

Organisation Name Kinship Care Midlothian

Grant Details:

Total Grant: £48,329
Amount funded to date: £48,329
Amount remaining: £0
Start date: 01/04/2019
End date: 31/03/2022
Date of Report: 26/04/2022



Grant Summary: To support the charity to move to its own building to provide an office and base for support sessions.

Comments from Director – this is a small and simply run charity that predominantly relies on volunteers and a small number of key individuals who are kinship carers themselves. The original purpose of the grant was to rent a stable base for the organisation that would allow the charity to grow and relieve some of the pressure off the central administrator who worked out of her kitchen. The report shows how after getting quite far down the line with acquiring a suitable property this unfortunately didn't result in the desired outcome and took up a lot of time and money.

However, a different property was secured, and this has enabled a more secure base for the charity to be established. Unfortunately, the onset of the pandemic had considerable impact on Kinship Care Midlothian as most of the focus of their work became about supporting kinship carers through lockdowns and the unique pressures that this created.

Whilst amber may appear to be a little bit of a mean mark for the grant this reflects the fact that when judged against the EKAs they haven't made quite the progress that had been hoped for, especially in relation to securing funding for a paid coordinator. This will be the thing that makes the biggest difference for the charity as it goes forward.

Without a doubt Kinship Care Midlothian provides vital support to kinship carers who receive very little help from elsewhere. They face significant challenges and throughout the pandemic the charity has absolutely been a lifeline for them. Two carer emergency grants were awarded by [us](#) and these have made a big difference and clearly represents money well spent. Overall this was a good grant to have made to a very small organisation and I hope it will prove to be the foundation for them building on this for the future.

Please complete all sections of this form

In your application you told us what you expected the three key achievements of your grant to be and the income you expected to obtain from other sources each year. The delivery of those achievements should form the basis of your report to us, however, in this final report please take the opportunity to reflect on what was achieved over the whole grant period as well as in the final year.

Feel free to add evidence to demonstrate your achievements e.g. statistics, opinions of beneficiaries, case studies, independent feedback, press coverage or reviews. Include whatever evidence you have that you feel may help tell the story of the grant. If target numbers were included in your expected key achievements, please include these in your report.

We understand that goals change and need to be refined and you may find better ways to secure positive outcomes. As well as the expected results we are also interested in hearing about the unexpected and finding out about why things may not have worked as well as you planned.

Organisation name	
Kinship Care Midlothian SCIO	
Grant start date	Grant reference (see grant letter)
1 April 2019	2018-05-0017
Reporting period start date	Reporting period end date
1 April 2021	31 March 2022

1. What is the first expected key achievement?

Complete the relocation to the Charity's new premises and employment of office administration coordinator.

Measures for this achievement	Target date	Progress towards these measures
1a. Lease agreement checked/ revised/signed	04/2019	The record of the negotiations is attached regarding the prospective lease over commercial premises at 2 Lothian Street Bonnyrigg. The previous tenant Stuart & Stuart, Solicitors own the premises adjacent to this property. We agreed with the owner, Mrs Cameron, to lease the premises once the solicitors vacated the office in May 2019. Stuart & Stuart' 3-years ago signed a "Full Repairing and Insuring Lease" but seemed oblivious to water ingress seeping through into the front office from the upstairs flat. LM requested access to the premises, whilst empty, prior to signing the 3-Year Lease on behalf of KCM-SCIO. Negotiations collapsed with LM's refusal to agree to a the Lease. This would have meant the charity taking full responsibility for a ¼ share of any future structural or interior defects affecting this building. Ground floor commercial premises are always burdened with a larger portion of any future repairing issues.
	01/03/20	24/09/19 - Lease Agreement checked and signed for premises at The Prefab, Grannies Park, Industrial Estate,

			Dalkeith. Removal of furniture and equipment re-organised and charity took occupancy of premises - 28/09/19
1b.	Interior paintwork and signage completed, telephony installed furniture relocated	06/2019	<p>Although the property owner instructed remedial works/treatments to be undertaken by local builders, damp proof experts, surveyors and decorators, the premises still did not meet with Midlothian Building Control Orders. The metered levels of dampness and water ingress were still apparent from a subsequent visit by KCM-SCIO.</p> <p>Mrs Cameron advised KCM-SCIO to halt any plans to relocate there meantime whilst the dampness issues in the premises had all been resolved; this included the internal and external decoration, signage and any security measures instructed by the charity. KCM-SCIO had already purchased office furnishings and equipment to "hit the ground running" immediately on relocation of the charity.</p> <p>KCM-SCIO is continuing its operations from the trustees' homes but is in the process of negotiating terms for office premises in Dalkeith. The removal firm, sign-writers and decorators have all been suspended meantime whilst the charity agrees the lease of these premises.</p>
1c.	Marketing of new premises to stakeholders, including reinstated website	<p>07/2019</p> <p>28/09/19</p> <p>Update 1/3/2021</p> <p>Update 31/03/22</p>	<p>Advertising and promotional material regarding our office premises is, unfortunately, held in abeyance at the moment. The charity was waiting until we were fully installed into 2 Lothian Street, Bonnyrigg before ordering printed material and blanket advertising across Midlothian. No publicity or change of address material has been ordered. We hoped to launch our services in Midlothian prior to the school summer holidays but this was not possible.</p> <p>Marketing through Eskvalley View (monthly local free magazine), social media, e-forum and flyers, giving our contact details and services would all be organised as soon as the office is re-located. A website featuring our domain name requires to be registered to the charity's address so this would be undertaken as soon as we obtain a permanent address. Our new registered office address would feature on OSCR's website. The charity's bank accounts and website would be linked to our new address.</p> <p>Maildrop sent out to kinship carers advising them of charity's new address and an open door policy on a Tuesday for visits and individual appointments.</p> <p>The website has been totally revamped and restructured. Using Google Business Stream, Wordpress and Workspace our domain name is now hosting our email addresses and the shared drive on the cloud. Accounts, Strategic Plan, Newsletters and kinship carers' stories along with some relevant Consultation material are ready for uploading to be available for public download. A linked forum area on the website for kinship carers is in the process of being trialled with some of our confidential shared publications available for the kinship carers to view. Online chatrooms are nearly ready for the kinship carers but this area is only accessible to kinship carers that have devices to access the internet.</p> <p>The website is now well used but a lot of the traffic seems to be either other charities and/or professionals. We are exploring (with our IT guys) about the possibility of an interactive page so that the charity can offer a helpdesk in</p>

			<p>the future. We do still have problems with kinship carers having access to the internet, devices to access the internet from their homes or the willingness to engage with us over the internet. Although Connect Scotland and the Local Authority received Government funding to supply devices across Scotland the education of senior citizens, (or the desire to learn digital skills by some kinship carers), was not widely taken up so there is still large gaps in kinship carers wanting to receive information from us online or through emails so maildrops and printed newsletters continue to be distributed to our beneficiaries.</p> <p>(This area was not in our 2019/22 - 3-Year Strategic Plan) Covid-19 forced the charity to explore different avenues of delivering our services online and the charity managed to embrace their working environment, linking up with the team from our own homes using email addresses to access the shared drive. It was a huge leap forward as we learnt how to support the kinship carers through attendances at LAAC reviews, Sheriff Court and Panel meetings. Using packages such as CISCO Webex, Zoom, Duo, Skype, etc., meant we could still represent Midlothian kinship carers via video conferencing without everything being dealt with by telephone conferencing without any physical meetings.</p>
		End of 3-year grant review	
1d.	Obtain funding for office admin coordinator	<p>12/2019</p> <p>Update 1/03/21</p> <p>Update 01/09/21</p> <p>Update 31/03/22</p>	<p>Funding application submitted 14/6/19 to Scottish Government Community Funding for an office administrator / co-ordinator to administer and deliver projects on behalf of our peer group.</p> <p>Employing a member of staff was an item featured on the quarterly Management Board agenda in January 2021. It was agreed to defer this agenda item to be discussed further at the quarterly Board Meeting in April.</p> <p>No bids for funding have yet been submitted for this purpose. The charity is getting very busy; there is now an urgent need for a suitably qualified admin support assistant in the office. Funding grants for staffing was severely cut back during the pandemic with many local charities closing or reducing their staffing levels because of a loss of support. Our concentration at that time was channelled towards bringing in funds to financially support the kinship carers stay at home, shop locally and home school/entertain/care for their kinship children. Edinburgh and the Lothians schools closed on 20 March 2020. During June 2021 LM spoke at some length to The Robertson Trust, Gillian Morton (Funding Officer) she was aware of our work in Midlothian and intimated that their Trust would be very interested in receiving an application from the charity to engage their first employee. Advised by the Robertson Trust to seek assistance from MVA for advice. LM drafted an application in Jul-21 with the guidance and support of MVA.</p> <p>Unfortunate circumstances caused slippage in the charity's formal application being finished off and then sent on to the Robertson Trust (January 2022) - LM attended meeting 14/3/22 prior to the Robertson Trust's meeting on 25/3/22 - Offer of Support granted on 29 March 2022. The T&C's of grant approval will be placed on the Agenda for the next quarterly Board Meeting to be held on 29/04/22. Thereafter the charity can proceed with formal registration as an employer with HMRC.</p>

		End of 3-year grant review	The charity's original plan was to employ a CDO as soon as possible (or at least by the end of the first year's support). Unfortunately priorities had to change to deal with some immediate problems affecting the charity. The Board has since all changed from writing the 3-year Plan in 2019. The Board is now much more diverse with an equal number of professionally qualified individuals and kinship carers.
1e	Office admin coordinator employed	04/2020 End of 3-year grant review	Slippage in timescale – problems with engaging admin coordinator caused by Covid-19 pandemic. Work on delivery of projects huge. New Treasurer taking on more responsibility for the financial administration and helping with general office duties including the distribution of the charity's monthly projects. Further slippage in timescale, employing the correct person as the office coordinator has proved more difficult than first envisaged. Although the charity trialled someone for a short period, initially as a volunteer, but hopefully as a possible candidate for the position, the trial proved unsuccessful and the charity is still without a prospective employed office coordinator.
1f	Ensure that all charitable work and outreach by KCM-SCIO is undertaken from the Bonnyrigg premises.	03/2020 Update 1/3/2021 Update 31/03/22 End of 3-year grant review	Office is now located in Dalkeith but Covid-19 meant the charity's administration had to be transferred to working from our homes. Admin Team still works from their homes. No indication yet from the Scottish Government when non-essential shops and offices can reopen The premises in Dalkeith are leased until September 2022 and at the present time the charity has not managed to secure core funding to either extend the lease or negotiate an alternative property in or around Dalkeith. This matter will urgently have to be discussed at Board level. John Nicolson, (Cranfield Trust) reckons that the premises are shortly going to be too small for our requirements and we should start to look for an alternative venue to site the office. On the plus side of where we are located, it is in a business park with plenty of parking but not on a suitable bus route. It is also in a vulnerable location although we now have CCTV, burglar alarm and door entry facility. The charity has to consider what happens next and if after September we resign from the lease and relocate to another suitable premise in or near Dalkeith. Ideally it would be better to be in the centre of the town but premises there are expensive and there is no free parking. Another matter for Board consideration.
1g	Identify and link with partners to provide services	03/2020 Update 1/03/21	Main sponsor of project work during the pandemic, 'Foundation Scotland' delivering emergency funding to charities on behalf of the Scottish Government. Charity formed stronger partnership links with Big Hearts Charitable Trust, Bauer Media, Foundation Scotland for direct frontline work with Midlothian kinship carers Partnered with the Social Security Office – Gorebridge Hub to assist them through our direct maildrop contact with kinship carers Support from eleven sponsors to deliver direct funding to kinship carers throughout pandemic SWD Mid Council - all

		<p>Update 31/03/22</p> <p>End of 3-year grant review</p>	<p>departments - working from home and their main offices closed. Difficult for the kinship carers to contact social workers requesting urgent practical support. Charity has been requested to mediate through advocacy on behalf of some kinship carers on custody orders or other legal matters</p> <p>Local schools recommending KCM-SCIO services to new kinship carers</p> <p>The charity has a good working relationship with MVA – but they were mostly reliant on one funding stream from Mid Council. During the pandemic their funding was massively cut so they had to reduce numbers of staff/volunteers working on projects from their office. They are slowly rebuilding and share premises (in Dalkeith) with Volunteer Midlothian; this helps cash flow of both organisations.</p> <p>Kin-care Partnerships: we work with the Scottish Kinship Care Alliance, the Scottish Network for Kinship Carers and Kinship Care Northern Ireland sharing information and advice through our online forums. The charity is making inroads into linking up and having contact with some of our peer groups and charities in England and Wales.</p> <p>We propose to continue to build healthy relationships with Mid Council – Children Services Coordinator (Sean Godek) and local charities including, Big Hearts Club, ECO Dalkeith, St Mary's Episcopal Church, Volunteer Midlothian, Richmond Hope, CORRA Foundation, Cash for Kids, Foundation Scotland, First Aid Midlothian, CAHMs Midlothian, MYPAS.</p>
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2. What is the second expected key achievement?			
Marketing and networking			
Measures for this achievement	Target date	Progress towards these measures	
2a. Hold half-yearly marketing open day event to publicise outreach work.	Beg-Mar/ Sept 2020	All marketing delivered through internet access, word of mouth and mail drops to kinship carers. Delivering off to kinship carers a useful month end project Contacted by group leaders and the Scottish Kinship Care Alliance (SKCA) & the Scottish Network of Kinship Carers to act on their behalf regarding the Scottish Government appointing a foster care agency to deliver kinship care services.	
	Update 1/03/21	This item will be discussed at the quarterly Board Meeting in April or the AGM in July/August	
	Update 31/3/22	Cautious planning - Started month end 'Snack-n-Chat' in March to bring the kinship cares together for a social event – coffee morning with charity supplying the drinks and snacks and the carers supplying the chat! Kinship carers still wary about venturing out especially on public transport but charity is hopeful of being able to reignite interest in meeting at least once a month.	
	End of 3-year grant review	More confidence with sponsors to promote our ability as a frontline kinship care charity. Kinship Care Big Picnic event planned for the first week in July - school summer holidays - pony rides, stalls, bouncy castle, outside catering, etc., in the grounds of St Mary's Church – church lies adjacent to the Duke of Buccleuch's Country Park Estate. Possible dedication of a bench and tree as a memorial to bereaved kinship children's parents. Hopefully this paves the way for the Big Picnic to be an annual event in Midlothian.	

2b.	Reconnect with the Scottish Executive, COSLA to ensure representation	<p>09/2019</p> <p>Update 01/03/20</p> <p>Update 01/09/20</p> <p>Update 01/03/21</p> <p>Update 31/3/22</p>	<p>KCM-SCIO is meeting with Citizen Advice Scotland (Jacky Thomson and Susan Hunter the Kinship Care Co-ordinators for CAS - South-East Scotland). CAS was appointed in March 2019 by the Scottish Government to deliver kinship care services across Scotland. No-one in that organisation has direct or first-hand knowledge or experience of being a kinship carer and CAS are not, according to our e-forums, pro-active or delivering appropriate services to our own peer groups across Scotland.</p> <p>CAS does not have access to the Scottish Kinship Care Alliance (SKCA) and are using Local Authorities to try and estimate the number of kinship carers living in Scotland. CAS approached KCM-SCIO in June 2019 for a preliminary meeting to investigate if our organisations could work together (or advise them) on providing an appropriate service and/or projects to kin-carers. This is just an introductory meeting - due to take place on 1 October 2019 in Dalkeith.</p> <p>CAS lost the tender by the Scottish Government to deliver kinship care services in Scotland. A foster care agency AFA UK, (AFA Scotland) (with no previous experience of working with kinship carers) except in a professional capacity – i.e. they are all social workers or professionals - was awarded the tender from 1/09/20 to deliver kinship care services across Scotland. CAS displeased with this appointment.</p> <p>Appointment by Scot Govt of AFA Scotland as the main providers/representatives for Scottish kinship carers - This has not been looked on favourably by a large number of Scottish kinship carers or other agencies working with kinship carers. The Scottish Government approved this tender and appointment without an open consultation with Scottish kinship carers. SKCA and the Scottish Network for Kinship Carers contacted KCM-SCIO to take the lead to contest this appointment on their behalf.</p> <p>AFA Scotland, are predominately social workers and ad-hoc professionals; they do not have any links or personal experiences as frontline kinship carers. They cannot deliver or interact personally with kinship carers, or groups of kinship carers, except offering web or online communication. A large proportion of Scottish kinship carers do not have devices (laptops/tablets/pcs), or cannot work these devices. Many kinship carers cannot afford the outlay for internet access.</p> <p>As mentioned previously the Scot Govt approved the bid in Sept.20 from AFA Scotland (£270K x 3 yrs) without referral or consultation with kin-carers. Scottish kinship carers countrywide are now querying this charity's status in light of their poor performance since 09/2020 to date. An explanation from the Scot Govt has been sought by SKCA and SKCA regarding this appointment .without the service being "put out to open tender". KCM-SCIO has been asked to support the SKCA & SNKC through submitting an Opinion Paper supporting their submission to the Evidence Session of the Social Justice Committee, Holyrood. Awaiting advices re: written outcome of the meeting due at April month end.</p>
2c.	Reconnect with Edinburgh Uni / Queen	Mid Oct 2019	Hopefully KCM-SCIO would re-established and be fully operational by mid-Oct-19.

Margaret University	<p>Update 01/09/20</p> <p>Update 01/03/21</p> <p>Update 31/3/22</p>	<p>The Scottish Executive, Edinburgh University / Queen Margaret University and also Edinburgh College at Hardengreen would all be included in our blanket advertising campaign across Midlothian. All these establishments follow us on twitter and have registered for updates on our e-forum.</p> <p>A doctor from Edinburgh University, interested in "children living in Local Authority care" (LAAC) and their progress, welfare and education follows our work and organisation on twitter. Both universities are interested in a range of our in-house publications that we produce to assist our peer group cope with becoming kinship carers. These are not freely available to the public but used specifically to help our own peer group. This is a very unique position for KCM-SCIO since we are kinship carers living with our own kinship children so we are not exploiting the life of our peers.</p> <p>Universities, colleges and campuses are all closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Social work courses are all convened online.</p> <p>Through social media Dr Lucy Peake, (Chief Executive of Grandparents Plus) has noted interest in our charitable work and communicated that she would like to make contact with us once life gets back onto a more normal footing.</p> <p>Central Belt Social Work courses all transferred through to Strathclyde University from Queen Margaret Univ in Edin. AFA Scotland approached Strathclyde Uni to encourage them to apply for 'membership' of their charity – this involved a fee for access to their courses and expertise. Part of the deal between AFA Scotland and the University is to supply kinship carers for thesis or undergraduate work for their social work students. This idea, by KCASS, has not been welcomed at all by the kinship carers as discussed on the forums.</p>
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3. What is the third expected key achievement

Increase volunteer numbers. Increase skills of new and existing key members, volunteers and workers.

Measures for this achievement		Target date	Progress towards these measures
3a.	Recruit more (at least 10) Midlothian volunteers to assist in the work of KCM-SCIO	03/2021	All our normal projects and programmes, (except one), have been deferred until restrictions are lifted. This year has been unprecedented; we are all still working from home. Lockdown rules applied to the charity in the category 'unessential offices', following Phase 4 restrictions. OSCR rules with regard to GDPR - volunteers can not be recruited, trained or meet - have access to the charity's files or receive instructions to work for the charity during the pandemic.
		Update 31/3/22	Still a difficult area but topic possible for discussion at April Board meeting.
3b.	Complete training for key members, volunteers and workers within the charity, i.e. Board members, staff and volunteers	03/2021	No formal in-house office trainings have taken place during this financial year. Ongoing trainings received through KCM-SCIO's appointed IT specialists for key members, (big learning curve for them), working on 'the Cloud'. Charity had to immediately adapt to online working at outset of Covid-19. Management Board meetings held on Zoom hosted and recorded by the Treasurer; Minutes transcribed

		Update 31/3/22	<p>using digital dictation, distributed via the shared drive. Administrator provided online training using Teamviewer on software packages, Microsoft Office Pro suite – Word, Access and Excel, Affinity desktop publishing to enable charity to work from home and distribute Newsletters. Three members from the Management Board attended three zoom trainings, 'Safeguarding', 'PVG' and remote working. Attended Webinar hosted by RS Macdonald.</p> <p>Still problems with IT/digitally based knowledge, especially the Microsoft Office Pro suite of programs and dtp publishing Affinity program. Most trainings are online. The charity has linked up with Volunteer Midlothian to advertise their IT project (in the Newsletter and monthly maildrop letters) to encourage local kinship carers to engage. Volunteer Midlothian has advised that there is very little interest or uptake for learning digital skills.</p>
3c	<p>Make inroads/ outreach into East Lothian by contacting charitable organisations working with families in East Lothian including SWD - East Lothian Council. Use social media for contacting already identified and known kinship carers living in East Lothian</p>	Update 31/3/22	<p>I think we still have a real possibility to be on target to meet this obligation by June 2022. We have every intention of spreading our work and principles into the neighbouring local authority regions since the pandemic has more than highlighted the fact that none of the larger well known, substantially well funded, charities were actually providing any basic frontline help or support services to frontline kinship carers. Poor service provision within the regions was more noticeable by the charity being contacted, on our 'emergency or out of office' mobile number - this number is visible on our website. These kinship carers were requesting urgent support in their local authority area.</p> <p>This might not now be achievable in the original timescale since there have been problems in-house with the admin team. The urgent need to recruit a part-time Community Development Officer, who must be adequately qualified and properly trained in business/office administration, is now an urgent requirement. The majority of kinship carers are not qualified therefore there is every likelihood that the charity would have to look elsewhere, possibly advertising for a professionally trained candidate.</p>
4. What is the fourth expected key achievement?			
Obtain additional funding			
Measures for this achievement		Target date	Progress towards these measures
4a.	<p>Secure (£60K) funding for continuation of the charity's work in Midlothian (poss with LA and Govt, Big Lottery support) (Charitable work/outreach by KCM-SCIO should now be fully established in Midlothian)</p>	<p>12/2021</p> <p>Update 01/03/21</p> <p>Update 31/3/22</p>	<p>I think the charity has every possibility of attaining its objective.</p> <p>To date our income is £73,742.61 Our charitable outreach work and delivery of vital support services has been demanding, intensive and exhausting. The charity is diversifying and moving into other unidentified fields of progressive charitable work that we did not consider when we originally sought to be involved in providing an appropriate service for our own peer group.</p> <p>The charity's work is continuing apace as we develop and grow in Midlothian. The 'pilot' has been successful in its outreach work on the frontline with our own peer group – averaging 50 kinship carers looking after 75 kinship children.</p>

		End of grant review	<p>It's been a gradual process though to achieve the trust of the sponsors and also the kinship carers but the work has been relentless. The pandemic caused problems in the charity being able to promote itself through direct contact/outreach, advertising, schools, nurseries and other charities.</p> <p>The kinship carers are very complementary about our charitable work as mentioned in our annual surveys but there needs to be greater recognition, especially by the Scot Govt and local authorities, that charities, like KCM-SCIO, working on the front line, are far more valuable to service users than the big well funded organisations that do not offer a personal service and are not known/available/visible in the local communities.</p>
4b.	Tentatively seek possible funding for continuation with charitable format (possibly entering into working in East Lothian) – "Kinship Care East Lothian SCIO"	Update 01/03/21 End of grant review	<p>Definitely be hoping to start work during 2022 on providing a proper service to East Lothian kinship carers</p> <p>Discussed more thoroughly at the Board Meeting in January 2022 and it was suggested that the charity works in high deprivation areas in East Lothian and does not blanket cover the whole of the geographical region of East Lothian; the Board considered it was too extensive an area (from the Scottish Borders to Edinburgh East) - for the charity to cover at the present time.</p>

5. If the success of your strategic plan submitted during the application process is dependent on your organisation obtaining income in addition to the Triangle Trust grant from other sources during the grant period, please summarise total additional income you expect to achieve each year.

This can be presented as a total figure for each grant year or as a total figure for each financial year that covers the grant period – whichever works best for you. The total figure should include all income sources eg. Trading, contract, grant etc.

	Start date of year	Total additional income		
		Expected at start of grant	Reforecast	Received to date
Year 1	1/4/2019	£40,000	£	£ 11,250
Year 2	1/4/2020	£50,000	£ 46,864	£ 86,100
Year 3	1/4/2021	£60,000	£	£ 71,500 (?)
Year 4 (if required)		£	£	£

Please provide an explanation for these figures and how they relate to your income and expenditure forecast.

Year 1 and 2 - Applied to Big Lottery for £40K over a two year period to engage a co-ordinator.
 Year 1 – plus project funding c.£20K to continue with delivery of projects
 Year 2 – plus project funding c.£30K to continue with delivery of projects (possibly additional kinship carers, across Midlothian, now engaged with charity).
 Year 3 – Possible further application either to the Big Lottery, CORRA (Henry Duncan), Scot Govt - ALEC Fund or similar for continuation of funding for the co-ordinator plus applications for project funding.

Update 01/03/2021 – difficult to speculate how Year 3 will 'pan out' financially for the charity. The pandemic placed the charity at the frontline of provision to kinship carers in Midlothian.

Update 31/3/2022 – it's been extremely hard work over the past three years to establish a charity in Midlothian specifically for kinship carers. On the whole it has been a very worthwhile learning experience of delivering a service in the voluntary sector as opposed to the private sector.

6. Did any aspect of the grant delivery not progress as expected and were any subsequent changes made?
The core grant arrived timeously but alternative pressures were placed upon the charity resulting in different areas of the charity's original budgets having to be tweaked to take account of working from home, the increase of using the internet/phones and ensuring that there was ongoing monthly contact with the kinship carers either by telephone, maildrop or by one-to-one individual service user meetings. The grant use was "to develop/establish on site, (in their own premises), a kinship care charity for the local area" KCM-SCIO has achieved that purpose.
7. Has the grant achieved the expected results overall or did anything need to change?
Nothing substantially needed to be changed from what the charity originally set out to accomplish. The charity is sustainable in its present form but the biggest problem is one of its main objectives; the recruitment of a suitably qualified, multi-skilled individual that could take the charity forward to its next stage of development. The original plan was to identify a professionally qualified kinship carer within a short timescale for that purpose but this proved to be unattainable.
8. What are the future plans for the development funded by this grant? (include details of any further funds secured to continue the work)
The funding was for a '3-year Development Grant' to build on an idea mooted by a group of kinship carers in 2015. Unfortunate circumstances then altered the original kinship carer team that were well qualified in business administration, education and IT software design engineering. Although there is a small sum remaining in the 'budget', approx. £2K the charity has to secure alternative funding to remain on course to extend into the next three years of development. The charity is trying to source funding, write a further 3-Year Strategic Plan and is using business acumen to exist on a very strict criteria of prudence.
9. Is there anything you have not included elsewhere in the report that you feel we should know? E.g. you might have some wider reflections about the impact of the grant overall both within your organisation and beyond.
Thank you for supporting the work of the charity over the past three years. Unfortunately the pandemic caused widespread havoc in a number of charities but KCM-SCIO would not have been so actively visible in the local community (and across Scotland) without the ongoing support of the Triangle Trust.
10. Please email us a copy of your latest annual report and full accounts independently examined by a qualified accountant covering the last 12 months (if you have not already sent them).
Financial year end date 31 March 2022 – spreadsheets at present with the accountant for reconciling and auditing. Will send a copy through in due course.
Date this form was completed
20 April 2022

Thank you for providing this feedback. Please return this completed form by email to info@triangletrust.org.uk

