

**More
than just
money**



**Voluntary
Action Fund**

More than just money



**Investing money
Increasing capacity
Building relationships**





Investing in our communities

For over 30 years, Voluntary Action Fund (VAF) has been leading the way in developing innovative approaches to grant-making. Our unique, asset-based approach provides 'more than just money' to community groups and voluntary organisations. By not only investing money, but by increasing capacity and building relationships, we help to unlock social capital - delivering positive, sustainable benefits to communities.

One of Scotland's biggest independent grant-makers, our vision is that people and communities are thriving, active, self-organising, resourceful and connected. We want people and communities to achieve their potential through active participation, volunteering and working together to tackle inequality and discrimination.



“We cannot express enough the ways in which VAF’s ‘More than just money’ approach has enabled our projects to succeed... We are now identifying gaps sooner and are continually striving to provide consistent services to survivors of sexual violence”.

Rape Crisis Centre



Working with us

Distributing more than £17 million a year to community groups and voluntary organisations on behalf of public, private and third sector investors, VAF has built a strong reputation as a trusted, reliable partner by both funders and funded organisations alike.

Our openness, integrity and robust processes, combined with a commitment to continuous learning and innovation have made VAF a partner of choice for many organisations. Backed by a fundamental commitment to equality and building productive relationships, we offer a wealth of grant-making experience, sharing best practice approaches and learning to bring about real change.

From multi-million pound national programmes to small

community grant funds, our wide-ranging experience includes all stages of fund management. We provide customised support to build constructive relationships and networks, as well as the capacity of voluntary and community organisations. This enables funded projects to achieve more and have a lasting impact.

In addition to our flexibility and wide-ranging connections, our partners value our strong roots in communities and our ability to reach local groups that do not normally access funding. We work closely with public, private and third sector funders to develop new ways to invest resources in communities, achieve better outcomes and add real value to policy makers, investors, philanthropists, responsible businesses and communities alike.

Making a difference

At VAF, we believe that communities have great strengths and often unrecognised resources. Through acknowledging and nurturing these assets and creating opportunities for dialogue and co-operation, we can facilitate greater participation and tackle deep-rooted social challenges. This approach unlocks social capital - the relationships and networks we have with each other and the values that govern them - a critical resource for community and individual wellbeing.

Our grant programmes tackle a wide range of social issues that relate to inequality and discrimination, including health, social care, gender-based violence, hate-crime and behaviour. Our approach focuses on outcomes that support social justice, prevention, sustainability, empowered communities and the release of social capital.

“(VAF) made us feel what we did had value as opposed to a more ‘traditional interrogative approach’ that actually discourages openness. With VAF you feel comfortable sharing what didn’t work as well as what did”.

COPE Scotland



“VAF’s role has been pivotal in the development of the service, providing advice and support on reporting and holding regular shared learning events and networking”.

**Motherwell and Wishaw
Citizens Advice Bureau**



More than just money

Funding is just the beginning. We build the capacity of funded organisations to help improve what they do and build relationships.

Help from our friends

The Voluntary Action Fund receives funding from the Scottish Government.



“VAF’s approach enabled our project to explore social justice and Muslim women’s experiences of prejudice in their local communities”.

Glasgow Women’s Library

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“Volunteering gave me an opportunity to start believing in myself. I won’t say that this was easy...but slowly but surely I learnt how to be more resilient and to understand that I had more to offer than just as someone’s mother, daughter, care-giver”.

Grampian Opportunities