



**A statement outlining the key operational purposes of Scotland Funders' Forum, Scottish Grantmakers and SCVO's Funding Community and Learning Hub.**

Since early in the first period of national lockdown restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic in Scotland, SCVO has hosted a series of informal monthly meetings bringing together Scottish funders, grant makers and representatives of voluntary and community sector organisations and regulatory bodies.

There is clear interest in the continuation of what is now titled the Funding Community and Learning Hub. Convenors of the Scotland Funders' Forum, Scottish Grantmakers and the Funding Community and Learning Hub have produced the following information to clarify how the groups operate and intend to work alongside one another for the benefit of the Scottish voluntary and community organisations and those who benefit from their support.

**Scotland Funders' Forum** is a gathering of funders in Scotland, including statutory bodies and independent grant making trusts, who are committed to best practice in funding the voluntary and community sector and to maximising the impact of funding for the benefit of Scotland. It comes together to share information, to identify and address areas of common interest and to share best practice and learning. The group meets four times per year, with membership open to any organisation which has, as a major part of its remit, the role of distributing funding within Scotland. Throughout 2021 the Funders' Forum will be particularly focussed on how we collaborate around the themes of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and on Climate Change.

**Scottish Grantmakers** is a membership organisation and, as of 2021, a registered charity which exists to represent grantmaking charities across Scotland. Its purposes are to foster and inform good practice in administration and governance of grant making; and to provide opportunities for collaboration, education, and networking. The organisation provides a range of activities each year across four key areas: training; networking opportunities and peer learning; information and awareness raising of key issues; and advocacy and representation. In 2021 the focus of Scottish Grantmakers is on supporting resilience of funded organisations following the coronavirus crisis; investment management and ethical investment; co-production and participatory grant making; and current policy issues facing the third sector.

**The Funding Community and Learning Hub (the Community)** is a group of funders, representative organisations of voluntary and community sector organisations and regulatory bodies. The purpose of the group is to address the needs of Scottish voluntary organisations and the communities they serve to achieve positive outcomes for the people of Scotland by building on and taking advantage of emergent learning. The Community aims to enable open and honest conversations on the place and purpose of funding in areas and activities of common endeavour, which will enable voluntary and community organisations to overcome challenges and find solutions. The Funding Community and Learning Hub will provide two online sessions per month – one informal 'roundtable' open session for sharing learning and up-to-date information; and one themed conversation focussed on topics of interest to the sector bringing in expert voices where appropriate. Supplementary to meetings SCVO will support an online community based on a shared communication platform such as Slack. Meetings will be online to ensure the ability to respond flexibly to the changing landscape and needs of the voluntary sector.

Convenors of the three groups have agreed to meet twice annually to share learning, progress and discuss upcoming or arising themes to ensure they are working in harmony, providing support and signposting to one another as appropriate.