

Making a Positive Difference to our local communities

We wanted our vision to incorporate our local communities to enable us to directly give back to others. To do this effectively we've identified and partnered with a number of fantastic charitable organisations to offer volunteering and mentoring support.



Career Ready

We've partnered with Career Ready to provide mentoring and work experience placements to senior school students to help them gain skills and confidence and prepare them for the world of work. Since we launched our vision, we've mentored twelve students, with our current four preparing to spend a month on a paid placement at our office this summer. In addition, we've also hosted a number of masterclasses for students across Scotland, which over 200 students have attended to date. The masterclasses focus on the Career Ready Skills for Success programme and have included topics such as communicating and networking and understanding career pathways.

Through our Career Ready partnership, we've also worked with Developing the Young Workforce to run communication sessions with school groups. And we sit on the Career Ready Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian Local Authority Board to help steer and support the charity's development.



“Business Stream have been a fantastic supporter of the Career Ready programme for the past couple of years. In that time, they have mentored and changed the lives of students throughout Edinburgh and the Lothians, always giving of their time, experience and expertise. Because of this commitment these young people have been given an incredible opportunity to fulfil their potential and move to a positive destination when leaving school. It is a pleasure to work with such committed people at Business Stream who continue to change the lives of young people in Edinburgh and the Lothians through the Career Ready programme.”

Rose King, Regional Manager Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian, Career Ready



preparing young
people for the
world of work

Sported



We've partnered with Sported, which is the leading sport development charity in the UK, working with over 3,000 sport clubs, youth groups and small charities to 'survive and thrive'. They believe that sport can help to counter some of the biggest challenges facing young people today, including youth violence, mental health and community cohesion but the reality is a lot of these clubs struggle, either financially or through a lack of resources, making their future uncertain.



Through Sported, our volunteers are providing free support services to help local sports clubs, which can include support in accessing funding grants, admin support and help with marketing and social media activities to attract more participants.

“Sported appealed to me as it was an opportunity to give something back to the community. The ability to do this through sport, which has always had a huge impact on my life, both directly and indirectly, sounded fantastic and I'm really enjoying the experience.”

Tom Abel, Head of SME, Business Stream

Business in the Community



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Business in the Community launched its Business Response Network to provide support to businesses and charities that had been impacted by the lockdown restrictions, which we have and are continuing to actively support:

- our Field Team used our vans to make essential deliveries for charities across Scotland
- nine of our colleagues are supporting the Cyrenians Befriending Programme, making weekly phone calls to people living on their own to provide company and support

“Business Stream’s level of commitment to Responsible Business was demonstrated with its support of BITC’s National Business Response Network (NBRN). The NBRN looked to connect business resource with community need and Business Stream provided volunteers for the Befriending programme. They also provided access to fleet of vehicles to deliver much needed resources such as toiletries, hand sanitizer and children and adult books to a range of charities across Scotland.”

Georgia Watson, Senior Business Lead, Business in the Community Scotland

In addition, we have supported BiTC to run its Enterprise Challenge days at local primary schools (now run externally), which are designed to teach children about the world of work. To enhance the day, we've incorporated an engaging water efficiency session for the children to help educate them about the importance of using water wisely.

Our CEO, Jo Dow, also sits on the Advisory Board of Business in the Community (Scotland) to help shape the organisation's priorities and provide strategic guidance and support to help BiTC achieve its objectives, of which there is a strong focus on supporting local communities.

Our Charity Panel

In order to support charities whose values are closely aligned to our own, we established our Charity Panel. Given the alignment with our core business, we're supporting Marine Conservation Society and charity: water. We asked our colleagues to choose their local and our national charity; in Scotland our colleagues chose the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) and in England our colleagues chose Dementia Support. Our national charity was put to a vote and Macmillan Cancer Support was chosen.

Since launching our Charity Panel we've run a wide range of fundraising events, including virtual quizzes, step challenges, silent auctions and bake sales.



Since September 2019 we've raised over £12,000 for our charities. In addition to raising funds, we've also made a commitment to work more holistically with our charity partners by promoting their campaigns internally and externally, broadening our colleagues' awareness of the issues they're tackling and providing volunteering support where possible, including beach cleans up for the Marine Conservation Society.

Our next steps

Since launching our vision we've developed fantastic partnerships with these charitable organisations that are helping us to achieve our aim of making a positive difference to our local communities. In the year ahead, we'll increase our volunteering hours and continue to develop our charity partnership.



The image features three silhouetted figures against a blue sky with light clouds. On the left, a person in a red jacket holds a bundle of bare tree branches. In the center, a person with a beard and a blue jacket uses a shovel. On the right, a person holds a small sapling in a pot. The text 'Thank you' is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the scene.

Thank you

Naturally different.

business stream
A SCOTTISH WATER COMPANY

