



**Turn2us Edinburgh Trust  
Partnership Strategy  
and Approach for  
Grantmaking**

**Edinburgh Together Programme**





## About Us

At Turn2us we have a vision that everyone in the UK has financial security so they can thrive. We offer support to those of us facing financial shocks and together we challenge the systems and perceptions that cause financial insecurity.

The Edinburgh Together Programme is dedicated to supporting individuals and families facing financial insecurity. Our work is designed to meet our organisational strategic aims of providing high quality information and support, strengthening communities through place-based programmes and building movements for systemic change.

We provide access to grants for people in Edinburgh, through a network of trusted partner organisations who provide support and services to their communities across the city. By working with our partners, we aim to increase the material, experiential and structural financial security of people accessing our grants and information tools. Our work is rooted in partnership, respect, humility and mutual support.

## A framework: Our Partnership Approach

As part of our ongoing effort to improve the impact of our grants, we have refined our approach to partnerships for our Edinburgh work, focused on building a network of organisations aligned with our organisational values and our guiding principles (see page 23).

This document provides a framework for how we work together in partnership to build impactful, sustainable relationships that benefit both our organisations and most crucially, the people we support.

## Our Aims and Goals

The aim of our Partnership Strategy is to document how we work in partnership with organisations in Edinburgh, and to communicate what is important to us in building a targeted and values-aligned partnership network for the communities we serve.

Our goal is to create a network of strong, allied partnerships that can deliver meaningful, sustainable impact through the combination of grant-making, income maximisation and support.

## Our Guiding Values and Principles

Our organisational values and guiding principles shape the way we work. Alongside our commitment to seeking financial security for all, in our grant making partnerships we focus on the following four commitments, which are most reflective of and relevant to the operational approach of ours and our partners' day to day work.

- Championing Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging
- Upholding Human Rights
- Listen, Learn, and Improve
- Together We Succeed

The first two (principles) speak to our commitment to providing grants and information tools that are accessible, equitable and inclusive, and delivered in a way that places people at the centre of our work and prioritises their dignity and right to financial security. We partner with organisations who share these commitments and actively apply them in their work.

The second two (values) speak to our commitment to bettering our practice through understanding and responding to the experiences of people living in financial insecurity, and by holding ourselves accountable to the people we support and within our partnerships. We also recognise, respect and value the ways we can collaborate and co-create our work with partners to maximise the impact of our grants.

## Our Community of Partners

- To work in a close and relational way, our Edinburgh Together Programme community of partners holds no more than **20 partnerships**.
- We partner with organisations who are **aligned** to our organisational values and guiding principles.
- We prioritise collaboration with those who are committed to **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB)**, upholding **human rights** and working in ways that are person-led, anti-oppressive and that centre the dignity, trust and choice of the individuals and communities they serve.
- We aim to create an environment of **shared learning and collaboration**, where partners are encouraged to co-create solutions with us and with their communities, where we share insights, improve our practices, understand our outcomes and collectively work towards addressing the **root causes** of financial insecurity.
- We support access to and integration of our **information tools**, so that the communities supported by partner organisations are offered the opportunity to engage in the full range of services available from Turn2us.
- We work together to understand our impact, so we can improve our grant making, and find better ways to increase financial security, take a place-based approach, and create lasting systemic change.
- Ultimately, we aim to **build stronger communities**, with our partnerships driving positive change that directly benefits individuals and families in the city.



## Priority Groups

Our primary focus is on supporting individuals and families who are experiencing financial insecurity. We work with partners that are directly embedded in their communities and understand the specific needs of the people they support. This includes and prioritises individuals facing barriers to financial security because of disability, ethnicity, gender, lone parent status or through being part of LGBTQIA+ communities. Evidence shows these groups are more likely to experience financial insecurity and are also likely to need tailored support to help them back on the path to financial security.

We seek to partner with organisations that have a deep understanding of the lived experiences of those who face systemic barriers to financial security and who are committed to addressing these challenges through person-led approaches.

By prioritising partners who work with these groups, we aim to ensure that our grants have a meaningful impact where they are needed most.

## Working Together

Successful partnerships are built on trust, respect, and clear communication. We believe that working together means not just sharing resources but sharing knowledge, insights, and a commitment to improving the lives of individuals and families facing financial insecurity. Our partners should feel supported and empowered, with a clear understanding of their role and the expectations we have of one another.

In practice, this means that we will have open, honest discussions about how the partnership is evolving, ensuring that we address any challenges in a timely and constructive way.

We will prioritise regular check-ins, encourage feedback, and always be open to learning from one another to improve our joint efforts in delivering support to those who need it most.



## Power and Accountability

Power and accountability are fundamental to how we approach partnerships. We acknowledge that power imbalances can arise in any relationship and are committed to actively addressing these with care and connection. We treat all partners as equals and decision-making processes are transparent and inclusive.

Our approach to accountability is rooted in transparency, openness and clarity. We strive to be clear about our intentions, our decision-making processes, and the criteria we use for grant making. We are committed to being accountable and to communicating clearly to not only our partners, but to the people that receive our grants, ensuring that the actions we take are always in their best interests and are aligned with our values and principles.

We are continually reflecting on our approaches and always open to feedback.

We partner with organisations who are committed to being accountable and transparent in similar ways, and working in a person-centred way with the people they support.

## Turn2us Partnership Principles

Across Turn2us we have developed a core set of principles for our partnerships that are central to our partnership strategy. These are that:

- We are committed to creating partnerships based on diversity and inclusion, recognising that each partner brings unique experiences, expertise, and perspectives.
- We value equity and power-sharing, striving to redress power imbalances and ensuring that all voices are equally represented in decision-making.
- We seek to share and uphold accountability, both to one another as partners and to the individuals and communities we support.
- We believe in openness and transparency in all our interactions, ensuring that expectations and intentions are clearly communicated.
- Finally, we are committed to shared learning and adaptability, fostering an environment where we can learn from each other, adapt to challenges, and continuously improve the support we offer to grant recipients.