



**11 NOVEMBER 2010**

## **BANK OF SCOTLAND FOUNDATION MAKES FIRST DONATIONS TO SCOTTISH CHARITIES**

SCOTTISH charities are to receive a major funding boost today following the launch of the Bank of Scotland Foundation.

The Foundation is an independent charity that will work with charities across the country to support projects with a particular focus on developing and improving Scottish communities, money advice and financial literacy.

The Foundation was launched today by Kate Guthrie, HR Director of Lloyds Banking Group's Insurance division who will be Chair of the Bank of Scotland Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Kate presented a donation of £10,000 to Andrew Findlay of Interest Link Borders, one of the first charities to benefit from the Foundation. The donation will help support its befrienders scheme which matches people with learning difficulties with volunteers so they can meet up regularly to do activities they both enjoy.

"In the current economic climate, we are delighted that through the Bank of Scotland Foundation we can support charities across Scotland, such as Interest Link Borders," said Kate.

"We are also very pleased to be able to provide matched funding for Lloyds Banking Group staff that volunteer or raise money for charities in Scotland."

Andrew Findlay Project co-ordinator at Interest Link Borders said:

"Everybody who is involved with Interest Link Borders hugely appreciates this grant from the Bank of Scotland Foundation. It will enable us to continue improving the quality of life of hundreds of people with learning disabilities in the Scottish Borders through our befriending services."

Kate also confirmed that the National Autistic Society Scotland and Citizens Advice Bureau will receive donations to mark the launch of the Foundation. The Citizens Advice Bureau will receive £25,000 to support money advice services across its five Edinburgh based bureaux and the National Autistic Society Scotland will receive £15,000 to help its work developing innovative services to support people affected by autism.

The Bank of Scotland Foundation will receive an annual donation of £1m from Lloyds Banking Group to fund the Foundation's Small Grants programme and Staff Matched Giving Scheme.

Kate Guthrie added: "I'm delighted the Bank of Scotland Foundation is now up and running. These three charities provide a vital service to the people they support and it is wonderful we are able to support them in this way."

The Bank of Scotland Foundation will provide small grants to national and local charities across Scotland and will welcome applications from charities in early 2011.

Kate will be joined on the Board by other senior Lloyds Banking Group figures from its Scottish Executive Committee – Peter Navin, Scottish Retail Network Director; Jim Coyle, Group Operations Finance Director; and Alasdair Gardner, Regional Managing Director Large Corporate. The Foundation is also advertising to recruit Trustees from across Scotland from a variety of backgrounds.

### **Matched Giving Scheme**

The Foundation will manage a Matched Giving Scheme for all Lloyds Banking Group employees in Scotland. The Matched Giving Scheme will match the money employees raise for eligible charities pound-for-pound and donate £5 per hour of employee volunteering, up to a limit of £500 per employee per calendar year.

### **Organisational structure**

The Bank of Scotland Foundation is an independent charity registered at The Mound, Edinburgh, with its own Board of Trustees.

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### **For further information, contact:**

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### **Notes to editors:**

- The majority of the Group's charitable giving is channelled through the Lloyds TSB Foundations and the Bank of Scotland Foundation. We have given the Foundations almost £450 million over the last 25 years to support their work in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the UK.
- When, in due course, the Bank of Scotland Foundation becomes the Group's sole community investment vehicle in Scotland, the Bank of Scotland Foundation's funding will increase and will be in proportion with the amount the Group gives to the three Lloyds TSB Foundations – this is equivalent to approximately 0.1% of the Group's pre-tax profits.
- The Lloyds TSB Foundations for England & Wales, the Channel Islands and Northern Ireland and the Bank of Scotland Foundation run Matched Giving Schemes for all Lloyds Banking Group employees. The schemes match the money raised for eligible charities £ for £ up to a limit of £500 per calendar year and donates £5 per hour of employee volunteering, provided the charity in questions meets the schemes' criteria.
- Interest Link Borders is a Borders based charity committed to helping improving the quality of life of people with learning disabilities through volunteer befriending by matching people with learning disabilities with volunteers so they can meet up regularly to do activities they both enjoy. Further information is available from their website at <http://www.interestlink.org.uk/>
- The National Autistic Society Scotland is a charity for people with autism (including Asperger syndrome) and their families, providing information, support and pioneering services. Further information is available at [http://www.autism.org.uk/en-gb.aspx?nation=scotland&sc\\_lang=en-GB](http://www.autism.org.uk/en-gb.aspx?nation=scotland&sc_lang=en-GB).
- Citizens Advice Edinburgh (CAE) is an independent charity and one stop shop for advice and information which runs five advice centres and 17 outreach projects across the capital.