

LEGACY REPORT

Scottish Borders Community Led Local Development Fund (CLLD)



2024-25

Summary

The Scottish Borders Local Action Group (LAG) was set up approximately 20 years ago and since then have been working with organisations to improve life in the Borders. During 2024/25 the LAG awarded funding to a wide range of community and business projects under Community Led Local Development funding (CLLD).

During 2024 a fund was launched worth £576,745 to help support community projects on the condition that the projects completed within the year by Feb 2025. The LAG funded a total of 52 projects, the majority of which are summarised in this document.

The LAG is formed of local people and organisations working together to improve life in the borders across 4 focus areas:

Social Inclusion

Projects focused on marginalised groups' participation in society by breaking down social barriers, promoting belonging.

Poverty Alleviation

Poverty Alleviation Projects aim to alleviate poverty through life skills, community development, social safety nets, improving wellbeing and economic resilience.

Net Zero

Projects focused on reducing carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy, and enhancing climate resilience, aiming for environmental sustainability.

Young People

Projects prioritising support for individuals and groups under 30. Focusing on mental health, underrepresented communities, skill building, entrepreneurship, and rural poverty.

Front Cover

Peeblesshire Foodbank; Greener Peebles; Cheviot Youth;
The Wedale Bookshop; Food Foundation; Stable Life

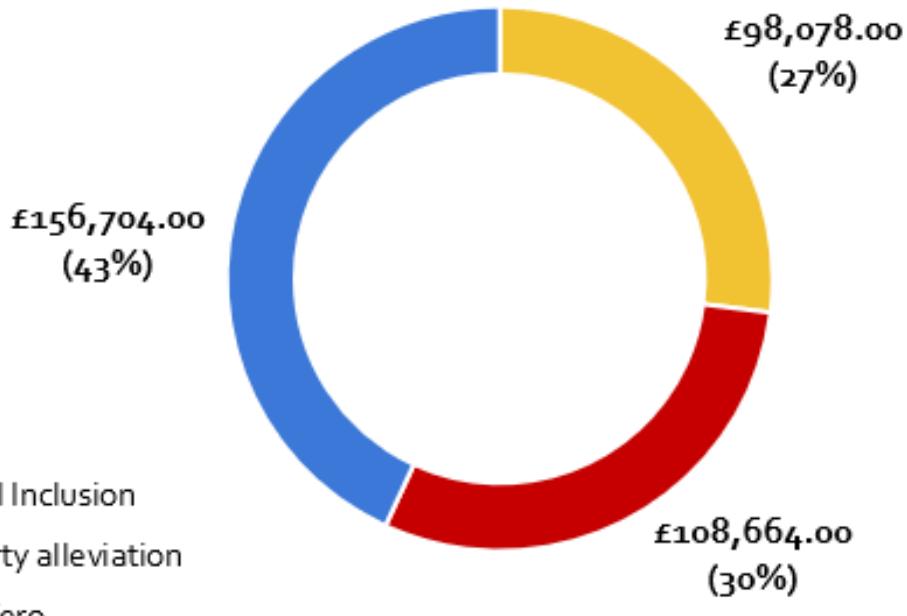
Impact Summary

Across three key themes—net-zero initiatives, poverty alleviation, and social inclusion—the LAG allocated a total of £363,446 to support 33 diverse projects, each contributing to the wellbeing of communities across the Scottish Borders.

In addition, the LAG extended its support to the Youth LAG (YLAG), awarding £146,664 to fund 20 youth-led projects. These initiatives reached hundreds of young people, empowering them to lead and shape positive change within their communities.

Together, these efforts have had a meaningful impact across the region—promoting sustainability, tackling social challenges, and nurturing the next generation of community leaders.

Fund Distribution



The Social Value Engine



What is the Social Value Engine?

The Social Value Engine (SVE) is a tool designed to measure, track, and evidence the social value generated by projects and investments. It employs established methodologies to convert social outcomes into financial values, assisting organisations in measuring and communicating the impact of their activities on the community.

<https://socialvalueengine.com/>

How are social value outcomes measured and reported?

SVE operates by applying proxy values to the social outcomes of projects or services. These proxies are grounded in rigorous research and align with UK Government guidelines. Users input data about their project, and the Engine calculates the social value in monetary terms.

Social value outcomes are measured using a combination of direct data input by users and proxy values from the Engine's database. Users report on the specific activities and outcomes of their project, and the Engine calculates the equivalent monetary value of these outcomes. Reports can be generated directly from the platform, offering both summary and detailed views of the social value created.





Projects

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* Please note due to finishing times and nature of the project not all projects have an SVE score. Some projects are for completeness also included in other sections where relevant as well.

1. The Wedale Bookshop

“Village Visitor Amenities”

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

Grant Allocation: £1,182.00



Project Aims

- To make reading and books as accessible as possible through free events.
- Increase reading and creative activities across the area.
- Reduce social isolation by offering companionship and friendship in a safe environment.

Project Achievements

- Informal meeting place used by families, individuals and visitors to the local area.
- Other community groups have helped to plant herbs and plants chosen for their attraction by pollinators. This has created a visually appealing space to visit.
- Cyclists have praised the area for how useful the addition of the cycle rack has been resulting in frequent return visits to the area.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£13,684.50
£9.32 for every £1 given

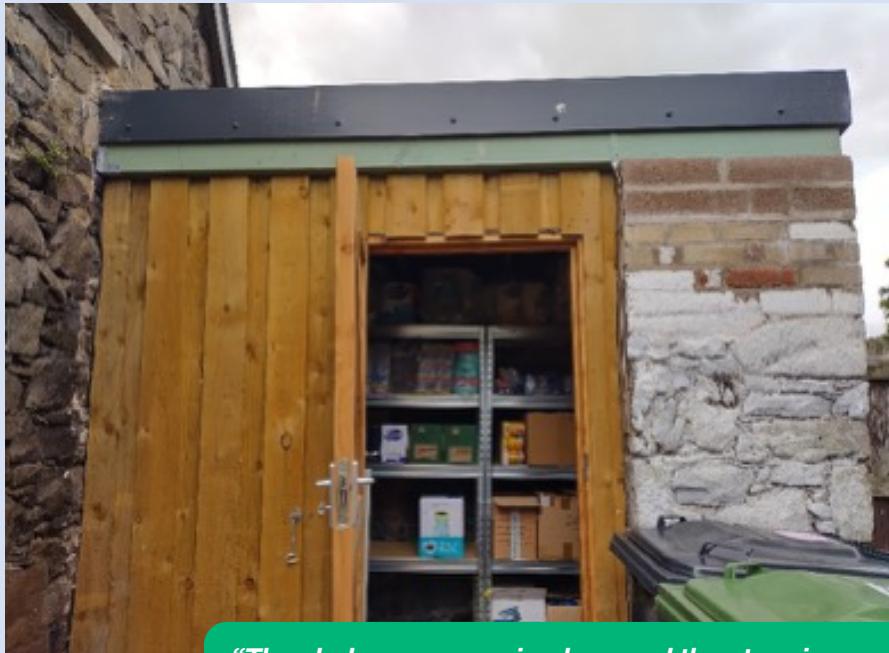
<https://wedalebooks.scot/>

2. Yetholm Community Shop

"Additional Cold Storage Facility"

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

Grant Allocation: £2,375.00



"The shelves are now in place and the store is up and running. Thanks again for all your help!"

Project Aims

- Increase resilience in providing services to the public by the creation of an external secure cold storage facility.
- Convert an open-sided lean-to outhouse structure to contain an additional freezer unit in a secure weather-proof facility.

Project Achievements

- Successful conversion of an old outhouse to provide additional storage.
- Reduced congestion in existing storage facilities resulting in staff being able to find stock easier.
- Having additional cold storage space has reduced the amount of stock going to waste.
- Able to serve the local community better as stock is readily available in the only shop in a very rural area.

https://www.facebook.com/YetholmCommunityShop/?locale=en_GB

3. Shelborne and Greer

"Insulation Transportation"

Priority Theme: Net Zero

Grant Allocation: £5,000.00

Project Aims

- Purchase a trailer to provide more flexibility during pick up and drop offs, enhancing operational flexibility.
- Reduce our carbon footprint with the purchase of a trailer over another vehicle.
- Achieve cost savings long term as there will no longer be the need to spend money on renting a trailer.

Project Achievements

- Sourced the correct model and made the necessary adjustments to fulfil our needs. Using a local company to source the trailer.
- Improved transport efficiency - time is better used, we spend less time on the road delivering goods in turn reducing carbon emissions.
- Reduced Environmental Impact as opting for a trailer over another vehicle reduces the companies fuel consumption.



"We are so pleased with it, making us more mobile around the Borders so we can continue to insulate homes and businesses."

<https://www.shelbourneandgreer.co.uk/>

4. Crossfit Tweedbank

"Creating Inclusive Spaces for Fitness"

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

Grant Allocation: £2,200.00

Project Aims

- Provide a space dedicated to enhancing the health and wellbeing of the local community.
- Attract an increased footfall to the local area.
- Meet growing demand and provide classes for various age groups ranging from kids to seniors.
- Increase current class capacity and timetable.

Project Achievements

- Investing in equipment which enhanced the experience for both Crossfit Kids and older adults.
- Tailored sessions to meet the specific needs of each group, incorporating more skill-based games for children and functional movement patterns for older adults. In turn boosting confidence and enjoyment.
- Classes sizes increased resulting in additional classes being added to the existing timetable.
- More people in the local community exercising.
- Invited to run a 6 week block of classes at a local primary school extending the reach of the service.



"My hip is so much better. My doctor said this is good, doing these classes and doing my swimming is all I need to do to keep myself right. "

"I can pick up my grandson and kick a ball about with him now."



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£12,154.80
£5.32 for every £1 given

<https://crossfittweedbank.co.uk/>

5. Go Wild Scotland

"Green Energy Installation at Mauldsheugh"

Priority Theme: Net Zero

Grant Allocation: £5,000.00



"The Forest School will be a game-changer. It will mean more people will be able to use the woodland and attend events throughout the year, rather than just over the warmer months"

Project Achievements

- Year-round programme delivery by extending out current schedule to run over 12 months.
- Improved learning environment by using a purpose-built structure to provide outdoor education.
- Reduced carbon footprint as now powering the school via green sustainable sources.



Project Aims

- Erect a "Forest School" facility (a wooden building and store) This would enable the group to confidently extend the current schedule from 7 months to year-round offering.
- Power the forest school via a sustainable manner using solar panels and back up generator, in turn lowering costs.

Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£56,960
£7.73 for every £1 given

<https://gowildscotland.com/>

6. Drivewise Borders

"Drivewise Borders"

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

Grant Allocation: £5,250.00

Project Aims

- Improve driving skills for the most vulnerable road users.
- Provide practical and individual advice and guidance.
- Increase confidence and encourage social mobility.
- Help drivers to understand and use the technology advances in their vehicles.



"very useful and informative"

"always good to update knowledge"

"not an assessment of judgement course"

Project Achievements

- 98% take up rate of the over 65 driver refresher courses.
- Have been able to offer:
 - o Twenty-four over 65 drives
 - o Thirteen, 17 to 25's advanced courses
 - o Six biker advanced courses
- Positive feedback on courses and enquires into future courses.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:

£32,985.36

£6.07 for every £1 given



<https://drivewiseborders.co.uk/>

7. Peeblesshire Foodbank

"Community Cafes"

Priority Theme: Poverty Alleviation

Grant Allocation: £16,088.00



"Through their work at the cafes, Citizen's Advice have managed to put tens of thousands of pounds back into people's pockets as well as signposting to other services. The cafes have become important social events in village life."*

Project Aims

- Create and run pop up cafes in village halls and other community buildings.
- Offer other services the opportunity to attend - for instance the NHS mental health outreach team, the SBC LAC team, Energy Efficiency agencies.
- Reduce social isolation and encourage others to leave the house.

Project Achievements

- Ran a series of community cafes in conjunction with Citizens Advice across Walkerburn, Innerleithen and West Linton.
- Provided advice to citizens across the region via free pop up cafes.
- Highlighted the services and resources available to people.
- Provided a time and place for people to socialise, reducing isolation in the community.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:

£94,528.25

£6.28 for every £1 given

<https://peebleshire.foodbank.org.uk/>

8. Sustainable West Linton and District

"Heat Survey – Borders Roll-Out"

Priority Theme: Net Zero

Grant Allocation: £10,161.00

Project Aims

- To enable communities across the Borders to provide free thermographic Heat Surveys to local households.
- Heat Surveys allow householders to see where their heat is leaking away and identifies where they need to take action to improve their energy efficiency.
- West Linton Community Heat Team (WLCH) to collaborate with Scottish Borders Climate Action Network team to identify four Borders Communities keen to establish their own local Heat Survey service.



"Helpful, punctual and informative and let me use the thermometer and capture images."

"Efficient, informative, polite"

"Very friendly experience. Lots of useful information received including walls moisture checks"

Project Achievements

- 3 face-to-face training workshops were delivered in Selkirk by West Linton Community Heat (WLCH) team.
- Heat Survey 'toolkits' were delivered to 11 community groups, each kit including a thermal camera, moisture and temp sensors, software, marketing and publicity material etc.
- Heat Survey Online Knowledge base developed by WLCH team and made available to Sustainable Selkirk Team
- Significant interest in borrowing the camera, and 4 loans were undertaken before the end of the heating season.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:

£44,370

£4.22 for every £1 given

<https://www.facebook.com/SustainableWestLinton/>

9. Tweeddale Youth Action

"Loop the Loop"

Priority Theme: Poverty Alleviation

Grant Allocation: £39,492.00

Project Aims

- Collaborate with Peeblesshire Foodbank to reduce food waste and help address food poverty.
- Provide free hot evening meals at youth club drop-ins.
- Upgrade Innerleithen kitchen with equipment to make, chill and freeze large quantities of soup.
- Teach soup making skills to young people.
- Make free soup available at youth club drop in sessions.
- Distribute frozen soup safely to young people and families need.
- Distribute excess soup through Peeblesshire Foodbank and other organisations alleviating poverty.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£55,595.13
£2.44 for every £1 given

Project Achievements

- Innerleithen kitchen upgraded with commercial blast chiller, dishwasher, freezer and induction hobs.
- Weekly soup making session on a Monday taught soup making to two young people. Sessions shortly to restart on Thursday afternoons.
- 852 free evening meals provided to young people from December 2024 to March 2025.
- 400 litres of soup cooked and fed to 100+ young people from April 2025 onwards.
- Nutritious, hot soup (and toast) now available at every youth club drop-in session, plus available for hungry young people to take home outwith. Frozen soup is easy to carry and stays within food safety temperature limits.
- Capacity to process garden gluts and potential waste from shops and supermarkets.
- Economic, healthy cookery skills passed on and cascaded through communities.

"Feedback has been phenomenal! It's the most feel good project ever - smiling mums, excited kids, it's been quite magical. Our drivers feel like Santa! Everyone has loved the food and mums have appreciated a night off from the kitchen."

<https://www.tweeddaleyouth.co.uk/>

10. Greener Peebles

"Grow and Share"

Priority Theme: Poverty Alleviation

Grant Allocation: £7,991.00

Project Aims

- Run a thriving intergenerational Community Garden project
- Volunteers learn how to grow food, improve food security, develop skills and build confidence.
- Upgrade two key pieces of infrastructure in the community garden – Food Growing Tunnel and Shed Accessibility.
- Reduce social isolation.



"I want to thank you enormously for what and the garden have done for me in the last year. We had a very tough bereavement and coming here got me up and into nature. it gave me such calmness in amongst everything else. Thank you, I'm so grateful for these mornings"

Project Achievements

- Met the full fundraising target for a new polycarbonate tunnel
- Had 218 people attend the winter activity programme. This kept activities fresh and engaging during the winter months where people tend to leave the house less.
- Exceeded the planned delivery of skills shares and supporting volunteers to co-deliver with staff support.
- The skill share programme has attracted new people to visit the garden for them to return and sign up as volunteers.



Social Value



Local Socio-Economic Impact:

£162,372.15

£8.43 for every £1 given

<https://greenerpeebles.org/>

11. Greenlaw Bowling Club

"Installation of Energy Efficient Windows and Door"

Priority Theme: Net Zero

Grant Allocation: £11,827.20

Project Aims

- Refurbish the clubhouse with energy efficient upgrades to improve energy performance.
- Reduce costs and environmental impact by reducing carbon footprint.
- Modernise the building and its visual attractiveness.
- Provide a warm safe and inclusive community facility.

Project Achievements

- The clubhouse has been successfully upgraded with energy efficient features which can now be used by the community for local events.
- Lower operational costs and environmental impact.
- Increased club memberships.
- Warm and safe space to be used for the local community, strengthening community engagement.



"The CLLD funds were crucial to the clubhouse renovation project. The club is a bustling hub of activity and hosts both community events and social gatherings."

https://www.facebook.com/greenlawcommunitybowlingclub/?locale=en_GB

12. Home Basics

"Solar Power for Re-use Charity"

Priority Theme: Net Zero

Grant Allocation: £20,000.00



"The Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) grant for the solar panel array at Home Basics in Walkerburn has proven to be a highly successful investment. Not only has it helped generate a sustainable income for the charity, but it has also made a valuable contribution to our environmental goals."



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:

£25,176.15

£1.14 for every £1 given

Project Aims

- Reduce waste, encourage and promote reuse and reduce own carbon footprint.
- Install solar panels on Walkerburn based warehouse
- Feed unused power back to the grid.



Project Achievements

- Secured an export tariff and have built credit toward winter energy bills. In turn reducing energy costs.
- The financial savings generated from the export tariff and reduced energy costs have been reinvested directly into charitable initiatives.

<https://homebasics.org.uk/>

13. Oxton Community Development Ltd

"Oxton Community Shop Development"

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

Grant Allocation: £9,200.00



Project Achievements

- Engagement of the community in shop plans. There was an 68% response rate.
- Implemented a new design and marketing strategy including a new leaflet to reintroduce the shop to all village households.
- Opening of a new bespoke village shop attracting the youngest through to the oldest residents.



"An exciting day for the village. Well done to everyone involved over the years."

"Just looks fabulous. What an achievement."

"Wonderful day for Oxton, Thanks to everyone"

Project Aims

- Development and relocation of the village shop to bespoke premises after being in temporary premises for years.
- Equip and furnish the shop to a high standard allowing the shop to extend their range.
- Invest in the purchase of new and where possible local stock.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:

£185,040.72

£4.46 for every £1 given

<https://oxtonshop.co.uk/>

14. Recovery Coaching Scotland

"Borders in Recovery - Community Recovery Cafe Project"

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

Grant Allocation: £14,352.20



"I was nervous, but the kindness of people made me feel safe."

"A friendly place where people are happy and supportive."



Project Aims

- Operate several recovery cafes across a wider region, providing a safe place for people to go
- To be able to advance purchase venue hire with partners.
- Continue to grow volunteer numbers.
- Strengthen network of local and regional partners.

Project Achievements

- Continuing to provide safe, inclusive spaces provided structured peer support, reduced isolation, and fostered community integration.
- Venues are now busier than before and more individuals are engaging in peer support and structured recovery meetings.
- 2025 Venues secured.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£314,798.12
£4.50 for every £1 given

<https://recoverycoachingscot.org/>

15. Berwickshire Swap

"Winter Warmer Programme"

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

Grant Allocation: £4,535.00



"It was positively reassuring to see members of the local community pulling together in support of this project. We had volunteers supporting us with the ironing and washing of the items included in the parcels."

Project Achievements

- Provided 137 Winter Warmer parcels to those in need, a 47% increase from the previous year.
- Satisfaction that families in the most need would receive warm, appropriate winter clothing for their children.
- Saved 3,060 items of good quality clothing from landfill.



Project Aims

- Build a Winter Warmer Programme providing children and families access to warm and appropriate clothing.
- Work closely alongside 3rd party organisations to encourage the use of the Winter Warmer Parcels.
- Support families make sustainable choices to stay warm through attending our swap events.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£74,504.58
£7.95 for every £1 given

<https://www.berwickshireswap.co.uk/>

16. Happy Swimmers

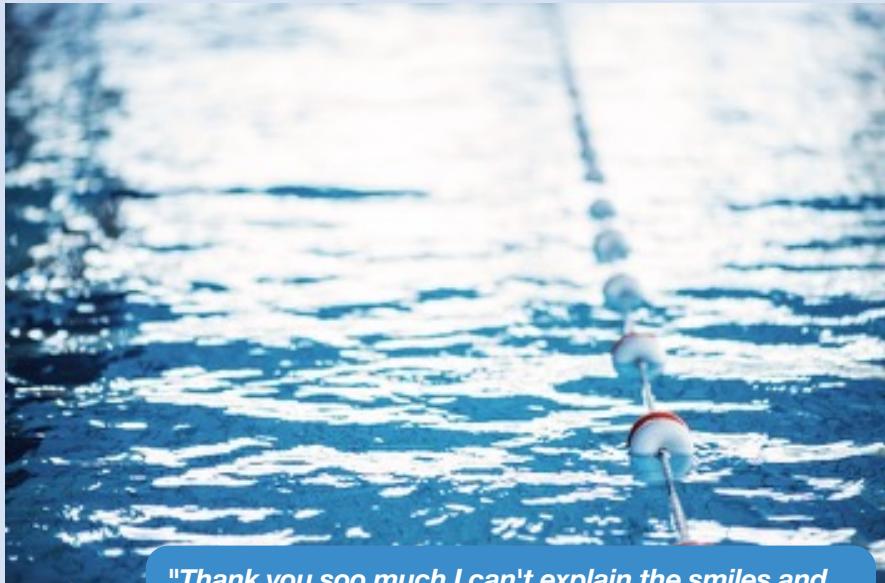
"Happy Swimmers Initiative – Saving Lives"

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

Grant Allocation: £18,402.80

Project Aims

- Provide funding to help families struggling with the costs of children's swimming lessons.
- Help enable all children to learn to swim and lower the barriers to this wherever possible.
- Teach a vital safety skill in coastal area.



"Thank you sooo much I can't explain the smiles and excitement on the girls faces when I told them they were off to their swimming lesson today after school. This wouldn't of been possible without you guys"

Project Achievements

- Provided access to a life skill to children who otherwise would have gone without.
- Able to arrange for swimming lessons for children from 2 local Primary Schools - Reston & Coldingham.
- 110 children aged 5- 11 attended the Primary school linked lessons.
- In addition, we have been able to help fund over 40 children's swimming lessons.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£78,509.10
£5.18 for every £1 given

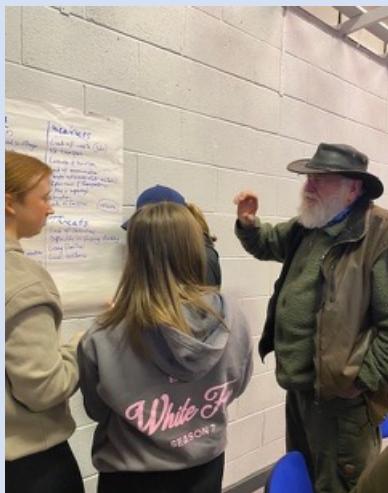
hellohappyswimmers@gmail.com

17. Newcastleton & District Community Trust

"Innov8plus Newcastleton Kickstart"

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

Grant Allocation: £19,493.00



"One of the most memorable experiences from this project was witnessing the growing confidence and empowerment of our service users. As the research progressed, we noticed that young people who are typically quiet and reserved began to find their voices"

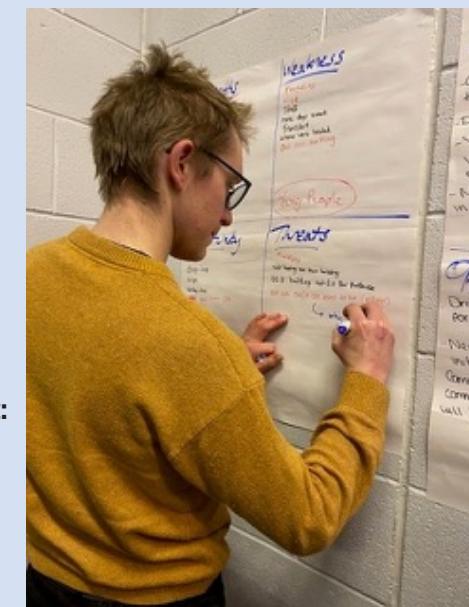
Project Achievements

- Expanded networking opportunities and empowered community members.
- Increased engagement, with service users sharing more of their thoughts on community matters.
- Able to facilitate more in person networking events.



Project Aims

- Investment supported a comprehensive research/data collation phased program of work called Newcastleton Kickstart.
- Discovery programs, built into regular activity programs will explore ways to develop avenues of support.
- Empower young people to lead the way; to lessen the divide which occurred post covid.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£127,308.00
£5.04 for every £1 given

<https://livenewcastleton.com/regeneration/newcastleton-and-district-community-trust/>

18. Preston Abbey Community Trust

"Refurbishment of Preston Village Hall"

Priority Theme: Net Zero

Grant Allocation: £20,000.00



“What is memorable is the generosity of CLLD when we lost our original funding. The straightforward process and friendly, helpful staff made what can be a daunting task for inexperienced volunteers such as ourselves into a pleasant experience”

Project Aims

- Refurbishment of Preston Village Hall.
- Improve insulation and heating efficiency.
- Provide a place in the village which can be used as a refuge centre when weather conditions turn bad and there is no power.

Project Achievements

- Successful cooperation and coordination between the main building contractor and the sub-contractors heating specialists.
- Sticking to the agreed timescales and budget.
- A warm safe village hall is now available to villagers.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£77,542.02
£3.34 for every £1 given

<https://coabp.org/>

19. The General Store Selkirk

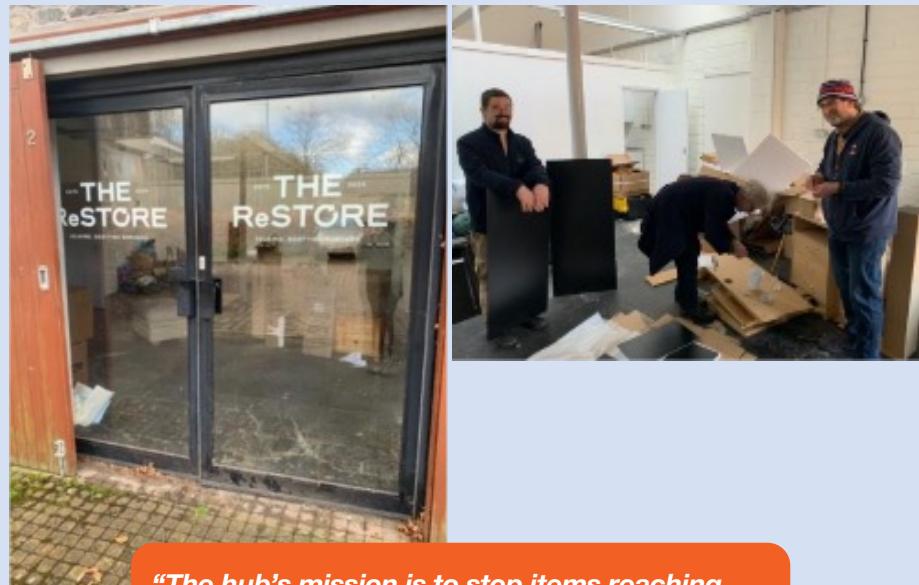
"The General Store Reuse Hub"

Priority Theme: Net Zero

Grant Allocation: £14,771.57

Project Aims

- Create a large furnishing reuse hub to plug the gap in donations which The General Store were unable to fulfil.
- The hub will be a space where large items can be donated, sorted, stored cleaned and re sold.
- Reduce the amount of goods going to landfill



*"The hub's mission is to stop items reaching landfill, to promote borrowing-not-buying"
"Thank you. Just very grateful to receive funding and to be well thought of"*

Project Achievements

- Obtained a suitable building which is now open 2 days a week for receiving donations.
- 3 special sales have been ran in partnership with Borders Scrapstore.
- Sales from goods are covering running costs of the service.
- New partnerships have been formed with Fresh Start Borders and Border Pet rescue to pass on donations that the group cannot take, in turn ensuring less waste goes to landfill.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£39,589.35
£2.59 for every £1 given

<https://generalstoreselkirk.org/>

20. Cheviot Youth

"Empowerment Project" & "Training for Supporting Adults"

Priority Theme: Poverty Alleviation

Grant Allocation: £45,093.00



Project Aims

- Cheviot Youth received funding for multiple projects, these projects were focused on:
 - Piloting a new bespoke therapeutic support programme for those who present with anxiety and hypervigilance in children, teenagers and young adults.
 - Providing a range of activities in one place by providing a holiday club and free activities.
 - Upgrading the current Kelso Hub to increase appeal and footfall.

"We were able to help so many young people have new experiences in their lives, create new products, learn new techniques, express their opinions and have access to materials and technology they would not have otherwise had, and bring joy and confidence into their lives through learning new things and sharing with others"



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£88,998.72
£5.81 for every £1 given

<https://www.cheviotyouth.org/>

21. Burnfoot Community Futures

"Burnfoot Winter Programme"

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

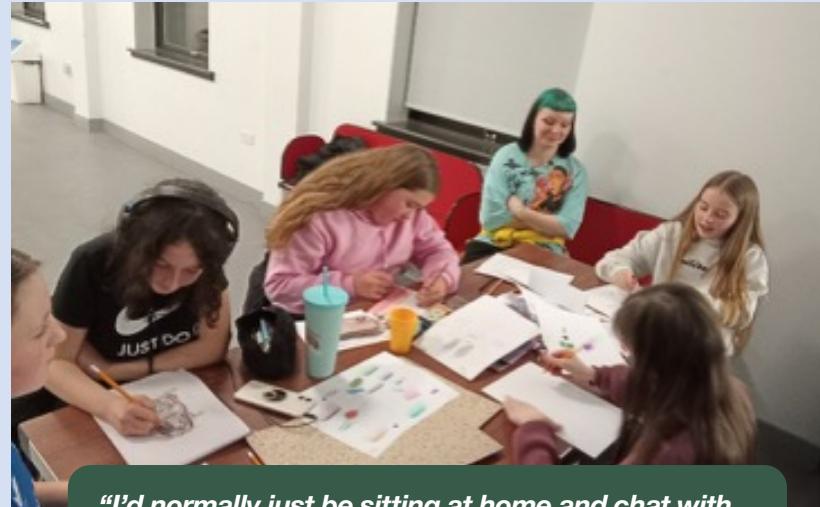
Grant Allocation: £14,148.00

Project Aims

- Funding Received was used to deliver a two-pronged winter support delivery that consisted of a Warm Spaces initiative and New Youth Club provision in Burnfoot.
- Pilot sessions ran for 2 hours per week for 17 weeks, aiming for attendance of between 20-30 youths per week. designed to promote social interaction, alongside learning valuable life skills.
- Offering much-needed access to a youth service in an non-school environment.
- Offer free warm meals to the community

Project Achievements

- The Warm spaces project helped 199 people in the areas and collaborated with 9 other organisations.
- In turn this added to the volunteer numbers for the group and the group gained an additional 5 new volunteers.
- The youth club supported 65 people over an 8-week period providing warm meals and fostered relationships between peers.
- A total of 264 people were helped in the area.



"I'd normally just be sitting at home and chat with friends online, but I'll be coming here every week now!"

"I like meeting new people, and the staff are nice and the soup is nice Thanks"

"We would be delighted if such sessions continue to enhance the mental health and well-being of the Burnfoot community"

https://www.facebook.com/BurnfootCommunityFutures/?locale=en_GB

22. Café Recharge

“Kitchen Supervisor and Café Manager”

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

Grant Allocation: £19,694.00

Project Aims

- Funding to cover the salary of a Kitchen Supervision and Project Manager for 3 months to oversee and reduce the amount of food waste sent to landfill, divert food to those in need and ensure anyone struggling to afford food is fed.
- Oversee work in the kitchen and head up a small team of volunteers to produce nutritious meals and snacks.
- Promote the café in the area and wider community. Raising social inclusion, reducing food waste, and providing dignified food provision.
- Increase partnerships with other organisations in the area.

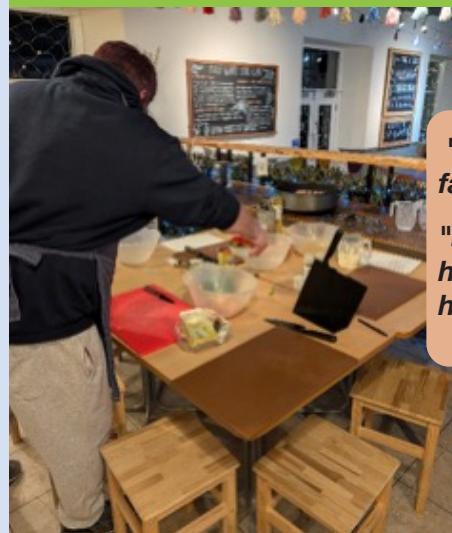


Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£73,839.03
£3.62 for every £1 given

Project Achievements

- Delivered a diverse programme of activities and services including a Breakfast with Santa and Festive afternoon teas.
- Hosted groups including Dynamic Community Fusion and Procrastination Station, providing safe environments for peer support.
- Offered maths-based cookery courses and craft groups, helping participants build confidence and practical skills.
- Rescued and diverted 4836 kgs of food from landfill and fed 1268 people, 196 of these at low or no cost.
- Collaborated with Tweed Togs and Berwickshire Swap shop to increase reach and impact.



“Currently unemployed and living alone this facility is a tremendous lifesaver for me”

“Being a recovering alcoholic this place has helped when I've ran out of money and has helped keep me fed when I needed it”

<https://caferecharge.org.uk/>

23. Berwickshire Marine Reserve

"Community Led Environmental Action for the Berwickshire Coast"

Priority Theme: Net Zero

Grant Allocation: £5,138.67



"Very informative, local relevance, nice mix of talk and activities"

"I learnt so much!"

"Everybody enjoyed getting out and spending time on the beach"



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:

£93,953.39

£7.18 for every £1 given

Project Aims

- Enable greater local community participation and volunteering in conservation and environmental action and to broaden the scope of community engagement.
- Developing and facilitating a regular programme of conservation and environmental tasks and activities.

Project Achievements

- Engagement of many local people who have a strong interest in the local environment and conservation
- Hosted 6 unique events with participation from 126 people.
- 104 visitors to our Marine Education Centre during the Easter Holidays exceeding the projected total of 72 participants.
- Communities involved gained a greater understanding of the environment of the area.
- School children gained knowledge and learned new skills by producing a nature documentary on the breeding Grey Seals at St Abbs Head.

<https://www.berwickshirerainereserve.org.uk/>

24. Interest Link Borders

"Interest Link Selkirk Life Skills Group"

Priority Theme: Social Inclusion

Grant Allocation: £4,653.00



Project Aims

- Befriending projects aim to improve the quality of life of socially excluded children, young people and adults with learning disabilities overcoming social barriers and inequality of opportunity and giving respite to family carers.
- Address the challenges around social inclusion and the general need for friends and opportunities.
- Break down the barriers between people with learning disabilities and the community and create trusting environments.
- Host multiple befriending groups across the area. Activities will include crafts, cooking and drama.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£49,15290
£8.13 for every £1 given

"The positivity of the Interest Link Team and Volunteers ease the isolation and fear that I feel."

"My daughter is happier and less aggressive with me."

"I feel happy in the groups, I am with my friends and there's always lots of laughs."

Project Achievements

- The project was a development of existing work and primarily aimed to achieve social inclusion. Most of the members with learning disabilities have been in previous versions of the project and they supported the new members.
- The workshops helped members open up and socialise in wider groups.
- Members increased their skillset via the cooking workshops building their confidence.
- Membership of the group grew as did volunteer numbers.

<https://www.interestlink.org>

25. Stable Life

"Stable Life's Turning Green Project"

Priority Theme: Net Zero

Grant Allocation: £10,000.00



"We've seen how even small changes—like improved lighting—can make a big difference to the comfort and wellbeing of our service users."

Project Aims

- Improve the energy efficiency and environmental impacts of facilities by upgrade the existing lighting to modern LED lights using motion sensors.
- Improve insulation in tack rooms and log cabin used by staff members and volunteers.

Project Achievements

- Upgraded lighting for energy efficiency by replacing all internal and externals bulbs with a more energy efficient equivalent.
- Lower environmental and operating costs by reducing energy expenditure and creating a more sustainable future for the charity.
- Sought professional advice to assess and plan insulation enhancements for the tack room and log cabin. This proactive approach ensures future upgrades will be effective, safe.
- Created a brighter, safer environment for young people, volunteers and staff.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:

£35,839.82

£3.30 for every £1 given

<https://www.stablelife.org.uk/>

26. Scottish Borders Housing Association

"Warm & Well" and "Selkirk Cook Club"

Priority Theme: Poverty Alleviation

Grant Allocation: £27,050.00



"Learning to enjoy life again which is work in progress"

"Exceeded expectations and increased confidence"

"By coming along I've gained new skills, budgeting skills, made social connections and improved mental health"



Social Value

Warm & Well

Local Socio-Economic Impact:

£42,041.94

£3.68 for every £1 given



Social Value

Selkirk Cook Club

Local Socio-Economic Impact:

£89,265.60

£5.39 for every £1 given

<https://www.sbha.org.uk/.uk/>

Project Aims

- Reduce or clear where possible fuel debt for tenants in poverty.
- Provide tenants with help and advice in managing and reducing energy use, in turn reducing carbon foot print and save money.
- Continue the current cook club which runs in Philliphaugh.
- Alleviating social isolation, learning new skills from the cooking class.
- Provide attendees with a warm, healthy and nutritious meal.

Project Achievements

- £6,000 worth of food vouchers were purchased and distributed to those most in need.
- £5191.36 of fuel debt cleared helping 10 tenants out of fuel poverty
- 144 fuel vouchers issued helping 144 tenants keep heating and lights on.
- This block of sessions of the Selkirk Cook Club has been by far the best attended to date.
- All participants of the sessions have reported an improvement in mental health, breaking social isolation and making new friends

27. Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber

"Newtown and Langlee Support"

Priority Theme: Poverty Alleviation

Grant Allocation: £5,989.00



"The CLLD funding was instrumental in enabling SBSEC CIC and Heroes of Gamenight CIC to deliver inclusive and informed support projects in Newtown St. Boswells and Langlee"

Project Aims

- Support the development of social enterprises – pre-planning and identification linked to needs / requests of the groups and their aspirations
- Establishment and engagement of groups and delivery of training for adults, young people and adults training around key activities and projects for sessions in Newtown St Boswells and Langlee Communities, which are some of the most challenged in the Borders.

Project Achievements

- Enabled Co-Design & Community Voice. Through quizzes, questionnaires, and open dialogue, participants shaped the direction of future services, highlighting needs around mental health, transport, creative outlets, and financial equity.
- Supported Training & Engagement.
- Built Capacity for Future Enterprise. The sessions surfaced ideas for new social enterprises and community-led initiatives, laying the groundwork for future development and funding applications.



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:

£27,073.26

£4.37 for every £1 given

<http://www.sbsec.org.uk/>

28. Food Foundation

"New Services"

Priority Theme: Poverty Alleviation

Grant Allocation: £8,000.00

Project Aims

- Educate young people on how to prepare, cook and package meals in the foodbank.
- Educate about health and hygiene as well as health and safety in a working environment.
- Educate service users how to work both independently and as part of a team.

Project Achievements

- Educated youngsters on how to prepare and cook meals.
- Over 450 frozen meals were made for Peeblesshire Foodbank
- Youngsters have improved confidence and build skills for life.
- One member subsequently went on to secure work in a local hotel kitchen and the other intends of applying to catering college after attending the course.



"The CLLD Funding has enabled a small group of young people from Peebles High School to be part of a practical learning project with the Food Foundation"

<https://thefoodfoundationpeebles.com>



Additional Funded Projects

Due to the sheer volume of projects that were funded, it was not possible to feature them all in detail. The below projects and organisations also received funding:

- o Abby Fraser-Davidson – Project Financial Stability & Service Expansion, £3,994.82
- o Amelia Pettman Photography – We Speak Tangent Podcast, £4,982.00
- o Seashells Nursery – Bathroom Upgrade, £5,000.00
- o Willowbirch – The Neurodivergent Entrepreneurs Network, £2,885.99
- o Re-Tweed – Building Creative Futures: Empowering Berwickshire, One Stitch at a Time, £16,170.00
- o At Birkhill House – Autumn/ Winter Activities – Programme Enhancement, £4,375.32
- o Sarah Mayo Beauty – Hair Studio Expansion, £4,915.00
- o Bird Garden Scotland – Providing Support for Visitors, £5,000.00

More details on other projects can be found in the Youth Poverty Alleviation Section below

Neurodivergent Entrepreneurs Network

Many neurodivergent people struggle in conventional work situations. The creation of the Neurodivergent Entrepreneurs Network (NEN) was supported up by one of the LAG members in a partnership with local neurodivergent people to support neurodivergent entrepreneurs.

The LAG chose to fund 4 projects put forward by individual members of the network. The LAG felt it was important to support this part of this community because of the challenges faced:

- 82% of non-disabled people are in work, falling to 54.2% for disabled people and just 30.2% for autistic people
- Disabled employees earn 12.7% less on average, with autistic people facing the largest pay gap at 27.9%

These figures highlight deep inequalities but also significant untapped potential. By directing investment towards neurodivergent entrepreneurs, the NEN aimed to remove barriers, unlock innovation, and drive inclusive local economic development that benefits whole communities.

The LAG funded the entrepreneurs whose projects were to:

- Create and launch the We Speak Tangent podcast using an interview format to showcase relatable role models
- Create space for neurodivergent entrepreneurs at all stages (including pre-start) to connect, share ideas, and build supportive community networks
- Set up and develop peer-to-peer facilitated coaching
- Provide training and employment support for neurodivergent people.



“The funding helped me produce, edit and put out a podcast interviewing Neurodivergent Entrepreneurs in the South of Scotland which was called We Speak Tangent.”

“Every day I'm using the equipment I bought to help me, so even though I got the grant nearly a year ago it's still helping me now!”

“As a professional, I felt that what I took away from the session was a true to-life representation of a neurodivergent individual finding their place and forging their path. I would recommend the podcast to anyone who really wants to understand the struggles that are faced from those first hand”

Sadly, two projects were forced to cancel as the neurodivergent person had received no continuation funding from Access to Work in nearly a year after applying. This served to illustrate the challenge faced by disabled people.

However, the other projects were a great success including:

We Speak Tangent

We Speak Tangent - a 24 episode podcast brought to you by the Neurodivergent Entrepreneurs Network, by neurodivergent people, for neurodivergent people. We Speak Tangent interviews neurodivergent entrepreneurs, telling the story of their journey to become entrepreneurs as relatable role models. We Speak Tangent aims to inspire neurodivergent people and help provide the information and connections they need to action their ideas and set up their own businesses.

We Speak Tangent and the Neurodivergent Entrepreneurs Network is produced in partnership with the South of Scotland Enterprise.

The podcast can be listened to here:



[We Speak Tangent - YouTube](#)



[We Speak Tangent | Podcast on Spotify](#)



Social Value

Local Socio-Economic Impact:
£16,710.24
£3.24 for every £1 given

NEN Founders

Rachel Parker – The Frangipane Bakery

Kat Mackay – Willowbirch

James Alexander Gaffney – JAG Arts 82

Amelia Pettman – Amelia Pettman Photography

Michael Greaves-Macintosh – Pre-start

Scottish Borders Youth Poverty Alleviation 2024/25

Background

Each year, the LAG supports youth poverty alleviation schemes led by youth groups and other applicants. While this approach has been effective in certain areas (where groups regularly receive funding) the LAG observed that other areas were consistently underrepresented.

Through Youth Borders and other partners, the LAG received concerning reports from some of the region's most deprived areas, describing young people wandering the streets in the evenings having had no food all day. Further investigation revealed that many of these children came from households where parents or carers were working long hours in low-paid jobs, struggling to provide daily meals for their families.

The Borders has always been one of the lowest paid areas in the UK. With salaries not matching inflation, poverty, especially youth poverty has massively increased. All evidence whether from the Third or Public sector has shown an increase in those severely struggling with the cost of living and the negative impact this has on our young people.

As a result, in 2024/25 the LAG decided to take a different approach of being proactive rather than reactive for Tranche 2 funds. Using Human Learning System principles it was decided to take a co-design/co-production approach, rather than a



competitive approach which would inevitably lead to some areas missing out due to different capacity to apply.

Through Youth Borders an approach was made to all strategic/local youth groups. They were offered funding for specific activities related to providing food and opportunities for young people, providing they adopted a need-based collaborative approach where they decided between them on the best use of funds available. This approach ensured all areas of the Borders were covered. Recognising that those in social housing are amongst the most deprived young people, the scheme was also opened to housing associations.

Aims

Work with others in partnership to reduce youth poverty by:

- Providing food and a warm space for young people in need during school holidays when there is no access to school meals.
- Support young people (and their parents) to learn how to cook and budget for themselves.
- Offer opportunities for them (particularly during holidays) to have experiences that other young people have, to broaden their horizons and realise there are many approaches to life.
- Receive mental health or other required support.

Activities

Through partnership working with other strategic stakeholders

- Offer all strategic Youth Groups and Housing Associations funding for poverty alleviation and youth opportunities to be completed before end of April 2025.
- Ensure that all identifiable young people needing food receive good quality nourishment over the winter period.
- All organisations will provide Social Value Engine and other data detailing activities and impacts.



Approach

A total of 12 projects was funded for a combined total of £152,000 as laid out below:

Name	Project	Amount Awarded
TD1	Additional support some our most vulnerable groups including our young parents group, LGBT+ and Allies Group, Young Carer/Care Experienced Group and those receiving 1:1 Support.	£16,000.00
TYA	Extended collaboration to offer free food to food bank clients and free hot food bank clients and free hot food.	£20,000.00
Rowlands	Winter and Easter events for young people with food.	£19,400.00
BYP Connect	Increase the ongoing work at our Duns and Eyemouth centres, ensuring they remain safe, welcoming, and engaging spaces for young people.	£16,000.00
Cheviot Youth	More session times and greater resources to provide a fun, engaging, and modern service; particularly during holidays	£18,964.00
Beyond Earlston	Increase the offering of our transitions and holiday program which will include activity costs additional staff costs and travel to all the feeder primaries.	£18,964.00
Escape (Hawick)	To support more young people, offer free food and a variety of activities and provide free access for targeted young	£22,610.00
Families Festive Special	Festive parcel for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to celebrate.	£3,000.00
Burnfoot Winter Hub	Providing support for Friday night club for young people	£3,400.00
Hawick High School	Easter Holidays Food and Activities	£1,421.00
Cheviot Youth	Training for support adults	£7,830.00
BYP Connect	Freeing up funds to allow drop ins	£5,000.00



Feedback was received that we were potentially missing some of the most vulnerable young people and especially their parents and as there was underspend by some Tranch1 projects the following projects were also awarded funding:

Scottish Borders Housing Association were awarded a total of £27,050 for their "Warm & Well" and "Selkirk Cook Club" projects

Waverley Housing Association received £3000 for their "Building Memories" and "New Year New Start"

Youth Borders received £2000 to support their work on encouraging young people not to vape (or smoke)

Youth LAG

The Youth Local Action Group was set up by LAG to give young people in the Borders a chance to make decisions to help other young people.

The YLAG does a wide range of activities and over the past few years has visited the Scottish Parliament and met the First Minister, other Ministers and MSPs. The volunteers on the YLAG had the chance to meet other YLAGs from across Scotland and take part both in serious influential discussions and fun activities.

The YLAG are all young people between the ages of 12-26 who give their time for free. They are supported in their efforts by Youth Borders.



This year the Youth LAG invested the money they were given to:

Applicant Name	Amount	Summary of Application	Group or individual
Rebecca I	£1,000.00	Set up a Childminding business	
Zoe M	£1,100.00	Equipment for future projects	Eat Sleep Ride
Caydon B & Nathan K	£1,100.00	Build and sell firepits	Tweeddale Youth Action
Connie H	£2,000.00	Purchase a Kiln for pottery and craft group	Beyond Earlston
Shona F	£1,000.00	To start self-employment of a Health and Exercise coach and attend a training course	
Harvey P	£1,439.28	Litter picking equipment for public Skatepark	Kelso High School
Chloe M	£805.00	Purchase a camera for YouTube channel to expand her self-help guide	
Megan B	£300.00	Resources and activities for group	
Isla M	£1,944.30	Purchase key rings for a youth led business enterprise	Escape Youth Services
Miwa N-A	£1,000.00	Music recording equipment to release an album	Alchemy Film and Arts
Ethan P	£1,016.61	Projector equipment for e-sports group within youth group	Eildon West Youth Hub
Cara M	£999.95	Sensory items for Borders Recovery group	Recovery Coaching Scotland CIC
JAY S	£1,996.37	Rehearsal equipment for band practice at youth group	Oor Space Youthy

Applicant Name	Amount	Summary of Application	Group or individual
Brogan H	£1,000.00	develop and distribute mindfulness and self help guide for other young people	
Karina B	£1,000.00	Resources for Scottish Country Dancing group and performances	
Beth P	£1,000.00	Equipment to develop balloon business	
Ivy D W	£1,784.21	Refurbish local children's library	St Ronan's
Fin R	£1,614.00	Board Game events	
Emily L	£811.62	Resources and activities for Youth group	Newcastleton and District Community Trust
Bradley W	£1,000.00	Ice Hockey Equipment	



Word from the Chair

As Chair of the Scottish Borders Local Action Group, it is great to see another year filled with varied projects and the success these have been in our local communities.

We have seen significant progress in empowering our communities and advancing sustainable development across the region. Through investment and local partnerships, the projects have tackled urgent challenges such as poverty and social exclusion, while also laying the groundwork for a greener, more resilient future.

This year's programme has supported a diverse range of initiatives, each contributing meaningfully to local communities, from small starter projects to larger scale partnerships the outcomes have been both inspiring and transformative.

What stands out is the collective commitment shown by our communities. Their passion and innovation have been the driving force behind the success of this programme. Together, we are building stronger, more inclusive communities that are equipped to thrive in the face of future challenges.

This year's achievements are a testament to what can be accomplished when we work together with purpose and vision. I look forward to continuing to support more projects this year.

Hans Waltl,
Chair of the Scottish Borders Local Action Group



LAG Members

Hans Waltl - Private Sector
Fiona Benton – Borders Community Action
Miriam Adcock – Zero Waste Scotland
Pip Tabor – Southern Uplands Partnership
Charles Dundas – Border Forest Trust
Margaret Simpson – Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber
Jan Pringle – South of Scotland Enterprise
Trevor Jackson – Chamber of Commerce
Lianne Drummond – Berwickshire Swap
Hazel Smith – International Tartans
Debbie Playfair – Tweed Forum
Lesley Forsyth – Scottish Borders Council

Economic Development Team

Simon Lynch – External Funding Programme Coordinator
Linda Cornwall – External Funding Programme Coordinator
Emma Hamilton – Senior Economic Development Officer
Nesta Todd – Programme Support Officer
Linda Kerr – Programme Support Officer
Jill Hamilton – Programme Support Officer
Shona Haddow – Strategic Economic Investment Lead

**If you would like to join the Scottish Borders Local Action Group (LAG) or
simply learn more about the funding available, please contact our
SBC Support Team via cldgrants@scotborders.gov.uk**

