



SUPPORTING SCOTTISH HOUSING COMMUNITIES

As we move into the final month of the year, we're taking time to celebrate the difference our collective efforts have made across Scotland's communities. This edition is packed with stories of impact, collaboration, and compassion, a true reflection of what can be achieved when people and organisations come together with shared purpose.

We shine a light on the SPA Community Benefit Fund and our Small Grant Fund, showcasing how both are creating meaningful change at a local level.

We also share progress from our recycling initiative, supporting sustainability and reinvestment in communities, and launch our festive appeal to help local foodbanks and community action groups during the winter months.

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DONATE TO THE
LINTEL TRUST



Lintel Trust Is Recruiting New Board Members!

We are excited to announce that we are recruiting new Board Members who share our passion for building strong, inclusive, and connected communities.

Why Join Us?

Becoming a Lintel Trust Board Member means you'll:

- Influence the strategic direction of a respected Scottish charity
- Support life-changing community programmes and housing-related initiatives
- Work alongside a friendly, dedicated, and values-driven team
- Develop skills in leadership, governance, and charity management

We welcome applications from people with a wide range of backgrounds.

We're especially interested in skills such as community development, finance, digital inclusion, housing, communications, and fundraising.

How to apply



Applying is easy. Simply head to our [website](#) where you will find more details and the link to [apply](#).

Once we receive your application, we'll be in touch.

If your application is selected for the next stage, a remote discussion with our Trustees will take place on **Tuesday, 20 January 2026.**

Small Grant Big Impact

Providing opportunities
for people living in social
housing to live fulfilled
lives



The Lintel Trust Small Grant Programme continues to make a meaningful impact across Scotland, supporting community-led projects that tackle **social isolation**, **improve digital inclusion**, and **strengthen community wellbeing**.

Between May and October 2025, ten projects received awards of £1,000 each, helping organisations deliver vital local services.

From dementia cafés to community breakfasts, this year's funded projects demonstrate the powerful role that small community spaces play in reducing loneliness and building confidence.

Grants Awarded in 25/26

- Friends of Kilsyth
- The Whiteinch Centre
- Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC)
- Easthall Residents Association
- Growing 21 Ltd
- Queens Cross Community Foundation
- Tollcross Community Trust
- Ochilview Housing Association
- BUTA
- Stable Life

Opening doors to new experiences

This year's Small Grant Programme is helping remove barriers and create new opportunities for people who might otherwise miss out.

Two funded projects in particular are opening doors to activities that build confidence, independence, and a sense of belonging.

- **Easthall Residents Association** will offer fully accessible cycling and watersports sessions for adults with additional support needs, many trying these activities for the first time.
- **Tollcross Community Trust** will provide essential household items and ongoing financial support for people moving on from homelessness, helping them sustain their tenancies and rebuild stability.

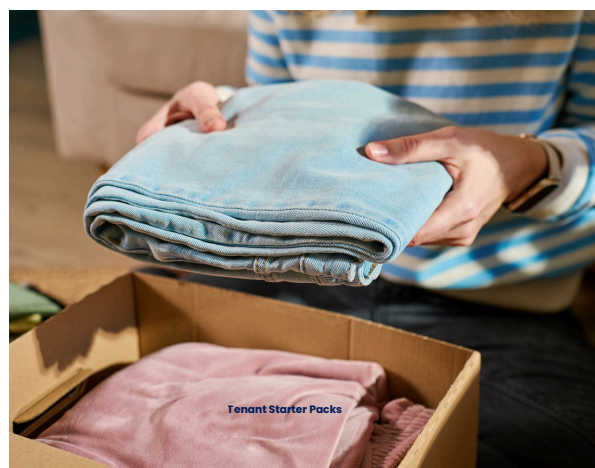


Small Grant Funding 2024/25

Community Links Scotland

West Dunbartonshire Energy Advice Service – First Steps

When Community Links Scotland launched the West Dunbartonshire Energy Advice Service in 2023, it was in response to a very real and urgent need. Housing Association tenants across the area were struggling to access energy advice and the basic support required to make their new tenancies sustainable. Through a combination of drop-in sessions, home visits, and one-to-one guidance, the service ensures tenants are set up with gas and electricity and are supported to use energy efficiently, saving money while keeping warm and safe.



For many tenants, particularly those moving into a property after homelessness or another period of instability, the challenges went beyond energy advice. Too often, they were stepping into a home with no bedding, no pots or pans, and no means to cook, clean, or even settle comfortably on their first night. This lack of the most basic household essentials can leave people isolated, unable to thrive, and at risk of losing their tenancies. Tailored starter packs filled with practical items became the bridge between simply having a roof overhead and truly beginning a new chapter.

Community Links Scotland successfully secured support from West Dunbartonshire Council and five local Housing Associations: Knowes, Clydebank, Trafalgar, Dalmuir Park, and Dunbritton towards the project. The final piece of funding came in February 2025, when Lintel Trust awarded a £1,000 Small Grant to strengthen and extend the reach of this vital initiative. That additional funding ensured more Starter packs could be created and tailored to tenants' individual needs, making a direct difference to those at risk of hardship and isolation.

Over the last six months, the impact has been significant, with 68 tenants already benefiting, receiving the essential items they need to cook, clean, and live with dignity. Tenants receiving a pack have reported feeling more settled and less isolated, and able to make their house feel more like a home. By meeting immediate needs, the project has helped support stability within the housing system.

The work does not stop here. Thanks to this initial funding, Community Links Scotland were able to continue developing partnerships and secure additional funding to expand Starter pack provision to reach even more vulnerable tenants. With the right support in place from day one, people moving from homelessness to secure homes can take their first steps with stability, dignity, and confidence.

[READ THE FULL CASE STUDY HERE](#)



Trustees Week

As part of Trustees' Week, we're delighted to celebrate the incredible contribution of our trustees — the dedicated individuals who guide and strengthen Lintel's work.

This year, we're shining a spotlight on **Iain Thompson**, who joined Lintel's Board of Trustees in August 2024.

Iain brings a wealth of experience from his twelve years as a trustee of a housing association before joining Lintel. His long-standing commitment to social housing and community development has made him an invaluable addition to our board.

"I had been a trustee of a housing association for 12 years, when the opportunity to join Lintel's Board of Trustees came up for me," Iain explains.

"I wanted to continue to support projects in social housing, and Lintel has enabled me to do that. I feel I'm bringing my professional skills to the discussions we have about project proposals. It's really interesting to see the wide range of ideas that come to us as projects."

Iain's insight and experience have enriched board discussions, particularly in ensuring that Lintel continues to support innovative and impactful projects that make a real difference to people living in social housing.

He is also passionate about encouraging others to get involved:

"To anyone considering applying to be a board member, I would say come and join a really friendly group of people who are interested in making the best use of resources for the benefit of people in social housing."

Iain has witnessed first-hand how Lintel's approach has become a benchmark in the sector:

"The way Lintel works has become a template for allocating funds in the social housing sector, and the influence of Lintel is growing geographically in the UK. It's exciting watching it grow."

We're proud to have Iain on our Board, his enthusiasm, expertise, and commitment help shape Lintel's vision as we continue to expand our reach and impact.



SPA Community Benefit Fund

Lintel Trust continues to manage the Scottish Procurement Alliance's (SPA) Community Benefit Fund, ensuring that funding is allocated to projects that create lasting social impact.

The fund has kicked off the 2025/26 funding year with fantastic momentum! The Lintel Trust Board has already approved thirteen inspiring projects, awarding a total of £150,000 in grant funding.



The supported initiatives span a wide range of priorities, including reducing social isolation, tackling food insecurities, employability initiatives and many more. Each initiative highlights the positive impact that partnership and purposeful investment can achieve.

We're excited to follow the journey of these projects and see the real difference they'll make in the months ahead.

2025-26

£150K OF FUNDING
AWARDED TO DATE

- Borders Regional Foodhub
- Cairn Emergency Tenant Fund
- My Great Start
- Hawthorn Social Strategy
- Skills and Learning Hub
- Cultivating Connections
- BeWell
- Craigsfarm Fairer Futures
- My Great Start (West)
- Bertha Park High School Gardens
- Feldy-Folk Tales
- Airdrie Action Partnership
- Parent Action for Safe Play



SPA COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

BORDERS REGIONAL FOODHUB

Since March 2020, the Borders Regional Foodhub (a collaboration between Eildon Housing Association, Cyrenians and FareShare Scotland) has been delivering crucial support across the Scottish Borders. Thanks to a total of **£115,000** from the **SPA Community Benefit Fund**, the Foodhub redistributes donated food and household items, serving 16 local foodbanks to reach vulnerable people and even their pets in rural communities where access to essential items can be difficult.

This work has taken on even greater urgency given the backdrop of a high and persistent poverty burden in Scotland, and significant levels of food-insecurity amplified by the pandemic and by the particular challenges of rural geography. In this article, we outline the scale of that need, and how the Foodhub is helping meet it.

Rural and remote areas such as the Scottish Borders face specific challenges: fewer local shops, greater distances to travel, fewer public transport options, and increased vulnerability when household income is low or erratic. For households facing poverty, the cost of travel, the availability of nutritious food, and the ability to respond to emergencies (e.g., a sudden loss of income) are all constrained.



The Borders Regional Foodhub addresses these challenges by acting as a redistribution hub, making donated food and essential household items readily available to 16 local foodbanks across the Borders. This networked approach helps reach isolated communities, ensures that people in need (including their pets) are supported, and relieves the pressure on households who may otherwise endure food insecurity or go without.

Given the national scale of poverty and food-insecurity, local interventions like the Foodhub remain vital. They not only respond to immediate need (food and household items), but they also build community resilience, reduce isolation, and complement wider policy efforts to reduce poverty by ensuring practical support on the ground.

“The SPA Community Benefit Fund has allowed us a level of consistency we wouldn’t have had otherwise”

The work of the Border’s Regional Foodhub stands out as a strong example of targeted community investment in a region where geography and poverty combine to create heightened vulnerability. While systemic change (in wages, benefits, housing, transport) is essential to reduce poverty at source, the immediate support offered by this project means fewer people slip through the cracks.



£115,000 awarded through the SPA Community Benefit Fund

REDUCE, REUSE & RAISE FUNDS

OUR IMPACT



49.10

Tonnes diverted from landfill



7

Participatory grants awarded



15

Workshops delivered to communities



12

Textile banks

Indicative Social Value delivered:

£22,028

At Lintel Trust, we're proud to see our Reduce, Reuse, and Raise Funds initiative continuing to grow, proving that small, sustainable actions can create a big community impact.

Through this initiative, housing associations and residents across Scotland are helping to divert textile waste from landfill, while also raising funds for local community projects. Together, these collective recycling efforts have already diverted over **49 tonnes of textiles from landfill** — an incredible achievement that benefits both the environment and the communities we serve.

Thanks to this success, we've been able to award seven community grants to participating housing associations, supporting a range of local initiatives that make a real difference to residents' lives.

We're also delighted to welcome Maryhill Housing Association as the newest partner to join the programme. Their textile recycling bin was installed last month, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact their community will add to this growing network of sustainability champions.

By reducing waste, reusing resources, and raising funds, we're not just protecting the planet, we're helping communities thrive.

FESTIVE CALL FOR SUPPORT



As we approach the colder months, many families across our communities are facing impossible choices — between heating their homes and putting food on the table.

This winter, Lintel Trust is stepping up to support local foodbanks, ensuring that no one in our communities goes hungry during the festive season. But we can't do it alone, we need your help.

The festive period should be a time of warmth and togetherness, yet for too many people it brings additional hardship. Rising costs mean that more households than ever are turning to foodbanks for support. By joining our Festive Foodbank Appeal, you can make a real difference to someone's Christmas

How You Can Help

- **Donate non-perishable items** such as tinned goods, pasta, rice, cereal, and festive treats to your local foodbank.
- **Contribute supermarket vouchers**, helping families purchase fresh essentials like fruit, vegetables, and dairy products.
- **Spread the word** by sharing our appeal with friends, neighbours, and colleagues — every act of kindness counts.

[Find your local foodbank here](#)