Digital Xtra Fund is a SCIO registered in Scotland.
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EMPOWERING SCOTLAND'S FUTURE TECH INNOVATORS

Trustee Information
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Digital Xtra: Trustee Information

1. About Digital Xtra

Digital Xtra is the leading Scottish charity supporting extracurricular digital tech initiatives for young people aged 16 and under. We believe every young person in Scotland should have access to innovative, meaningful, and creative computing activities regardless of their gender, background, or where they live as well as an understanding of the range of opportunities these skills provide. The charity's aims are to:

- **Inspire** the next generation to understand and innovate with technology, not simply use it, by increasing the provision of high-quality extracurricular digital skills activities
- **Enable** exciting, meaningful digital skills activities for young people across Scotland with a particular focus on underrepresented groups and underserved areas
- **Engage** our Industry Partners in supported activities, giving industry experts and young people the opportunity to connect in informal and creative settings

Digital Xtra achieves these aims by working with industry and government to identify, fund, and support coding and technology clubs in schools and organisations across Scotland through an annual grant awards process. By providing small start-up or scale-up grants to extracurricular digital tech initiatives, the charity aims to increase access to high-quality activities in the areas of coding, robotics, games development, data science, machine learning, and cybersecurity. The end goal is to create a strong network of informal learning opportunities to engage, inspire and attract more young people to the sector.

Since its creation nine years ago, Digital Xtra has placed a strong emphasis on promoting diversity and inclusion within the technology sector, helping to close the digital skills gap. With a focus on areas of high deprivation, rural isolation, and groups underrepresented in the tech sector, the charity aims to break down barriers to tech at a grassroots level. This inclusive approach not only enriches the learning experiences for those involved, but also contributes to building a more diverse and vibrant tech industry.

2. Background and History

Digital Xtra was created in 2016 by the Digital Scotland Business Excellence Partnership, whose members included representatives from the public and digital technologies sectors, with the aim of supporting activities which help young people develop digital skills.

In 2017, Digital Xtra became an independent charity enabling it to secure financial contributions from a wider range of partners with employers in the technology sector being a primary focus. In that time, the charity has worked with a diverse range of partners to increase the number and diversity of tech initiatives across the country. It also connects these partners with

supported initiatives to help provide context to the skills being learnt and promote a range of pathways and exciting careers in the tech sector.

The impact of Digital Xtra has been far-reaching having distributed £1,071,000 in support of 183 inspiring digital skills initiatives across Scotland to date. During the current round of grant awards (covering the 2024/25 academic year), the charity awarded 20 grants of up to £5,000 each, with a projected engagement of over 1,500 children and young people – including 767 girls and young women. The grants covered a variety of school clubs and educational organisations including:

- 13 primary schools
- 1 college
- 1 ASN school
- 2 Councils
- 3 additional educational bodies

Examples of funded projects thus far include:
- Southmuir Primary School in Angus saw great success in Round VI with their all-girls Code Club for older learners and were successful again in Round IX with a new application focussing on younger learners. Activities will be led by girls from the original Club featuring a combination of practical challenges using the Rugged Robot in the school's outdoor woodland area before progressing onto indoor challenges using the Sphero indi robot.
- Queen's Park FC Foundation, operating out of Glasgow's southside, will deliver learning blocks across 3 primary schools and an ASN school. Learners will explore digital skills using the Sphero Mini and Edu App. Throughout the learning, young people will use enquiry-based learning to explore real-world scenarios.
- McLaren High School in Stirling has won several awards in FIRST LEGO League including third place at 2022's international final in Brazil. They will use this experience in collaboration with Bannockburn, Dunblane, and Stirling High Schools and deliver a Stirling-themed LEGO robotics competition for the primary schools within their clusters. High School students will support students from P5-P7 as they learn to build and code using LEGO Education SPIKE Prime.

The charity's most recent Impact Report, covering the 2023/24 academic year, can be found here.

Applications for a tenth cohort of tech activities are *now open* and successful applicants will be confirmed in May 2025. Successful initiatives will then deliver their proposed activities throughout the 2025/26 academic year.

3. Objectives
The **Core Objective** of Digital Xtra is to:
- Inspire young people to learn digital technologies skills through high quality, exciting

extracurricular activities, thus expanding Scotland's future talent pipeline.

Additional **Secondary Objectives** include:
- Increase overall number of young people learning digital tech skills across Scotland
- Dispel negative perceptions and stereotypes about digital technologies and careers in tech
- Increase diversity and inclusion of young people learning digital tech skills especially among:
  - audiences from areas often excluded from digital tech activities through lack of local resources or geography (i.e., areas of high deprivation and/or rural isolation)
  - groups underrepresented in the digital technologies sector (i.e., girls and young women, minority groups, and/or children and young people with additional support needs)
- Provide context to the skills being learned
- Promote digital technologies as an attractive career path and highlight the range of tech careers across a variety of sectors

The Core and Secondary Objectives should aim to achieve the following **Outcomes**:
- Increased number of young people studying computing science and other digital technologies related courses both in and out of school and beyond
- Increased number of educational establishments and organisations delivering digital technologies related extracurricular activities
- Increased meta-skills (innovation, social intelligence, self-management) and employability skills (confidence, resilience, communication, leadership) amongst young people
- Ultimately increased number of young people pursuing a career in digital technologies

All initiatives supported by Digital Xtra must demonstrate how they will teach young people computing skills that enables them to understand and create with digital technologies, rather than simply use them. Applicants must clearly explain how participants will learn digital skills beyond simply using software or hardware and achieve a clearer understanding of the breadth of careers these skills will provide. Activities which teach other skills related to digital literacy or digital media are *excluded* from funding.

Digital Xtra has established a strong brand identity and is seen by many stakeholders as playing a critical role in encouraging the uptake of digital tech amongst young people. The charity has also published an in-house platform to facilitate industry engagement with supported initiatives and created 'Code Like Kids', a hands-on activity designed to encourage volunteering from industry. It has also worked with the Scottish Government to develop activities that engages young people and encourages them to also think about ethics in technology.

Digital Xtra is at a crucial stage of its development as demand for the grant awards programme is higher than ever and the charity cannot currently meet this demand. As such, Digital Xtra is looking for additional Trustees to help steer the charity allowing it to increase its impact.

4. Type of candidate

Digital Xtra is seeking enthusiastic and committed Trustees who will help guide the charity (and by extension, the initiatives it supports); shape the charity's strategic direction; and provide some assistance with fundraising where possible. Currently, the charity is also looking for individuals with:

- **experience in charity and/or grants management, particularly in the areas of management accounting or financial reporting**
  or
- **strong connections/networks within the digital technologies sector (or related industries) to help guide our fundraising efforts.**

A passion for helping young people learn digital technologies skills is also key. This experience will help sustain and grow Digital Xtra's impact and relevance within the Scottish tech sector.

5. General duties

Trustees must:

- Act in the interest of the charity
- Operate in a manner consistent with the charity's aims and goals
- Carry out their duties in accordance with the charity's governing documents
- Act with due care and diligence. Trustees should take such care of charity's affairs as is reasonable to expect of someone who is managing the affairs of another person.
- Ensure that the charity complies with the provisions of The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and other relevant legislation.

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) has more information on the Roles and Responsibilities of charity Trustees: https://scvo.scot/support/running-your-organisation/governance/roles-responsibilities

6. Commitment

Trustees will commit to participate, as far as is possible, in:

- Regular Board meetings with all the Trustees (approximately every 2 months)
- Other ad hoc meetings with charity staff and/or Trustees (2-3 times per year)
- Being a positive ambassador for the organisation in their day-to-day activities
- Completing specific tasks agreed to support the organisation
- Supporting fundraising efforts

Trustee Board meetings generally take place via phone / videoconference with one or two meetings per year in person at a central location.

7. Remuneration

This is a voluntary position without remuneration.

8. Governance

Digital Xtra is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC047272). It is governed by a Trustee Board, currently made up of seven trustees from across the public, private, and third sector with an interest in helping young people and promoting digital skills. Current trustee biographies can be found on Digital Xtra's website.

Digital Xtra also has two full-time paid members of staff – a Partnerships & Development Manager and a Community & Grants Officer - who are responsible for running the organisation, raising funds, and managing grants.

9. How to apply

Sounds like something you would like to support? Please send a CV and covering letter to: info@digitalxtra.scot; however, all decisions regarding the Trustee position will be made by the existing Trustees who are happy to arrange a quick chat about the role if requested/required.