



* Enabling digital creativity across Scotland



Digital Xtra Fund: Trustee Information Pack

1. About Digital Xtra Fund

Digital Xtra Fund is Scotland's first and only charity dedicated to supporting a range of extracurricular digital skills initiatives for young people aged 16 and under. We believe every young person in Scotland should have access to innovative and digitally creative activities regardless of their gender, background, or where they live and understand the range of opportunities these skills provide. Digital Xtra Fund aims to:

- Inspire young people to understand and create with technology, not just consume it
- Enable fun and engaging extracurricular digital skills activities across Scotland
- Engage our Partners with supported activities to help connect young people with industry

We do this by raising funds from industry as well as public sector partners to invest in local coding and technology clubs as well as other digital making activities for young people.

Now entering its third year, Digital Xtra Fund is continuing to build links with a diverse range of industry partners to increase the support given to extracurricular digital skills initiatives across Scotland. The Fund also brings together these Partners with supported initiatives to provide context to the skills being taught and promote a range of pathways and exciting careers in the tech sector.

2. Background and History

Digital Xtra Fund was created in February 2016 by the Digital Scotland Business Excellence Partnership whose members included representatives from the public and digital technologies sectors with the aim of supporting activities which help young people develop digital skills.



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Through providing small grants to projects, the Fund aimed to increase access to high-quality extracurricular activities for people aged 16 years and under in the areas of coding, digital making, data and computing science. The goal is for every young person in Scotland to have access to a digitally creative activities, regardless of their gender, background, or where they live, and equip them with a better understanding of the future career opportunities these skills provide.

In 2016, £400k of funding was awarded through Digital Xtra Fund to 22 projects across two funding rounds. This engaged over 15,000 young people in digital making activities across the country. An independent evaluation by Hall Aitken highlighted the success of the Fund in supporting young people to take part in digital and computing activities, increasing the numbers of adults trained to deliver extracurricular activities, extending the reach of coding activities across Scotland and increasing the participation of disadvantaged young people and females.

In 2017, Digital Xtra Fund became an independent charity to enable it to work with a wider range of stakeholders and become a sustainable, long-term initiative. A key aim was to secure financial contributions from a wider range of partners; with employers in the technology sector being a particular focus.

Additional funding was secured from a variety of partners and £50,000 was awarded in 2017 to 11 more activities. These initiatives engaged over 4,200 young people and achieved a female engagement of 49.6%.

Examples of funded projects thus far include:

- Scottish Libraries and Information Council (SLIC) and Raspberry Pi Foundation partnership which trained public library employees to deliver Code Clubs to young people aged between 9 & 11 years across all Local Authority Library Services.
- Apps for Good is known for their inspiring programme of teaching young people to code for social good. Digital Xtra Fund has supported their work across Scotland to deliver courses where young people can build, market and launch digital products, from apps to IoT devices.
- Support for Stirling High School and CodeBase Stirling saw the development of a Digital Learning Hub to act as a foundation for a sustainable ecosystem of peer learning and collaboration between the High School and their feeder primary schools. The Hub will enabled 170 pupils to learn Scratch and Python as well as use Raspberry Pi kits to further explore gaming, the weather, and even autonomous vehicles.



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- Queens Cross Housing Association and Glasgow Kelvin College developed a wide range of workshops, activities and coding experiences for young people aged 9 – 16 years from disadvantaged areas in North Glasgow.
- Scottish Council for Development & Industry's (SCDI) Young Engineers and Science Clubs provided CPD training to enable teachers in the Highlands, Moray, Western Isles, Perth & Kinross Argyll & Bute, and the Scottish Borders to deliver the Little Lighthouse project, which uses lighthouses to teach STEM concepts, such as coding, electricity, and light

A fourth round of funding for £75,000 opened for applications in the summer of 2018, supported by both public and private sector funders. Applicants may once again apply for up to £5,000 in support of their activity.

The objectives for the fourth round of grant awards will be:

Core Objective:

- Inspire young people to learn advanced digital technologies skills through high quality, exciting extracurricular activities

Primary Objectives:

- Increase number of young people learning advanced digital skills across Scotland
- Increase diversity and inclusion of young people learning advanced digital skills among:
 - audiences currently unengaged in digital technologies
 - audiences from areas often excluded from digital tech activities through lack of local facilities or geography (i.e. areas of high deprivation and/or rural isolation)
 - groups underrepresented in the digital technologies sector (i.e. girls and young women and/or minority groups)
- Engage with industry to better contextualise the breadth of careers in digital technologies
- Promote digital technologies as an attractive career path including highlighting various career pathways

Secondary Objectives:

- Increase number of young people inspired to study digital technologies related courses in school
- Increase the number of educational establishments and organisations participating in digital technologies related extracurricular activity
- Dispel negative perceptions about digital technologies activities and careers
- Seek to develop confidence, self-esteem, leadership, and employability skills amongst young people



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The Fund is now at a crucial stage of development, having started to generate greater private sector contributions but not yet fully self-sustaining.

As well as the success of engaging thousands of young people in digital making, Digital Xtra Fund has established a strong brand identity and is seen by many stakeholders as playing a crucial role in encouraging greater uptake of digital skills amongst young people. Other practical areas of support, including an interactive map detailing Scotland's extracurricular digital activities and a list of key engagement providers have also been developed.

3. Our Governance

Digital Xtra Fund is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC047272). We are governed by a Trustee Board, currently made up of six trustees from across the public, private and third sector with an interest in young people and digital skills.

Current trustee biographies can be found on our website at:

<http://www.digitalxtrafund.scot/trustees>

Digital Xtra Fund has one full-time paid member of staff who is responsible for running the organisation, raising funds and managing grants.

4. Who we are looking for

Digital Xtra Fund is currently seeking an enthusiastic and committed Trustee who will help guide the charity, shape our strategic direction, and support our fundraising work. We are particularly interested in individuals with an interest in helping young people learn and an understanding of the digital technologies sector.

We are also interested in hearing from people with a communications and marketing background.

5. General duties of a charity trustee

A charity trustee must:

- Act in the interest of the charity.
- Operate in a manner consistent with the charity's purposes. Trustees should carry out their duties in accordance with the charity's governing document.



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- Act with due care and diligence. Trustees should take such care of charity's affairs as is reasonable to expect of someone who is managing the affairs of another person.
- Ensure that the charity complies with the provisions of [The Charities and Trustee Investment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#) and other relevant legislation.

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) has more information on the general duties of charity trustees: <https://scvo.org.uk/projects-campaigns/terrific-trustees>

6. Level of participation

Trustees will commit to participate, as far as is possible, in:

- Regular meetings of the Trustee Board (every 2 months)
- Ad hoc meetings of the Trustee Board (if necessary)
- Being an ambassador for the organisation in their day-to-day activities
- Completing specific tasks agreed to support the organisation

Trustee Board meetings generally take place either in Linlithgow (Digital Xtra Fund is hosted by ScotlandIS, the trade association for Scotland's digital technologies industry) or via phone / videoconference.

7. Remuneration

This is a voluntary position without remuneration.

8. How to apply

Sounds interesting? Please send a CV and covering letter by noon on 3rd December to: info@digitalxtrafund.scot

We would also be happy to arrange a quick chat with an existing trustee if required.



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