

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

COMMUNITY

YOUNG PEOPLE

BRIDGING THE GAP



INDIVIDUALS

FAMILIES

'where everyone matters'

# where everyone matters

## Mission Statement

Bridging the Gap is a local community project serving the Gorbals area.

We were established in 1998 to enable the local churches (Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic) to work together to meet local needs.

We aim to work across divides which are apparent in the community, providing opportunities for people to discover 'common ground'.



## Purpose Statement

The Purpose of Bridging the Gap, which is rooted in the Gorbals is:

To build positive relationships across the divides, with particular reference to: integration of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community, and the transition from primary to secondary schools.

To value the humanity and nurture the potential of every individual, and where appropriate, provide practical support.

To celebrate the good in our community, by providing the opportunity for people of diverse backgrounds to discover their common ground, overcoming racism, sectarianism, territorialism and isolation.



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# Chairperson's Remarks

## Welcome to the Annual Report of Bridging the Gap

2018 will see the twentieth anniversary of the adventure in human community that is Bridging the Gap. So the year that is reported on here is part of a longer journey inspired by the desire to assist in the process of enabling more inclusive community in one corner of the city of Glasgow. Such an approaching milestone is, of course, accompanied by the temptation to look back, however Bridging the Gap has never been nostalgic - it has always been about what is happening in the lives of people now. The report marks a year of work, of service, and of community in the Gorbals, among great people in a great part of a great city.



Bridging the Gap was born in the spirit of Teilhard de Chardin, who said: the task before us now, if we would not perish, is to shake off our ancient prejudices, and to build the earth.

The ancient prejudice of sectarianism was the initial inspiration behind the initiative that developed into what we now know as Bridging the Gap, and it is encouraging that this work has sustained to the present day, and is being further encouraged to expand beyond the local at the behest of the Scottish Government. The work of Bridging the Gap leads people of all ages and backgrounds to discover common ground beyond such divisions, and we are continually moved and gratified by the ways in which our participants testify to the effects of inclusive community on their lives.

Sharing food is one of the basic means of affirming community among people. Ensuring that people have enough food is one of the marks of a decent society. So events like Big Thursday drop ins, Come Dine With Us community meals and the sale of High Rise Bakers produce are all opportunities for celebration. In addition, the provision of a food cupboard (accompanied by tea and biscuits for those who visit) acknowledges

that sometimes people just need to eat now, and that need can be met while also affirming the dignity and choice of those people in every possible way. Such provision is dependent on the astonishing generosity of some who choose to use their resources selflessly, and we are humbled to be able to work with them to make their gifts available where they can be put to the best use.

We continue to be moved and delighted by the response of young people to the peer tutoring programme that involves hundreds of primary and secondary pupils, culminating in an awards ceremony (in the suites of Hampden Park) where, in addition, hundreds of parents could acknowledge their children's achievements. As always, the testimonies of young people themselves were the highlight of the evening, confirming how much this work matters.

Writing these remarks always makes me aware that I could go on for far too long extolling the virtues of the wonderful people who make up the reality of Bridging the Gap, so I will simply express the gratitude of the Board to all of these people, be they participants, volunteers or staff, and remembering that the Board members themselves are all volunteers. I also want to mention all of those who support our cause by funding the work. In partnership we continue to make a huge difference in the lives of some of those who are both vulnerable and precious. And in the case of young people, we are on the verge of influencing a second generation in the ways of tolerance and inclusion. Bridging the Gap is a phrase about doing. May we all continue to Bridge the Gap between and among people where that is needed in the year ahead.



# Director's Report

## Welcome to Bridging the Gap's Annual Report for the financial year 2017-2018

Dear Friends,

2017/2018 has been another exciting and challenging year for Bridging the Gap. Our wide range of projects has helped us to reach individuals from many different backgrounds and cultures.

The core strength of our work is about creating opportunities for people of different backgrounds and cultures to come together, build valued relationships and learn from each other. We know the importance of focusing on what gifts and skills people have to offer and once again I'm delighted to say that I have seen an increase with young people and adults participating, and taking a more active role and shaping our next steps collaboratively. I have been heartened to see people building friendships and support networks that knit our communities together.



One of the big issues at the moment is food insecurity, and we have therefore increased our food initiatives to meet the growing need. Over the last year we have linked with other local groups and organisations offering food so that people have the opportunity to have a wide range of places that they can go to for food and connect with people in their community.

As Director I would like to say that this wouldn't have been possible without the flexibility, extra hours, commitment and passion of the staff team which I feel privileged to be part of.

What is so good is that we are constantly growing and learning thanks to our team of volunteers. Much of our hard work has been made easier by their commitment and dedication.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors and the funders for their support and belief in our work. I would also like to thank the organisations that have partnered us in joint projects, our volunteers and the local churches and congregation for their continuing support.

This coming year we are aware of the two major challenges that we face: the roll out of universal credits that will lead to more food insecurity and as usual, the issue of funding.

Behind and through all these challenges are the human stories of peoples' lives being changed, and that's what is important to us. We are all committed to that.

Tricia McConalogue MBE  
Director



*"Bridging the Gap is wonderful because they help you experience more in life."*



# Developing Young People Team Report

## Transition Programme

A unique peer led programme, that allows young people in S4 to be positive role models and mentors to vulnerable P7's making the difficult transition from Primary to Secondary school.



"My favourite part about BtG was that I got to meet lots of new people and made new friends."

"I enjoyed Bridging the Gap because it tells you that you don't need to be scared moving to secondary school."



This year, our annual awards ceremony was held at Hampden Park. All P7 and S4 pupils who took part in this years transition programme gathered to celebrate their hard work and achievements. The night was attended by over 600 people which included family, friends and teachers, who heard first-hand about some of the young people's experiences.



**121**

S4s completed the programme

**600+**

attended the awards ceremony

**166**

P7s completed the programme





## Volunteering

Year on year, we work with a group of committed young adult volunteers, who dedicate their time to assist staff with the planning and delivery of our transition programme. The majority of the group have been involved in the programme themselves as S4, S5 and S6 pupils. Their previous experience allows them to pass on their knowledge to the next generation. This year, we worked with a group of 24 young adults, supporting the delivery of our transition programme on a weekly basis. 15 of these volunteers attended our training day where staff facilitated workshops focusing on youth work training, child protection and team building activities.

*"I stay involved with Bridging the Gap because I enjoy being able to work with all the children and staff who always make it a fun experience. I enjoy working with the Primary 7's the most because I get to see their confidence grow and watch them build friendships while calming their fears about starting secondary school."*



## Best of You

A partnership with Mark Brown Programmes, "Best of You" is a 5 week programme which aims to challenge and inspire young people. The programme encourages those involved to realise that they have the ability to shape their future. 12 young people from S5/S6 completed this programme.



*"It was a great laugh and taught me how to appreciate life, myself and others, wish it could have gone on longer. It was the highlight of my week."*

## S1 Mentoring

This year we have started an enhanced transition support programme for S1 pupils in Shawlands Academy through weekly one-to-one sessions. Young people worked through a variety of exercises with staff to help build self-esteem and confidence. The sessions also gave the young people the opportunity to discuss issues that may have been affecting them, and to look at ways of resolving these. Staff were able to monitor the young people's progress throughout their 1st year in secondary school and liaise with teachers based on this progress.

## S5/S6 Development

Every year we are fortunate enough to have a great group of S5/S6 pupils who have been through the programme as S4's and want to continue their involvement. Through the summer, we held a development day in the St Francis Centre which was attended by 21 young people. At this, they were given the opportunity to build upon their pre-existing skills and experience, provide a source of evaluation and take part in forward planning for the next year's programme.





# Tackling Sectarianism

Throughout the transition programme, P7 and S4 pupils participated in issue based sessions, which allowed the young people to explore the root causes and solutions to sectarianism, and how it affects their lives in Glasgow. These workshops gave the young people involved an opportunity to discuss the issue, as well as a platform to celebrate, not only their own, but also the different cultures of their peers.



Following on from our tackling sectarianism workshops, S4's from Shawlands Academy and Holyrood Secondary school visited The Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland. Throughout the 3 day residential the young people took part in various group work sessions which offered them the chance to look at issues that have shaped who they are, such as personal identity, culture and beliefs.

*"Corrymeela was such an amazing trip and was so much fun. Seeing all of the sectarianism which we had been teaching the P7's about in real life was extremely eye opening and is something I will never forget."*

**YOUNG PEOPLE**  
**73**

went to Corrymeela

**SESSIONS**  
**8**

cross community and team building sessions

**SESSIONS**  
**8**

issue based sessions

**YOUNG PEOPLE**  
**287**

took part in issue based workshops focussed on sectarianism

**S4 PUPILS**  
**97%**

reported feeling confident taking on a leadership role

**OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**93%**

reported having a greater awareness, knowledge and understanding of sectarianism

**S7 PUPILS**  
**93%**

reported an increase in confidence about moving to secondary school



*"With bridging the gap my favourite part was Corrymeela, it helped me learn a lot about myself and changed my perspective about everything around me, I gained so many new friends some of which are now my closest."*





## Youth Work Games

In a continued partnership with Muirhouse Youth Development Group, 11 young people took part in the 'Youth Work Games'. Young people from across the country attended the 3-day camping trip, taking part in activities such as tandem bike rides, cross country running, archery, swamp football, canoeing, swimming and many more. The young people had to work in teams, motivating and encouraging one another.

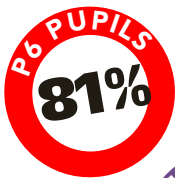
*"I really enjoyed the youth work games. My people skills definitely improved, as at night you could sit at the fire and talk to people who you have never met before and learn more about them as people."*

## Understanding Each Other

In our Understanding Each Other programme, 83 P6's participated in a 4-week programme looking at sectarianism, migration and difference. S5 pupils, who had previously travelled to the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland, helped facilitate the first session, sharing stories with the P6 classes about their time in Belfast, and showing the stark reality of what it can really be like when people don't understand each other. The children also took part in exercises looking at their family history and explored the different types of migrants. The highlight for P6's is always meeting the S5's, but also meeting these 4 types of migrants, asking them questions and hearing their stories of how they ended up in the Gorbals area.



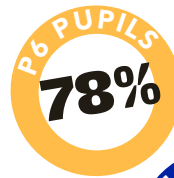
*"While working with BtG in S4 I learned so many useful things such as how to socialise with people around me and also work with patience towards the P7's. I think the skills and experience I have gained from Bridging the Gap is priceless."*



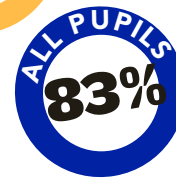
know more about sectarianism after session with S5 pupils



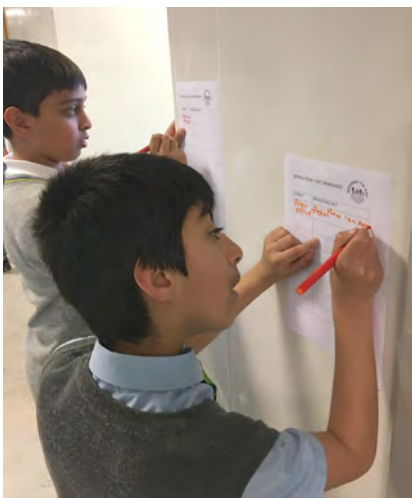
knew more about the stories of people who have come to the Gorbals



know about the 4 types of migrant



knew more about their classmate's stories



## Other Projects

As well as our core activities, we offered buddy training to S6 pupils who would be mentoring new S1 pupils in Shawlands Academy, and delivered sessions at Holyrood health & wellbeing day for the new S1's. We also delivered enhanced transition support through a range of classes for S1 pupils in Shawlands Academy who begin their move to secondary school before the summer holidays.



The Developing Young people team would like to thank all of our partners we have worked with over the year. Without the support and the flexibility of schools, Bridging the Gap would not be able to deliver our programmes. We look forward to the year ahead and to the continued success of our partnerships.



# Community Inclusion & Families Team Report

## BIG Thursdays Gathering

If you're looking for a warm welcome and a place to belong then BIG Thursdays is a good place to start.



More and more, volunteers and members take the lead at BIG Thursdays. In 2017-18 they shared their skills and talents to make the drop-in a friendly and lively place.

Every week a different chef led the kitchen team to prepare a delicious lunch for everyone. Menus included haggis and neeps and Syrian freekeh. Table tennis and dominoes were popular and African volunteers led an activity about famous figures from their heritage for Black History Month. The SEAL Fruit Barra ran a weekly cost-price fruit and vegetable stall and we celebrated everything from new babies and Diwali to gaining British nationality and Burns Day.

## Volunteering

**VOLUNTEERS**  
**75**

are the backbone of Bridging the Gap. They take on leadership roles and are great at supporting and including one another. This year a small group began to re-work the Volunteer Handbook and induction process to make it as accessible as possible.

**VOLUNTEERS**  
**22**

on average helped to run BIG Thursdays every week.

**FASTER VOLUNTEERS**  
**29**

from Volunteer Glasgow came for the day and 6 came back to join the BIG Thursdays team.

**COURSE FOR VOLUNTEERS**  
**4**

First Aid, Food Hygiene, Health and Safety and Alternatives to Violence (AVP).

**PEOPLE**  
**28**

from BME backgrounds

**PEOPLE**  
**59**

on average gathered to enjoy each other's company

**PEOPLE**  
**66%**

from the Gorbals

*"Before I came here I never made friends because I was always moving on, but look at me now, all that gang over there are my friends. In fact it's not friendly here, it's family. I can't thank you enough"*



*"it was great that people felt they could say anything and would not be judged."*

Our BIG Chat sessions on issues such as Men and Women Around the World, Loneliness, Mental Health, Housing, International Welcomes and Famous Black Scots (for Black History Month).



**VOLUNTEERS**  
**32**

enjoyed a barbecue together to celebrate their contribution to Bridging the Gap.



# Events and Activities

## Gorbals Fair

There was something very fishy about this year's Under the Ocean theme. Jellyfish and a huge sea monster took to the streets to the tune of our Samba Band.



## Refugee Week International Come Dine With Us

The theme was 'Connection' as Come Dine With Us joined BIG Thursdays to cook and eat dinner together. Speech bubbles shared greetings in different languages and we made a giant jigsaw together.

## Summer Trips and Fun

It was a very wet summer and we still had lots of fun on Summer trips and activities. This year included Reidvale Adventure Playground, Safari Park and Heads of Ayr, Family Music Day with Givin' It Laldie, Burgers and Buns Day, a Picnic in Glasgow Green and a Sports Day.

*"It makes such a difference cos that's something we couldn't afford."*

*"I've never been here before cos I can't drive."*



## High Rise Bakers

High Rise Bakers offer volunteers the opportunity to bake delicious, nutritious bread and baked goods for sale to their neighbours, winning a bronze award at the 2017 Scottish Bread Championships.



*"There's such a difference in [name]'s confidence since she started volunteering at High Rise Bakers."*



gathered for a Burger and Buns day making bread rolls, burgers and salad from scratch before sharing lunch together. Each family took home a Gorbals Loaf to enjoy later.



moved into college or work because of volunteering with High Rise Bakers.



were provided with High Rise Bakers baked goods including the Gorbals Fair and a community Science Festival.



In 2017 we celebrated 100 years of some women getting the vote in the UK by learning about women's suffrage across the world. The men ran the kitchen and women made portraits of their heroines.



United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty was a celebration of 30 years of the inauguration of the first commemorative stone. We marked the day in the City Chambers with Glasgow's Lord Provost Eva Bolander opening the event. This was done in partnership with people from the Mission Choir, ATD Fourth World, Poverty Truth Commission and Bridging the Gap.

The children made the decorations for this year's party which brought people together. A magician and Santa visited and we enjoyed a buffet of international food.

We co-ordinated the funding for 5 organisations across the Gorbals to work together on food poverty issues. This work includes breakfasts, work with young people and families with pre-school children and our Come Dine With Us community meals. We produced a directory of free and cheap food options for people who live in the Gorbals. Our destitution food cupboard fed 145 individuals over the year.

We continue to co-ordinate the Gorbals 3rd Sector Forum; representing them across sectors and working with partners to support greater collaboration and the growth of community led activity.

The Gorbals Timetable, a simple A3 info sheet is updated by us every 6 months and widely distributed.





## Come Dine With Us

Now a well-established monthly community meal cooked for the local community by volunteers who live locally. Over 670 freshly cooked delicious 3 course meals were eaten and individuals and families came along to meet their friends and for some to make new friends

*"There is a good togetherness here and a great community feeling and the food is free. I don't know many people in this community but I have made friends here."*



## Mens Group

A volunteer-led group of 5 men took a tour of Hampden stadium and museum.

## Working with Families

### Baby and Toddler Groups & BIG Messy Play



helped each week at the Drop-in & at Baby and Toddlers groups.



came along to our baby and toddler group.



whose children started school and nursery now volunteer regularly



*"Casey loves coming here and there are always lots for us to do together. It has really brought him on."*





# The People

## Board of Directors

<b>Chairperson</b>	Rev Ian Galloway
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Finch
<b>Secretary</b>	Jacqueline Stockdale
<b>Trustees</b>	Michael McLaughlan
	Dr. Pam Green
	Katherine Longmuir
	Dr. Andrew Lyon
	Rosie Holleran
Resigned 14/9/2017	Paul Kellas
Resigned 10/2017	Prof. Howard Sercombe
<b>In attendance</b>	
<b>Director</b>	Tricia McConalogue

## Staff

<b>Director</b>	Tricia McConalogue
<b>Administrator</b>	Clemence Butoyi
<b>Developing Young People's Team</b>	
<b>Project Workers</b>	Collette Gallanagh
	Michael Snee
	Megan Thomson
	Claire Bonner
<b>Community Inclusion &amp; Families Team</b>	
<b>Development Worker</b>	Roz Adams
<b>Project Workers</b>	Catriona Milligan
	Marie McCormack
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Brett Nicholls Associates

# The Network

Bridging the Gap is grateful to the following for their support and partnership working:

Glasgow Asylum and Destitution Action Network  
 Citizens Theatre  
 Poverty Alliance  
 Poverty Truth Commission  
 South East Integration Network  
 New Gorbals Housing Association  
 Business Gateway  
 Gorbals Parish Church  
 Blessed John Duns Scotus Church  
 Blackfriars Primary School  
 Holy Cross Primary School  
 St Francis Primary School  
 St Bride's Primary School  
 Cuthbertson Primary School  
 St Conval's Primary School  
 St Fillan's Primary School  
 St Brigid's Primary School  
 St Mirin's Primary School  
 Battlefield Primary School  
 Shawlands Primary School  
 Langside Primary School  
 Our Lady of the Annunciation  
 St. Albert's Primary School  
 Holyrood Secondary School  
 Shawlands Academy

Muirhouse Youth Development Group  
 East Belfast Area Youth Project  
 Youth Scotland  
 GCVS  
 Mark Brown Programmes  
 SEAL  
 Glasgow Volunteer Centre  
 Gorbals Fair Management Committee  
 The Corrymeela Community  
 Tackling Poverty Together  
 Givin' it Laldie  
 Glasgow Destitute Asylum Seekers Night Shelter  
 Gorbals Voluntary Sector Forum  
 The Barn  
 NHS Health Improvement Team  
 TASK Childcare  
 Urban Roots  
 Bookbug  
 Scotland the Bread  
 ATD Fourth World  
 Volunteer Glasgow  
 Poverty Truth Commission  
 Adelphi Nursery  
 Link Up Gorbals  
 Saint Francis Pipe Band



# Income & Expenditure

For the year ended 31st March 2018

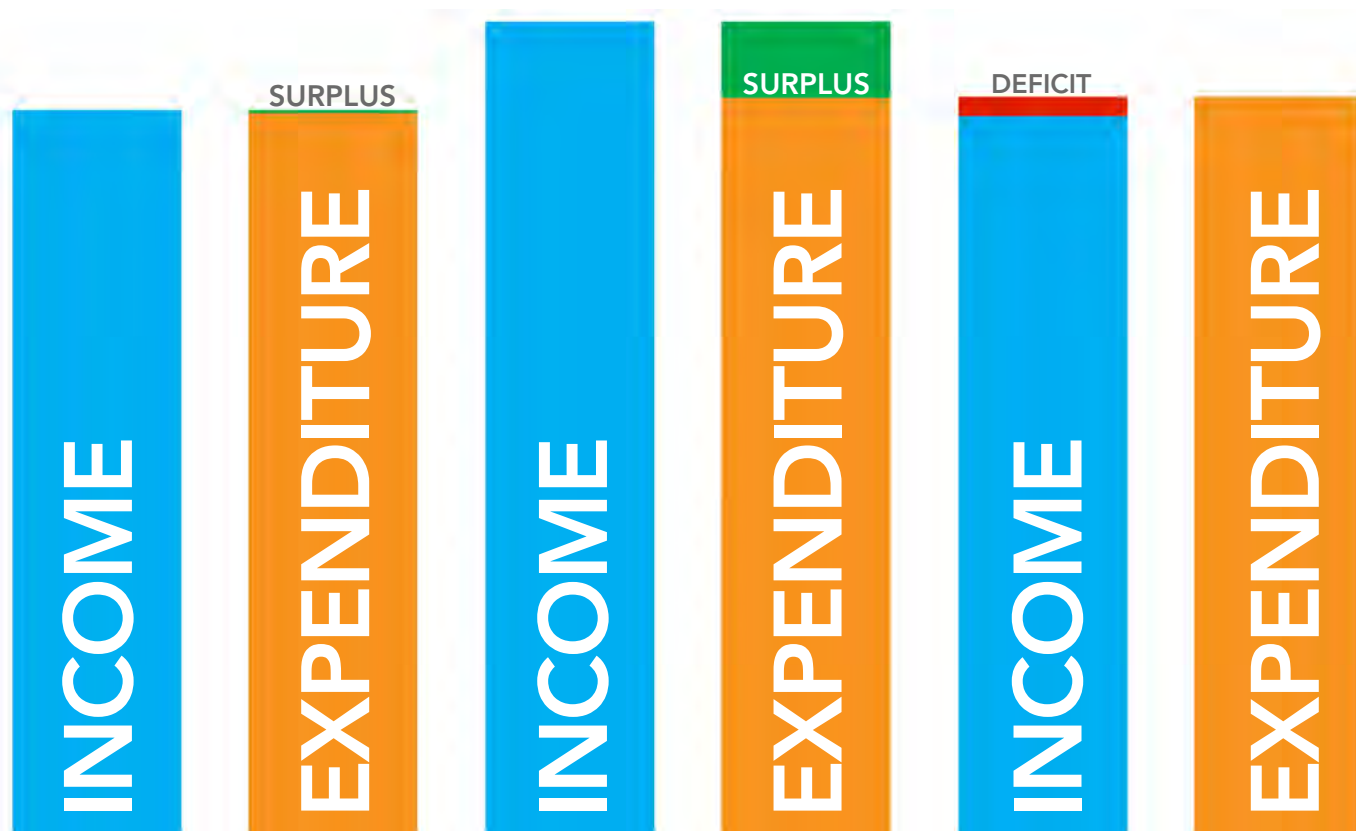
	Total Funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2016 £
<u>Income</u>			
Revenue Grants	278,657	312,278	276,273
Interest	-	81	145
Total	<u>278,657</u>	<u>312,359</u>	<u>276,418</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Charitable Activities	275,411	281,305	280,756
Governance Costs	2,295	2,134	2,901
Total	<u>277,706</u>	<u>283,439</u>	<u>283,657</u>
Surplus/-Deficit	<u>951</u>	<u>28,920</u>	<u>-7,239</u>

## Surplus/Deficit

2018

2017

2016



Independent Examination carried out by Wylie & Bisset LLP Chartered Accountants.



# Balance Sheet

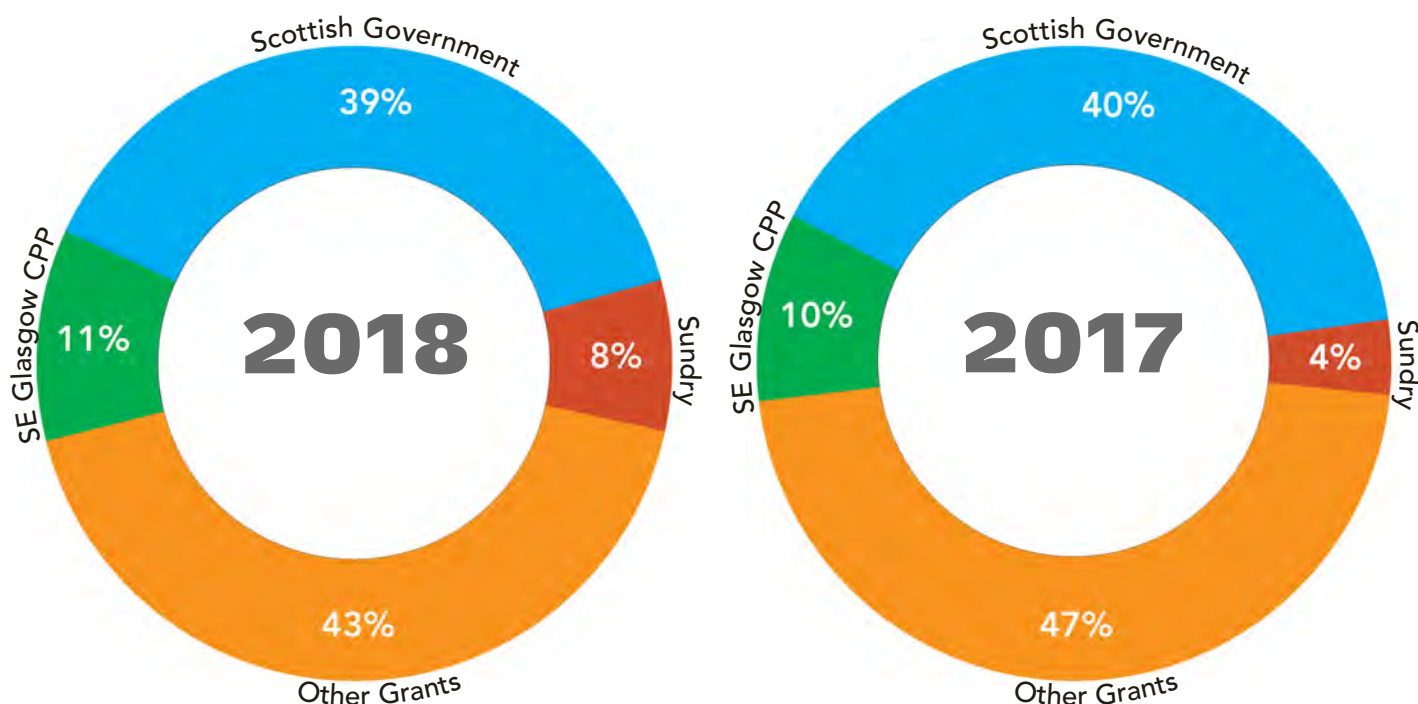
31st March 2018

	31 March 2018 £	31 March 2017 £	31 March 2016 £
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Tangible Assets	4,103	1,436	245
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Debtors and prepayments	9,207	7,607	6,455
Bank	110,123	116,122	102,306
	<u>119,330</u>	<u>123,729</u>	<u>108,761</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Accruals and Deferred Income	<u>23,953</u>	<u>26,636</u>	<u>39,397</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>	<u>99,480</u>	<u>98,529</u>	<u>69,609</u>
<u>Funds</u>			
Unrestricted funds	96,458	79,058	68,069
Restricted funds	<u>3,022</u>	<u>19,471</u>	<u>1,540</u>
	<u>99,480</u>	<u>98,529</u>	<u>69,609</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15th August 2018 and were signed on their behalf 22nd August 2018 by:

Rev Ian Galloway **Chairperson**

# Income



Bridging the Gap is grateful to all the trusts and other bodies for funding support during 2017-2018:

Supported by



The Scottish Government



Glasgow  
CITY COUNCIL

FISCAF  
FAITHS IN SCOTLAND  
COMMUNITY ACTION FUND



THE ROBERTSON  
TRUST

SPIRIT AID

children's  
appeal

schuh  
trust

HENRY  
DUNCAN  
AWARDS

And other  
small trusts  
& individual  
donations

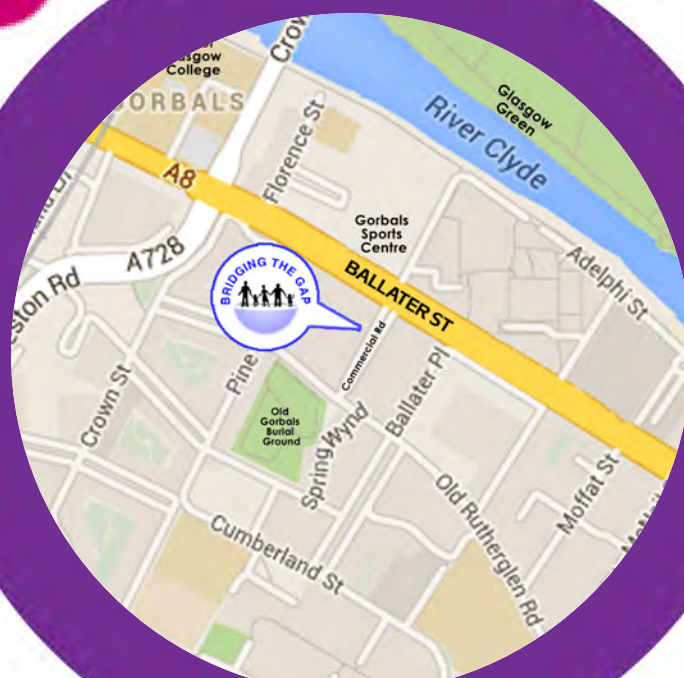
HUGH  
FRASER  
TRUST

Cattanach

you  
SCOTLAND

the  
Tudor trust

The  
Gannochy  
Trust



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