



Impact Report 2021-22 Highlights

Venture Trust believes no one should be left behind struggling with adversity, harm and vulnerability. We support people to gain the life skills, stability and confidence needed for a positive future.

Our participants

Venture Trust works with a wide variety of participants across our programmes, each of which comes with certain eligibility criteria (e.g., must be on a criminal justice order, women’s-only, ex-service people, young people). What our participants do have in common, is that they have all experienced adversity and face barriers which impact on their life choices and chances.

90%

reported facing a mental health issue

7

average number of barriers faced

50%

aged 16-24

72%

criminal justice involvement

67%

history of alcohol / substance abuse

49%

homeless (or at risk of homelessness)

48% of our participants come from the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland



20% most deprived

20% least deprived

Story of our year

This year has, again, been a story of how we have had to adapt as an organisation. Adapt our approach to working with participants, from primarily working 'online', to meeting face-to-face and moving back to full outdoor delivery. Adapting our programmes, from Local Authority-based daily activities, to full 5–10-day journeys in Scotland's wilder places. And adapt the services we offer, from 'online' Hubs to re-establishing our programmes, plus launching brand new services.



Personal development programmes

We started the year delivering a blended model of digital and face-to-face activity, alongside a blended programme where mixed-cohorts of participants took part in a four-day programme of daily activities and personal development delivered in their Local Authority area. This progressed to short (4-day) wilderness journeys before full wilderness journeys restarted in summer 2021. Over the year we worked with 555 participants.

Change Cycle

Our Change Cycle employability programme saw a return to full delivery this year. This year saw us run 5 Change Cycle courses for 42 participants, delivered in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Livingston.

Outdoor Therapy

This year saw the first full year of our Outdoor Therapy service. The service is delivered by our team of dedicated and qualified therapists, and it takes place in urban outdoor spaces such as parks, community gardens, waterways, woodlands, beaches, or local hills. This year we worked with 62 clients.

From Outdoors to Labour Market (FOLM)

February 2022 saw the end of our 3.5-year European project FOLM (From Outdoors to Labour Market) which exported our model of personal development across Europe. Overall, we trained up over 50 trainers in 3 countries who worked with 990 participants.

Dundee School Partnership

This year we were excited to partner with Princes Trust to deliver a community-based personal development course for 16 year-olds from Dundee at risk of exclusion from school. We delivered 5 courses working with 20 pupils.

656

participants supported

37

'wilderness' journeys

1st year

of our Outdoor Therapy Service

204

attended a 'wilderness' journey



Our impact

The most rewarding part of what we do is seeing the change in our participants. The change in their outlook, the change in the confidence they have in themselves and the change in their aspirations for a better future.

For the majority of our participants, a positive result of working with Venture Trust is the development of 'core life skills' as well as positive behavioural change. For others it may be moving into a positive outcome, such as into employment, training, education or volunteering, or it could be getting a positive onward referral or becoming actively engaged with another service.

However, the most powerful way we can showcase our impact is through the personal stories of our participants.

[Click here read some of our participant stories.](#)

83%

improved resilience

82%

improved stability

82%

improved employability

125

moved into a positive outcome

50+

trainers supported on the FOLM project

82%

of Outdoor Therapy clients improved their mental health

“Working with Venture Trust in the outdoors gave me back a lot about myself that I’d lost. It gave me an enjoyment that I hadn’t felt in a long, long time. Now I spend all my time in the outdoors. It’s completely changed my outlook and perspective on life. I couldn’t ask for more. It’s been life changing.”

[Click here to read the full Venture Trust Impact Report 2021-22](#)

Venture Trust is a registered charity in Scotland (SCO38932) and England and Wales (285891).