

Supporting Communities Fund Progress Review Report

Produced by SFHA with thanks to the housing
associations and co-operatives who contributed



**Innovation &
Future Thinking**



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Introduction

The Supporting Communities Fund (SCF) was established by the Scottish Government with an initial £20m investment to provide funding to community anchor organisations, such as charities, voluntary organisations, community-controlled housing associations and social enterprises, to help support local responses to the Covid-19 pandemic.

These community anchor organisations already played a key active role in providing services within their communities and through this funding have been supported to expand their existing networks and connections. They have proved well placed to work collaboratively and will continue to help support a coordinated approach locally, working with other local charities, third sector organisations, volunteers, communities of interest and making links with local authority, third sector interfaces and other statutory providers, and act as a conduit to help channel funding to where it is needed most.

Working in partnership

By working with the Scottish Government, SFHA were able to provide our members with a direct route to apply for the fund. Along with a communication to CEOs of all SFHA member associations, SFHA highlighted associations, that not only operate in areas in which we rated as particularly vulnerable in terms of the impact of Covid-19 and the consequent restrictions, but also that have ability or experience in acting as a community anchor within those areas.

SFHA, and partners in different local authorities and fields, targeted organisations best suited as community anchor, so as such, direct applications to the fund were not available. It is also worth noting that SFHA members were also approached by other SCF partner organisations including GWSF and HIE also working as conduits to this fund, adding to the significant funds passed to our sector where strong pre-existing relationships were already in place.

“This funding will be a valuable lifeline for the range of innovative support available for people in our communities, and we are working fast to get that support to where it is needed most.”

As part of the SCF oversight group who so far have managed to pass funding over c.£3m to Scottish housing associations and co-ops, we have been delighted to have worked directly with the 10 members highlighted in this report to support their applications to approval. We have documented the activities this funding enabled within communities, giving a flavour of what SCF brought to groups across Scotland and emphasise common themes; digital inclusion, food provisions and tackling isolation.

Wellbeing approach

The funding was provided from the initial impact of Covid-19 in March and was in place until September 2020. SFHA gave their members guidance to measure and survey the impact of all proposed projects, to collect baseline data to be used as comparison to results following its completion.

Social value is a term used to describe the measurement of positive changes experienced within a community which have a public benefit. Much of this value can be measured using economic terms, including the direct benefit of increased value to individuals.

A wellbeing valuation approach uses statistical theory to measure the value of social interventions. Simple techniques allow an organisation to measure success by how much an individual's wellbeing increases. The social value is equivalent to the amount of money needed to increase someone's wellbeing by the same amount.

Through Scotland's National Performance Framework, the Scottish Government endorse a wellbeing approach to measuring impact. Whilst recognising the importance of economic outcomes, the framework suggests that success within communities can be measured on more than purely financial value.

Using the wellbeing valuations within the [HACT social value bank](#) to calculate improvements has enabled us to measure key areas of impact the projects supported by the Supporting Communities Fund have made. SFHA members provided figures for this which we have included where possible in the following summaries.

Knowes Housing Association



Knowes Housing Association is a charitable social landlord in the Clydebank area whose mission is to provide good quality affordable housing and services which meets the needs and aspirations of its community. They received £40,250 from the Supporting Communities Fund.

With the core values of customer focussed and continuous improvement, Knowes utilised the funding to support their local community to sustain groups already set up in the area, increasing their existing reach.

£40,250

funding received

Themes



Digital



Household items



Volunteers



Food

Projects

Activities for Families and Children

The Parent Council of a local primary school began packing and distributing activity packs across the Faifley community. The activity packs included: a baking pack, art pack, anti-stress and wellbeing pack, family game night pack, sleepover pack and back to school pack. In total, around 400 individuals benefitted from receiving the different packs.

Faifley Foodbank

The funding secured Faifley FoodShare with PPE Equipment and to create a series of hand sanitiser stations to ensure that all volunteers and local people using the foodbank are kept safe.

Household Bundles – Argos vouchers were purchased to support local people, ensuring that they have access to the basic essentials varying from kitchen utensils and new electrical items for people who are struggling financially as a direct result of Covid-19.

Working in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Department, vulnerable individuals were referred to receive direct support and items were purchased by Faifley Foodshare who arranged for the delivery to their homes. The funding has supported 40 households in severe hardship due to Covid-19.

Improved accessibility, supporting Faifley Foodshare with social distancing, distribution of food, household essentials and collection of donations; funding was used to replace the existing door and purchase two gazebos that can be set up outside, protecting local people from the weather when accessing support and services.

Wifi Connectivity

Through wellbeing checks undertaken by Knowes Housing Association staff, they identified local people who would benefit from wifi support together with many local people who would benefit from access to a tablet – as they had no access to a device other than their mobile phones.

The money awarded was used to provide 51 tablets, 30 my-fi devices and 45 SIM cards, which have been distributed to local people across Faifley to support access and connectivity to the internet to help reduce isolation, improve opportunities for training and employability, and to stay connected with support services.

Impact

Support Provided	Individuals assisted
Household items	65
Digital Hardware	51
Digital Connectivity	60
Volunteering opportunity	13
Family activity packs	440

Social Value Outcomes	Impact created*
Access to Internet	£82,042
Volunteering	£33,680

*using HACT Social Value bank metrics

£115,722+
value created

1:3
impact ratio

The total social value evidenced through these outcomes is calculated as a net benefit to the local community of £115,722 which provides a ratio of almost 1:3 of impact of every pound spent.

However, there have also been outcomes showing significant impact created in improvements in confidence and regularly talking to neighbours. If these are evaluated using the social value bank guidelines, they could provide a considerably higher impact figure.

Thistle Housing Association is a community controlled social landlord operating in the Toryglen estate in Glasgow and part of their mission is to improve the quality of life for all in the community. They value working in partnerships and listening to the needs of their community and be responsive to their needs.

Thistle Housing Association received £38,590 from the Supporting Communities Fund. The funding allowed Thistle to support groups and expand on services already in situ.

£38,590

funding received

Themes



Digital



Food



Wellbeing

Projects

Emergency Food bank Collection Point

During the height of lockdown, older residents and those who required extra support were provided with emergency food parcels which was averaging around 230 parcels per week. In their local Community Hall a collection point for other residents was available to collect a parcel once a week with fresh food, non-perishable and household essentials.

Hot meals for elderly

A total of 729 hot meals were delivered over a 10-week period to elderly locals. This provided most who were living alone a nutritious home cooked meal.

Children's Activity Packs

To alleviate the pressure of families and to support children with mental stimulation, Thistle provided activity packs over the summer holidays. This resulted in 317 packs being distributed to locals.

Digital inclusion community library

Lockdown highlighted the need for access to digital services in the community. The aim is to establish a digital library of tablets with prepaid credit to allow residents to borrow and utilise for their needs, increasing access, building confidence and reducing isolation. The project is in its first stages but is already well utilised and Thistle have created a partnership with Urban Roots who will supply laptops upon request.

Impact

Support Provided	Individuals assisted
Food	617
Fuel support	321
Household items	617
Digital Hardware	4
Digital Connectivity	2
Wellbeing calls	3500
Welfare Rights referrals	209
Volunteering opportunity	7

Social Value Outcomes	Impact created*
Volunteering	£18,136

*using HACT Social Value bank metrics

£18,136+
value created

Through speaking to local people, it is noted that Social value had been created through the following indicators:

- Improvements in confidence
- Regularly talks to neighbours
- Overall health.

These provide additional value to the impact of £18,136 referenced above.

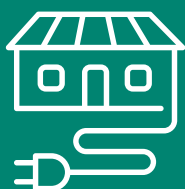
Hillcrest Homes



Hillcrest Homes is one of Scotland's leading housing provider across Dundee, Edinburgh, Angus, Perthshire, Fife and Aberdeen whose aim is to foster positive communities and improve lives of their tenants and customers. They have different companies providing care, social enterprises, skills, training and employment opportunities. Hillcrest successfully networked throughout the city using already established contacts and creating new ones to ensure those in most need was captured. Hillcrest Homes received £100,000 from the Supporting Communities Fund.

£100,000
funding received

Themes



Energy



Isolation



Wellbeing

Projects

Energy top ups

Since launching the fund on 1 July 2020 Hillcrest have worked with 62 different support organisations in order to provide 1000 households in Dundee with fuel top-up's in turn freeing up funds for other outgoings such as rent and food.

Early release prisoners

162 individuals across 7 different support organisations, including, Positive Steps, Barnardos and Hillcrest Futures, Integrated Substance Misuse Service (ISMS), Criminal Justice Service, Dundee Recovery and Dundee North Law received the benefit of the funding. Individuals received mobile phones, TV's, radios, home starter packs, household items, hygiene packs, wellbeing packs, travel allowance, clothing, outdoor activities and gardening to enable a new beginning.

Isolation and wellbeing

Hillcrest has supported an astounding 1156 people across 15 community groups and individuals ranged from families, young people, children, adults, veterans, women, men, older people and those with a physical and learning difficulties.

Support included well-being groups, well-being boxes, outdoor equipment, clothing, fit bits, kitchen equipment, activity/craft packs, boost bags, creative workshops, telephone support, online activities, toiletries, keeping connected booklets, virtual devices, IT equipment and learning resources.

Feedback from each of the support groups provided the following outcomes, improved wellbeing, improved physical health, increased self-confidence, overcoming anxiety, feeling connected and reducing social isolation.

Recovery and outreach

This fund was distributed to 11 organisations including Dundee City Council, Crossreach, Alcohol Tayside, Hillcrest Futures, Aberlour, Parish Nursing Project, Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (WRASAC), Dundee Recovery, Dundee Young Persons and Rocksolid. It allowed wellbeing packs, mobile phones, phone top ups, fitness sessions, hygiene packs, welfare packs, taxis, toolkit and discussion cards and home starter packs to be created, distributed, and offered to their community.



Impact

Support Provided	Individuals assisted
Fuel	1000
Household items	161
Digital Hardware	201
Digital Connectivity (data or broadband)	50
Digital training/support	30
Wellbeing calls (including wellbeing packs)	1481
Mental Health Support	94

Due to Hillcrest providing the important community support highlighted through smaller community partners, there was limitations around available resources from these organisations to carry out impact surveys. However, the significant figures above suggest that social value outcomes would have been created in the following areas:

- Able to obtain advice locally
- Talks to neighbours regularly
- Increased confidence/ relief from depression or anxiety (adult)
- Able to pay for housing

Abertay Housing Association



Abertay Housing Association is a Registered Society and Scottish Charity covering the Dundee and Angus area aiming to enhance the quality of life in their communities by providing homes and wider role activities. They received £75,000 from the Supporting Communities Fund. They recognised the areas in their community which the funding would provide most value and initiated several projects to benefit their tenants and customers.

£75,000
funding received

Themes



Food



Mental health
support



Domestic
violence support

Projects

Food

Abertay used the funding to supply tenants from various demographics and backgrounds with food parcels. Many households were not able to provide food for their children and Abertay worked with many charities and local groups to assist with the basic necessity that tenants were not able to access or provide.

Mental Health

Local residents were appointed to the appropriate organisations including foodbank, welfare rights and NHS to ensure they were being provided with the appropriate and correct type of support. Volunteers have also helped with the foodbank and at the allotment to provide a safe space for service users.

Domestic Violence

Many tenants were suffering from domestic violence and the funding allowed Abertay to provide digital devices and support to those affected to be able to contact support networks, stay in contact with family members, use online platforms to take English language courses, and to entertain children.

Starter Packs

The funding paid for items for starter packs for 142 people, providing household items to people moving into a new home. This included 47 children.

Impact

Support provided	Individuals supported
Food	13,767
Household items	95
Digital Hardware	10
Digital Connectivity (data or broadband)	5
Wellbeing calls	58
Mental Health Support	50
Welfare Rights	1
Volunteers	6

Social Value Outcomes	Impact Created*
Volunteering opportunities	£15,545
Access to the internet	£15,041

*using HACT Social Value bank metrics

£30,586+
value created

Abertay noted that a wide range of social value had been created through this project, with a range of health and wellbeing outcomes. Through direct mental health and digital support provisions, a legitimate target could be made around improving level of control the 50 service users felt within their lives, which if evidenced, measures at c.£15K per person.

Wellhouse Housing Association



Wellhouse Housing Association is a community-controlled housing association in greater Easterhouse, Glasgow. They received £9,750 from the Supporting Communities Fund.

The vision of Wellhouse is 'the place to be' as an attractive place where people feel happy and safe, benefit from having a good home and an attractive environment and feel proud to be part of a vibrant community and strive to foster an attractive, successful and thriving community.

Themes



Digital



Isolation

£9,750
funding received

Project

To provide focused digital support to the local community during the outbreak of Covid-19, specifically to those shielding, low-income households, single person households and those who are digitally disadvantaged.

The funding was used to purchase mobile devices, tablets and data access and set up a digital lending library for individuals. The scheme allowed children to complete schoolwork, tenants to fill out universal credit forms and be in contact with family and friends to reduce isolation.

Impact

Support provided	Individuals supported
Digital Hardware	35
Digital Connectivity	30
Digital training/support	30

Social value outcomes	Impact created*
Access to Internet	£41,021
General Training	£38,631

*using HACT Social Value bank metrics

Through the following community feedback below, we can see that further social value has also been created through supporting household income, with increased ability to pay rent providing £7,347 social value for each person. The provision of digital connectivity to reduce loneliness and communicate with family and support networks further improves expected outcomes.

"It's been a life saver, I don't have internet at home and, when unable to go to my neighbours to access my UC journal, this caused delays with my payment as I could not give DWP information they needed to update my claim."

"I was feeling isolated and really struggling, the project helped me access equipment to make video calls to my relatives, that really helped to break the isolation."

£69,902
value created

1:8
impact ratio

The total of social value measured in these outcomes is calculated as a net benefit to the local community of £69,902 which provides a ration of 1:8 of impact for every pound spent on this project.

Dalmuir Park Housing Association



Dalmuir Park Housing Association operate in the Dalmuir area of West Dunbartonshire where they currently own and manage 689 homes and provide factoring services to 168 owners. This includes sheltered housing complexes and 24 shared ownership homes. They received £21,000 from the Supporting Communities Fund.

£21,000
funding received

Themes



Isolation



Wellbeing



Food

Project

The association delivered this project in partnership with our neighbours Trafalgar HA over a 3-month period, July through to September following its organisation in June. The project provided activity packs to children and older people within both housing stocks which helped everyone combat the current health emergency.

209 children aged 6 months to 12 years, from both associations, received 2 activity packs containing arts and crafts, puzzle books, family games, baking projects, growing and indoor gardening projects and jigsaws. A third activity pack was delivered containing a voucher for the local supermarket with a proposed spend on food with the activity being cooking together.

206 older people aged 62 and over received 5 activity packs, delivered as one. This contained baking and cooking activities, adult colouring books, word searches, crosswords and jigsaws. They also received a voucher for a local fish and chip shop, where they encompassed an activity entitled 'fish n'chat'. This encouraged tenants to chat to a relative, neighbour or friend following their fish supper, helping to tackling mental health issues and loneliness.

Impact

Support provided	Individuals supported
Food	415
Activity Packs	415

All packs were delivered voluntarily by both association staff members while taking care to protect themselves and householders from the virus.

Among the youngest tenants of Dalmuir Park who received an activity pack were young 6 year old twins and their two-year-old brother. Their dad shared his positive experience of the programme;

“During these times with lockdown and home schooling I was surprised with a knock at the door to find activity packs for my children. I couldn’t thank the association enough for this kind gesture. It has kept my kids entertained throughout these uncertain times. So, thank you so much.”

While there are no direct social value indicators, we know that there has clearly been impact created by increasing wellbeing in both children and families, and with the extra support from volunteers which we know from the HACT Social Value bank creates £3,249 per person.

Berwickshire Housing Association



Berwickshire Housing Association(BHA) builds and manages homes to rent to suit a range of lifestyles, personal needs and family sizes that people can afford in communities throughout Berwickshire and are ever keen to expand the number and choice of homes available.

BHA are a not-for-profit charity so all income goes towards providing services for the community, the upkeep of tenants’ properties and building new homes. BHA received £78,200 from the Supporting Communities Fund.

£78,200
funding received

Themes



Extending
existing provisions



Mental health



Wellbeing



Digital

Projects

Extension of BHA's Community Initiatives Programme

Hygge

The HYGGE programme is an activity-based group focusing on aspects of wellbeing and mutual support. The newly developed Hygge@Home programme will continue to expand its membership across the community and pilot the use of the short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale to measure change before and after participation. The group is now a constituted organisation that remains a BHA tenant led innovation.

Allanbank Arts – Creative Hub

Allanbank Arts – Creative Hub have created a network through social media platforms to support 15 adults and young people who struggle with anxiety. The participants include young people with disabilities affected through isolation or anxiety by Covid-19.



Abundant Borders

Abundant Borders teaches people to grow food in a sustainable way through training courses, workshops and supported learning in the network of community food gardens to address food insecurity. To date, over 350 people have joined the online courses and there have been thousands of downloads of course material. SCF funding allowed further expansion of on-line courses with a new 'seed circle' 7-module course. This attracted 45 new participants and is likely generate many longer-term outcomes that will increase participation and engagement when restrictions are eased.

The Learning Space

The Learning Space is an independent resource that works with Scottish Borders Council Education and Social departments for around 30 young people within the Berwickshire area. The project is expanding access and infrastructure of its outside Nature Space by extending their current garden area and creating a calm nature and nurture wildlife space. The SCF funding has accelerated activities to allow more young people access to walks in the woods and to local nature areas which may otherwise be a challenge. In addition, new partnerships have been formed with local groups attracting more interest and volunteers, enabling the young people who are socially challenged the experiences to build positive relationships and confidence.

Splash

During the pandemic Splash have worked in partnership with Eyemouth Response Team, East Berwickshire Food Bank, Eyemouth Rotary, Links Eyemouth and local businesses. Over 70 volunteers have helped provide food items, meals, shopping, support phone calls and delivery of prescriptions to people in isolation and those struggling with food poverty; something which has been highlighted over the course of the pandemic. Over 50 families receive regular food support and over 1,000 grocery bags have been distributed supporting individuals wellbeing.

In addition, Splash are an active partner organisation for 'Lets Get Digital Berwickshire' supporting people to get online via the digital lending library. This will support their ongoing commitment to reducing social isolation for vulnerable people.

Berwickshire Swap

The result of the Covid-19 will mean there will be many more children in poverty in the future. This BHA tenant led community enterprise project produced 50 emergency clothing parcels for children in the Berwickshire area on referral through BHA, health visitors, social workers and local schools.

Each clothing parcel is packed up as a gift for the children with a full 7-day wardrobe for each child including, 'new in packaging' undergarments. The clothing for these parcels comes from swap items stored between swaps (except undergarments), these clothes will be washed, dried, and ironed by volunteers. In addition, the project will offer 15 re-usable cloth nappy packs to parents to try before they decide to use cloth nappies with their child.

Social media has helped promote this resource with over 3500 views and local schools and other groups have been directly contacted. BHA is currently looking at providing no cost storage facilities for this new start up community project.

Wellbeing and Mental Health

Horse Time

Horse Time is a specialist trauma centre in Berwickshire that uses equine therapy, therapeutic groups and individual interventions to bring about transformative change to people's lives. So far 19 people have completed the six-week Resilience and Regulation workshops. They were very successful, showing an average percentage decrease of –6 for somatic (physical) symptoms, –21 for anxiety, –30 for depression and –26 for trauma symptoms. The significant falls in levels of anxiety, depression and trauma being reported from this therapeutic intervention is very encouraging.



Digital Inclusion

Let's Get Digital Berwickshire

BHA seconded an in-house digital specialist to set up and implement this project until end of September. The project team delivered this in partnership with several local organisations including: BAVS; Border Care Voice; Chirnside Village Hall; SBC Local Area Coordination Team; Splash; and Coldstream Community Centre. BHA closely consulted with Govan Housing Association on how to create a successful digital lending library.

A total of 50 devices with unlimited data SIMS have been purchased and most are now out on loan for a maximum of six months. BHA are now looking at ways to extend this support, especially to help those digitally excluded the opportunity to get connected with the support of digital champions.

The project has been designed to operate as a separate entity, such as a consortium model of local groups with a stake in digital inclusion for all.

Impact

Support provided	Individuals supported
Food	1,000
Household items	65
Digital Hardware	50
Digital Connectivity (data or broadband)	50
Digital training/support	50
Wellbeing calls	3500
Mental Health Support	61
Volunteers	70

Social value outcomes	Impact created*
Volunteering opportunities	£181,355
Access to the internet	£68,368

*using HACT Social Value bank metrics

£249,723+
value created

1:3
impact ratio

The total social value evidenced through these outcomes is calculated as a net benefit to the local community of £249,723 which provides a ratio of higher than 1:3 of impact of every pound spent. However there have been outcomes showing significant impact created in the following indicators, which if gathered using the social value bank guidelines could provide a considerably higher impact figure:

- Ability to obtain advice locally
- Improvements in confidence
- Reduced depression/anxiety
- Overall Improvement in health
- Feeling in control of life
- Regularly talking to people in neighbourhood

Almond Housing Association



Almond HA is the largest Housing Association in West Lothian. During the past ten years they have provided new affordable homes for more than 1800 people.

Whilst their focus has always been to provide real solutions for those with housing needs in West Lothian, to help homeless or unsuitably housed families, they also aim to meet increased expectations while working in the context of wider economic and legislative change.

Through the Supporting Communities Fund they aim to provide even more services and solutions and ensure they continue to provide value and positive experiences within the communities they operate. They received £26,880 from the fund.

Theme:



Digital

£26,880

funding received

Project

Almond HA have established a digital lending scheme providing 120 laptops and iPad's for partner organisations to share with local people. Bringing isolated members of the local community online, the scheme has been well received by recipients who are now able to access the internet, see family and friends from afar, and stay connected with existing local services during Covid-19. Additional funding was also provided to groups to purchase tablets directly where these were deemed better for the needs of the recipients.

There were a range of partners involved including, Ladywell Good Neighbour Network, West Lothian Food Train, Craigshill Neighbourhood Network, Transform Craigshill, Ladywell Community Fridge, Men Matters, and Health and Wellbeing Group.

UK wide charity Ability Net provide digital support, offering one-to-one IT help over the phone and also using socially distanced door-step visits should the need arise. Working together, they have created easy to read training materials tailored to support people who are facing challenges in accessing services to support their individual needs.

In addition, Almond HA are registered as an online centre with Good Things Foundation, and offer access to 'Learn My Way' training materials to help people with limited digital skills.

Craigshill Neighbour Network are currently filming short information sessions to support online materials and help beginners to gain confidence in using the devices. These films will be shared amongst partners and recipients.

Impact

These are based on their interim report up to August but would suggest that these figures will have risen and will be updated in due course.

Support provided	Individuals supported
Digital Hardware	78
Digital Connectivity (data or broadband)	78
Digital training/support	78

Working closely with many of the partners proved the provision of devices and support provided from Almond HA have given a lifeline for people who had been struggling to access local services including GP appointments that were offered online.

Local organisations have already redesigned their services and moved them online to connect with those supported by this SCF project. The following activities are now being promoted and delivered on a weekly basis enabling beneficiaries to join in from the comfort of their own home through their digital device:

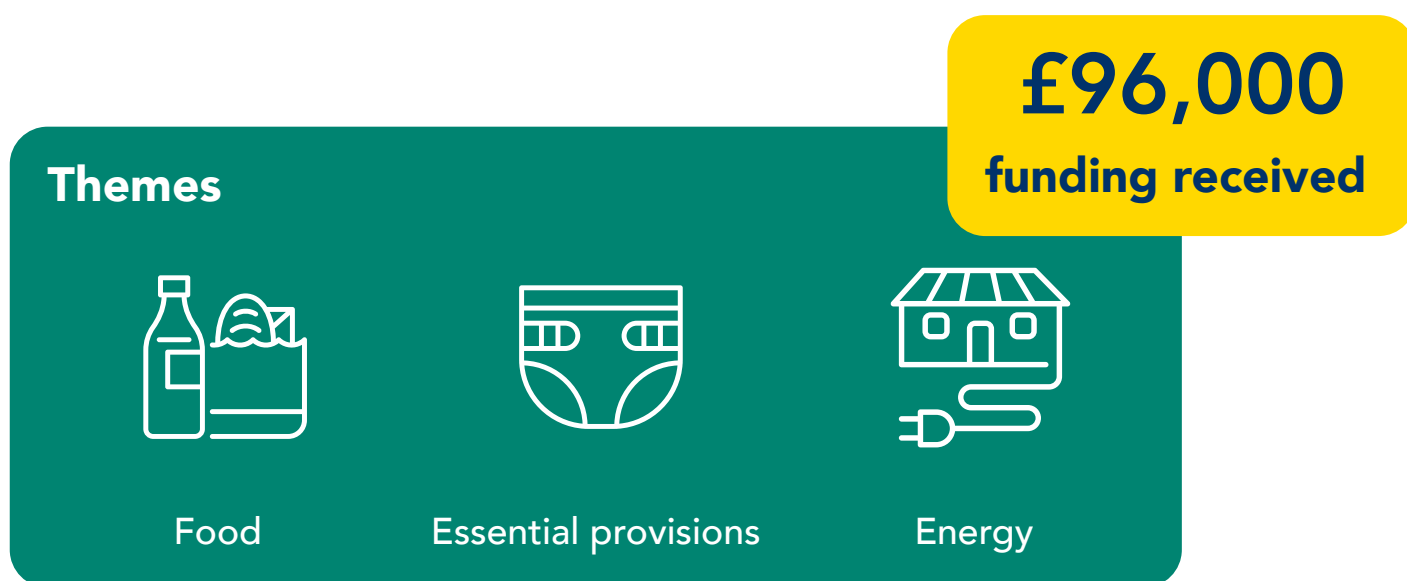
- Befriending
- Health and wellbeing support
- Employability support
- Online cooking sessions,
- Growing and gardening,
- Welfare rights service
- Social activity such as sing-alongs, afternoon teas and storytelling sessions.

This suggests a significant impact as each of these previously inaccessible services have related social value outcomes that could be added to the net value to the community of £106,654 created by the direct access to the internet for the 78 people, we can already evidence.

£106,654
value created

Sanctuary Housing are one of the largest social landlords in the country, providing many types of affordable and social housing for a wide range of people. Sanctuary received £96,000 from the Supporting Communities Fund.

As a non-place-based association, who provide housing right across Scotland, Sanctuary were keen to disseminate funding to smaller local organisations and groups who could make a real difference in the communities in which they operate.



Projects

Aberdeenshire North Foodbank

The opening of Fraserburgh Foodbank Centre enabled the needs of rural tenants to be met where previously this was a challenge due to warehousing space. This meant people have more choice of food when they come to the foodbank, and allowed increased partnership working and signposting to local services to address further issues such as hardship funding, isolation and loneliness. Hunger was also reduced in areas experiencing food insecurity by providing emergency food parcels.

Carbrain and Hillcrest Community Council

This funding has ensured residents have healthy nutritious food and activities for themselves and their families. It has provided a platform of support and a friendly face via zoom calls for those who are isolated and lonely.

Cumbernauld Action on Care for the Eldery

A telephone befriending service was made available during lockdown and beyond. Working alongside other local groups allowed them to make more calls and to continue to take more call referrals from the wider community.

The funding has also helped resource staff to help the most vulnerable in our community with minor maintenance and gardening work and deliver food parcels to those most in need who were also supported with telephone calls.

Kirkton Larder, Dundee

Providing food provisions and voluntary support including afternoon teas to the elderly, which has had a significant benefit to reach those unable to access the service in person.

Lochee Larder, Dundee

Essential provisions focusing on service users need for essential household items. They were able to expand efforts and reach a wider audience due to having more finances, even with the increases of referrals for free food parcels due to people shielding or self-isolating.

Renfrewshire Foodbank

Enabled the expansion of services to include setting up of a fuel bank. In addition to providing food and essential items for our visitors, gas and electricity finance was also available.

The Pyramid at Anderston

Weekly session for 10 weeks, providing activity packs, healthy snacks, fruit bags, essential toiletries, food basics, hand sanitiser, reusable masks and a toy and game swap for families with primary school aged children.

Sanctuary were able to support a further 30 older and vulnerable community members with deliveries of fresh food, toiletries and activities too.

They also partnered with other organisations to provide further help and support, including cash energy grants, bike servicing and maintenance, telephone counselling and more.

Impact

Support provided	Individuals supported
Food	8000+
Household items	400
Fuel	300
Digital Connectivity (data or broadband)	10
Wellbeing calls	1700+
Mental Health Support	200+
Volunteers	80+

Social value outcomes	Impact created*
Volunteering opportunities	£207,263

*using HACT Social Value bank metrics

The total of social value measured in volunteering alone provides a ratio of social value impact of more than 1:2, creating £2.15, per every pound of funding spent. However, there are wider impacts created following the wellbeing calls and food, fuel, household provisions that would provide additional social value from this project.

1:2
impact ratio

Kingdom Housing Association



Kingdom HA was formed in 1979 by a group of local people who came together to ensure that the 44 residents of the last lodging housing in Fife, Templar House in Lochgelly were properly re-housed in the community following its compulsory closure. From these beginnings they have grown to an organisation which provides a wide range of services and recognise that housing is about much more than the provision of bricks and mortar. They received £90,000 from the Supporting Communities Fund.

£90,000
funding received

Themes



Food



Essential provisions



Energy

Project

Working with partner housing organisations, Kingdom have been able to deliver key critical support to tenants across their area of operation. Providing targeted financial assistance to relieve tenants financial stress and support essential activities and household costs. They were also able to support those in need of financial support across communities in Fife, Perth and Kinross, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk.

Impact

Support provided	Individuals supported
Food	814
Fuel	813
Wellbeing calls	401
Direct Financial Assistance	1746
Transport Costs	587
Baby/Child Supplies	359
Household bills	803
Welfare rights – Money advice	347

The various and direct support individuals received, suggest substantial social value impact, for example the direct financial assistance and welfare rights. Money advice support would be expected to produce significant outcomes, which the HACT social value bank measure at £7,347 for each person noting an increased ability to pay for their housing.

The Supporting Communities Funding also provided a platform for a subsequent digital engagement project for Kingdom Housing Association, which has so far supported 137 internet enabled devices to 137 vulnerable people within their communities. This alone has provided £187,329 in social value.

£187,329
value created

Outcomes

The information provided by our members shows how well positioned SFHA members have been in their role as community anchors during the initial impact of the Covid-19 crisis.

The overall numbers of people supported are highlighted below, showing the significant levels of need that areas such as food provisions, and digital inclusion have required support through Supporting Communities Funding.

Overall support provided	Individuals supported
Food	24,613
Fuel	2,434
Household items	1,403
Digital hardware	429
Digital connectivity (data or broadband)	285
Digital training/support	188
Wellbeing calls	10,640
Mental health support	405
Direct financial support	1,746
Welfare rights	557
Volunteers	176
Activity packs	855
Transport costs	587
Child supplies	359
Household bills	803

Conclusion

Measuring only the impact evidenced in accordance with HACT's social value bank throughout the projects set out above, gives an average ratio of social value created by these SFHA members as higher than 1:2. This means for every £1 from the Supporting Communities Funding, our communities were provided with more than £2 of social value.

1:2
impact ratio

However, each organisation reported broader social value outcomes which would substantially increase this impact on the communities in which this funding was provided.

Working in partnership with the Scottish Government has emphasised the key role housing associations can play for people within their local communities. With the provision of the grant funding, these organisations demonstrated their fundamental part in tackling social and economic inequalities, which has been further pronounced following the impact of Covid-19.

Many areas across Scotland already suffered from lack of food provision, digital services and mental health services, and recent challenges have only exacerbated these inequalities. The social value measurements noted prove that by offering the type of support housing associations are capable of in the community space, the impact on people's lives can be truly remarkable.

Given the many challenges to health and wellbeing since March 2020, the wellbeing increases where investment is made in vulnerable communities are, perhaps not surprisingly, substantial.

As our communities remain in need of support in recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, we will continue to encourage SFHA members to provide this where possible and are actively supporting applications for the Community Recovery Fund. We hope that this funding, and all further community programmes, will continue to include our members, enabling the great work highlighted in this report to be replicated again throughout the country, in areas that need it most.

SFHA Innovation & Future Thinking Programme

For more information on calculating social value, a toolkit is available to SFHA members.

Click here to find out about the [**SFHA Social Value Toolkit**](#)



Visit the **SFHA Innovation Hub** for more information and resources or email us:

[**www.sfha.co.uk/innovation**](http://www.sfha.co.uk/innovation)

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Innovation & Future Thinking



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Scottish Federation of
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We are housing Scotland