

Venture Trust

Impact Report 2021-22

Highlights

Easy Read Version

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.

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Venture Trust is a registered charity in Scotland (SCO38932) and England and Wales (285891).
Registered office: 71 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BE.

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 is the average number of barriers faced
- 50% of our participants were aged 16-24
- 72% were involved in the criminal justice system
- 67% had a history of alcohol/substance abuse
- 49% were homeless (or at risk of homelessness)
- 48% of our participants came from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland.

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.

- 656 participants were supported over the year
- 37 'wilderness' journeys were delivered
- 204 participants attended a 'wilderness' journey
- It was our first full year of our Outdoor Therapy Service

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.

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.

- 83% improved their resilience
- 82% improved their stability
- 82% improved their employability skills
- 125 moved into a positive outcome
- More than 50 trainers were supported on the FOLM project
- 82% of our Outdoor Therapy clients improved their mental health

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

“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 read some of our participant stories.](#)

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

Images



Image Description: A woman smiling, standing next to a rock face covered in moss. She is wearing a hat, scarf, and a purple Venture Trust raincoat



Image Description: A man standing next to a river in a valley. He is looking at the mountains in the distance. He is wearing a blue raincoat and a hiking rucksack.