



The Wellbeing Fund: Analysis of Awards made through the Open Application Process and the Small Grants Fund



PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

Contents

Summary	3
1. Introduction	6
2. The Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process	7
Funding criteria for the Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process	8
Analysis of application data.....	8
Limitations of the data.....	9
3. Overview of applications and awards	9
4. Analysis by geography	12
5. Analysis of awards in relation to deprivation levels and vulnerability to the impacts of Covid-19	16
6. Analysis by target beneficiary group	20
Needs identified for different target groups	22
7. Analysis by project focus	24
Organisational responses to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.....	26
8. Primary reasons for applications being unsuccessful	29
9. The Small Grants Fund	31
10. Small Grants Fund: Distribution of Funding	32
Annex 1: Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process: Local authority-level summary.....	34

Summary

This report provides an analysis of the data on applications and awards made through the Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process and the Small Grants Fund. These funds were part of the Scottish Government's initial 350 million overall package of funding support to communities, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.¹

The Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process was set up in partnership between the Scottish Government and national third sector organisations: the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), Corra Foundation, Inspiring Scotland and The Hunter Foundation. It took place in two open application rounds between April-June 2020. Third sector organisations across Scotland were able to apply for funding for projects responding to critical emerging needs within vulnerable target groups.

The Small Grants Fund was set up as part of the Scottish Government's Wellbeing Fund to distribute small amounts to support local voluntary groups' responses to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This report provides analysis of the distribution of this funding. It provides information about the geographical distribution of both funds across local authority areas. For the Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process, the report analyses the distribution of funding across SIMD categories, to different target groups and in relation to project themes. The report provides insights into the emerging needs faced by Scotland's communities and the kinds of projects that were funded.

The key findings in this report are:

For the Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process:

- £21,582,333 was distributed to 955 organisations through the fund.
- There were a total of **1563** applications. The application success rate was 61%.
- The average award size was **£22,599**. The majority of awards were for smaller amounts, showing that the fund was successful in reaching smaller and community-based organisations.
- Organisations requested funding to support rapid adaptation of their work with vulnerable communities in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions. Many organisations sought funding in order to adapt their support activities so that they could be delivered remotely. Others requested funding

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/news/helping-communities-affected-by-covid-19/>

to scale up existing or new activities to meet critical new needs in their communities.

- Organisations all across Scotland benefited from the funding. Twenty-six percent of the funding was awarded to organisations working nationally. Twenty-eight percent went to organisations that work in more than one local authority area. Twenty-nine percent went to organisations working in a single local authority area. Seventeen percent of the funding was to organisations working within a specific community.
- In absolute terms, organisations working in Glasgow City and the City of Edinburgh received the most funding, £4 million and £2.25 million respectively. This reflects the high concentration of population and third sector organisations in these local authorities.
- In terms of amounts received by organisations working in different local authorities by head of population, relatively higher levels of per capita funding went to organisations working in Na h-Eileanan Siar, Glasgow City, Orkney, Edinburgh and Inverclyde.
- The lowest levels of funding per capita went to organisations working in East Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, Falkirk, Shetland and East Dunbartonshire.
- This variation in funding looks different depending on what measure is used, and no single factor explains all the variation. Relevant factors include: variation in rates of application from different areas; variation in sizes of application from different areas; variation in concentrations of third sector organisations in different areas; variation in the degree of negative impacts of Covid-19 being experienced by groups in different areas; the extent to which areas had already received relevant support and funding from other sources; the degree to which the fund was promoted to organisations in each local area.
- The negative impacts of Covid-19 disproportionately affect people and communities which are already affected by different aspects of deprivation. Analysis of a subset of awarded organisations in relation to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) finds that awards to organisations working in a single local area were overwhelmingly targeted to areas of higher deprivation. Among organisations where SIMD data was available, over 72% of the funding went to organisations working in the two most deprived SIMD quintiles. Forty-eight percent of funding went to organisations working in the most deprived SIMD quintile (the most deprived 20% of Scottish postcodes).
- For the proportion of organisations for which we had relevant data (organisations working in a single local area), the analysis also finds that awards were strongly directed towards areas of higher likely vulnerability to

the negative impacts of Covid-19, according to the British Red Cross Covid-19 Vulnerability Index. We found that 40% of the amount awarded went to organisations working in areas that were in the highest-risk quintile (the 20% of areas where populations were at highest risk of negative effects of Covid-19). Almost 70% of the funding was awarded to organisations working in the two quintiles where vulnerability to the negative impacts of Covid-19 was highest.

- Applicants were asked to indicate a broad target group for their project. Thirty-two percent of the funding went to organisations targeting children and families; 12% went to projects targeting disabled people; 11% to older people; 9% to younger people; and 8% to minority communities. Twenty-three percent of the total value awarded was to organisations choosing the 'Other' category as the project target group. These projects typically targeted highly vulnerable or at-risk people across multiple target group categories.
- Applicants were also asked to categorise their project within a broad thematic category. The majority (61%) of the funding was awarded to projects aiming to tackle mental health and wellbeing. Food was the focus for 16% of the project funding, reflecting the fact that the Communities Fund had also put in place a separate £70 million Food Fund in place in response to the crisis.

For the Small Grants Fund:

- £4,023,000 was distributed through 1543 grants.
- The average grant amount was **£2,607**.
- Organisations based in the local authority areas of Glasgow City (£524,000) and City of Edinburgh (£305,000) received the largest share of funding.
- Organisations based in the local authority areas of East Renfrewshire (£32,000), Orkney (£56,000) and East Dunbartonshire (£60,000) received the smallest shares of funding.
- When weighted for population size, the data show that organisations based in South Ayrshire (£4.19), Na h'-Eileanan Siar (£3.29) and Orkney (£2.51) received the largest share of funding per person living in the local authority area.
- Organisations based in East Renfrewshire (£0.33), Aberdeenshire (£0.32) and Stirling (£0.28) received the least per person living in the local authority area.

1. Introduction

On 18 March 2020, in response to the emerging Covid-19 pandemic, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government announced a £350 million package of Communities Funding support, of which £125 million was committed to the third sector.² This rapid response was a reflection of Ministers' concerns about the seriousness of the situation, and their recognition of the need for additional support to enable the third sector to move quickly to support Scotland's communities during the crisis.

The Communities Fund consisted of four funding streams, including a £50 million '**Wellbeing Fund**' to support third sector activities. The Wellbeing Fund included the following four funding strands, developed in partnership with national third sector organisations, local authorities and Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs):

An **Immediate Priorities Fund** which provided investment through national partners to support Scotland-wide or multi-area work. Ministers agreed recipients of this funding by early April. As of 8 June 2020 around £12 million had been awarded to 110 projects and 93 partners.³

Additional funding of £2 million was allocated to **Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs)** to enable them to adapt their ways of working during lockdown and to increase activity designed to support the third sector response.

A **Open Application Process** for third sector organisations seeking funding to enable them to respond to urgent emerging needs within vulnerable communities.

A **Small Grants Fund** responsible for issuing rapid small grants to local charities and social enterprises.

This paper presents analysis of the awards made through the **Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process** and the **Small Grants Fund**, using data gathered through the application process for these funds.

For both funds, the paper analyses the number and value of awards and the distribution of awards across local authorities.

For the Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process this paper also presents data on awards for projects working with different target groups; awards for different project types; awards in relation to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and the British Red Cross Covid-19 Vulnerability Index; and the primary reasons for applications being unsuccessful.

² www.gov.scot/news/helping-communities-affected-by-covid-19

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/immediate-priorities-fund-organisations-funded/>

The paper also presents some qualitative analysis of the kinds of projects being funded, and the needs that these were intended to meet.

This paper is an analysis of the distribution of awards, not an evaluation of the impact of the Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process or the Small Grants Fund. Evaluation will be based on end-of-project reporting and is planned to begin in late 2020.

2. The Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process

The Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process was set up in partnership between the Scottish Government and national third sector organisations: the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), Corra Foundation, Inspiring Scotland and The Hunter Foundation. The local knowledge of Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) was also engaged to help to mobilise and assess applications. This broad partnership allowed for the fund to be developed quickly, incorporating high levels of due diligence, and ensured strong outreach to organisations and communities across Scotland

The Open Application Process was coordinated by SCVO and supported by a team of assessors from the funding organisations and the TSIs. The assessment process was designed to be rapid but also rigorous, with each application assessed by both TSIs and funders. Clear guidance and parameters were provided to all assessors to ensure the process was robust. TSIs provided local contextual insight while the funders focused their assessment on financial rigour and due diligence. Organisations with strong applications which met the criteria but were unsuccessful in the first round were encouraged to reapply in the second round. All applicant organisations were given feedback that could support them to submit a second application, or to apply for alternative funds elsewhere.

The Open Application Process took place in two rounds between April and June 2020.

The fund applications provide compelling evidence of how organisations across Scotland were rapidly adapting their work to be able to meet the challenges posed by Covid-19 and the lockdown. Organisations typically requested funding for a wide range of adaptive responses, including:

- Support to adapt and deliver existing programmes using online and remote approaches, allowing organisations to continue to reach communities/groups that might otherwise have become inaccessible due to the lockdown.

- Support to scale up or to develop new programmes in order to meet acute emerging needs among vulnerable groups – for example, ensuring access to food, medication and other types of support for groups most affected by Covid-19 and lockdown.

Funding criteria for the Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process

The fund was open to applications from any third sector organisation working anywhere in Scotland. Applications for the Open Application Process were assessed against the following criteria:

- Applicants needed to demonstrate that their proposed project would meet new and acute needs which had developed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Applicants were required to show that their project would target a vulnerable group or community.
- Applicants were encouraged to demonstrate that they were engaged in local coordination with other organisations delivering similar or related projects, in order to reduce duplication of efforts and to target funding towards needs as effectively as possible.
- Only applications for grants of between £5,000-£100,000 were considered for awards.
- For organisations seeking amounts smaller than £5,000, steps were taken to passport their applications to other funds. In the first round of applications, organisations applying for less than £5,000 were contacted directly by Inspiring Scotland and Hunter Foundation and invited to apply for a small grant through the Wellbeing Fund Small Grants Fund. In the second round, any organisation applying for less than £5,000 was diverted to the National Emergency Trust Fund (administered by Foundation Scotland).
- In order to support a rapid assessment and due diligence process, and to distribute funds quickly, applicants could not apply for more than 20% of their annual turnover, based on the previous year's set of accounts.
- Projects were short-term responses lasting three months or less.
- Organisational governance and financial situation were assessed, with applicant organisations required to demonstrate that they had an asset lock in place,⁴ as well as a sufficiently stable financial position to deliver the project.

Analysis of application data

Application and award data were collected for all organisations. This includes organisational information as well as details of the proposed projects, target groups, and intended outcomes. Scottish Government analysts undertook analysis of the

⁴ The term 'asset lock' refers to a constitutional requirement that any profits arising from trading or other income generation activities, or assets arising in the event that an organisation ceases operating, shall be reinvested in the organisation or the beneficiary community and not distributed to private owners, shareholders or investors.

applications from Rounds One and Two, and data about applications and awards has been published on <https://community-funding-mapping-1-1-scotgov.hub.arcgis.com/>.

Analysts also undertook limited text-based analysis of the needs that applicants identified for each target group, and the types of activities that applicants proposed to deliver through their Wellbeing Fund projects.⁵

Limitations of the data

Analysis of the geographical data relating to applications and awards has been limited by the fact that many applicant organisations are working across several areas and more than one local authority. This has made it challenging to allocate funds to local authorities, or to undertake full analysis of how funding has been channeled to areas of higher deprivation. Accordingly, the analysis presented here relies on various assumptions, which are set out below.

3. Overview of applications and awards

The Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process was open for two rounds of applications. In Round One there were **1,004** applications to the fund, applying for a total of **£25,073,599**. In Round Two there were a further **559** applications for a total of **£11,497,638**. Across both rounds there were a total of **1,563** applications for a total of **£36,571,237**.

In the first round, 557 awards were made with a total value of almost £13.95 million. In the second round, 398 awards were made with a total value of £7.63 million. Fund assessors recommended **955 projects** for funding, awarding a sum of **£21,582,333**. Overall, across the two rounds, **61%** of all the applications were successful.

Applications in the second round were substantially more likely to be successful than applications in the first round. In Round One **55%** of applications were successful, compared with **71%** in Round Two. Review of the first round highlighted a number of areas where the fund criteria could be clarified and communicated better. In addition, all applicants were given feedback on their applications. As a result, around 100 organisations that were unsuccessful in Round One resubmitted their applications

⁵ This analysis is based on a textual analysis of open questions from the Wellbeing Fund applications, using data downloaded on Thursday 30th April 2020 containing 662 records. For each issue or target group, a random sample of 10-15 applications was selected for analysis, unless there were fewer than 10 applications in the category, in which case all applications were analysed. This is not, therefore, an exhaustive summary of all applications.

based on detailed feedback, and were successful in Round Two. We provide further analysis of the reasons why applications were unsuccessful below.

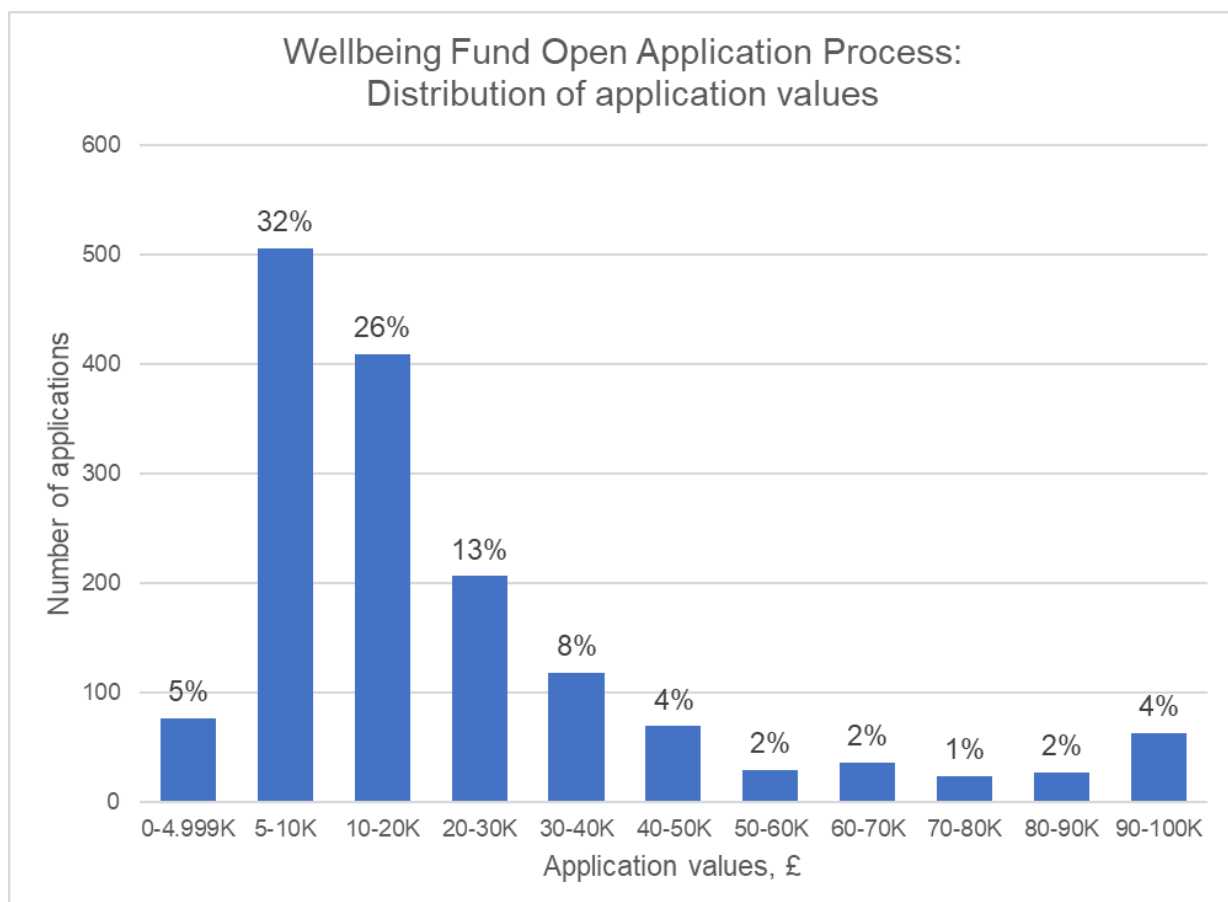
The average application request size across both rounds was **£23,398**.

Analysis of the distribution of application values (Figure 1) shows that many were for relatively low amounts. Five percent of applications were for less than £5,000, and therefore not eligible for funding from the Wellbeing Fund (see above for how these applications were handled). More than half (59%) of the applications were for values between £5,000 and £20,000. Just 16 per cent were for values of £50,000 and above.

The average award size of successful applications was **£22,599**.

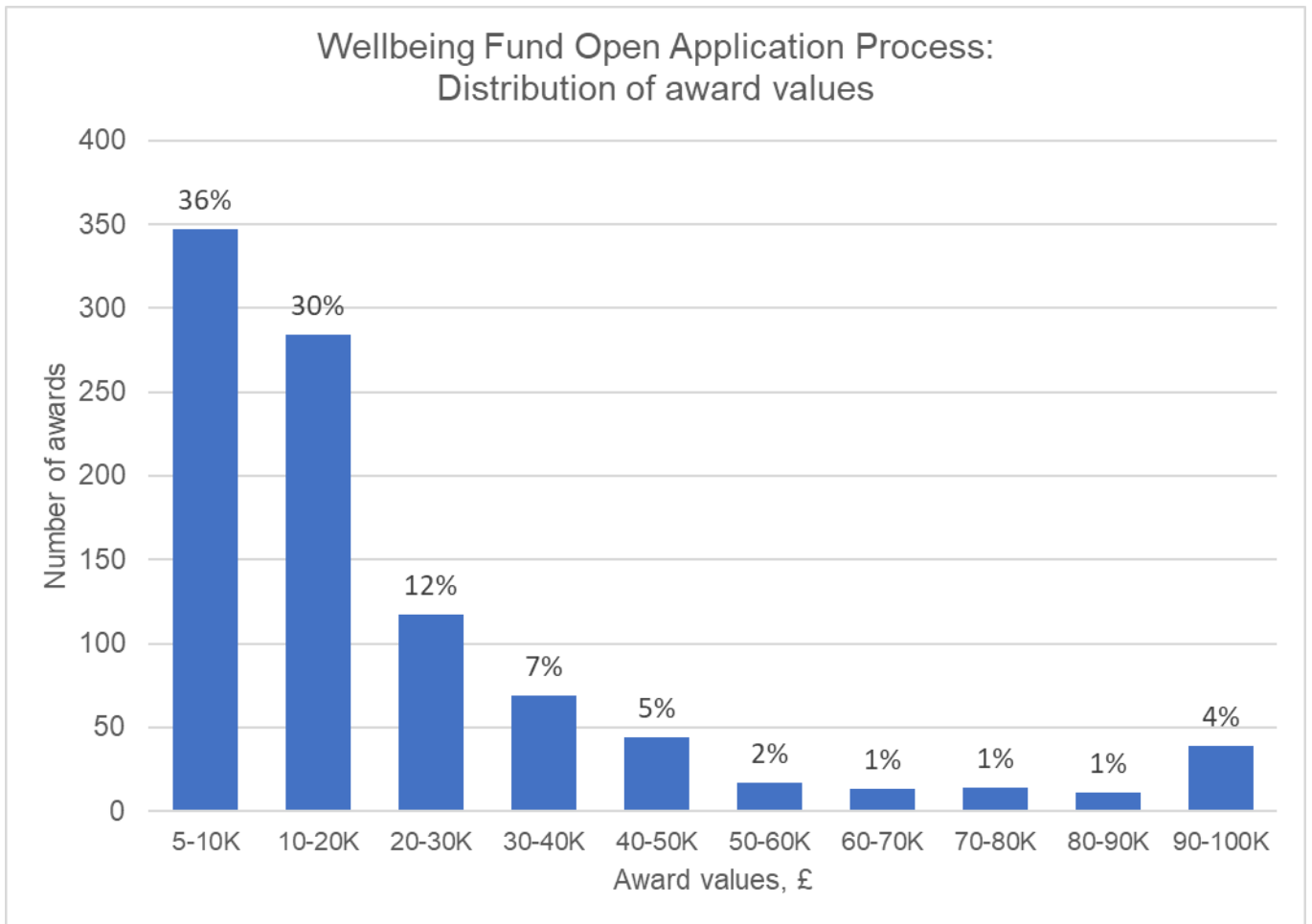
Overall, the distribution of award values (Figure 2) reflected the distribution of application values, with two thirds of awards being made for smaller projects of £20,000 or less, and 36% for projects of £10,000 or less.⁶ Comparison of the distribution for applications and awards suggests that applications for smaller value projects were slightly more successful than those for larger values.

Figure 1: Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process: Distribution of application values



⁶ Percentages do not sum due to rounding.

Figure 2: Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process: Distribution of award values



4. Analysis by geography

Organisations applying to the fund were asked to specify whether they operated across Scotland, across more than one local authority area, across one local authority area or within a specific community. The data on awards for each local authority presented here exclude applications from organisations delivering programmes across Scotland. The data include organisations which specified one or more specific local authorities as their programme delivery areas. It also includes organisations that said they were delivering programmes in a specific community, based on which local authority they are located in. Annex 1 provides more data about the awards for each local authority.

Table 1: Applications and approvals by area of operation of applicant organisations

Operating area of applicant organisation	Number applications	% applicants	Number approved	Amount awarded	% of total value awarded	Average award size
Across Scotland	298	19%	173	£5,676,990	26%	£32,815
Across several local authority areas	355	23%	215	£6,124,492	28%	£28,486
Across one local authority area	526	34%	338	£6,203,216	29%	£18,353
Within a specific community	384	25%	229	£3,577,634	17%	£15,623
Total	1,563		955	£21,582,333	100%	£22,599

An important limitation is that the available data do not provide detailed information about how awards to organisations working across more than one local authority will be spent between the relevant local authority areas specified in their application. For the purposes of this analysis we have notionally allocated the amounts awarded between the relevant local authorities in proportion to each local authority's population. As such, the allocations of awards to local authorities presented here should be seen as indicative only.

Organisations from across Scotland were encouraged to apply for the Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process. However, in practice there was a high level of variation in the rate of applications and awards to organisations from different areas – even when relative population size is taken into account. This may reflect variation in levels of need, variation in Covid-19 case rates, awareness of the funding, ability to access alternative funding or support, density of third sector organisations and

other factors. It is important to note that all applications were considered on their own merits – not in relation to other applications. Based on analysis of the first round of funding, and on feedback from the TSIs, funders were aware of emerging gaps and needs, and made efforts to address these in the second round through strengthened guidance to applicants and awareness sessions with assessors.

The highest numbers of applications and approved applications were from organisations delivering projects in Glasgow and Edinburgh, the largest centres of population and the places with the highest numbers of third sector organisations (Figure 3). In absolute terms, organisations working in Glasgow City and the City of Edinburgh received the most funding, £4 million and £2.25 million respectively.

Organisations delivering projects in island areas and more rural areas such as Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders submitted the lowest numbers of applications.

The highest **rate** of applications, considered per 100,000 people,⁷ came from organisations working in Midlothian (94), Orkney (85) and Inverclyde (85). The lowest rate of applications per 100,000 people came from organisations working in Dumfries and Galloway (21), Aberdeenshire (25) and Highland (30).

⁷ Analysis based on population levels uses the National Records of Scotland mid-year population estimates for 2018. <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates>

Figure 3: Number of successful applications compared with all applications, by local authority

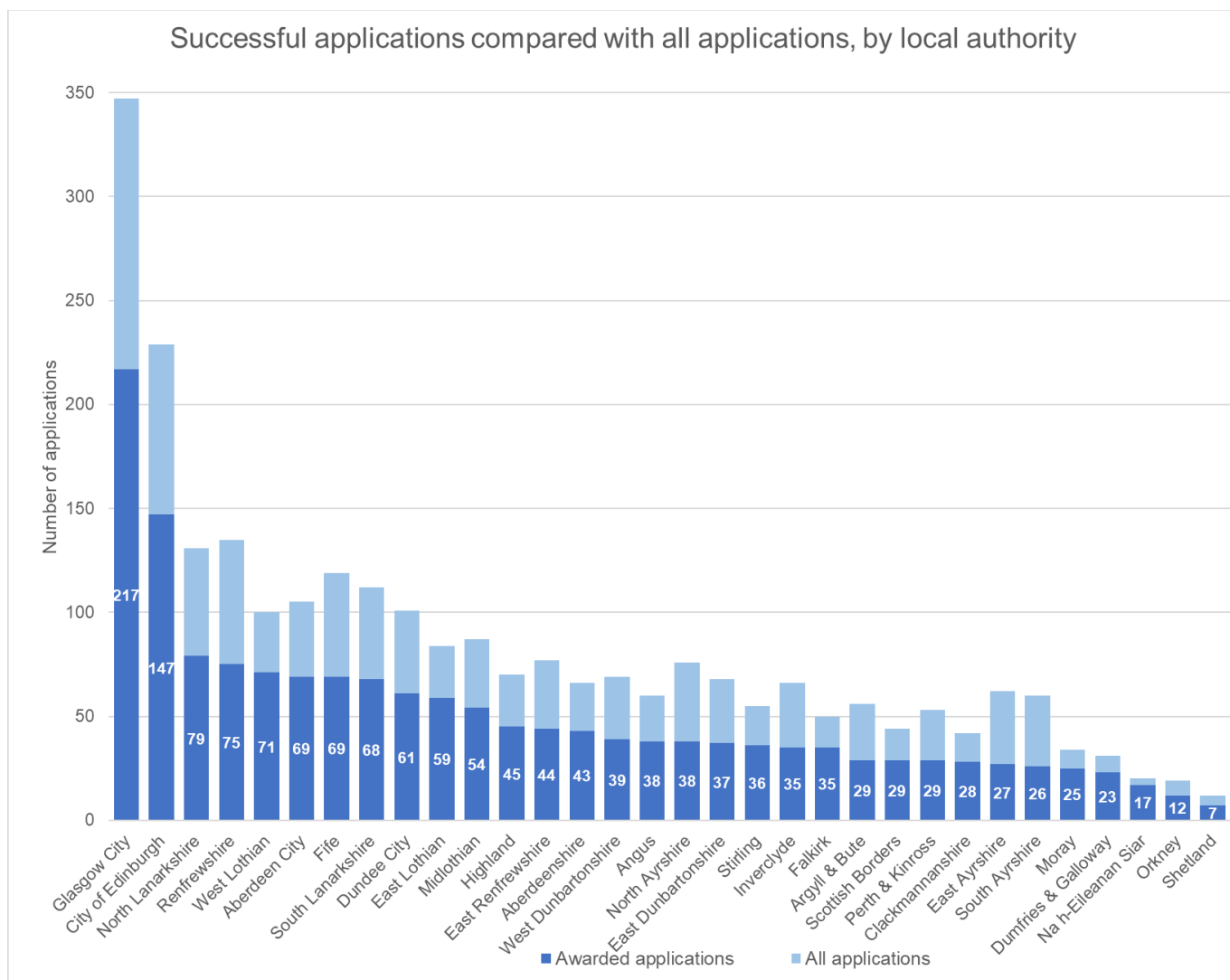


Figure 4 shows the rate of **awards** made per 100,000 people, to organisations working in different local authorities. The lowest rate of awards was to organisations working in Dumfries and Galloway, with 15 applications approved per 100,000 people; other local authorities with low rates of awards per 100,000 people included Moray (16), Fife (18), Highland (19) and Perth & Kinross (19). The highest rate of awards per 100,000 people went to organisations working in Na h-Eileanan Siar (64), Midlothian (58), East Lothian (55), Orkney (54) and Clackmannanshire (54).

Figure 4: Rate of awards made per 100,000 population, by local authority

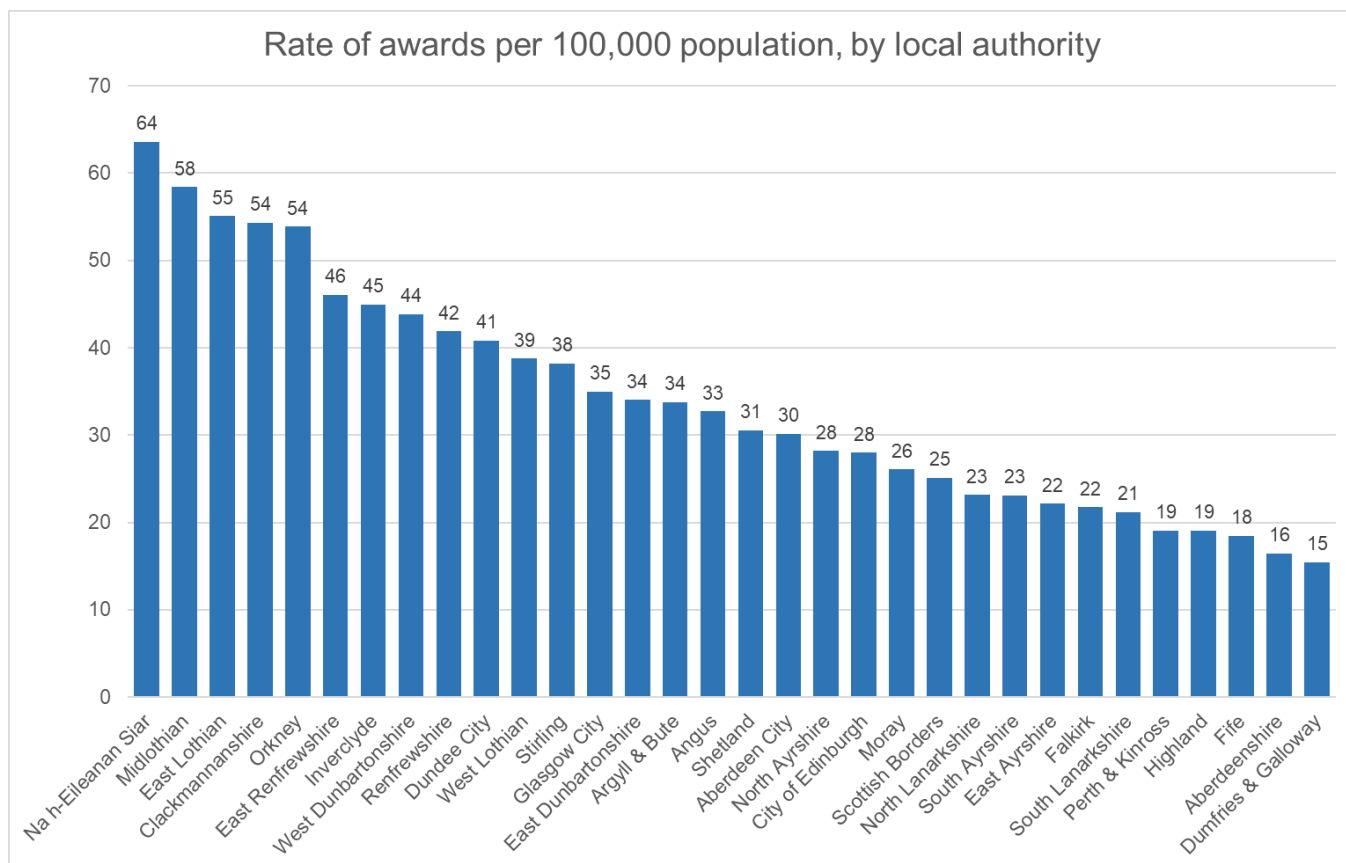
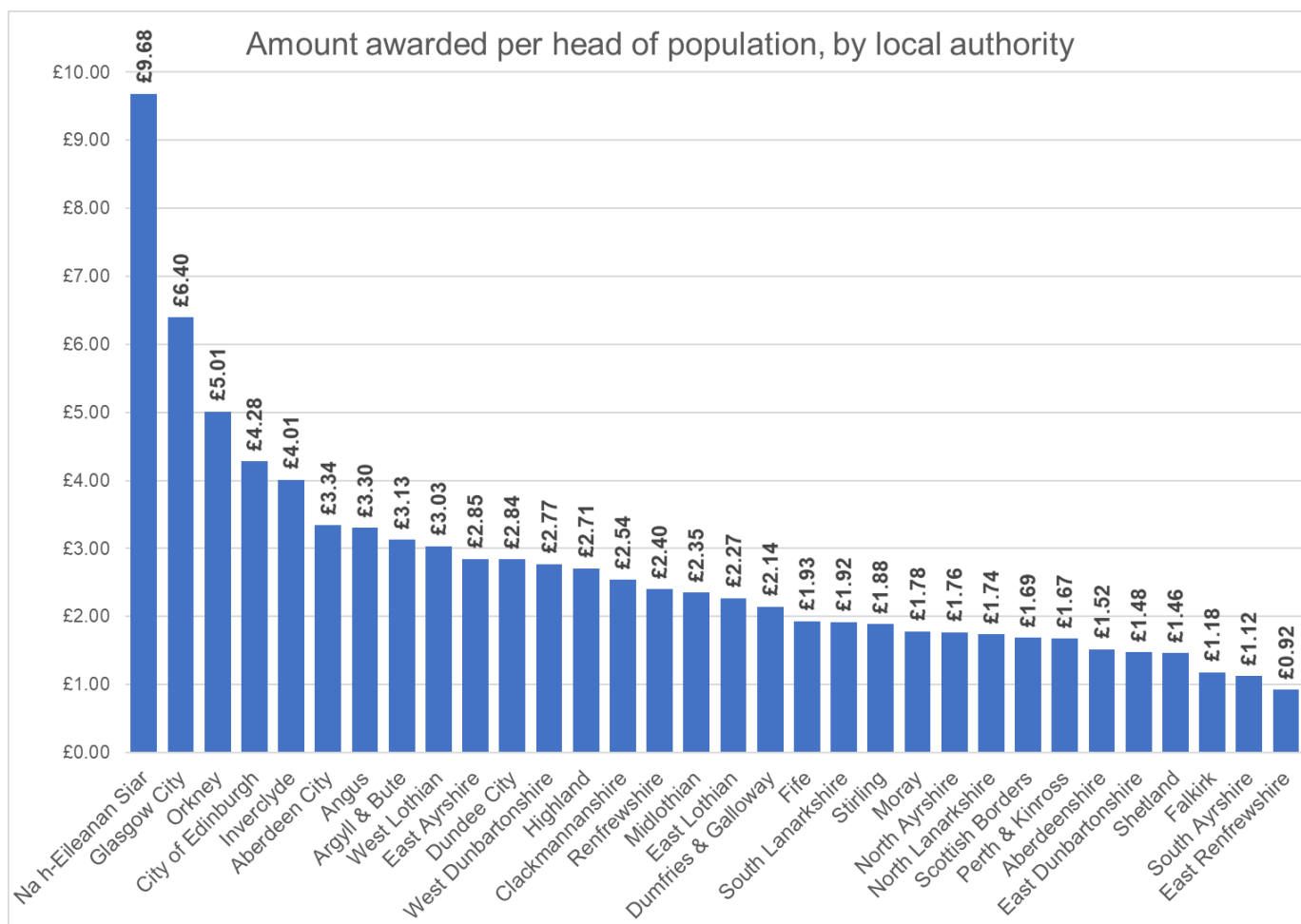


Figure 5 shows the amounts of money awarded to organisations working in different local authorities, by head of population. Allocated on this basis, relatively higher levels of per capita funding went to organisations working in Na h-Eileanan Siar, Glasgow City, Orkney, Edinburgh and Inverclyde. The lowest levels of funding per capita went to organisations working in East Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, Falkirk, Shetland and East Dunbartonshire.

In conclusion, the picture at the level of local authorities depends on what indicator is considered. Consideration of the rate of applications, the rate of successful applications and the amount awarded per capita each give a different picture. The outcomes also depend on the density of third sector organisations in different areas, how many organisations in each local authority applied to the Fund and how much they applied for.

Figure 5: Amount awarded by head of population, by local authority



5. Analysis of awards in relation to deprivation levels and vulnerability to the impacts of Covid-19

Communities affected by social, economic and health deprivation experience increased risk of negative social, economic and health impacts of Covid-19. To meet the fund criteria, organisations were required to demonstrate that their project would support a vulnerable group to respond to an acute need emerging in the face of the pandemic. The qualitative narratives supporting the applications make this very clear. Accordingly, we should expect to see some relationship between awards made, and areas of higher deprivation or higher vulnerability to the impacts of Covid-19.

At the level of local authorities, it is difficult to discern clear patterns of awards in relation to deprivation or vulnerability to the impacts of Covid-19. Rates of awards to organisations working in some local authorities where there are larger numbers of

deprived areas – such as Glasgow City and Inverclyde – were relatively high; in others – such as North and South Ayrshire – they were relatively low.

The pattern of awards reflects the sheer scale of the crisis affecting every local authority, and the fact that every local authority contains areas of high deprivation, and many communities with high levels of emerging needs in the context of Covid-19.

To understand the pattern of awards in relation to deprivation or Covid-19 vulnerability more clearly, we need to look at the data for local project delivery, where this is available.

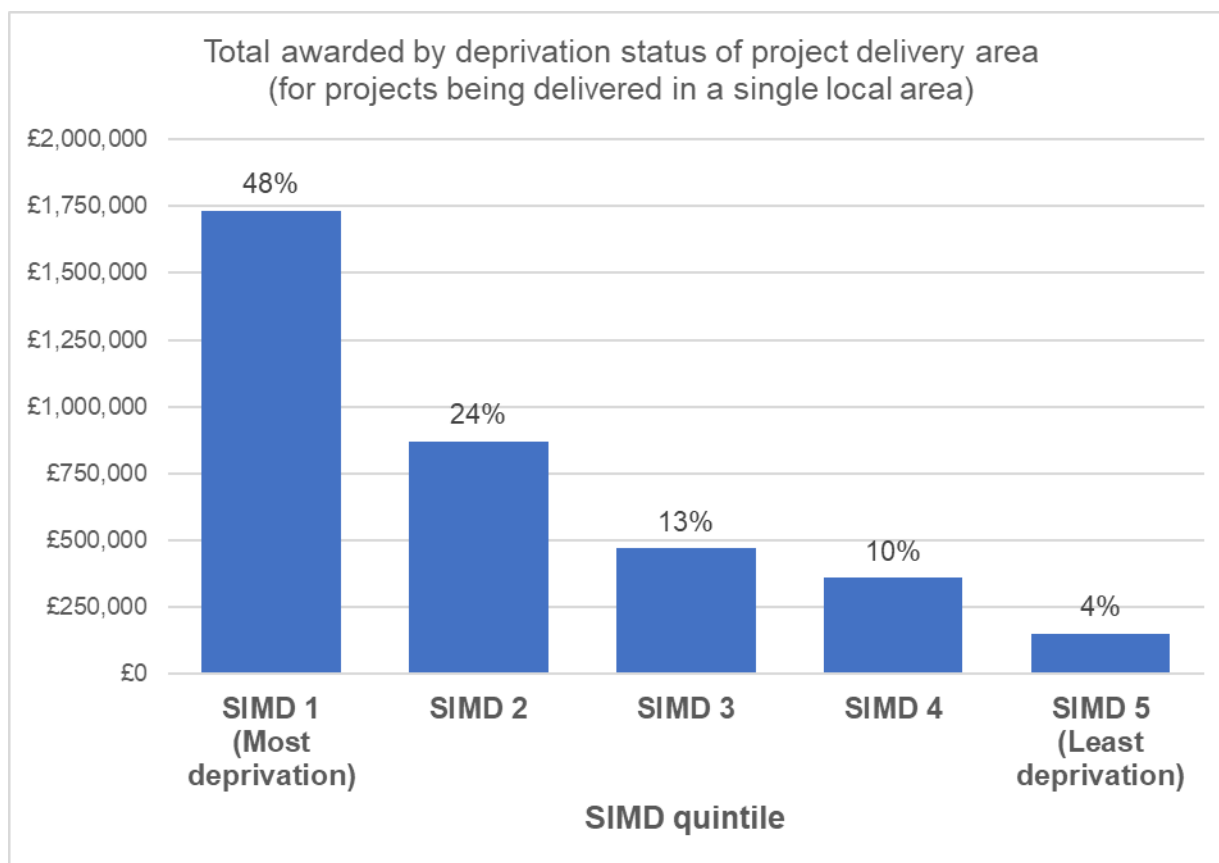
For awards made to organisations which indicated that they were working in a specific local area, we can analyse the spread of awards in relation to deprivation levels, and levels of vulnerability to the impacts of Covid-19. This analysis assumes that the location of the organisation address represents the location of the programme delivery. There were 384 such applications, of which 229 were successful. The total amount awarded to these organisations was £3,577,634.⁸

Mapping these awards to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD),⁹ shows that awards were significantly more likely to be made to organisations working in the areas of greatest need. Overall, 48% of the amount awarded went to organisations working in the most deprived 20% of areas according to the SIMD, and a further 24% went to organisations working in the next most deprived quintile (Figure 6).

⁸ The awarded organisations were located in 211 of the 7000 datazones and 187 of the 1300 intermediate zones represented.

⁹ The SIMD splits Scotland into 6,976 equal areas of roughly the same population size. It uses 38 indicators to measure different aspects of deprivation, including unemployment, crime and travel times to local GP surgeries. It then uses these to rank each data zone depending on its level of deprivation. For more information, see: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

Figure 6: Total awarded by deprivation status of project delivery area



Whilst vulnerability to the negative impacts of Covid-19 is likely to be concentrated in communities experiencing social, economic and health deprivation, other groups are also significantly affected across all areas of the population – notably older people, and people with particular health conditions that place them at higher risk of poor outcomes if they contract Covid-19.

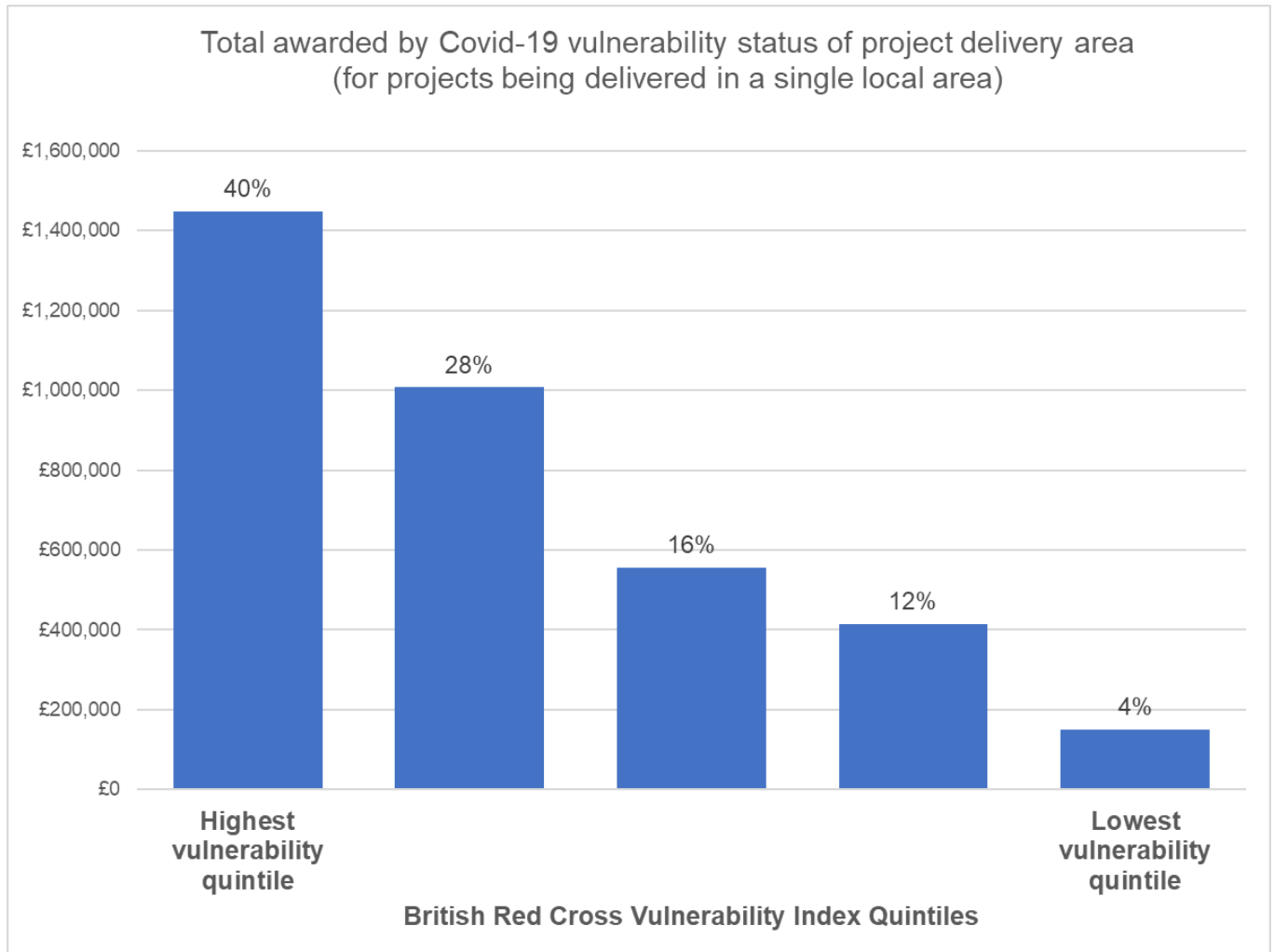
At the outset of the pandemic, the British Red Cross developed a ‘Covid-19 Vulnerability Index’.¹⁰ This index combines data on population demographics, health, economic status, geographic isolation and other indicators in order to give an overall ranking of different places across the UK in terms of their population’s relative vulnerability to the impacts of Covid-19. As with the SIMD, postcode areas are classified into one of five quintiles, where the first quintile represents the 20% of areas with highest vulnerability to the negative impacts of Covid-19.

When using this ranking to assess the awards for which we have local delivery data (Figure 7), we find that awards were strongly directed towards areas of higher likely vulnerability to the impacts of Covid-19. Overall, 40% of the amount awarded went to

¹⁰ More information about the British Red Cross Covid-19 Vulnerability Index is available here: <https://britishredcrosssociety.github.io/covid-19-vulnerability/> This analysis is based on the Index for Intermediate Zones in Scotland as available at June 2020.

organisations working in areas that were in the highest Covid-19 vulnerability quintile.

Figure 7: Total awarded by Covid-19 vulnerability status of project delivery area



6. Analysis by target beneficiary group

Organisations applying for funding were asked to describe the main target group that their project was intended to support, based on a series of categories. The following table shows the amounts awarded in each category:

Table 2: Applications and awards by target beneficiary group

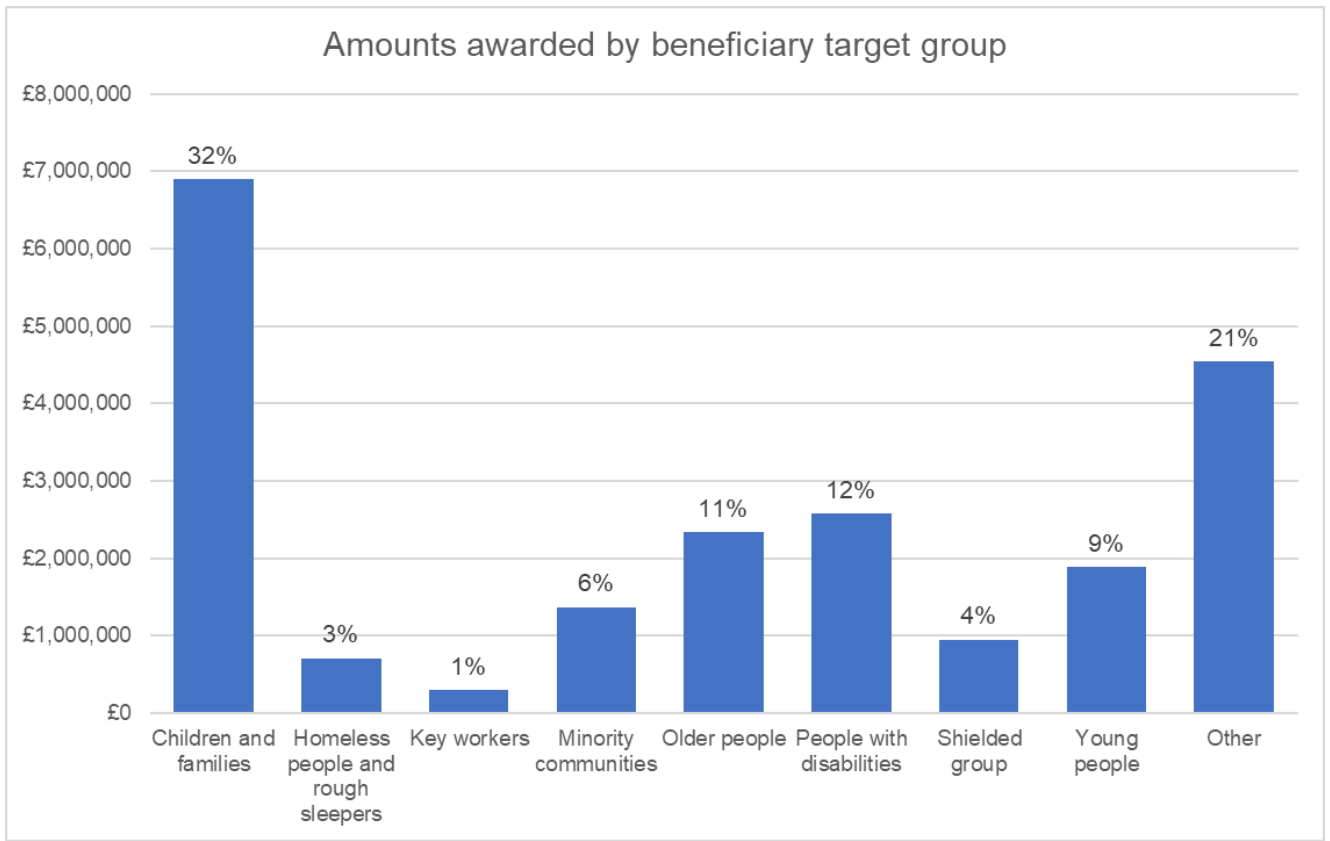
	Number of applications	% applications	Number approved	% approved	Amount awarded	% of total value awarded	Average award size
Children and families	454	29%	284	63%	£6,901,870	32%	£24,302
People with disabilities	173	13%	110	64%	£2,576,808	12%	£23,426
Older people	196	11%	120	61%	£2,341,732	11%	£19,514
Young people	140	9%	84	60%	£1,888,736	9%	£22,485
Minority communities	126	8%	72	57%	£1,368,844	6%	£19,012
Shielded group	75	5%	43	57%	£948,059	4%	£22,048
Key workers	24	2%	11	46%	£298,114	1%	£27,101
Homeless people and rough sleepers¹¹	14	1%	8	57%	£249,292	1%	£31,162
Other	361	23%	223	62%	£5,008,878	23%	£22,461

Children and families was the target group category chosen most frequently by applicants, accounting for 29% of all applications, and 32% of the total amount awarded.

Rates of approval were reasonably similar across the target groups. Projects targeting children and families, older people and people with disabilities had slightly higher rates of approval, while projects targeting key workers had the lowest rates of approval.

¹¹ 'Homeless people and rough sleepers' was added as a separate category only in Round Two of the applications, so the numbers here do not reflect applications from Round One which targeted homeless people.

Figure 8: Funding awarded by beneficiary target group



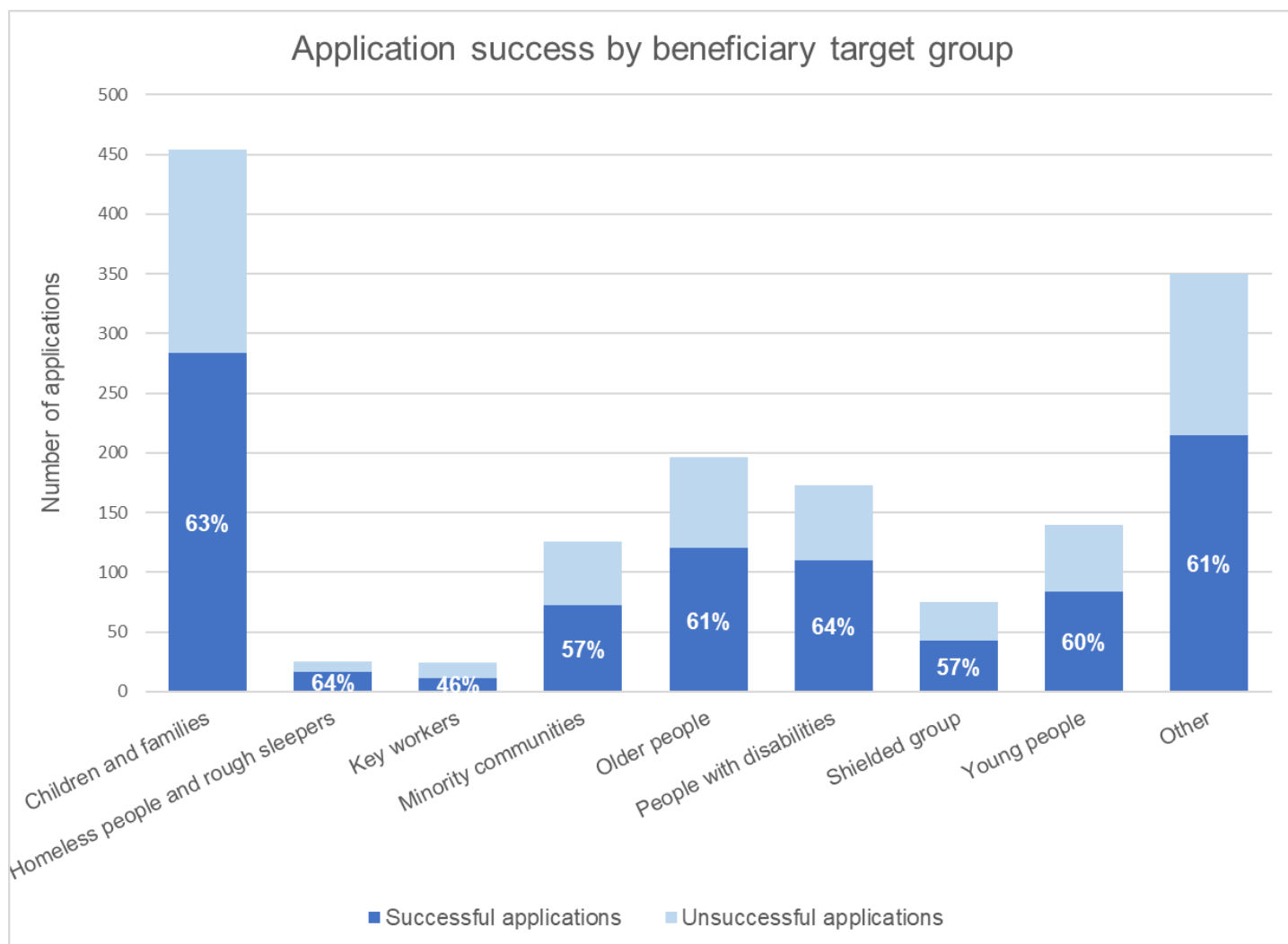
In Round One, we identified that applications targeting minority communities had a lower success rate than applications for projects with other target groups. Our analysis suggested that applications targeting minority communities may have come on the whole from smaller organisations which struggled to meet the fund criteria that the project value must not be greater than 20% of the organisation’s annual income – and must be greater than £5,000. Based on assessor comments it was likely that at least half of these projects would have been successful if they had claimed within the annual turnover threshold.

Reflecting this, applications from organisations working with minority communities were targeted more actively during the second round of applications, and the fund rules about eligibility were communicated more clearly to all applicants. Round One applicants with strong proposals were encouraged to adapt their proposals and reapply. In Round Two, applications targeting minority communities represented a larger proportion of the total number of applications, and had a much higher success rate than in Round One – 68% compared with 45%.

Twenty-three percent of the total value awarded was to organisations choosing the ‘Other’ category as the project target group. These projects typically targeted highly vulnerable or at-risk people across multiple target group categories. Applications mentioned mental health, drug or alcohol addiction, victims of abuse, prisoners,

asylum seekers, people with long-term chronic health problems, veterans, carers, and people experiencing economic or social hardship as a result of the Covid-19 situation.

Figure 9: Application success by beneficiary target group



Needs identified for different target groups

Applications were asked to describe the target group(s) for their project, and the acute new needs these groups were facing. In practice, there was a lot of overlap in the needs identified for different groups. Throughout the applications there was a strong focus on responding to the impacts of social isolation, meeting basic needs, and technological support.

For shielded groups, older people, and people with disabilities, the most common needs that were identified were:

- Mental health/emotional support to alleviate the burden of social isolation and anxiety;
- Social interaction;
- Practical support for accessing groceries, medications and other essentials;
- Financial support for affording essentials such as food, toiletries and utilities;
- Technological support – help affording and/or accessing/using IT equipment such as phones, tablets or laptops and internet access;
- Physical health and exercise support, particularly for those currently missing out on their usual face-to-face appointments with medical professionals and/or exercise sessions to support their health needs.

All five of these areas of need were also commonly identified for the other target groups.

Specific needs identified for **Children and Families** and **Young People** included:

- Educational support in the absence of school (including online resources and access to equipment);
- Domestic violence support and homelessness support;
- Confidence-building, employment support, help applying for benefits, and skills and qualifications training and workshops.

Specific needs identified for **Minority Communities** included:

- Support overcoming barriers to accessing services;
- Provision of culturally- and religiously-sensitive basic essentials to those in need;
- Financial support for those with no recourse to public funds (e.g. asylum seekers).

Specific needs identified for **Key Workers** included:

- Access to safe transport for those without private cars;
- Resilience training and support to help cope with the personal and professional pressures they are currently facing.

7. Analysis by project focus

Organisations applying to the Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process indicated the thematic focus of their project, choosing one of seven categories, as follows:

Table 3: Applications and awards by project thematic focus

	Number applications	% Applications	Number approved	% approved	Amount awarded	% of total value awarded	Average award size
Employment	31	2%	16	52%	£349,969	2%	£21,873
Food	275	18%	167	61%	£3,403,972	16%	£20,383
Home life or housing situation	75	5%	48	64%	£1,709,882	8%	£35,623
Mental health and wellbeing	934	60%	607	65%	£13,057,613	61%	£21,512
Money	45	3%	26	58%	£515,857	2%	£19,841
Physical health	109	7%	43	39%	£1,053,487	5%	£24,500
Other	94	6%	48	51%	£1,491,553	7%	£31,074

Sixty percent of all applications chose ‘mental health and wellbeing’ as their primary activity focus area. ‘Mental health and wellbeing’ likewise accounted for 61% of the total amount awarded by the fund. Food was the second most frequently-chosen activity category, accounting for 18% of applications, and 16% of the funding awarded. At the other end of the scale, ‘employment’ and ‘money’ each accounted for just two percent of the value of awards.

Activity descriptions indicate substantial overlaps between categories, with many projects targeting more than one focus area. It is also noted that the application website highlighted mental health and wellbeing, and this may have led organisations to stress this aspect of their work as part of their applications.

Applications focusing on mental health and wellbeing, home life/housing situation and food had higher rates of approval, with over 60% of applications in those categories being approved. Applications focusing on physical health had the lowest approval rate at just 39%.

The average value of awards was significantly higher for projects in the ‘Housing’ and ‘Other’ categories.

Figure 10: Funding awarded by project activity thematic focus

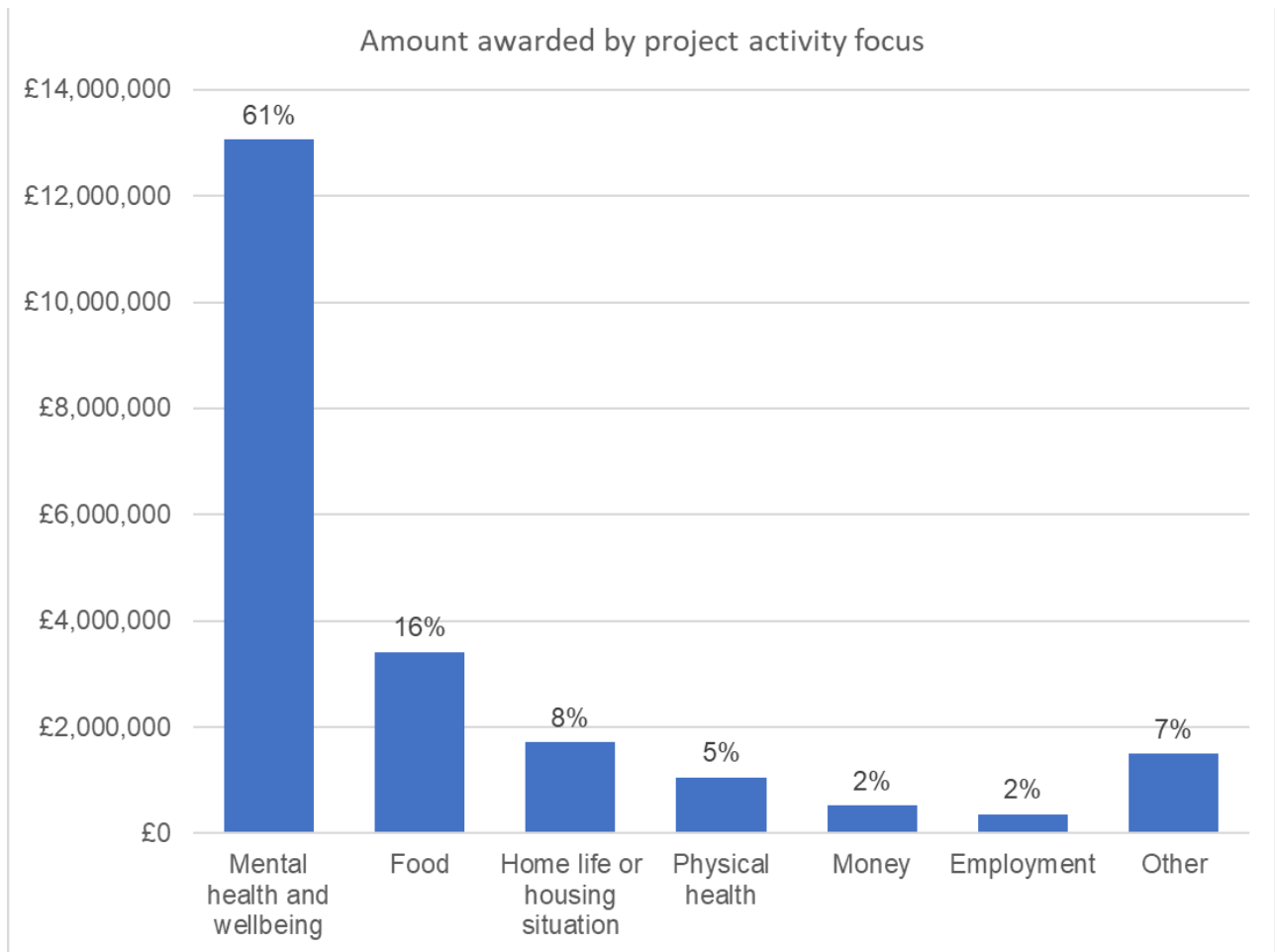
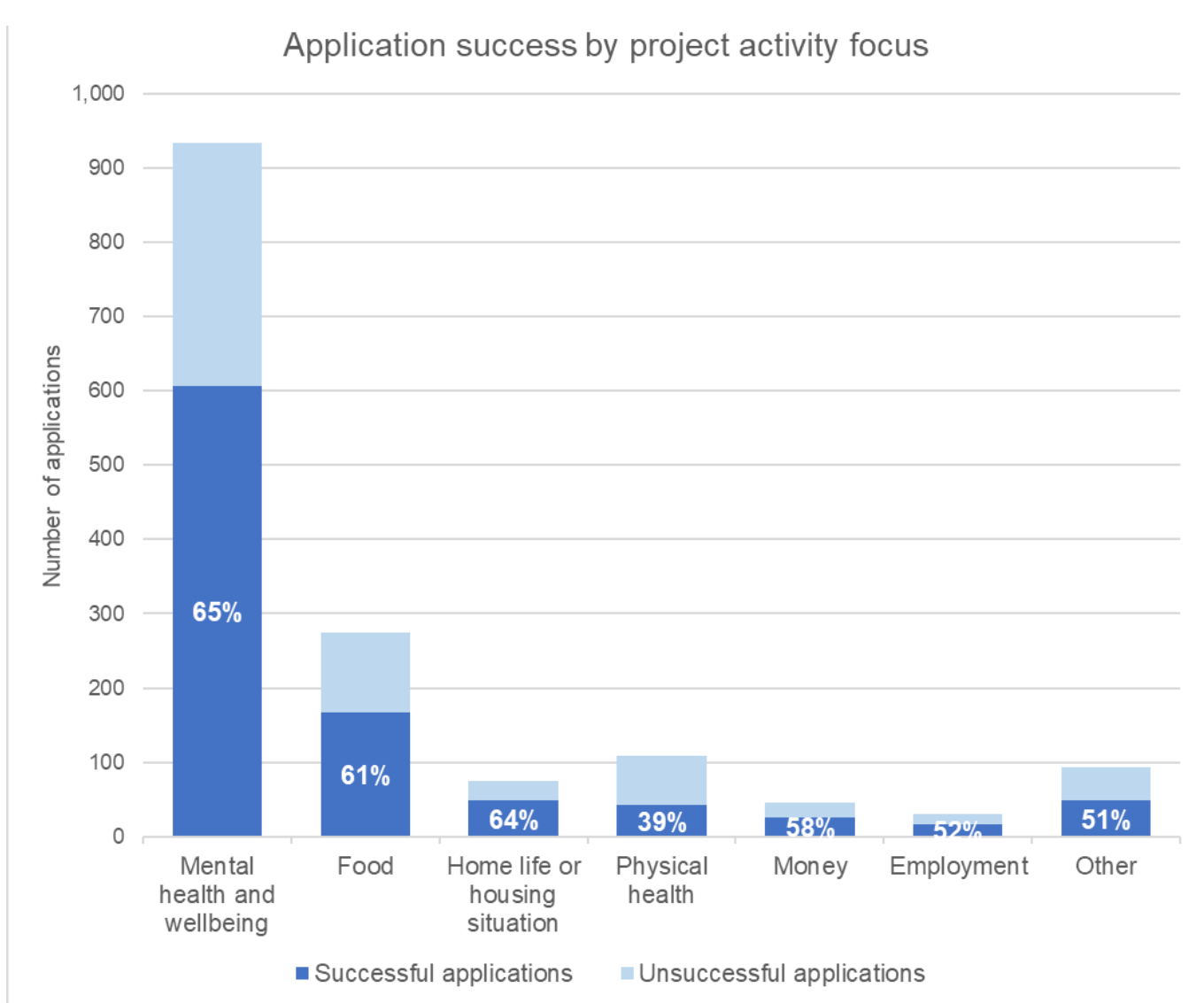


Figure 11: Application success by project activity thematic focus



Organisational responses to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic

In their applications, organisations demonstrated how they were developing a wide range of different approaches and activities in response to the challenges faced by their target communities.

Mental Health

Organisations undertaking projects focusing on mental health included organisations with a primary focus on mental health, and organisations which work on other issues but which had identified new/emerging mental health challenges among the groups that they usually work with.

Typical activities included moving existing services online and/or creating new online services, such as:

- One-to-one mental health coaching and counselling;
- Peer support and social events;
- Information and resources about local services, particular mental health issues relating to Covid 19, and Scottish Government updates;
- Developing bespoke mental health support programmes to cater to the current crisis;
- Befriending services;
- Workshops and classes;
- Connecting with vulnerable children via online games and platforms, and online pen-pals.

Providing practical assistance to service-users including:

- Delivering food and medication, helping with paperwork, providing toys, games and learning equipment for children and young people where needed;
- Calling service-users more regularly to check in, chat, and ask if they need anything;
- Supplying digital devices to clients so they can continue their services online and to help clients stay in touch with friends and family and access online entertainment.

Food

A wide range of organisations were seeking funding to be able to provide food to vulnerable groups, including charities for whom this has always been their primary function, as well as organisations which have switched to food provision in order to respond to people's needs since the Covid-19 crisis began.

The activities primarily reported included:

- Providing emergency food aid for people in food poverty via cooked meals and/or food parcels;
- Providing stationery and toiletries, and delivering prescriptions, alongside food;
- Using currently-closed cafes to cook hot meals for distribution to those in need;
- Many of these organisations have also set up telephone check-in services, befriending services, and/or regular telephone catch ups with those who might be feeling socially isolated.

A number of organisations that were already providing food before the lockdown noted that demand for their services had increased considerably since March 2020.

Physical Health

Services falling into this category included organisations focusing on people with specific health problems/long term illnesses etc; local gyms, sports clubs and community halls/centres; charities providing healthcare; charities linked to hospitals; and fitness organisations targeting specific groups (e.g. disadvantaged young people). Most organisations had significantly changed their activities to respond to Covid-19. For example by providing services to:

- Collect and deliver medications to their members;

- Provide meals, food vouchers, mobile and energy top ups, groceries and technology;
- Provide live and recorded online gym/exercise classes, and exercise cards (many of which are tailored to the specific health needs of the client-group);
- Provide clients with exercise equipment necessary to stay fit at home;
- Provide support for mental wellbeing including telephone support, online social sessions, online befriending, online peer support and online mindfulness;
- Some organisations were also working to convert their large buildings (e.g. community halls) into other facilities such as temporary hospitals or fitness halls.

Home life/housing

A wide range of services were included in this category, including (but not limited to) support for: children with disabilities and their families; women at risk of intimate partner violence; homeless people and those at risk of homelessness; and a range of financially vulnerable groups who might struggle to afford rent, food and utilities. Activities included:

- Providing advice, support and signposting to vulnerable people and families;
- Helping vulnerable groups with grants/vouchers to pay for food and utilities;
- Moving usual support services online/telephone;
- Regularly checking-in on vulnerable families to offer support;
- Running online group sessions for children and respite sessions for their parents;
- Offering services that are usually paid-for free of charge for vulnerable families – e.g. supplying second-hand white goods to clients and home repair work;
- Helping vulnerable groups afford utility bills, phone calls, and food via provision of emergency credit, food parcels, electricity top-ups, and phone top-ups;
- Provision of goods to help children stay entertained and access education (e.g. art and craft kits, lego, art kits, access to internet (dongles and tablets).

Money

Organisations which were already providing some form of money advice/support service sought to scale up existing services such as:

- Providing financial advice;
- Providing emergency financial assistance to specific groups in need via cash, vouchers, phone top-ups etc;
- Support with Universal Credit and benefit applications;
- Moving support activities online/onto a remote basis.

Employment

Organisations which were already providing employment support sought funding to support the following types of activities:

- Ensuring that that young people have the correct IT equipment to engage with learning and employability programmes and activities during lockdown;
- Delivery of learning/employability programmes online, including developing new online content and conducting face-to-face online contact/teaching/mentoring.

8. Primary reasons for applications being unsuccessful

All applications to the Wellbeing Fund bid-in process were assessed by two assessors against a range of criteria. These criteria were intended to ensure that the public funding would be channeled to organisations with strong existing programmes, good project plans, and appropriate financial governance in place. Scottish Government analysis used text analysis to look at the main reasons given by Fund assessors for an application being unsuccessful. The results are shown in the figure below.

In Round One, around 34% of applications were unsuccessful because they did not meet the core fund criteria stating that projects should cost between £5K-£100K, or that project costs should not represent more than 20% of organisational turnover. Recognising this, in Round Two the application process built in technical barriers to ensure that applications would fall within these parameters – with the result that lack of success for these reasons was much less frequent in Round Two.

Reflection on the fund criteria suggests that although there were important reasons for putting these criteria in place, they may have had the unintentional outcome that the fund was less accessible to some organisations in the first round of applications. In the event of a future similar emergency fund being created, more input from the organisations that the fund was seeking to support would help to reduce this risk, if time allowed.

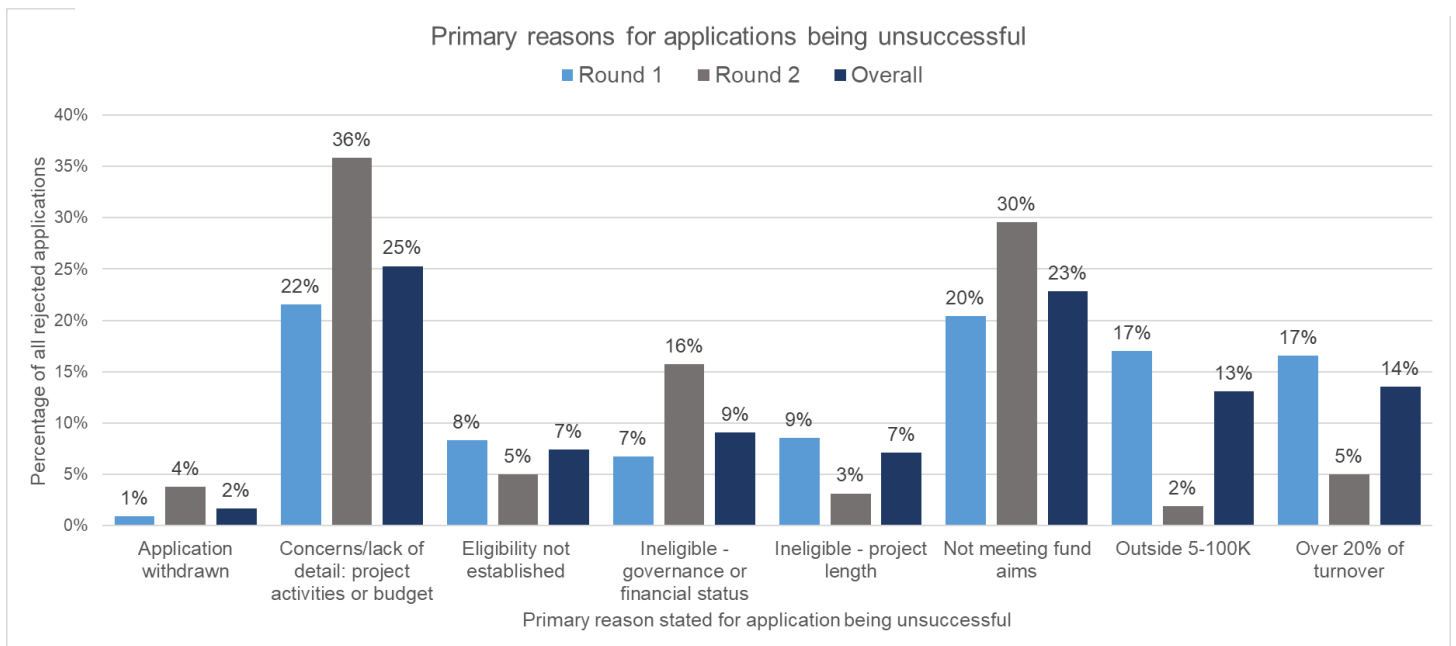
Across both rounds, some 23% of applications were unsuccessful because they did not meet the aims of the fund. This was usually because they were not for projects intended to meet new and acute needs emerging in the context of Covid-19. In many cases, organisations had applied for continuation of existing work, or for costs not related to the proposed project. Similarly, around seven percent of applications were unsuccessful because they were for longer-term work, lasting beyond the three-month term of the project funding.

In Round Two, the most frequent reason for an application to be unsuccessful was insufficient detail or information about a project or its budget – or assessor concern about the quality of the proposal. Assessors often expressed a need for more information about either the project or the budget in order to assess whether it was deliverable and meeting an urgent emerging need within a vulnerable target group. Similarly, assessors also raised concerns about whether budgets represented good value for money in relation to project scale. These types of reasons accounted for 25% of all unsuccessful applications across both rounds. Learning from this could be applied to the design of the application

process for any subsequent fund.

Other eligibility criteria accounted for the remaining 24% of unsuccessful applications, primarily relating to the presentation of accounts or the governance arrangements of applicant organisations. In seven percent of these cases, eligibility could not be established due to a lack of accessible documentation or insufficient provision of information.

Figure 12: Primary reasons for applications being unsuccessful



9. The Small Grants Fund

The Small Grants fund was set up as part of the Scottish Government's Wellbeing Fund to distribute small amounts (approximately £2,000 per grant) of funding to voluntary organisations, primarily small grassroots groups. The aim of the fund was to support local voluntary groups' responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was targeted at groups whose services had been affected by Covid-19, and who could put the grant to immediate use to help support local families and communities at greatest risk from the effects of the pandemic in the short term.

The fund was managed by the Corra Foundation, with funding distributed by a group of national funders: The STV Appeal, Inspiring Scotland, SCVO, the Cattnach Trust and Impact Funding Partners. In the first instance, beginning in late March 2020, organisations previously funded by the national funders who were potentially eligible for the fund were contacted by the funders and invited to apply. The purpose of inviting eligible organisations which had a pre-existing funding relationship with the funder was to enable funds to be distributed quickly, reduce potential risks and reduce the need for lengthy financial or governance checks on applicant organisations. Following this, in mid-April 2020 local Third Sector Interfaces were asked to refer local organisations to the fund. Some organisations receiving grants in the early phase were also invited to make second bids later on in the process.

Given the relatively small size of the grants available and the need to distribute the funding as quickly as possible to allow grassroots organisations to tackle the immediate effects of the pandemic, groups were asked only a basic set of questions to identify their eligibility for the fund. This was done to reduce the administrative burden on organisations whose primary focus was to tackle the immediate effect of the pandemic. The main criteria for awarding funding were that organisations had had their service provision adversely affected by Covid-19, and that they could put the funding to immediate use to help those at high risk from the effects of the pandemic and subsequent lockdown.

Funding was distributed to a wide range of different organisations across Scotland, including those focused on supporting vulnerable children and families, people with mental health needs, people with disabilities or other health needs, older people, and those facing financial hardship.

Many organisations requested the funding to help continue delivering their existing services remotely, for example using the funding to buy equipment which would allow staff to work from home so that their work could continue during the lockdown. Other organisations requested funding to help change their focus to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, for instance by:

- Delivering meals, food parcels and prescriptions;
- Creating activities and educational resources for children who could not attend school;

- Providing electronic devices and internet connections for those who needed them to access vital services or to alleviate social isolation;
- Providing emergency financial support.

10. Small Grants Fund: Distribution of Funding

In total, 1,543 grants were made, with £4,023,000 distributed. The average grant amount was £2,607. This reflects the fact that while grants were available up to £2,000, some organisations were eligible to request funding twice.

The two figures below show the distribution of Small Grants funding across local authority areas. The first shows the total amount distributed to organisations based in each local authority area, and the second shows the amount of funding received by organisations based in each local authority area per person living in that local authority. It is important to note that this local authority area data may not be wholly reliable as although a single local authority area is given for each organisation, some organisations work across more than one local authority. As such, this data should be taken to be indicative only.

This shows that the organisations based in the council areas of Glasgow City (£524,000) and City of Edinburgh (£305,000) received the largest share of funding. This is to be expected given that these are the two largest centres of population in Scotland. Organisations based in East Renfrewshire (£32,000), Orkney (£56,000) and East Dunbartonshire (£60,000) received the smallest shares of funding. Data is not available to show the differences in application rates between local authority areas.

When weighted for population size, the data show that organisations based in South Ayrshire (£4.19), Na h'Eileanan Siar (£3.29) and Orkney (£2.51) received the largest share of funding per person living in the local authority area. Organisations in East Renfrewshire (£0.33), Aberdeenshire (£0.32) and Stirling (£0.28) received the least per person living in the local authority area.

Figure 13: Small Grants Fund awards by local authority area

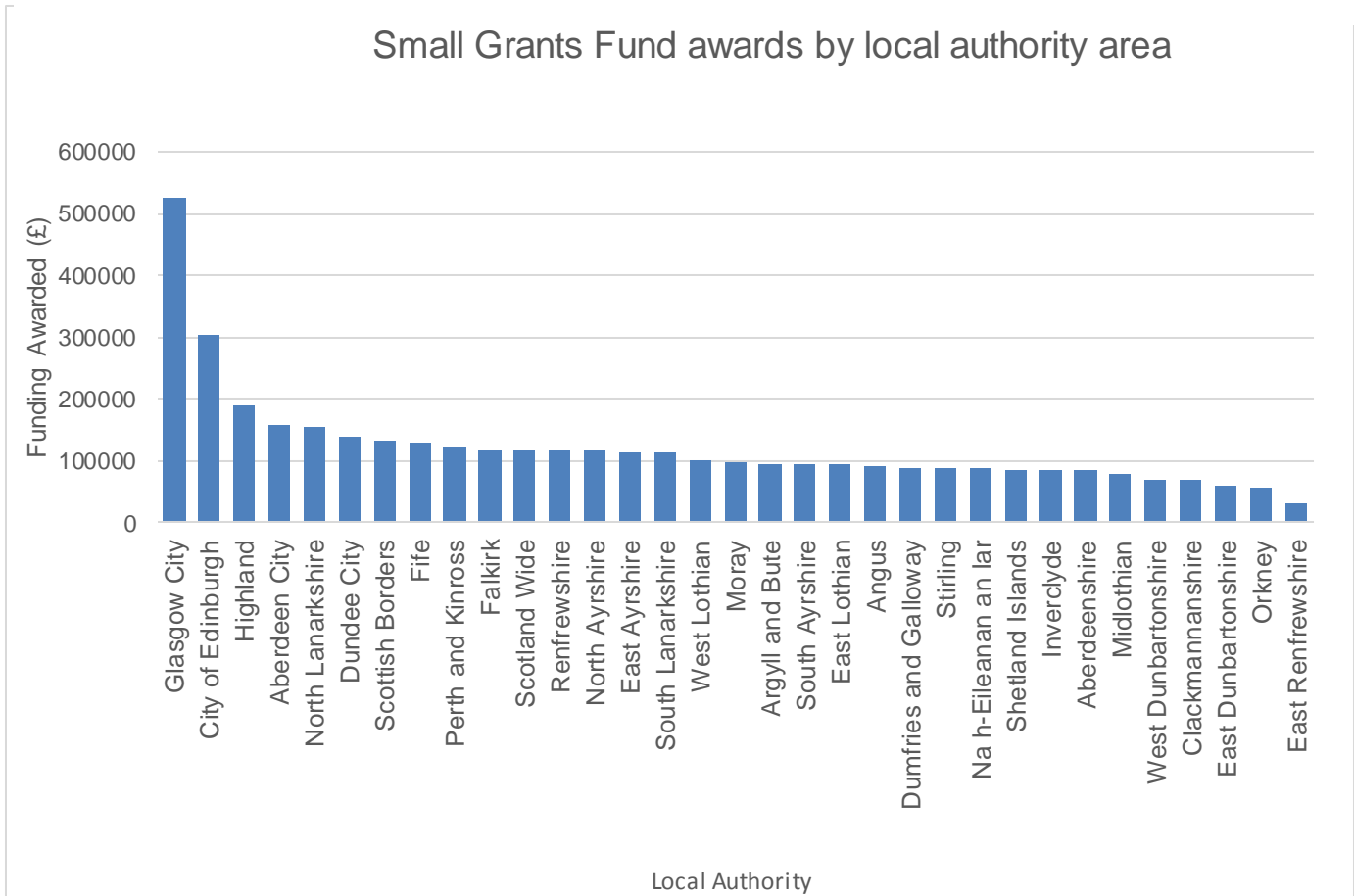
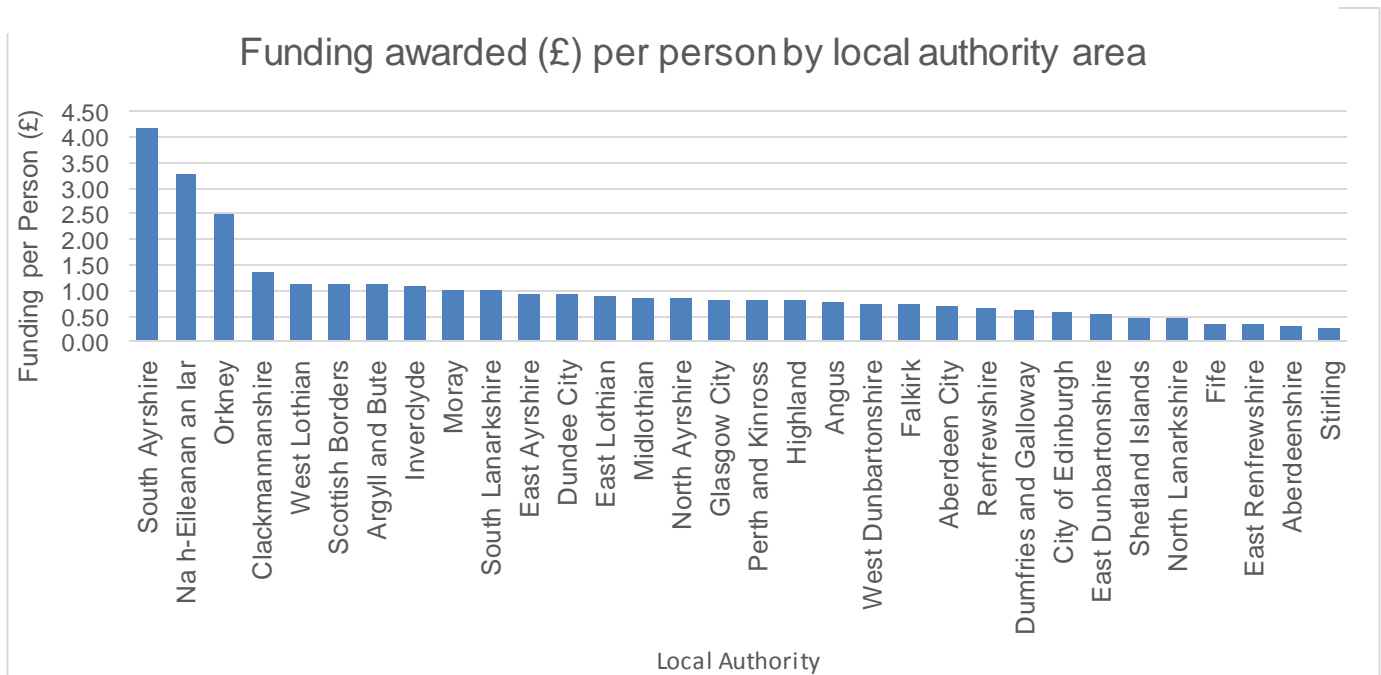


Figure 14: Funding awarded (£) per person by local authority



Annex 1: Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process: Local authority-level summary

The table shows data about applications and approved projects from the Wellbeing Fund Open Application Process Rounds One and Two, broken down by local authority.

Where an applicant specified more than one local authority as their operational area, the amount awarded has been shared proportionately here between the specified authorities, on the basis of population. We do not know the actual split of project allocation and expenditure between local authorities, based on the limited information provided by applicants. As such the allocations to local authorities can only be indicative. Awards to organisations working Scotland-wide are listed at the bottom of the table.

Local Authority	# Applications	Amount applied for	# Successful applications	Amount awarded	Total population 2018	Successful applications per 100,000 population ¹²	Amount per person awarded
Aberdeen City	105	1,165,318	69	764,174	228,670	30	£3.34
Aberdeenshire	66	650,194	43	395,736	261,210	16	£1.52
Angus	60	560,092	38	383,405	116,200	33	£3.30
Argyll & Bute	56	597,544	29	268,720	85,870	34	£3.13
City of Edinburgh	229	3,697,275	147	2,247,618	524,930	28	£4.28
Clackmannanshire	42	207,302	28	130,889	51,540	54	£2.54
Dumfries & Galloway	31	387,678	23	319,084	148,860	15	£2.14
Dundee City	101	921,747	61	423,908	149,320	41	£2.84
East Ayrshire	62	644,606	27	347,501	122,010	22	£2.85

¹² The analysis used the population estimates for mid-2018, available from National Records of Scotland, <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates>

East Dunbartonshire	68	384,447	37	160,271	108,640	34	£1.48
East Lothian	84	573,670	59	242,728	107,090	55	£2.27
East Renfrew shire	77	143,124	44	87,916	95,530	46	£0.92
Falkirk	50	368,176	35	189,991	160,890	22	£1.18
Fife	119	1,408,410	69	720,342	373,550	18	£1.93
Glasgow City	347	5,921,678	217	4,050,362	633,120	35	£6.40
Highland	70	1,018,926	45	638,668	235,830	19	£2.71
Inverclyde	66	461,923	35	312,023	77,800	45	£4.01
Midlothian	87	429,906	54	217,430	92,460	58	£2.35
Moray	34	277,427	25	170,379	95,820	26	£1.78
Na h-Eileanan Siar	20	266,185	17	258,748	26,720	64	£9.68
North Ayrshire	76	571,978	38	237,781	134,740	28	£1.76
North Lanarkshire	131	1,118,139	79	592,652	341,370	23	£1.74
Orkney	19	132,004	12	111,550	22,270	54	£5.01
Perth & Kinross	53	555,816	29	254,438	151,950	19	£1.67
Renfrew shire	135	792,810	75	430,358	179,100	42	£2.40
Scottish Borders	44	294,647	29	194,639	115,510	25	£1.69
Shetland	12	162,021	7	33,439	22,920	31	£1.46
South Ayrshire	60	295,015	26	126,608	112,610	23	£1.12
South Lanarkshire	112	977,178	68	615,186	320,530	21	£1.92
Stirling	55	376,851	36	177,564	94,210	38	£1.88
West Dunbartonshire	69	374,173	39	246,282	88,930	44	£2.77
West Lothian	100	934,936	71	554,951	183,100	39	£3.03
Total for organisations which specified local authorities	1265	£26,671,194	782	£15,905,342	5463300	N/A	£2.91
Total for organisations operating across Scotland	298	£9,900,043	173	£5,676,990	5463300	N/A	£1.04
Total for all fund awards	1563	£36,571,237	955	£21,582,333	5463300	N/A	£3.95



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