

THE MERCHANTS HOUSE OF GLASGOW

Impact Report

2017-18



Impact Statement & Strategy

In everything we do, The Merchants House of Glasgow seeks to make a positive impact on lives and experiences.

We achieve this by giving:

- grant support to, and partnering with, third sector bodies and organisations
- financial support to individuals in need

In the five years to 31 December 2018, the Merchants House has committed over £2.5m of grants and other charitable financial assistance principally to third sector organisations operating predominantly in Glasgow and the West of Scotland which make an impact in the following sectors:



Grant Making Strategy

There are three main strands in our grant making strategy:



Social Impact Partnerships

In March 2018, we launched the Merchants House of Glasgow Social Impact Partnership Initiative.

Its purpose is to target pro-actively and address issues of critical social need in Glasgow and the West of Scotland by:

- **Providing financial and other support for clearly defined and agreed objectives**
- **Establishing longer term relationships with our Social Impact Partners**
- **Leveraging our relationships with third parties for Social Impact Partner and project benefit**
- **Making our facilities available to our Social Impact Partners**
- **Promoting and facilitating joined up thinking among our Social Impact Partners**

We then identified two initial, and overlapping, target areas:

- **Rough Sleeping & Homelessness**
- **Mental Health & Employability**

Our first Social Impact Partner



Social Bite: The Glasgow Housing First Initiative

Rough Sleeping and Homelessness in Glasgow is there for us all to see on the City's streets. It is a personal tragedy for those who are homeless and we decided to take a leading role in addressing the issues in an effective way.

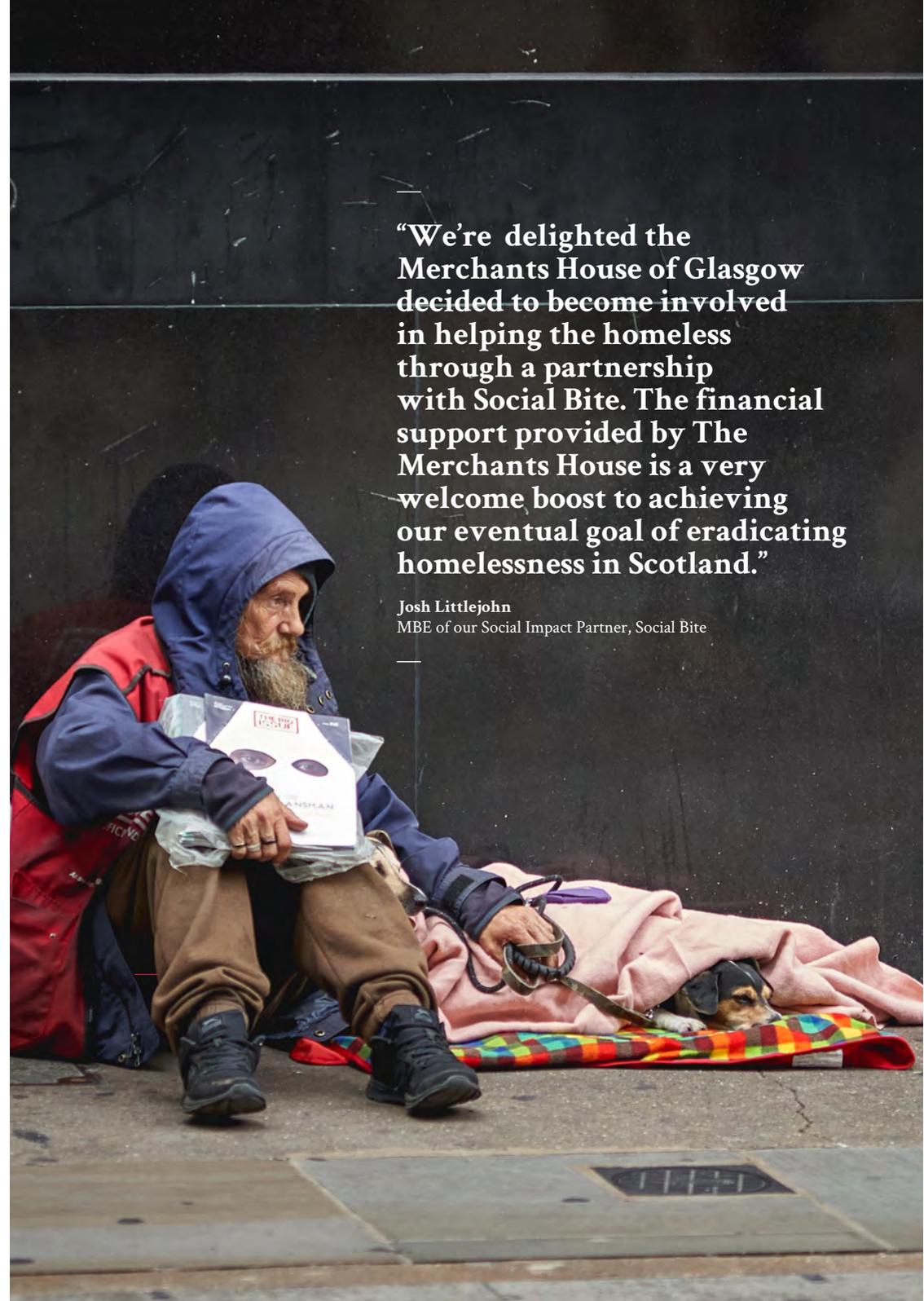
And so, in March 2018, we entered into our first Social Impact Partnering Agreement with the social enterprise, Social Bite, to support the Housing First Initiative in Glasgow.

The Housing First Initiative represents a paradigm shift in tackling homelessness and rough sleeping. It is founded on the principle that 'Home', and not the street or a hostel, is the best foundation from which to address the challenges and meet the complex social and other needs which rough sleepers and other homeless people have.

Wheatley Group (Scotland's biggest social housing provider) has committed to make at least 200 homes available on a priority basis for the Initiative. Key, however, to the success of the Initiative is the provision of effective care and support services to tenants covering a wide range of social and other needs.

The Merchants House of Glasgow has, therefore, committed £200k in 2018 and 2019 towards the provision of services aimed at the employability of former rough sleepers in Glasgow who become tenants under the Housing First Initiative.

The Merchants House funded services are delivered by a consortium comprising, as consortium leader, Turning Point Scotland, The Simon Community, The Salvation Army and Loretto Care. Each individual caseworker has a very small case load, the Housing First approach being personalised, flexible and persistent, getting right alongside people to help them make their house a home.



“We’re delighted the Merchants House of Glasgow decided to become involved in helping the homeless through a partnership with Social Bite. The financial support provided by The Merchants House is a very welcome boost to achieving our eventual goal of eradicating homelessness in Scotland.”

Josh Littlejohn
MBE of our Social Impact Partner, Social Bite

“Housing First is critical to the City’s strategy. This collaboration between the Merchants House and Social Bite is another great example of the partnership that is forming across Glasgow to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.”

By putting their collective weight behind Housing First, both the Merchants House and Social Bite are helping to drive the innovation that is happening across all homelessness services in Glasgow.”

Councillor Eva Bolander
The Lord Provost of Glasgow

Our funding is managed and channelled through, the highly respected, Corra Foundation, who have been contracted by the Merchants House to commission and monitor the Merchants House funded services.

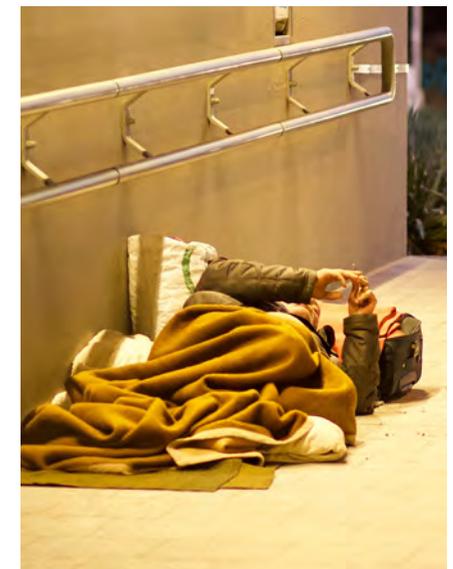
The Program started in October 2018 and the Glasgow Housing First Initiative will, in the first two years, result in 87 rough sleepers and homeless people securing long term tenancies of their own homes on a fully supported, safe and secure basis.

It will give them a real opportunity to build and live their lives as part of a community and to leave behind rough sleeping and homelessness for good – the system, the experience and the label.

Rough sleeping is a significant challenge but one which can effectively be addressed and through our Social Impact Partnership strategy and this, our first partnering initiative, The Merchants House of Glasgow is making a significant and effective impact on what is Glasgow’s most visible social issue.

“Scotland has some of the strongest housing rights for homeless people anywhere in the world. However, the work of charities and organisations like The Merchants House of Glasgow is hugely important and I commend them for taking forward this initiative, bringing together partners who can deliver help to some of the most vulnerable people in our Society.”

Nicola Sturgeon
The First Minister of Scotland



Theatre Nemo

Theatre Nemo is an extraordinary organisation, doing extraordinary things with great impact founded by an extraordinary lady, Mrs Isabel McCue MBE.

The connection between the Merchants House and Theatre Nemo was made in March 2017 when Theatre Nemo made an approach for funding for a new project.

Theatre Nemo supports adults in recovery from poor mental health, social and addiction issues and does so by providing engaging participatory arts programmes.

Theatre Nemo has three main areas of focus for its work – Psychiatric Hospitals, Prisons and the Community.

Within these three areas, its objective is always to improve mental health and well being, to develop skills in the participants and to provide appropriate next steps in their journey to wellness, improvement and recovery and societal inclusion. Its work IN Barlinnie Prison had achieved some spectacular results.

The Merchants House of Glasgow Impact Report

The current annual social and economic cost of re-offending to the criminal justice system in Scotland is around £2.5bn. Theatre Nemo's collaboration with Barlinnie was shown to have returned a social value of £7.70 for every £1 invested.

The problems come, of course, when the prisoners are released - back into their communities and often chaotic lifestyles and environments. In the light of their success working in Barlinnie, we decided, in 2017, to offer Theatre Nemo grant support for their then new programme which was aimed specifically at men – usually young men on their release from prison – but still caught up in the criminal justice system.

Theatre Nemo has, however, a much broader and far seeing vision.

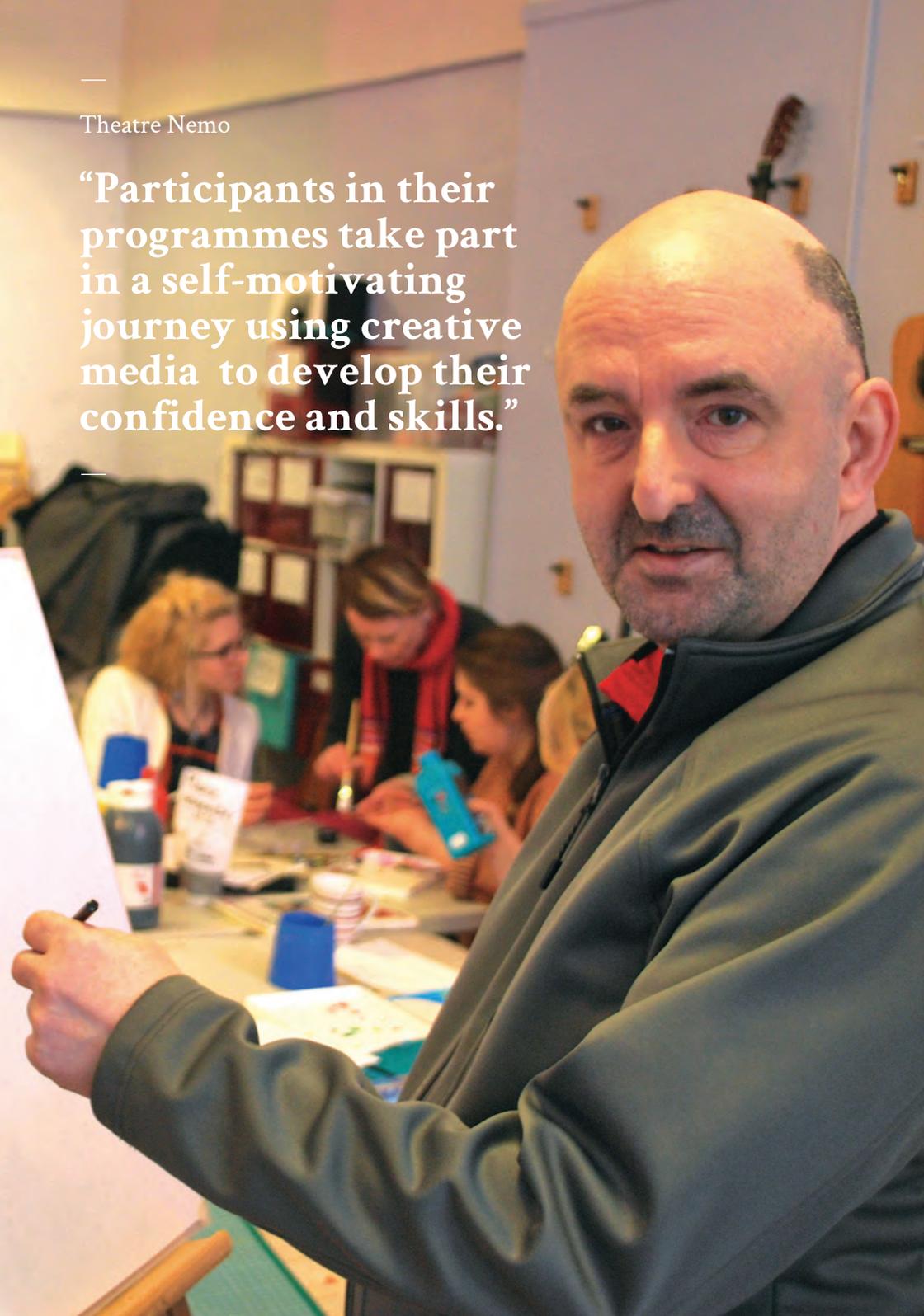
Their vision and objective is for a major centre – a hub – in Glasgow which will offer a supportive environment and services to aimed at rehabilitation and preventing re-offending – and rebuilding lives more often than not seriously damaged by some very crippling childhood experiences. Adverse Childhood Experiences – or ACES as they are commonly referred to have been shown to play a big part in offending and re-offending.



Last year, Theatre Nemo secured a Europe Social Fund Grant of £43k to carry out a pilot programme and impact and feasibility study on this project.

We meet with Isabel and her team regularly and we have made the Merchants Hall and Suite available for them to hold meetings, conferences and presentations.

We will continue to give ongoing support to this initiative in every way that we can and we have promoted the project, known as JOIN THE DOTS, to the City Council and to Holyrood. Both are taking a keen and active interest in the project. The project has also gained significant traction at a senior level within the social justice and criminal justice community.



Theatre Nemo

“Participants in their programmes take part in a self-motivating journey using creative media to develop their confidence and skills.”

Why Theatre Nemo works

The name “Theatre Nemo” comes from the latin “ex nemo ad aliquis” - from nobody to somebody’.

Theatre Nemo’s work has generated compelling and widely accepted evidence that one of the best ways to recognise an individual’s humanity is through the Arts.

Theatre Nemo’s Approach to supporting mental health for individuals is to engage with the individual first and not the label ‘prisoner’ or ‘offender’ or the mental health condition the person may have.



The Merchants House of Glasgow Schools Burrell Travel and Engagement Programme



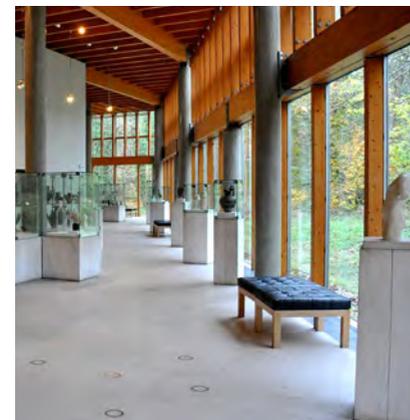
The Merchants House has launched and funded a City-wide programme that will enable 3,800 primary school children from disadvantaged areas of Glasgow to travel to the renovated and extended Burrell Collection on its reopening in 2021 and to engage in a specially designed teaching and learning programme and workshops.

The Merchants House of Glasgow Schools Burrell Travel and Engagement Programme will include:

- dedicated private bus transport taking parties of primary school children from their schools, located within disadvantaged areas of Glasgow to the Burrell
- employment of the Merchants House Learning Assistant at the Burrell, delivering a tailor made activity programme.

The Merchants House Learning Assistant will ensure that all pupils visiting will optimise their visit and the Programme will be designed to ensure that:

- there is effective and active engagement by the Burrell Collection with children visiting under the Programme.
- the Burrell Collection's interactive workshops are used in a way which is designed to ignite a real and sustained passion for the arts.



- barriers (perceived or actual) to access to the arts are challenged and that the children who participate in the visits gain an understanding that the Burrell Collection and other museums and galleries are places for them and their families to enjoy.

Beatson Cancer Charity at the Royal Alexandra Hospital

Beatson Cancer Charity had been supporting cancer patients at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley under a pilot project since 2016, offering patients, their families and their carers a range of complementary therapies including massage, reflexology, podiatry and relaxation.

Demand for these services had grown rapidly and, so, the Merchants House of Glasgow was delighted to make a grant of £30,000 to Beatson Cancer Charity to increase the service provision from three, to five, days per week and to expand the range of therapies.

This has also resulted in other services provided by the charity at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer – including those delivered by its specialist Health and Work team – being made available at the RAH.

In the year to March 2018, over 1400 therapy services were provided by the Beatson Cancer Charity at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Feedback from patients and RAH nursing staff has been universally positive:

“The therapies are great for patients. They love them. It gives patients something to look forward to and to occupy them during treatment. It’s a great service.”

Day Unit Charge Nurse



The G15 Youth Project / Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

The G15 Youth Project works with over 500 local young people each year in Drumchapel - an area where 45% of the population is under the age of 25.

The Project Co-ordinator, Joyce Bell, describes how many of their young people have never been encouraged or supported at any levels in their lives.

“All too often they have fractured family lives – they may be living with another family member, be in foster care or have experienced extreme hardship and displacement as a refugee. Others live in alcoholic homes, with addiction or can be ‘hidden’ carers.”

The G15 Youth Project sets out to build the young people’s confidence and their self-esteem and give them a sense of pride in their community. Given their circumstances, the project can often be an extended family for some of the young people.

The success of the G15 Youth Project in tackling the complex range of poverty-driven major issues, including poor health, poor educational achievement, high levels of unemployment, drug and alcohol dependency and abuse and crime is driven by the young people themselves – the G15 Management Committee comprises 12 of the young people and they employ the organisation’s three members of staff.

Each year, the G15 Youth Project reaches and delivers positive outcomes for upwards of 500 young people in Drumchapel, who are given the opportunity of participating in new activities and learning new skills.



The G15 Project is, therefore, a shining example of a highly effective peer led social project.

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland supports some 750 young people per year to realise their potential through its residential Adventure under Sail program. It does this by developing self-confidence, teamwork, ability to work with others and learn from experience. Their voyages are fun and by learning to deal with the unpredictable nature of the sea, the Trust encourages young people to face challenge in a positive way and earn accredited qualifications while on board.

A significant focus of Ocean Youth Trust’s sail training work is with disadvantaged young people, who

typically, have not had the chance to venture out of their immediate community.

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland and G15 Youth Group share the common goal of supporting young people to reach their full potential and by working together achieve excellent outcomes for the young voyage participants.

The Merchants House of Glasgow has given initial grant assistance of £10,000 to the G15 Youth Project to support its mainstream activity and has also given grant assistance of £10,000 to enable 10 of the young G15 people to participate in an Ocean Youth Trust Voyage

The Merchants House of Glasgow is committed to continuing to support the G15 Project and the Ocean Youth Trust in its work with them on an ongoing basis.

Funding Stories

Glasgow East End Community Carers

Glasgow East End Community Carers has been providing support to carers in the east end of the city since 1991. Our new project, the Carers Hub, was launched in May 2016 and aims to provide ongoing preventative support to carers within our local community. This funding from the Merchants House of Glasgow will allow us to continue to provide this much needed support.

Y-Dance

The grant provided by the Merchants House of Glasgow will help us to run our integrated dance group Horizons for around twenty young disabled and able-bodied people aged 14 – 25. The project helps improve confidence, creativity and mental health and physical well being. The money will help to pay for the project to continue for another year.

CrossReach

As a leading social care charity, CrossReach provides care and support to the most vulnerable people in Scotland and it is the support from others, like the Merchants House of Glasgow, which allows us to continue this very valuable work. The statistics around mental health are stark – every year, 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem.

The Tom Allan Centre, based in Glasgow, is a counselling service run by CrossReach. We work with over 1,000 clients per year, helping to improve the mental well being of these individuals, thanks to our generous supporters, like the Merchants House of Glasgow.

Clic Sargent

Your generosity will help to support our Home from Home service in Glasgow, Marion's House. Our home helps families to stay close to their child throughout treatment; as one parent explains, "It has made a difficult and scary situation less stressful by having a base close to hospital, leaving us to not have to worry about travel costs and long journeys."

MediCinema

MediCinema simply could not have achieved all that it has in the last year without the generous support of the Merchants House of Glasgow. Thank you so much for enabling us to bring the magic of cinema to thousands of patients.

Kibble

At Kibble we care for some of the most vulnerable young people in the country. This support allows us to teach new skills, offer a wider range of subjects, and work towards qualifications that will lead to employment opportunities. We also want to try and encourage more girls to take up design and technology subjects.

"I would like to thank the Members of the Merchants House Glasgow for their support. Their contribution will make a massive difference to the opportunities available to the young people in our care."

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