

digitalXtra fund



20-21 IMPACT REPORT

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We awarded
£110,000



for digital skills activities
in Scotland...



across **24**
local authorities



Aberdeenshire	51
Angus	228
Argyll & Bute	213
Clackmannanshire	294
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	83
Dundee	24
East Lothian	34
Edinburgh	1,494
Fife	71
Falkirk	526
Glasgow	221
Highland	1,597
Inverclyde	12
Midlothian	272
North Lanarkshire	778
Orkney	122
Perth & Kinross	196
Renfrewshire	1
Scottish Borders	40
Shetland Islands	44
South Lanarkshire	143
Stirling	94
West Dunbartonshire	39
West Lothian	394

Engagement per Local Authority

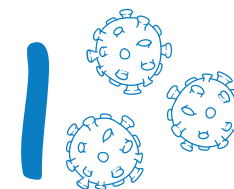
We supported **25** initiatives...



19
were delivered
during the
pandemic



5
were carried
over to the 2021/22
academic year



1
was unfortunately
cancelled due to the
pandemic



We reached

6,971



young people!



including

3,586
girls and
young women

Age range of participants

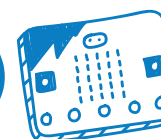
124 Early Learning
& Childcare

3,084 Primary age

3,763 Secondary age

We also donated

1,880



micro:bits

to schools and organisations
across Scotland in partnership
with the Micro:bit Educational
Foundation, including 1,250
micro:bits during lockdown to
specifically support remote
learning



Case Study 1

Digital Xtra Fund's response to Covid-19

In January 2020, 25 schools and organisations started delivery of extracurricular tech activities to engage young people across the country. Then, on 19 March 2020, they were given one day's notice they would be shut for the foreseeable future to reduce the spread of Covid-19. The next day, pupils went to school for the last time until 5 months later.

Even upon returning, the disruption was immense and interactions amongst young people, educators, and volunteers was massively restricted. With such an unprecedented situation, Digital Xtra Fund had to remain flexible, support the grant recipients, and not lose sight of our priority – to help excite young people about tech. As such, Digital Xtra Fund made three amendments to the 2020 grant awards:

- The delivery period for all grant recipients was extended by 6 months to 30 June 2021
- Grant recipients could amend their activity to focus on engaging young people remotely or within class “bubbles”
- If needed, grant recipients could postpone or cancel their activity without penalty

Ultimately, 19 initiatives were delivered during the pandemic, 5 elected to postpone until the 2021/22 academic year, and 1 project was unfortunately cancelled. In a year like no other, Digital Xtra Fund would like to commend all grant recipients for their hard work and thank them for their resilience and focus on ensuring children still had meaningful engagements with technology.



Case Study 2

Heart of Midlothian Innovation Centre

A football stadium may seem an unlikely place to learn about technology, but for an increasing number of young people across Edinburgh (and beyond), it's a valuable addition to their community. Heart of Midlothian Football Club's Innovation Centre runs a range of courses to help young people learn key digital skills and learn about a career in technology.

As part of the fifth round of grant awards, Digital Xtra Fund helped the Innovation Centre introduce a new initiative teaching young people how to design and develop their own apps with a beneficial social impact. Young people worked in groups, supported by industry volunteers, to determine real world problems that could be solved, or improved, with the application of technology.

Tanya Howden, Digital Education Programme Manager for the Innovation Centre, explains, “We encourage them to think about the things they care about. We consider the problems they encounter in their daily lives, or in the lives of friends and family.

“Then, we encourage them to think of tech-based solutions to these problems; reassuring them that there are no bad ideas at this stage. It gives the young people real ownership over their ideas and encourages them to get far more involved.”

The Centre hosted two in-person sessions before having to move everything online due to the pandemic. However, through quick action and hard work from the staff, the programme still ran throughout the year engaging 34 young people across three cohorts, including one all-girls cohort.



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To find out more please contact us:



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