse riding, rock climbing, swimming, castle visit, beach day and a disco.
- Funding for a local primary school to conduct a guided bus tour around Glasgow for P5, P6 and P7 pupils to allow them to learn about the history and culture of the city.
- Kits for walking football team that promotes health and wellbeing amongst older adults in the local area. The Queens Cross Community Foundation logo is also featured on the kits.

3.0 Understanding Impact

- 3.1 The small grants continue to make a big impact on the lives of the recipients that receive them. A recurring theme is that our small grant scheme helps people to access opportunities that have a positive impact on people's wellbeing and personal development.

Jim Hamilton, a local Boys Brigade leader told us: "Thanks to Queens Cross Community Foundation, we were able to support local young people to go on a residential camping trip to Tighnabruaich."

Jim said, "For some of the boys this was their first experience of camping and the week-long trip away from phone and computer screens really benefitted the boys from the Maryhill 152nd BB group. The Maryhill group joined up with the 1st BB troop at their annual camp. and the boys learned campcraft and took part in team building activities. The boys also formed new friendships with other participants outside of their usual social groups".

- 3.2 One of our QCCF grants also supported a group of young people from Possilpark to attend a residential summer camp in East Lothian. This trip to involved staying at a scout camp near Edinburgh, with 20 children aged 10-13 taking part. The organisers said that without this trip, many of those participating would not get a summer holiday due to financial hardship. Children enjoyed activities such as horse riding, rock climbing, swimming a visit to Edinburgh Castle and a day at the beach. Trips like these create memories and allow children to experience new places and activities whilst also developing their resilience by being away from home.
- 3.3 Trustees are also keen to see older people supported too. A local walking football group supported by former professional footballer John Sutton, received a grant of £1,100 to purchase new kit and help with costs of entering a walking football tournament.

- 3.4 Our Chairperson Sadie Gordon visited the group to see them train and to look at their new kit bought with the grant. Visiting the club, we could see that this was a supportive environment, with a good sense of camaraderie between the players. Age UK report Walking Football as a fantastic way for older people to work on muscle strength and mobility. The activity helps people to socialise, which can help tackle social isolation, and like all forms of exercise, walking football can be beneficial for health and wellbeing.

Photo: Our Chairperson Sadie Gordon with the Walking Football Group



- 3.5 Local groups and organisations continue to prove that they can make a big impact with a relatively small grant. The Community Foundation likes to support tangible activities and initiatives, that can produce clear and positive outcomes for local people.
- 4.0 **The John Gray Bursary**
- 4.1 The Foundation launched the John Gray Bursary in 2022/23, and this year the scheme operated again for a second year, awarding **£10,000** in bursaries. The new bursary scheme is open to residents from the Queens Cross area looking for support with training and further and higher education.
- 4.2 The bursary scheme is named after former Queens Cross Housing Association chairman and community champion John Gray, who passed away in 2019 after dedicating his life to the communities of Queens Cross and was a strong advocate of opportunities for its young people.

- 4.3 The Bursary supported 5 full time applicants in 2023/24, following on from the inaugural in which 6 applicants were supported (4 full time students and 2 part time students).
- 4.4 The bursary is intended to help with the cost of educational essentials such as textbooks and electronic equipment to aid their studies.
- 4.5 **Feedback from the bursary recipients highlights how the targeted individual grants can make a difference to people during their studies:**

The John Gray bursary has been a massive help to me as it helped me access materials for things like lab work as well as helping me in day to day living costs. I am extremely grateful for this bursary as it has definitely relieved the financial aspect in university.

The course has been going so good! Having the bursary meant that I didn't have to worry on my accommodation fees and focus on my studies.

My course has been going very well so far. Thanks to the bursary I was able to purchase resources such as textbooks to study efficiently for my exams. It has also allowed me to join the university sports union, proving useful to my physical and mental health.

Thanks to the John Gray Bursary grant I have been able to purchase supplies and software relatively stress free during an otherwise financially turbulent time.

My course has been going fantastic as I have been able to pass each assessment so far and will hope to continue to do so. The John Grant (sic) has had a great impact on this as it has assisted me with being able to complete these assessments as it helped me with day-to-day life as well as being able to buy equipment and material to complete my studies.

- 4.6 The scheme operates with an annual budget of £10,000 made possible thanks to contributions from Queens Cross Housing Association, Queens Cross Workspace and Queens Cross Factoring.
- 4.7 Applicants can apply for up to £2000 to help support them during their studies at College or University. To find out more about the bursary, eligibility criteria and how to apply click here: <https://www.qcfoundation.org/johngraybursary>
- 4.9 The Bursary Scheme has also been recognised as good practice by Glasgow Caledonian University: Kerry O'Neil, Community and Public Engagement

Officer at GCU said: *“The new John Gray Bursary is a wonderful initiative and it’s great to hear QCHA are supporting people in their ambitions to pursue further and higher education.*

4.0 Fundraising and community activities

4.1 The Queens Cross Community Foundation also support several community and fundraising activities in partnership with Queens Cross Housing Association. This includes the Foundation’s sponsored walk, a Christmas fair and fundraising at the Queens Cross Gala Day. These events are as much about creating fun and vibrant communities as they are about fundraising.

4.2 The Summer Gala Day, run in partnership with Queens Cross Housing Association attracted around 16000 people to enjoy fairground rides, games, face painting, stalls and much more! This free entry event is designed to be fun and accessible for families and local community

members. As well as being a much-anticipated fun event in the local community, the August 2023 gala day also generated £1,219 for the Queens Cross Community Foundation.

4.3 This year’s gala day took place on Saturday 19th August 2023. The free entry event is made possible thanks to grant funding and sponsorship from Glasgow City Council Area Partnership and our contractors Wright Kerr were the main sponsor. Donations and sponsorship were also received from Urban Union, LSK supplies, John O’ Conner landscaping, Makenzie Contracts & Ailsa contracts. QCHA staff also volunteer to run the event on the day.



- 4.4 The Foundation also organised their second Christmas Fair which was held on 7th December 2023 working closely with staff from QCHA. The event was a tremendous success, with around 100 people passing through the doors at The Courtyard, Wester Common Drive to check out our crafters market stalls, Childrens games, bauble decoration and of course to meet Santa Claus.



The Christmas Fair was extremely popular with local families. Free and fun activities plus hot chocolate and mince pies was a welcome winter treat. Support from the association's contractors, trustees and staff helped supply selection boxes and raffle prizes for this free entry fundraising event. £310.80 was raised for QCCF at this event.

This event is made possible thanks to the generosity of trustees and staff for getting involved and making this happen. Staff from across the association get involved, and it's also an opportunity for staff and customers to interact in an informal atmosphere.

Canal Walk

- 4.5 200 people participated in the Queens Cross Community Foundation Sponsored walk and community barbecue on Saturday. 140 walkers took part in the inclusive and accessible walk from Dundasvale Residents Hall to The Courtyard at 2 Wester Common Drive, where we welcomed local community members to join us for a barbecue in the sunshine.
- 4.6 An inclusive route choice saw participants aged between 8 months and 80+ take part in the family friendly event which was accessible to all including wheelchair users and people pushing buggies. The atmosphere was fun and friendly as people came together from various schools and community organisations.
- 4.7 The format of the event allows groups to keep 80% of what they raise, with 20% going to the Queens Cross Community Foundation. Contributions raised for QCCF will go towards targeted local grant giving such as the Community Chest, the small grants scheme and the John Gray Bursary
- Whilst only small amount of funds (£700) was raised for the foundation itself, the event allowed participating groups to raise approximately £2,800 for their own causes. The event is possible thanks to staff volunteering to organise and marshal the route.

Photo: QCCF Trustee Rose Sehakizinka & QCHA Health and Wellbeing Coordinator Susie Stott pose in Hi-Viz vests for a photo with walkers.



5.0 Improving our processes.

5.1 During the year we reviewed our Community Chest & Small Grant Application criteria and application process, making the process clearer, fairer and moving all grants to an online process. The result is a process that is easier for applicants, reduces paperwork and makes it easier to keep records up to date.

5.2 Fundraising.

5.3 We developed a fundraising strategy for the foundation in 2021/22 and continued to work with that strategy in the year. The foundation faces an ongoing challenge of accessing funding, as many funders are geared to fund projects and staff resources, rather than cash which can be granted to individuals and community organisations.

5.4 Increasing the opportunities for QCHA staff to support the Foundation, as one of their charities of choice, was identified in our fundraising strategy. In December 2023 the Queens Cross Group finance team introduced a new staff lottery. The lottery is drawn monthly and costs £5 per month for staff to take

part. There is one winner per month. Within the first 3 months, the lottery was generating around £130 per month for the Community Foundation.

- 5.5 Our fundraising strategy also includes the Glasgow Community Lottery, Just Giving, Amazon Smile, employee Give as You Earn and generous donations from individuals and businesses. As we continue to operate within the “cost of living” crisis we recognise the need to have many strands for our fundraising, as pressure on individual and organisational budgets increases for all.

5.6 **Looking forward to 2024-25**

- 5.7 The Foundation will continue to work through the commitments made in our 2020 – 2025 business plan and in the coming months we anticipate a period of action for the Foundation that will include the following highlights:

- Awarding the next round of John Gray Bursaries
- Meeting an increased demand in Community Chest due to the economic pressures impacting young people and families
- Welcoming new Board members to strengthen our governance
- Approaching prospective funders with similar aims and objectives
- Promoting staff fundraising opportunities.

Thank you: The board would like to thank all Queens Cross staff involved in supporting our work, as well as all the supporters, donors, funders and volunteers that make the work featured in this report possible. We look forward to working with you all again in 2024/25.

Donate to the Foundation

If you would like to make a donation to the Foundation you can do so via just giving. Visit www.justgiving.com/queenscrosscommunityfoundation or scan the QR Code.

If you prefer to donate directly to avoid just giving fees, please get in touch at socialregeneration@qcha.org.uk



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